

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

1 Samuel

GOD'S SEARCH
FOR A MAN
AFTER HIS OWN
HEART

1 SAMUEL
GOD'S SEARCH FOR A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART
PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Hebrew Word Study Tools:)

HARRIS, R. LAIRD; ARCHER, GLEASON L. JR.; WALTKE, BRUCE K.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1980.

VINE, W. E., UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985.

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

HUGHES, ROBERT B. AND LANEY, J. CARL

Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary

Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1990

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E., ED.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 3

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992

EDERSHEIM, ALFRED

Old Testament Bible History

Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1984

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapters One through Three

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of 1 Samuel 1-3
“Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David” map
“1 Samuel at a Glance” chart
Word Studies

Asked of God

When was the last time you poured out your soul to God? Laid before Him the longing of your heart, wept over the anguish of your disappointment and then in childlike trust left it all with Him?

The book of 1 Samuel begins with an anguished heart in the midst of a nation in angst because they didn't know God as they ought to have known Him, nor did they worship Him in spirit and truth. First Samuel begins this way but it doesn't end this way! The book of 1 Samuel takes God's people out of a cycle of darkness and defeat and moves them forward in His purpose and plan.

As you watch Israel move on, you'll learn how it is possible for you to move on, possible for you and for others to grasp the lessons God ordained for His people in this historical account of Israel's history.

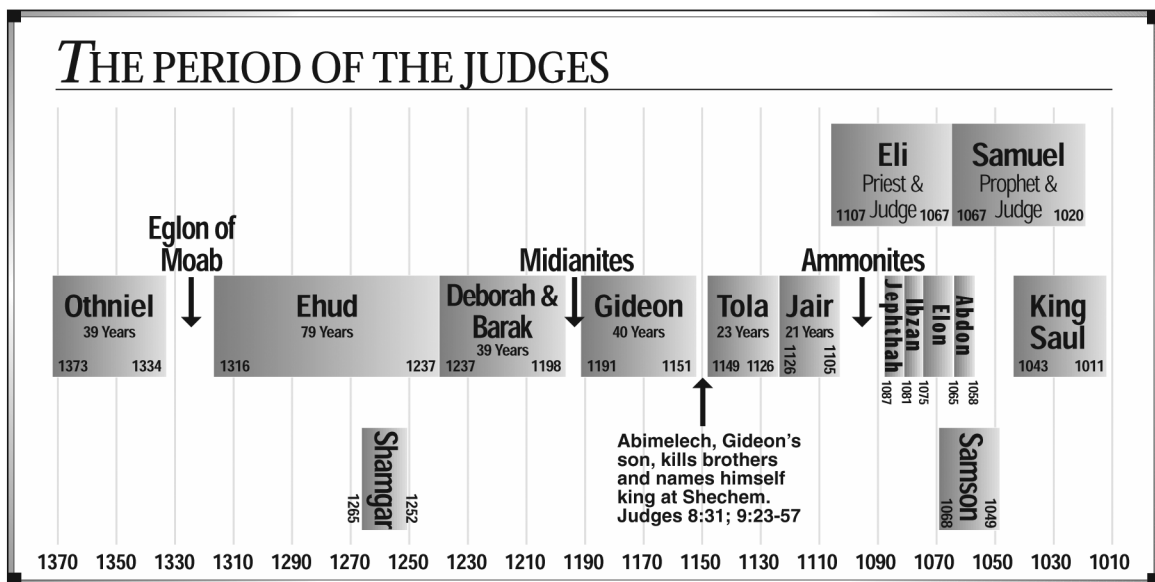
The next eight weeks can be transforming if you will do your part and be diligent to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling God's Word accurately.

DAY ONE

You are about to study the very Word of God! What a duty! What a privilege! What a responsibility! Why don't you begin the way we should begin any study of God's book—in prayer asking Him to help you understand His Word and to live in the light of it.

1. In the Appendix of this workbook you will find the text of 1 Samuel. Read 1 Samuel 1-3 to get the setting of this book. Double underline all geographical locations in green.

- c. Considering what you've observed in the above Scriptures, what makes 1 Samuel a significant book in Israel's history? What transition occurs in the course of this nation in 1 Samuel?
5. Look up the following phrases in Judges and note what you learn about these times:
- Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; and 21:25
 - Judges 2:11-19
 - Is there anything you read in the first three chapters of 1 Samuel that demonstrates what the times were like?
6. You will find a historical chart on the days of the Judges below. Study it carefully so you can put the first segment of 1 Samuel in context. You'll find it's quite an interesting fit.



You have begun! And the team at Precept Ministries International's home base is thrilled. Producing these studies and getting them into your hands is one of our greatest joys—because

when you take a Precept Upon Precept course, we know you are “going for the gold” and are willing to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

You are an answer to our Savior’s prayer, “Father, sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.” It is our prayer that you will determine before God that what you have begun, you will finish. Many run in a race, Paul says, but the prize belongs only to those who finish.

The next eight weeks will fly by—but please know your study will not go unchallenged. The enemy of your soul will do everything he can, as slyly as he can or as boldly as is necessary to keep you from your studies.

Why? Because, faithful one, the Word of God is your one and only offensive weapon. It’s all you need, but you must have it. This is why so many are stumbling and bungling through life; they are at war and are unskilled with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. However, it need not be defeat; it can be victory. We’ll teach you how!

DAY
TWO

1. Yesterday when you marked geographical locations, the most repeated location was Shiloh. In the Appendix of this workbook you will find a map, “**Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David,**” that has the various localities mentioned in 1 Samuel. Look up Ramathaim-zophim (Ramah) and Shiloh on your map.
 - a. What do you learn from the text about Shiloh that makes it a pertinent location?
 - b. Read Exodus 34:18-24 and note where the men were required to go and when.
 - c. At the end of this lesson you’ll find a chart on “**The Feasts of Israel**” (used by permission) from *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)* that we strongly recommend for those who want to study the Bible inductively. This will show you when Elkanah went up to worship the Lord as commanded in Exodus.
2. Do your Observation Worksheet on 1 Samuel 1. Watch for any key repeated words or phrases in this chapter and mark them in a distinctive way.

*If you don't know how to do an Observation Worksheet, you'll find the instructions either in *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur or in the front section of the NISB.*

If you don't have access to either of the above, contact your precept leader and ask for assistance or get the assistance of an experienced student in your group.

Whatever you do, don't despair. Learning to observe the text is one of the most valuable things you can do. It takes time and it takes practice, but the dividends are great. Go for it!

3. In 1 Samuel 1:1 you saw that Elkanah is called an Ephraimite because he lives in the hill country of Ephraim. Now read 1 Chronicles 6:22-28 and 31-38. From which tribe did Elkanah come?
4. What do you learn about Hannah from this chapter? What kind of a woman is she? Review your observations and record what the text tells you about her.

DAY
THREE

Let's look today at the birth of Samuel. There's so much in this first chapter to learn about God and consequently about our lives.

1. Who was responsible for the birth of Samuel? Explain your answer.

- b. Genesis 30:1-2, 22-24

 - c. Deuteronomy 32:39

 - d. Ruth 4:13

 - e. Psalm 139:13-16
5. What have you learned about a person's existence? What does this tell you about the value of a person's life?
6. What lessons for life are to be gleaned from Hannah's life, whether we are men or women? Before you answer that question, it would be good for you to look up the Hebrew word in 1 Samuel 1:8 for *sad* (KJV, *grieved*), when Elkanah asks Hannah why her heart is sad. Also, as we're sure you have noted, God tells us twice in two verses that He had closed Hannah's womb. Do you think Hannah knew that?

7. Finally, take a few minutes to think through how you could use all you've just learned about Hannah and Samuel to minister to those
 - a. who long to have children and have been unsuccessful
 - b. who have had children and really don't want them, who are pregnant and don't want their children, or who know that *they* were unwanted.

8. Finally, beloved of God, are you distressed? Maybe the source of your distress is not the same as Hannah's; however, there are things you can do that she did that will help. Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord. Why don't you take some time today to simply pour out your soul to the Lord? Remember all you've learned about Him in these past three days of study. God never changes; He is immutable and He is sovereign. His sovereignty rules over all as you'll see in tomorrow's study.

DAY FOUR

1. Let's begin our study today with an incredible chapter—1 Samuel 2. Use your Observation Worksheets marking key words, etc., and then go right into the next assignment.
2. You've observed Hannah's prayer but let's go a little deeper. Some call this Hannah's song. When you read it, you realize Hannah's heart was filled with praise to her God. It's a very significant prayer—listed with others that stand out as classics in Scripture such as Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1.
 - a. Read her prayer again and if you haven't already done so, mark in a distinctive way every reference to God.
 - b. There is so much to learn in Hannah's prayer and throughout the book of 1 Samuel in general which will broaden your respect of God and greatly increase your faith in Him. In Daniel 11:32b we learn that those who

know their God are able to stand firm and take action, so don't miss a thing, faithful one. Awesome! List what you learn about God from 1 Samuel 2.

- c. Do you suppose that Hannah has Peninnah in mind at any point in this prayer? Are there things that apply to a woman such as Peninnah and the way she treated Hannah?

3. As we come to the close of today's study, why don't you spend some time in worship and prayer. Go through your list on God and thank Him for who He is and what He does as God. If what you've learned applies to any current situation in your life, then seek Him in prayer in the light of what you've learned. Remember, faith always pleases Him and He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, so believe what you read and live accordingly.



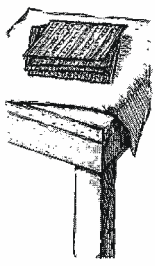

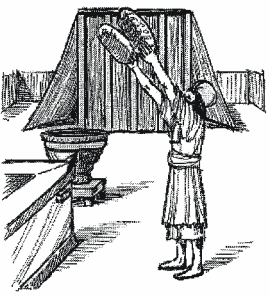
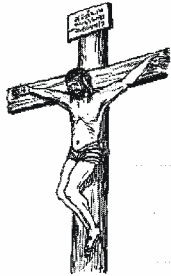


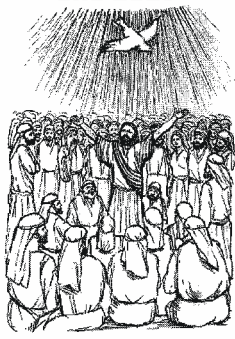
We're going to leave you space to write out your prayer or song should you be so inclined, or to journal what has transpired in your heart.

DAY FIVE




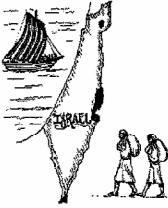

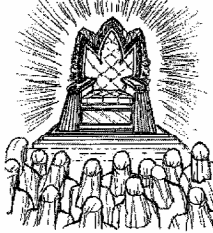
Well, we have come to our final chapter of study this week. How we pray it has been a blessing to your heart. We so long to have you complete this study, for we know what is coming and it will greatly enrich your life. This is a discipline you will never regret; for as you do these studies you are truly sitting at the feet of God, hearing His Word, learning truth by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no other book in all the world like the Bible. This is a living book filled with divine words of God's choosing. Study as unto the Master, faithful disciple.

1. Carefully observe 1 Samuel 3 using your Observation Worksheets. Make sure you search out all the who, what, when, where, and why of the characters and events recorded in this chapter. Observe carefully what is happening in this chapter and how it happens.

THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL

1st Month (Nisan) Festival of Passover				3rd Month (Sivan) Festival of Pentecost	
Slaves in Egypt 	Passover 	Unleavened Bread 	Firstfruits 	Pentecost or Feast of Weeks 	
	Kill lamb & put blood on doorpost Exodus 12:6, 7	Purging of all leaven (symbol of sin)	Wave offering of sheaf (promise of harvest to come)	Wave offering of two loaves of leavened bread	
	1st month, 14th day Leviticus 23:5	1st month, 15th day for 7 days Leviticus 23:6-8	Day after Sabbath Leviticus 23:9-14	50 days after firstfruits Leviticus 23:15-21	
Whosoever commits sin is the slave to sin	Christ our Passover has been sacrificed 	Clean out old leaven... just as you are in fact unleavened	Christ has been raised...the firstfruits 	Going away so Comforter can come  Mount of Olives	Promise of the Spirit, mystery of church: Jews-Gentiles in one body 
John 8:34	1 Corinthians 5:7	1 Corinthians 5:7, 8	1 Corinthians 15:20-23	John 16:7 Acts 1:9-12	Acts 2:1-47 1 Corinthians 12:13 Ephesians 2:11-22

Months: Nisan — March, April • Sivan — May, June • Tishri — September, October

7th Month (Tishri) Festival of Tabernacles			
Feast of Trumpets 	Day of Atonement 	Feast of Booths or Tabernacles 	
Trumpet blown — a holy convocation	Atonement shall be made to cleanse you Leviticus 16:30	Harvest celebration memorial of tabernacles in wilderness	
7th month, 1st day Leviticus 23:23-25	7th month, 10th day Leviticus 23:26-32	7th month, 15th day, for 7 days; 8th day, Holy Convocation Leviticus 23:33-44	
Regathering of Israel in preparation for final day of atonement Jeremiah 32:37-41 	Israel will repent and look to Messiah in one day Zechariah 3:9, 10; 12:10; 13:1; 14:9 	Families of the earth will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths Zechariah 14:16-19 	New heaven and new earth God tabernacles with men Revelation 21:1-3
Ezekiel 36:24	Ezekiel 36:25-27 Hebrews 9, 10 Romans 11:25-29	Ezekiel 36:28	

Interlude
Between
Festivals

Coming
of
Christ

Israel had two harvests each year — spring and autumn

1 SAMUEL 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.
- 2 He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.
 - 3 Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the LORD there.
 - 4 When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters;
 - 5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb.
 - 6 Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.
 - 7 It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat.
 - 8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”
 - 9 Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.
 - 10 She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.
 - 11 She made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant 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.”

- 12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth.
- 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk.
- 14 Then Eli said to her, “How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you.”
- 15 But Hannah replied, “No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD.
- 16 “Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.”
- 17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him.”
- 18 She said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.
- 19 Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.
- 20 It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked him of the LORD.”
- 21 Then the man Elkanah went up with all his household to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and *pay* his vow.
- 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “*I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever.*”
- 23 Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the LORD confirm His word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.
- 24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the child was young.

- 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and brought the boy to Eli.
- 26 She said, “Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the LORD.
- 27 “For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him.
- 28 “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.

1 SAMUEL 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Hannah prayed and said,

- “My heart exults in the LORD;
My horn is exalted in the LORD,
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies,
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.
- 2 “There is no one holy like the LORD,
Indeed, there is no one besides You,
Nor is there any rock like our God.
- 3 “Boast no more so very proudly,
Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth;
For the LORD is a God of knowledge,
And with Him actions are weighed.
- 4 “The bows of the mighty are shattered,
But the feeble gird on strength.
- 5 “Those who were full hire themselves out for bread,
But those who were hungry cease *to hunger*.
Even the barren gives birth to seven,
But she who has many children languishes.
- 6 “The LORD kills and makes alive;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- 7 “The LORD makes poor and rich;
He brings low, He also exalts.
- 8 “He raises the poor from the dust,
He lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with nobles,
And inherit a seat of honor;
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S,
And He set the world on them.

- 9 “He keeps the feet of His godly ones,
But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness;
For not by might shall a man prevail.
- 10 “Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered;
Against them He will thunder in the heavens,
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
And He will give strength to His king,
And will exalt the horn of His anointed.”
- 11 Then Elkanah went to his home at Ramah. But the boy ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.
- 12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD
- 13 and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand.
- 14 Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.
- 15 Also, before they burned the fat, the priest’s servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give the priest meat for roasting, as he will not take boiled meat from you, only raw.”
- 16 If the man said to him, “They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire,” then he would say, “No, but you shall give *it to me* now; and if not, I will take it by force.”
- 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD.
- 18 Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD, *as* a boy wearing a linen ephod.
- 19 And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the LORD.” And they went to their own home.

- 21 The LORD visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before the LORD.
- 22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.
- 23 He said to them, “Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people?
- 24 “No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the LORD’s people circulating.
- 25 “If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death.
- 26 Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men.
- 27 Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Did I *not* indeed reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt *in bondage* to Pharaoh’s house?
- 28 ‘Did I *not* choose them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to carry an ephod before Me; and did I *not* give to the house of your father all the fire *offerings* of the sons of Israel?
- 29 ‘Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling*, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?’
- 30 “Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, ‘I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should 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 lightly esteemed.
- 31 ‘Behold, the days are coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father’s house so that there will not be an old man in your house.

- 32 ‘You will see the distress of *My* dwelling, in *spite of* all the good that I do for Israel; and an old man will not be in your house forever.
- 33 ‘Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from *My* altar so that your eyes will fail *from weeping* and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life.
- 34 ‘This will be the sign to you which will come concerning your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: on the same day both of them will die.
- 35 ‘But I will raise up for *Myself* a faithful priest who will do according to what is in *My* heart and in *My* soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before *My* anointed always.
- 36 ‘Everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and say, “Please assign me to one of the priest’s offices so that I may eat a piece of bread.” ’ ’ ”

1 SAMUEL 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.
- 2** It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim *and* he could not see *well*),
- 3** and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God *was*,
- 4** that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, “Here I am.”
- 5** Then he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, lie down again.” So he went and lay down.
- 6** The LORD called yet again, “Samuel!” So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he answered, “I did not call, my son, lie down again.”
- 7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.
- 8** So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy.
- 9** And Eli said to Samuel, “Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- 10** Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.”
- 11** The LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.
- 12** “In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

- 13 “For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.
- 14 “Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”
- 15 So Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
- 16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.”
- 17 He said, “What is the word that He spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the words that He spoke to you.”
- 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him.”
- 19 Thus Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fail.
- 20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.
- 21 And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel

Israel in the Days of Samuel, Saul, and David



1 SAMUEL AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions			Chapter Themes
			1
			2
			3
			4
			5
			6
			7
			8
			9
			10
			11
			12
			13
			14
			15
			16
			17
			18

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

1 Samuel

1 Samuel at a Glance

Segment Divisions			Chapter Themes
			19
			20
			21
			22
			23
			24
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