

# Samuel

Pronounced Shemu'el in Hebrew meaning El is heard was the son of Elkanah and Hannah. Samuel was a Levite (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 6:33-38) by birth and lived in the hills of Ephraim.

Samuel's mother Hannah was barren and made a Nazarite vow pleading to Yahweh for a child, and dedicating him to Yahweh all the days of his life. So Samuel was a Nazarite by birth and one of the children that was conceived after his mother was touched by Yahweh!

**Read Num 6:1-21** Since he had a Nazarite vow he never shaved his head, so he probably had very long hair like Samson, and he could never drink wine, fermented drink, or anything from the fruit of the vine. Quiz: if he was a Nazarite from birth how could he take the Passover each year?

**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:21-23:** Interesting that Hannah made a vow to Yahweh but according to **Numbers 30:10-16** if Elkanah decided to nullify her vow, we might have had a different story about Samuel.

After Samuel was weaned by his mother, he was brought to the tabernacle in Shiloh, they made a sacrifice on his behalf, and then left there in the House of Yahweh to be raised up with Yahweh and dedicated to Him, under the High Priest Eli.

**Read 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:26** and then **Luke 2:52:** "And Yahshua progressed in wisdom and stature and favor before Yahweh and men." Interesting that Samuel can be compared to Yahshua in this aspect.

Samuel was a priest to Yahweh starting as a small child **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:1; 19**, making sacrifices on behalf of the people and offered intercessory prayer on behalf of the people of Israel **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:9**.

Samuel was also a prophet to all Israel," And Yahweh again appeared in Shiloh. For Yahweh revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh, by the Word of Yahweh," **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:21**. Also, according to Peter, Samuel might be considered one of first of the prophets since Moses,

"And also all the prophets, from Samuel and those following after, as many as spoke, also before announced of these days," **Acts 3:24**.

He also led an assembly of prophets according to **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 19:20** "And Saul sent messengers to take David. And they saw the assembly of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them. And the Spirit of Elohim came on Saul's messengers, and they also prophesied."

**Psalms 99:6**, "Moses and Aaron were among His priests and Samuel was among those who called on His name; they called to Yahweh, and He answered them." It interesting to note that the Word of Yahweh was rare in those days, with no breaking-through vision (**1<sup>st</sup> Sam 3:1**)

because remember this in the time of the judges, when everyone was doing right in their own eyes and was the most evil time Israel had ever known. But starting with Samuel, you start seeing more prophetic revelations that are recorded all the way up until the time of Yahshua and beyond.

Samuel also held some of the greatest Passovers the upheld its title for hundreds of years until the time of king Josiah. [2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 35:18](#) “And there had not been a Passover performed like it in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; yea, none of the kings of Israel performed such a Passover as Josiah performed, and the priests, and the Levites and all Judah and Israel who were found, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” This is very interesting because according to this, King David didn’t even perform a Passover as great as these, and he was a man after Yahweh’s own heart.

Samuel labored throughout his life for the welfare of his people and served as Israel’s last judge (12th) before the people asked for a monarchy. [1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:15-17](#), And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And He went from year to year even in a circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all these places. And he returned to Ramah, for his house was there. And there he judged Israel; and he built an altar to Yahweh there.” [Acts 12:20-21](#) “And after these things, as four hundred and fifty years passed, He gave judges until Samuel the prophet. And from there they asked for a king. And Yahweh gave Saul the son of Kish to them, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.”

He did however appoint his own sons as judges over Israel but they were not anything like their father and corrupted Israel because of it. This led to the people of Israel getting fed up with the judges and demanding a king over all of them. [Read 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:1-22](#).

It’s interesting that Moses prophesied that this would happen in [Deuteronomy 17:14-20](#).

Samuel also anointed the first two kings of Israel, first Saul in [1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 10:1](#) and then later David after he became corrupted and the kingdom was ripped from his hand.

The biblical record shows that although there were battles and some losses by Israel’s armies, overall, the nation survived and flourished under the leadership of Samuel.

Eventually, order was established, holiness was promoted, and the nation was at peace and prospered. “So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of Yahweh was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites” ([1 Samuel 7:13-14](#)).

Samuel’s life serves as an example for us as believers today. Key principles include his obedience to Yahweh, his faith ([Hebrews 11:32](#)) and his willingness to intercede for others ([Jeremiah 15:1](#)).