



## **1 Samuel**

**1 Samuel 15:22** *“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”*

We must always remember that timelines are not followed perfectly in the Bible. One chapter is not the next day or week. This is a fast-moving book. The old is gone and Samuel arises as a good priest. Saul is chosen as the first king. Then we have the story of David swirling around in the background. This book tells us the beginning and end of the first king. It's fast paced as Judges was. Yet, years have passed. God was setting up the kingly line that would ultimately lead to Jesus

### **Narrative**

1 Samuel begins with a declaration that something new is about to happen. What book of the Bible begins with a godly woman? Is the intent that the mother of a leader makes a difference? Look at Naomi, Ruth, and Hannah. Time has moved on from the Judges of Israel. The book of Ruth shows God setting up the kingly line. Yet, they were without a king. God cleans house of the priesthood. Then this Godly woman has a child that will renew the priesthood. The Ark of God returns and the foundation for God's king is set. This is super fast paced.

In chapter 8, it says the people demand a king. They wanted to be like other nations. God knew this would happen all along. The first king of Israel is a human king. Meaning he is picked

by the people. Soon after, God makes a remark to Samuel that God looks at the heart while men choose by looks. Even as they are picking Saul, God is picking his own in king: the little boy named David. Yet, in this book it is not David's time to rule. I find that this book is telling the story of leadership. Human leadership that will ultimately fail. People have their own pride, insecurities, and agenda. Their hearts are not leaning towards God. The other side of this book is the trials of a good king. A great leader must be tried and tested. He or she must become someone who is after God's own heart. This book tells of the breaking of a bad king and the making of a good king.

### **Intent**

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 is a prophesy of God. *“When you say let us set a king over us.”* God knew! Why didn't God say you will have no king? It's because Jesus was to be in the line of Kings. Their Messiah was to be the last King. The saviour of the children of God. This book of 1 Samuel sets the ball on the tee. The old priesthood is done away with and a new order that hears God is born. David is anointed as king well before that ever happened. God was working on Israel behind the scenes. The church has always valued its institution and relics. The establishment of church begins here. The birth of the nation begins here too. The return of the Ark is a symbol of God's return to a lost nation. To make good on God's promise to Abraham. To restore faith in the church.

Judges 16:20 *“And she said, “The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.” And he awoke out of his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself.” And he knew not that the Lord had departed from him.”*

As modern readers we have a flaw. Most of us don't remember that the people in the biblical stories don't have the Bible. All they see is life before them. From a bird's eye view we can see God working. Yet, they cannot from the ground. Some say there are no miracles today. That, seeing demons is a New Testament thing. Is evil working all around us and we can't see it? 1 Samuel shows us that God is working behind the scenes. King Saul is the first king but not the chosen king. This book lays out a bird's eye view. It also is a book that is on the ground telling the story about the making of a nation.

### **Characters**

Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David, God

### **Who wrote this book?**

Tradition says Samuel wrote it.

### **Famous verses**

1. 1 Samuel Chapter 2:1-10 Hannah's Prayer
2. 1 Samuel 15:14 Saul tried to assert himself as priest
3. 1 Samuel 15:22 to obey is better than sacrifice
4. 1 Samuel 16:7 God looks at the heart
5. 1 Samuel 17 David's leadership against Goliath

### **Controversies, issues, and Questions**

- i. **1 Samuel 16** David being anointed twice as king. It's not so much a controversy as an interesting talking point. David was anointed as a boy of 15 by Samuel to be King. Yet, Saul was King. It's not until 22 years later that David is truly anointed as King.

- ii. 1 Samuel 17 Johnathan and David have been portrayed as lovers. Yes, the Greek culture at the time included a gay element. We have no reason to say they had sex or were in love. The wording here portrays dedication and respect. Yet, because of the culture and people wanting it to be true there can be a controversy.
- iii. 1 Samuel 24 David did not kill Saul. There are two separate instances where David could have killed Saul. David is a great leader and King directly because he respected who God chose as King. David knew he was anointed as king for years. All he had to do was take over by killing Saul yet, he refused. David is a complicated man as we all are. Why kill Uriah but spare Saul?

### **Connections**

**1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Corinthians 10:7 (Appearances); 1 Samuel 20:6; John 7:42 (Jesus and David line is from Bethlehem)**