

## 1 Samuel: The Rise and Fall of Leaders

**Clyde T. Francisco** – “The two books of Samuel, like the two books of Kings, originally formed an undivided whole. They are now in the divided form only for the sake of convenience. Although the books deal with events sometime after the death of Samuel, these events are but the lengthening shadow of the great man; so the material rightly bears his name.”

“The first seven chapters of 1 Samuel describe Samuel’s birth, call, and initial ministry among the Israelites. Chapter 8 is a major turning point as the people ask for a king to rule them ‘the same as all the other nations have.’ Chapters 9-12 then describe Saul’s selection-at God’s direction, yet not His perfect will for the time. First Samuel 13-31 describes Saul’s victories and failures. Saul was a king with great physical stature and military skill, but his heart was not one with the Lord. His unwillingness to obey the Lord’s commands ultimately outweighed his accomplishments, and chapters 16-31 describe his reign’s downward spiral. During this time God raised up David and was preparing him for the day he would succeed Saul—a fact Saul gradually realized.”

1. God hears the \_\_\_\_\_ pleas of His children.

**1 Samuel 1:10** – *She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.*

2. One of the greatest lessons in the Christian life is learning how to \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**1 Samuel 3:9-10** – *Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.”*

3. It’s a tragic day when God’s \_\_\_\_\_ departs, and His hand of blessing is removed.

**1 Samuel 4:21-22** – *And she named the child Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. And she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”*

4. God has \_\_\_\_\_ His people to be in the world but not of the world.

**1 Samuel 8:19-20** – *But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”*

**David Jeremiah** – “In one sense, the people were suffering from spiritual myopia: they wanted a king *today* without thinking about the long-term implications of their impulsive request. As God directed, Samuel agreed to their demand, and the rest of 1 Samuel involves the choosing of the first king (Saul), his ultimate rejection by God, and the anointing of his successor (David).”

5. God's servants are to \_\_\_\_\_ His truth, not tickle people's ears.

**1 Samuel 12:14-15** – *If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.*

6. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ leaders whom the world would pass over.

**1 Samuel 16:7-13** – *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." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.*

7. \_\_\_\_\_ fall when we keep our eyes on the Lord and do what He says.

**1 Samuel 17:37** – *And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"*

8. Healthy \_\_\_\_\_ are priceless.

**1 Samuel 18:1** – *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

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**1 Samuel 31:4-6** – *Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.*

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