

1 Samuel

Introduction:

The name Samuel means “heard of God” and Samuel is both the writer and the central figure. The book of Samuel picks up where the book of Judges left off – “everyone did what was right in his own eyes”. The book covers the period of time from the birth of Samuel to the beginning of the reign of David. Samuel is a book of transition: From Theocracy (the rule of God), the Invisible King, which made them unlike other nations to Monarchy (the rule of man), a visible king, which made them like other nations.

Key Theme – The people demand a king in chapter 8– choosing less than God’s best.

Key Word – King– occurs 28 times

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 10:25

“Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.”

Structure and Outline:

- I. Samuel: The Last of the Judges (1-7)**
- II. Saul: The First of the Kings (8-15)**
- III. David: The Anointed Successor (16-31)**



Ebenezer Jehovah-Jireh

I. Samuel: The Last of the Judges (1-7)

The book begins by introducing Samuel’s mother – Hannah. Hannah provides an excellent model of how to raise a Godly child in an ungodly society. How does your life compare?

- **Committed Her Child to the Lord in Prayer (1:11)**
She appeals to the Lord of Hosts – the God of all power and authority, and trusts Him to provide for both her and her son.
- **Faithful to House of God (1:24)**- Notice that she brought her son with her to the house of God.
- **Sacrifice and Obedience (1:25)** - She sacrificed in front of her son. Her child saw her repentant and obeying God’s plan for her own life
- **Worship (1:28)** - Verse 28 ends with a glimpse into young Samuel’s heart: “And he worshiped the LORD there.” **Even at three-years-old, he was able to worship. How do you think he learned how to do this?** He learned by watching his own Godly mother.

Chapters 2-3 set the stage for Ichabod (4:21) where the glory of the Lord departed from His people.

Practical Application: What causes the glory of the Lord to depart from churches and marriages?

- 1. When we lose our Respect for God (2:12,17)**
- 2. When our worship is insincere (2:12-17)**
- 3. When we tolerate sin in our lives (2:22-25)**

Samuel comes to know that Lord as **Ebenezer** (7:12) which means – “The Lord has helped us to this point.” Missionary Hudson Taylor had a plaque in his home that read Ebenezer Jehovah-Jireh. Jehovah-

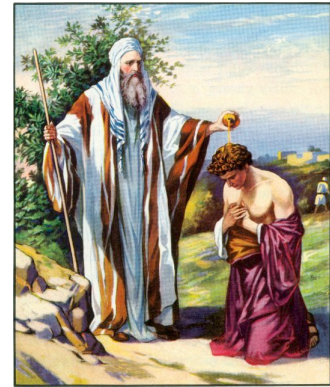
Jireh means "The Lord will provide". These two names are like two "bookends", the past and the future. They remind us that the Lord has provided richly until now, and will provide for us in the future.

II. Saul: The First of the Kings (8-15)

Israel wanted a king like the other nations and God granted their request in 8:19-22. Here is a great lesson for us – we may settle for God's second best when He wants our best – God has a direct will and a permissive will.

Timeline of Saul's Life

- Saul chosen to be king (9:2), and anointed by Samuel (10:1)
- An act of Impatience (13:12-13)
- An act of Rebellion (15:19-23)
- The Spirit of the Lord Departed from Saul (16:14)
- Saul tries to kill David out of jealousy (18:7-11)
- An Act of Idolatry and Witchcraft (28:7-20)
- Saul commits suicide (31)



Practical Application: The Type of Leader God Rejects

1. **Unwilling to Trust in God's Timing** – In 1 Samuel 13, Saul had been instructed to wait for the prophet Samuel to come and make sacrifices before he and his men went into battle. But when Samuel wasn't there at the appointed time and the troops began to get fearful, Saul went ahead and made the sacrifices himself. Saul was more interested in pleasing men than trusting God.
2. **Partial Obedience** - In 1 Samuel 15, God specifically instructed Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites. But at the people's request, Saul had them keep some of the best of the livestock. Samuel tells Saul in verse 22, "to obey is better than sacrifice". The point is that God is far more concerned with our relationship with Him than He is with what we do for Him.
3. **Taking Blessings of God and Glorifying Yourself** – In 1 Samuel 15 verse 12 makes it clear where Saul's heart was because the first thing he did was to go and erect a monument in honor of himself.

III. David: The Anointed Successor (16-31)

David was a man after God's own heart, and one of the greatest characters in all of Israel's history. David, the son of Jesse and the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz, was the youngest of 8 sons.

Timeline of David's Life

- David chosen to be king (16:1-11) and anointed by Samuel (16:12-13)
- David defeats Goliath (17:31-54)
- David forms a special friendship with Jonathan (18)
- David goes through a time of battles, trials, and preparation (19-30)

Practical Application

1. **Chosen (16)** – We are reminded in the life of David that while man looks at the outward appearance - God looks at the heart. David was the youngest, least qualified, and least likely in his own family. That's exactly the type of person God often chooses so that He alone gets the glory!



2. **Champion (17)** – God placed David in this battle at this time. He had given David victory in previous battles. When everyone else saw an obstacle, David saw an opportunity. When everyone else saw a

powerful enemy, David saw a much more powerful God. He trusted in the power of God to accomplish the extraordinary so that God would receive great glory!

3. Companion (18) – David chose in Jonathan a friend who loved God, who helped David accomplish God's will for his life, and who thought of others more than himself. We would be wise to surround ourselves with such Godly friends.