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1 Samuel: A Study Outline

Old Testament Digest, Volume 2

From the *Old Testament Digest* of William MacDonald

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1 Samuel

A study outline from William MacDonald's *Old Testament Digest, Volume 2* · online: kee-ministry-library.netlify.app/.../outline/1-samuel

Overview of 1 Samuel

First and Second Samuel were originally one book, and its three main figures are Samuel the prophet-judge, Saul the rejected king and David the shepherd-king. MacDonald shows Samuel raised up to close the period of the judges and open the era of the kings, in a day when the priesthood of Eli had failed and the prophetic ministry was beginning. The book follows the loss and return of the ark, Israel's demand for a king like the nations, Saul's downward slide through disobedience, and David's long years as a hunted fugitive before Saul dies on Mount Gilboa.

Key themes

- Obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22)
- God looks on the heart, not the outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Failure of the priesthood and the rise of the prophets
- Wanting to be like the nations rather than a holy people
- Faith that acts: Jonathan at Michmash and David before Goliath
- Waiting for God's time rather than seizing the throne
- Loyal friendship and encouragement in the Lord

Christ in 1 Samuel. MacDonald sees David in the cave of Adullam as a type of Christ in His present rejection, gathering the distressed, the indebted and the discontented and making them mighty men. Prophet (Gad), priest (Abiathar) and king (David), all in exile together, picture Christ as He waits until His enemies are made His footstool. He notes that some see a messianic hint in the "faithful priest" of 1 Samuel 2:35, and that Hannah's song looks on to the reign of Christ. The intercession over a lamb at Mizpeh points to Calvary's Lamb.

Read 1 Samuel in the NET Bible: 1 Samuel 1 · MacDonald's full commentary: 1 Samuel in the Digest

MacDonald's Outline of 1 Samuel

I. Samuel's Ministry (Until the Anointing of Saul) (1 Samuel 1–9)
- A. Birth and call of Samuel (1 Samuel 1–3)
- B. Loss and recovery of the ark (1 Samuel 4–7)
- C. King demanded and chosen (1 Samuel 8–9)

II. Saul's Reign (Until His Rejection) (1 Samuel 10–15)
- A. Anointing and confirmation (1 Samuel 10–11)
- B. Rebuke and charge to the people (1 Samuel 12)
- C. Disobedience and rejection (1 Samuel 13–15)

III. David's Life (Until the Death of Saul) (1 Samuel 16–30)
- A. Anointing by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1–13)
- B. Ministering to Saul (1 Samuel 16:14–23)
- C. Defeating Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- D. Marrying Michal (1 Samuel 18)
- E. Fleeing from Saul (1 Samuel 19–26)
  1. Jonathan's loyalty (1 Samuel 19–20)
  2. Ahimelech's kindness and death (1 Samuel 21–22)
  3. Keilah's betrayal (1 Samuel 23)
  4. Saul spared (1 Samuel 24)
  5. Nabal's folly (1 Samuel 25)
  6. Saul spared a second time (1 Samuel 26)
- F. Living in Philistia (1 Samuel 27–30)
  1. Ziklag acquired (1 Samuel 27)
  2. Saul's doom foretold (1 Samuel 28)
  3. David discharged by Achish (1 Samuel 29)
  4. Amalekites defeated (1 Samuel 30)

IV. Saul's Death (1 Samuel 31)

1 · Hannah's Prayer and Samuel's Birth

1 Samuel 1

MacDonald tells how barren Hannah poured out her heart to the Lord, vowed her son to Him, and gave Samuel back to God.

I. Elkanah's divided home — 1 Samuel 1:1–8
- A. Hannah (grace) and Peninnah (pearl); polygamy recorded, never approved
- B. Peninnah's yearly taunts

II. Hannah's vow at Shiloh — 1 Samuel 1:9–11
- A. A son given back to God, a Nazarite

III. Eli mistakes her for drunk, then blesses her — 1 Samuel 1:12–18

IV. Samuel, "asked of God," born and dedicated — 1 Samuel 1:19–28

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 6:22–28

LESSONS

- The way to obtain any benefit is to devote it in our hearts to God's glory.
- Hannah mourned physical barrenness; we should mourn our spiritual barrenness.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Samuel's parentage
- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Samuel's birth
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 16 (Practical 1)* (John Nelson Darby) — Darby, "Thoughts on 1 Samuel 1 and 2"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Papers on Christian Living* (William Kelly)
- *Basic Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 1 →

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2 · Hannah's Song and Eli's Wicked Sons

1 Samuel 2

MacDonald contrasts the devotion of Hannah and Samuel with the corruption of Eli's sons, and the prophecy of doom on Eli's house.

I. Hannah's song of thanksgiving — 1 Samuel 2:1–10
   A. From a domestic quarrel to Israel's triumph and Christ's reign

II. Eli's sons, who did not know the Lord — 1 Samuel 2:12–17
   A. They robbed the offerers and despised the Lord's offering (Leviticus 7:28–34)

III. The child Samuel ministering — 1 Samuel 2:18–21
   A. Hannah blessed with three more sons and two daughters

IV. Eli's mild rebuke, too late — 1 Samuel 2:22–26

V. A man of God pronounces doom on Eli's house — 1 Samuel 2:27–36
   A. Fulfilled at Nob, in Abiathar's removal, and in Hophni and Phinehas
   B. A faithful priest: Zadok (1 Kings 2:27; Ezekiel 44:15)

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 7:28–34 1 Kings 2:27 Ezekiel 44:15 Luke 6:38

LESSONS

- A father who honors his sons above God shares their guilt.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp, "His Mother's Song"
- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Eli, Samuel's predecessor

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Basic Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Articles by James Naismith* (James Naismith)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 2 →

3 · The Lord Calls Samuel

1 Samuel 3

MacDonald describes the night the boy Samuel heard the Lord's voice and received the message of judgment on Eli.

I. A dark day: rare visions, a dimming lamp, a dim-eyed priest — 1 Samuel 3:1–3

II. Three calls mistaken for Eli — 1 Samuel 3:4–9

III. "Speak; for thy servant heareth" — 1 Samuel 3:10

IV. The message of judgment confirmed — 1 Samuel 3:11–14

V. Samuel tells Eli; Eli submits — 1 Samuel 3:15–18

VI. All Israel knows Samuel is a prophet — 1 Samuel 3:19–21

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 10

LESSONS

- God's judgment on careless leaders is sure; two witnesses confirmed Eli's doom.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp, "His Call"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 3 →

4 · The Ark Captured

1 Samuel 4

MacDonald shows Israel treating the ark as a charm and losing it, with the deaths of Eli and his sons.

I. Defeat at Ebenezer — 1 Samuel 4:1–2

II. The ark brought into battle — 1 Samuel 4:3–9

A. God would not defend those who had ceased to honor Him

III. 30,000 slain; the ark taken; Hophni and Phinehas dead — 1 Samuel 4:10–11

IV. Eli falls and dies — 1 Samuel 4:12–18

V. Ichabod: the glory has departed — 1 Samuel 4:19–22

LESSONS

- God defends His honor, but not a people who use Him for their own ends.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Romans: Verse by Verse* (William R. Newell)
- *The Book of Ezra* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 4 →

5 · The Ark among the Philistines

1 Samuel 5

MacDonald describes Dagon falling before the ark and the plagues that sent it from city to city.

I. The ark beside Dagon at Ashdod — 1 Samuel 5:1–5
  A. Dagon fallen, then headless and handless: no wisdom or power in idols

II. Plague at Ashdod — 1 Samuel 5:6–8

III. Plague at Gath — 1 Samuel 5:9

IV. Terror at Ekron — 1 Samuel 5:10–12

CROSS REFERENCES

Judges 16:23–30

LESSONS

- If Dagon were a real god he could have defended himself; idolaters should face the facts.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by James Gunn* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 5 →

6 · The Ark Returns

1 Samuel 6

MacDonald explains how the Philistines sent the ark home on a cart drawn by cows, and the judgment at Beth-shemesh.

I. The priests' counsel: a trespass offering — 1 Samuel 6:1–6
  A. Golden tumors and mice; likely bubonic plague

II. The test of the milk cows — 1 Samuel 6:7–12
  A. Against nature, straight toward Beth-shemesh

III. Rejoicing and sacrifice at Beth-shemesh — 1 Samuel 6:13–18

IV. Men smitten for looking into the ark — 1 Samuel 6:19–21
  A. 70 men, likely, rather than 50,070

LESSONS

- Like the cows, missionaries leave home and go wherever the Lord leads, ready for service or sacrifice.
- The ark of God must be treated as holy.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Revelation* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 6 →

7 · Revival at Mizpeh

1 Samuel 7

MacDonald calls this chapter a study in revival: repentance, intercession over a lamb, and victory.

I. Twenty years at Kirjath-jearim — 1 Samuel 7:1–2

II. Samuel calls for repentance; idols put away — 1 Samuel 7:3–4

III. Gathering at Mizpeh; water poured out, fasting, confession — 1 Samuel 7:5–6

IV. The Philistines attack; Samuel prays over a lamb — 1 Samuel 7:7–10

A. God thunders and routs the enemy

V. Ebenezer: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" — 1 Samuel 7:12

VI. Peace for a time; Samuel the circuit judge — 1 Samuel 7:13–17

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 23:26–31

LESSONS

- The steps to revival: a man of God, repentance, confession and cleansing, intercession through the blood, and then victory.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Samuel's early ministry
- *Articles by James Gunn* (James Gunn) — Gunn, "Ebenezer"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 7 →

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8 · Israel Demands a King

1 Samuel 8

MacDonald shows Israel rejecting the Lord as King because they wanted to be like the nations.

I. Samuel's sons pervert justice — 1 Samuel 8:1–3

II. "Make us a king ... like all the nations" — 1 Samuel 8:4–5

III. Not Samuel but the Lord rejected — 1 Samuel 8:6–9

IV. The manner of the king — 1 Samuel 8:10–18

A. He will take sons, daughters, fields and flocks

V. The people insist; the Lord says, give them a king — 1 Samuel 8:19–22

A. Provided for in the law because God foresaw it (Deuteronomy 17:14–20)

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 17:14–20

LESSONS

- God's people were meant to be holy and different; wanting to be like the world is rejecting Him.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Samuel's twenty-year silence

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 4 (Ecclesiastical 2)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Basic Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *The Dynamic Church* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 8 →

9 · Saul Meets Samuel

1 Samuel 9

MacDonald tells how the search for lost donkeys brought Saul to the prophet who had been told to anoint him.

I. Saul, son of Kish, a Benjamite — 1 Samuel 9:1–2

II. Searching for the donkeys — 1 Samuel 9:3–14

III. The Lord had told Samuel the day before — 1 Samuel 9:15–17

IV. Honored at the feast — 1 Samuel 9:18–24

  A. Benjamin the smallest tribe (Judges 20)

V. A private word on the housetop — 1 Samuel 9:25–27

CROSS REFERENCES

Judges 20

LESSONS

- Little did Saul realize that the prophet was looking for him; God directs ordinary errands to His purposes.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp, "His Ministry Resumed"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *At the Master's Feet* (Sadhu Sundar Singh)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by Alfred P. Gibbs* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 9 →

10 · Saul Anointed King

1 Samuel 10

MacDonald describes Saul's private anointing, the three signs, and his public selection at Mizpeh.

I. Anointed with oil — 1 Samuel 10:1

  A. As the priests were (Leviticus 8:12)

II. Three signs to confirm the word — 1 Samuel 10:2–8

III. A changed heart for office, not conversion — 1 Samuel 10:9

IV. "Is Saul also among the prophets?" — 1 Samuel 10:10–13

V. Silence with his uncle about the kingdom — 1 Samuel 10:14–16

VI. Chosen by lot at Mizpeh; found hiding among the baggage — 1 Samuel 10:17–24

  A. Matthew Henry's four reasons he may have hidden

VII. Some despise him — 1 Samuel 10:25–27

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 8:12

LESSONS

- A man may be equipped by the Spirit for an office without knowing God personally.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

- *1 Corinthians: An Expository Commentary* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 10 →

11 · Saul Rescues Jabesh-gilead

1 Samuel 11

MacDonald shows Saul's first victory over the Ammonites and the kingdom renewed at Gilgal.

I. Nahash threatens to gouge out right eyes — 1 Samuel 11:1–3

II. Saul summons Israel by an object lesson — 1 Samuel 11:4–8

III. Jabesh delivered — 1 Samuel 11:9–11

IV. Saul spares his critics: the Lord gave the victory — 1 Samuel 11:12–13

V. The kingdom renewed at Gilgal — 1 Samuel 11:14–15

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 5:9

LESSONS

- Gilgal speaks of spiritual renewal.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 14 (Ecclesiastical 3)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 29 (Doctrinal 8)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Articles by William Belch* (William Belch)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 11 →

12 · Samuel's Farewell Address

1 Samuel 12

MacDonald summarizes Samuel's defense of his own record and his warning, sealed by thunder in harvest.

I. Samuel's integrity as judge — 1 Samuel 12:1–5

II. Review of God's deliverers — 1 Samuel 12:6–13

A. "Bedan," probably Barak

III. If you obey, blessing; if not, judgment — 1 Samuel 12:14–15

IV. Thunder and rain at wheat harvest — 1 Samuel 12:16–19

V. "God forbid that I should sin … in ceasing to pray for you" — 1 Samuel 12:20–25

LESSONS

- Prayerlessness is sin, not just carelessness.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp, "His Resignation"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 4 (Ecclesiastical 2)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 12 →

13 · Saul's Presumptuous Sacrifice

1 Samuel 13

MacDonald shows Saul, pressed by circumstances, offering the burnt offering himself and losing the kingdom.

I. The text difficulty in verse 1 — 1 Samuel 13:1

II. Jonathan strikes Geba; the Philistines muster — 1 Samuel 13:2–5

III. Israel's cowardice — 1 Samuel 13:6–7

IV. Saul offers the sacrifice himself — 1 Samuel 13:8–9

- A. Expediency over obedience; he was not a Levite

V. "Thy kingdom shall not continue" — 1 Samuel 13:10–14

- A. A man after God's own heart already chosen
- B. The first of several sins that cost Saul the throne

VI. No smith in Israel — 1 Samuel 13:15–23

LESSONS

- Valid-seeming excuses do not change the fact of disobedience.
- Lateness on another's part does not justify intruding into what God has not given us to do.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Acts* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 13 →

14 · Jonathan's Victory and Saul's Folly

1 Samuel 14

MacDonald contrasts Jonathan's daring faith at Michmash with Saul's rash curse, which weakened the victory.

I. Jonathan and his armor-bearer climb to the garrison — 1 Samuel 14:1–15

- A. "There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few" — 1 Samuel 14:6

II. Panic among the Philistines — 1 Samuel 14:16–23

- A. Saul stops seeking the Lord's will

III. Saul's rash oath against eating — 1 Samuel 14:24–30

IV. The people eat with the blood — 1 Samuel 14:31–35

- A. In violation of — Leviticus 17:10–14

V. The lot falls on Jonathan; the people rescue him — 1 Samuel 14:36–46

VI. Saul's wars and family — 1 Samuel 14:47–52

CROSS REFERENCES

Leviticus 17:10–14 Deuteronomy 12:23–25 1 Samuel 8:11

LESSONS

- Everyone wants to fight when victory is nearly won; where are the Jonathans to make the first move?

RELATED READING

- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "Jonathan"

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby) — Darby, "Jonathan: A Word on Working with God"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Because Ye Belong to Christ* (John R. Caldwell)
- *From the Editor's Notebook: Editorials* (W. Ross Rainey)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 14 →

15 · Saul Rejected

1 Samuel 15

MacDonald describes Saul's partial obedience against Amalek and Samuel's word that to obey is better than sacrifice.

I. The command to destroy Amalek — 1 Samuel 15:1–3
  A. For what they did on the way from Egypt (Exodus 17:14–16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19)

II. The Kenites warned; Amalek defeated — 1 Samuel 15:4–7

III. Agag and the best spoil spared — 1 Samuel 15:8–9

IV. Samuel cries all night — 1 Samuel 15:10–11

V. Saul's monument and his excuses — 1 Samuel 15:12–21

VI. "To obey is better than sacrifice" — 1 Samuel 15:22–23

VII. Saul's show of repentance; the torn robe — 1 Samuel 15:24–31

VIII. Agag executed — 1 Samuel 15:32–33

IX. God does not change (1 Samuel 15:29), yet He "repented" (1 Samuel 15:35)

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 17:14–16 Deuteronomy 25:17–19 Numbers 24:20

LESSONS

- Obedience first, last and always is the watchword of those who would please the Lord.
- God is unchangeable in character; a change in man's conduct requires a corresponding change in God's dealings.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 15 →

16 · David Anointed

1 Samuel 16

MacDonald tells of the shepherd boy chosen by God's heart-searching eye and brought into Saul's court as a musician.

I. Samuel sent to Bethlehem — 1 Samuel 16:1–5
  A. Secrecy is not deceit

II. Jesse's sons pass by — 1 Samuel 16:6–10
  A. "The Lord looketh on the heart" — 1 Samuel 16:7

III. David anointed; the Spirit comes on him — 1 Samuel 16:11–13

IV. The Spirit leaves Saul; an evil spirit troubles him — 1 Samuel 16:14

A. What God permits He is often said to do

V. David's music soothes the king — 1 Samuel 16:15–23

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 13:14

LESSONS

- The outer man is not nearly as important as the inner man.

RELATED READING

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp, "His Successor"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 16 →

17 · David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17

MacDonald retells David's victory over the giant as the triumph of a faith already proved in private.

I. Goliath's daily challenge — 1 Samuel 17:1–11

II. David arrives with supplies — 1 Samuel 17:12–30

A. Rebuked by his brothers

III. Before Saul: the lion and the bear — 1 Samuel 17:31–37

A. He had proved God in private; he could trust Him in public

IV. Saul's armor refused — 1 Samuel 17:38–40

V. The stone and the sword — 1 Samuel 17:41–54

VI. "Whose son is this?" — 1 Samuel 17:55–58

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 16:21 1 Samuel 18:18

LESSONS

- We cannot take on the whole enemy force, but we can take the field where we are; God takes care of the rest.

RELATED READING

- *Archaeology and the Bible* (Gordon Franz) — Franz, "David, Goliath and Tabloid Archaeology"
- *Men of the Mountains & Valleys* (T. Ernest Wilson) — Wilson, "David and Mount Zion"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Our Lord Jesus Christ, "A Plant of Renown"* (Leonard Sheldrake)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 17 →

18 · Jonathan's Love and Saul's Jealousy

1 Samuel 18

MacDonald shows the covenant between Jonathan and David and Saul's growing jealousy and schemes.

I. Jonathan's love; the robe given — 1 Samuel 18:1–5

II. "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" — 1 Samuel 18:6–9

III. Saul's spear — 1 Samuel 18:10–11

IV. David made captain of a thousand — 1 Samuel 18:12–16

V. Merab promised, then given away — 1 Samuel 18:17–19

VI. Michal for a hundred Philistine foreskins — 1 Samuel 18:20–27

VII. Saul's fear grows — 1 Samuel 18:28–30

LESSONS

- Jonathan was willing to forgo his right to the throne to see David crowned.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "Jonathan"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *What's the Answer? 362 Answers to Bible Questions* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 18 →

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19 · David Flees from Saul

1 Samuel 19

MacDonald describes Jonathan's intercession, Michal's ruse, and Saul overpowered by the Spirit at Ramah.

I. Jonathan pleads for David — 1 Samuel 19:1–7

II. Saul's spear again — 1 Samuel 19:8–10

III. Michal lets David down through a window — 1 Samuel 19:11–17

IV. David with Samuel at Ramah — 1 Samuel 19:18–24

A. Three companies of messengers prophesy

B. Saul himself overcome, lying "naked" (without royal garments)

LESSONS

- Men of God go to other men of God in time of trouble.
- Being overpowered by God's Spirit is not the same as conversion.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Articles by Gordon Franz* (Gordon Franz)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 19 →

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20 · Jonathan's Arrows

1 Samuel 20

MacDonald tells of the test at the new moon feast, Saul's rage against his son, and the tearful parting of the friends.

I. David and Jonathan plan a test — 1 Samuel 20:1–9

II. The covenant renewed — 1 Samuel 20:10–17

A. Jonathan knew David would be king

III. The sign of the arrows — 1 Samuel 20:18–23

IV. Saul's rage; his spear thrown at Jonathan — 1 Samuel 20:24–34

V. The parting in the field — 1 Samuel 20:35–42

LESSONS

- Unselfish devotion seeks another's good above one's own rights.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "Jonathan"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *The Parables* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 20 →

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21 · David at Nob and Gath

1 Samuel 21

MacDonald notes David's lies to the priest and his feigned madness at Gath, and the lessons he learned.

I. The showbread and Goliath's sword at Nob — 1 Samuel 21:1–9

A. David's lies; Doeg the Edomite watching

B. The Lord's use of this event (Matthew 12:3–4)

II. Feigning madness before Achish — 1 Samuel 21:10–15

III. Read Psalm 34, written at this time

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 12:3–4 Psalm 34

LESSONS

- Even great men have feet of clay.
- David had a remarkable resilience that let him grow in knowing God despite his failures.

RELATED READING

- *ID-votional Thoughts* (Ingimar DeRidder) — DeRidder, "Goliath's Sword"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *The Gospel of Matthew* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 21 →

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22 · Adullam and the Slaughter at Nob

1 Samuel 22

MacDonald describes the band of misfits gathered to David and Saul's murder of the priests through Doeg.

I. The cave of Adullam — 1 Samuel 22:1–2

A. The distressed, the indebted, the discontented

B. David a type of Christ in His present rejection

II. David's parents taken to Moab — 1 Samuel 22:3–4

III. Gad: leave the stronghold — 1 Samuel 22:5

IV. Saul's paranoid rant — 1 Samuel 22:6–8

V. Doeg's report and the massacre of 85 priests — 1 Samuel 22:9–19

VI. Abiathar escapes to David — 1 Samuel 22:20–23

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 23 Ruth 4:17 1 Kings 2:27 1 Samuel 2:31–36

LESSONS

- Prophet, priest and king in exile together picture Christ waiting until His enemies are made His footstool.

RELATED READING

- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "David's Companions and Paul's Friends"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *An Exposition of the Gospel of Mark* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 22 →

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23 · Keilah and the Wilderness

1 Samuel 23

MacDonald shows David saving Keilah, guided by the ephod, betrayed by Ziph, and strengthened by Jonathan.

I. David delivers Keilah — 1 Samuel 23:1–5

II. The Lord warns him Keilah will betray him — 1 Samuel 23:6–13

III. Jonathan strengthens his hand in God — 1 Samuel 23:14–18

IV. The Ziphites betray him — 1 Samuel 23:19–24

V. Saul called away by a Philistine raid — 1 Samuel 23:25–29

LESSONS

- The church would benefit greatly from more encouragers like Jonathan.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Bible* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 23 →

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24 · David Spares Saul at En-gedi

1 Samuel 24

MacDonald describes David cutting off Saul's skirt in the cave but refusing to touch the Lord's anointed.

I. Saul in the cave — 1 Samuel 24:1–4

II. David's tender conscience — 1 Samuel 24:5–7

III. David's appeal to Saul — 1 Samuel 24:8–15

A. "A dead dog … a flea"

IV. Saul weeps and admits David will be king — 1 Samuel 24:16–22

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 2:23

LESSONS

- David left his case in the hands of God, as our Lord kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Everyone Has a Psalm* (R. Edward Harlow)
- *Biblical Expositions, Lectures, Sketches of Sermons* (Henry Craik)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 24 →

25 · Nabal and Abigail

1 Samuel 25

MacDonald tells of Samuel's death, Nabal's folly, and Abigail's wise plea that kept David from bloodshed.

I. Samuel dies — 1 Samuel 25:1

II. Nabal's rude refusal — 1 Samuel 25:2–13

III. Abigail's gift and plea — 1 Samuel 25:14–31

A. Do not take vengeance; leave it to the Lord

IV. David thanks God for her counsel — 1 Samuel 25:32–35

V. Nabal dies; Abigail becomes David's wife — 1 Samuel 25:36–44

CROSS REFERENCES

Luke 14:11

LESSONS

- The Lord knows how to bring the right people into our lives to warn and direct us.
- Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Facts and Theories as to a Future State* (F. W. Grant)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 25 →

26 · David Spares Saul Again

1 Samuel 26

MacDonald shows David taking Saul's spear and water jug and once more refusing to harm the Lord's anointed.

I. The Ziphites betray David again — 1 Samuel 26:1–4

II. Into Saul's camp by night — 1 Samuel 26:5–12

A. A deep sleep from the Lord

III. David taunts Abner — 1 Samuel 26:13–16

IV. David's plea to Saul — 1 Samuel 26:17–20

V. Saul confesses he has played the fool — 1 Samuel 26:21–25

LESSONS

- It was the Lord's responsibility, not David's, to deal with Saul.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Articles by James Blackwood* (James Blackwood)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 26 →

27 · David among the Philistines

1 Samuel 27

MacDonald traces David's lapse of faith that took him to Achish and Ziklag.

I. "I shall now perish one day" — 1 Samuel 27:1
  A. Present danger often obscures the promises of God

II. Welcomed by Achish — 1 Samuel 27:2–4

III. Ziklag given to David — 1 Samuel 27:5–7

IV. Raids on Canaanite enemies; lies to Achish — 1 Samuel 27:8–12

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 17:14 Joshua 13:13 1 Samuel 15:2–3

LESSONS

- David could trust the Lord for victory over Israel's enemies but not for protection from Saul.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Book of Genesis* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 27 →

28 · Saul and the Medium of En-dor

1 Samuel 28

MacDonald describes Saul, abandoned by God, seeking out a medium, and Samuel's appearance to pronounce his doom.

I. David's double-edged answer to Achish — 1 Samuel 28:1–2

II. The armies gather; God does not answer Saul — 1 Samuel 28:3–6

III. Saul seeks a medium — 1 Samuel 28:7–14
  A. He had expelled them himself

IV. Samuel appears — 1 Samuel 28:15–19
  A. Likely God sent the real Samuel, to the medium's alarm
  B. "Tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me"

V. Saul's last meal — 1 Samuel 28:20–25

LESSONS

- Saul and Jonathan died together but did not share the same eternal destiny.

RELATED READING

- *ID-votional Thoughts* (Ingimar DeRidder) — DeRidder, "Can You Hear Me?"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *From the Editor's Notebook: Cults* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *From the Editor's Notebook: Editorials* (W. Ross Rainey)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 28 →

29 · David Sent Back from Battle

1 Samuel 29

MacDonald shows God saving David from fighting against his own people through the suspicion of the

Philistine lords.

I. The Philistine lords object to David — 1 Samuel 29:1–5

II. Achish sends him home — 1 Samuel 29:6–11

A. David's protest unworthy of a man of God

LESSONS

- God sometimes delivers us from the consequences of our own compromises.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Papers on the Church* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 29 →

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30 · Ziklag Burned and Recovered

1 Samuel 30

MacDonald tells how David strengthened himself in the Lord after Ziklag was burned, recovered everything, and shared the spoil.

I. Ziklag burned; families captive — 1 Samuel 30:1–5

II. "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" — 1 Samuel 30:6

III. Inquiring of the Lord and pursuing — 1 Samuel 30:7–10

A. 200 too weary at the brook Besor

IV. The sick Egyptian — 1 Samuel 30:11–15

V. All recovered — 1 Samuel 30:16–20

VI. Those who stayed by the stuff share alike — 1 Samuel 30:21–25

VII. Gifts to the elders of Judah — 1 Samuel 30:26–31

CROSS REFERENCES

Hosea 6:1 Numbers 31:27

LESSONS

- When everything and everyone is against us, God alone is the source of strength.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Lectures on First Corinthians* (H. A. Ironside)
- *1 Corinthians: An Expository Commentary* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 30 →

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31 · The Death of Saul

1 Samuel 31

MacDonald records Saul's defeat and suicide on Gilboa and the brave men of Jabesh who buried him.

I. Israel routed; Saul's sons slain — 1 Samuel 31:1–2

II. Saul takes his own life — 1 Samuel 31:3–6

III. The Philistines dishonor the bodies — 1 Samuel 31:7–10

IV. The men of Jabesh-gilead recover them — 1 Samuel 31:11–13

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Chronicles 10 1 Samuel 11

LESSONS

- Saul received the just recompense of his deeds, as David so often committed him to the Lord's justice.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Life of Christ* (Gordon Franz)
- *From the Editor's Notebook: Editorials* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *The Bible* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 31 →

Further reading on 1 Samuel

In the Faithful Men Library

- *The Life and Times of Samuel the Prophet* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Notes on 1 Samuel* (William Kelly)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 19 (Expository 1)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 4* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Articles by C. H. Mackintosh* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Articles by Leslie S. Rainey* (Leslie S. Rainey)

On plymouthbrethren.org

- "1 Samuel" (William Kelly, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "1 Samuel" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Thoughts On 1 Samuel" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Thoughts On 1 Samuel 1 And 2" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of David - A" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Jonathan" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "David's Companions and Paul's Friends" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "David, Goliath And Tabloid Archaelogy" (Gordon Franz, plymouthbrethren.org)

Every library book that cites 1 Samuel: Scripture index — 1 Samuel

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