



THE MARION COUNTY MANNA PROJECT

offers a Printer Friendly Summary of the

FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

OT/NT: Old Testament

SECTION: History (4 of 12)

TRADITIONAL AUTHOR: Samuel

KEY PEOPLE: David, Eli, Hannah, Jonathan, Samuel and Saul.

SUMMARY: Canonically, 1 Samuel is the ninth book of the [Holy Bible](#) (1), the ninth book of the [Old Testament](#) (2), and the fourth of the twelve [Historical Books](#) (3).

The Book of 1 Samuel focuses on the characters [Samuel](#) (4), [Saul](#) (5), and [David](#) (6) and their roles in shaping [God's](#) (7) growing nation [Israel](#) (8) and describes the transition of leadership in Israel from [judges](#) (9) to [kings](#) (10). Three characters take prominent roles in the book: Samuel, the last judge and first [prophet](#) (11); Saul, the first king; and David, who had been anointed but not yet recognized as Saul's successor.

Take special note of the recurring themes of [pride](#) (12) and [humility](#) (13) throughout its chapters, starting with [Hannah's](#) (14) story in Chapters [1-2](#). In Chapter 2, she sings a song about God opposing the proud and giving [grace](#) (15) to the humble, which is exactly what happens in the matters of Saul and David. Their story reminds us of humility and trusting God with our own lives.

1 Samuel includes the Lord's calling of Samuel ([1 Samuel 1](#)); the [Ark of the Covenant](#) (16) is captured ([1 Samuel 4](#)) by the [Philistines](#) (17) and subsequently returned ([1 Samuel 6](#)); Israel, while rejecting the Lord, clamors for a king ([1 Samuel 8](#)) and Saul is appointed ([1 Samuel 10:9-26](#)), reigning over Israel for [forty years](#) (18) ([1 Samuel 13:1](#)); The Lord rejects Saul as king ([1 Samuel 15](#)); Samuel anoints David ([1 Samuel 16](#)); [David and Goliath](#) (19) ([1 Samuel 17](#)); Saul is overcome with fear and jealousy of David and tries to kill him ([1 Samuel 19](#)); [Jonathan](#) (20) is killed and Saul falls on his own sword ([1 Samuel 31](#)).

1 Samuel shows, once again, that God is [faithful](#) (21) and sovereign in keeping His promises to His people, even in the face of human mistakes, sin, and rebellion. 1 Samuel demonstrates that God protects and empowers those He has [chosen and called](#) (22) for a specific purpose.

PLANTING 1 SAMUEL INTO MY EVERYDAY LIFE (a): The tragic story of Saul is a study in wasted opportunity. Here was a man who had it all—honor, authority, riches, good looks, and more. Yet he died in despair, terrified of his enemies and knowing he had failed his nation, his family, and his God.

Saul made the mistake of thinking he could please God through disobedience. Like many today, he believed that a sensible motive will

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compensate for bad behavior. Perhaps his power went to his head, and he began to think he was above the rules. Somehow he developed a low opinion of God's commands and a high opinion of himself. Even when confronted with his wrongdoing, he attempted to vindicate himself, and that's when God rejected him ([1 Samuel 15:16-28](#)).

Saul's problem is one we all face—a problem of the heart. Obedience to God's will is necessary for success, and if we in pride rebel against Him, we set ourselves up for loss.

David, on the other hand, did not seem like much at first. Even Samuel was tempted to overlook him ([1 Samuel 16:6-7](#)). But God sees the heart and saw in David a man after His own heart ([1 Samuel 13:14](#)). The humility and integrity of David, coupled with his boldness for the Lord and his commitment to prayer, set a good example for all of us.

COMING UP: Next up is the [Second Book of Samuel](#) (23)!

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Footnotes appear on page three. Consider printing and sharing the offered PDF narrative and other listed resources with family, friends and strangers alike for use in [Bible Studies](#) (24), Home and/or Church [Faith Sharing Groups](#) (25), [Discipleship](#) Encounters (26) and/or Personal Faith Enrichment!

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Modifications are welcome at goodnews@marionmannaproject.com.

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FOOTNOTES:

- (1) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/the-good-news>
- (2) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/old-testament>
- (3) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/historical-books>
- (4) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/samuel>
- (5) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/saul>
- (6) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/a-man-after-gods-own-heart>
- (7) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/god-of-the-bible>
- (8) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/twelve-tribes-of-israel>
- (9) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/judges-of-israel>
- (10) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/kings-of-israel-and-judah>
- (11) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/prophets-of-the-bible>
- (12) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/pride>
- (13) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/humility>
- (14) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/hannah>
- (15) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/grace>
- (16) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/ark-of-the-covenant>
- (17) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/philistines>
- (18) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/40-in-the-bible>
- (19) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/david-goliath>
- (20) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/jonathan>
- (21) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/god-is-not-dead>
- (22) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/discipleship>
- (23) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/2-samuel>
- (24) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/bible-studies>
- (25) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/christian-education>
- (26) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/discipleship>

PAGE SOURCES:

- (a) <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-1-Samuel.html> (Got Questions)