

A User's Guide to 1 Samuel, Part 2

Sunday Evening, April 14, 2024 – WOCC – Rich Howell

BOOK INTRODUCTION: *As the books of Samuel begin, we are still in the period of the Judges. Eli (a descendant of Aaron's fourth son, Ithamar) is serving as both Israel's judge and HIGH PRIEST at Shiloh, Israel's first capital. Eli's two DEGENERATE sons, Hophni and Phinehas, also served as priests. When all three died on the same day, Samuel assumed the leadership roles of Eli and sons. In fact, Samuel wore every hat a leader of Israel could wear! He was judge, priest, PROPHET, military leader, and the ANOINTER of Israel's first two kings! He was a godly and upright man, and the right man at the right time to transition Israel from judges to kings. The book's central characters are Hannah, Eli, Samuel, Saul, JONATHAN and David. The events of 1 Samuel span a time period of approximately 65 years (1075-1010 BC).*

BOOK OUTLINE with embedded highlights:

I Samuel 1-4 Samuel's Backstory

- 1 Hannah's prayer and Samuel's birth
A. The priest, Eli, gives us a good bad example of JUMPING to CONCLUSIONS and judging by APPEARANCES! (1:9-18; 16:7; John 7:24)
- 2 Hannah's prayer of praise and Samuel's service under Eli
- 3 Samuel's CALL and progress
B. The boy whose name means "HEARD of God," HEARD God's call and LISTENED to God's words! (1:20; 3:1-20; James 1:19-25)
- 4 Israel's defeat and Eli's FALL

I Samuel 5-6 The Philistines ZEALOUSLY Return the Ark of the Covenant

I Samuel 7-8 Samuel Judges Israel

- 7 Samuel, the faithful, "circuit" judge
C. Samuel's challenge to Israel (7:3-4): Notice the imperatives: RETURN ...; PUT AWAY ...; DIRECT ...; "SERVE HIM (GOD) ONLY" (Exodus 20:3-6; Mat 4:10; 6:24; Josh 24:15)
- 8 Israel asks for a king
*D. Israel's insistence on a king was a rejection of THE LORD, not of SAMUEL.
1) It's never a good idea to want/try to BE LIKE the world! (Rom 12:2)
2) This is a case in which a mentee becomes TOO MUCH like his mentor! (8:1-3)*

I Sam 9-15 The Rise & FOLLY of Saul, Son of Kish

- 9 Saul meets Samuel
- 10-11 Saul anointed, proclaimed, confirmed as Israel's first king
- 12 Samuel's FAREWELL address
*E. Samuel wasn't just a man of the Word, he was a man of _____!
(7:3-14; 12:16-25) Just another good reason to pray _____!
(1 Thes 5:17; Rom 12:12)*

13 Saul's first big mistake: He loses most of his army, then loses his _____, and a lot more than that ...
F. God is already looking for a better _____, with a better _____!
(13:13-14; 16:7; Acts 13:21-22)

14 Jonathan sparks Israel's victory over the Philistines

15 Saul's second big mistake: He leaves God's _____ business

G. Saul had a "hearing" problem, we might call "_____ hearing," which led to _____ obedience also!

☞ *The order (15:1-3)*

☞ *Saul's failure (15:4-13,20-21,24)*

☞ *Samuel's rebuke (15:13-26)*

To obey > _____

To listen > _____

[APP for v23: When it comes to your relationship to the Lord, don't _____, don't _____, just _____ what He _____! (Mat 7:21-27)]

☞ *What Saul did: He _____ God's Word*

☞ *What God did: He _____ Saul as king*

I Sam 16-20 The Rise of David & _____ of Saul

16 Samuel anoints David/David in Saul's service

17 David slays Goliath and sparks Israel's victory over the Philistines

18-19 David's continued successes and Saul's _____ jealousy

20 Jonathan helps David flee Saul's wrath

I Sam 21-27 David on the Run in the Desert

21-23 Saul closes in on David

24 David spares Saul/Saul's _____ repentance

25 David loses Samuel, wins Abigail

26 David spares Saul, again/Saul _____ repents, again!

27 David and his raiders in the land of the Philistines

I Sam 28-31 Saul's Last Battle

28 Saul resorts to _____ for guidance

29 David not allowed to fight alongside of the Philistines

30 The raid, retaliation & restoration of David's town, Ziklag

31 Saul and Jonathan fall to the Philistines on _____