

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 1

Title: God's Plan in a Time of Spiritual Decline

Passage: 1 Samuel 1:1 – 2:11

## Introduction

The book of 1 Samuel begins at one of the lowest points in Israel's history. The time of the Judges was marked by instability and repeated cycles of sin. The refrain of Judges 21:25 sets the scene:

Judges 21:25 (NASB):

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Corruption was widespread — even in the priesthood. Yet, God was preparing to raise up a prophet and eventually a king. Remarkably, His plan begins, not with a warrior or ruler, but with a barren woman's prayer.

The lesson of 1 Samuel 1–2:11 is this: God begins great works through humble faith, surrendered obedience, and worship that glorifies His holiness.

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## I. Hannah's Desperation and Prayer (1:9–20)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 1:11 (NASB):

"She made a vow and said, "LORD of armies, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your bond-servant and remember me, and not forget Your bond-servant, but will give Your bond-servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

### Commentary

- "LORD of armies" (YHWH Sabaoth) — first use of this title in Scripture, stressing God's sovereignty over all powers. Hannah appeals to God's supreme authority.
- Her Nazirite vow (Numbers 6:1–5) shows she isn't asking selfishly; she is offering her son back to God.
- Her anguish is misjudged by Eli (1:13–14), showing the spiritual blindness of the priesthood.
- God hears her prayer, and Samuel is conceived — his very name (Shemu'el) means "God has heard."

### Cross-References

- Psalm 34:18 — The LORD is near to the brokenhearted.
- Luke 18:1–8 — Parable of the persistent widow.
- Philippians 4:6–7 — Present your requests to God.

### **Prophecy Note**

- Samuel will become the prophet who anoints Israel's first two kings. Hannah's prayer sets the stage for the Davidic line, leading ultimately to Christ (Matthew 1:1).

### **Applications**

- Personal: God listens to the cries of the humble, even when misunderstood by others.
- Church: Churches must discern between emotionalism and true heartfelt devotion.
- Culture: In a world that prizes self-sufficiency, Hannah shows the power of helpless dependence on God.

### **Questions:**

1. How does Hannah's vow reveal the difference between selfish prayer and surrendered prayer?
  2. What does this teach us about praying in times of deep anguish?
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## **II. Hannah's Dedication of Samuel (1:21–28)**

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 1:27–28 (NASB):

"For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my request which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

### **Commentary**

- Hannah follows through on her vow — true faith is seen not just in asking, but in surrendering.
- Samuel is given to Eli's care, serving at Shiloh from childhood.
- This demonstrates that answered prayer is not for our possession, but for God's glory.
- Her act models the principle that what we treasure most must belong to God.

### **Cross-References**

- Genesis 22:9–12 — Abraham offering Isaac.
- Romans 12:1 — Present your bodies as living sacrifices.
- Luke 14:26 — Nothing can be loved more than God, not even family.

### **Prophecy Note**

- Samuel's dedication marks the beginning of a new era in Israel — he will become the final judge, the prophet, and the bridge to the monarchy.

### **Applications**

- Personal: When God answers prayer, we must not cling tightly but steward faithfully.
- Church: Ministry is not about ownership of people, but about entrusting them to God.
- Culture: Dedication challenges consumerism — life is not about what we get, but what we give back to God.

### **Questions:**

1. Why do you think it is often harder to surrender after receiving what we prayed for?
2. How can we dedicate modern blessings (children, careers, resources) to the Lord?

### III. Hannah's Song of Praise (2:1–11)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 2:2 (NASB):

“There is no one holy like the LORD; indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.”

#### Commentary

- Hannah's song is both thanksgiving and prophecy.
- It celebrates divine reversal: the bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength (2:4).
- It proclaims God's sovereignty over life and death, wealth and poverty, exaltation and humiliation (2:6–8).
- It ends with a Messianic hint: “He will give strength to His king and will exalt the horn of His anointed” (2:10). At this point Israel has no king — this is a prophetic anticipation of David and ultimately Christ.

#### Cross-References

- Luke 1:46–55 — Mary's Magnificat, echoing Hannah.
- James 4:6 — God resists the proud, gives grace to the humble.
- Matthew 5:3–12 — Beatitudes: kingdom reversal.
- Philippians 2:9–11 — Every knee will bow to Christ.

#### Prophecy Note

- Verse 10 is the first mention of God's “anointed” (Messiah) in 1 Samuel. This is a direct line toward the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7) and its fulfillment in Jesus.

#### Applications

- Personal: True worship praises God for who He is, not just what He gives.
- Church: Songs of worship should declare God's attributes and kingdom themes.
- Culture: God's kingdom reverses worldly power structures — the proud fall, the humble rise.

#### Questions:

1. How does Hannah's song anticipate the gospel message of reversal?
2. In what ways does this song challenge cultural views of power and success?

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### Lesson Summary

- Hannah's desperation became the foundation for Israel's renewal.
- Her vow and surrender demonstrate true faith — prayer is not manipulation but alignment with God's purposes.
- Her song points forward prophetically to the Messianic kingdom, where God exalts the humble and casts down the proud.
- Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this kingdom reversal — the rejected stone who became the chief cornerstone.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 2

Title: Corruption in the Priesthood and the Call of the Prophet

Passage: 1 Samuel 2:12 – 3:21

## Introduction

Israel was meant to be a nation of holiness, with the priests guiding the people in worship. But the spiritual leadership under Eli's sons was deeply corrupt. Into this setting, God raised up Samuel, a prophet who would speak His Word faithfully.

This lesson teaches that God will not ignore corruption in His house, but He will always raise up faithful voices to speak His truth.

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## I. The Corruption of Eli's Sons (2:12–25)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 2:17 (NASB):

“And so the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD disrespectfully.”

### Commentary

- Hophni and Phinehas are called “worthless men” (literally sons of Belial, meaning men of destruction).
- Their sins included:
  - Seizing the fat portions before they were burned (violating Leviticus 7:31–34).
  - Sleeping with women at the tabernacle entrance (2:22).
- Their abuse of priestly privilege caused the people to despise the offering of the LORD.

### Cross-References

- Ezekiel 22:26 — priests profane holy things, failing to distinguish clean from unclean.
- Malachi 2:7–8 — priests should preserve knowledge, but instead cause people to stumble.
- Matthew 21:12–13 — Jesus cleanses the temple.

### Application

- Personal: Titles and roles do not excuse disobedience — God sees the heart.
- Church: Corruption among leaders can turn people away from God; accountability is essential.
- Culture: Religious hypocrisy fuels skepticism; God's people must embody integrity.

### Questions:

1. What dangers do we see when spiritual leaders use their position for personal gain?
  2. How can the church guard against corruption in leadership today?
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## II. The Prophecy of Judgment Against Eli's House (2:27–36)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 2:30 (NASB):

“Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares: ‘I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father was to walk before Me forever’; but now the LORD declares, ‘Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be insignificant.’”

### Commentary

- An unnamed prophet delivers God's word:
  - Eli's family will lose its priestly privilege.
  - His descendants will die young (2:33).
  - As a sign, both sons will die on the same day (fulfilled in 1 Samuel 4:11).
- Eli is guilty not only because of his sons' sins but because he honored them above God by failing to restrain them.

### Cross-References

- Numbers 25:11–13 — Phinehas son of Eleazar received a lasting priesthood for zeal for God's honor.
- Galatians 6:7 — Do not be deceived, God is not mocked.
- Acts 5:1–11 — Ananias and Sapphira judged for hypocrisy in God's house.

### Prophecy Note

- The priesthood eventually shifts to Zadok under Solomon (1 Kings 2:35), fulfilling this word.
- This prepares the way for Christ as the final High Priest (Hebrews 7:23–25).

### Application

- Personal: Honor God above even family ties.
- Church: God removes unfaithful leaders; faithfulness matters more than position.
- Culture: Leadership is a trust — misuse invites accountability.

### Questions:

1. Why did Eli's failure to restrain his sons bring such severe judgment?
2. How can we ensure we honor God above even close relationships?

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## III. The Call of Samuel (3:1–21)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 3:10 (NASB):

“Then the LORD came and stood and called as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.”

### Commentary

- “The word of the LORD was rare in those days” (3:1) — revelation was scarce due to widespread sin.
- God calls Samuel three times before Eli realizes it is the LORD speaking.
- Samuel's first prophecy confirms judgment on Eli's house.
- The chapter closes with Samuel recognized as a prophet throughout Israel (3:20–21).

## Cross-References

- Deuteronomy 18:18 — God promises to raise up prophets to speak His word.
- Jeremiah 1:7 — “Do not say, ‘I am a youth’... whatever I command you, you shall speak.”
- John 10:27 — Jesus: “My sheep hear My voice.”
- Hebrews 1:1–2 — God now speaks through His Son.

## Prophecy Note

- Samuel’s ministry as prophet marks the end of the Judges and the beginning of the monarchy.
- His anointing of Saul and David directly advances God’s Messianic plan.

## Application

- Personal: A listening heart is the beginning of true service.
- Church: Churches need leaders who speak God’s Word faithfully, not their own opinions.
- Culture: God still raises up voices to confront corruption with truth.

## Questions:

1. What does Samuel’s response teach us about readiness to hear God’s Word?
2. Why is it important that his first message was one of judgment, not comfort?

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## Lesson Summary

- Eli’s sons corrupted the priesthood, but God will not ignore sin in His house.
- God’s prophetic judgment shows that leadership is conditional on faithfulness, not heritage.
- Samuel’s call reveals that God always raises up faithful servants to proclaim His Word.
- This points us forward to Christ, the faithful High Priest and ultimate Prophet, who perfectly honors the Father.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 3

Title: The Ark of God and the Power of the LORD

Passage: 1 Samuel 4:1 – 7:17

## Introduction

Israel goes to battle with the Philistines and suffers defeat. Believing the Ark itself will guarantee victory, they bring it into battle as a kind of talisman — but the Ark is captured, Eli's sons die, and Israel mourns. Yet God proves He does not need Israel's army to defend His glory. He humiliates Dagon and afflicts the Philistines until they return the Ark. Only when Israel repents does God restore victory.

This lesson shows that God's presence cannot be manipulated, idols cannot stand before Him, and repentance is the path to deliverance.

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## I. Defeat Without Obedience (4:1–22)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 4:10–11 (NASB):

“So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the defeat was very great, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. Moreover, the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.”

### Commentary

- Israel lost 4,000 men in the first battle (4:2). Instead of seeking God, they decided to bring the Ark, believing His presence could be forced.
- The Ark was a symbol of God's covenant presence (Exodus 25:22), but Israel treated it as a superstitious object.
- The defeat was catastrophic: 30,000 more died, the Ark was captured, Eli's sons died, and Eli himself fell and died upon hearing the news (4:18).
- Ichabod (“the glory has departed”) became the tragic symbol of their spiritual condition (4:21).

### Cross-References

- Leviticus 26:14–17 — disobedience brings defeat before enemies.
- Jeremiah 7:4 — “Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, ‘This is the temple of the LORD...’”
- Matthew 23:27–28 — outward forms without inward faith are empty.
- 2 Timothy 3:5 — “holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.”

### Prophecy Note

- The deaths of Hophni and Phinehas fulfilled God's prophecy in 2:34.

### Application

- Personal: God's power cannot be manipulated by outward rituals or symbols.
- Church: Churches must beware of trusting buildings, traditions, or programs instead of God's Word.
- Culture: Victory in life and society does not come from slogans or symbols but from submission to God.

**Questions:**

1. What mistakes did Israel make in how they treated the Ark?
  2. How can believers today fall into the same trap of trusting religious symbols over obedience?
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## **II. God's Victory Over Idols (5:1–12)**

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 5:4 (NASB):

“But when they got up early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold; only the torso of Dagon was left.”

**Commentary**

- The Philistines placed the Ark in the temple of Dagon, their god of grain and fertility.
- God humiliates Dagon: first bowing before the Ark, then decapitated and dismembered.
- God strikes Philistine cities with tumors (likely plague). Everywhere the Ark goes, the hand of the LORD is heavy.
- The Philistines finally return the Ark with offerings, admitting God's supremacy.

**Cross-References**

- Exodus 15:11 — “Who is like You, majestic in holiness?”
- Psalm 96:5 — “All the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.”
- Isaiah 46:1 — Bel bows down, Nebo stoops.
- Colossians 2:15 — Christ disarmed rulers and authorities, triumphing over them.

**Prophecy Note**

- God shows He alone is sovereign — this foreshadows Christ's triumph over all spiritual powers at the cross.

**Application**

- Personal: Every idol in our lives will fall before God.
- Church: The gospel must not be mixed with idolatry or cultural compromise.
- Culture: Nations cannot domesticate God or set Him beside their idols. He will topple all rivals.

**Questions:**

1. What does the defeat of Dagon teach us about God's supremacy over false gods?
  2. What “modern idols” do people set beside God, and how does He humble them?
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### III. Repentance and Deliverance at Mizpah (7:2–17)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 7:3 (NASB):

“Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath from among you, and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will save you from the hand of the Philistines.”

#### Commentary

- The Ark remained at Kiriath-jearim for 20 years; Israel mourned after the LORD (7:2).
- Samuel called for repentance: not partial, but wholehearted devotion to God.
- Israel removed idols, fasted, and confessed sin.
- At Mizpah, the Philistines attacked, but God thundered against them, and Israel won a great victory.
- Samuel set up a stone called Ebenezer (“stone of help”), declaring: “Thus far the LORD has helped us” (7:12).

#### Cross-References

- Deuteronomy 30:2–3 — return to the LORD with all your heart, and He will restore.
- Hosea 14:1–2 — return to the LORD with words of repentance.
- Acts 3:19 — repent and return, so your sins may be wiped away.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9 — turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

#### Prophecy Note

- Samuel’s role as intercessor anticipates Christ, our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

#### Application

- Personal: Repentance must be total, not partial.
- Church: Renewal comes when God’s people abandon idols and seek Him with their whole heart.
- Culture: National revival is possible only when repentance is real.

#### Questions:

1. Why was wholehearted repentance necessary before God granted victory?
2. What “Ebenezers” can we set up in our lives to remind us of God’s help?

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### Lesson Summary

- Israel’s defeat shows that symbols cannot replace obedience.
- God humbled Dagon, proving He alone is sovereign.
- True deliverance came only when Israel repented and sought God wholeheartedly.
- Christ fulfills this by defeating the powers of darkness and calling His people to wholehearted devotion.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 4

Title: Israel Demands a King

Passage: 1 Samuel 8:1 – 10:27

## Introduction

Samuel had led Israel faithfully as prophet and judge, but as he grew old, the people feared instability. His sons were corrupt, and rather than seek God, Israel demanded a king “like all the nations.” God granted their request, but warned of the heavy burden earthly kingship would bring. In this section, we learn the danger of rejecting God’s rule, the sovereignty of God in raising leaders, and the difference between human expectations and God’s purposes.

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## I. Israel Rejects God’s Kingship (8:1–22)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 8:7 (NASB):

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people regarding all that they say to you, because they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.”

### Commentary

- Samuel’s sons, Joel and Abijah, took bribes and perverted justice (8:3).
- Instead of repenting and seeking God, the elders demanded a king “like all the nations” (8:5).
- God told Samuel that this was not a personal rejection of him, but of God Himself.
- Samuel warned them: a king would conscript sons, take daughters, seize fields, and demand tithes (8:10–18). Yet the people insisted.

### Cross-References

- Deuteronomy 17:14–20 — God anticipated Israel’s request but laid down strict conditions for kingship.
- Hosea 13:10–11 — “I will give you a king in My anger and take him away in My wrath.”
- John 19:15 — “We have no king except Caesar.”

### Prophecy Note

- Their demand ultimately sets the stage for the monarchy, through which God will raise David and, in time, the Messiah. God works even through their rebellion.

### Application

- Personal: We must beware of desiring what the world has instead of trusting God’s provision.
- Church: Churches must guard against seeking worldly methods instead of God’s ways.
- Culture: Nations that reject God’s authority invite oppression and disappointment.

### Questions:

1. Why was Israel’s demand sinful, even though God had allowed for kingship in Deuteronomy 17?
2. How do we sometimes imitate the world instead of trusting God’s kingship?

## II. Saul Chosen and Anointed (9:1 – 10:16)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 10:1 (NASB):

“Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him, and said, “Has the LORD not anointed you as ruler over His inheritance?”

### Commentary

- Saul, from the small tribe of Benjamin, was outwardly impressive: tall and handsome (9:2).
- Yet he is portrayed as ordinary — searching for lost donkeys when God directs him to Samuel.
- God tells Samuel that Saul is the man chosen to rule (9:17).
- Samuel anoints Saul privately, and God confirms Saul's calling with signs (10:2–7).
- The Spirit of the LORD came upon Saul, equipping him (10:10).

### Cross-References

- 1 Corinthians 1:27 — God chooses the weak things to shame the strong.
- Zechariah 4:6 — “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.”
- Acts 1:24 — God appoints leaders according to His will.

### Prophecy Note

- Saul's kingship, though flawed, is part of God's larger plan to lead to David, the man after His own heart (13:14), and ultimately to Christ.

### Application

- Personal: God's calling is not about outward appearance but His sovereign choice.
- Church: The Spirit equips those God calls to serve.
- Culture: Leadership without the Spirit of God is powerless, no matter how impressive it looks.

### Questions:

1. What qualities made Saul attractive to Israel, and why were they insufficient?
2. How do we see the difference between God's standards for leadership and the world's?

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## III. Saul Publicly Confirmed (10:17–27)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 10:24 (NASB):

“Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? For there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”

### Commentary

- Samuel gathers Israel at Mizpah and reminds them of their rejection of God (10:19).
- Lots are cast, narrowing down to Saul — but Saul hides among the baggage (10:22).
- Though outwardly impressive, Saul's insecurity is revealed.
- The people accept him with shouts, though some “worthless men” despise him (10:27).

## Cross-References

- Proverbs 29:25 — fear of man brings a snare.
- John 6:15 — people tried to make Jesus king by force, misunderstanding His mission.
- John 18:36 — Jesus' kingdom is not of this world.

## Prophecy Note

- Saul's public confirmation fulfills Israel's demand but begins a kingship destined for failure. It prepares the way for David's rise and the Messianic promise.

## Application

- Personal: Leadership without humility and obedience soon unravels.
- Church: God's people must discern between popularity and true spiritual qualification.
- Culture: Nations often elevate leaders for their image, not their integrity — but God sees the heart.

## Questions:

1. What does Saul's hiding reveal about his character?
  2. How do we distinguish between God's choice and human-driven leadership?
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## Lesson Summary

- Israel's demand for a king was a rejection of God's kingship.
- God gave them Saul, a man who outwardly fit their desires, but inwardly lacked the heart of obedience.
- This section teaches us to beware of imitating the world, to trust God's standards over appearances, and to remember that Christ is the true King we need.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 5

Title: Saul's Rise and Early Failures

Passage: 1 Samuel 11:1 – 13:23

## Introduction

Saul's reign begins with promise. He delivers Jabesh-Gilead from the Ammonites, and Samuel publicly reaffirms his kingship. But Saul's potential quickly gives way to disobedience. When he refuses to wait for Samuel and unlawfully offers sacrifice, God declares that his dynasty will not endure. This lesson teaches that early victories do not guarantee lasting faithfulness and that obedience matters more than success.

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## I. Saul's Victory at Jabesh-Gilead (11:1–15)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 11:11 (NASB):

“Then the next morning Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp at the morning watch, and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.”

### Commentary

- Nahash the Ammonite besieged Jabesh-Gilead, demanding the right eyes of the men as a condition of surrender — a tactic meant to humiliate Israel.
- Saul, empowered by the Spirit of God (11:6), rallied Israel with unity and boldness.
- The victory was decisive, confirming his leadership.
- Samuel and the people renewed the kingdom at Gilgal, giving glory to God.

### Cross-References

- Judges 3:10 — the Spirit of the LORD empowered Othniel to deliver Israel.
- Romans 8:31 — if God is for us, who can be against us?
- John 16:33 — in Christ, we have victory over the world.

### Prophecy Note

- God's Spirit empowers Saul — but later, when Saul disobeys, that Spirit will depart (16:14).

### Application

- Personal: When the Spirit of God works, we must give Him the glory.
- Church: Victories should lead to thanksgiving, not pride.
- Culture: Deliverance belongs to God, not to human might.

### Questions:

1. How does this victory confirm God's calling on Saul?
  2. Why is it important to remember that victories come from God, not human strength?
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## II. Samuel's Farewell Address: A Call to Faithfulness (12:1–25)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 12:24 (NASB):

“Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”

### Commentary

- Samuel reminded Israel of his integrity as judge and of God's faithfulness through history.
- He exposed their sin in asking for a king but reassured them that God would not forsake His people if they obeyed.
- To confirm his words, God sent thunder and rain during the wheat harvest, terrifying the people.
- Samuel promised to continue interceding for them (12:23), modeling faithful spiritual leadership.

### Cross-References

- Joshua 24:14–15 — choose this day whom you will serve.
- Hebrews 3:12–13 — exhort one another daily to remain faithful.
- Acts 7 — Stephen recalls Israel's history of rejecting God's leaders.

### Prophecy Note

- Samuel's role as intercessor foreshadows Christ, who intercedes continually for us (Hebrews 7:25).

### Application

- Personal: Remembering God's past works strengthens present faith.
- Church: Leaders must speak truth even when unpopular, reminding God's people of His faithfulness.
- Culture: Societies forget God's blessings at their peril.

### Questions:

1. Why did Samuel emphasize his personal integrity before calling Israel to faithfulness?
2. How does remembering God's past works strengthen us against present temptations?

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## III. Saul's Disobedience at Gilgal (13:1–23)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 13:13–14 (NASB):

“But Samuel said to Saul, “You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you; for the LORD would now have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

### Commentary

- Facing a massive Philistine army, Saul grew impatient as Samuel delayed.
- Saul unlawfully offered the burnt offering, taking on a priestly role he was not given.
- Samuel declared that Saul's kingdom would not endure, and God would raise up a man after His own heart — pointing forward to David.
- Israel was left vulnerable and weaponless (13:19–22), underscoring their dependence on God.

## Cross-References

- Leviticus 10:1–2 — Nadab and Abihu’s unauthorized fire.
- Numbers 18:7 — priestly duties reserved by God’s command.
- Proverbs 21:27 — the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination.
- John 14:15 — “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

## Prophecy Note

- This is the first prophecy of David’s rise. It sets the trajectory for the rest of the book and ultimately for the Messianic line.

## Application

- Personal: Impatience in waiting for God often leads to disobedience.
- Church: Leaders must operate within God’s commands, not take authority into their own hands.
- Culture: Human solutions without God’s direction lead to failure and loss.

## Questions:

1. Why was Saul’s impatience such a serious sin?
2. What does this passage teach us about waiting on God’s timing?

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## Lesson Summary

- Saul began with promise, empowered by God’s Spirit, but his disobedience at Gilgal marked the beginning of his downfall.
- Samuel’s farewell reminded Israel — and us — that obedience and wholehearted service are more important than appearances or position.
- God’s prophecy of a “man after His own heart” sets the stage for David and, ultimately, Christ.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 6

Title: Saul's Decline: Rash Vows and Rebellion

Passage: 1 Samuel 14:1 – 15:35

## Introduction

Saul's early reign revealed promise, but his character flaws soon emerged. In chapters 14–15, two events expose his unfitness for kingship: his rash vow that nearly cost Jonathan's life and his incomplete obedience against the Amalekites. These chapters remind us that faith trusts God fully, but pride and fear of man lead to disobedience.

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## I. Jonathan's Faith vs. Saul's Rash Vow (14:1–46)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 14:6 (NASB):

"Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come, and let's cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised men; perhaps the LORD will work for us, because the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few."

### Commentary

- Jonathan, trusting in God, attacked the Philistines with only his armor-bearer. God gave them victory, throwing the Philistines into confusion.
- In contrast, Saul made a rash oath: no one was to eat until evening (14:24). This weakened the army.
- Jonathan, unaware of the vow, ate honey and was refreshed (14:27). Saul nearly executed him, but the people intervened (14:45).
- Jonathan embodied faith, while Saul embodied foolishness.

### Cross-References

- Judges 7:7 — God saves Gideon with only 300 men.
- Zechariah 4:6 — not by might but by the Spirit.
- Matthew 23:4 — Pharisees lay heavy burdens on others.

### Prophecy Note

- Jonathan's faith foreshadows the kind of trust God desires in His king — soon to be found in David.

### Application

- Personal: True faith trusts God's power, not numbers or resources.
- Church: Rash words and man-made rules hinder God's work.
- Culture: Human leaders often burden people with rules, while God calls us to freedom in obedience.

### Questions:

1. How does Jonathan's faith contrast with Saul's rash vow?
2. What lessons do we learn about careless leadership and careless words?



## II. Saul's Incomplete Obedience Against the Amalekites (15:1–23)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 15:22 (NASB):

“Samuel said, “Does the LORD have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than a sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.”

### Commentary

- God commanded Saul to destroy Amalek completely (15:3), fulfilling Exodus 17:14.
- Saul spared King Agag and the best livestock, claiming it was for sacrifice.
- Samuel rebuked him, declaring that rebellion is like divination and arrogance like idolatry (15:23).
- Saul's partial obedience was full rebellion.

### Cross-References

- Deuteronomy 25:17–19 — command to blot out Amalek.
- Proverbs 21:3 — to do righteousness and justice is preferred by the LORD over sacrifice.
- Matthew 7:21 — only those who do the will of the Father enter the kingdom.
- James 1:22 — be doers of the Word.

### Prophecy Note

- Samuel declares that God has rejected Saul as king and will give the kingdom to “a man after His own heart” (13:14; 15:28) — prophecy pointing directly to David.

### Application

- Personal: God requires obedience, not excuses or outward shows of religion.
- Church: Leaders must never justify disobedience by cloaking it in religious language.
- Culture: Half-measures and compromise cannot produce righteousness.

### Questions:

1. Why does God view partial obedience as rebellion?
2. How do we sometimes justify disobedience by disguising it as service to God?

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## III. The Grief of Disobedience (15:24–35)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 15:35 (NASB):

“And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.”

### Commentary

- Saul confessed his sin but showed worldly sorrow, more concerned with appearances before people (15:30).
- Samuel separated from Saul, grieving for him — broken leadership brings grief to God's people.
- “The LORD regretted” (15:35) — not implying surprise but expressing God's sorrow over Saul's chosen disobedience.
- This marked the end of Saul's dynasty and prepared the way for David.

## **Cross-References**

- 2 Corinthians 7:10 — godly sorrow leads to repentance, worldly sorrow leads to death.
- Luke 19:41 — Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's disobedience.
- Hebrews 3:15 — "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

## **Prophecy Note**

- The tearing of the kingdom from Saul (15:28) is a prophetic milestone: the rise of David is now certain, and the Messianic line will flow through him.

## **Application**

- Personal: Repentance must be genuine, not concerned with appearances.
- Church: Leaders who grieve over sin model God's heart.
- Culture: God sorrows over national rebellion — but His purposes still prevail.

## **Questions:**

1. How does Saul's confession reveal worldly sorrow instead of true repentance?
2. What does Samuel's grief teach us about God's heart toward failed leadership?

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## **Lesson Summary**

- Jonathan's faith showed the kind of trust God desires, while Saul's rash vow nearly destroyed his own household.
- Saul's incomplete obedience with Amalek revealed rebellion and arrogance, leading to his rejection.
- Samuel grieved, but God's plan pressed forward: the kingdom would pass to David, foreshadowing the reign of Christ, the King after God's own heart

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 6

Title: Saul's Decline: Rash Vows and Rebellion

Passage: 1 Samuel 14:1 – 15:35

## Introduction

Saul's early reign revealed promise, but his character flaws soon emerged. In chapters 14–15, two events expose his unfitness for kingship: his rash vow that nearly cost Jonathan's life and his incomplete obedience against the Amalekites. These chapters remind us that faith trusts God fully, but pride and fear of man lead to disobedience.

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## I. Jonathan's Faith vs. Saul's Rash Vow (14:1–46)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 14:6 (NASB):

"Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come, and let's cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised men; perhaps the LORD will work for us, because the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few."

### Commentary

- Jonathan, trusting in God, attacked the Philistines with only his armor-bearer. God gave them victory, throwing the Philistines into confusion.
- In contrast, Saul made a rash oath: no one was to eat until evening (14:24). This weakened the army.
- Jonathan, unaware of the vow, ate honey and was refreshed (14:27). Saul nearly executed him, but the people intervened (14:45).
- Jonathan embodied faith, while Saul embodied foolishness.

### Cross-References

- Judges 7:7 — God saves Gideon with only 300 men.
- Zechariah 4:6 — not by might but by the Spirit.
- Matthew 23:4 — Pharisees lay heavy burdens on others.

### Prophecy Note

- Jonathan's faith foreshadows the kind of trust God desires in His king — soon to be found in David.

### Application

- Personal: True faith trusts God's power, not numbers or resources.
- Church: Rash words and man-made rules hinder God's work.
- Culture: Human leaders often burden people with rules, while God calls us to freedom in obedience.

### Questions:

1. How does Jonathan's faith contrast with Saul's rash vow?
2. What lessons do we learn about careless leadership and careless words?

## II. Saul's Incomplete Obedience Against the Amalekites (15:1–23)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 15:22 (NASB):

“Samuel said, “Does the LORD have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than a sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.”

### Commentary

- God commanded Saul to destroy Amalek completely (15:3), fulfilling Exodus 17:14.
- Saul spared King Agag and the best livestock, claiming it was for sacrifice.
- Samuel rebuked him, declaring that rebellion is like divination and arrogance like idolatry (15:23).
- Saul's partial obedience was full rebellion.

### Cross-References

- Deuteronomy 25:17–19 — command to blot out Amalek.
- Proverbs 21:3 — to do righteousness and justice is preferred by the LORD over sacrifice.
- Matthew 7:21 — only those who do the will of the Father enter the kingdom.
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### Prophecy Note

- Samuel declares that God has rejected Saul as king and will give the kingdom to “a man after His own heart” (13:14; 15:28) — prophecy pointing directly to David.

### Application

- Personal: God requires obedience, not excuses or outward shows of religion.
- Church: Leaders must never justify disobedience by cloaking it in religious language.
- Culture: Half-measures and compromise cannot produce righteousness.

### Questions:

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2. How do we sometimes justify disobedience by disguising it as service to God?

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Key Verse – 1 Samuel 15:35 (NASB):

“And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.”

### Commentary

- Saul confessed his sin but showed worldly sorrow, more concerned with appearances before people (15:30).
- Samuel separated from Saul, grieving for him — broken leadership brings grief to God's people.
- “The LORD regretted” (15:35) — not implying surprise but expressing God's sorrow over Saul's chosen disobedience.
- This marked the end of Saul's dynasty and prepared the way for David.

## **Cross-References**

- 2 Corinthians 7:10 — godly sorrow leads to repentance, worldly sorrow leads to death.
- Luke 19:41 — Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's disobedience.
- Hebrews 3:15 — "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

## **Prophecy Note**

- The tearing of the kingdom from Saul (15:28) is a prophetic milestone: the rise of David is now certain, and the Messianic line will flow through him.

## **Application**

- Personal: Repentance must be genuine, not concerned with appearances.
- Church: Leaders who grieve over sin model God's heart.
- Culture: God sorrows over national rebellion — but His purposes still prevail.

## **Questions:**

1. How does Saul's confession reveal worldly sorrow instead of true repentance?
2. What does Samuel's grief teach us about God's heart toward failed leadership?

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## **Lesson Summary**

- Jonathan's faith showed the kind of trust God desires, while Saul's rash vow nearly destroyed his own household.
- Saul's incomplete obedience with Amalek revealed rebellion and arrogance, leading to his rejection.
- Samuel grieved, but God's plan pressed forward: the kingdom would pass to David, foreshadowing the reign of Christ, the King after God's own heart.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 8

Title: Saul's Jealousy and David's Faithfulness

Passage: 1 Samuel 18:1 – 20:42

## Introduction

After David's victory over Goliath, he rose to prominence in Israel. The people celebrated him, Jonathan loved him as a brother, and Saul promoted him in the army. Yet Saul's heart turned dark with jealousy, and he repeatedly tried to kill David. Through it all, David remained faithful — to Saul, to Jonathan, and most importantly, to God. This lesson shows the contrast between jealousy that destroys and faithfulness that preserves.

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## I. Jonathan's Covenant with David (18:1–5)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 18:3 (NASB):

"Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself."

### Commentary

- Jonathan, the heir to Saul's throne, recognized God's hand on David. Instead of envying him, Jonathan loved him and made a covenant of loyalty.
- Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt (18:4) — a symbolic act of yielding his own royal claim.
- Their covenant friendship became one of the strongest in Scripture, rooted in loyalty and faith.

### Cross-References

- Proverbs 17:17 — "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."
- John 15:13 — "Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends."
- Philippians 2:3–4 — put others before yourself.

### Prophecy Note

- Jonathan's recognition of David's future kingship anticipates God's promise that the kingdom would pass to a "man after His own heart" (13:14).

### Application

- Personal: True friendship is sacrificial, not self-serving.
- Church: Covenant loyalty builds unity in the body of Christ.
- Culture: In a world of envy, God calls us to rejoice in others' success.

### Questions:

1. What made Jonathan's covenant with David so remarkable, considering he was the heir to the throne?
2. How can we practice covenant-like loyalty in friendships today?

## II. Saul's Jealousy and Repeated Attempts on David's Life (18:6–30; 19:1–24)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 18:8 (NASB):

“Then Saul became very angry, for this lyric displeased him; and he said, “They have given David credit for ten thousands, but me they have given credit for only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?”

### Commentary

- The women's song celebrating David's victories provoked Saul's jealousy.
- Twice Saul tried to kill David with a spear (18:10–11).
- Saul offered his daughters to David, hoping to ensnare him, but David humbly saw himself as unworthy (18:18, 23).
- Saul even commanded Jonathan and servants to kill David (19:1). Jonathan interceded, but Saul's jealousy returned.
- Saul's jealousy consumed him, leading to increasingly irrational behavior.

### Cross-References

- James 3:16 — where jealousy exists, there is disorder and evil.
- Proverbs 14:30 — envy rots the bones.
- Matthew 27:18 — Pilate knew the leaders delivered Jesus out of envy.

### Prophecy Note

- Saul's jealousy is contrasted with David's humility, foreshadowing the kind of king God desires — one who trusts Him fully.

### Application

- Personal: Jealousy blinds us and can consume our lives.
- Church: Envy among believers destroys unity and dishonors Christ.
- Culture: A culture of comparison fuels envy, but God calls His people to contentment.

### Questions:

1. What specific events triggered Saul's jealousy toward David?
2. How does jealousy still ruin relationships and leadership today?

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## III. Jonathan Protects David, Their Covenant Strengthened (20:1–42)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 20:42 (NASB):

“Jonathan said to David, “Go in safety, since we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.’” So David set out and went on his way, while Jonathan went into the city.”

## Commentary

- David fled to Jonathan for help, sensing Saul's intent to kill him.
- Jonathan devised the plan with arrows to signal whether David should flee.
- Jonathan realized Saul's rage and grieved for David, sealing their covenant in the LORD.
- Their bond reflected loyalty and faith that transcended politics and family ties.

## Cross-References

- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 — two are better than one.
- Hebrews 10:24 — stir one another up to love and good works.
- Revelation 2:10 — be faithful unto death.

## Prophecy Note

- Jonathan's words show he knew the kingdom would belong to David. This anticipates David's eventual rise and God's eternal covenant with his line (2 Samuel 7).

## Application

- Personal: Faithfulness to God often means costly loyalty to His people.
- Church: Believers must strengthen each other in times of trial, even when costly.
- Culture: True integrity may require standing against one's own family or culture for the sake of God's truth.

## Questions:

1. Why is Jonathan's loyalty to David such a powerful example of covenant faithfulness?
2. How does this chapter challenge us to stand with God's people, even when it costs us?

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## Lesson Summary

- Jonathan's covenant loyalty stands as a model of godly friendship and humility.
- Saul's jealousy illustrates the destructive power of envy, in contrast to David's faithfulness.
- David's covenant with Jonathan points forward to God's covenant faithfulness fulfilled in Christ.
- This passage calls us to reject jealousy, embrace loyalty, and live faithfully before God and His people.



# 1 Samuel – Lesson 9

Title: David Spares Saul Twice

Passage: 1 Samuel 21 – 26

## Introduction

David is now a fugitive, hunted by Saul. These chapters show David's faith tested as he lives in caves, flees to foreign lands, and faces constant danger. Twice, David has the opportunity to kill Saul — and twice he refuses, trusting God to handle judgment. Along the way, Abigail's wisdom prevents David from bloodshed. This lesson highlights that true faith refuses to take shortcuts, entrusting vengeance to God.

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## I. David on the Run and Saul's Pursuit (21–23)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 23:14 (NASB):

“And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand him over to him.”

### Commentary

- David fled to Nob, where he received consecrated bread and Goliath's sword from Ahimelech (21:6–9) — a scene later referenced by Jesus (Matthew 12:3–4).
- David fled to Gath, feigned madness, and narrowly escaped (21:13–15).
- Saul pursued David relentlessly, yet God protected him, preserving His chosen one.
- Jonathan strengthened David, reminding him that God's plan would prevail (23:16–17).

### Cross-References

- Psalm 34 — written during David's flight, testifying of God's deliverance.
- Isaiah 41:10 — “Do not fear, for I am with you.”
- Matthew 12:7 — mercy desired, not sacrifice, referencing David's bread.

### Prophecy Note

- God's preservation of David points to His promise to establish David's throne, leading to Christ.

### Application

- Personal: God's hand sustains His people even when hunted by enemies.
- Church: God protects His mission and His servants against opposition.
- Culture: Worldly powers may pursue God's people, but His purpose cannot be thwarted.

### Questions:

1. How did God demonstrate His protection over David during Saul's pursuit?
  2. What does this teach us about trusting God in times of fear?
-

## II. David Spares Saul at En Gedi (24:1–22)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 24:12 (NASB):

“May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD take vengeance on you; but my hand shall not be against you.”

### Commentary

- Saul entered the very cave where David was hiding. David’s men urged him to kill Saul, but he only cut off the edge of Saul’s robe.
- David’s conscience struck him — he would not harm “the LORD’s anointed.”
- David confronted Saul, proving his innocence. Saul wept, momentarily confessing David’s righteousness (24:16–21).

### Cross-References

- Romans 12:19 — “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- Matthew 5:44 — love your enemies.
- 1 Peter 2:23 — Christ entrusted Himself to the One who judges righteously.

### Prophecy Note

- David’s refusal to seize the throne by violence shows that God’s chosen king must rise by God’s will, not human scheming — pointing ahead to Christ, who submitted to the Father’s plan.

### Application

- Personal: Faith refuses shortcuts, even when opportunity tempts us.
- Church: The integrity of God’s people is seen in how they treat enemies.
- Culture: The world prizes power grabs; God’s people wait on His justice.

### Questions:

1. Why was David’s restraint such a powerful act of faith?
2. How does this passage challenge us to handle those who wrong us?

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## III. Abigail’s Wisdom and David’s Second Restraint (25:1 – 26:25)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 25:33 (NASB):

“And blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand.”

### Commentary

- In chapter 25, David nearly avenged himself on Nabal, but Abigail’s wisdom turned him back. She reminded David that God would establish his house (25:28).
- Nabal later died by God’s judgment, proving David’s restraint was right.
- In chapter 26, David again spared Saul, taking his spear and water jug. He rebuked Abner and showed Saul that he would not strike the LORD’s anointed. Saul confessed again, though his heart remained unchanged.

## Cross-References

- Proverbs 15:1 — a gentle answer turns away wrath.
- James 1:20 — man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.
- Psalm 37:7–9 — wait on the LORD; do not fret over evildoers.

## Prophecy Note

- Abigail's reminder that God would establish David's house anticipates the covenant of 2 Samuel 7, fulfilled in Christ.

## Application

- Personal: Godly counsel keeps us from sin.
- Church: Wise voices must be valued when passions run high.
- Culture: Restraint in power reflects God's justice, not man's vengeance.

## Questions:

1. How did Abigail's wisdom redirect David from sin?
2. What does David's restraint in chapter 26 reinforce about trusting God's timing?

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## Lesson Summary

- God preserved David while Saul hunted him.
- Twice, David spared Saul, refusing to seize the throne by violence, entrusting judgment to God.
- Abigail's wisdom prevented David from sin, showing the importance of godly counsel.
- These chapters point us to Christ, who refused to take earthly power by force but entrusted Himself to His Father's will.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 10

Title: Saul's Final Days

Passage: 1 Samuel 27 – 31

## Introduction

The story of Saul, once chosen and anointed by God, ends in tragedy. His jealousy, disobedience, and rebellion brought him to a place of desperation. Instead of seeking God, he sought a medium. Meanwhile, David, though flawed, trusted God's timing and was preserved. This lesson reveals the devastating end of a life lived in pride and disobedience and points us forward to the true King whose reign never ends.

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## I. David Among the Philistines (27:1 – 28:2; 29:1–11; 30:1–31)

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 30:6 (NASB):

“Also, David was in great distress because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. But David felt strengthened in the LORD his God.”

### Commentary

- Out of fear, David fled to Gath and allied with Achish, king of the Philistines (27:1–7). This was a compromise — David pretended loyalty to Achish, while attacking Israel's enemies.
- When the Philistines gathered to fight Israel, commanders distrusted David, and he was sent back (29:1–11). God's providence spared him from fighting against his own people.
- Returning to Ziklag, David found the city raided and families captured. In deep distress, he strengthened himself in the LORD (30:6). God granted victory, restoring all that was lost (30:18–20).
- David shared the spoils with all, including those who had stayed behind, showing justice and generosity.

### Cross-References

- Psalm 34 & Psalm 56 — written during David's time among the Philistines, expressing his trust in God.
- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 — God's power is perfected in weakness.
- John 16:33 — Christ promises peace in tribulation.

### Prophecy Note

- David's preservation points to God's covenant faithfulness — preparing him to be king and foreshadowing Christ, the ultimate Deliverer.

### Application

- Personal: When surrounded by failure, strengthen yourself in the LORD.
- Church: God's providence often spares His people from compromising situations.
- Culture: Leadership requires justice, generosity, and reliance on God.

**Questions:**

1. How did God use David's time among the Philistines to shape him?
  2. What does it mean for us to "strengthen ourselves in the LORD" in times of crisis?
- 

## **II. Saul and the Medium of Endor (28:3–25)**

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 28:15 (NASB):

"Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul replied, "I am very distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has left me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams. Therefore, I have called you, so that you may let me know what I should do."

**Commentary**

- Saul, desperate for guidance, sought a medium at Endor, violating God's law (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).
- Samuel appeared and confirmed Saul's doom: the kingdom had been torn from him and given to David, and Saul and his sons would die in battle.
- This scene underscores Saul's separation from God. When God's Word is rejected, no substitute can provide guidance.

**Cross-References**

- Leviticus 19:31 — do not turn to mediums or spiritists.
- Isaiah 8:19–20 — seek God's Word, not the dead.
- Galatians 6:7 — God is not mocked.

**Prophecy Note**

- Samuel's prophecy of Saul's death was fulfilled the next day (31:6). This demonstrates the certainty of God's Word.

**Application**

- Personal: Rejecting God's Word leads to despair and destruction.
- Church: God's people must cling to His Word, not forbidden practices.
- Culture: When nations abandon God's Word, they fall into superstition and darkness.

**Questions:**

1. Why did Saul turn to a medium instead of repentance?
  2. What dangers exist today when people look for guidance outside of God's Word?
- 

## **III. The Death of Saul and His Sons (31:1–13)**

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 31:6 (NASB):

"So Saul died with his three sons, his armor bearer, and all his men on that day together."

## Commentary

- Saul was critically wounded in battle with the Philistines. Rather than be captured, he fell on his own sword (31:4). His sons, including Jonathan, also died.
- The Philistines desecrated their bodies, hanging them on the wall of Beth-shan.
- Brave men of Jabesh-Gilead retrieved the bodies and buried them with honor, remembering Saul's deliverance of their city (11:1–11).
- Saul's life ended tragically: the man who began with promise fell because of pride, fear, and disobedience.

## Cross-References

- 1 Chronicles 10:13–14 — Saul died for his unfaithfulness in not keeping the Word of the LORD.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 — fear God and keep His commandments.
- Hebrews 10:31 — it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## Prophecy Note

- Saul's death fulfills Samuel's prophecy (28:19). The throne is now open for David, the man after God's heart, preparing the way for the Messianic line.

## Application

- Personal: Pride and disobedience, left unchecked, lead to destruction.
- Church: Faithfulness matters more than giftedness — Saul had potential but lacked obedience.
- Culture: Nations and leaders that reject God eventually fall, no matter their power.

## Questions:

1. What lessons can we learn from Saul's tragic end?
2. How does this passage call us to examine our own obedience and faithfulness?

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## Lesson Summary

- David's time among the Philistines shows God's providence and the power of strengthening oneself in the LORD.
- Saul's turn to the medium at Endor reveals the despair of rejecting God's Word.
- Saul's death fulfills prophecy, underscoring that disobedience leads to ruin while God's purposes prevail.
- These chapters contrast Saul's tragic failure with God's preservation of David, pointing us forward to Christ, the faithful King.

# 1 Samuel – Lesson 11

Title: The True King: Christ Foreshadowed in 1 Samuel

Passage: Thematic Overview (selected texts)

## Introduction

The book of 1 Samuel is more than history. It records the rise of the monarchy, the fall of Saul, and the anointing of David — but through it all, God was working toward His eternal plan of redemption. Every theme points forward to Jesus Christ: the rejected King, the faithful Prophet, and the eternal Son of David. This final lesson ties together the prophetic significance of 1 Samuel and shows us that only Christ fulfills the longing for a righteous King.

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## I. God's Anointed and the Promise of a King

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 2:10 (NASB):

“The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king, and He will exalt the horn of His anointed.”

### Commentary

- Hannah's prophetic song mentions “His king” and “His anointed” — before Israel even had a king.
- This sets the expectation for a divinely appointed ruler who would bring justice and salvation.
- David became the first true picture of this promise, but only Christ fulfills it completely.

### Cross-References

- Psalm 2:2 — “The kings of the earth take their stand... against the LORD and against His Anointed.”
- Luke 1:32–33 — Jesus will sit on the throne of His father David, and His kingdom will have no end.
- Acts 13:22–23 — Paul preaches: from David's line came Jesus, the Savior.

### Application

- Personal: Our hope must be anchored in Christ, not human leaders.
- Church: The church proclaims Christ as King over all nations.
- Culture: Earthly rulers rise and fall, but Christ's kingdom endures.

### Questions:

1. How does Hannah's prophecy anticipate both David and Christ?
  2. Why is Christ the only true fulfillment of Israel's longing for a king?
-

## II. Saul and David: Two Paths of Leadership

Key Verse – 1 Samuel 13:14 (NASB):

“The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

### Commentary

- Saul represents leadership by appearance — tall, impressive, outwardly strong, but inwardly disobedient.
- David represents leadership by God’s heart — humble, reliant on God, repentant when he sins.
- The contrast shows what kind of King God desires, preparing us for Christ, the perfect King.

### Cross-References

- Isaiah 11:1–2 — the Spirit of the LORD will rest on the shoot from Jesse.
- John 10:11 — Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down His life for the sheep.
- Philippians 2:5–8 — Christ humbled Himself, obedient to the point of death.

### Prophecy Note

- David’s rise prefigures Christ, the ultimate Son of David, whose reign is eternal (2 Samuel 7:12–16; fulfilled in Luke 1:32–33).

### Application

- Personal: God desires obedience and humility, not outward success.
- Church: Leaders must be chosen by God’s standards, not human ones.
- Culture: The world prizes image and strength; God values faithfulness and humility.

### Questions:

1. What lessons can we learn from the contrast between Saul and David?
2. How does David’s kingship foreshadow the reign of Christ?

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## III. Christ, the Fulfillment of 1 Samuel’s Themes

Key Verse – Acts 13:23 (NASB):

“From the descendants of this man [David], according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus.”

### Commentary

- Prophet: Samuel faithfully spoke God’s Word; Christ is the ultimate Prophet (Hebrews 1:1–2).
- Priest: Eli’s failure showed the need for a perfect priest; Christ is our eternal High Priest (Hebrews 7:23–25).
- King: David, though flawed, pointed to Christ, the Son of David, who reigns forever (Matthew 22:42–45).
- Deliverer: Jonathan’s faith and David’s victories foreshadow Christ’s triumph over sin and death.



## **Cross-References**

- Luke 24:44 — all the Scriptures point to Christ.
- Revelation 5:5 — the Lion of the tribe of Judah has overcome.
- Revelation 11:15 — the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ.

## **Application**

- Personal: Christ alone can rule our hearts and bring lasting peace.
- Church: We are called to proclaim Christ's eternal reign.
- Culture: All history moves toward the recognition of Christ as Lord.

## **Questions:**

1. How do Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, and David each point to aspects of Christ's work?
  2. What comfort does Christ's eternal reign give us in a world of unstable leaders?
- 

## **Lesson Summary**

- From Hannah's prophecy to Samuel's ministry, from Saul's failure to David's rise, 1 Samuel reveals the longing for a faithful King.
- Every theme finds its fulfillment in Christ: the Prophet, Priest, and King.
- Where Saul failed and David foreshadowed, Christ reigns perfectly and eternally.
- The message of 1 Samuel is not ultimately about Saul or David, but about Jesus Christ, the true Anointed One.