

STORY GUIDE





Have you ever wondered how God could use you to accomplish part of His plan? Or like there was no way for God to bring good from your situation? The books of 1 and 2 Samuel are filled with people who wondered and felt the same thing! These books, originally written as one whole story, tell the history of a pivotal point in Israel as they transitioned from being ruled by judges to being ruled by kings. We'll be taking an epic journey through this 130-year period in God's great story.

While we study this book, you might find yourself sitting on the edge of your seat, waiting to see what happens next. The stories and characters will capture your attention, break your heart, resonate with your personal experiences, and challenge your everyday life. These stories expose why we desperately need a Savior and point to Jesus, who is exactly that for us! The books of Samuel will deepen your understanding of God's steadfast character, His faithful plan of redemption, and the kind of life He created for you to live and enjoy. We pray this story guide will enrich your journey, provide context, and help you get the most out of your time studying God's Word.





HOW TO USE THIS STORY GUIDE



A LITTLE BACKGROUND:

These two books of the Old Testament chronicle the life and times of Samuel, Israel's last judge and first prophet; Saul, Israel's first king who had it all and then lost it all; and David, the shepherd king and warrior poet after God's own heart. It's a grand saga of faith and devotion, war and rebellion, friendship and feuds, loyalty and betrayal, love and scandal—themes that are just as relevant today as they were then. Through these characters and all the stories in between, from one generation to the next, you'll see God's faithful, just, and holy character on display! Above all, it brings God's plan of redemption for not just Israel but all people into a clearer view.

ON THE TIMELINES:

The books of Samuel fall at a crucial point in the transition in Israelite history and are central to God's redemption plan for Israel and humanity. The timelines will provide context for events before and after this time in history. Lastly, you'll find a section that outlines where you can see the prophesy of Jesus throughout the Old Testament.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND:

As you journey through this study and watch the events unfold, we pray these resources help you immerse yourself in the books of Samuel. In addition to the overview and the timeline, this guide also contains a map and character biographies. Because of the length of these books, this series is broken up into six parts, and you can learn more about what happens in each. In the back of the guide, you'll also notice a place for you to take notes. You're encouraged to bring this story guide with you to service on the weekends!

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PREVIOUSLY ON

WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL



1446 BC

Almost 350 years before the birth of the prophet Samuel, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.

THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Creation, Adam & Eve
(*Genesis 1*)

The story of Noah
and the Ark
(*Genesis 7*)

The story of Abraham
(*Genesis 12*)

The Exodus from Egypt
(*Exodus 1*)

Moses and the Ten
Commandments
(*Exodus 20*)

***NOTE:** Dates indicated on this timeline are estimates based on multiple sources, which include:

Wilmington's Guide to the Bible; A Survey of Israel's History (Wood); The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge; International Standard Bible Encyclopedia; and Easton's Bible Dictionary.



1407 BC

About 40 years later, Joshua, Moses' protégé, led the people of God into the Promised Land, fulfilling the promise God had made to Abraham approximately 1,000 years prior.



1375 BC

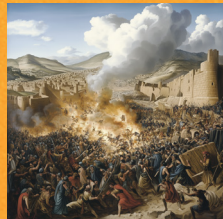
Less than 100 years after Israel settled in the Promised Land, a new generation grew up that didn't know the Lord or His works (Judges 2). This led to chaos, as people did what seemed right to them instead of following God's guidance. After 275 years of this, Samuel, the last judge, was born.

THE TIMELINE OF THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL



1100 BC

Birth of Samuel
1 Samuel 1



1041 BC

Saul's War with the Philistines
1 Samuel 13



1024 BC

Samuel Anoints David at Bethlehem
1 Samuel 16

David Kills Goliath
1 Samuel 17

1011 BC

Samuel Dies
1 Samuel 25

1043 BC

Saul Becomes King
1 Samuel 8-10



1028 BC

Saul's Disobedience and Samuel's Rebuke
1 Samuel 15

1018 BC

David Runs from Saul
1 Samuel 20



1010 BC

Saul's Death and David's Coronation
2 Samuel 2





1000 BC

David Plans a Temple
2 Samuel 7

991 BC

Nathan Rebukes
David
2 Samuel 12

976 BC

Absalom's
Conspiracy
and David flees
Jerusalem
2 Samuel 15



970 BC

David's Last Days
1 Kings 1 & 2

993 BC

David and Bathsheba
2 Samuel 11



990 BC

Solomon is Born
2 Samuel 12:24

Amnon and Tamar,
Amnom killed by
Absalom
2 Samuel 13



972 BC

Absalom Slain
by Joab
2 Samuel 18

COMING UP NEXT

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL

931 BC



After Solomon died, the kingdom split into two separate states: Judah (made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and Israel (which included the other 10 tribes).

This led to a time of frequent wars, a mix of good and bad kings, many prophets, and very little peace or prosperity.

970 BC



After King David's death around 970 BC, the period was marked by chaos, similar to the time before Samuel was born. David was succeeded by his son Solomon, who ruled for 39 years.

During Solomon's reign, Israel experienced unmatched peace and prosperity, reaching the peak of its power. However, this period of success was short-lived.

586 BC



136 years later, Jerusalem fell, and Judah was conquered by the Babylonians, leading to captivity (1 Kings, 2 Chronicles). Despite the turmoil, God used these prophets over roughly 500 years to reveal His plan of redemption for Israel and all people.

772 BC

The Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and were taken into captivity.



6-4 BC

The coming of the King who would sit on David's throne forever—the Messiah, the Lord, Jesus Christ!



THE NEW TESTAMENT:

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
(The book of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

The Early Church
(The book of Acts)

Prophecy
(The book of Revelation)

Today

DIVINE PARALLELS

SEEING JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF Samuel

SAMUEL AND JESUS: A MIRACULOUS BIRTH

Samuel's mother, Hannah, was barren. She prayed to God for a son, promising that if God would answer her prayer and give her a son, her son's life would be devoted to God's service. Miraculously, she conceived Samuel (1 Samuel 1:8-11, 20), and just as she promised, she devoted her son, Samuel, to God.

DEDICATED TO GOD

Both Jesus and Samuel were dedicated in the Temple. Hannah brought Samuel to the Tabernacle and offered a sacrifice to dedicate him to God (1 Samuel 1:24-28), just as Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple with an offering (Luke 2:22-24).

SERVANT-HEARTED MOTHERS

Through prayer, Hannah and Mary both praised God for their sons. Hannah thanked God, making several prophetic references to Christ. She praised God as her rock, a title we know is identified with Christ.

ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM

Samuel and Jesus were responsible for establishing kingships in Israel. Samuel inaugurated the Israelite kingship when he anointed Saul as the first king (1 Samuel 10:24-25). Later, Jesus established the true and perfect kingship of Israel and then of the world (Luke 1:32-33).

DIVINE PARALLELS

THE ANOINTED ONE

The central theme of kingship in 1 & 2 Samuel serves as a powerful foreshadowing of Jesus, the ultimate King of Kings. Just as Samuel anointed David in Bethlehem, Jesus' baptism by John was His anointing moment, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove.

THE SHEPHERD KING

David and Jesus were both shepherds David cared for and led his sheep (1 Samuel 16:11, 17:15), and before becoming king, the Israelites recognized him as the one who would shepherd God's people (2 Samuel 5:2). Jesus, also a descendant of David, called Himself the "Good Shepherd" who cares for and leads His followers (John 10:14-15).

THE REJECTED KING

When David and Jesus were being rejected by their own, they gathered the weak, poor, and seemingly unimportant. David gathered 400 distressed and discontented men who served him (1 Samuel 22:2). Jesus also gathered those weary and burdened, and when they followed him, He gave them rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

David's trials, including his flight from Saul and reign marked by conflict, foreshadow Christ's sufferings. David's psalms of lament express feelings of abandonment, echoing Jesus' cry from the cross, highlighting Christ's sacrificial mission and His identification with human pain.

THE COVENANT PROMISE

The concept of covenant is central in 1 & 2 Samuel, particularly in the one established with David. God promises an eternal dynasty to David, a promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who establishes the new and everlasting covenant between God and humanity through His death and resurrection.

PROPHET AND PRIEST: JESUS AS THE ULTIMATE MEDIATOR

Samuel, a significant figure in these books, serves as both a prophet and a priest, mediating between God and the people. This foreshadows Jesus' role as the ultimate prophet and High Priest, who perfectly bridges the gap between God and humanity.

DIVINE PARALLELS IN SCRIPTURE

Samuel conceived
miraculously through
Hannah who was barren
(1 Samuel 1:8-11; 20)

Samuel was dedicated
in the temple
(1 Samuel 1:24-28)

Hannah's song of praise
(1 Samuel 2:2)

Saul is the first
Israelite king
(1 Samuel 10:24-25)

David was anointed by Samuel in Bethlehem
(1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Jesus, the Messiah, also known as
the Son of David, was prophesied to
be born in Bethlehem

David was a shepherd
(1 Samuel 16:11, 1 Samuel 17:15)

David was rejected by his own people
(1 Samuel 22:2)

David experienced great suffering on his path to
becoming king, and he endured it for the love of
God and his people.
(1 Samuel 19-31;
Psalm 31:9-24, Psalm 69)

God established His
covenant with David
(2 Samuel 7:8-29)

Samuel, a prophet and priest, mediated
between God and the Israelites
(1 Samuel 3:19-21)

OLD
TESTAMENT

Jesus conceived
miraculously
through Mary
(*Luke 1:30-21*)

Mary and Joseph took Jesus
to the temple with an offering
(*Luke 2:22-24*)

Mary's song of praise
(*Luke 1:46-56*)

Jesus establishes the true
and perfect kingship in Israel
(*Luke 1:32-33*)

Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan
(*Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:29-34*)

Jesus conceived miraculously through Mary, is born
in Bethlehem
(*Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:4-6*)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd
(*2 Samuel 5:2; John 10:14-15*)

Jesus was rejected by his own people
(*Matthew 21:42; Luke 4:16-30;
John 1:9-11, 18:40*)

Jesus suffered for all of us in order to save us
because He loves us with an everlasting love

(*Isaiah 53:2-5; Matthew 26-28;
Luke 18:31-33; John 18-20*)

God established the new covenant of grace
through Jesus
(*Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20; Romans 8*)

Jesus ultimate prophet and High priest; perfectly
bridges the gap between us and God
(*1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16, 9:15*)

NEW
TESTAMENT

KEY LOCATIONS

SHILOH: Birthplace of Samuel, location of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant

RAMAH: Samuel's hometown

ASHDOD: Where Ark was taken by Philistines, Dagon Statue destroyed

GIBEAH: Saul's hometown

GILGAL: Location of Saul's anointing and the location of Saul's disobedient offering

AMALEK: Where Saul was rejected fully as king after sparing King Agag and keeping the best livestock

BETHLEHEM: Birthplace of David

VALLEY OF ELAH: Location of David and Goliath's fight

NOB: A priestly town where David sought help from Ahimelech and received consecrated bread and Goliath's sword

EN GEDI: Desert oasis where David hid from Saul and later spared Saul's life

MT. GILBOA: Place of Saul and Jonathan's death

HEBRON: Location of David's anointing and his home for seven years before moving to Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: The capital of Israel. The location of the Ark of the Covenant after this defeat and where David sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah

RABBATH AMMON: Capital of the Ammonites, death place of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah

MAHANAIM: David's sanctuary during Absalom's rebellion

FOREST OF EPHRAIM: Absalom's death place

GIHON: Location of Solomon's anointing



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SEA OF GALILEE

MT. GILBOA

BETH-SHAM

ROGELIM

JABESH-GILEAD

MAHANAIM

FOREST OF EPHRAIM

MT. GERIZIM

JORDAN RIVER

AMMON

APHEK

EBENEZER

SHILOH

BETH-AVEN

GILGAL

MICHMASH

GIBEON

RAMAH

MIZPAH

GIBEAH

NOB

GIHON

JERUSALEM

BETHLEHEM

AZEKAH

ASHKELON

ADULLAM

ASHDOD

GATH

KEILAH

TEKOA

HEBRON

ZIPH

CARMEL

ZIKLAG

BE'ER SHEVA

MOAB

AMALEKITES

DEAD SEA



CAST OF characters

The books of Samuel are an action-packed true story that takes place over the span of three generations. God uses each of these individuals to bring forth His perfect plan for Israel as He prepares the way for Jesus through David's lineage. Discover more about each person and how God uses them in His story.



A woman with a yellow headscarf and a dark garment is holding a baby wrapped in a yellow cloth. The woman has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side. The baby is looking up at her. The background is a solid yellow circle.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

hannah

SAMUEL'S FAITHFUL MOTHER

Hannah was one of the most important characters in the Books of Samuel. Deeply grieved by her barrenness and taunted by her husband Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, she cried out to God in prayer, vowing to dedicate a son to Him if her prayer was answered. Mistaken for drunk by Eli, the priest, she explained her anguish, and Eli blessed her. God answered, giving her a son, Samuel. True to her promise, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord's service, offering a prayer of praise that later inspired Mary's song in the New Testament.

LEARN ABOUT HANNAH IN
1 SAMUEL 1.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

samuel

ISRAEL'S GREATEST PRIEST,
PROPHET, AND JUDGE

Samuel, meaning “heard of God,” was a pivotal leader in Israel’s history for 40 years, serving as priest, prophet, and the last judge. Dedicated to God by his mother, Hannah, he grew up in the Tabernacle under Eli. Samuel faithfully delivered God’s messages, from his first prophecy of judgment to Eli to anoint Israel’s first kings, Saul and later David. Though Samuel died before David’s reign, his life demonstrated God’s sovereignty and the power of faithful obedience in His plan.

LEARN ABOUT SAMUEL IN
1 SAMUEL 1–25.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



eli

SAMUEL'S MENTOR

Eli, a priest serving at the Tabernacle in Shiloh for 40 years, played a significant role in God's plan despite the challenges in his life. Known for blessing Hannah, Samuel's mother, and guiding Samuel in his early years, Eli also served as a cautionary example. His failure to restrain his wicked sons, Hophni and Phineas, led to consequences that reshaped Israel's priesthood. Through Eli's story, God demonstrated His commitment to raising faithful leaders who align with His will, paving the way for His greater purposes to unfold.



LEARN ABOUT ELI IN
1 SAMUEL 1-25.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



saul

ISRAEL'S FIRST KING

Saul, a tall and striking man from the tribe of Benjamin, became Israel's first king at God's direction, despite the people's misguided desire to be like other nations. Initially a capable military leader, Saul's reign reflected both the potential and the peril of human leadership apart from complete obedience and dependence on God. Though God used him to defend Israel and establish the monarchy, Saul's disobedience led to the loss of his 40-year dynasty, paving the way for David and God's greater redemptive plan.

LEARN ABOUT SAUL'S LIFE
IN 1 SAMUEL 8–30.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



David

SHEPHERD KING AND WARRIOR POET

David, a shepherd from Bethlehem and the youngest son of Jesse, was chosen by God to lead Israel after Saul's disobedience. Anointed by Samuel, David rose from humble beginnings to prominence, demonstrating courage, faith, and reliance on God—most famously in his defeat of Goliath. Though he endured jealousy, betrayal, and personal failure, David remained devoted to God, seeking repentance when confronted with his sins.

As king, David established Jerusalem as Israel's capital and desired to build a temple for the Lord. Instead, God promised to establish David's dynasty forever, pointing to the coming Messiah, Jesus, the Son of David, who would reign eternally. Through David's life, God revealed His power to use flawed yet faithful individuals to fulfill His redemptive plan.

○ **LEARN ABOUT DAVID'S LIFE
IN 1 SAMUEL 16 THROUGH**



CAST OF CHARACTERS

goliath

A GIANT OBSTACLE

Goliath, the towering champion of the Philistines, struck fear into the hearts of Israel with his size, strength, and arrogance. Though his exact height is debated—ranging from seven to nine feet—his imposing presence made him a seemingly unbeatable foe. God used an unlikely hero, a young shepherd named David, armed with a sling, a few stones, and unwavering faith in the Lord, to defeat the giant. Through Goliath's defeat, God demonstrated His power to deliver His people and exalt those who trust in Him.

LEARN ABOUT GOLIATH IN
1 SAMUEL 17.



CAST OF CHARACTERS

jonathan

FAITHFUL SON AND FRIEND

Jonathan, Saul's son, was a man of faith and loyalty who stood with David, God's chosen king, despite his father's jealousy and opposition. He made a covenant with David, honoring God's plan for the kingdom. Though Jonathan died in battle alongside Saul, his family name lived on as David later honored him by taking in his son Mephibosheth for the sake of their enduring friendship. And in this very thing we see the great legacy of Jonathan... much like Jesus, who said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13 NIV), Jonathan showed us what true Christian love, service, and friendship looks like!

LEARN ABOUT JONATHAN
IN 1 SAMUEL 14-30.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

bathsheba

VICTIM QUEEN AND MOTHER

Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah and daughter of Eliam, was thrust into a key role in God's plan, despite the tragic and unwanted circumstances surrounding her story. When King David, in a moment of lust, took Bathsheba from her home and she became pregnant, it set off a series of events that included Uriah's death in battle, orchestrated by David to conceal his sin. After Uriah's death, Bathsheba became David's wife, but their first child died as a consequence of David's sin.

Despite this heartbreak, Bathsheba's story didn't end there. She gave birth to Solomon, whom God loved and chose to become the next king of Israel. Bathsheba later played a significant role in ensuring Solomon's ascension to the throne, fulfilling God's promise to establish David's line. She is also part of the genealogy of Jesus, the promised Messiah, showing how God used even the most painful circumstances to bring about His greater redemptive plan.

○ **LEARN ABOUT BATHSHEBA
IN 2 SAMUEL 11.**

CAST OF CHARACTERS



nathan

A BOLD PROPHET

Nathan, a prophet during King David's reign, served as God's messenger during key moments in David's life. As one of David's closest advisers, Nathan relayed God's promise to establish David's dynasty forever, pointing to Solomon and, ultimately Jesus, the Messiah. Nathan famously confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah, leading to David's repentance. Later, Nathan declared God's favor on Solomon, ensuring his succession to the throne. Through Nathan, God shaped Israel's future, including the lineage of the promised Messiah.



LEARN ABOUT NATHAN IN 2
SAMUEL 12.



absalom

A ROYAL TRAGEDY

Absalom, King David's third son, is remembered for his tragic and rebellious life. His story begins with the violent act against his sister Tamar, which sparked a deep hatred for his half-brother Amnon. Absalom's revenge led to Amnon's murder, after which he fled and lived in exile for three years. Though eventually reconciled with David, Absalom's resentment grew, and he began undermining his father's rule, eventually leading a rebellion to take the throne.

Absalom's claim to the throne led to a civil war, forcing David to flee Jerusalem. Despite his pursuit of power and his betrayal, Absalom's reign was short-lived. His life ended when he was killed in battle by Joab, David's commander after his hair became tangled in a tree. Despite the betrayal, David mourned deeply for his son, highlighting the complex nature of family and leadership. Absalom's story shows how, even in rebellion, God's plan for David's kingdom moved forward.

○ LEARN ABOUT ABSALOM IN
2 SAMUEL 13 THROUGH 24.

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THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL Overview

This series is divided into six parts, each centered around key themes that connect the story across three generations. Each part will help you understand where you're at in the story and how each part connects to the other.

1

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

1 SAMUEL 1-7

Before Israel was ruled by kings, they were ruled by judges. This period of time was filled with chaos and failure, especially towards the end. The story picks up in 1 Samuel in an unexpected spot, with a woman named Hannah pleading with God for a child. God answers her prayer, and she finally has a son, Samuel, and dedicates him to the Lord. Little did Hannah know, God would use Samuel as a prophet in a pivotal time of Israel's history to pave the way for the first kings, and ultimately, the Savior King Jesus! **Even amidst confusion, God is always working to put people into place to accomplish His plans.** Samuel leads the people through a time of disobedience, encourages them to repent, and witnesses God's presence return to the land.

2

THE RISE AND FALL OF A KING

1 SAMUEL 8-15

Because the Israelites wanted to be like everyone else, they went to Samuel and asked for a king. Despite being upset at their foolishness, Samuel asks God who tells him that he will grant their request and let them reap the consequences. The first king Samuel appoints is Saul who outwardly seems like a great candidate. He is tall, good-looking, and strong. Though Saul has some success in battle, his disobedience to God and lack of integrity lead him down a path of failure. Samuel breaks the news to him that God will raise up another man with a humble and faithful heart to replace him as king. **God will always oppose the proud and exalt the humble.** Until this promise is fulfilled though, the nation must continue to live under Saul's leadership.

3

WAITING FOR THE CROWN

1 SAMUEL 16–31

After Saul's rejection, Samuel anoints David, a young shepherd boy, to be the future king of Israel. The fulfillment of this promise, however, takes many years because Saul must finish out his time as king. As David waits for the crown, he grows in popularity as a successful commander, but he also repeatedly dodges Saul's desperate and jealous attacks against him. Saul descends into further madness while David grows in wisdom and prepares for the throne. Time after time, David refrains from killing Saul to wait on God's perfect timing to receive his kingship. **In times of waiting, God still gives us many opportunities to honor, obey, and serve Him.** When Saul dies in battle, David rises to the throne and proves that God always keeps His promises.

4

A KING AFTER GOD'S HEART

2 SAMUEL 1–11:1

In 2 Samuel, the history of David's reign takes center stage! Transitions always come with some level of difficulty and division, and that is exactly what David experienced in the beginning of his leadership. As David steps into his role as king, he brings everyone together through several military victories and by bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. In these years, David seeks God's direction in everything, allowing him to enjoy unity and favor in Israel while also receiving a promise for his future family line. **God promises that a future king will establish an eternal kingdom—pointing to the kingdom of Jesus!** Nonetheless, God's promise to David won't come without its own set of challenges.



A DYNASTY OF FAITH

2 SAMUEL 11:2-20

King David was still only human, and scripture doesn't shy away from the gritty parts of the story. Later in his reign, David compels a woman named Bathsheba to be unfaithful to her husband while he's at war and purposely sends her husband to the frontlines to die. His selfishness and sinful actions lead him to reap the consequences, yet they also lead him to repentance. Apart from David, however, the story also highlights other dark moments where people allow their sinful nature to completely control their lives. David's life shows us what it looks like to cling to God while facing the conflicts, suffering, and evil that come from being imperfect and living in a broken world. **Despite the darkness that easily entraps and surrounds us, God always stands ready to receive and mend a heart that runs back to Him.**



A PROMISE OF GREATER LEGACY

2 SAMUEL 21-24

Just like every earthly king, King David's reign must come to an end. Even in his last days, David still falls short. Though David wasn't perfect, his repentant heart is something we should seek to model our hearts after. His failures also point to the need for a perfect and eternal king. While David's life comes to an end, he reflects on his own story and **God's faithfulness in his life while foreshadowing the future King and Savior who would bring salvation to all people and establish God's kingdom forever.** This wonderful promise was fulfilled through the coming of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

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Do you want to take a deeper dive into
the Books of Samuel throughout the
week? Find more resources online at
CalvaryFTL.org/Samuel

IN THE DAYS WHEN ISRAEL STUMBLED,
when tribes stood divided,

A BARREN WOMAN WEPT AT THE ALTAR.

HANNAH'S PLEA PIERCED THE HEAVENS, AND GOD,
in His mercy, gave her a son.

BROUGHT TO THE TEMPLE IN SHILOH,
SAMUEL GREW IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

ONE QUIET NIGHT, A VOICE CALLED HIS NAME,
STARTLING HIM AWAKE IN THE SHADOWS.

LEARNING TO SPEAK THE WORDS OF THE UNSEEN.
AS HE GREW, THE PEOPLE WERE GUIDED FOR 40 YEARS
NOT ALWAYS WILLING, BUT ALWAYS SEARCHING.

GROWING IN SELFISHNESS,
Israel cried, "give us a king!"

DESPITE THE PROPHET'S WARNING,
THE PEOPLE DEMANDED A CROWN.
AND GOD ALLOWED SAUL TO RISE,
TALL AND STRONG BUT CONSUMED BY PRIDE.

LEADING ISRAEL IN DISOBEDIENCE,
HIS 40 YEAR REIGN BEGAN TO CLOSE,
the anointing passed to another.

IN BETHLEHEM, A SHEPHERD WAS CHOSEN,
A BOY WITH A HARP AND A WARRIOR'S COURAGE.
David stood against the giant's roar,
AND WITH A STONE, GOLIATH FELL AT ISRAEL'S FEET.

THE PEOPLE SANG HIS NAME IN TRIUMPH,

and envy poisoned Saul's heart.

THROUGH WILDERNESS AND EXILE, DAVID FLED,

CONFLICT CHURNED BETWEEN ANOINTED AND REJECTED,

CHASED THROUGH CAVES AND FIELDS OF DUST.

AND WHEN SAUL FELL, DAVID ASCENDED,

crowned in the city of Zion.

JERUSALEM BECAME HIS STRONGHOLD,

THE ARK OF GOD RETURNED IN SPLENDOR.

yet even the chosen stumble—

IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS, SIN OVERTOOK HIM.

DAVID'S SORROW RAN DEEP,

but God's grace covered it all.

ANOTHER 40 YEARS PASSED IN TRIUMPH AND SORROW,

IN BLOODSHED AND BLESSING.

PROMISES WHISPERED IN THE SHADOWS

BOUND THE PEOPLE TO SOMETHING ETERNAL.

THROUGH PROPHET, KING, AND COVENANT,

the story moved forward,

TOWARD A LIGHT NOT YET SEEN.

THREE GENERATIONS CLOSER

TO AN ANCIENT PROMISE ON THE WAY.

FOR MAN AND KINGS AND PROPHETS ALIKE

THE STORY UNFOLDS—A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S TO COME:

a greater King, who will reign forever,

FULFILLING THE PROMISE, REDEEMING THE WORLD,

THROUGH THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

