

# Heard of God

## Chapter 8

### Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 34



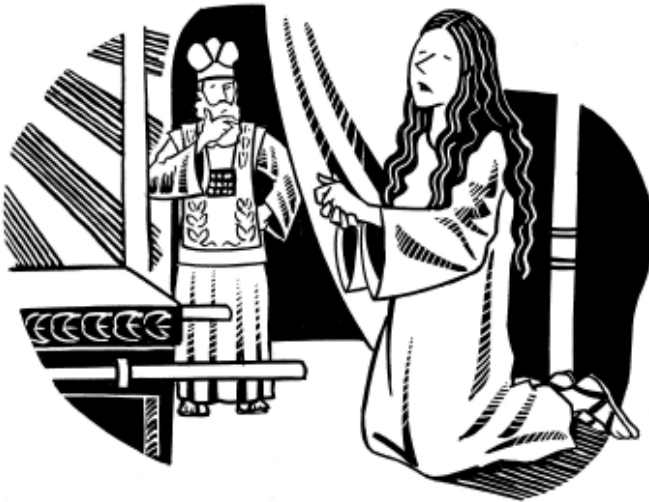
Objective: To understand the warnings and examples contained in 1 and 2 Samuel.



*“If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers.”*

—1 Samuel 12:14-15

The books of Samuel communicate God’s truth to us in the form of short biographies, focusing on three people in particular. The first eight chapters of 1 Samuel give us a positive example to follow in the life and leadership of the prophet Samuel. In chapters 9 through 15, the focus shifts to Israel’s first king, Saul, whose life is a warning against making wrong choices, falling away from the Lord, and living for self. Beginning with 1 Samuel 16 and going all the way through the end of 2 Samuel (30 chapters in all), the primary character is David. David is the best king Israel ever had, and judging from the amount of space the Holy Spirit gave to his story, he is one of the most important characters in the Bible.



1. True or **false**? The stories in the history books of the Old Testament are only illustrations for us and are not always really true.
2. **True** or false? The books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles were not always divided into six books.
3. **True** or false? The three main characters in the books of Samuel are Samuel, Saul, and David.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11. What should we look for in the literature of the Old Testament?

- a. Entertaining stories
- b. Scientific principles
- c. Examples and warnings**
- d. Political lessons

All these events happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us, who live at the time when this age is drawing to a close.

—1 Corinthians 10:11

5. In the blank beside the name of each of the following characters, indicate whether the character is primarily a warning or an example for us.

- a. Samuel **example**
- b. Saul **warning**
- c. David **example and warning**

6. How does David rank among Israel's kings?

- a. He was the worst king Israel ever had.
- b. He was the best king Israel ever had.**
- c. He was average.
- d. His reign was too short for us to know how good he was.

7. David wrote more than half of which book in the Bible?

- a. 1 Samuel
- b. 2 Samuel
- c. Chronicles
- d. Psalms**

8. What does the name Samuel mean?

- a. Loved by God
- b. Heard of God**
- c. False prophet
- d. Pride of the kingdom

9. What did Samuel accomplish during his lifetime? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. He had a part in removing the priest of Israel.**
- b. He conquered the Philistines.
- c. He anointed Israel's first king.**
- d. He removed Israel's first king.**
- e. He became Israel's first king.
- f. He built a temple for the Lord.
- g. He anointed Israel's greatest king.**

10. What did Saul do when Samuel told him that he would be the first king? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. He became very proud.
- b. He was very humble.**
- c. He could not believe it.**

- d. He rejoiced and told everyone to obey him or be punished.
11. Why did many people think Saul would be a good king?
- He was very wise.
  - He was a good politician.
  - He was tall and handsome.**
  - He was very faithful and obedient.
12. What were God's plans for Saul?
- To establish his kingdom forever**
  - To prove to Israel that all kings were bad
  - To replace him with David as soon as possible
  - To make him Israel's greatest prophet
13. What is the key to receiving redemption?
- Obey
  - Believe**
  - Serve
  - Sacrifice
14. What is the key to receiving the anointing of the Spirit?
- Obey**
  - Believe
  - Serve
  - Sacrifice
15. Saul had the kingdom taken away from him because he \_\_\_\_\_
- Was proud.
  - Was not a good leader.
  - Disobeyed God twice.**
  - Offered the wrong sacrifice.

*But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to him is much better than offering the fat of rams.* —I Samuel 15:22



What lessons from Samuel's life will help you grow as a believer? What warnings from Saul's life do you most want to avoid?

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Thank God for His faithfulness to you in Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help you learn complete obedience in every area of your life.



**Going Deeper**

1. What are three ways that the meaning of the name Samuel (“heard of God”) applied to the life and ministry of this great spiritual leader? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. As we continue to study Hebrew history, name two things that the instruction of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:11 tells us we should be looking for. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How does this instruction relate to what we find in the characters of Samuel, Saul and David?

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4. Why did God through Samuel take the disobedience of Saul so seriously? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What are several reasons why you think that the initial spiritual profile of Saul shows he at least had the potential to be a great spiritual leader? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Does this mean that we can have great spiritual leadership potential that is lost and wasted as a result of disobedience? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What concept is the key to the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the life of a believer? (Consider Acts 5:32; John 14: 15,16; 22-24) \_\_\_\_\_

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