

4231, Book of 1 Samuel

AUTHOR: Unknown.

DATE WRITTEN: After 1011 B.C. THE PERIOD was one of transition—the rule of the Judges ended and the kingdom was established.

PURPOSE: To record the founding of the Hebrew monarchy.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: The nation of Israel.

MAIN THEMES: The career of Samuel, the last of the Judges and God's appointed kingmaker (*See* [3138](#), [4295](#)); the career of Saul, the first king of Israel who became a tyrant (*See* [3158](#)); and the anointing of David, Israel's versatile king (*See* [919](#), [4296](#)).

KEY WORD: King.

KEY VERSES: [1 Samuel 8:7-8](#); [15:22](#).

SYNOPSIS: LEADING TOPICS AND EVENTS

1. The birth and dedication of Samuel,—[1 Samuel 1](#).
2. The failure of Eli as judge and parent,—[1 Samuel 2:12-36](#).
3. Samuel's call and remarkable boyhood,—[1 Samuel 3](#).
4. The capture and return of the ark of the covenant,—[1 Samuel 4-6](#).
5. The defeat of the Philistines through the prayer of Samuel,—[1 Samuel 7](#).
6. The clamor of Israel for a king,—[1 Samuel 8](#).
7. Saul chosen and anointed king,—[1 Samuel 9-10](#).
8. Saul's first battle,—[1 Samuel 11](#).
9. Samuel proclaims the kingdom and warns the people concerning their presumption in demanding a king,—[1 Samuel 12](#).
10. Saul's self-will and Samuel's prophecy,—[1 Samuel 13](#).
11. Jonathan's deliverance of Israel,—[1 Samuel 14:1-16](#).
12. Obedience is better than sacrifice,—[1 Samuel 15:1-23](#).
13. David anointed king,—[1 Samuel 16](#).
14. David slays the giant Goliath,—[1 Samuel 17](#).
15. The friendship of David and Jonathan,—[1 Samuel 18](#).
16. The persecution of David by Saul,—[1 Samuel 18:9-27:4](#).
17. The last years of Saul's reign and his suicide,—[1 Samuel 26-31](#).

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE:—Prayer, the dominating element in the life of Samuel.

1. Born in answer to prayer,—[1 Samuel 1:10-28](#).
2. Name means "asked of God,"—[1 Samuel 1:20](#).
3. His prayer brings deliverance at Mizpah,—[1 Samuel 7:2-13](#).
4. His prayer when Israel insisted on having a king,—[1 Samuel 8:21](#).
5. His unceasing prayer for his people,—[1 Samuel 12:23](#).

FIVE DEVIATIONS FROM THE DIVINE LAW which resulted in misery.

1. Polygamy,—[1 Samuel 1:6](#).
2. Parental indulgence,—[1 Samuel 2:22-25](#); [8:1-5](#).
3. Trust in sacred objects,—[1 Samuel 4:3](#).
4. Impatience,—[1 Samuel 13:8-9](#).
5. Partial obedience,—[1 Samuel 15](#).

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Eli, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David.

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