

A man with a beard, wearing a yellowish-brown hooded robe, is shown in profile, writing on a scroll. He is seated at a desk with several other scrolls. The background is dark and filled with faint, glowing Hebrew text. The overall lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the man and his work.

THE PROPHET SAMUEL

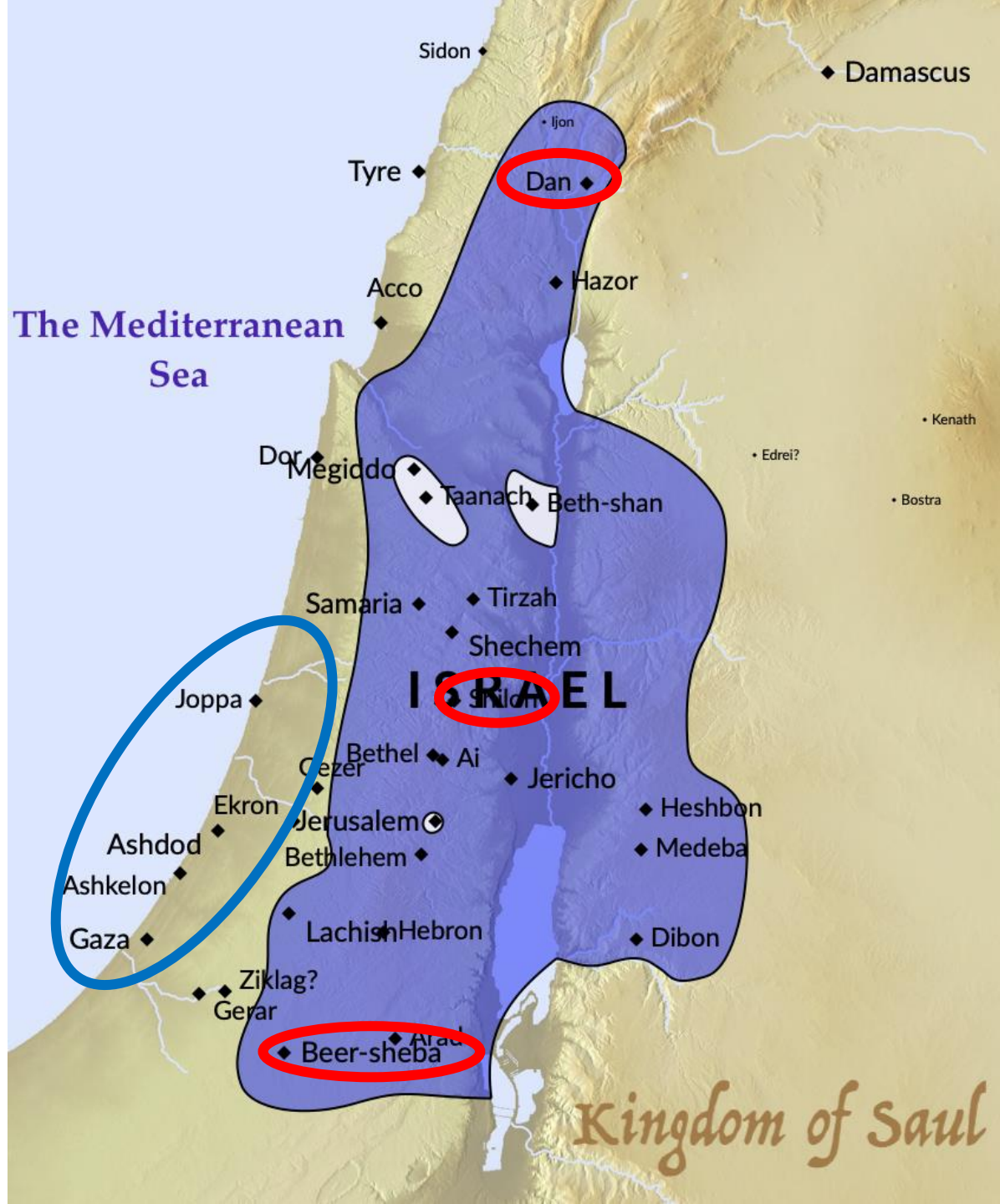
Last of the Judges

Wilbur Reid



Overview of 1 and 2 Samuel

- Originally one book
- Theological narrative of the history of Israel
- Authorship
 - Source material from Samuel, Gad, Nathan, Jashar, and maybe more, in 11th century BC with some commentary from later date.
 - 9:9 (Formerly in Israel, if someone went to inquire of God, they would say, “Come, let us go to the seer,” because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)
 - “To this day” used 7 times in Samuel
 - Text indicates it was compiled after the events of 2 Kings (exile)
 - Therefore, material probably assembled in exile in 6th century BC
 - Deuteronomistic school of editors/writers: Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings
 - Purpose: Explain why they had been sent into exile
 - Key themes: covenant, divine presence, land, centralization of worship in Jerusalem, obedience to the law, avoidance of apostasy (idols), rigid system of reward and punishment, royal line of David
- 1 and 2 Samuel tells the stories of Samuel, Saul, and David





SOUTH

JORDAN
EAST

EGYPT

Mediterranean Sea

WEST

Philistines live in cities along the coast

Jebus
Jérusalem

Gibeon
Saul's home

Ramah
Samuel's home
15 MI/24 KM to Shiloh

Mizpah
Bethel

*Israelites live mainly in the hills
out of reach of raiders on chariots.*

SHILOH

Samuel grew up here, raised by Priest Eli

SHILOH

ISRAEL'S WORSHIP CENTER

Philistines rout Israel's army, steal the Ark of the Covenant and probably destroy Shiloh's worship facilities because after Priest Eli dies that day, Bible writers never mention it again.

Israel's tent worship center

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Elkanah and Hannah, and the birth of Samuel

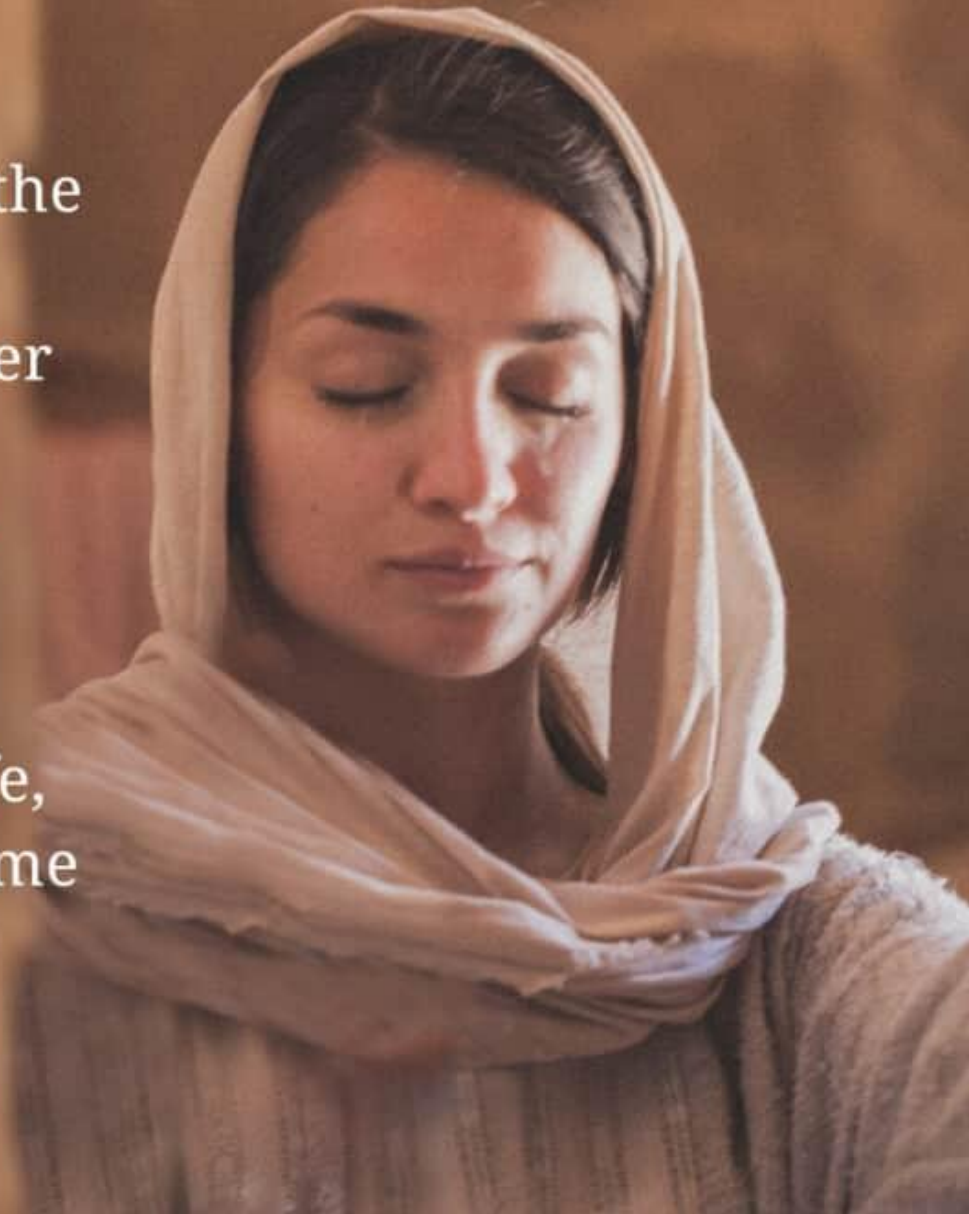
Hannah: Most pious woman of OT:

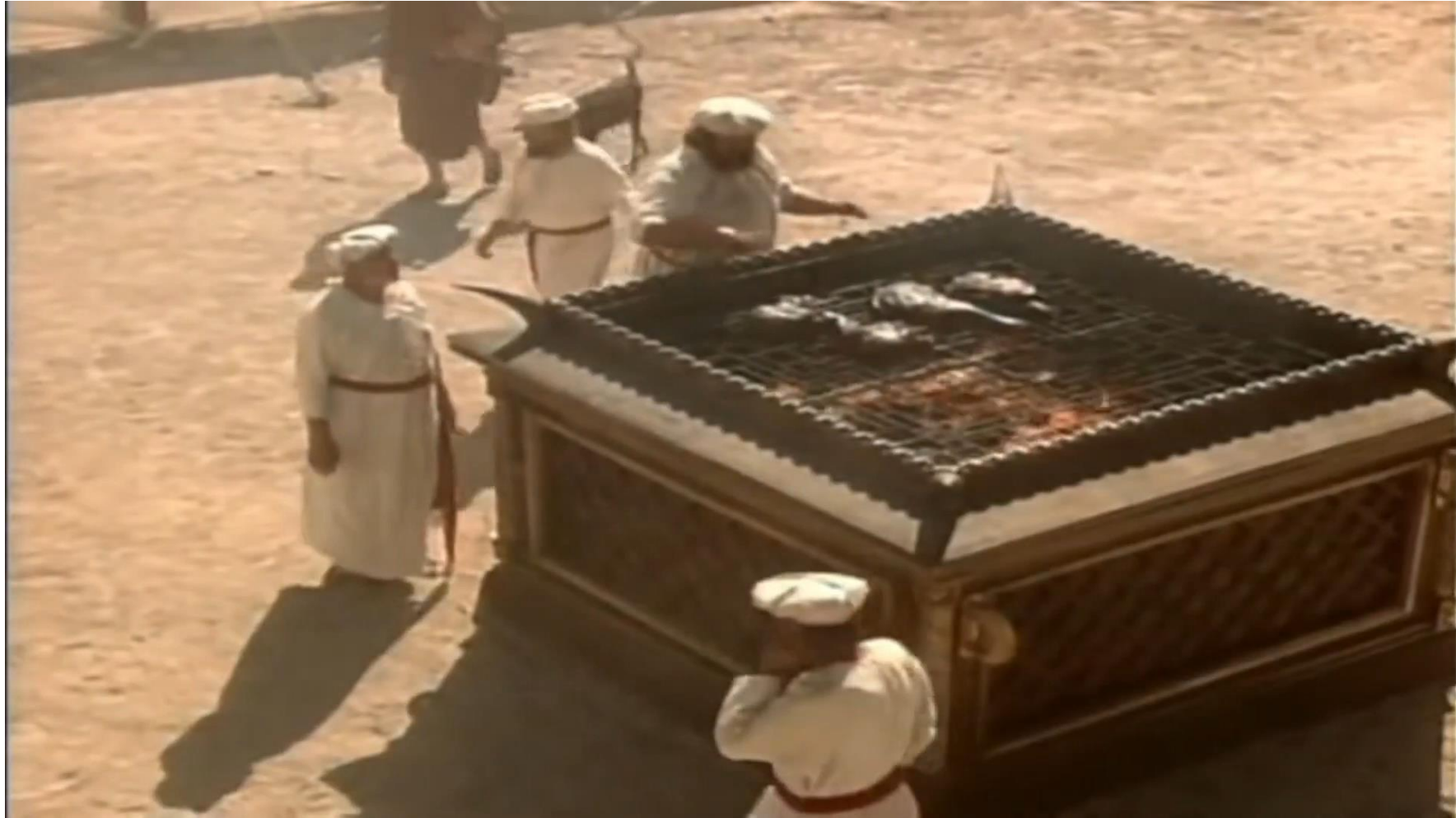
- Only woman mentioned to:
 - go to Lord's house
 - make and fulfill a vow
 - pray (twice)
- Her 2nd prayer is among longest recorded in OT
- The most recorded utterances of Yahweh's name by a woman (18)
- First person to use term "Lord Almighty"



“O LORD of hosts,
if You will indeed look on the
affliction of Your
maidservant and remember
me, and not forget Your
maidservant, but will give
Your maidservant a son,
then I will give him to the
LORD all the days of his life,
and a razor shall never come
on his head.”

1 Samuel 1:11, NASB





And Hannah prayed and said:
"My heart rejoice in the Lord;
My horn is exalted in the Lord.
I smile at my enemies because I
rejoice in Your
salvation.
1 Samuel 2:1



There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

1 Samuel 2:2

Eli's Family

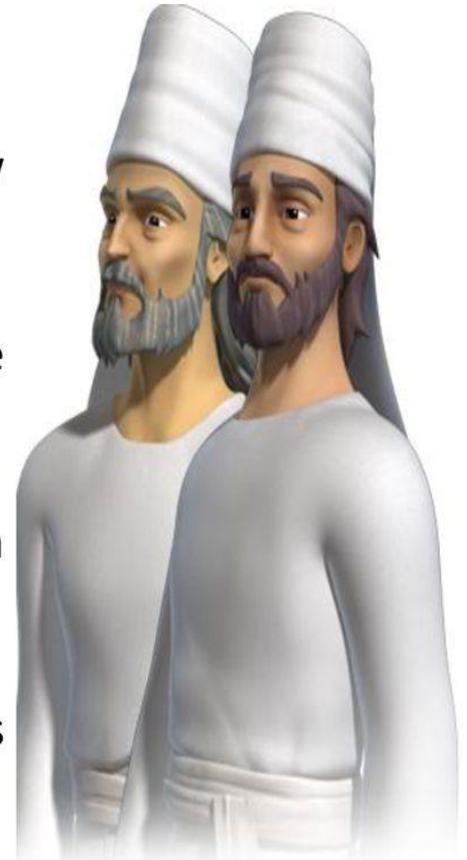
Who is Eli? (1 Samuel 1-4)

- † He was the priest & a judge in Israel for about 40 years. (1 Samuel 1:9)
- † He was also the father of two sons – Hophni & Phinehas. (1 Samuel 1:3)
- † He was also the spiritual father to the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 2:11).



Who are Hophni & Phinehas?

- † Worthless men who did not know the Lord (1 Samuel 2:12).
- † Defiled the sacrifice of the Lord (1 Samuel 2:13-17).
- † Committed adultery with women (1 Samuel 2:22).
- † Rebellious at Eli, their father's rebuke (1 Samuel 2:25).





Samuel's Calling

1 Samuel 3:19-21

¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.

²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹ The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

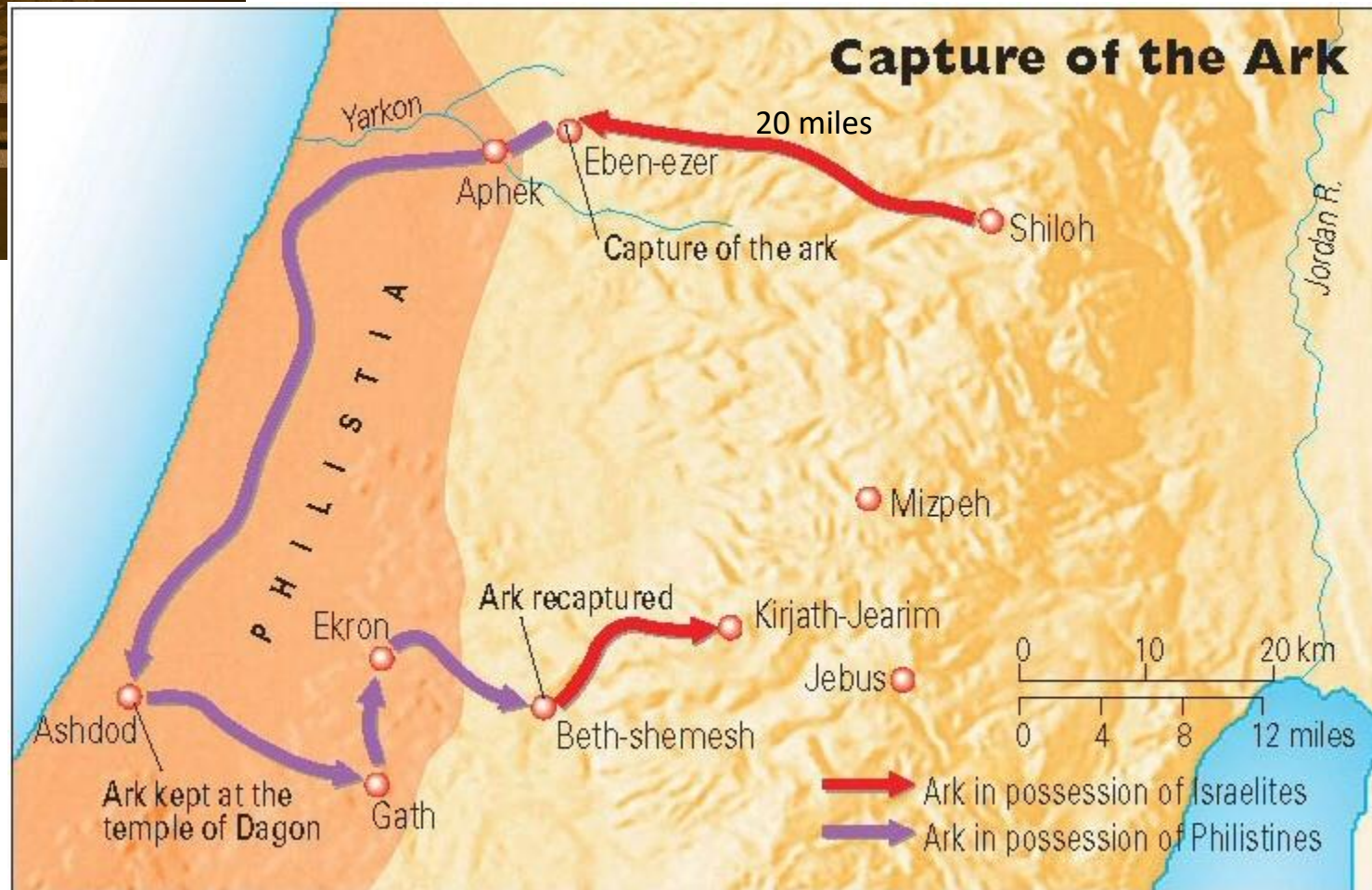


THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THE PHILISTINES

1 SAMUEL 5-6



Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight.



1 Samuel 7



¹ So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They brought it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD. ² The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time—twenty years in all.

Then all the people of Israel turned back to the LORD. ³ So Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

⁵ Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you." ⁶ When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah.

1 Samuel 7



⁷ When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. ⁸ They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” ⁹ Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him.

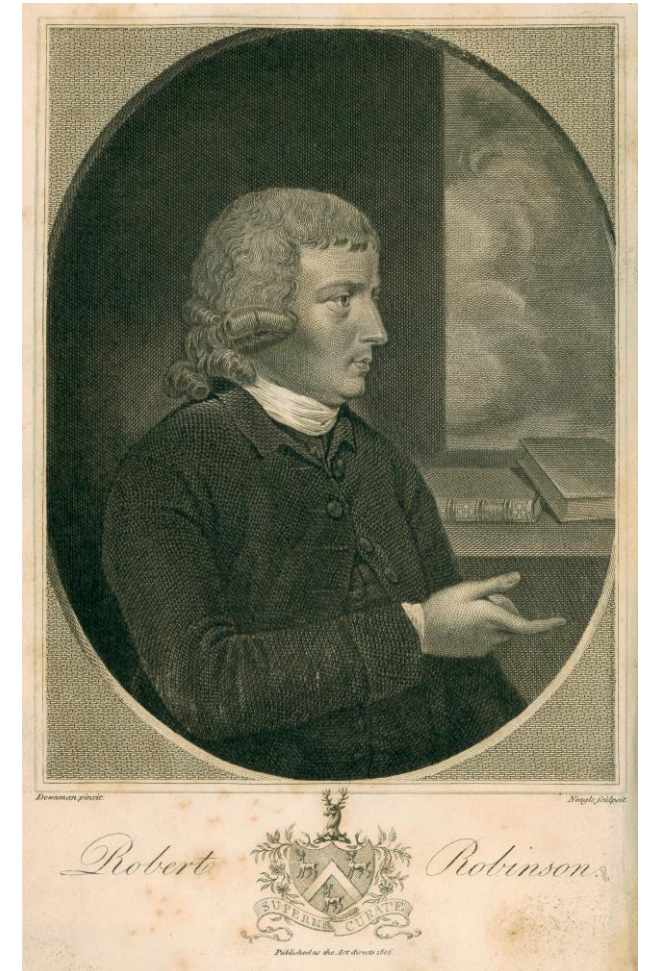
¹⁰ While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. ¹¹ The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar.

1 Samuel 7



¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

- *Come Thou Fount*
- *Robert Robinson (1757, age 22)*
- *Ebenezer = “stone of help”*
- *“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.”*



*Come Thou
Fount*



1 Samuel 7



¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel's territory. Throughout Samuel's lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. ¹⁴ The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life. ¹⁶ From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places. ¹⁷ But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD.



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Israel Asks for a King



King Saul

Themes and Key Takeaways





The Nation of Israel

Schedule

1. Overview
2. Israel's Dark Ages: Judges
3. Lights Amid the Darkness: Ruth and Samuel
4. Beginnings of the Monarchy in Israel
 - 1 Sam 8-15
5. Prelude to the reign of David
 - 1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam 5
6. The reign of David
 - 2 Sam 6 - ; 1 Chronicles 28
7. The reign of Solomon
 - 1 Kings 3, 2 Chron 5, 1 Kings 8,11
8. The division of the kingdom and early ministry of Elijah
 - 1 Kings 12-18
9. The divided monarchy in the times of Elijah and Elisha
 - 1 Kings 21-22, 2 Kings 5-7
10. The divided monarch from Jehu to the fall of the northern kingdom
 - 2 Kings 9-17
11. The kingdom of Judah from Hezekiah to the fall of Jerusalem
 - 2 Chron 30, 2 Kings 19-34



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THROUGH-THE-BIBLE COMMENTARY

OLD TESTAMENT VOLUME TWO

The History of Israel

compiled by Douglas Redford

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Attributes of OT Historical Books

- Anonymous
- Not dated, but...
- Written in Hebrew
- Samuel, Kings, Chronicles were later divided into two sections.
- Genre: Story narratives
- Books of history or theology?

