

# Bible Snapshots



## 1 Samuel – The People Want a King

**Author** – Samuel, ca. 1070 BC in Palestine

### Connection with Ruth / Judges

- First Samuel actually picks up where Judges leaves off, since The book of Ruth actually takes a step backward in time to look at one family and how they weather the period of the judges.

### Facts

- Historical in nature; covers about 115 years of Israel's history; in the Hebrew canon this and 2 Second Samuel are actually one book. In the Latin Vulgate they are first and second kings, which makes what we call first and second Kings, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Kings. There are 31 chapters and 810 vss.

### Themes

- Details the lives of godly men like Samuel and David, and the not-so-godly men like Eli and Saul, who was appointed Israel's first king. Samuel is the final judge, taking over for Eli. Samuel then appoints the first king of Israel and ushers in a new era of leadership so the people could be like the nations around them.
- One underlying theme centers on Christ as prophet, priest and king.

### Key chapters/verse

- 8 – Israel demands a king; 10:25 (cf. 8:7-18)

### Key phrase / word / thought

- King and kingdom; “prayed” (1:10-27; 7:5; 8:6; 12:19-23); Speak Lord (3:9)

### Christ In 1 Samuel

- The seed of David (Romans 1:3, 4)

### David as a Type of Christ

After God's own heart (Acts 13:22); rejected and despised (22:33 with John 1:11); betrayed by one who was later hung (II Sam. 15-18; Mt. 26:47-50; 27:5).

### Miracles in 1 Samuel

**Dagon (5:1-12)** The false God of the Philistines fell down twice before the ark, as if worshipping

**Power of the Ark (6:9)** God cursed the men of Beth-shemesh for desecrating the ark as outsiders (cf. Numbers 4:15, 16).

**Storm of panic (7:9-13)** – God causes a thunderstorm that causes great panic in the Philistine army in answer to Samuel's prayer.

**Thunder and rain at harvest (12:16, 19)** – God sent a great storm during the harvest to punish Israel for her wickedness in asking for a king.

**David faces Goliath (17:37-49; cf. 1 Cor. 1:27)** God uses David to slay the might giant and deliver His people and show that He uses the things and people considered weak to show His great power.

### Proving 1 Samuel

In chapter 31, verse 6-10, we read about Saul's demise and how the Philistines stripped him of his armor and placed it in the house of Ashtoreth. Then they cut off his head and placed it in the temple of Dagon. The Old Testament site of Bethshan has been excavated and the house of Ashtoreth and the temple of Dagon were found. It is believed they are the actual places where Saul's head and armor were stored. Before this discover these verses were called into question because Dagon is a philistine God and Ashtoreth was a Canaanite goddess. It affirms the Bible and that pagans are not limited to one god.

**Important customs – the weaning of Samuel (1:24)** – When Hannah took Samuel to Lord's house in Shiloh to be with Eli, he was not a baby, but a child of about four years old. In the east boys are not considered to be “weaned” until at least the age of three (3:1-21). **Ear to the ground (8:12)** was a saying used during planting. The plowshare was shaped like an ear and used to till the soil.