

1 Samuel

THIS book records events at the time of Samuel the prophet: the reigns of King Saul over Israel and God's choice of David to be the king of His people, instead of Saul.

David and Goliath

Hannah – a godly, childless woman – prays for a son. Samuel is born and she and her husband devote him to the Lord's service. Samuel's life is then spent restoring Israel's worship – and being a kingmaker.

Perhaps the best known event in this book is in chapter 17. With a single stone from his sling, David the shepherd-boy defeated the great Philistine champion, Goliath. This showed that God was on David's side.

This incident is a remarkable foretaste of how Jesus (the "Son of David") will overthrow the kingdoms of men, when he returns to re-establish God's kingdom in Israel (compare the prophecy of Daniel 2).

Samuel the Prophet (40 years)

The ark (from the Tabernacle) was captured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4) but later returned (chapter 5).

Israel asked for a king (chapter 8), though their God was their king!

The LORD said to Samuel... "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them" (8:7).

Samuel was told by God to anoint Saul as king (chapter 9).

King Saul (40 years)

Saul disobeyed God (chapters 13 & 15), so God rejected him and told Samuel to anoint David, "a man after [God's] own heart".

Saul envied David and often tried to kill him (chapters 18–31).

King David (40 years)

After the death of Saul, David became king. He ruled first in Hebron (7 years), then in Jerusalem (33 years). The record continues into 2 Samuel.

Norman Owen

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Some interesting links with other parts of the Bible

1 Samuel 15:22 – see Micah 6:6–8

1 Samuel 17:49 – see
Daniel 2:34,44,45

1 Samuel 18:5,14,30 – see
Luke 2:52.

