

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

# 1 Samuel - Overview

## Lesson 1

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In this lesson we will begin the study of the book of First Samuel, and we will start with an overview of its 31 chapters.

Some of the greatest character stories in all the Bible are found in the pages of First Samuel. Three of the greatest people in all of the Old Testament are found here in this book – Hannah, Samuel, and David. God gives us a glimpse into their lives and some insight into their character and what made them great.

In this book, we also have two of the worst men that ever lived – Eli and Saul. Eli goes down in Bible history as a classic example of a man who knew right, believed right, but did not have the courage to stand on what he believed. That's Eli.

Saul was the first king of Israel. The people of Israel desired a king, so God gave them Saul. Saul goes down in Bible history as a classic example of how envy will destroy one's life. He was doing fine until he chose to disobey God. At that point, God raised up someone who had a better heart toward Him, someone who obeyed and gave God the glory in all matters instead of himself. God blessed this man for his humbleness, but Saul viewed him as a threat to his popularity and leadership. 1 Samuel 29:5, *Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?* Saul began to meditate on David instead of on God, and this meditation brought about envy. That envy ruined his life, his family, his kingdom, and eventually his soul.

There are two narratives of the history of the nation of Israel in the Bible. One of them consists within the books of Samuel and Kings, and a parallel history is given in the books of Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The latter three cover much of the same period as Samuel and Kings, just with different details, viewpoints, and emphasis. they are two parallel histories (much like the four gospels of the New Testament parallel each other). God gives us these two views so we might compare and contrast. We will discuss this further at another time.

First and Second Samuel deal with Israel's settlement of the land under Samuel and the first two kings. Israel had been led, as a nation, out of Egypt; they had come through the wilderness; and, under Joshua, they had entered the promised land. During the days of the judges, they were supposed to have completely subdued their enemies and driven them out of the land, but they had failed to do so. Therefore, they did not possess the whole of the land

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that God had promised them. Had the children of Israel simply obeyed and continued driving out the inhabitants after Joshua's death, we would be reading a completely different story. Instead, as we read through the book of First Samuel, we see the direct result of this disobedience troubles, wars, battles, fighting. These people (the Philistines, the Amalekites and other Canaanites in the land of Palestine), who fought against Israel throughout the books of Samuel and Chronicles, were the people God had commanded them to drive out of the land.

As we study this book, we need to reflect on our own walk with the Lord. When we get saved, born again, God gives us His Holy Spirit and commands us to mortify our members. (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5) We are told to put to death the lusts of our flesh by doing away with those old vices, habits, and friends. We need to take a stand for the Lord's ways, or we will fall right back into the devil's ways. 2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* One of the lessons First Samuel teaches us is if we don't make a thorough end of our association with the things of the world, we will battle with them all the days of our life, and they will continually hurt us.

There are four great subjects taught in the book of 1 Samuel.

1. The failure of the Levitical system. When Israel came out of Egypt and reached Canaan, it was roughly 1450 B.C. By 1150 B.C., just three hundred short years later, that Levitical system that God had given them through the law was already a complete and total failure.
2. Samuel and his prophetic office. Samuel was the first traveling preacher in history. He didn't have just one church or congregation; he traveled all over that country preaching and teaching the word of God. He was a preacher that anointed and ordained kings. He was a preacher who actually ran the nation of Israel because he had been given power by God and influence upon his life from the Holy Spirit. The Bible recognizes Samuel as one of the five greatest men that lived in the Old Testament, and he is the only man whose recorded history is clean. Noah got drunk; Abraham and Isaac both lied; Jacob was a cheat; Moses killed a man; David committed adultery. But Samuel...there is no recorded error of his mentioned.
3. God is rejected, and Saul is chosen as king. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, they had no human king. God was their king, and Moses was their leader, pastor, and guide. One day, they came to Samuel and said they wanted to be like all the other nations; they wanted a king, so God

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allowed them to have their way. God never compels anyone to give Him honour or to exalt Him. God told Samuel to warn the children of Israel what it would be like to have a king, and that when they would reject the warning, they would be rejecting God. They did indeed reject God, and He allowed them to have Saul for a king. Saul ended up eventually becoming a devil possessed, mad man, who all but destroyed that nation. The Bible says in Romans 6:16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* They did not want God. God is a gentleman; He gave them what they wanted. Saul!

4. God rejects Saul and chooses David. We will see as we review Saul's life that God gave him warnings and every chance. He personally dealt with him, pleaded with him, sent Samuel to deal with him, sent the Holy Ghost upon him, and had him run into schools of prophets when he was about to make a big mess out of things. God tried every way possible to intervene in the life of Saul, yet Saul still hardened his heart. He stiffened his neck and would not yield to God's reproof. So the Lord decided he would take the kingdom away from Saul and give it to someone better than him.

There is a great lesson here in First Samuel. God can remove kings if He wants to and set up others in their place if He wants to. We often get too occupied with what is going on in Washington and around the world with the leaders in government. If we just focused our attention on God and ask Him to get rid of some of these leaders, He just might do it. The people of Saul's day cried out for God to give them a king, and God did. At the end of the book, we see God choosing to remove Saul from the kingdom, and we find Him laid out on a battle field, having fallen on his own sword a pitiful suicide. God then exalted David in his place.

There are four prominent people in this book:

- Chapters 1-2 ~ Hannah (a God-fearing woman)
- Chapters 1-7 ~ Samuel (the last of the judges)
- Chapters 8-15 ~ Saul (the first of the kings)
- Chapters 16-31 ~ David (the prophet king)

Hannah is really an outstanding person in the book. From Hannah comes Samuel. Hannah raised Samuel to fear the Lord and honour God by living a good, clean life. Psalm 119:11, *Thy word have I hid in mind heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

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## The Divisions of First Samuel:

- **Chapters 1-4 ~ The Breakdown of the Priesthood**
- **Chapters 5-7:2 ~ The Vindication of God's Glory Among the Heathen.**  
The Children of Israel came to a place where their enemies were coming up against them. Because they did not believe God when He had told them He would fight for them (Exodus 14:14), they tried to fight in their own strength, rather than trusting in God. They tried to use the ark as a tool of battle, thinking it would save them. Why? The ark is not God! (It was symbolic of God's presence, but it wasn't God.) The Lord had to vindicate His name and His honour among the heathen. He does that in chapters 5 through 7.
- **Chapters 7:3-8 ~ Divine Government Executed Concerning Samuel.**  
Samuel's sons and the people's rejection of God's rule.
- **Chapters 9-15 ~ David, A Type of Christ.** David, a type of Christ, is the anointed king not yet enthroned, not yet reigning, but anointed. That's what "Christ" means the anointed.
- **Chapters 21-31 ~ The Eventful Life of David Before He Ascended to the Throne.**

## Notes

KJV

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### 1 Samuel - Overview Lesson 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

( \* ) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with answer in your own words.

1. In relation to what we have discussed thus far, what do the children of Israel and born again Christians have in common?
  
2. Who are the three greatest people in the 1 Samuel?
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
  
3. \* What was Saul's biggest downfall?
  
4. What are the themes of the following books (review):
 

Matthew	
Mark	
Luke	
John	
  
5. Where in the Bible can the two great histories of the children of Israel be found?
  
6. What was the reason why Saul became King?

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7. What was the reason why David became King?
8. Who were the two worst men in the book of 1 Samuel?
9. Why did the children of Israel have so many problems?
10. What are some of the unique aspects of Samuel's life?
11. \* What does it mean "to mortify your members"?
12. Explain 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

**True/false**

- Hannah was a God-fearing woman.
- People who live by a policy of God will shut the door and stop me from being disobedient are deceived.
- The ark of the covenant had supernatural power to defeat the enemy.

**Scripture memorization**

Colossians 3:5; Romans 6:13-14; Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?