

## 1 Samuel - Outline

**Author:** Unknown; Samuel, Nathan, and Gad each wrote narratives (1 Chronicles 29:29-30).

- “Many scholars agree that some later editor collected written and oral traditions and, guided by the Holy Spirit, put together the book of Samuel as we know it.”<sup>1</sup>

**Date:** Unknown; the events described in 1 Samuel took place between 1100 and 1010 BC.<sup>2</sup>

**Occasion:** Samuel was the last judge to lead the people. A monarchy was established during this time and Samuel was God's spokesperson during this time, anointing both Saul and David, the first kings of Israel.

**Summary:** The book of 1 Samuel relates the events in the life of Samuel, Saul and David until the death of Saul. In it we see the transition of the people being lead by God's appointed judges to the establishment of a monarchy. Originally, the books of 1 and 2 Samuel were just one book, as were the books of 1 and 2 Kings, but were divided in to two books by the translators of the Septuagint.<sup>3</sup>

Group <sup>4</sup>	C	V	Description
Elkanah and His Wives	1	1-2	Elkanah and his wives Hannah & Peninnah
		3-8	Hannah was more loved by Elkanah than Peninnah but was harassed by Peninnah for not have children
		9-11	Hannah makes a vow to God for a son
		12-18	Eli thought Hannah was drunk, she explained her distress; Eli tells her that she will have a son, as she requested
Samuel is Born to Hannah		19-20	Hannah gives birth to a son, Samuel
		21-28	Hannah takes care of Samuel until he is weaned and then dedicates him to the lord
Hannah's Song of Thanksgiving		1-10	Hannah's song of Thanksgiving
		11	Elkanah returns home, Samuel stays with Eli
The Sin of Eli's Sons		12-17	Eli's sons sin in the offerings given to the Lord
Samuel before the Lord as a Boy	2	18-20	Hannah brought a new robe and provisions for Samuel each year; Eli blesses Elkanah & Hannah
		21	Hannah has 3 sons and 2 daughters
Eli Rebukes His Sons		22-25	Eli's sons refuse to listen to his rebuke
		26	Samuel grows physically, Spiritually, and socially
		27-36	Eli told by a man of God that his family's future as priests would be cut off but a new priest would take his place
The Prophetic Call to Samuel	3	1	Visions from the Lord were infrequent in the days of Samuel's youth
		2-9	The lord calls Samuel who thinks it is Eli

<sup>1</sup> (Galan et al. 52-57; Fee and Stuart 82-90)

<sup>2</sup> (Galan et al. 53, timeline; Fee and Stuart 82)

<sup>3</sup> (Galan et al. 52)

<sup>4</sup> (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
		10-14	Samuel responds to the Lord: Speak, for your servant is listening
		15-18	Eli makes Samuel tell him the vision from the lord
		19-21	Samuel was confirmed as a prophet in Israel
Philistines Take the Ark in Victory	4	1-4	The philistines are initially victorious; Israelites call for the ark of the covenant
		5-9	Israelites celebrate the arrival; philistines try to bolster their courage
		10-11	The ark is captured and Eli's sons are killed
		12-18	Eli dies when he hears the ark was captured and his sons killed
		19-22	Eli's daughter-in-law gives birth to a son - Ichabod (Heb. "no glory") because the ark was captured
Capture of the Ark Provokes God	5	1-5	The ark brought to Ashdod and put in the temple of Dagon; Dagon's image is found "bowing down" and destroyed by God before the ark
		6-12	Ashdodites smitten with tumors; the ark is sent to Ekron and the same thing happens
The Ark Returned to Israel	6	1-9	The ark was held by the philistines 7 months; The devise a way of determining if the tumors were from God
		10-12	it returns to the Israelites, confirming that the tumors were from God
		13-16	People in Beth-shemesh see the ark coming in the cart and rejoice
		17-18	The 5 gold tumors and golden mice from the philistines
		19-21	50,070 men of Beth-shemesh destroyed by God for looking in the ark
Deliverance from the Philistines	7	1-2	The ark is brought to Kiriath-jeraim, to Abinadab's house, for 20 years
		3-4	Samuel urges spiritual reforms and removal of idols
		5-6	Samuel becomes the judge of Israel
		7-11	Philistines seek to attack Israel while gathered to worship God; Samuel prays and God intercedes
		12-14	Samuel erects "Ebenezer" (Heb. "the stone of help") as a memorial of God's help in the defeat
Samuel's Ministry		15-17	Samuel's Circuit: Bethel → Gilgal → Mizpah; makes his home in Ramah and builds an altar to the lord there
Israel Demands a King	8	1-3	In Samuel's old age, his sons were corrupt, took bribes and perverted justice
		4-9	The elders of Israel ask Samuel to appoint a king in Samuel's place, "just like all the nations"; Samuel asks God, God says go ahead - the Israelites left God for idols, not they left Samuel for a king
Warning concerning a King		10-18	Samuel explains what would happen if they appointed a king
		19-22	The people want a king nonetheless

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
Saul's Search	9	1-2	Search for a king begins—Saul, handsome son of a mighty man of valor
		3-4	Saul sent to look for some lost donkeys
		5-10	Saul goes to inquire of a man of God
		11-14	Samuel is found in a city, preparing for a sacrifice
		15-21	Samuel tells Saul of God choosing him to be king
		22-24	Samuel & Saul attend the sacrifice and feast, sitting at the head table
		25-27	Samuel has a “Word of God” for Saul
Saul among Prophets		1-8	Samuel anoints Saul and tells him what will happen and what he should do
		9-13	God changes Saul's heart; Saul is seen prophesying among the prophets
		14-16	Saul's uncle wants to know what Saul has been doing and what Samuel told him - Saul didn't tell about the kingdom
Saul Publicly Chosen King	10	17-19	Samuel calls for a national meeting to select a king - God's message to Israel, “You have rejected me as your king, so choose one.”
		20-24	The selection process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribes: Benjamin selected</li> <li>• Families: Matrite family's</li> <li>• Man: Saul, the son of Kish</li> </ul> Saul is finally found hiding among the baggage Saul is crowned—Long live the king!
		25-27	Samuel instructs the people; Saul returns home with some faithful men; some dissenters refused to acknowledge Saul as king
Saul Defeats the Ammonites	11	1-4	The Ammonites attack Jabesh-gilead, the elders of Jabesh-gilead seek a peace agreement and send out a plea for help and it comes To Saul
		5-11	Saul is moved by God's Spirit and Urges the People to rescue Jabesh-gilead; 330,000 respond in total; Saul sends a promise that they will be delivered by the time of the heat of the day; Complete defeat of the Ammonites by Saul
		12-13	Saul's naysayers sought after the victory
		14-15	Samuel renews the kingdom at Gilgal with many sacrifices and great celebration
Samuel Addresses Israel	12	1-5	Samuel asks the people to bear witness of his time of leadership and they affirm his actions as honorable
		6-11	Samuel urges the people to remember the Lord's deliverance in times past
The King Confirmed		12-18	Samuel Urges the people and the king to heed the command's of the Lord and asks the lord to display His might with thunder and rain in the midst of the wheat harvest; the people feared the Lord
		19-25	The people as Samuel to pray for their sin of asking for a King over them other than the Lord; Samuel promises to pray for them continually and urges them to serve the Lord faithfully

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
War with the Philistines	13	1	Saul is 30 years old when he begins his reign
		2-4	Saul and his son Jonathan attack the Philistines garrisons in Benjamin territory; a call to war is issued
		5-7	Israel becomes frightened of the Philistine army, some fleeing and others fearfully following Saul
		8-14	Samuel tells Saul to wait 7 days for his arrival to bless the army; Saul becomes impatient and makes the sacrifice himself; Samuel reprimands Saul for his impatience and his sin against the Lord, thus losing the legacy of a royal lineage
		15-18	Samuel leaves; Saul numbers the people with him; the military strategy of the philistines
		19-23	Israel dependent on the Philistine blacksmiths to make and sharpen farm implements; no metal weapons found in Israel, except with Saul, as a result
Jonathan's Victory		1-5	Jonathan attacks the Philistine garrison at Michmash and Geba (north of Jerusalem, in Benjamite territory) with 600 men
		6-15	Jonathan's dependence on the Lord to provide a victory—"the Lord is not retrained to save by many or by few."
		16-23	Saul's men see the attack and the resulting departure of the Philistines; Saul seeks to see who was leading the attack and calls for the ark of the covenant to be brought into the camp; The Philistine upheaval increases and Saul and his men join the battle; God delivered them from the philistines
Saul's Foolish Order	14	24-30	Saul's foolish order for no one to eat or they would be killed; Jonathan eats and is refreshed, then calls his father's command foolish
		31-35	In the rush of victory, the men eat the meat of the animals with the blood; Saul recognizes the sin of the people and seeks to set them right by building an altar (the first one he built to the Lord)
		36-42	Saul seeks the Lord's direction in attacking the Philistines but no word comes; Lots are cast to determine who has sinned—Jonathan is chosen
		43-46	Saul asks Jonathan concerning his actions and the people intervene for Him; Saul returns from pursuing the philistines
Constant Warfare		47-48	Saul's defense of his kingship against enemies—Ammon, Edom, kings of Zobah, and the Philistines
		49-51	Saul's children and officers
		52	War with the Philistines and his recruiting of mighty, Valiant men
Saul's Disobedience	15	1-3	God's commands concerning Amalek - complete & utter destruction
		4-9	Saul gathers an army and destroys most—spares Agag & best of the sheep and the spoils
Samuel		10-16	God regrets making Saul king, sends Samuel to reprimand him

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
Rebukes Saul		17-19	Samuel reminds the Lord of Saul's prior position and asks why he disobeyed God's command
		20-23	God desires obedience over sacrifices and offerings
		24-31	Saul repents but Samuel tells Saul of the Lord's rejection of him as king
		32-33	Samuel kills Agag
		34-35	Samuel never returned to Saul; God regrets choosing Saul
Samuel Goes to Bethlehem	16	1-5	Samuel sent to Bethlehem, to the house of Jesse, to anoint the new king
6-11		Jesse presents his sons, eldest to youngest, except David	
David Anointed		12-13	David is anointed king
		14-23	David is commissioned to soothe Saul when he is afflicted
Goliath's Challenge	17	1-11	Goliath, the Philistine, challenges the Israelite army
		12-16	David's 3 older brothers join Saul's army, David splits time between tending his father's sheep and serving in Saul's presence
		17-19	David sent to bring provisions to his brothers
David Accepts the Challenge		20-23	David arrives at the time that Goliath would make his challenge
		24-25	Israelites feared Goliath
		26-27	David challenges the men—"For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"—and inquires about compensation for who fights him
David Kills Goliath		28-30	David's brothers chastise him, David rebuffs him
		31-40	Saul calls for David, David offers to fight Goliath using only a sling and 5 stones
		41-47	Goliath laughs at David, David tells Goliath of God's impending deliverance
		48-49	David kills Goliath
		50-54	David decapitates Goliath with his sword, Israelites rout the Philistines
		55-58	Saul inquires about David's father
Jonathan and David	18	1-5	Jonathan makes a covenant of friendship with David
		6-9	David is lauded for his victories in battle, Saul becomes suspicious
Saul Turns against David		10-11	Saul tries to pin David with a spear
		12-16	Saul's jealousy of David increases due to God's blessing upon David
		17-19	Saul offers David his older daughter, Merab, as a wife, but David refuses
David Marries Saul's Daughter		20-29	Saul offers his other daughter, Michal, as a wife in the same day, and David agrees after being told he wouldn't have to pay a dowry
		30	David is highly esteemed among Saul's servants while fighting against the Philistines

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
David Protected from Saul	19	1-7	Saul commands Jonathan to kill David but he refuses and warns David
		8-10	Saul again tries to pin David with a spear
		11-17	Saul seeks David but Michal deceives his servants while David escapes
		18-24	David goes to Samuel in Ramah; Saul and his messengers prophesy before the Lord, causing many to wonder
David and Jonathan Covenant	20	1-11	Jonathan agrees to find out Saul's intention regarding David during the feast of the new moon
		12-17	Jonathan makes a second covenant of friendship with David
		18-23	Jonathan & David agree on how the answer will be delivered
		24-29	Saul asks why David isn't attending the feast
Saul Is Angry with Jonathan		30-34	Saul accuses Jonathan of treachery concerning David
		35-42	Jonathan tells David of Saul's anger and desire to kill him
David Takes Consecrated Bread	21	1-6	David and his men, who were ceremonially clean, are given bread that had been taken from the Table of Showbread by Ahimelech the priest
		7	Doeg the Edomite witnesses David's arrival
		8-9	David is given Goliath's sword
		10-15	David goes to Achish king of Gath seeking refuge but then acts like a madman to escape being killed
The Priests Slain at Nob	22	1-2	David becomes a leader of about 400 men
		3-5	David makes provisions for his parents with the king of Moab
		6-10	Doeg the Edomite tells Saul about David getting Goliath's sword from Ahimelech the priest
		11-13	Saul questions Ahimelech
		14-19	Ahimelech answers Saul and reminds him of David's faithful service to the king; Saul orders Ahimelech killed, the guards refuse, Doeg kills him and the other priests
		20-23	Ahitub, Ahimelech's son, escapes and flees to David who provides protection for him
David Delivers Keliash	23	1-5	The Lord assures David He will be with him while he comes to the aid of the people of Keliash who are being attacked by the Philistines
		6-14	Saul plots to attack David in Keliash; David inquires of the Lord concerning Saul and the people of Keliash and flees; Saul searches for David in the wilderness
Saul Pursues David		15-18	Jonathan assures David that Saul won't kill him and that he would be king and Jonathan would be his ally
		19-23	The Ziphites betray David to Saul who asks them to find all his hideouts
		24-29	Saul called away from pursuing David due to attacks by the Philistines

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
David Spares Saul's Life	24	1-7	David spares Saul's life in the caves of Engedi
		8-15	David shows Saul that he could have taken his life but spared him and calls for the Lord to be a judge between them
		16-22	Saul realizes David's righteousness in the matter, promises peace between them and acknowledges David's right to the throne
Samuel's Death		1	Samuel dies in Ramah
		2-8	David requests help from Nabal, a Calebite, whom he had been providing protection for his shepherds and flocks
		9-13	Nabal refuses to help David and his men; David prepares 400 men to attack Nabal and his property
		14-17	Abigail, Nabal's wife is told of Nabal's refusal to help David and David's plans to attack
Abigail Intercedes	25	18-22	Abigail readies provisions to take to David
		23-25	Abigail appeals to David to accept the gift and disregard her husband's refusal to provide for their needs
		26-31	Abigail asks David to accept the provisions and to remember her
		32-35	David accepts the provisions and sends her home
		36-38	Abigail returns to find Nabal feasting; Abigail tells Nabal what she did in the morning and ten days later the Lord struck him and he dies.
David Marries Abigail		39-42	David proposes to Abigail and she agrees
		43	David also marries Ahinoam of Jezreel
		44	Saul gives Michal, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, from Gallim
David Again Spares Saul	26	1-5	The Ziphites again betray David to Saul who goes out to seek him; David finds Saul's camp
		6-12	David and Abishai enter Saul's camp while he is sleeping; David spares his life but takes his spear and water jug
		13-16	David calls out to Abner, Saul's army commander and asks about the king's spear and water jug
		17-20	Saul recognizes David's voice; David asks Saul why he is pursuing him and who told him to do so: the Lord or his men?
		21-25	Saul admits his sin; David returns the spear—"Now behold, as your life was highly valued in my sight this day, so may my life be highly valued in the sight of the LORD, and may He deliver me from all distress."
David Flees to the Philistines	27	1-4	David seeks asylum with Achish king of Gath; Saul stops seeking David
		5-7	Achish gives Ziklag to David; David stayed with the Philistines a year and four months
		8-12	David makes raids against the Philistines but tells Achish the booty is from Judah, making Achish think David was Israel's enemy

## 1 Samuel - Outline

Group	C	V	Description
Saul and the Spirit Medium	28	1-2	Achish makes plans to attack Israel and asks David to join him, promising to make David's men his guards
		3-7	Samuel's death is lamented; Saul seeks a medium to inquire of Samuel since no one can speak for God in the land—"When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets."
		8-14	Saul disguises himself to go to the medium in En-dor and asks to speak to Samuel; while conjuring up Samuel, she realizes that it is Saul who is before her and pleads for her life; Saul assures her safety and describes Samuel's appearance and Saul pays homage to Samuel
		15-19	Samuel rebukes Saul from the grave; Samuel reminds Saul of his losing the kingdom and it being given to David because of the sin with regard to Amalek
		20-25	Saul is terrified; the medium offers him bread, which he does at the urging of his servants, and sends him on his way and he leaves with his men
The Philistines Mistrust David	29	1-5	Achish is questioned by the Philistine leaders why David and his men are with them
		6-11	Achish sends David away on account of the Philistine commanders
David's Victory over the Amalekites	30	1-6	David discovers Ziklag had been attacked by the Amalekites 3 days prior, the city destroyed but no one is killed; the people seek to stone David for the loss but he turns to the Lord for strength
		7-10	David inquires of the Lord and is assured that he will have victory and complete recovery
		11-15	David is informed of the Amalekites by an Egyptian slave, who promises to bring David to them if his life is spared
		16-20	David's men are led to the camp, the Amalekite army is destroyed, nothing is lost of all that is David's
The Spoils Are Divided		21-25	Equal portion to those who protect the "baggage" along with those who do the fighting—"they shall share alike."
		26-31	David sends some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to the places where they would stay while wandering
Saul and His Son Slain	31	1-6	Philistines kill Saul's sons: Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, and wound Saul; Saul kills himself; so does his armor bearer who refused to kill him
		7	The Israelites flee when they hear Saul is dead, leaving the cities to the Philistines
		8-13	Saul and his sons found by the Philistines and made a spectacle at Beth-shan; inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead rescue the bodies and buried them at Jabesh and mourned 7 days



## 1 Samuel - Outline

---

### ***Bibliography***

---

Fee, Gordon D, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. Print.

Galan, Benjamin et al. *Bible Overview*. Torrance: Bristol Works, Rose Publishing, 2012. Print.

(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.