

**1 SAMUEL 1-17:  
STUDY QUESTIONS (148 pts.)  
“LAST JUDGE AND FIRST PROPHET TO THE KINGS”**

## REVIEW

### EXODUS

- The Mosaic Covenant that the nation of Israel made with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19.

### NUMBERS

- Numbers 7:89 – Yahweh’s presence in the tabernacle
- Numbers 13 – Scouts’ false report about Canaan causes a rebellion.
- Numbers 14 – Israel saw God’s miracles but rebelled – will wander for 40 years in the desert until that generation all dies.

### DEUTERONOMY

In about 1406 BC, Moses passes away and Joshua leads Israel.

### JOSHUA

- In Joshua 1:1-3, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, Yahweh instructed Joshua to cross the Jordan into the promised land.
- Joshua 10-12 – Utter destruction of every Canaanite city.

### JUDGES

- From about 1350 to 1020 BC, the Mosaic judicial system remains intact and God raises up a series of judges to lead Israel.

## THE PROPHET SAMUEL

### *The Birth of Samuel*

The two books of Samuel take place at a time when **the tabernacle** resided in the city of Shiloh. In 1 Samuel, the priest who presided over the tabernacle and who would enter the Holy of Holies with the ark of the covenant was “**Eli.**”

1 Samuel 1:1 tells us that there was an Ephraimite named “Elkanah” who lived in Ramah (v. 19). He had two wives. One named “**Hannah**” was barren, but Elkanah loved her (v. 5). Hannah was heartbroken that she could not provide children, and the other wife, Peninah, didn’t help the situation because she would constantly deride Hannah for her barrenness.

Each year when they went to the tabernacle to make an annual offering, Hannah wept bitterly (v. 5-8). On one of these annual visits Hannah promised Yahweh that, **if he would grant her a son, that she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord** (v. 11). In verse 17, the priest Eli instructed Hannah to, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition . . .”

In verse 20, Hannah had a son and named him “**Samuel**,” saying that she named him that “because I have asked him of the Lord.” Waiting until Samuel was “weaned,” Hannah finally went to the tabernacle in Shiloh and presented Samuel to Eli the priest. In verse 26, Hannah told Eli:

My Lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of him. **Therefore, also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord.**

Then in 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah prayed and said:

My heart rejoices in the Lord, my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth is enlarged over my enemies because I rejoiced in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord, for there is none besides thee. Neither is there any rock like our God.

Then 1 Samuel 2:11 tells us that, “. . . the child did minister unto the Lord before Eli the priest.”

### ***1 Samuel 2: The Sin of Eli the Priest’s Two Sons: Hophni and Phinehas***

By this time, Eli had two sons who assisted him in his priestly duties. Their names were “Hophni” and “Phinehas.” These two sons were corrupt priests. They didn’t know the Lord (1 Sam. 2:12) and their sin was very great (1 Sam. 17). They slept with women who came to the tabernacle to make offerings to God (1 Sam. 2:22).

According to 1 Samuel 2:27, one day, “**a man of God came unto Eli**” and spoke the words of God to him (1 Sam. 2:27). The man of God said: “This shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas, in one day they shall die both of them. And I will raise me up a faithful priest” (v. 34-35).

### ***1 Samuel 3: Young Samuel Hears God’s Voice***

1 Samuel 3:1 begins by telling us:

And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of **the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.**

Eli’s eyesight began to fade until he could not see (v. 2), and the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle (called a “temple” here) where the ark was. Samuel was sleeping.

Then in 1 Samuel 3:4, the Lord spoke to Samuel, and he answered “Here am I.” Samuel ran to Eli and woke him to say again “Here am I.” Eli said that he had not called Samuel and instructed him to lie down again. This occurred three times. Finally, on the third time Eli realized that it must be the Lord who called the boy, so he instructed Samuel that when the Lord spoke again to say, “Speak Lord, for thy servant hears.”

In 1 Samuel 3:12, the Lord delivered to Samuel a prophecy against Eli and his sons saying that the words that had been prophesied previously against Eli and his sons would now all be fulfilled. Samuel lay on his bed until morning and was afraid to tell Eli the words of the Lord. But in verse 17, he could avoid it no longer because Eli asked, “What is the thing that the Lord has said unto you?” And in verse 18 Samuel told Eli the message he had received from God.

In 1 Samuel 3:20-21 ends the chapter by saying:

And all Israel . . . knew that Samuel was established to be prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh; for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

### ***1 Samuel 4: The Ark is Taken, The Sons of Eli Are Killed, Thousands Die***

Israel went to war against the Philistines at Eben-ezer. The Philistines killed 4,000 Israelite soldiers. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, brought the ark of the covenant to lead Israel’s army in the next battle.

Then the Philistines proceeded to kill 30,000 more Israelites (v. 10). Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and the ark of the covenant was taken by the Philistines (v. 11). A Benjaminite ran to Shiloh to tell Eli what had happened (v. 13-14). By this time, Eli was blind, very fat and 98 years old (v. 15). Upon hearing the news of this loss, Eli fell backward off of his seat and broke his neck. Eli had judged Israel for 40 years (v. 18).

### ***1 Samuel 5: The Philistines Suffer for Taking the Ark of the Covenant***

The Philistines worshipped the god “Dagon.” They took the ark of the covenant from the battlefield in Eben-ezer to the house of Dagon and set it beside the statue of Dagon in the city of Ashdod. The next morning, the statue of the god Dagon had fallen on its face before the ark. So the Philistines raised the statue up and set it in its place again (v. 3). But by the next morning, Dagon’s statue had fallen on its face again before the ark and this time had broken into pieces with only the base intact (v. 4).

Then God struck all the Philistines in the city of Ashdod and up and down the coast with hemorrhoidal tumors (v. 6 - “emerods”). Then the Philistines moved the ark to the city of Gath, but God struck the men of that city with hemorrhoids as well (v. 8-9). Then the Philistines moved the ark to the city of Ekron, but there was “a deadly destruction throughout all the city” and “the men that died not were smitten with the emerods” as well! (v. 11-12).

### ***1 Samuel 6: The Philistines Return the Ark After Seven Months***

First Samuel 6 tells us that the Philistines held on to the ark of the covenant for a period of seven months. In 1 Samuel 6:7-8, the Philistines finally placed the ark of the covenant on a cart drawn by two milking cows and sent the cows by themselves with the cart on a road that led to the Jewish city of Beth-shemesh.

The cows traveled a long distance and finally stopped at a large rock that was in a field of Joshua the Beth-shemite. Unfortunately, when the cart stopped at the rock in Beth-shemesh, before the Levites could get there, **50, 070 Israelites decided to look inside the ark of the covenant and the Lord killed every one of them** – what verse 19 calls “a great slaughter.”

### ***1 Samuel 7: Israel Puts Away Other Gods, Retakes Cities From Philistines***

1 Samuel 7:1-2 tells us that the ark of the covenant was then taken to Kirjath-jearim, where Eleazar, the son of Abinadab, was set apart to care for the ark for the next 20 years.

In 1 Samuel 7:3, Samuel the prophet spoke “unto all the house of Israel” telling them to “**put away strange gods . . . and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.**” Verse 4 tells us that Israel complied and repented. Then Israel gathered together at a place called “Mizpeh” to do battle (v. 7), and Samuel continued to “cry unto the Lord” on their behalf (v. 9). At Mizpeh, the Philistines were struck by the thunder of God and many were killed (v. 10). The army of Israel pursued after the fleeing Philistines and killed many (v. 11).

In the hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” we sing “**Here I raise mine Ebenezer**, hither by thy help I’m come.” That hymn is referring to 1 Samuel 7:12, where Samuel the prophet raised a stone and named it “Eben-ezer” to memorialize this miraculous victory over the Philistines, a conflict that had begun at a place called “Eben-ezer” in 1 Samuel 4:1!

Two things happened as a result of this victory in 1 Samuel 7:13-14:

- V. 13 – For Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines.
- V. 14 – The cities that had been lost to the Philistines were retaken, all the way from Ekron to Gath and the coasts of those cities as well.

From that point on, Samuel was a circuit judge in Israel who held court in the cities of Bethel, Gilgal and Mizpeh for the rest of his life, with his permanent residence in Ramah (where his parents Elkanah and Hannah had lived).

## **ISRAEL DEMANDS A MONARCHY (JUDGES NO LONGER RULE)**

### ***1 Samuel 8: The Israelites Demand That Samuel Give Them a Monarchy***

In the Book of Mormon, the Nephites made Nephi their first king. **The Nephites were ruled by a series of kings** until Mosiah chapter 13. At the end of that book of Mosiah, King Mosiah 2 instituted **a new form of government ruled by judges**, starting around 92-91 BC. The ruler in charge was a chief judge/governor.

In the 1440s BC at Mount Sinai, at the suggestion of his father-in-law, Jethro, Moses had instituted a democracy ruled by judges (described in Exodus 18 just prior to the Mosaic Covenant). At this point in 1 Samuel 8 it is about 1020 BC. The children of Israel who had lived under a reign of **judges** for 420 years want to change the form of government to a **monarchy** -- the opposite of what happened later with the Nephites in the New World.

First Samuel 8:1-3 tells us that Samuel the prophet had two sons, Joel and Abiah, were corrupt judges in Beer-sheba who took bribes and rendered

perverted verdicts. So in verses 4-5 **all the elders of Israel came to Samuel in Ramah** and said **“Give us a king.”** Samuel was upset; he knew it would be unwise to establish a monarchy.

In 1 Samuel 8:7-9, the Lord told Samuel:

Hearken unto the voice of the people . . . they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me that I should not reign over them . . . they have forsaken me and served other gods . . . protest solemnly unto them and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

In 1 Samuel 8:11-18, Samuel issued God’s warning to the elders of Israel:

This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you. He will take your sons and appoint them for himself for his chariots and horsemen . . . He will take your daughters to be confectionaries and to be cooks and to be bakers . . . He will take your fields and your vineyards and your olive yards, even the best of them and give them to his servants . . . And he will take your men servants and your maidservants and your goodliest young men . . . And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen . . . and the Lord will not hear you in that day.

In 1 Samuel 8:19, the elders of Israel stubbornly refused to listen to this warning and would not heed Samuel’s warning. They told Samuel, **“Nay, we will have a king over us.”**

So the Lord told Samuel to relent and give them their request, and Samuel told the elders and the people who were gathered at Ramah to return to their homes.

## **A FUTURE KING IS ANOINTED: SAUL**

### **1 Samuel 9-10: Samuel Anoints a Future King**

First Samuel 9:1 tells us that there was a man of the tribe of Benjamin whose name was “Kish,” a “mighty man of power.”

In verse 2 we’re told he had a son “whose name was Saul . . . there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he; from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”

In verse 3, Kish had lost some donkeys that were running wild in the countryside. He sent his son, Saul, and a servant to find them. They looked for miles but didn’t

find them. In 1 Samuel 9:5-14, the servant said to Saul that they should find the “man of God” to ask him where they’d gone.

Verse 9 stops in the middle of this narrative to remark that this “man of God” was called a “prophet” but such men used to be called “seers.”

1 Samuel 9:15-16 tells us that the day before Saul came, Samuel had received a revelation from God that a young Benjaminite would visit him and he should anoint him to be king of Israel.

So on this day, 1 Samuel 9:17-24 says that Saul and his servant appeared to Samuel walking toward him and God’s voice said to Samuel, “**Behold the man** whom I spoke to you of! This same shall reign over my people.” Saul asked Samuel for directions to the seer’s home. Samuel answered, “I am the seer . . . eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go . . . As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago . . . they are found.” So verse 24 tells us that “Saul did eat with Samuel that day.” Verse 25: “Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house”

1 Samuel 10:1-8 says, “Then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head and kissed him and said, ‘Is it not because the Lord has anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?’”

Then in verses 2-8, Samuel predicted a number of things that would happen to Saul over the next eight days, all of which came true.

In **verse 6** he told Saul that he would prophesy and be “**turned into another man**”:

**And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.**

In fulfillment of Samuel’s words, **verse 9** tells us:

And it was so, that, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, **God gave him another heart**; and all those signs came to pass that day.

In verse 20, Samuel told Saul that his donkeys that had been lost for three days were found.

In 1 Samuel 10:10-12, just as Samuel had predicted, Saul encountered a group of prophets “and the Spirit of God came upon them, and he prophesied among them.” **And the people were astonished that Saul was a prophet.**

In **verse 12** it says:

**Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?**

Then in 1 Samuel 10:17, Samuel gathered all of Israel to **Mizpeh** and gave them a prophecy from God:

Ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations. You have said unto him, "Nay, but set a king over us." Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes . . .

Samuel then called for the tribe of Benjamin to come near. Verse 23 says that Saul's shoulders were higher than anyone's head who was gathered there. In verse 24, Samuel said, "See you him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is none like him among all the people."

And in verse 24 all the people shouted and said, "**God save the king!**"

### ***1 Samuel 11: The First Test of Saul's Leadership as King***

In 1 Samuel 11:1, Nahash the Ammonite encamped outside of the city of Jabesh-gilead to attack it, and all the men of Jabesh said that they would make a covenant with Nahash and serve him if he would not attack them.

In verse 2 Nahash responded that he would only make a covenant of peace with those men who would allow him to thrust out their right eye.

Then in verse 3 the men of Jabesh asked Nahash for seven days to consider this while they sent messengers to see if any man would come to their defense from the nation of Israel. The messengers ran to Saul in the town of Gibeah, and the people of that town wept at the news.

In 1 Samuel 11:6, "**the Spirit of God came upon Saul** . . . and his anger was kindled greatly." In verse 7 Saul took a pair of oxen and cut them in pieces. He then sent messengers with these pieces to every corner of Israel saying, "Whoever does not come forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen."

Verse 7 then says, "The fear of the Lord fell upon the people, and they came out with one consent." Verse 8 says that those who responded were **300,000 soldiers** strong.



In verse 11, Saul put his army in three companies and they destroyed the Ammonites army that day. Then in verse 14, Samuel said, "Come, let us go to Gilgal . . . " Verse 15: And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal."

I am skipping **chapter 12** except to say that by this time verse 2 tells us Samuel was "old and grayheaded."

### ***1 Samuel 13-14: Saul & Jonathan Fight the Philistines***

First Samuel 13 is preparation for war and chapter 14 is the actual battle.

First Samuel 13:16 tells us that Jonathan was the son of Saul. At this point in time, 1 Samuel 13:2 says that Saul had 3,000 men under his command in Michmash and Mount Bethel, while Jonathan had 1,000 men reporting to him in Gibeah (a city in Benjamin's territory).

Jonathan's men smote a garrison of Philistines that was at Geba. Then Saul blew the trumpet in all of Israel calling everyone to assemble for war at Gilgal.

In verse 5 it says that the Philistines prepared 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen and soldiers that were too numerous to count, "like the sand which is on the seashore."

In verse 6, the men of Israel were terrified by this and decided to conceal themselves in caves, thickets and behind rocks. Verse 7 even says that the people of Israel who were led by Saul "followed him trembling."

Samuel had previously instructed Saul not to go to war against anyone without seeking the Lord's blessing, but that blessing was to come through Samuel. Saul waited at Gilgal for seven days (v. 8), but Samuel never came.

So Saul took it upon himself to offer a sacrifice to God (v.9). As soon as Saul had made the offering to God, Samuel arrived and asked him **"What have you done?"** (v. 11)

Saul explained that he had waited at Gilgal seven days and he feared the Philistines would soon attack him at Gilgal, so he made the offering himself (v. 11-12).

### ***Saul's Reign Would End & His Descendants Would Not Rule Over Israel***

In 1 Samuel 13:13-14, Samuel then said unto Saul:

You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which he commanded you; **for the Lord would have established your kingdom upon Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be captain over his people** because you have not kept that which the Lord commanded you.

So Saul took 600 men to Gibeah, while the Philistines encamped at Michmash.

1 Samuel 13:19-22, there was no blacksmith in all of Israel. To sharpen tools, the Israelites had previously gone to Philistine blacksmiths. On the day of the battle, none of the Israelites who fought with Saul and Jonathan had any swords or spears.

In 1 Samuel 14:11-20, **Jonathan** and his armor bearer appeared on a high rock and challenged a garrison of Philistines, and that day they killed 20 Philistines. This caused “trembling” and “fear” among the Philistines.

In verses 15-16, the Israelites also “melted away.” So in 17-19, Saul rallied his troops and numbered them. In verse 20-23, all of the Israelites that had been hiding in caves and mountains came forth and joined forces with Saul and **there was a great victory over the Philistines.**

Jonathan's bravery in which he and his armor bearer challenged a Philistine garrison had inspired many in Israel (v. 45).

### ***Saul the Warrior-King Conquers His Enemies on All Sides of Israel***

1 Samuel 14:47 says that Saul also:

**. . . fought against all his enemies on every side**, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; and **whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.** And he gathered a host and smote the Amalekites and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

### ***The Philistines Would Be a Thorn in Saul's Side Throughout His Reign***

After telling us that Abner was the captain of Saul's army, chapter 14 concludes with these words:

And **there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul**; and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

### ***1 Samuel 15: God Tells Saul to Utterly Destroy the Amalekites***

In 1 Samuel 15:1-3, the prophet Samuel delivered a message from the Lord unto Saul:

I remember that which **Amalek** did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and **utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**

So in 1 Samuel 5-9, King Saul attacked the city of Amalek, but they stupidly spared the life of Agag, the king of the Amalekites. They also spared the “best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them.”

When the prophet **Samuel confronted Saul with his disobedience** in verses 13-14, Saul explained to Samuel that he saved the best animals of the Amalekites in order to return and use them as sacrifices to God in Gilgal (v. 15 & 21). Of course, this didn’t explain why Saul had let Agag live.

In 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Samuel spoke God’s words to Saul, **perhaps the most important words in this entire lesson**:

Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king!

In verses 24-25, Saul confessed:

I have sinned; for **I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and thy words because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.** Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me that I may worship the Lord.

In verse 26, Samuel replied:

I will not return with thee, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and **the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.**

In verses 27-28, Samuel then turned away, but Saul grabbed the skirt (bottom) of Samuel's mantle and tore it. Samuel then said to Saul:

**The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you . . .**  
the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man that he should repent.

In other words, Samuel was saying to Saul that this "tearing of the kingdom from Saul" was irreversible. Nothing could convince God to do otherwise.

But this matter of letting Agag, king of the Amalekites, to live had to be settled. Saul had defied God's command to kill all Amalekites. So in 1 Samuel 15:32-33, Samuel said, "Bring ye hither to me Agag, the king of the Amalekites." It then says that "Agag came unto him delicately." Agag then said to Samuel, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." This was Samuel's response in verse 33:

As thy sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women. And **Samuel hewed Agag in pieces** before the Lord in Gilgal.

Chapter 15 concludes with these sad words in verse 35:

And **Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death.** Nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul. And **the Lord rent the kingdom from Saul** whom he had made king over Israel.

## **A FUTURE KING IS ANOINTED: DAVID**

### ***1 Samuel 16: Samuel Anoints a Future King***

In 1 Samuel 16:1, the Lord said to Samuel, "**Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons.**"

When the prophet saw Jesse's son, Eliab, he said "Surely the Lord's anointed is before me." But in verse 7, the Lord counseled Samuel:

Look not on his countenance or on the height of his stature because I have refused him. **For the Lord sees not as man sees. For man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart!**

So Jesse showed seven of his sons to the great prophet Samuel. They each passed before him one at a time. But Samuel said, **“The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all thy children?”** (v. 10-11)

In 1 Samuel 16:7, Jesse answered and said there was one more, the youngest, who was looking after the sheep. Samuel said, “Fetch him.” When **David** arrived, the Lord said to Samuel **“Arise, anoint him; for this is he.”**

Then in verse 13 **Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David** while his brothers were gathered there. Verses 13-14 then say:

And **the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward** . . . But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit which was not of the Lord troubled him.

1 Samuel 16:15-23 says that the servants of Saul discerned that Saul was troubled by an evil spirit. They suggested that they find a man who was skillful in playing the harp to provide music that might alleviate Saul’s affliction. They found David, who was the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite.

Chapter 16 ends in verse 23 by saying that when David played his harp, “Saul was refreshed and well and the evil spirit departed from him.”

### ***1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath***

If you recall, chapter 14 had ended with these words: “And **there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul.**”

In 1 Samuel 17, the Philistines had invaded the territory of Judah at Shochoh. Verse three tells us **that “the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side; and there was a valley between them.”** In between them was “the valley of Elah.”

Then 1 Samuel 17:4-10 says:

And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named **Goliath**, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span [nine feet, six inches]. He had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass [153 pounds]. And he had “greaves”

of brass upon his legs and a target of brass between his shoulders . . . and his spear's head was six hundred shekels of iron [18 pounds]; and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel . . . Why are you come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and you servants to Saul? Choose you a man . . . and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me and to kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then shall you be our servants and serve us . . . I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together!

1 Samuel 17:11 says that, "When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."

Verse 13 says the three oldest sons of Jesse's eight sons were serving in Saul's army that stood atop the mountain listening to these challenges from Goliath.

Verse 16 says, "And the Philistine drew near morning and evening and presented himself **forty days**."

In verses 17-18, Jesse instructed David to take some food to his three brothers in the army camp (parched corn and ten loaves of bread) and give cheese to the army captain who gave orders to 1,000 men. Verse 19 says that **Saul and his army were now in the valley of Elah, fighting the Philistines**. Verse 21: Both armies were engaged in war.

In verses 22-31, David delivered the food to his brothers. While there he heard Goliath utter his challenge. He saw the Israelite soldiers flee when Goliath came out. When he heard Goliath's challenge, David said in verse 26, "**Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?**" And in verse 28, Eliah, David's brother, was angry with David for being so outspoken before everyone. In verse 31, the people told Saul what David had said, and Saul summoned David.

In verses 32-33, David told Saul, "**Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.**" Saul replied, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

In verses 34-36, David replied to Saul that he had killed a lion and a bear while watching his father's sheep "and **this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.**"

So in 1 Samuel 17:37 Saul said, “Go, and the Lord be with you.” In verses 38-39, David tried on Saul’s armor but then refused it.

In 1 Samuel 17:40, David chose five smooth stones to use with this sling and put them in his shepherd’s bag, and he came close to the Philistine.

In 1 Samuel 17:43, when Goliath saw David, he said, “Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?” And Goliath cursed David by his gods. Then in verse 44, Goliath said, “Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air and to the beasts of the field.

Then in 1 Samuel 17:45-47, David replied:

**You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. This day will the Lord deliver you into my hand, and I will smit you and take your head from you . . . the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hands.**

Where did this boldness come from? We need to keep in mind that **back in 1 Samuel 16:13-14, the Spirit of the Lord had come upon David in great power.**

In verses 48-51, Goliath arose to meet David. David ran toward Goliath, took a stone from his bag and threw it at Goliath. The stone sunk into Goliath’s forehead and he fell to the earth. David had no sword, so stood on top of Goliath. David took Goliath’s sword out of its sheath and cut off Goliath’s head.

Then the “men of Israel and Judah” arose and pursued the Philistines out of the Elah valley and toward their home towns.

In 1 Samuel 17:54-58, David brought the head of Goliath to King Saul. Saul asked him who he was. In the final verse of chapter 17, verse 58 tells us that David answered, “I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”

### ***1 Samuel, chapters 18 to 31***

We don’t have time this year to study chapters 18 to 31 of 1 Samuel, so we will conclude this lesson with chapter 17. One thing should be noted, that in 1 Samuel 25:1, **the great prophet Samuel died** and was buried in his hometown of Ramah.

## QUESTIONS

*NOTE: Keep in mind that if a question is worth 2 points, I expect for you to give me two things. If it is worth 3 points, provide three things, etc.*

### **1 Samuel 1: Hannah Promises Her Son Will Be “Lent to the Lord”**

1. In 1 Samuel 1:1 who was the father of Samuel, and in verse 5 who was his mother? (2 pts.)
2. In 1 Samuel 5-10, why was Hannah “in bitterness of soul” and weeping before the Lord at the tabernacle? (1 pt.)
3. In 1 Samuel 1:11, what promise did Hannah make to the Lord in his tabernacle? (1 pt.)
4. In 1 Samuel 1:20, what did Hannah name her son? (1 pt.)

### **1 Samuel 2: The Boy Samuel as a Faithful Servant**

5. In 1 Samuel 2:1-10 is Hannah’s song of praise to God in which she says in verse 1, “My heart \_\_\_\_\_ .” (1 pt.)
6. In 1 Samuel 2:21, Hannah went on to have how many more children? (1 pt.)
7. In 1 Samuel 2:22, what did the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, do that was entirely corrupt for someone who was supposed to care for the tabernacle of the Lord? (1 pt.)



8. In 1 Samuel 2:27, a man of God delivered a prophecy to Eli. What did that man of God say would happen to the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 3: The Boy Samuel Receives a Revelation***

9. In 1 Samuel 3:1, it says “the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 pt.)
10. In 1 Samuel 3:2-9, the Lord called Samuel three times and each time he came to Eli the priest asking if he had called. The fourth time, Eli realized that it must be God speaking to Samuel. In verse 9 what did he instruct Samuel to do? (1 pt.)
11. In 1 Samuel 3:11-14, the Lord gave the boy Samuel a revelation to deliver to Eli. What did God say? (1 pt.)
12. In 1 Samuel 3:20, who in Israel was aware that Samuel had the gift of prophecy? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 4: Philistines Slay 34,000 & Take the Ark of the Covenant***

13. In 1 Samuel 4:1, the Philistines were encamped at Ebenezer. In verse 2, how many Israelites did they kill? (1 pt.)
14. In 1 Samuel 4:3, what did the Israelites do to obtain greater strength for their side? (1 pt.)

15. In 1 Samuel 4:10, what was the number of casualties in the next battle between the Israelites and Philistines? (1 pt.)
16. At this point, Eli was 98 years old and very heavy. In 1 Samuel 4:12-18:
  - a. What three things did the messenger who was of the tribe of Benjamin tell Eli when he arrived at the tabernacle in Shiloh? (3 pts.)
  - b. How did Eli react to this news? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 5: The Philistines and the Ark of the Covenant***

17. In 1 Samuel 5:1, the Philistines brought the ark of the covenant to the city of Ashdod and placed in in the “house of Dagon,” their god. What happened to the statue of Dagon two separate times in verses 3-4? (1 pt.)
18. In 1 Samuel 5:6-7, who was struck by hemorrhoidal tumors (“emerods”) as a result of stealing the ark of the covenant? (1 pt.)
19. In 1 Samuel 5:8-9, the Philistines decided to move the ark of the covenant that they had stolen to the city of Gath. Who was stricken with “emerods in their secret parts”? (1 pt.)
20. In 1 Samuel 5:10-12, the Philistines of Gath wanted the ark out of there as soon as possible, so they sent it to the city of Ekron. In verses 11-12, verse 11 says there was a “deadly destruction throughout all the city.” In verse 12, what happened to the men were not killed by this death? (1 pt.)

### ***1 Samuel 6: Israel Obtains the Ark, Many Are Killed***

21. In 1 Samuel 6:1, how long had the ark of the covenant been with the Philistines by this time? (1 pt.)
22. “Milch kine” are “milking cows.” In 1 Samuel 6:8, what did the Philistines finally decide to do with the ark of the covenant? (1 pt.)
23. In 1 Samuel 6:12-15, when the Philistines sent the cart on its way down the road to the Israelite city of Beth-shemesh, where did the cows take that cart, what finally stopped it from moving and what happened to the ark of the covenant? (2 pts.)
24. In 1 Samuel 6:19, how many inhabitants of Israel did God kill because they were so curious that they had to look in the ark of the covenant before the Levites got there? (1 pt.)

### ***1 Samuel 7: Samuel Leads the Nation to Repent at Mizpeh***

25. For 40 years, Eli had kept the ark with the tabernacle in Shiloh (4:18). In 1 Samuel 7:1-2, who in the house of Abinadab became the keeper of the ark of the Lord while it remained in Kirjath-jearim, and how long did it stay there? (2 pts.)
26. In 1 Samuel 7:3-6:
  - a. the great prophet Samuel told all the nation of Israel that if they would repent and put away their strange gods, what would God do for them? (1 pt.)

- b. In verse 5, where did Samuel instruct them to gather? (1 pt.)
  - c. In verse 6, what did Israel do? (1 pt.)
27. In 1 Samuel 7:10, when the Philistines once again drew near to do battle, what miraculous thing did God do that killed many Philistines? (1 pt.)
28. In 1 Samuel 7:12, what is an “Ebenezer”? (1 pt.)

### ***1 Samuel 8: The Nation of Israel Demands a Monarchy***

In the narrative portion of this lesson we told you that Samuel was the last of “the judges” in Israel and the first prophet to the kings.

29. By this time in 1 Samuel 8:1-3, Samuel was very old and his two sons, Joel and Abiah were corrupt judges in Beer-sheba who took bribes and rendered “perverted judgments.” In 1 Samuel 8:5, what two reasons did the elders of Israel give to Samuel for wanting a king to rule over them? (1 pt.)
30. In 1 Samuel 8:7-10, what was the Lord’s reaction to this demand and what did he instruct Samuel to do in response? (2 pts.)
31. In 1 Samuel 8:10-18, Samuel told the elders of Israel what kind of king would rule over them. In verse 18, what did Samuel prophesy that they would do, and how would the Lord respond their requests at that point? (2 pts.)

32. How did the people of Israel respond to this warning given by Samuel? (1 pt.)
33. In reading 1 Samuel 8 and Mosiah 13, which form of government does the Lord appear to favor, a democracy ruled by elected judges or a monarchy ruled by kings? (1 pt.)

**1 Samuel 9: Samuel Seeks a King**

34. In 1 Samuel 9:1-2, a Benjaminite named Kish was “a mighty man of power.” In verse 2, he had a son who was “a goodlier person” than his father and whose “shoulders and upward was higher than any of the people.” What was the name of this son? (1 pt.)
35. In 1 Samuel 9:3, Kish sends his son on a mission that we see later was initiated by the Spirit of God. Kish had lost some donkeys. Who did Kish send to find those donkeys? (1 pt.)
36. They searched all over the countryside for what we learn later was three days but were unsuccessful. Finally, in 1 Samuel 9:6, what did the servant suggest to Saul that they should do? (1 pt.)
37. In 1 Samuel 9:9, what did they previously call a “man of God” or a “prophet”? (1 pt.)
38. In 1 Samuel 9:15-16, a full day before Saul and his servant had this idea:
- a. What had the Lord told Samuel he would send him? (1 pt.)

- b. What did God tell Samuel to do when he arrived? (1 pt.)
  - c. Why was he supposed to designate a leader for Israel? (1 pt.)
39. In 1 Samuel 9:17, what did the Lord say to Samuel? (1 pt.)
40. In 1 Samuel 9:19, Samuel said, "Ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is \_\_\_\_\_." (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 10: Saul Prophesies & Samuel Announces a King in Mizpeh***

41. In Samuel 10:1, what was the prophet Samuel's first official act to designate a king in Israel? (1 pt.)
42. In Samuel 10:5-6, Samuel the prophet tells Saul that as he traveled to "the hill of God" near a city, Saul would encounter a "company of prophets coming down from a high place." In verse 6, what three things did he say would happen to Saul that would transform his life? (3 pts.)
43. In 1 Samuel 10:9, as Saul turned from Samuel to go follow his instructions, what happened to Saul's heart, and were the signs fulfilled? (2 pts.)
44. In 1 Samuel 10:11-12, when Saul prophesied with the company of prophets, people who had previously known Saul asked what question? (1 pt.)

45. In 1 Samuel 10:17-27, Samuel called all the people of Israel to Mizpeh once again. Then he spoke to all of them by the power of God's Spirit telling them that desiring a monarchy was a rejection of God's will. Verse 23 says that Saul's shoulders were higher than everyone else's heads. In verse 24, Samuel pointed to Saul and said, "See ye him whom the Lord has chosen." What did the people say in response? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 11: Saul Faces His First Challenge as King of Israel***

46. In 1 Samuel 11:1-2, when Nahash the Ammonite camped by the city of Jabesh-gilead to attack it, what ultimatum did he give the men of Jabesh if they wanted to have peace with him? (1 pt.)
47. In 1 Samuel 11:4-6, when they heard this ultimatum of Nahash, what was the peoples' reaction to this news, and what came upon this new king of Israel? (2 pts.)
48. In 1 Samuel 11:6-7, in his righteous anger that came from the Spirit of God, what did Saul do to summon the fighting men of Israel, and what fell upon the people of Israel? (2 pts.)
49. In 1 Samuel 11:8, how many fighting men from Israel did Saul assemble by using this dramatic method (Judah would be included in the number for Israel)? (1 pt.)
50. In 1 Samuel 11:11, what did Saul's army do to Nahash and the Ammonites who were threatening Jabesh-gilead? (1 pt.)

51. In 1 Samuel 10:27, after the prophet Samuel had identified Saul as the first king of Israel, a small group of dissenters called “the children of Belial” who despised Saul had said they would not follow him. In 1 Samuel 11:12-13, after Saul’s victory over the Ammonites what did the people want to do with these dissenters, and what was Saul’s reaction to this? (1 pt.)
52. In 1 Samuel 11:14-15, the people of Israel went to Gilgal to “renew the kingdom,” in other words, while everyone was united, they once again affirmed that they all supported the kingdom ruled by Saul. In 1 Samuel 10, Samuel had anointed him, but in 1 Samuel 11:15, the people were formally approving this move to a monarchy. Verse 15 then says, “all the men of Israel \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 pt.)

### ***1 Samuel 12: Samuel Warns Israel to Obey God***

53. In 1 Samuel 12:1, what concession had the Lord reluctantly made with the people of Israel? (1 pt.)
54. In 1 Samuel 12:2, what was Samuel’s physical condition? (1 pt.)
55. In 1 Samuel 12:3-5, we see that Samuel the prophet and last of the judges in Israel had always been self-supporting and attempted to avoid “oppressing” anyone. In verse 4, did the people agree or disagree with that? (1 pt.)
56. 1 Samuel 12:6-11 is Samuel’s recollection of all the marvelous blessings of the Lord upon Israel. In verse 12, we then learn what Yahweh meant in 1 Samuel 8:7 when he told Samuel that in choosing an earthly king “they have rejected me that I should not reign over them.” Who rightfully should have been the king of Israel instead of Saul? (1 pt.)



57. In 1 Samuel 12:15-18, the Lord had reluctantly given them a king but was displeased with their insistence on having an earthly monarchy. This was the very day of the wheat harvest. In verses 17-18, what did the Lord do to warn them what would happen if their disobedience went any further, and what was the peoples' request of Samuel in verse 19? (2 pts.)

**1 Samuel 13: Samuel: Saul Will Lose the Kingdom in the Future**

58. In 1 Samuel 13:3, who was the son of King Saul, and what did that son do to the Philistines? (2 pts.)
59. In 1 Samuel 13:5, how many Philistine soldiers assembled at Michmash? How many chariots? How many horsemen? (3 pts.)
60. In 1 Samuel 13:6-7, how did the people react to this massive military building by the Philistines? (1 pt.)
61. In 1 Samuel 13:8-10, the people who waited with Saul at Gilgal were terrified. The entire nation was in an uproar. For a battle like this, Saul had been instructed to wait for Samuel to come offer a sacrifice. In verse 8 how many days had Saul waited at Gilgal for Samuel to offer the sacrifice before he finally did it himself? (1 pt.)
62. In 1 Samuel 13:11-14:
- a. In verse 13, how did Samuel react to Saul's offering the sacrifice himself? (1 pt.)

- b. In verse 14, what was the consequence of Saul's nervousness and premature action? (1 pt.)
- 63. In 1 Samuel 13:15-16, how many men did Saul have with him at Gibeah? (1 pt.)
- 64. In 1 Samuel 13:19, there was no blacksmith to make weapons. So in verse 20 what did the Israelites do with their farm tools? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 14: Saul & Jonathan Attack the Philistines at Michmash***

- 65. In 1 Samuel 14:1, who did Jonathan and his young armor-bearer go to attack by themselves without telling anyone? (1 pt.)
- 66. In 1 Samuel 14:11-14, after Jonathan and his young armor-bearer revealed themselves to and taunted the Philistines at Michmash, the garrison answered and said, "Come up to us and we will show you a thing." But in verses 13 and 14 who prevailed, and how many men were killed? (2 pts.)
- 67. In 1 Samuel 14:15, in addition to these two young men attacking the Philistine garrison at Michmash, what did the earth do that caused fear and trembling among the Philistines? (1 pt.)
- 68. In 1 Samuel 14:20, Saul and his men attacked the Philistines, not knowing what had happened to Jonathan.
  - a. In verse 21, what did this cause the traitorous Israelites who had aligned themselves with the Philistines to do? (1 pt.)

- b. In verse 22, what did this cause the frightened Israelites who had previously hid themselves to do? (1 pt.)
  - c. In verse 23, who won this conflict, the Philistines or Israelites? (1 pt.)
69. In 1 Samuel 14:47-48, list five names of enemies who surrounded Israel who Saul eventually defeated. (5 pts.)
70. In 1 Samuel 14:50, who was the captain of the Israelite army under Saul's reign as king? (1 pt.)
71. In 1 Samuel 14:52, how long did this conflict with the Philistines continue? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 15: The Kingdom is Taken From Saul***

72. In 1 Samuel 15:3, the prophet Samuel delivered God's command to Saul to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites. List five types of living things that had to die as part of this "utter destruction." (5 pts.)
73. In 1 Samuel 15:9, what did the Saul and the Israelites actually do that was not compliant with God's command? (1 pt.)
74. In 1 Samuel 15:13-21, what was Saul's excuse for keeping the best animals alive? (1 pt.)

75. 1 Samuel 15:22-23 is the most important passage in chapter 15 and perhaps in all of 1 Samuel.

- a. In verse 22, which does the Lord value more, sacrifices or obedience? (1 pt.)
- b. In verse 22, to hearken is better than the \_\_\_\_\_ .” (1 pt.)
- c. On the other hand, verse 23 tells us that “rebellion is as the sin of \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 pt.)
- d. Verse 23 also says that “stubbornness” is as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 pt.)
- e. Because Saul had rejected the Lord’s command, Samuel told Saul that “the Lord hath also rejected thee from being \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 pt.)

76. In 1 Samuel 15:24-25, Saul begged forgiveness of Samuel and the Lord for his disobedience.

- a. In verse 26, what did Samuel say in response to Saul’s entreaty? (1 pt.)
- b. In verse 27, Saul desperately clung to what item of clothing and what happened as a result? (2 pts.)
- c. In verse 28, according to Samuel what did the Lord say he would do? (1 pt.)

77. In 1 Samuel 15:32-33, what did Samuel have to do that Saul should have done in the first place? (1 pt.)
78. In 1 Samuel 15:35, this chapter ends with three very sad statements that we should all learn from.
- a. Were there any more visits from Samuel after that? (1 pt.)
  - b. Who mourned for Saul? (1 pt.)
  - c. What happened to Saul's rule as king? (1 pt.)

***1 Samuel 16: Samuel Anoints a New Future King for Israel***

79. In 1 Samuel 16:1, where did Jesse live? (1 pt.)
80. In 1 Samuel 16:5, in order to avoid the possibility that Saul might want to kill Samuel, he invited Jesse and his eight sons to come worship and offer sacrifices with him, but Samuel was really there to choose a successor to Saul. As he looked at each young man:
- a. In verse 7, what two things did God tell Samuel not to look at? (2 pts.)
  - b. In verse 7, what does man typically look at to assess a person? (1 pt.)
  - c. In verse 7, what does God look at? (1 pt.)

81. In 1 Samuel 16:11-14, what did the Lord say in verse 12 when David appeared before Samuel? (1 pt.)
82. In verse 13, what happened when Samuel anointed David, and how long did this condition remain with David? (2 pts.)
83. In verse 14, what happened to Saul? (1 pt.)
84. In 1 Samuel 16:15-23, what did Saul's servants do to solve this problem? (1 pt.)

**1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath**

85. In 1 Samuel 17:2-3, what valley was located between two mountains where the Philistines and Israelites stood and faced each other from their mountaintops? (1 pt.)
86. In 1 Samuel 17:4-7:
- a. How tall was Goliath? (1 pt.)
  - b. What armor was Goliath wearing? (1 pt.)
  - c. How much did his coat of mail weigh? (1 pt.)

- d. How heavy was his spear? (1 pt.)
87. In 1 Samuel 17:8-10, what did Goliath demand from the Israelite army? (1 pt.)
88. In 1 Samuel 17:17-25, what errand did Jesse send David to do that allowed David to hear Goliath's taunt of the Israelite army? (1 pt.)
89. In 1 Samuel 17:26, when David heard these taunts, he asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the \_\_\_\_\_?" (1 pt.)
90. David's confidence had a lot to do with the Spirit of God that he had received back in 1 Samuel 16:13. Perhaps God had revealed these things to him by revelation. When he stood before King Saul, David said, "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the \_\_\_\_\_ and out of the paw of the \_\_\_\_\_, he will deliver me out of the hand of this \_\_\_\_\_." (1 pt.)
91. In 1 Samuel 17:39, when Saul offered his armor, what was David's response? (1 pt.)
92. In 1 Samuel 17:40, what did David take with him? (1 pt.)
93. In 1 Samuel 17:43, what did Goliath say when he saw David the shepherd boy? (1 pt.)

94. In 1 Samuel 17:45, David said, "I come to thee in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ into mine hand; and I will smite thee and take thine \_\_\_\_\_ from thee." (2 pts.)
95. In 1 Samuel 17:49, what happened to the first stone that David threw at Goliath with his sling? (1 pt.)
96. In 1 Samuel 17:51, where did David stand, and what did he use to cut off Goliath's head? (2 pts.)
97. In 1 Samuel 17:52, what did the Israelite army do at that moment? (1 pt.)
98. Once again, read 1 Samuel 16:13. What was the key ingredient that David received in abundance before he could make such bold declarations to a giant who was nine and ½ feet tall? (1 pt.)