

Access the Bible

Tualatin Presbyterian Church

First Samuel Outline

Introduction: First Samuel tells the story of the first prophet, Samuel, and the rise of Israel's first king, King Saul. In First Samuel we also meet David, who succeeds Saul to become Israel's greatest king. As part of the Deuteronomistic history, First Samuel carries on the conversation in Joshua and Judges regarding how best to rule Israel. While Judges makes the case for kingship, showing the people growing more and more fragmented, in First Samuel, we hear the opposite case being made, with Samuel making dark predictions about how kings can abuse their power.

Section One: Samuel

Chapter 1: Samuel's birth; Hannah and the Nazirite vow (see John the Baptist)

Chapter 2: Hannah's song (compare with Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1); Eli's sons

Chapter 3: The call of Samuel

Chapter 4: Philistines capture the ark; the death of Eli and sons

Chapter 5: The ark and Dagon, the ark in Ashdod

Chapter 6: The ark's return

Chapter 7: Samuel judges Israel and leads them to victory; the Ebenezer stone (Come Thou Font of Every Blessing)

Chapter 8: Samuel's sons corrupt; Israel asks for a king; Samuel's warning

Section Two: Saul

Chapter 9: Samuel finds Saul to be king

Chapter 10: Samuel anoints Saul; Saul's prophetic frenzy, Saul acknowledged as king

Chapter 11: Saul defends Jabesh-Gilead; unifies tribes using the severed oxen

Chapter 12: Samuel steps down

Chapter 13: Saul makes unlawful sacrifice when battle against Philistines goes poorly

Chapter 14: Jonathan routs Philistines; order to fast; Jonathan and the honeycomb

Chapter 15: Saul fails to keep herem and saves Agag and the spoils; God rejects Saul

Section Three: Saul and David

Chapter 16: Samuel anoints David; David in Saul's court

Chapter 17: David against Goliath

Chapter 18: Jonathan's covenant with David; David's success in battle, Michal and the 100 Philistine foreskins

Chapter 19: Jonathan warns David, Saul attempts to kill David again, Saul's frenzy

Chapter 20: Jonathan's second covenant

Chapter 21: David helped by priests of Nob, David in Gath pretending to be crazy to escape

Chapter 22: David at cave of Adullam; people gather to him, Saul and massacre at Nob

Chapter 23: David saves Keilah; David in wilderness

Chapter 24: David spares Saul's life once

Chapter 25: Samuel dies; story of Nabal and Abigail

Chapter 26: David spares Saul a second time

Chapter 27: Philistines hire David as a mercenary

Chapter 28: Saul consults witches of Endor and summons Samuel

Chapter 29: Philistines dismiss David

Chapter 30: David avenges Ziklag

Chapter 31: Philistines kill Jonathan and Saul commits suicide

Stories to know: The call of Samuel (Chapter 3:1-18); the anointing of David (Chapter 16:1-13); David and Goliath (Chapter 17:31-49)