



1 SAMUEL

NOVEMBER 2017

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of these books. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

1 SAMUEL – INTRODUCTION

1 and 2 Samuel tell us about a major change in the way that God ruled and governed in Israel. Up until this point God had led his people through the judges. From this point on he will appoint kings with a responsibility to lead his people in the way they should go.

Each of the books deals with a particular part of this history. 2 Samuel shows us the reign of King David, Israel's greatest king in the Old Testament. It paints David honestly as a godly, but imperfect king and we are left realizing that he is not the ultimate hope for God's people. We are left waiting for David's greater son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Samuel deals with the transition from the last judge, Samuel, to the failed king, Saul and the king to be, David. It shows us the type of king that God chooses for his people and the preparation that he is given.

OUTLINE

ONE LAST JUDGE: 1 SAMUEL 1-7

1 Samuel begins by introducing us to the family of Elkanah and specifically his wife Hannah. She is unable to have children and brings this to the Lord. He performs a miracle and Samuel is born. Like other miraculous births in the Bible, this child is going to grow up to be somebody special in God's plan.

The priesthood is failing. Eli loves God, but has failed to train his children in God's ways. Israel is in decline and eventually loses a battle with the Philistines who capture the 'Ark of the Covenant', which is the symbol of God's presence with his people. Notice how we are shown that it is Israel that has failed, not God.

This section ends with God rescuing his people through Samuel.

THE PEOPLES' KING: 1 SAMUEL 8-15

Like Eli's family, Samuel's sons do not walk in God's ways. The Israelites decide to take matters into their own hands and rather than look to God to provide the next leader they demand a king like the other nations have (1 Samuel 8:5).

Israel's first king is a man named Saul. He is everything that the people are after. Strong, handsome and a rallying point for the people. It all

starts off well, but it soon becomes evident that his love for God is not what it should be.

This section ends with Saul being rejected by God because of his disobedience.

A KING AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART: 1 SAMUEL 16–20

In chapter 16 it is time to choose another king. This time, though, it will not be the peoples' king, but God's king that is chosen. Samuel is sent to Bethlehem to anoint a boy named David, the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz, to be the next king.

In the following chapters we see how God prepares him for the role by giving him a position in the palace and a friendship with Jonathan. However, the most important thing we see is his heart. He is a young man who knows God, loves God and is concerned for the honour of God and for his people.

This section ends with David fleeing for his life from a jealous Saul.

DAVID ON THE RUN: 1 SAMUEL 21–31

The last section of the book deals with the time when David was on the run from Saul. There are various key themes:

- David is not perfect. He doesn't always do the right thing and at times needs the intervention of others to prevent him doing wrong things.
- God is faithful. At every turn God has David's back and safely brings him through some very dangerous situations.
- God is in charge. In the end, despite Saul's protests God's king will sit on the throne.

A number of the Psalms of David were written during this time of exile. See Psalm 18, 34 and 52 as some examples.

The book ends with the death of Saul and the rest of the story is picked up in 2 Samuel.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)