

1 Samuel

Why was Samuel so highly respected

Jer 15:1 listed on level of Moses

Prophet

Priest

Judge

Oversaw the introduction of the kingship
in Israel (2x) theocracy → monarchy shift

Did Samuel write it?

It's about Samuel, he is dead by 1 Sam 28

Literary Pattern

Demise of old leader

God's selection of new leader

Victories of new leader

Problems involving new leader

Samuel Cycle

Demise of leader: Eli (1 Sam 1-2)

Hannah's problem—rival, dumb husband (1:8)—canonical link Ruth 4:15

- Hannah's vow 1:11
- Why did Eli jump on her case? (1:13f)

Samuel -- God listened (1:20, 28)

Eli's sons

Problems:

- Riping off meat (2:14)
- Messing with women (2:22)

Samuel contrast (2:25, 26)

How was Eli as a father? (2:29, 33f)

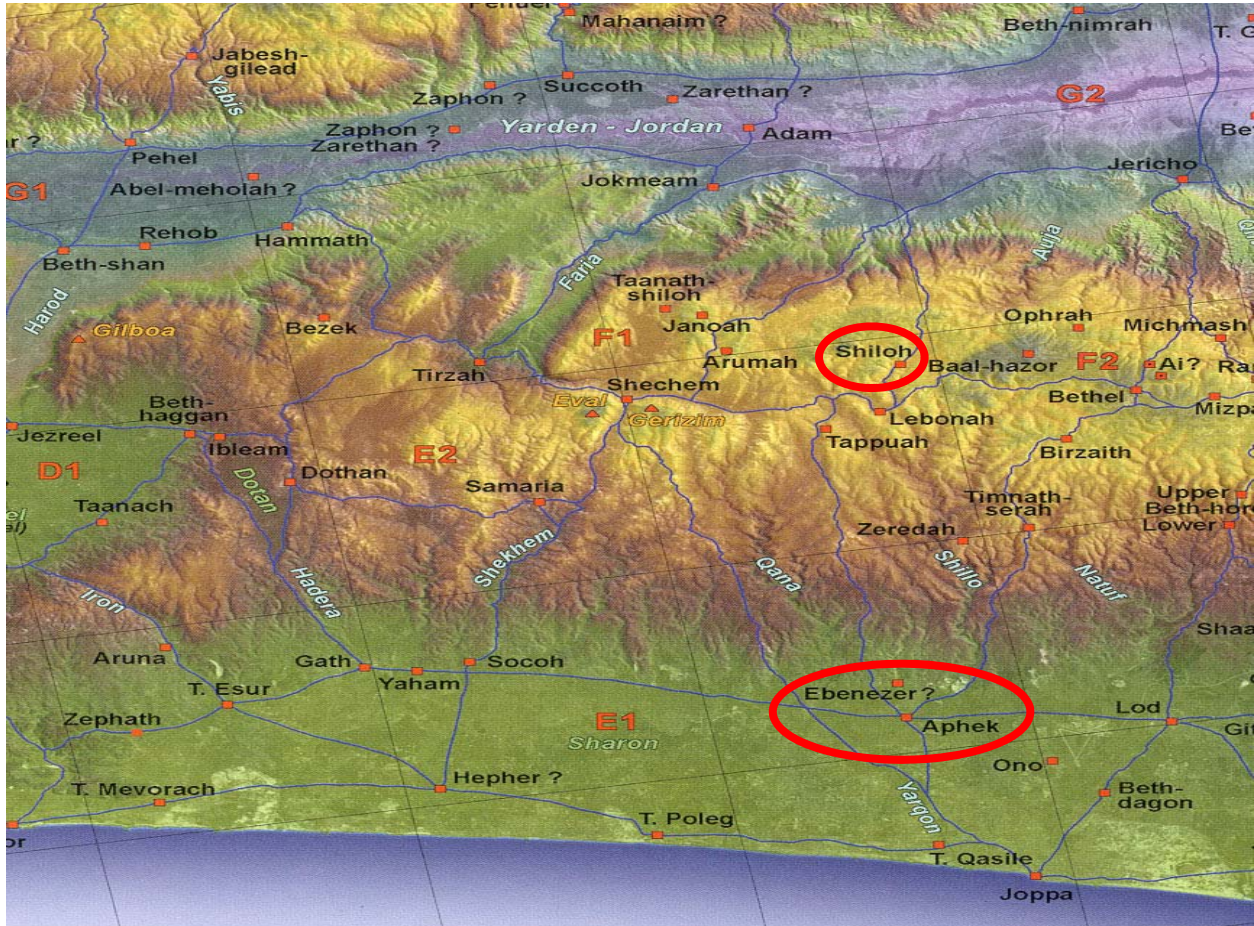
- weak man --> weak father --> bad sons

Call of Samuel

Samuel's night call (3:4ff)

Rejection of Eli 3:13; (2:29, 33f)

Demise of Old leader – Eli



Capturing the ark: 1 Sam 4-6

Bringing the ark out to do battle (Jos 6:6ff; 1 Sam 14:18)

Problem: God in a box mentality

- How do we suffer from this also?

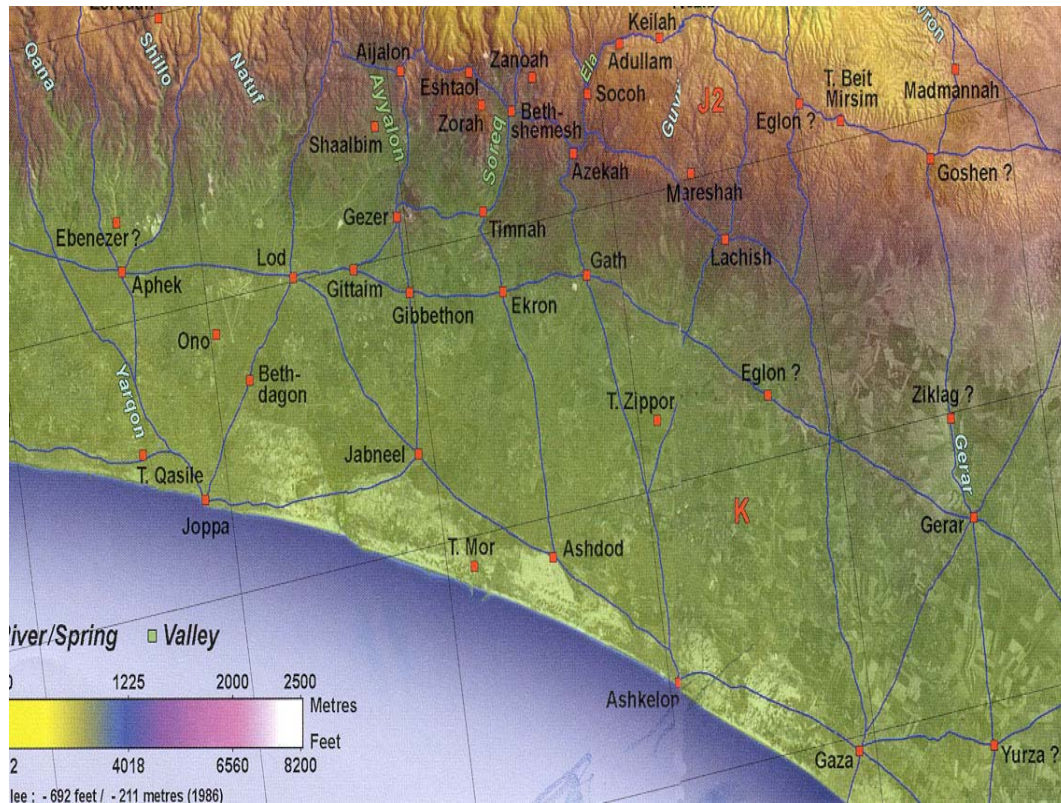
Philistines freak...remember Egypt 4:8

Death: Eli's sons – Eli 4:18

Birth of Ichabod: 4:21

Philistines and the Ark

Five Philistine cities (Ashdod, Askelon, Gath, Gaza, Ekron)—Pentapolis



Philistines and the Ark

Dagon (grain or fish, fertility god/father=El at Ugarit?) 5:5

Plagues and returning ark (6:4ff)

Why did the Philistines make 5 gold tumors & rats? –Cows return to Bethshemesh

Sympathetic magic –5 Philistine cities

Samuel's victory

Defeats Philistines: Ebenezer (7:12)

How can Ebenezer be named in 7:12 yet it was called that in 5:1/4:1?

- Error in the Bible

What is an anachronism?

Samuel's sons: 8:3

On fathers and sons

+Eli (godly) ==> -sons (ungodly)

+Samuel (godly) ==> - sons (ungodly)

-Saul (ungodly) ==> +son (Jonathan:godly)

+David (godly) ==> +son (Solomon) and - son (Absalom)

What does it all mean? Each generation's choice

We want a king

Was it wrong for Israel to ask for a king "like the other nations"? (8:4f)

No: Deut 17:14f.

They had priests, prophets and judges like the other nations

Problem: rejection of God as king (8:7)

Kingship warning: taxes 10%/ bureaucracy /slavery 8:11-18

Theocracy → Monarchy (major shift)

Saul chosen: Private—Ramah

Private anointing: chasing donkeys

What does 9:9 say about the date of writing of the book of 1 Sam.? Seer/prophet

Focus on Saul's appearance (9:2)

Was Saul initially humble? (9:21)→ anointing (10:1)

What's the difference between humility and insecurity?

Spirit on Saul: Did believers have Spirit in OT? (10:10)—special gifts in OT; one body in NT

Saul chosen: 2 Public—Mizpah

Hiding in the baggage (10:22f)

Delivers Jabesh Gilead from Ammonites (first victory) (ch. 11)

3rd time: Covenant renewal at Gilgal (11:14f)

Samuel's defense and prayer (12:3, 23)

- Is it a sin not to pray for someone?
- Responsibility of the leader to pray for his people

1 Sam 13:1 what does it say?

- KJV: "Saul reigned 1 year. Then he reigned 2 years"
- Old NASB: "Saul was 40 yrs. old reigned 32 yrs."
- NIV: "Saul was 30 yrs. old reigned 42 yrs."
- NRSV/ESV "Saul was ... yrs. old reigned yrs."

What does that suggest about the inerrancy of Scripture? inspiration / transmission

What does that suggest about the transmission of Scripture?

Saul's mistake

Fear of Philistines at Gilgal (13:7f)

Pious cover up (13:12)

Samuel's rebuke (13:13) –"if" you had

Notion of multiple possible futures; everything fixed [determinism]? Contingency (if) with God

Story of Jonathan

The story (1 Sam 14:6f) cliff climbing faith

Philistines defeated—Hebrew mercenaries mixed in (14:21)

Saul's vow and severity: 14:24, 44

Irony:

- Will kill his own son (ego violated)
- Will not kill Agag at God's order (15:8)
- Violate Saul's word = death;
- Violate God's word = no big

God and Saul and Amalekites

What does God's grief mean? (15:11, 35)

Pious cover up (15:14f)

- Right motives ==> wrong actions
- Long as your heart is right! Right??? Not

God's desire: (15:22-23)

God and not changing His mind (15:29)

Different uses of language: promise, wish, command, informative, request, imagine, disagreement, irony, dialogue, possibility

David

Does God concoct a lie? (16:2)

- Whole truth
- Evil versus shrewdness

God's focus on the heart: 16:7

Spirit leaves Saul (16:13f) Did he lose his salvation?

Does God send evil spirits on people (16:14)—spirit, OT demons? harp?

David's victory-Goliath

David's righteous anger (17:26)

Sibling jealousy: (17:28)

- Attribution of wrong motives

On defeating giants (17:42-47)

Height: over 9'; LXX = 4 cubits = 6'9"

Women's troublesome song & Saul's insecurity (18:7)

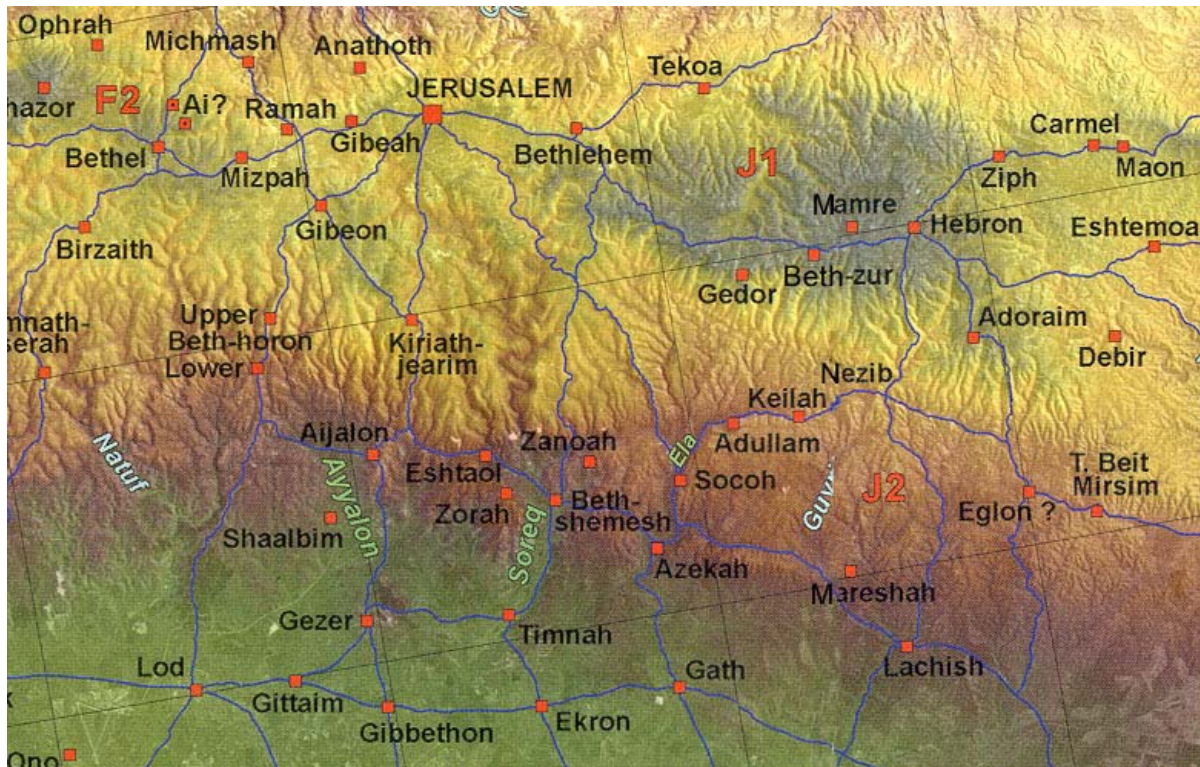
Demise of Old leader

Saul's attempts to kill David

Michal betrothal foreskins (18:20f, 23, 25)
description versus prescription again

Spearing chucking (19:9, 11); Michal's idol protection (19:13)

Jonathan warns David: that's what friends are for (ch. 18:3f; 20:9, 17, 33, 41f)



David's fleeing

Nob: (ch. 21) -- sword, food, 85 priests slain; Doeg the Edomite (ch. 22)

Gath insanity (21:13f)—sympathetic magic

Keilah deliverance (ch. 23:9ff;)

- Does God know things that never happen? (cf. 13:13 if Saul had...) ephod: Urim/Thumim
- Does God know only what is or what is possible?
- Does that leave some room for choice, freedom and variation? Isa. 40:28

Nabal and Abigail

The story line and description of Abigail (1 Sam 25:3, 10, 22)

On role of woman and foolish men (v. 24ff)

Lord takes Nabal (25:36ff)

David goes to Philistine city of Ziklag (27:6f)—note date of statement

David's sparing Saul

1 Sam 24:3f dropping pants in cave

1 Sam 26:9 stealing spear while sleeping

David's respect: don't touch the LORD's anointed 24:5; 26:9

Witch of Endor & Saul's demise

Story line: Final Battle in Jezreel Valley

Lord's means of communication cut off 28:6

Can witches really bring people back from the dead?

Are dead people aware of what is going on in this life? (28:15ff)

Implications—multi-generational reflections