



OLD TESTAMENT • HISTORY

1 Samuel

The heart of faithful leadership

AUTHORSHIP · Anonymous; traditions associated with Samuel, Nathan, and Gad

DATE & CONTEXT · Monarchy's beginnings, roughly eleventh century BC; compilation uncertain

The big picture

From Hannah's prayer and Samuel's calling, the story moves to Israel's demand for a king. Saul's reign begins with promise but deteriorates through disobedience and fear. David is anointed while still young, defeats Goliath, and then lives under Saul's hostility. Alongside public power, the book examines hidden motives and the difference between impressive appearances and a heart responsive to God.

Words to carry

"For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7 · KJV · excerpt

Live it

01 Bring an honest concern to God in prayer.

02 Listen before defending your reputation.

03 Practice one quiet act of integrity when there is no reward.

Pause & reflect

What would change if I valued faithfulness more than looking impressive?

Original SELAH37 introduction. Read the text in context; historical dates and attributions are approximate.

Scripture: King James Version. Public domain in the United States; Crown rights apply in the United Kingdom.

Continue online: <https://selah37.com/books/1-samuel>