1 Samuel

Bible Order: 09 of 66 **Old Testament:** 09 of 39

Single Word Summary: Saul

Book Outline:

Samuel: The Last Judge: 1-8

Saul: The First King: 9-12

Saul Goes Down/David Goes Up: 13-31

Context & Notes:

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel originally were one book in the Hebrew Scriptures and were not divided. The translators of the Septuagint (the Greek text used at the time of Christ) divided it into two sections.

Israel has not heard from God in decades. The priests are corrupt. The nearby nations threaten the land's safety.

Even Eli, the high priest and Judge of Israel, is not faithfully serving God and the people.

Israel needs more than a Judge. Israel needs to hear from God again. Israel needs a prophet. So, God gives them Samuel, the last Judge of the Period of the Judges.

Samuel speaks the word of the Lord to the people, and teaches them how to live as the people of God. But when Samuel grows old and Israel's enemies attack, the people demand that Samuel appoint a king.

Samuel advises the people to trust in God and not in human leadership, but the people do not listen–they are determined to have a king rule over them and deliver them from the enemy. So, God gives them Saul.

Saul is a foolish, selfish, cowardly king. He ignores the word of the Lord and craves the approval of men. He disobeys God several times, oversteps his duties, and puts the people at odds with God and each other.

King Saul does not keep the Law of Moses, and does not direct the Israelites to live as God's holy people.

So, God gives them David. David is a “man after [God’s] own heart.” He’s a skilled warrior, musician, and leader of men—a man who trusts in God and encourages his countrymen to act like God’s people.

David’s famous defeat of Goliath makes him a popular, famous figure in Israel. Saul fears that David will seize his kingdom eventually, and spends the rest of his life hunting David down.



Devotional Reading

1 Samuel 15:22

1 Samuel 16:7

1 Samuel 17:1-29

2 Samuel

Bible Order: 10 of 66 **Old Testament:** 10 of 39

Single Word Summary: David

Book Outline:

David's Rule over Judah: 1-4

David's Rule over All Israel: 5-24

Context & Notes:

David is a good king who serves the Lord and cares for his people.

God blesses David and the entire nation under his rule. More importantly, God makes a covenant (called the Davidic Covenant) with David, promising to establish his throne forever.

However, David disobeys the Lord and sleeps with Bathsheba, who is married to one of David's soldiers. David repents.

There are many challenges David has with his family. The rape of Tamar, Absalom trying to take the Kingdom from David, Adonijah (a son) declaring himself to be King and more. Preachers will often try to link a dysfunctional family with David's incident with Bathseba. The thinking is, if you just obey God, your family will behave and be trouble free. Nothing could be further from the truth.

2 Samuel is riddled with so many actions between God and David that reveal much of who God **truly** is.

David serves God throughout difficulties with his family and more. Yes, God is faithful to His promise: David remains king over Israel.

Devotional Reading

Acts 13:22

2 Samuel 5:4-5

2 Samuel 9

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