

# DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

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## 04-02-2023 // WEEK 13 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **1 Samuel 1 through 1 Samuel 24**. Here are a few highlights:

We now move from Judges (note the last verse of Judges is so important): there was no king and everyone did what was right in their own eyes. It's a culture in downward spiral: **abhor** sin, then **endure** sin, then **embrace** sin. Here is God's response in 1 Samuel:

- **1 Samuel Chapter 1:** Hannah's infertility. She cries out to God. He gives her Samuel, a child dedicated to the Lord. He is given to Eli, the priest, at an early age to be brought up as a judge over Israel (notice he is the 13th judge, the last one from the book of Judges).
- **Chapter 2:** Hannah's prayer of praise for the gift of a son. **Note that she had six kids!** God is able to give us beyond what we think or ask (**Ephesians 3:20**). We also see that Eli, though a priest, wasn't a good dad. His two sons were godless and disobedient, using their position as priests to sleep with women and steal from the people. **God rejects Eli's sons and household.**
- **Chapter 3:** God's call on Samuel as a boy. **God can call anyone at any age.** Pray this will happen to your kids at an early age! Samuel's heart belonged to God at an early age.
- **Chapter 4:** The Philistines **capture the ark** in battle. Eli is overcome with death when he hears of that news plus the death of his two godless sons. The nation is declared "Ichabod" – the glory of the Lord has departed from Israel.
- **Chapter 5: The ark, in the Philistine camp, only causes pain.** Tumors. Disease. They want it gone!
- **Chapter 6:** The Philistines send the ark back to Israel, actually making the tumors into images of gold to satiate the Israelite God.
- **Chapter 7: The ark rests in the city of Kiriath-jearim. That's important info for later on.** Samuel judges over all of Israel. He builds an **Ebenezer stone** to remind the Israelites, whenever they'd look at it, of his great victory over the Philistines and the return of the ark of the covenant.
- **Chapter 8:** Israel **demands a king.** They want to be like the nations around them. God knew this would happen, though he wanted a theocracy where he alone would be their King. God will let us have

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the desires of our heart, even if sinful. That's a repeated theme. **But he will work ALL things for good.** Samuel feels rejected. He is grieved. God reminds him that the people aren't rejecting him, but God.

- **Chapter 9:** Saul chosen to be king. He has all the natural human attributes for leadership: tall, handsome, winsome, and intelligent. Samuel informs him of his kingship.
- **Chapter 10:** Saul appears to be humble, hiding when his day of anointing happened. Or is he insecure? The latter is probably the case, as we observe in his life later on.
- **Chapter 11:** Saul starts off well. Defeats the Ammonites in battle. **The Spirit of God comes upon him to give him victory** (please note that this is not the born again New Testament Spirit indwelling permanently. It's God giving immediate strength for an immediate purpose).
- **Chapter 12 - 13:** Samuel says good-bye. This is his last adjuration to the people though he is still a part of the story for chapters to come. Saul wins again. **But he acts in a priestly role, one he cannot have.** God, thru Samuel, is displeased, and the kingdom is promised to another.
- **Chapter 14:** Jonathan, Saul's son, wins a big battle against the Philistines. The people love Jonathan. It would seem that he is the next one in line, but that is not God's plan.
- **Chapter 15: God rejects Saul.** Saul disobeys a direct command from God about exterminating the Amalekites, Israel's mortal enemies. But Saul keeps Agag, the king, alive. Maybe to gloat? **Verse 23** is key: Rebellion is the sin of witchcraft and divination. **When you disobey God/rebel against him, you invite the demonic to rule.**
- **Chapter 16:** Samuel goes to Bethlehem, under God's direction, and going through all of Jesse's sons, **David is chosen king.**
- **Chapter 17:** The very famous story of **David and Goliath.** There is so much here. But note mostly that **David refused worldly armor.** He went in the strength of the Lord. He knew the battle must be fought by the Lord, not his own strength (**verse 47**). This is the first time David is seen as a leader in Israel.
- **Chapter 18:** David and Jonathan, Saul's son, become very close friends. David is at Saul's table regularly. He plays his harp to calm Saul down. God allowed a hurtful spirit to haunt Saul regularly. Was this because of his previous rebellion that invited the demonic? God controls even the demonic world

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for his purposes. David then led armies and won. **The people cheered for David more than Saul. Saul's jealousy increases and his desire to kill David does as well.**

- **Chapter 19 - 20: Saul tries to kill David.** But David is able to elude him, by God's guidance. David and Jonathan end up meeting in a field together. This passage contains the story of how Jonathan tries to warn David of his father's malice toward him by firing arrows. They say good-bye to one another here, never to see each other. But please note David's promise to take care of Jonathan's family in the future.

{One quick note: There are those who see this as a homosexual relationship between the two. This is an insertion into the text. There is absolutely NOTHING to suggest this. It is a dear friendship. They kiss, as is the case in many cultures today between men, when greeting and departing. Just an FYI if you ever have anyone try to suggest this to you to validate this relationship as gay from a biblical perspective.}

- **Chapter 21:** David eats the holy bread from Ahimelech and gets Goliath's sword. Doeg the Edomite, a loyalist to Saul, sees it. He will report this to Saul which will cost Ahimelech his life and the life of most of his sons – except one Abiathan, the future high priest to David. David flees to Philistia to get out of Saul's reach. David pretends to be mad to King Achish of Philistia, a means of self-protection.
- **Chapter 22:** David is hiding in the cave of Adullam. If you've ever been there, it's a series of crags and crevices where it'd be easy to hide and not be found. Saul kills Ahimilech and his sons, except Abiathar who escaped and fled.
- **Chapter 23 - 24:** David saves the city of Keilah from the Philistines. He continues to hide in the wilderness. Saul continues to pursue David. Saul enters David's cave and he has a chance to kill Saul. **He refuses to lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed/chosen, though he could have killed Saul then and there.** Saul seems humbled when he learns of this---but only for a moment.

*From Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph to Moses to Joshua to the Judges to Samuel to Saul to David. That's where we are right now. Please note the baton hand-offs, in God's story of salvation history, which is what the Bible is all about. How to be saved and get to heaven – God's primary desire in the book. I hope you are enjoying this journey through God's Word.*

With grace, David