

# ***Samuel and the Undoing of Saul: How a Disgruntled Prophet Resisted God***

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## ***Preface***

***Introduction:*** A Proposal for Reading Samuel

### **Part 1: Overture to Conflict: A Preview of Things to Come (1 Samuel 1–3)**

1. Hannah's Resolve and the Birth of Samuel: A New Era in Israel's History
2. Hannah's Vow and Victory Song: A Challenge to Israel's Leaders
3. From Promised Priest to Newly-Minted Prophet: Clues to God's Role in the Story

### **Part 2: Interlude before Conflict: The Ark Narrative as Preemptive Warning (1 Samuel 4–6)**

4. "Why Has YHWH Defeated Us Today before the Philistines?": The Ark in Israel's Theology
5. The Ark of the Covenant Is "Taken": Philistine and Israelite Responses to the Ark
6. "Who Can Stand before YHWH, This Holy God?": The Return the Ark

### **Part 3: The Conflict Begins: Samuel Asserts His Priorities (1 Samuel 7–11)**

7. Samuel on the Cusp: The Prophet's Finest Hour
8. The People Request a King: A Rift Begins to Open between Samuel and God
9. Saul Loses His Way and Finds Samuel: Prelude to Kingship
10. The Secret Anointing: Saul is (Almost) King
11. Saul is Publicly Acclaimed King—at Mizpah and Gilgal

### **Part 4: The Conflict Intensifies: Samuel Clashes with Saul (1 Samuel 12–14)**

12. Samuel's "Farewell Speech": The Sin of Monarchy
13. The Beginning of Saul's Undoing: Whose/Which Command Did He Disobey?
14. The Fallout for Jonathan: Saul's Oath as Overreaction

### **Part 5: The Climax of the Conflict: Samuel and God Part Ways (1 Samuel 15–16)**

15. Failure and Rejection at Gilgal: Saul's Confrontation with Samuel
16. The Question of God's "Repentance": Samuel's Disagreement with YHWH
17. Prophet on a Short Leash: Irony in Samuel's Anointing of David

***Conclusion:*** How Should We Judge Samuel?