

Early Prophets, Book 3
The First Book of
Samuel
(I Samuel)
In Large Print English



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I Samuel

Chapter 1

1. And there was a certain man of Ramathaim-Zophim, of Mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite;

2. And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hanna, and the name of the other Peninna; and Peninna had children, but Hanna had no children.

3. And this man went out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

4. And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninna his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions;

5. But to Hanna he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hanna; but the Lord had closed her womb.

6. And her adversary also provoked her bitterly, to

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irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.

7. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

8. Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hanna, why do you weep? and why do you not eat? and why is your heart grieved? am I not better to you than ten sons?

9. So Hanna rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drank. And Eli the priest sat upon a seat by the gate post of the temple of the Lord.

10. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly.

11. And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant, and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give to your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

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12. And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli observed her mouth.

13. And Hanna spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought that she was drunk.

14. And Eli said to her, How long will you be drunk? Put away your wine from you.

15. And Hanna answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

16. Take not your maidservant for a worthless woman; for out of my great complaint and grief have I been speaking.

17. Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace; and the God of Israel grant you the petition that you have asked of him.

18. And she said, Let your maidservant find grace in your sight. So the woman went her way, and ate, and her countenance was sad no more.

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19. And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah; and Elkanah knew Hanna his wife; and the Lord remembered her.

20. And it came to pass, in due course, that Hanna conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him from the Lord.

21. And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22. But Hanna did not go up; for she said to her husband, I will not go up until the child is weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there remain forever.

23. And Elkanah her husband said to her, Do what seems to you good; remain until you have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman stayed, and nursed her son until she weaned him.

24. And when she had weaned him, she took him with her, with three bulls, and one ephah of flour, and a

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bottle of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh; and the child was young.

25. And they slew a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

26. And she said, Oh my lord, as your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord.

27. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of him;

28. Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

Chapter 2

1. And Hanna prayed, and said, My heart rejoices in the Lord, my horn is exalted in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over my enemies; because I rejoice in your salvation.

2. There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none beside you; nor is there any rock like our God.

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3. Talk no more so very proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.
4. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength.
5. Those who were full have hired out themselves for bread; and those who were hungry ceased to hunger; the barren has borne seven; and she who has many children has become wretched.
6. The Lord kills, and returns to life; he brings down to Sheol, and brings up.
7. The Lord makes poor, and makes rich; he brings low, and he lifts up.
8. He raises up the poor from the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory; for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he has set the world upon them.
9. He will keep the feet of his pious ones, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength

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shall no man prevail.

10. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; from heaven shall he thunder upon them; the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

11. And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest.

12. And the sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord.

13. And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the meat was being cooked, with a fork of three teeth in his hand;

14. And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or cauldron, or pot; all that the fork brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh, to all the Israelites who came there.

15. Also before the fat was burned, the priest's servant came, and said to the man who sacrificed, Give

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meat to roast for the priest; for he will not have boiled meat from you, but raw.

16. And if any man said to him, Let them first burn the fat, and then take as much as your soul desires; then he would answer him: No, you shall give it me now; and if not, I will take it by force.

17. And the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord; for men despised the offering of the Lord.

18. And Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

19. And his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20. And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The Lord give you seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the Lord. And they went to their own home.

21. And the Lord visited Hanna, so that she conceived, and bore three sons and two daughters.

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And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

22. And Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did to all Israel; and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23. And he said to them, Why do you do such things? for I hear of your evil dealings from all this people.

24. No, my sons; it is not a good report what I hear; you make the Lord's people transgress.

25. If one man sins against another, the judge shall judge him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who shall entreat for him? However they listened not to the voice of their father, because the Lord intended to slay them.

26. And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men.

27. And there came a man of God to Eli, and said to him, Thus said the Lord, Did I not appear to the house of your father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

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28. And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give to the house of your father all the offerings made by fire of the people of Israel?

29. Why do you kick at my sacrifice and at my offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honor your sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the best parts of all the offerings of Israel my people?

30. Therefore the Lord God of Israel said, I said indeed that your house, and the house of your father, should walk before me forever; but now the Lord said, Be it far from me; for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

31. Behold, the days come, when I will cut off your arm, and the arm of your father's house, that there shall not be an old man in your house.

32. And you shall see a rival in my habitation, enjoying

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all the wealth which God shall give Israel; and there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

33. And your descendants I shall not cut off from my altar, but they shall be there to consume your eyes, and to grieve your heart; and all the greater folk of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

34. And this shall be a sign to you, that shall come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

35. And I will raise me up a faithful priest, who shall do according to that which is in my heart and in my mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before my anointed forever.

36. And it shall come to pass, that every one who is left in your house shall come and implore him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I beg you, into one of the priests' places, that I may eat a piece of bread.

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Chapter 3

1. And the child Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

2. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to grow dim, that he could not see;

3. And before the lamp of God had gone out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was lying down to sleep;

4. That the Lord called Samuel; and he answered, Here am I.

5. And he ran to Eli, and said, Here am I; for you called me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6. And the Lord called again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for you did call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

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7. And Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.

8. And the Lord called Samuel again a third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for you did call me. And Eli understood that the Lord had called the child.

9. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he calls you, that you shall say, Speak, Lord; for your servant hears. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for your servant is listening.

11. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one who hears it shall tingle.

12. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house; when I begin, I will also make an end.

13. For I have told him that I will judge his house

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forever for the iniquity which he knows; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14. And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offerings forever.

15. And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to tell Eli the vision.

16. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

17. And he said, What is the thing that the Lord has said to you? I beg you hide it not from me; God do so to you, and more also, if you hide any thing from me of all the things that he said to you.

18. And Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord; let him do what seems to him good.

19. And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and let none of his words fall to the ground.

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20. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

21. And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh; for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Chapter 4

1. And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. And Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and camped beside Eben-Haezer; and the Philistines camped in Aphek.

2. And the Philistines put themselves in battle order against Israel; and when they joined battle, Israel was defeated before the Philistines; and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

3. And when the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Why has the Lord struck us today before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh to us, so that, when it comes among us, it may save us from the

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hand of our enemies.

4. So the people sent to Shiloh, to bring from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, which dwells between the kerubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5. And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth trembled.

6. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What is the meaning of the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the Lord came into the camp.

7. And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, A god has come to the camp. And they said, Woe to us! for there has not been such a thing till now.

8. Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods that struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

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9. Be strong, and acquit yourselves like men, O you Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews, as they have been to you; acquit yourselves like men, and fight.

10. And the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled every man to his tent; and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.

11. And the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were killed.

12. And there ran a man of Benjamin from the battle, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes torn, and with earth upon his head.

13. And when he came, behold, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came to the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

14. And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What does the noise of this tumult mean? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.

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15. And Eli was ninety eight years old; and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see.

16. And the man said to Eli, I am he who came from the battle, and I fled today from the battle. And he said, What has happened, my son?

17. And the messenger answered and said, Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been also a great slaughter among the people, and your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are also dead, and the ark of God has been captured.

18. And it came to pass, when he mentioned the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backwards by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken, and he died; for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

19. And his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and labored; for her pains came upon her.

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20. And when she was dying the women who stood by her said to her, Fear not; for you have borne a son. But she answered not, nor did she regard it.

21. And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory has departed from Israel; because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

22. And she said, The glory has departed from Israel; for the ark of God has been captured.

Chapter 5

1. And the Philistines captured the ark of God, and brought it from Eben-Haezer to Ashdod.

2. When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it to the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

3. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. And they took

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Dagon, and set him in his place again.

4. And when they arose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands lay severed on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

5. Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any who come to Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

6. But the hand of the Lord was heavy upon those of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and struck them with swellings, Ashdod and the surrounding areas.

7. And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not remain with us; for his hand is heavy upon us, and upon Dagon our god.

8. They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines to them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they

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answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried to Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel there.

9. And it was so, that, after they had carried it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city with a very great panic; and he struck the men of the city, both small and great, with swellings.

10. Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.

11. So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to its own place, that it slay us not, and our people; for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

12. And the men who died not were struck with the swellings; and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

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Chapter 6

1. And the ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

2. And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? tell us how we shall send it to its place.

3. And they said, If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but make sure to return him a guilt offering; then you shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand does not turn away from you.

4. Then said they, What shall be the guilt offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden swellings, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines; for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.

5. And you shall make images of your swellings, and images of your mice that ravage the land; and you shall give honor to the God of Israel; perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods,

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and from off your land.

6. Why then do you harden your hearts, like the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had done wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

7. And therefore make a new cart, and take two milch cows, on which there has never been a yoke, and tie the cow to the cart, and bring their calves home from them;

8. And take the ark of the Lord, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which you return him for a guilt offering, in a box by its side; and send it away, that it may go.

9. And see, if it goes up by the way of its own border to Beth-Shemesh, then he has done us this great evil; but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it was by chance that happened to us.

10. And the men did so; and took two milch cows, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home;

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11. And they laid the ark of the Lord upon the cart, and the box with the mice of gold and the images of their swellings.

12. And the cows went straight way to the direction of Beth-Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth-Shemesh.

13. And they of Beth-Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

14. And the cart came to the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone; and they split the wood of the cart, and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord.

15. And the Levites took down the ark of the Lord, and the box that was with it, where the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone; and the men of Beth-Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day to the Lord.

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16. And when the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

17. And these are the golden swellings which the Philistines returned for a guilt offering to the Lord; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Ashkelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;

18. And the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fortified cities, and of country villages, to the great stone of Abel, where they set down the ark of the Lord; this stone remains to this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite.

19. And he struck the men of Beth-Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, he struck of the people fifty thousand and seventy men; and the people lamented, because the Lord had struck many of the people with a great slaughter.

20. And the men of Beth-Shemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

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21. And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-Jearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the Lord; come down, and fetch it to you.

Chapter 7

1. And the men of Kiriath-Jearim came, and fetched the ark of the Lord, and brought it to the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord.

2. And it came to pass, while the ark remained in Kiriath-Jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

3. And Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts to the Lord, and serve him only; and he will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.

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4. Then the people of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.

5. And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray for you to the Lord.

6. And they gathered together to Mizpah, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the people of Israel in Mizpah.

7. And when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel were gathered together in Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8. And the people of Israel said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry to the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

9. And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord; and Samuel cried to the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.

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10. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and confounded them; and they were defeated before Israel.

11. And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah, and pursued the Philistines, and defeated them, until they came under Beth-Kar.

12. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-Haezer, saying, Hitherto has the Lord helped us.

13. So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the border of Israel; and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

14. And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel rescued its borders from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and

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the Amorites.

15. And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16. And he went from year to year on a circuit to Beth-El, and Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places.

17. And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar to the Lord.

Chapter 8

1. And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2. And the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

3. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after unjust gain, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

4. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves

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together, and came to Samuel to Ramah,

5. And said to him, Behold, you are old, and your sons walk not in your ways; now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the Lord.

7. And the Lord said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, how they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also to you.

9. And therefore listen to their voice; but you should solemnly warn them, and relate to them the customary practice the king who shall reign over them.

10. And Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the

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people who asked him for a king.

11. And he said, This will be the customary practice of the king who shall reign over you; He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12. And he will appoint for himself captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13. And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive trees, the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16. And he will take your menservants, and your

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maidservants, and your best young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17. He will take the tenth of your sheep; and you shall be his servants.

18. And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.

19. And the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, No; but we will have a king over us;

20. 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.

21. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the ears of the Lord.

22. And the Lord said to Samuel, Listen to their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said to the men of Israel, Go every man to his city.

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Chapter 9

1. And there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor.

2. And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a young man, and handsome; and there was not among the people of Israel a more handsome person than he; from his shoulders upwards he was higher than any of the people.

3. And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with you, and arise, go seek the asses.

4. And he passed through Mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not; then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and there they were not; and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.

5. And when they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said

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to his servant, who was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father cease to care for the asses, and become anxious about us.

6. And he said to him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says comes surely to pass; now let us go there; perhaps he can tell us our way that we should go.

7. Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our utensils, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God; what do we have?

8. And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here in my hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver; that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

9. Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spoke, Come, and let us go to the seer; for he who is now called a Prophet was formerly called a Seer.

10. Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let

I Samuel

us go. So they went to the city where the man of God was.

11. And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young girls going out to draw water, and said to them, Is the seer here?

12. And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you; make haste now, for he came today to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people today in the high place;

13. As soon as you come to the city, you shall find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat; for the people will not eat until he comes, because he blesses the sacrifice; and afterwards those who are invited eat. And therefore go up; for about this time you shall find him.

14. And they went up into the city; and when they came into the city, behold, Samuel came out towards them, on his way up to the high place.

15. And the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

I Samuel

16. Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon my people, because their cry has come to me.

17. And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, Behold the man about whom I spoke to you! This same man shall reign over my people.

18. Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray you, where the seer's house is.

19. And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer; go up before me to the high place; for you shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let you go, and will tell you all that is in your heart.

20. And as for your asses that were lost three days ago, set not your mind on them; for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you, and on all your father's house?

21. And Saul answered and said, Am I not a

I Samuel

Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak so to me?

22. And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them to the dining chamber, and made them sit at the head of the table among those who were invited, who were about thirty persons.

23. And Samuel said to the cook, Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, Set it by you.

24. And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which was left is set before you, and eat; for to this time has it been kept for you, since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

25. And when they came down from the high place to the city, Samuel talked with Saul on the top of the house.

26. And they arose early; and it came to pass about

I Samuel

daybreak, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Arise, that I may send you away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, out of doors.

27. And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, and he passed on, but stand you still a while, that I may tell you the word of God.

Chapter 10

1. Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord has anointed you to be captain over his inheritance?

2. When you part from me today, then you shall find two men by Rachel's sepulcher in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, The asses which you went to seek have been found; and, behold, your father has ceased to care about the asses, and has become anxious about you,

I Samuel

saying, What shall I do about my son?

3. Then shall you go on forward from there, and you shall come to the oak of Tabor, and there shall you meet three men going up to God to Beth-El, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine;

4. And they will greet you, and give you two loaves of bread; which you shall receive from their hands.

5. After that you shall come to the hill of God, where the garrisons of the Philistines are; and it shall come to pass, when you have come there to the city, that you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a lute, and a tambourine, and a pipe, and a lyre, before them; and they shall prophesy;

6. And the spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you shall prophesy with them, and shall be turned into another man.

7. And let it be, when these signs have come to you, that you do as occasion serves you; for God is with you.

I Samuel

8. And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down to you, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings; seven days shall you remain, till I come to you, and show you what you shall do.

9. And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

10. And when they came there to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

11. And it came to pass, when all who knew him formerly saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?

12. And one from the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?

13. And when he had finished prophesying, he came

I Samuel

to the high place.

14. And Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, Where did you go? And he said, To seek the asses; and when we saw that they were nowhere, we came to Samuel.

15. And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I beg you, what Samuel said to you.

16. And Saul said to his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses had been found. But of the matter of the kingdom, about which Samuel spoke, he told him not.

17. And Samuel called the people together to the Lord to Mizpah;

18. And said to the people of Israel, Thus said the Lord God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all kingdoms, and from those who oppressed you;

19. And you have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you from all your adversities and your

I Samuel

tribulations; and you have said to him, Set a king over us. And therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20. And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was picked.

21. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was picked, and Saul the son of Kish was picked; and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22. Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, Did the man come here? And the Lord answered, Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.

23. And they ran and fetched him there; and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders upwards.

24. And Samuel said to all the people, See you him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, Long live the king!

I Samuel

25. Then Samuel told the people the rules of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26. And Saul also went home to Geba; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

27. But some worthless men said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Chapter 11

1. Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you.

2. And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.

I Samuel

3. And the elders of Jabesh said to him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers to all the borders of Israel; and then, if there is no man to save us, we will come out to you.

4. Then came the messengers to Geba of Saul, and told the news to the ears of the people; and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

5. And, behold, Saul came after the herd from the field; and Saul said, What ails the people that they weep? And they told him the news about the men of Jabesh.

6. And the spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those news, and his anger was greatly kindled.

7. And he took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Who ever comes not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen. And the fear of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

I Samuel

8. And when he counted them in Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9. And they said to the messengers who came, Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help. And the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

10. Therefore the men of Jabesh said, Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you shall do with us all that seems good in your eyes.

11. And it was so on the next day that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day; and it came to pass, that those who remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

12. And the people said to Samuel, Who is he who said, Shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men, that we may put them to death.

I Samuel

13. And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day; for today the Lord has wrought salvation in Israel.

14. Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

15. And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the Lord; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Chapter 12

1. And Samuel said to all Israel, Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you.

2. And now, behold, the king walks before you; and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you; and I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

I Samuel

3. Behold, here I am; testify against me before the Lord, and before his anointed; whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or from whose hand have I received any bribe to blind my eyes with? and I will restore it to you.

4. And they said, You have not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither have you taken anything from any man's hand.

5. And he said to them, The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

6. And Samuel said to the people, It is the Lord that advanced Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers out of the land of Egypt.

7. And therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord, which he did to you and to your fathers.

8. When Jacob came to Egypt, and your fathers cried

I Samuel

to the Lord, then the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them live in this place.

9. And when they forgot the Lord their God, he sold them to the hand of Sisera, captain of the army of Hazor, and to the hand of the Philistines, and to the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

10. And they cried to the Lord, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth; but now save us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.

11. And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you from the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived safe.

12. And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, No; but a king shall reign over us; when the Lord your God was your king.

I Samuel

13. And therefore behold the king whom you have chosen, and whom you have desired! and, behold, the Lord has set a king over you.

14. If you will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if shall both you and also the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God;

15. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers.

16. And therefore stand and see this great thing, which the Lord will do before your eyes.

17. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord, and he shall send thunder and rain; that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for a king.

18. So Samuel called to the Lord; and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly

I Samuel

feared the Lord and Samuel.

19. And all the people said to Samuel, Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we die not; for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for a king.

20. And Samuel said to the people, Fear not; you have done all this wickedness; yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart;

21. And turn not aside; for then should you go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

22. For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake; because it has pleased the Lord to make you his people.

23. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way;

24. Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; and consider how great things he has

I Samuel

done for you.

25. But if you shall still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.

Chapter 13

1. Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

2. Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel; of which two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in Mount Beth-El, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Geba of Benjamin; and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

3. And Jonathan struck the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the shofar throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

4. And all Israel heard say that Saul had struck a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also had become odious to the Philistines. And the people

I Samuel

were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

5. And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude; and they came up, and camped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-Aven.

6. When the men of Israel saw that they were in distress, for the people were hard pressed, then the people hid themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in fortresses, and in pits.

7. And some of the Hebrews went over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8. And he remained seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed; but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him.

9. And Saul said, Bring here a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

I Samuel

10. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

11. And Samuel said, What have you done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you came not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

12. Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord; I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

13. And Samuel said to Saul, You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which he commanded you; for now the Lord would have established your kingdom upon Israel forever.

14. But now your kingdom shall not continue; the Lord has sought him a man after his own heart, and the

I Samuel

Lord has commanded him to be captain over his people, because you have not kept that which the Lord commanded you.

15. And Samuel arose, and went up from Gilgal to Geba of Benjamin. And Saul counted the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

16. And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people who were present with them, remained in Geba of Benjamin; but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

17. And raiders came from the camp of the Philistines in three companies; one company turned to the way that leads to Ophrah, to the land of Shual;

18. And another company turned the way to Beth-Horon; and another company turned to the way of the border that looks to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

19. And there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel; for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears;

I Samuel

20. But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his spade, and his ax, and his mattock.

21. And there was a charge for filing the mattocks, and the spades, and the three pronged forks, and the axes, and for setting the goads.

22. So it came to pass in the day of the battle, that there was no sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan; but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

23. And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

Chapter 14

1. And it came to pass one day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father.

I Samuel

2. And Saul remained on the far side of Geba under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron; and the people who were with him were about six hundred men;

3. And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

4. And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side; and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

5. One point rose up abruptly on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

6. And Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will perform a deed for us; for there is no restraint upon the Lord to save by many or by few.

I Samuel

7. And his armor bearer said to him, Do all that is in your heart; turn you; behold, I am with you according to your heart.

8. Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over to these men, and we will reveal ourselves to them.

9. If they say thus to us, Remain until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them.

10. But if they say thus, Come up to us; then we will go up; for the Lord has delivered them into our hand; and this shall be a sign to us.

11. And both of them revealed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines; and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth from the holes where they have hidden themselves.

12. And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armor bearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will show you something. And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, Come up after me; for the Lord has delivered them into the hand of Israel.

I Samuel

13. And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and on his feet, and his armor bearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan; and his armor bearer slew after him.

14. And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armor bearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were half a furrow, which a yoke of oxen might plow.

15. And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people; the garrison, and the raiders, they also trembled, and the earth quaked; so it was a very great trembling.

16. And the watchmen of Saul in Geba of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went hither and thither.

17. Then said Saul to the people who were with him, Count now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there.

18. And Saul said to Ahiah, Bring here the ark of God.

I Samuel

For the ark of God was at that time with the people of Israel.

19. And it came to pass, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise that was in the camp of the Philistines went on and increased; and Saul said to the priest, Withdraw your hand.

20. And Saul and all the people who were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle; and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great confusion.

21. Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

22. Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in Mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also pursued hard after them in the battle.

23. So the Lord saved Israel that day; and the battle

I Samuel

passed beyond Beth-Aven.

24. And the men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man who eats any food until evening, that I may be avenged on my enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.

25. And all the people came to a wood; and there was honey on the ground.

26. And when the people came to the wood, behold, the honey was dropping; but no man put his hand to his mouth; for the people feared the oath.

27. But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath; therefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were brightened.

28. Then answered one of the people, and said, Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man who eats any food this day. And the people were faint.

I Samuel

29. Then said Jonathan, My father has troubled the land; see, I pray you, how my eyes have been brightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

30. How much better, if the people had eaten freely today of the booty of their enemies which they found? Had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

31. And they defeated the Philistines that day from Michmash to Ayalon; and the people were very faint.

32. And the people flew upon the booty, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood.

33. Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the Lord, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, You have transgressed; roll a great stone to me this day.

34. And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, Bring me here every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay them here, and eat; and sin not against the Lord in eating

I Samuel

with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew them there.

35. And Saul built an altar to the Lord; this was the first altar that he built to the Lord.

36. And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and attack them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatever seems good in your eyes. Then said the priest, Let us draw near here to God.

37. And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.

38. And Saul said, Draw you near here, all the chiefs of the people; and know and see where this sin has been this day.

39. For, as the Lord lives, who saves Israel, even if it is in Jonathan, my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people who answered him.

40. Then said he to all Israel, Be you on one side, and

I Samuel

I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said to Saul, Do what seems good in your eyes.

41. Therefore Saul said to the Lord God of Israel, Give a perfect lot. And Saul and Jonathan were picked; but the people escaped.

42. And Saul said, Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was picked.

43. Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what you have done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I just tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand, and, behold, I must die.

44. And Saul answered, God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan.

45. And the people said to Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who has wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid; as the Lord lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he has wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

I Samuel

46. Then Saul went up from following the Philistines; and the Philistines went to their own place.

47. So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the Ammonites, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; and wherever he turned himself, he did them mischief.

48. And he gathered an army, and defeated the Amalekites, and saved Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

49. And the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal;

50. And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz; and the name of the captain of his army was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

51. And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

I Samuel

52. And there was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong man, or any brave man, he took him to him.

Chapter 15

1. Samuel also said to Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint you to be king over his people, over Israel; now therefore listen to the voice of the words of the Lord.

2. Thus said the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

3. And go and strike Amalek, and completely destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox, and sheep, camel and ass.

4. And Saul gathered the people together, and counted them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah.

I Samuel

5. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

6. And Saul said to the Kenites, Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for you showed kindness to all the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7. And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah until you come to Shur, that is over opposite Egypt.

8. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and completely destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not completely destroy them; but every thing that was despised and worthless, that they destroyed completely.

10. Then came the word of the Lord to Samuel, saying,

I Samuel

11. I regret that I have set up Saul to be king; for he is turned back from following me, and has not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried to the Lord all night.

12. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a monument, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13. And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, Blessed be you of the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

14. And Samuel said, What is the meaning then of this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15. And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have completely destroyed.

16. Then Samuel said to Saul, Stay, and I will tell you

I Samuel

what the Lord has said to me this night. And he said to him, Speak.

17. And Samuel said, When you were little in your own sight, were you not made the chief of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed you king over Israel?

18. And the Lord sent you on a journey, and said, Go and completely destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.

19. Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but did fly upon the booty, and did evil in the sight of the Lord?

20. And Saul said to Samuel, Indeed, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites.

21. But the people took of the booty, sheep and oxen, the best of the devoted property to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.

22. And Samuel said, Has the Lord as great delight in

I Samuel

burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen better than the fat of rams.

23. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.

24. And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and your words; because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25. And therefore, I beg you, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.

26. And Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.

27. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it tore.

28. And Samuel said to him, The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it

I Samuel

to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

29. And also the Eternal One of Israel will not lie nor change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.

30. Then he said, I have sinned; yet honor me now, I beg you, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.

31. So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the Lord.

32. Then said Samuel, Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33. And Samuel said, As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women. And Samuel cut Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

34. Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

I Samuel

35. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death; nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul; and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Chapter 16

1. And the Lord said to Samuel, How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hears it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take a heifer with you, and say, I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.

3. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what you shall do; and you shall anoint to me him whom I name to you.

4. And Samuel did that which the Lord spoke, and came to Beth-Lehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Do you come peacefully?

I Samuel

5. And he said, Peacefully; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6. And it came to pass, when they came, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

7. But the Lord said to Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

8. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither has the Lord chosen this one.

9. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither has the Lord chosen this.

10. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, The Lord has not chosen these.

I Samuel

11. And Samuel said to Jesse, Are here all your children? And he said, There remains still the youngest, and, behold, he keeps the sheep. And Samuel said to Jesse, Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here.

12. And he sent, and brought him in. And he was red haired, with beautiful eyes, and good looking. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him; for this is he.

13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14. But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

15. And Saul's servants said to him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubles you.

16. Let our lord now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man, who knows how to play on a lyre; and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon you, that he shall play

I Samuel

with his hand, and you shall be well.

17. And Saul said to his servants, Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.

18. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who knows how to play, and a fine warrior man, and a man of war, and prudent in speech, and a handsome person, and the Lord is with him.

19. And Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.

20. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a skin of wine, and a kid, and sent them with David his son to Saul.

21. And David came to Saul, and stood before him; and he loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer.

22. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I beseech you, stand before me; for he has found favor in my sight.

I Samuel

23. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a lyre, and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Chapter 17

1. And the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-Dammim.

2. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and camped by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side; and there was a valley between them.

4. And there came out a champion from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

I Samuel

5. And he had a helmet of bronze upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

6. And he had greaves of bronze upon his legs, and a javelin of bronze between his shoulders.

7. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and a shield bearer went before him.

8. And he stood and shouted to the armies of Israel, and said to them, Why have you come out to set your battle in array? Am I not a Philistine, and you servants to Saul? Choose a man for you, and let him come down to me.

9. If he is able to fight with me, and kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall you be our servants, and serve us.

10. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

11. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the

I Samuel

Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

12. And David was the son of that Ephrathite of Beth-Lehem of Judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons; and the man was old in the days of Saul, an aged man.

13. And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle; and the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

14. And David was the youngest; and the three eldest followed Saul.

15. But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-Lehem.

16. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself for forty days.

17. And Jesse said to David his son, Take now for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to your brothers;

I Samuel

18. And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and look how your brothers fare, and take a sign from them.

19. And Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

20. And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the barricade, as the army was going forth to the fight, shouting for the battle.

21. For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

22. And David left his baggage in the hand of the keeper of the baggage, and ran into the line of battle, and came and saluted his brothers.

23. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, from the armies of the Philistines, and spoke according to the same words; and David heard them.

I Samuel

24. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were greatly afraid.

25. And the men of Israel said, Have you seen this man who has come up? surely to defy Israel has he come up; and it shall be, that the man who kills him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

26. And David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

27. And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man who kills him.

28. And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why did you come here? and with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption, and the evil of

I Samuel

your heart; for you have come down that you might see the battle.

29. And David said, What have I now done? It was only a word.

30. And he turned from him toward another, and spoke after the same manner; and the people answered him again after the former manner.

31. And when the words were heard which David spoke, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him.

32. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33. And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34. And David said to Saul, Your servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb from the flock;

35. And I went out after him, and struck him, and

I Samuel

rescued it from its mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by its beard, and struck him, and slew him.

36. Your servant slew both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.

37. And David said, The Lord who saved me from the paw of the lion, and from the paw of the bear, he will save me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the Lord be with you.

38. And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of bronze on his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

39. And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he tried in vain to go; he was not used to them. And David said to Saul, I cannot go with these; for I am not used to them. And David took them off.

40. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, and in his knapsack;

I Samuel

and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Philistine.

41. And the Philistine came on and drew near to David; and the man who carried the shield went before him.

42. And when the Philistine looked around, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, red haired and good looking.

43. And the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45. Then said David to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46. This day will the Lord deliver you into my hand;

I Samuel

and I will strike you, and take your head off you; and I will give the carcass of the camp of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you to our hands.

48. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49. And David put his hand in his bag, and took from there a stone, and slung it, and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sunk his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

51. And David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and

I Samuel

took his sword, and drew it from its sheath, and slew him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

52. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until you come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, to Gath, and to Ekron.

53. And the people of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

54. And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent.

55. And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the captain of the army, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As your soul lives, O king, I cannot tell.

56. And the king said, Inquire you whose son the young man is.

I Samuel

57. And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

58. And Saul said to him, Whose son are you, young man? And David answered, I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

Chapter 18

1. And it came to pass, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

2. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even his sword, and his bow, and his girdle.

I Samuel

5. And David went out wherever Saul sent him, and was successful; and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6. And it came to pass as they came, when David returned from slaying the Philistine, that the women came from all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tambourines, with joyful song, and with lutes.

7. And the women answered one another as they danced, and said, Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8. And Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands; and what can he have more but the kingdom?

9. And Saul regarded David with hostility from that day and onward.

10. And it came to pass on the next day, that the evil

I Samuel

spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house; and David played with his hand, as at other times; and there was a spear in Saul's hand.

11. And Saul raised the spear; for he said, I will strike David to the wall with it. And David turned outside of his presence twice.

12. And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and had departed from Saul.

13. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14. And David succeeded in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.

15. Therefore when Saul saw that he succeeded so well, he was afraid of him.

16. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

17. And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give you for a wife; only be brave for

I Samuel

me, and fight the Lord's battles. For Saul said, Let not my hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

18. And David said to Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?

19. But it came to pass at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

20. And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David; and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

21. And Saul said, I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Therefore Saul said to David, You shall this day be my son-in-law through the second.

22. And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Talk with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore be the king's son-in-law.

I Samuel

23. And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seems it to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing that I am a poor man, and insignificant?

24. And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spoke David.

25. And Saul said, Thus shall you say to David, The king desires no dowry, but a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

26. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. And before the days expired,

27. David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife.

I Samuel

28. And Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29. And Saul was still the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

30. Then the princes of the Philistines went forth; and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David had more success than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was highly considered.

Chapter 19

1. And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

2. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David; and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeks to kill you; now therefore, I beg you, take heed to yourself until the morning, and stay in a secret place, and hide yourself;

3. And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will talk with my father of

I Samuel

you; and what I see, that I will tell you.

4. And Jonathan spoke good of David to Saul his father, and said to him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been towards you very good;

5. For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel; you saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

6. And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan; and Saul swore, As the Lord lives, he shall not be killed.

7. And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

8. And there was war again; and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

9. And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as

I Samuel

he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David played with his hand.

10. And Saul sought to strike David to the wall with the spear; but he slipped away from Saul's presence, and he struck the spear into the wall; and David fled, and escaped that night.

11. Saul also sent messengers to David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning; and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If you save not your life tonight, tomorrow you shall be killed.

12. So Michal let David down through a window; and he went, and fled, and escaped.

13. And Michal took the teraphim, and laid them on the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head, and covered it with a cloth.

14. And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

15. And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

I Samuel

16. And when the messengers came in, behold, there were teraphim in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair at its head.

17. And Saul said to Michal, Why have you deceived me so, and sent away my enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said to me, Let me go; why should I kill you?

18. So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

19. And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.

20. And Saul sent messengers to take David; and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as chief over them, the spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

21. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they

I Samuel

prophesied also.

22. Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great pit that is in Sechu; and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah.

23. And he went there to Naioth in Ramah; and the spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

24. And he also stripped off his clothes, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

Chapter 20

1. And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is my iniquity? and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?

2. And he said to him, God forbid; you shall not die; behold, my father will do nothing either great or

I Samuel

small, that he will not tell me; and why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so.

3. And David swore moreover, and said, Your father certainly knows that I have found grace in your eyes; and he said, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved; but truly as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.

4. Then said Jonathan to David, Whatever your soul desires, I will do it for you.

5. And David said to Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meal; but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third day at evening.

6. If your father should miss me, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Beth-Lehem his city; for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.

7. If he says thus, It is well; your servant shall have peace; but if he should be very angry, then you should know that he is determined to do evil.

I Samuel

8. Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant; for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you; however, if there is in me iniquity, slay me yourself; for why should you bring me to your father?

9. And Jonathan said, Far be it from you; for if I knew certainly that my father was determined to bring evil upon you, then would I not tell it you?

10. Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what if your father answers you roughly?

11. And Jonathan said to David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

12. And Jonathan said to David, O Lord God of Israel, when I have sounded my father tomorrow, or the third day about this time, and, behold, if there is good intended towards David, and I then send not to you and tell it to you,

13. The Lord do so and much more to Jonathan; but if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will tell you,

I Samuel

and send you away, that you may go in peace; and the Lord be with you, as he has been with my father.

14. And you shall not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not;

15. But also you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever; no, not when the Lord has cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

16. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the Lord require it at the hand of David's enemies.

17. And Jonathan made David swear again, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18. Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the new moon; and you shall be missed, because your seat will be empty.

19. And when you have stayed three days, then you shall go down quickly, and come to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was in hand, and

I Samuel

shall remain by the stone Ezel.

20. And I will shoot three arrows on its side, as though I shot at a mark.

21. And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say to the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of you, take them; then you come; for it is safe for you, and there is no danger; as the Lord lives.

22. But if I say thus to the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond you; then go your way; for the Lord has sent you away.

23. And as concerning the matter which you and I have spoken of, behold, the Lord be between you and me forever.

24. So David hid himself in the field; and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat the meal.

25. And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, upon a seat by the wall; and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

I Samuel

26. Nevertheless Saul spoke not any thing that day; for he thought, Something has befallen him, he is not clean; surely he is not clean.

27. And it came to pass on the next day, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty; and Saul said to Jonathan his son, Why does not the son of Jesse come to the meal, neither yesterday, nor today?

28. And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-Lehem;

29. And he said, Let me go, I beg you; for our family has a sacrifice in the city; and my brother has commanded me to be there; and now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away, I pray you, to see my brothers. Therefore he does not come to the king's table.

30. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, You son of a perverse and rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to

I Samuel

the shame of your mother's nakedness?

31. For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the ground, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Therefore now send and fetch him to me, for he shall surely die.

32. And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, Why shall he be killed? What has he done?

33. And Saul raised the spear to strike him; whereby Jonathan knew that his father was determined to slay David.

34. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food on the second day of the new moon; for he was grieved for David, because his father had put him to shame.

35. And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out to the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

36. And he said to his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

I Samuel

37. And when the lad came to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond you?

38. And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, hurry, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

39. But the lad knew not any thing; only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

40. And Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, Go, carry them to the city.

41. And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose from a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times; and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

42. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and you, and between my seed and your seed forever.

I Samuel

Chapter 21

1. And he arose and departed; and Jonathan went to the city.

2. Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said to him, Why are you alone, and no man is with you?

3. And David said to Ahimelech the priest, The king has commanded me with a matter, and has said to me, Let no man know any thing of the matter about which I send you, and what I have commanded you; and I have made an appointment with the young men to such and such a place.

4. And now what is under your hand? give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever is here.

5. And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under my hand, but there is consecrated bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women.

6. And David answered the priest, and said to him, Of

I Samuel

a truth women have been kept from us as always when I am in a journey, and the utensils of the young men are holy, even when it is a common journey; how much more today when there will be consecrated bread in their utensils?

7. So the priest gave him consecrated bread; for there was no bread there but the bread of display, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.

8. And a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul.

9. And David said to Ahimelech, And is there not here under your hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's matter required haste.

10. And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you will take that, take it; for there is no

I Samuel

other save that one here. And David said, There is none like that; give it to me.

11. And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

12. And the servants of Achish said to him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

13. And David laid up these words in his heart, and was greatly afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

14. And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle run down upon his beard.

15. Then said Achish to his servants, Behold, you see the man is mad; why then have you brought him to me?

16. Have I need of mad men, that you have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?

I Samuel

Chapter 22

1. And David departed from there, and escaped to the cave Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

2. And every one who was in distress, and every one who was in debt, and every one who was discontented, gathered themselves to him; and he became a captain over them; and there were with him about four hundred men.

3. And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I beg you, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.

4. And he brought them before the king of Moab; and they lived with him all the while that David was in the fortress.

5. And the prophet Gad said to David, Remain not in the fortress; depart, and go to the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came to the forest of

I Samuel

Hareth.

6. When Saul heard that David had been discovered, and the men who were with him, now Saul sat in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, holding his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him;

7. Then Saul said to his servants who stood around him, Hear now, you Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

8. That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none who tells me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me, or tells me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

9. Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of

I Samuel

Ahitub.

10. And he inquired of the Lord for him, and gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

11. Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob; and they came all of them to the king.

12. And Saul said, Hear now, you son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

13. And Saul said to him, Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread, and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

14. Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all your servants as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and gives heed at your bidding, and is honored in your house?

15. Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? be it far

I Samuel

from me; let not the king impute any thing to his servant, nor to all the house of my father; for your servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

16. And the king said, You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you, and all your father's house.

17. And the king said to the runners who stood around him, Turn, and slay the priests of the Lord; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not tell me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the Lord.

18. And the king said to Doeg, Turn, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day eighty five persons who wore a linen ephod.

19. And Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and babies, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

20. And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of

I Samuel

Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

21. And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the Lord's priests.

22. And David said to Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul; I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house.

23. Remain with me, fear not; for he who seeks my life seeks your life; but with me you shall be in safekeeping.

Chapter 23

1. Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshing floors.

2. Therefore David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go and strike these Philistines? And the Lord said to David, Go, and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah.

I Samuel

3. And David's men said to him, Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?
4. Then David inquired of the Lord yet again. And the Lord answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.
5. So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and struck them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.
6. And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.
7. And it was told Saul that David came to Keilah. And Saul said, God has delivered him to my hand; for he is has shut himself in, by entering into a town that has gates and bars.
8. And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.
9. And David knew that Saul was plotting evil against

I Samuel

him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring here the ephod.

10. Then said David, O Lord God of Israel, your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account.

11. Will the men of Keilah deliver me to his hand? will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I beseech you, tell your servant. And the Lord said, He will come down.

12. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men to the hand of Saul? And the Lord said, They will deliver you.

13. Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and went wherever they could go. And it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; and he refrained from going after.

14. And David stayed in the wilderness in fortresses, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God

I Samuel

delivered him not to his hand.

15. And David saw that Saul came out to seek his life; and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

16. And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

17. And he said to him, Fear not; for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you; and you shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you; and that also Saul my father knows.

18. And they two made a covenant before the Lord; and David stayed in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

19. Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Does not David hide himself with us in fortresses in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?

20. And therefore, O king, come down according to all your heart's desire; and our part shall be to deliver him to the king's hand.

21. And Saul said, Blessed be you of the Lord; for you

I Samuel

have compassion on me.

22. Go, I pray you, be more vigilant, and ascertain his place where his haunt is, and who has seen him there; for it is told me that he acts with great cunning.

23. See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides himself, and come back to me with the certainty, and I will go with you; and it shall come to pass, if he is in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

24. And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul; but David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon.

25. And Saul and his men went to seek him. And they told David; therefore he came down into a rock, and stayed in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

26. And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and

I Samuel

David and his men on that side of the mountain; and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men surrounded David and his men to capture them.

27. And there came a messenger to Saul, saying, Hurry, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

28. And Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines; therefore they called that place Sela-Hammahlekoth.

29. And David went up from there, and stayed in fortresses at Ein-Gedi.

Chapter 24

1. And it came to pass, when Saul returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Ein-Gedi.

2. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon

I Samuel

the rocks of the wild goats.

3. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself; and David and his men remained in the back of the cave.

4. And the men of David said to him, Behold the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it shall seem good in your eyes. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe secretly.

5. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart struck him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

6. And he said to his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.

7. So David scolded his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul rose up from the cave, and went on his way.

8. David also arose afterward, and went out of the

I Samuel

cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed.

9. And David said to Saul, Why did you listen to men's words, saying, Behold, David seeks your hurt?

10. Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord had delivered you today into my hand in the cave; and some told me to kill you; but my eye spared you; and I said, I will not put forth my hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.

11. Moreover, my father, see, indeed see the skirt of your robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of your robe, and killed you not, know you and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in my hand, and I have not sinned against you; yet you hunt my soul to take it.

12. The Lord judge between me and you, and the Lord avenge me of you; but my hand shall not be upon you.

I Samuel

13. As the proverb of the ancients says, Wickedness proceeds from the wicked; but my hand shall not be upon you.

14. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea.

15. The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and you, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me from your hand.

16. And it came to pass, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, Is this your voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

17. And he said to David, You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me good, while I have rewarded you evil.

18. And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; because when the Lord had delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.

19. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go well away? therefore the Lord reward you good for what

I Samuel

you have done to me this day.

20. And now, behold, I know well that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

21. Swear now therefore to me by the Lord, that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house.

22. And David swore to Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men went up to the fortress.

Chapter 25

1. And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

2. And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very wealthy, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats; and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

I Samuel

3. And the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail; and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance; but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

4. And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

5. And David sent out ten young men, and David said to the young men, Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name;

6. And thus shall you say to him: Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.

7. And now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds who were with us, we hurt them not, nor was there anything missing to them, all the while they were in Carmel.

8. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let the young men find favor in your eyes; for we come in a festive day; give, I beg you,

I Samuel

whatever your generosity permits you, to my servants, and to David your son.

9. And when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and waited.

10. And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants now a days who break away every man from his master.

11. Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and the fresh meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men, whom I know not where they are from?

12. So David's young men turned their way, and went back, and came and told him all these sayings.

13. And David said to his men, Gird you on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword; and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred remained with the baggage.

I Samuel

14. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he railed at them.

15. But the men were very good to us, and we were not harmed, nor did we miss anything, as long as we went with them, when we were in the fields;

16. They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

17. And therefore know and consider what you will do; for evil is intended against our master, and against all his household; for he is such a worthless man, that no man can speak to him.

18. Then Abigail hurried, and took two hundred loaves, and two skins of wine, and five sheep ready prepared, and five measures of parched grain, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

19. And she said to her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her

I Samuel

husband Nabal.

20. And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down under cover of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them.

21. And David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has requited me evil for good.

22. God do that and more also to the enemies of David, if I leave of all that belongs to him by the morning light any who pisses against the wall.

23. And when Abigail saw David, she hurried, and alighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed to the ground,

24. And fell at his feet, and said, On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be; and let your maidservant, I beg you, speak to your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

25. Let not my lord, I beg you, regard this worthless

I Samuel

man, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I your maidservant saw not the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

26. And therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, seeing the Lord has restrained you from coming to shed blood, and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now let your enemies, and those who seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

27. And now this blessing which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

28. I beg you, forgive the trespass of your maidservant; for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fights the battles of the Lord, and evil has not been found in you all your days.

29. If men rise up to pursue you, and to seek your soul; the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the Lord your God; and the souls of your enemies, he shall sling out, as from the hollow of a sling.

I Samuel

30. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and shall have appointed you ruler over Israel;

31. That this shall not be a cause of stumbling to you, nor offence of heart to my lord, that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself; and the Lord shall deal well with my lord, and you shall remember your maidservant.

32. And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me;

33. And blessed is your discretion, and blessed are you, who have kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with my own hand.

34. For in very deed, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, if you had not hurried and come to meet me, surely there had not been left to Nabal by the morning light any who pisses against the wall.

35. So David received from her hand that which she

I Samuel

had brought him, and said to her, Go up in peace to your house; see, I have listened to your voice, and have granted your request.

36. And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

37. But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

38. And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

39. And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the Lord, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept his servant from evil; for the Lord has returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and talked with Abigail, to take

I Samuel

her to him for a wife.

40. And when the servants of David came to Abigail to Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, David sent us to you, to take you to him as a wife.

41. And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let your maidservant be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

42. And Abigail hurried, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with her five maidens who went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wives.

43. And David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and both of them became his wives.

44. And Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.

Chapter 26

1. And the Ziphites came to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Does not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah,

I Samuel

which is before Jeshimon?

2. Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

3. And Saul camped in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the road. But David remained in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

4. David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was indeed there.

5. And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had camped; and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his army; and Saul lay in the barricade, and the people camped around him.

6. Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with you.

7. So David and Abishai came to the people by night;

I Samuel

and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the barricade, and his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people lay around him.

8. Then said Abishai to David, God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day; now therefore let me strike him, I beg you, with the spear to the earth at once, and I will not strike him a second time.

9. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not; for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?

10. And David said, As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

11. The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth my hand against the Lord's anointed; but, I beg you, take now the spear that is at his head, and the jar of water, and let us go.

12. So David took the spear and the jar of water near Saul's head; and they went away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, nor did any awake; for they were all

I Samuel

asleep; because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

13. Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill far away; a great space being between them;

14. And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Will you no answer, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who are you who shouts to the king?

15. And David said to Abner, Are you not a brave man? and who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord.

16. This thing is not good that you have done. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jar of water that was at his head.

17. And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this your voice, my son David? And David said, It is my

I Samuel

voice, my lord, O king.

18. And he said, Why does my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in my hand?

19. And therefore, I beg you, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the Lord who has stirred you up against me, let him accept an offering; but if it is the sons of men, cursed be they before the Lord; for they have driven me out this day from having a share in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, Go, serve other gods.

20. And therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the Lord; for the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains.

21. Then said Saul, I have sinned; return, my son David; for I will no more do you harm, because my soul was precious in your eyes this day; behold, I have played the fool, and have erred very much.

22. And David answered and said, Behold the king's

I Samuel

spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23. The Lord requite to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch forth my hand against the Lord's anointed.

24. And, behold, as your life was much esteemed this day in my eyes, so let my life be much esteemed in the eyes of the Lord, and let him deliver me from all tribulation.

25. Then Saul said to David, Blessed be you, my son David; you shall do great things, and will succeed in them. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Chapter 27

1. And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul; there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of seeking

I Samuel

me any more within the borders of Israel; so shall I escape from his hand.

2. And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

3. And David stayed with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

4. And Saul was told that David had fled to Gath; and he sought for him no more.

5. And David said to Achish, If I have now found grace in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may live there; for why should your servant live in the royal city with you?

6. Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day; therefore Ziklag belongs to the kings of Judah to this day.

7. And the time that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.

8. And David and his men went up, and raided the

I Samuel

Geshurites, and the Gizrites, and the Amalekites; for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, in the direction to Shur, as far as the land of Egypt.

9. And David struck the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the garments, and returned, and came to Achish.

10. And Achish said, Where did you make a raid today? And David said, Against the Negev of Judah, and against the Negev of the Jerahmeelites, and against the Negev of the Kenites.

11. And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines.

12. And Achish believed David, saying, He has made himself completely loathsome to his people Israel; therefore he shall be my servant forever.

I Samuel

Chapter 28

1. And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, You must know, that you shall go out with me to battle, you and your men.

2. And David said to Achish, Surely you shall know what your servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make you my bodyguard forever.

3. And Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had expelled those who were mediums, and the wizards, out of the land.

4. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and camped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they camped in Gilboa.

5. And when Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

6. And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord

I Samuel

answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

7. Then said Saul to his servants, Seek me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman in Ein-Dor who is a medium.

8. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other garments, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, I beg you, divine for me by a spirit, and bring him up for me, whoever I shall name to you.

9. And the woman said to him, Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has expelled those who are mediums, and the wizards, from the land; why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

10. And Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord lives, there shall no punishment happen to you for this thing.

11. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up to

I Samuel

you? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

12. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!

13. And the king said to her, Do not be afraid; for what did you see? And the woman said to Saul, I saw a godlike man ascending from the earth.

14. And he said to her, What is his appearance? And she said, An old man comes up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed.

15. And Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed by bringing me up? And Saul answered, I am in great distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me, and answers me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I shall do.

16. Then said Samuel, Why then do you ask of me,

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seeing the Lord has departed from you, and has become your enemy?

17. And the Lord has done for himself, as he spoke by me; for the Lord has torn the kingdom from your hand, and given it to your neighbor, to David;

18. Because you would not obey the voice of the Lord, nor execute his fierce anger upon Amalek, therefore has the Lord done this thing to you this day.

19. And the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow shall you and your sons be with me; the Lord also shall deliver the camp of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

20. Then Saul fell at once full length upon the ground, and was greatly afraid, because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him; for he had not eaten bread all day, nor all night.

21. And the woman came to Saul, and saw that he was greatly troubled, and said to him, Behold, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have listened to your words

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which you spoke to me.

22. And therefore, I beg you, listen you also to the voice of your maid servant, and let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength, when you go on your way.

23. But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he listened to their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

24. And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hurried, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and baked with it unleavened bread.

25. And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they ate. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

Chapter 29

1. And the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek; and the Israelites camped by a

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string which is in Jezreel.

2. And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands; but David and his men passed on in the rear with Achish.

3. Then said the princes of the Philistines, What are these Hebrews doing here? And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me a year or more, and I have found no fault in him since he came over to me to this day?

4. And the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; and the princes of the Philistines said to him, Make this fellow return, that he may go back to his place which you have appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us; for how should he reconcile himself to his master? should it not be with the heads of these men?

5. Is this not David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and

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David his ten thousands?

6. Then Achish called David, and said to him, Surely, as the Lord lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the camp is good in my sight; for I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me to this day; nevertheless the lords favor you not.

7. Therefore now return, and go in peace, that you displease not the lords of the Philistines.

8. And David said to Achish, But what have I done? and what have you found in your servant so long as I have been with you to this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

9. And Achish answered and said to David, I know that you are good in my sight, as an angel of God; however the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.

10. Therefore now rise up early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you; and as soon as you are up early in the morning, and

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have light, depart.

11. So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Chapter 30

1. And it came to pass, when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and struck Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

2. And had taken the women captives, who were there; they did not kill any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

3. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, had been taken captives.

4. Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more

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strength to weep.

5. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

6. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters; but David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

7. And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I beg you, bring me here the ephod. And Abiathar brought there the ephod to David.

8. And David inquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue; for you shall surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

9. So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed.

10. But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for

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two hundred remained behind, who were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

11. And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he ate; and they made him drink water;

12. And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins; and when he had eaten, his spirit came back to him; for he had not eaten bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights.

13. And David said to him, To whom do you belong? and from where are you? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

14. We made a raid upon the Negev of the Kerethites, and upon the territory which belongs to Judah, and upon the Negev of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

15. And David said to him, Can you take me to this company? And he said, Swear to me by God, that you will not kill me, nor deliver me to the hands of

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my master, and I will take you to this company.

16. And when he had brought him, behold, they were spread out upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great plunder that they had taken from the land of the Philistines, and from the land of Judah.

17. And David struck them from twilight until the evening of the next day; and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, who rode upon camels, and fled.

18. And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away; and David rescued his two wives.

19. And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither booty, nor any thing that they had taken; David recovered it all.

20. And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's booty.

21. And David came to the two hundred men, who

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were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also remain at the brook Besor; and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people who were with him; and when David came near to the people, he greeted them.

22. Then answered all the bad and worthless men, of those who went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them anything of the plunder that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

23. Then said David, You shall not do so, my brothers, with that which the Lord has given us, who has preserved us, and delivered the company who came against us into our hand.

24. For who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who remains by the baggage; they shall share alike.

25. And it was so from that day forward, that he made

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it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

26. And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the plunder to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the booty of the enemies of the Lord;

27. To them who were in Beth-El, and to them who were in Ramoth-Negev, and to them which were in Jattir,

28. And to them who were in Aroer, and to them who were in Siphmoth, and to them who were in Eshtemoah,

29. And to them who were in Rachal, and to them who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them who were in the cities of the Kenites,

30. And to them who were in Hormah, and to them who were in Korashan, and to them who were in Athach,

31. And to them who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men had wandered about.

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Chapter 31

1. And the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down killed in Mount Gilboa.

2. And the Philistines followed closely upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul's sons.

3. And the battle went hard against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers.

4. Then said Saul to his armor bearer, Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armor bearer would not; for he was terrified. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

5. And when his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

6. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor

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bearer, and all his men, that same day together.

7. And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

8. And it came to pass on the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

9. And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armor, and sent to the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the house of their idols, and among the people.

10. And they put his armor in the house of Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-Shean.

11. And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul;

12. All the brave men arose, and went all night, and

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took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-Shean, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

13. And they took their bones, and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh and fasted seven days.