



1 Samuel

Old

Testament

β 9th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 2.60% of the verses in the Bible

β Possibly written mostly by Samuel

Samuel's birth and life was an adventure! Hannah, his mother, longed for a child and he was conceived as a result of much prayer. After his birth she continued to pray for him, devoting him to God. As a young lad, we read how God directly called Samuel. He becomes Israel's last Judge, a Prophet and was twice a King-Anointer. Whilst we read about Samuel's very early life, there is nothing about Saul's nor David's childhoods. Some consider this surprising. 1 Samuel perhaps begins around 1105BC and ends around 1010BC.

Listening to and then following God wholeheartedly was to be the central aspect of the new monarchy, so in a sense the Theocracy should have continued. However, King Saul (who certainly started well) wanted to be like the monarchs of the surrounding countries and to

Facts: How the monarchy gets established is explored, with Samuel, King Saul and David (before he becomes King) being the main characters in this Book. 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel are one Book in the Hebrew Bible.

have absolute rule himself. That wasn't good! God rejects him and allows David to rise whilst Saul declines. God indeed looks at the heart and not a person's outward appearance (16:7).

Hannah, Eli, Jonathan and the Philistines (including Goliath) are all important secondary characters. We read a lot about their normal life, as well as their relationship with God. The Bible is very honest when it talks about both their strengths and their flaws.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.