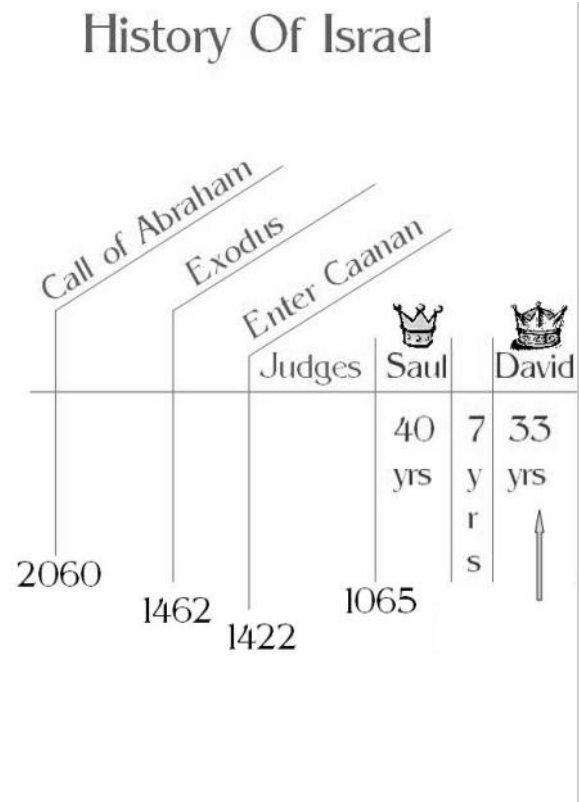


Intro to I SAMUEL



- Chapter Summary of I Samuel

Chapter 1: The scripture introduces us to Hannah, who prays to the Lord to give her a son, and that if He would, she would give him back to the Lord for His service. God answered her prayer and she gave birth to Samuel, whose name means, "God heard."

Chapter 2: Hannah offers a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, the sons of Eli backslide into evil behavior, Samuel grows in the Lord, and a prophecy is made against the Eli that both his sons will die together. God promises to raise up for himself a faithful priest.

Chapter 3: The Lord calls Samuel in a dramatic fashion.

Chapter 4: In battle with the Philistines, the nation of Israel is defeated, the Ark of the Covenant is confiscated, and the two sons of Eli are killed. Upon hearing the news, Eli falls over in his chair, breaks his neck, and dies. Also on hearing the news, his pregnant daughter in law goes into labor and has a son. She names him, "Ichabod," which means "the glory has departed."

Chapter 5: The Philistines moved the ark to several places, and each time it was moved, something dreadful happened to the people. Finally, the Philistines decided that the ark could not stay with them.

Chapter 6: The Philistines loaded the ark of the covenant onto a cart led by cows and sent it back to the Israelites to the town of Beth Shemesh. The people rejoiced that the ark was finally back in the possession of the people of Israel.

Chapter 7: Samuel offered a sacrifice and interceded on behalf of the Israelites. Samuel became the next judge of Israel and was their judge all the days of his life.

Chapter 8: Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel, but his sons didn't walk in his ways. The people came to Samuel and demanded a king to rule over Israel, but this displeased Samuel. With the word he received from the Lord, he warned the people what would happen if they chose a mortal king over the kingship of God.

Chapter 9: Upon Israel's request for a king, God crosses Samuel's path with Saul, and they meet for the first time.

Chapter 10: Samuel anointed and presented Saul as the new king over Israel. In humility, Saul expressed concern that he came from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest of the tribes of Israel. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Saul, and he spoke as an anointed prophet of the Lord.

Chapter 11: The new reign of Saul was tested militarily with an encounter with the Ammonites. After their defeat, the kingship of Saul was reaffirmed among the people.

Chapter 12: Samuel addressed the people of Israel, imploring them to honor their new King as they would honor their God. He emphasized the blessing that would come with that and warnings if they did not do that.

Chapter 13: In a showdown with the Philistines, the Israelites run scared. In haste, Saul dishonors the Lord by offering a sacrifice without a priest. When Samuel arrives, he is upset that Saul has done so.

Chapter 14: With limited armament, the Israelites wreak havoc on the Philistine army.

Chapter 15: Here is a defining moment on the book of I Samuel. It had become obvious that Saul had become misguided and self serving, erecting monuments to himself. God instructs Saul to engage the Amalekites and to destroy them completely for what they did to Israel. Saul engages, but spares the Amalekite king, as well as the best livestock. Thinking that God would be pleased by offering these fine animals for sacrifice, he was rebuked by Samuel for his disobedience. "To obey is better than sacrifice," Samuel tells Saul, and informs him that the reign of Saul had come to an end. Clutching the hem of Samuel's robe, the robe tears, representing the tearing away of Israel from Saul's hand. Samuel puts the Amalekite king to death and sends Saul home.

Chapter 16: Samuel goes to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse to find a new king for Israel. In seeing seven of Jesse's sons, all who physically met the standard of being a King, God rejected all of them and instructed Samuel to not look at the outward appearance, but the heart. In doing so, God chose David, the least likely of all of Jesse's sons, to be the next King of Israel. In a turn of events, Saul, current King, sends for David to be his servant...first as a musician, then as an armor bearer.

Chapter 17: Here is the classic story of David and Goliath. Goliath, leader of the Philistine army, stood at over 9 feet tall. Challenging the army of Israel to fight, the soldiers of Israel drew back in fear at the sight of Goliath. It was David, armed with only a sling and five smooth stones, who defeated Goliath and the army of the Philistines.

Chapter 18: David became close friends with Jonathan, the son of Saul. David takes Michal, one of Saul's daughters, as his wife. As David's popularity among the people became greater than that of Saul's, Saul's jealousy of David became more intense.

Chapter 19: Saul commands his company, Jonathan included, to kill David. Jonathan refuses and warns David of the order. David escapes one attempt by Saul to kill him, and his Michal, helps him escape the second. David flees and finds refuge with Samuel.

Chapter 20: Jonathan makes a pact with David to protect him no matter what. When Saul realizes that David is gone and Jonathan has contributed to his escape, he is furious.

Chapter 21: In fleeing from Saul, David goes to Achish, King of Gath.

Chapter 22: David continues to flee and Saul continues to pursue, even to the point of killing priests who have aided David. David finally ends up in Judah.

Chapter 23: David fights and defeats the Philistines again, and word gets to Saul, who continues to pursue. But at every turn, David escapes and finds refuge elsewhere.

Chapter 24: With the chance to kill Saul, David relents and honors Saul as God's anointed King, despite the fact that Saul had tried to kill David.

Chapter 25: Samuel dies and Israel mourns. David encounters Abigail, a virtuous and beautiful woman, and her husband, Nabal, an evil man who shows contempt for David. Upon Nabal's death, Abigail becomes the wife of David.

Chapter 26: David encounters Saul a second time, this time, during his sleep. David refuses again to kill Saul, instead taking his sword and water jug, and reprimanding Saul's servants for not protecting the King. Saul awakes and blesses David for acting with grace and mercy towards him.

Chapter 27: Even though he acted with principle and grace, David knew in his heart that one day Saul would relent and begin pursuing David again. David escaped to the land of the Philistines for refuge and found it again with Achish, King of Gath.

Chapter 28: As the Philistine army gathered again to go against Israel, Saul, in an act of desperation, consulted a soothsayer in Endor to predict the outcome for him. As a result of the encounter, Saul became weak and ill.

Chapter 29 – 31: I Samuel ends with a final encounter of the Philistine and Israelite armies, with Saul being killed by falling on his own sword.