

# Samuel & the Kingdom Coming

Scriptures Ruth-1 Sam 19

**Presentation—Big Ideas**

## General Time Line for History of Israel

**2000-1650**  
**1650-1280**  
**1280-1240**  
**1240-1200**  
**1200-1050**  
**1050**

**Patriarchs**  
**Egyptian Sojourn**  
**Wilderness**  
**Conquest**  
**Judges & Samuel**  
**Saul Crowned**

## Major Issues: *Kingdom Coming*

1. The relationship of God to government
2. The relationship between a form of government and the strength of a nation
3. Did God oppose the monarchy?
4. Was the call of a king a step forward for Israel?
5. The transformation of Israel into a ranking power of its time
6. Samuel, a study in leadership

## **BIG IDEAS IN THE BOOK OF RUTH:**



**BIG IDEA 1:** BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING: God includes a Moabite who becomes an Israelite and ancestor of most famous King David.

**BIG IDEA 2:** God cares for faithful individuals in the midst of general social instability when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

**BIG IDEA 3:** The Book of Ruth lays the groundwork for the acceptance of David through his genealogy.

**BIG IDEA 4:** The Kinsman-Redeemer [Boaz] illustrates REDEMPTION.

*Steps along the way:*

1 S 4: 1-2 Defeated at Aphek

1 S 4 3-5 Bring up Ark of the Covenant

1 S 4: 4-9 Philistines disheartened, take courage

1 S 8: 4-5 We want King

1 S 8: 19-20 We want King to be like other nations

1 S 10: 20-24 choosing a king

1 S 8.6 Samuel displeased

1 S 10.25-26 Doubts about Saul as Savior

1 S 12.13-17 If you fear the LORD, you and King will do well. Still, asking for King is wicked...



What held Israel together especially through the period of the Judges?

1. Sense of Destiny—strong amid chaos
2. Discipline toward Destiny—Law and Ceremony/worship
3. Correction for a Destiny—Achan, the cycle of Judges, Philistines

*Bright: The historical sources in the Bible and archeology give us better information about this period than any comparable one in Israel's history [p. 184]*

## 1 Samuel 1-12 (Note we have read beyond of this week's formal presentation.)



**BIG IDEA 5: SWASTIKA** —Israel threatened by major power—Philistia



Philistines arrived in Canaan about the same time as Israelites → now are organized into military force that brought the relative disorganization of Israel to the brink of disaster.

They were just the foe Israel could least effectively deal with.



**BIG IDEA 6: TROOPS MASSED IN FORCE**—Philistia was different from Israel's former enemies—well organized military force.

- Philistines were not especially numerous
- Military aristocracy—"formidable fighters with strong military tradition"



- Perhaps saw Israel as threat to their own security or security of trade routes leading inland.
- Monopoly on iron—No smiths in Israel [1S 13.19]
- [Remember Egypt is now in severe decline and Hittites fell in 1200. So no one around is on the world stage.]
- Border incidents like Shamgar and Samson illustrate early irritations



**BIG IDEA 7: GLOATING & ARROGANT SOLDIERS STANDING OVER ARK**—Philistia, capture Israel's most prized possession—the Ark of the Covenant



Decisive blow struck around 1050 BC near Aphek at the edge of the coastal plain—1S 4

Worsted in a preliminary battle at Ebenezer/Aphek, Israel brings ark to battle front from Shiloh. Israel treats Ark like a good luck charm, talisman, **or a localized god**, but presence of Ark makes no difference—Israel is defeated anyway—Ark has God's presence only when God's people obey him.

What is more pleasing to the Lord:  
your burnt offerings and sacrifices  
or your obedience to his voice?

**Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,  
and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.**

23

Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,  
and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, [the word of the Lord]  
he has rejected you as king."



## **BIG IDEA 8: FOUNDATION/ GOD IS NOT HONORED BY RITUAL, BUT SERVED BY OBEDIENCE.**

Ark is taken, people defeated.

The glory has departed –Hophni, Phinehas and Eli die, Ichabod born

Philistines then proceed to occupy the land – they take and destroy **Shiloh** --- it is never a shrine again: See Jer. 7:12ff

**2** “Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. **13** While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. **14** Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors

Philistines garrison the land – even in the highlands

1 Sam 10.5 Gibeah—Remember what it means when Gibeah is held geographically.

1 S 13.3f –Geba

1 S 13.23—Michmash

Philistines held Negev, coastal plain, much of central highlands and the Jezreel/Esdraelon plain –Though not all of Galilee or east of the Jordan. Central mountains control was spotty.

***“The tribal confederacy, its forces scattered and disarmed, its central shrine destroyed and the priesthood killed or dispersed, was helpless.” [Bright, 186]***

Though the Ark was returned after a brief captivity, it lay in neglect for a generation at Kiriath-jearim.

***The old order [tribal league] had failed; it could never be re-created.***



## **BIG IDEA 9: CAPTIVES IN BONDS -- The loss of the ark created the feeling in Israel that her plight was hopeless**

Samuel – dedicated at birth to a Nazarite vow did all he could to keep the ancient covenant vision alive. After Shiloh is destroyed, he returns to Ramah and makes his circuit of the central hill towns the circling of the Israelites' wagons. 1 Samuel 7.15-17 → Bethel, Gilgal, Mispah and Ramah.

Samuel seems to have some connection to the appearance of the prophetic tradition in Israel which emerges as a group of *ecstatic charismatics* who prophesy to the sound of music and are known for their frenzy.

This was a time of spiritual vacuum—discredited priesthood had been destroyed  
Political vacuum – no real leader; Samuel was no Gideon or even Samson – situation was hopeless unless stronger leadership could be found.

But...



## **BIG IDEA 10: VISION OF THRONE—The Israelites saw an answer to the Philistine terror in the development of a central government ruled by a king**

Samuel challenges Israel to return with their whole heart to the Lord their God:

1 S. 7.3-4: *"If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Astartes from among you. Direct your heart to the Lord, and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."*

How does Israel recover? Through choosing the path to strong organization – to unite under a central leader

There is, however, ambivalence toward a monarchy – something entirely foreign to Israel’s tradition.

Two different accounts:

**A** 1 Samuel 9.1 through 10.16: Saul privately anointed by Samuel, continued in 1 Samuel 13.3b, 4b-15

Saul’s victory over Ammon - 1 Samuel 11 & subsequent acclamation by the people at Gilgal.

### **VERSUS**

**B** 1 Samuel 8, 10:17-27 & 12

Bethel’s opposite strands:

Positive:	Negative
<b>1 Samuel 8:4-5</b>	<b>1 Samuel 8.6</b>
<b>1 Samuel 8.19-20</b>	<b>1 Samuel 12.13-17</b>
<b>1 Samuel 10.20-24</b>	

***Does God favor or oppose the idea of monarchy?*** Bible contains both stances. How to interpret faithfully to the Bible’s approach – God is not opposed to government. But it’s a concession to human fallenness.

### ***Can we be God’s people and be a monarchy?***

Being God’s people does not depend on the form of government – it depends on whom you serve.

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away → BOTH YOU AND YOUR KING. (1 Samuel 12.24-25)

If both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well, but if you will not heed the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king—1 Samuel 12.14-15.

### **Saul:**

Name means: “Asked For” [*Word Biblical Commentary*, Ralph Klein] Double entendre: Saul is the king asked for and God says, “you asked for it.”

**Benjamite—IMAGINE! A Benjamite?????!!!! After the civil war which destroys Benjamin.**

FACTORS about Benjamin that favored Saul

Centrally located

Immediately threatened

Small—so jealousy would not create immediate problems

Saul responds heroically to Ammonites (1 Samuel 11) who invaded Eastern territory at Israel’s weakest time and laid siege to Jabesh-Gilead offering treaty in exchange for the gouging out of the right eye of all the men, **Saul** is seized by Spirit of God 1 Samuel 11.6 so that he quarters his oxen on the spot and summons all Israel to battle.

The people actually respond.  
Victory results in renewed acclamation of Saul as king.

Saul never establishes the trappings of monarchy, however. (More about the actual Kingdom in the next weeks 21-23).

**THINK ABOUT THIS: What is the relationship between the LAW, Government and humanity?  
IS GOVERNMENT NECESSARY? Why or why not?**

See “The Barmen Declaration”

Government of Luther’s theology: Generally good & necessary in a fallen world.

**right hand:** government of church: order of grace; internalize demands of order; therefore, do not need forceful restraint – obedience, not enforcement.

**left hand:** government of world/state; regulation by force, for the restraint of evil of those who will not live by the spirit in purity and obedience.

[Pro-government stance led German clergy to cooperate with Hitler→ even signers of the Barmen Declaration had children (Rev. Herman Hesse) who served in Hitler’s army –Hesse’s 2 sons killed in 1941 in Nazi Army

Discussion of relation of God to government: Scripture keeps God from direct connection with any human government. Here we have just such an example of the ambivalence.

See **Romans 13. 1-7**

Submit to governing authorities for all authority comes from God

To resist authority is to resist God

Government is the servant of God to execute justice on the wrongdoer.

**1 Tim 2.1-3** pray for kings and all in high positions—right and acceptable in the sight of God our savior

**1 Pet 2: 13-14:** For the Lord’s sake, accept the authority of every human institution (emperor, governor) sent by God to punish those who do wrong and praise those who do right.



# THE BIBLE PROJECT

**WEEK 21-23** Sunday Feb 12, 19,26; Thursday Feb 16, 23, Mar **2**

## Assignment

**BE READY FOR A REVIEW QUIZ—either oral or paper—to go over the BIG IDEAS OF WEEK 19-20.**

**1 Samuel 20-1 Kings 9**, including the *Chronological Bible* extra Scripture passages. **The time has come to use the *Chronological Bible*** which will include more material on the genealogical development. It will also include some Psalms and the Chronicles. This is a lot of material. ***So use the two weeks.*** A strategy: Pay attention to the historical (Samuel and Kings) reading especially, note the parallels in Chronicles and give the Psalms light reading.

I wish I could give page numbers—in the editions I have they are:

NIV CB p. 405-588

NLT CB p. 430-620

1 Samuel 20-1 Kings 9

1 Chronicles 3, 6, 9-29,

See sheet with all the other readings.

See READINGS FOR WEEKS 21-23 HANDOUT; ***BETTER YET, BORROW A CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE.***

## **MARKERS:**

1 Sam 2	Hannah's prayer
1 Sam 3	Samuel's call and first prophetic message
1 Sam 8	Should Israel have a king?
1 Sam 11	Saul made king
1 Sam 13	No blacksmith in Israel
1 Sam 16	David anointed King
1 Sam 17	Goliath stoned