

His Word in Our Hearts

~ June 2021 ~

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

Daily Bible Reading

1	1 Samuel 1-2	Psalm 119:1-8
2	1 Samuel 3-5	Psalm 119:9-16
3	1 Samuel 6-8	Psalm 119:17-24
4	1 Samuel 9-10	Psalm 119:25-32
5	1 Samuel 11-13	Psalm 119:33-40
6	1 Samuel 14	Psalm 119:41-48
7	1 Samuel 15-16	Psalm 119:49-56
8	1 Samuel 17-18	Psalm 119:57-64
9	1 Samuel 19-20	Psalm 119:65-72
10	1 Samuel 21-23	Psalm 119:73-80
11	1 Samuel 24-25	Psalm 119:81-88
12	1 Samuel 26-28	Psalm 119:89-96
13	1 Samuel 29-31	Psalm 119:97-104
14	2 Samuel 1-2	Psalm 119:105-112
15	2 Samuel 3-4	Psalm 119:113-120
16	2 Samuel 5-7	Psalm 119:121-128
17	2 Samuel 8-10	Psalm 119:129-136
18	2 Samuel 11-12	Psalm 119:137-144
19	2 Samuel 13	Psalm 119:145-152
20	2 Samuel 14-15	Psalm 119:153-160
21	2 Samuel 16-17	Psalm 119:161-168
22	2 Samuel 18-19	Psalm 119:169-176
23	2 Samuel 20-21	Psalm 120
24	2 Samuel 22	Psalm 121
25	2 Samuel 23-24	Psalm 122

Reading I and II Samuel:

Originally in the Hebrew Bible I and II Samuel were just one book. They contain some of the truly great and best known stories in the Bible, stories that have inspired movies, books and sports analogies (David and Goliath; see last years college basketball tournament when lowest rank University of Maryland Baltimore County beat number 1 University of Virginia).

The two books are probably written by Samuel, Nathan and Gad, and cover a time in history from about 1115 to 964 BC.

The period of the judges continues into the books of Samuel. Samuel is a judge in Israel. The story of God's redemptive purposes for history takes some huge steps forward in these two books. These two books include the transition from the leadership of the last judge (Samuel) to the beginning of (under King Saul's leadership) and establishment of (under King David's leadership) the kingdom.

We will follow the lives of three important characters in the Bible, Samuel, Saul and David. These two books and the rest of the OT show us what happens when Israel rejects God as their king (lessons that apply to us today).

But God is sovereign over all the events and He uses the monarchy to ultimately point the way and pave the way for Jesus who is called the son of David, who will establish the throne of David forever, and whose kingdom will never end. God is the faithful, steadfast God who keeps His promises and accomplishes His purposes.

Two things to learn and remember.

First, our greatest heroes of the faith are all flawed sinners. Saul started well and then disobeyed. David fell deeply into serious sin (adultery and murder). No human being is perfect, which is why we need a perfect Savior and should place our trust only in Him.

Second, no human government is perfect. The people thought they would be better off if they had a king like all the other nations. We think we will be better off if our party is in office. Why else do we celebrate like we do when our candidate is elected, or get frustrated when their candidate wins?

Despite all the sin and failure, God is not stumped. "God draws straight with crooked lines."

Outline of I and II Samuel:

Picture climbing a mountain up to point D and then falling back down the other side. Notice how similar the path up and the path down are.

A Samuel succeeds the elderly Eli and rules (1 Sam. 1-7)

B Saul fails (1 Sam. 8-15)

C David's rise under Saul (1 Sam. 16-20)

D The Hinge: God reverses the fortunes of Saul and David (1 Sam. 21-31)

C' David's rise under God (2 Sam. 1-8)

B' David fails (2 Sam. 9-20)

A' Solomon succeeds the elderly David and rules (2 Sam. 21-1 Kings 2)