

1 Samuel



Background

- How do 1 & 2 Samuel fit in the larger Old Testament history? What does this tell us about the nature and content of these books?
- How is 1 Samuel related to 2 Samuel? How does this help us to understand these books better?
- What does the Lecture suggest about the author of the book of 1 Samuel?
- What is the time period covered in the book of 1 Samuel? What was happening in this period?
- What is the purpose of this book, according to the Lecture? How is this related to the content of Judges?

Outline

- What are the two main sections of First Samuel? What does each section generally cover? What does this tell us about the overall content of this book? How does this help us to read, understand, and apply 1 Samuel?

Content

- What are the key verses of 1 Samuel? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of 1 Samuel? What does each tell us about the need for a king and the kind of king that pleases God? What does each say about how God worked to bring about His will and care for His people?
- Who was Samuel? And how did he fit into God's plans for this time period? What did he do to lead Israel?
- What should we learn from the story of the ark being captured by the Philistines? What difference does this make?
- How did Saul become king? What does this tell us about whether a king is a good idea or not?
- Describe how Saul's rule turned out. What lessons should we learn from this? How does this apply?
- How and why was David chosen as king? What should we learn from this?
- Why did David fight Goliath? Why did he win? What does this tell us about how God saves His people?
- How did Saul fight against David? How did David respond? What does this demonstrate about the kind of king God desires?
- How does the end of this book demonstrate the differences between the character of Saul and of David? What should we learn from this? How does it apply?
- Describe each of the four major personalities in 1 Samuel. What are the chief characteristics and accomplishments of each? How did God evaluate each? How does each serve as an example (positive and/or negative) for us? How should we respond?
- Describe how 1 Samuel contrasts Saul and David. What does each of these characteristics tell us about the kind of leadership God desires? What can you do personally to cultivate the best character in your own life, based on what you have learned from this list?

Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell about the content, message and significance of 1 Samuel? How should each idea be applied in current life?
- How is Deuteronomistic Theology demonstrated in 1 Samuel? What difference does this make?
- How is character connected to leadership in 1 Samuel? How does this apply?
- How was David prepared for leadership? What principles can be learned from this? How should we respond?
- Describe how contrast faithfulness was used in 1 Samuel to demonstrate the character and actions God desires? What difference does this make?

Review

Review the two major sections of 1 Samuel and work toward committing this to memory.
Review the four main personalities in 1 Samuel and the lessons to be learned from them.
Review the key themes of 1 Samuel and work toward committing them to memory.