

# Samuel

Non-Writing Prophets · Biblical Prophets

Samuel, the last of Israel's judges and first of the prophetic order that would continue until Malachi, bridged the transition from theocracy to monarchy. Dedicated to the LORD before birth by his barren mother Hannah, he was raised in the tabernacle at Shiloh under Eli the priest. As a child, he received his prophetic call when God spoke to him in the night, revealing judgment upon Eli's house.

Scripture testifies that 'the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground' and 'all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD' (1 Samuel 3:19-20). His ministry included anointing Israel's first two kings: Saul, whom God later rejected, and David, the man after God's own heart. Samuel established schools of prophets (1 Samuel 19:20), institutionalizing prophetic ministry in Israel.

He rebuked Saul's disobedience with words that define true worship: 'Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.' Even after death, Samuel appeared to Saul at Endor, pronouncing his doom. His influence continued through the prophetic guilds he established, which trained generations of prophets.

**Note:** Samuel's birth narrative parallels Hannah's song with Mary's Magnificat, both celebrating God's reversal of human conditions. The 'sons of the prophets' (schools of prophets) Samuel established appear throughout Kings and represent an institutional prophetic tradition distinct from the lone figures like Elijah. Peter's sermon at Pentecost cites Samuel as inaugurating the prophetic witness to Christ: 'All the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after' (Acts 3:24).

## Key Verses

### **1 Samuel 3:19-20**

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

### **1 Samuel 3:10**

And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

### **1 Samuel 15:22**

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

### **1 Samuel 16:13**

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

### **Acts 3:24**

Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

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