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Day 99 – 1 Samuel 1-3 • The early childhood of Samuel is recorded in this passage. Prior to his birth, Samuel's mother Hannah fervently prays (1 Sam. 1:10-15), pouring out her soul before God, vowing that if she were given a son he would be dedicated to lifelong levitical service and become a lifelong Nazirite. ¹

What was Samuel's first test as a prophet (1 Samuel 3:11-14)?

Day 100 – 1 Samuel 4-7 • The ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines, only to be returned seven months later. Possession of the ark was a curse on the Philistines, causing tumors and the destruction of their idol Dagon.

The third major battle with the Philistines resulted in a victory for Israel and the recovery of Israelite territory as far west as Ekron and Gath. ¹

Samuel set a stone between Mizpah and Shen, after the Israelites smote the Philistines. What is the name of the stone, the meaning of the name, and what did Samuel say in regard to it (1 Sam. 7:12)?

Day 101 – 1 Samuel 8-10 • When Samuel was old, the Israelites asked Samuel to appoint a king over them, giving three reasons: 1) Samuel's sons were dishonest; 2) they desired to be like other nations that had a king; and 3) they felt a need for a military commander (8:20).

The Lord revealed to Samuel the problems that having a king would bring: the drafting of young men and women, the taxation of crops and flocks, the appropriation of servants and animals, and the loss of personal liberty. ¹

It was not God's will for Israel to acquire a king in the manner in which they were doing it, but God allowed it because it was within His permissive will. ¹

Saul, who from his shoulders up was taller than any of the people, was privately anointed by Samuel to be prince over the people of Israel.

What happened to Saul in 10:6,9-10 which designated him as the true successor to the judges?

Day 102 – 1 Samuel 11-13 • Chapter 11 shows how the initial opposition against Saul was overcome, and how the king proved himself. Saul gathered an army of 300,000 sons of Israel to conquer the Ammonites, who had besieged Jabesh-gilead. The Ammonites were descendants of Lot (Gen. 19:31-38).

In Chapter 12 Samuel clearly states that the sons of Israel had done wrong ("your wickedness is great") by asking for a king.

In Chapter 13, Saul disobeys Samuel. Rather than waiting on Samuel, he offered a burnt offering to unite the people and prepare for war. In response, Samuel rebuked Saul for not keeping the commandments of the Lord.

Note that the Philistines had a monopoly on iron and metal-working craftsmen until the time of David (1 Samuel 13:19).

What principle should we learn from 1 Samuel 13:13-14?

Day 103 – 1 Samuel 14-15 • Saul's son Jonathan and his armor bearer put to death about twenty Philistines, causing a state of confusion in the Philistine camp. The Lord delivered Israel that day.

In Chapter 15, the Lord instructed Saul to strike and utterly destroy the Amalekites and their possessions. Saul only partially obeyed, which made the Lord regret that He made Saul king (1 Samuel 15:11). Samuel delivered a message from the Lord to Saul, telling him that since he rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord has rejected him from being king.

What was the foolish oath that Saul put the people under, that nearly cost Jonathan his life since he was not aware of it?

Day 104 – 1 Samuel 16-17 • The Lord told Samuel that He had selected the king to replace Saul from among the sons of Jesse, who lived in Bethlehem.

Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to an animal sacrifice in Bethlehem. It was there that the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint Jesse's youngest son, David.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was selective and temporary, whereas today it is universal and permanent among believers. (footnote1) The Holy Spirit's presence does not exempt a Christian from studying the Bible and prayer.

Chapter 17 records David's defeat of Goliath, the champion of the Philistines.

What came mightily upon David, having departed from Saul in 1 Samuel 16:13-14?

Day 105 – 1 Samuel 18-19; Psalm 59 • Jonathan, Saul's son, made a covenant with David in Chapter 18, giving him his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.

All Israel and Judah loved David, partly because of his war victories. Saul became angry (jealous).

Saul had promised his daughter (in marriage) to the slayer of Goliath. But now the reward is conditioned on further conquests.

David is required to kill 100 Philistines, in lieu of a dowry, before receiving Saul's daughter. Saul was hoping that David would be killed by the Philistines. ¹

David rose up and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines.

In Chapter 19, Saul is determined to kill David. He tries to pin David to the wall with a spear. Later, Saul sent men to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. Michal let David down through a window, and he escaped.

David appeals for God's help in Psalm 59, during this dangerous situation.

What happened to Saul's messengers, and then to Saul himself, when pursuing David in Ramah (19:18-24)?

Day 106 – 1 Samuel 20-21; Psalm 56; Psalm 34 • 1 Samuel 20 records an event where Jonathan protected David, using bow and arrow to send David a secret message.

Jonathan recognized that David would one day be king and requested protection (20:14-15) for himself and his family when David would take the throne. ¹

Since Saul was definitely still seeking to kill David, he fled first to Ahimelech the priest in Nob, and later to Achish king of Gath.

The servants of Achish recognized David to be the one whom had reportedly slain ten thousand. In this circumstance, David greatly feared Achish the king of Gath. David pretended to be insane before them.

Psalm 56 is a Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Psalm 34 is a Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Achish, referred to here under the dynastic title Abimelech.

What did David receive from Ahimelech the priest, which he wore as he fled into Philistine territory (1 Samuel 21:9-10)?

Day 107 – 1 Samuel 22-23; 1 Chronicles 12:8-18; Psalm 52; 54; 63; 142 • David escaped to the cave of Adullam. Others who were in distress, in debt, and discontented gathered to him; and David became their captain over them.

In 1 Samuel 23, Jonathan located David in the wilderness and encouraged him in God. Jonathan affirmed David's kingship. The two of them made a covenant before the Lord.

What became of David's 1 Samuel 21:2 deception, having pretended to be on a secret mission on behalf of Saul (22:18-22)?

Day 108 – 1 Samuel 24; Psalm 57; 1 Samuel 25 • David spared Saul's life in 1 Samuel 24. He cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly in a cave at Engedi.

The death of the prophet Samuel is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1.

While in the wilderness of Paran, David and his men had been protecting the flocks and possessions of Nabal in return for provisions. Nabal was known to be harsh and evil in his dealings.

When payday had finally arrived, Nabal pretended not to know of David or of their agreement.

David and about four hundred of his men girded their swords and were planning revenge against Nabal.

Realizing that she could not reason with her husband, Abigail sent compensation ahead to David, taking the blame on herself, and asking forgiveness.

What became of Abigail in 1 Samuel 25, after her husband suffered a stroke and died?

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Day 109 – 1 Samuel 26-29; 1 Chronicles 12:1-7, 12:19-22 • 1 Samuel 26 records a second time that David spared Saul's life. He took the king's spear and water jug while asleep.

For the next sixteen months David and his men lived near the Philistines king Achish of Gath, who welcomed him having heard of the split between David and Saul.

In 1 Samuel 28 Saul consults a woman who is a medium at En-dor. She practiced necromancy (consulting the dead to determine the future), a practice strictly forbidden by the law (Lev. 19:31). This woman shrieked with fear when Samuel himself actually appeared, rather than some spirit that would impersonate him. On this occasion God miraculously permitted the actual spirit of Samuel to speak.

What lie did David tell the Achish king of Gath in 1 Samuel 27:10, making him believe that David would serve him forever?

Day 110 – 1 Samuel 30-31; 1 Chronicles 10; 2 Samuel 1 • David and his men returned to their camp in Ziklag only to find it had been raided and burned by the Amalekites. The women and children had been taken. Fortunately, David and four hundred of his men soon were able to recover all that the Amalekites had taken.

1 Samuel 31 records the death of Saul.

1 Chronicles 10 states that Saul's death was due to disobedience in not following Samuel's commands (1 Samuel 13:8-9; 15:3, 9) and in seeking counsel of a spirit (1 Samuel 28).

2 Samuel 1:6-10 contains an Amalekite's story of the death of Saul, which is clearly a fabrication. David had the Amalekite executed on the basis of his own testimony of having slain the king.

What is the meaning of the words of Samuel ("tomorrow you and your sons will be with me") in 1 Samuel 28:19?

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995, pp. 422-479.