

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #14

1 SAMUEL

04-02-23

Monday - 1 Samuel 1-7

Wednesday - 1 Samuel 14-19

Friday - 1 Samuel 26-31

Tuesday - 1 Samuel 8-13

Thursday - 1 Samuel 20-25

First Samuel is the Old Testament book that tells us of the transition of leadership in Israel from judges to kings. In the process we learn that Eli and Samuel were the last two judges of Israel and that Saul was its first king. About two thirds of the book deals with Saul and his forty year reign over Israel.

After Samuel was old and had served God faithfully as judge over Israel, he appointed his sons, Joel and Abijah, as judges. They, however, were not righteous like their father and sought dishonest gain, taking bribes and perverting justice. The people then told Samuel that since he was old, and his sons were evil, he should appoint a king to rule over them. When Samuel discussed the matter with the Lord, He told Samuel that the people had not rejected him but the Lord as their king. After the people ignored the warnings of the problems that a physical king would bring, the Lord told Samuel to grant their request. Israel was thrilled with the outward appearance of Saul, the son of Kish, a very tall and handsome man, who was chosen to begin their monarchy. Unfortunately, his inner strength and character did not mature as his physical body had. Instead, he allowed the good that was in his heart to be choked out and became a wicked man, obsessed with maintaining his power and destroying his future successor, David.

The author of First Samuel in its entirety is unknown. We know that Samuel did write some things down because of 1 Samuel 10:25. However, his death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1, so the things that took place after that, through the end of the book and in 2 Samuel, would have to have been written by someone else. There is no evidence that provides us with any real confidence of who else was involved in the writing of either of the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, other than God.

The date of writing is also unknown. We do have evidence that it was written sometime after Solomon's death and the division of the kingdom because of 1 Samuel 27:6. That verse indicates it was written after Judah and Israel had become separate nations, but also while Judah was still in existence as a nation. Other than that we are unaware of the time of authorship of 1 Samuel.

An outline for the book: 1.) Samuel, the last judge of Israel 1-7
2.) Saul, the first king of Israel 8-31

Questions for 1 Samuel 1-31:

1.) How long did Samuel stay with his parents in chapter one, before he was taken to the house of the Lord in Shiloh?

2.) Eli fell backwards and died when he heard what news in chapter four?

- 3.) What was Saul doing when he was found in the latter part of chapter ten?
- 4.) In chapter twenty, when Jonathan called out to the young man with him, "Is not the arrow beyond you?" what did that indicate to David who was hiding nearby?
- 5.) Why did Saul tell David that Saul had sinned and that he would not harm David again in chapter twenty-six?

Answers to questions for Week #13 – Luke 1-24:

- 1.) Zacharias and Elizabeth.
- 2.) a. Soil beside the road.
b. Rocky soil.
c. Soil with thorns.
d. Good soil.
- 3.) a. A priest.
b. A Levite.
c. A Samaritan.
- 4.) If his brothers would not listen to Moses and the Prophets, then they would not listen to someone if they rose from the dead.
- 5.) He denied the Lord a third time and remembered that the Lord had told him that that would happen.