

Samuel

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I SAMUEL 1-15

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. Who were Elkanah's wives and what was the rivalry between them? (Chapter 1)
2. What does 'Samuel' mean? (Chapter 1)
3. What was the judgment put on Eli's household? (Chapter 2)
4. Were the people hearing God's word in Eli's day? (Chapter 3)
5. What does 'Ichabod' mean and what is the significance of it? (Chapter 4)
6. When the Philistines sent the ark back to Israel, what offering did they send with it? Why? (Chapter 6)
7. Why did seventy men of Beth Shemesh die? (Chapter 6)
8. What does 'Ebenezer' mean and why did Samuel give a stone that name? (Chapter 7)
9. God uses both practical and spiritual ways to accomplish His purposes. How did Saul happen to come to Samuel and how did Samuel know Saul was to be king? (Chapter 9)
10. What was the sign given to Saul of his kingship? (Chapter 10)
11. What did Saul look like and how did he act when he was singled out as king in front of the people? (Chapter 10)
12. How was Saul's kingship confirmed to the doubters? (Chapter 11)

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. What is Hannah extolling about God in her prayer? (Chapter 2)
2. Why did God want to do away with Eli's sons? What does this say about a person's calling? (Chapter 2)
3. What does it mean that the Lord let none of Samuel's words "fall to the ground?" (Chapter 3)
4. The ark of God was guidance and glory to Israel. What was its effect on the Philistines? Why? (Chapter 5)
5. Why was it an unusual sign when the cows, which the Philistines hitched to the ark went to Beth Shemesh? (Chapter 6)
6. Why was it bad for Israel to desire a king? (Chapter 8 & 12)
7. What did Samuel say about failing to pray for the people? (Chapter 12)
8. What principle is learned from Saul's actions in Gilgal? (Chapter 13)
9. How was Jonathan an example of faith to Israel? (Chapter 14)
10. Why was Saul's oath for the people not to eat, a foolish oath? (Chapter 14)
11. What can we learn from Saul's actions after beating the Amalekites? What do we learn of the character of God? (Chapter 15)

03 CONSIDERATION CORNER »

03

CONSIDERATION
CORNER

Consider this:

Saul was a head taller than anyone else and yet his downfall came when he feared the people. Fear of man is surely a snare.

ANSWERS TO LESSON 22

OBSERVATIONS

1. Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah had no children, but Elkanah loved her very much, so Peninnah provoked Hannah for being barren. (1:1-8)
2. Heard of God. (1:20)
3. God said He would take away the strength of Eli's house The men would all die in their prime. His two sons would die on the same day. (2:30-34)
4. No. The word of the Lord was rare. (3:1)
5. Ichabod means "no glory". The Philistines had beaten Israel badly and stolen the Ark of the Covenant over which the glory of God rested and led the people. (4:21-22)
6. They offered five gold models of mice and five of tumors (one for each Philistine king) in hopes that God's hand of wrath would be lifted. (6:4-5)
7. Because they looked into the Ark. (6:19)
8. It means "stone of help" because when Israel repented, God helped them slaughter the Philistines. (7:12)
9. Saul was looking for his father's lost donkeys and God had spoken to Samuel that at a certain time, a Benjamite was coming whom he should anoint as king. (9:1-17)
10. Samuel said he would meet certain prophets and he would prophesy. God changed Saul's heart; and he indeed prophesied among the prophets. (10:1-14)
11. He was a head taller than anyone else, but he was hiding in the baggage. (10:20-24)
12. God used him to unite Israel and beat the Amorites. (11)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. Hannah extols God's kindness, mercy and grace, especially toward the poor, needy and weak ones. (2:1-10)
2. Eli's sons had become corrupt priests, thinking only of themselves. A person must walk worthy of his calling or reap the consequences. (2:12-36)
3. Samuel walked with God so his words became meaningful and life-giving, which caused people to listen. (3:19-21)
4. It was death and sickness to the Philistines. Because God's hand was heavy upon it and they did not fear God. (5)
5. Because the cows had recently calved and would normally refuse to leave their calves. (6:7-12)
6. They did not have a relationship with God so He could lead them. They wanted a king "like other nations". They rejected God to have a man lead them. (8:4-9, 12:12)
7. He would not want to sin against the Lord by failing to pray for them. (12:23)
8. We must not be anxious and let others' fear or panic cause us to move in the flesh. (13:7-14)
9. Jonathan believed God would deliver the Philistines into their hand. He single-handedly set the Philistines into confusion and then the faint-hearted joined him and beat the Philistines. (14:1-23)
10. The oath made the soldiers weak, and it backfired when Jonathan unknowingly broke the oath. (14:24-45)
11. To hear God's word and obey is far better than sacrifice or the best of our own ideas. There is a point where God brings judgment on human arrogance and He does not change His mind. (15)

I SAMUEL 16-31

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. Why did David think he could kill Goliath when even the strongest men in Israel were afraid? (Chapter 17)
2. What feelings moved Saul to do foolish things? (Chapter 18)
3. What did Samuel, David, Saul and Saul's men all do at Naioth? At Ramah? Why? (Chapter 19)
4. Who helped David flee from Saul? Why? (Chapters 19 & 20)
5. What does David use for his sword after fleeing from Saul? (Chapter 21)
6. Why did David act like a madman when he was with King Achish? (Chapter 21)
7. Describe David's original army. (Chapter 22)
8. Why did Saul kill the priests at Nob? Were his actions justified? (Chapter 22)
9. How did David manage to keep away from Saul? (Chapters 22-26)
10. Why did David go to Ziklag? (Chapter 27)
11. Why did Saul resort to going to a witch? (Chapter 28)
12. The Philistine commanders did not want David and his men to march with them so they sent them back to Ziklag. How did God use this? (Chapters 29-30)

02 DEEPER THOUGHT »

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. What lesson can we learn from Samuel about mourning over a sad situation? (Chapter 16)
2. David was only a shepherd and didn't compare to his brothers or Saul in stature. Why then, did God choose David? (Chapter 16)
3. What can we learn about anointed praise from David and Saul? (Chapter 16)
4. Can we learn something from the fact that David couldn't use Saul's armor but was successful with only a sling? (Chapter 17)
5. Why would God want to send an evil spirit upon Saul? (Chapter 18)
6. Compare 1 Samuel 21:6 with Mark 2:23-27. How did God look upon David's action?
7. Why did David not kill Saul when he had the chance? (Chapters 22-26)
8. What lesson can we learn from Abigail in Chapter 25?
9. Samuel, who was dead, said to Saul that the next day Saul would be with him. What does this show us of God's mercy? (Chapter 28)
10. What can we learn from the way that David divided the spoil of the Amalekites? (Chapter 30)
11. How did Saul meet his end and what does that tell us? (Chapter 31)

03

CONSIDERATION
CORNER

Consider this:

God could have waited to anoint David king after Saul was dead. However, He chose to give the people a visual contrast between David and Saul. Saul was a head taller than anyone in Israel, but his heart was not right. Little David had **a heart toward God.**

ANSWERS TO LESSON 23

OBSERVATIONS

1. He believed that God would overrule the circumstances and deliver him into his hands. (17:37)
2. Jealousy and fear. (18)
3. They all prophesied because the Spirit of the Lord was heavy upon them. (19:18-24)
4. His wife Michal, Saul's daughter, and his friend Jonathan, Saul's son. Because they loved him and could see that Saul had turned evil. (19:11-17, 20:1-4)
5. Goliath's old sword. (21:9)
6. Because of fear. He was afraid they might expose him because they knew who he was. (21:12-15)
7. All those who were in distress, or in debt, or discontented. (22:1-2)
8. He killed them out of fear that they were in allegiance with David. He was totally wrong because the priests had no knowledge of Saul's hatred for David. (22:6-23)
9. God always spoke to David and told him what to do. (22-26)
10. He looked for a place where Saul would not search, for him and king Achish gave him Ziklag. (27:1-6)
11. Because God no longer answered him. (28:6)
12. They got back to Ziklag in time to chase the enemy who had plundered the city. (30:1-8)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. When God works, even in sorrow, we need to stop mourning and embrace a new beginning. (16:1)
2. God looks on the heart, not the outward appearance. (16:5-13)
3. Evil cannot stay where there is anointed praise to God. (16:23)
4. We can't battle the enemy with someone else's gifts and anointing. (17:34-39)
5. Saul fluctuated between good and evil and God saw that his heart would not follow Him. God wanted Saul's reign to come to an end. (18:6-12)
6. It was ok for David to go against the letter of the law for God's higher purposes.
7. He believed Saul was God's anointed until he died, even though he wasn't righteous.
8. Blessed are the peacemakers. Abigail was a true picture of an intercessor. Nabal was selfish and died because of it. (25:14-35)
9. God was merciful to send Saul to where Samuel was after death, even though Saul had become disobedient. (28:19)
10. Our reward is the same, whether we go out or stay home, so we should be wherever God calls us. (30:23-25)
11. He died at the hands of the Philistines. When we cease to follow God, we are at the mercy of the enemy. (31)

II SAMUEL 1-12

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. How did Saul die? (Chapter 1)
2. What did David do when he heard the news of Saul's death? (Chapter 1)
3. Who was anointed king at the same time as David? (Chapter 2)
4. How did Abner die? (Chapter 3)
5. How old was David when he became king over all Israel? How long did he reign? (Chapter 5)
6. What city became the capital? (Chapter 5)
7. What characterized David's reign and how is that pictured by his kindness to Mephibosheth? (Chapter 8 & 9)
8. What did David do to try to conceal his sin? (Chapter 11)
9. What method did Nathan use to confront David? (Chapter 12)

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. The accounts of Saul's death seem to differ. (I Samuel 31 & II Samuel 1) Why?
2. What was David's attitude toward Saul and his position as king? (Chapter 1)
3. What did David do when Rechab and Baanah told him that they killed Ish-Bosheth? Why? (Chapter 4)
4. What had David learned about God's guidance? (Chapter 5)
5. Why did Uzzah die? (Chapter 6)
6. Why did Michal have no children? (Chapter 6)
7. What was God's promise to David concerning building a temple? How did David respond to this? (Chapter 7)
8. In David's conflict with the Ammonites, was David taking the offensive or defensive position? (Chapter 10)
9. What does God want us to see about David's attempt to hide his sin? (Chapters 11 & 12)
10. There were three judgments to David spoken by Nathan the prophet. What were they? (Chapter 12)
11. When David's son died why did he respond the way he did? (Chapter 12)
12. What does this chapter show us about children dying? (Chapter 12)

03 CONSIDERATION CORNER »

03

**CONSIDERATION
CORNER**

Consider this:

The ark of God was a symbol of God's manifest presence. David danced with all his might when the presence of God was returning home. Christians should do the same in the time of Christ's return with His presence coming into the camp!!

ANSWERS TO LESSON 24

OBSERVATIONS

1. He was fatally wounded in battle, so he purposely fell on his sword. His life still lingered in him, so he persuaded an Amalekite to kill him. (1:5-10)
2. He tore his clothes, fasted and mourned, and then killed the man who killed Saul. (1:11-16)
3. Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son. (2:10)
4. He was murdered by Joab. (3:27)
5. David was 30 and he reigned 40 years. (5:4)
6. Jerusalem, the City of David. (5:1-10)
7. He did what was just and right for all his people and the kindness he showed to Mephibosheth, the grandson of Saul, was a perfect example of this. (8:15, 9:3-13)
8. First, he attempted to make Uriah think the child was his own, then arranged circumstances so Uriah would be killed in battle. (11:6-17)
9. A parable. (12:1-10)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. Each account tells a portion of the story from two different perspectives. (1:5-10)
2. He kept Saul's position in the highest esteem. (1:17-27)
3. He killed them because Ish-Bosheth was anointed as king and was an innocent man. David had no rivalry in his heart (4:9-12)

4. He learned not to assume that God's direction would be the same, though the situations were identical. Seek the Lord every time. (5:17-25)
5. He touched the ark. Because he was a priest, he was responsible to know that only the Levites could touch the ark and it must be carried on their shoulders. (6:6-7)
6. Because she despised David for his dancing. (6:16-23)
7. That Solomon would build it. David was very grateful and his heart was filled with praise, even though he would never see it. (7:5-29)
8. Defensive. When David's delegation was humiliated, David did not come out to fight until the Ammonites initiated the battle. (10:1-14)
9. It takes more sin to hide sin. David ended up in a worse place and was unable to conceal his sin anyway. (11:4-12:18)
10. The sword would never depart from his house, calamity would come to his household so that even his wives will be taken, and the child that is born to him will die. (12:10-14)
11. He had fasted and wept that perhaps God might spare the child. When the child died, he acknowledged God's justice, for there was nothing he could do. (12:15-23)
12. This baby went to be with the Lord. This is one of just a few Scriptures concerning what happens to children when they die. (12:23)

II SAMUEL 13-25

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. What greater evil did Amnon do after he raped his half-sister Tamar? (Chapter 13)
2. To where did Absalom flee after he killed Amnon? (Chapter 13)
3. When Joab ignored Absalom's request, what did Absalom do to get his attention? (Chapter 14)
4. Why did David send back Zadok, Abiathar, and Hushai? (Chapter 15)
5. Mephibosheth joins the conspiracy, but Ziba does not. What does David do about this? Does Ziba tell David the truth? (Chapter 16)
6. What were David's orders concerning Absalom? (Chapter 18)
7. Why was the victory in Chapter 18 treated like a defeat?
8. What judgment does Shimei receive when David returns? (Chapter 19)
9. How was Sheba's revolt stopped? (Chapter 20)
10. Why didn't David drink the water that the three men stole from the Philistine camps? (Chapter 23)
11. What was the total of the census? (Chapter 24)

02 DEEPER THOUGHT »

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. How did Joab convince David to bring back Absalom? (Chapter 14)
2. What kind of man was Absalom? Describe his character. (Chapters 14 & 15)
3. Absalom conspires and seizes the kingdom. When David flees, Shimei curses him. Why does David submit to Absalom & Shimei? Why doesn't he resist and fight? (Chapters 15 & 16)
4. Why did Ahithophel hang himself when he saw that his advice was not heeded? (Chapter 17)
5. Who killed Absalom? Why? (Chapter 18)
6. What was the difference between the two messengers Ahimaaz and the Cushite? What can we learn from this incident? (Chapter 18)
7. What did David do with his ten concubines when he returned? Why? (Chapter 20)
8. What do we learn from the three-year famine in the days of David and how it was stopped? What do we learn from David's song? (Chapters 21 & 22)
9. Why was it a sin for David to number the people? (Chapter 24)
10. Which of the three options of judgment did David choose? Why? (Chapter 24)

03

CONSIDERATION CORNER

Consider this:

In spite of Absalom's sinful ways, David loved him greatly. How much more does our Heavenly Father love us in spite of our sinfulness!

ANSWERS TO LESSON 25

OBSERVATIONS

1. He hated her and sent her away. (13:1-19)
2. Geshur, which was evidently a city of refuge. (13:38-39)
3. Absalom had his servants set Joab's field on fire. (14:30-31)
4. So that David would secretly have men on his side of the palace. (15:32-37)
5. He gave everything to Ziba that had belonged to Mephibosheth (16:4)
6. "Be gentle with the young man Absalom, for my sake." (18:5)
7. Because David was mourning for Absalom to the extent of ignoring the victory. (18:19-33)
8. Nothing. David forgave him for his cursing. (19:18-23)
9. Joab began to attack the city where Sheba was holding out but a wise woman convinced the people to cut off Sheba's head and throw it over the wall. (Ch. 20)
10. Because the men risked their lives for it. (23:17)
11. In Israel, there were 800,000 valiant men and in Judah, 500,000. (24:9)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. He convinced a wise woman from Tekoa to pretend to have a comparable situation. David made the decision in favor of the woman's plea and the woman compared it to Absalom. (14:1-21)

2. He was extremely handsome with a lot of hair. He was cunning, hot-tempered, deceitful, proud, selfish, vengeful and power-hungry. (14:25-26, 15:1-12)
3. David did not want to fight his own son; he loved him. David realized that the hearts of the people were with Absalom; and he was outnumbered. Most importantly, he did not want to fight the judgment of God. (15:13-16:14)
4. His identity was totally wrapped up in his advice. If his counsel was ignored, his life's meaning was destroyed. Who we are and what we do are two separate things. (17:23)
5. Joab did because he disagreed with the king's command, rebelled, and took matters into his own hands. (18:4-15)
6. Ahimaaz was too eager to be the messenger and had to step aside for the Cushite anyway. Sometimes we have to step aside when another has the word. (18:19-32)
7. They lived as widows because Absalom had defiled them. (20:3)
8. It was because Saul had killed the Gibeonites. They killed seven of Saul's descendants and the famine was ended. The Gibeonites had a grudge against the kingdom, not against David. (21:1-14)
9. It was an act of trusting in the size of the armies and not God. (24:1-10)
10. The three days of plague. David chose direct discipline from the Lord instead of falling into the hands of men, because God is merciful. (24:13-16)