



My Drift

Title: Bible – The Book of 1 Samuel

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QUEST FOR A KING

THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL



Quick Outline of 1 Samuel

- 1. God raises up Samuel as prophet and judge (1 Sa 1–7).**
- 2. Israel demands a king: Saul (1 Sa 8–15).**
- 3. God raises up David to be king of Israel (1 Sa 16–20).**
- 4. Saul hunts David out of jealousy (1 Sa 21–31).**

What is 1 Samuel about?

Israel has not heard from God in decades. The priests are corrupt. The nearby nations threaten the land's safety. Even Eli, the high priest and judge of Israel, is not faithfully serving God and the people. Israel needs more than a judge. Israel needs to hear from God again. Israel needs a prophet.

So, God gives them Samuel.

Samuel serves the people as a prophet and a judge. He speaks the word of the Lord to the people and teaches them how to live as the people of God. But when Samuel grows old and Israel's enemies attack, the people demand that Samuel appoint a king. Samuel advises the people to trust in God and not in human leadership, but the people do not listen—they are determined to have a king rule over them and deliver them from the enemy.

So, God gives them Saul.

Saul is a foolish, selfish, cowardly king. He ignores the word of the Lord and craves the approval of men. He disobeys God several times, oversteps his duties, and puts the people at odds with God and each other. King Saul does not keep the Law of Moses and does not direct the Israelites to live as God's holy people.

So, God gives them David.

David is a “man after [God's] own heart”. He's a skilled warrior, musician, and leader of men—a man who trusts in God and encourages his countrymen to act like God's people. David's famous defeat of Goliath makes him a popular, famous figure in Israel. Saul fears that David will seize his kingdom eventually and spends the rest of his life hunting David down.



David Spares Saul's Life

The story of David and Goliath is one we all are familiar with – Right?

David and Goliath **(1 Samuel Chapter 17)**

Facing a Giant Challenge



The Philistines were attacking the Israelites. Every morning a giant Philistine named Goliath challenged any Israelite to fight him. Goliath was bigger and taller than anyone else, and he was fierce. He wore heavy armor and carried a sword, spear, and large shield. No one dared to fight him. **1 Samuel 17:1-11**



David was a young shepherd boy who had faith in the Lord. His older brothers were soldiers in Israel's army. One day, David took his brothers some food. When he arrived at the army's camp, he heard Goliath's challenge.

1 Samuel 17:20-23



David asked the soldiers why no one defended Israel. His brothers were angry and told him to go take care of the sheep. But David knew the Lord would defend Israel. **1 Samuel 17:24-30**



King Saul knew of David's faith, so he asked to see David. David told Saul he was not afraid to fight Goliath. David explained that once when he was looking after his sheep, he killed a lion and a bear. The Lord protected him then, and David knew the Lord would protect him now. **1 Samuel 17:31-37**



Saul gave David his armor. But it didn't fit, so David took it off. He decided to fight without any armor. **1 Samuel 17:38-39**



David collected five smooth stones and put them in a bag. He took his sling and shepherd's staff and went to face Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:40



When Goliath saw David, he shouted and made fun of him. He said a shepherd boy could not beat him. David shouted back that he trusted the Lord to protect him! David said he would beat Goliath to show the Lord's greatness.

1 Samuel 17:40



David ran toward Goliath. He quickly threw a stone with his sling. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead, and the giant man fell to the ground. The Lord helped David defeat Goliath without a sword or armor. **1 Samuel 17:48-50**



When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they ran away in fear. The Israelites won the battle. David trusted the Lord, and the Lord protected Israel. **1 Samuel 17:51-53**

A Few Questions

Why was king Saul trying to track down and kill David?

In 1 Samuel 19:19–22:23 we learn that Saul continued trying to kill David. He was so jealous of David that he killed some priests who had given David bread. David continued to flee from Saul, and many people helped David elude Saul.

When does king Saul die?

In the last chapter of 1 Samuel, we learn that Saul died by suicide when he "fell on his sword" during a battle with the Philistines at Mount Gilboa, in which three of his sons were also killed.

When does David become king?

David wasn't even present for his selection as Israel's king (1 Samuel 16:10-11). After he was anointed as Israel's next king and had defeated Goliath, he had to flee from Saul, who sought to perpetuate his reign by killing his replacement.

After the death of Saul, David returned from defeating the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag for two days. On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor. David found out he was the king.

David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. I think we will learn more about David in 2 Samuel.



King David

What did we learn in 1 Samuel?

1 Samuel opens with a heartbroken woman whose prayers for a baby seem to go unanswered. She is bullied, hurting and raw before the Lord. And then one day, the Lord chooses her to birth a son who would be the next leader of Israel—Samuel.

Throughout the book of 1 Samuel, we see faith contrasted with sin. We see the faith of Hannah contrasted with the wickedness of Eli's sons and the evil of Israel. Then we see the righteousness of Samuel contrasted with the wickedness of his sons as well as the people of Israel when they ask for a king. We see the righteousness of David compared to the wickedness of Saul.

And finally, we learn that this David who becomes the king of Israel is the same David that kills Goliath in that famous story.

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