

Outline of 1 Samuel

The book of 1 Samuel recounts the story of Samuel, his relationship to the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David, and the history of the start of the monarchy.

- I. The Birth of Samuel and His Call1:1-3:21
 - A. Distress of Hannah and Samuel's birth and dedication1:1-1:2:11
 - B. Sin's of Eli's sons and the rebuke of Eli 2:12-17, 22-36
 - C. Samuel's early life.....2:18-21
 - D. Samuel's call to the prophetic office.....3:1-21

- II. Loss of the Ark to the Philistines and Its Recovery4:1-7:17
 - A. Loss of the Ark of the Covenant; Death of Eli and his sons ...4:1-22
 - B. Philistine possession of the Ark brings curse.....5:1-12
 - C. Return of the Ark to Israel.....6:1-21
 - D. Israel repents and Philistines are conquered7:1-14
 - E. Samuel was the last of the judges in Israel.....7:15-17

- III. Selection of Saul and His Reign.....8:1-15:35
 - A. Samuel's sons did not judge honestly8:1-3
 - B. Israel demands a king and the Lord's reply8:4-22
 - C. Saul anointed as first king; Spirit comes on him.....9:1-10:16
 - D. Saul installed as king.....10:17-27
 - E. Saul leads Israel in victory over Ammon11:1-13
 - F. Samuel's address to the people; their confession.....11:14-12:25
 - G. Saul leads Israel against Philistines.....13:1-7, 15-14:52
 - H. Saul offers sacrifices to the Lord.....13:8-14*
 - I. Saul spares Agag and the spoil from the Amalekites.....15:1-35*

- IV. Selection of David and the Conflict Between David and Saul16:1-31:13
 - A. David anointed as next king; Spirit comes on him.....16:1-13
 - B. Spirit of God departs from Saul16:14-23
 - C. David and Goliath17:1-58
 - D. Conflict between Saul, David, Jonathan18:1-24:22
 - E. Samuel's death25:1
 - F. David, Nabal, and Abigail.....25:2-44
 - G. More conflict between Saul, David.....26:1-27:12
 - H. Saul consults the medium at Endor28:1-25*
 - I. David defeats the Amalekites.....29:1-30:31
 - J. Death of Saul, Jonathan, his other two sons.....31:1-13

Notes

- ❑ Samuel's name means "heard by God." This is indicated in 1:20 and 1:27.
- ❑ The * (see outline above) indicates egregious sins of Saul for which the kingdom was taken away from him and his family line.
- ❑ Notice the contrast between 10:24 and 16:7.
- ❑ We must correlate of Deut 17:14-20 with 1 Sam chapter 8, 12:17; and 13:14, chapter 16 regarding the kingship in Israel in order to understand 1 Samuel properly.
- ❑ Many have rightly suggested that David was meant to be Israel's first king.
- ❑ Notice the corruption of the priesthood, particularly chapter 2.
- ❑ Notice the improper use of the Ark in 4:3.