

----- Samuel 20 years -----

2888a AM, 3597 JP, 1117 BC

386. The Israelites took courage from this great loss of the Philistines, and gathered together to a camp near Ebenezer (named by the prophet Samuel when, twenty-one years later, the Philistines were overthrown by him in the very same place). {#1Sa 4:1 7:12} There the Israelites lost four thousand men. When they sent for the ark of the covenant from Shiloh to be brought into the camp, the Philistines saw all that was at stake. During that battle the Philistines encouraged one another to be strong and fight lest, they said:

"we be forced hereafter to live in slavery under the Hebrews as they have been under us."

2908c AM, 3618 JP, 1096 BC

391. For twenty years after the ark had come to Kirjathjearim, {#1Sa 7:2} the Israelites were grievously oppressed by the Philistines. [L48] Finally, having been persuaded by Samuel, they returned to the Lord after abandoning all their idols. They came together at Mizpah, where they were said to have drawn water, that is, to have drawn tears from the bottom of their hearts and to have

poured them out before the Lord. {#1Sa 7:6} This perhaps symbolised some external effusion or pouring forth of water to signify their inward repentance and mourning for their sins. {#2Sa 14:14} Some would understand this as speaking of the penitents themselves. {#Ge 35:2 Ex 19:14} After their repentance, God immediately delivered the people of the Israelites from the invasion of the Philistines. {#1Sa 7:10,12 Jos 10:10,11} God sent a terrible thunder that terrified the Philistines. [E33] They abandoned all the cities of the Israelites which they had formerly held. {#1Sa 7:14} Several small garrisons were left in only a few places. {#1Sa 10:5} No more did they come to invade their borders, because they saw that the hand of the Lord was against them all the days of Samuel until Saul became king. {#1Sa 7:12} However, after Saul became king they returned again and oppressed Israel. When Samuel was old, he appointed his two sons to be judges over Israel at Beersheba. They did not serve the Lord like their father, but perverted judgment for rewards and bribes. {#1Sa 8:1-3} He did not retire completely, for from the passage {#1Sa 7:15-17} it appears that he continued judging the people by himself to his dying day.

2911c AM, 3621 JP, 1093 BC

394. The Philistines attacked Israel and took them captive, but Saul shook off their yoke and recovered his kingdom

again from their hands. {#1Sa 14:47} War with the Philistines continued for many years during Saul's reign. Since the war began eight years before David was born, it was before it ended that Samuel prophesied of David succeeding to the throne after Saul. The Lord hath sought him a man according to his own heart, and God hath commanded him to be ruler over his people. {#1Sa 13:14} The Philistines took from them all their smiths so they would have no weapons to fight with and no one to make any. Hence, when the day of battle came, only Saul and his son Jonathan had weapons. {#1Sa 13:19,22} [E34]

2941c AM, 3651 JP, 1063 BC

396. God had rejected Saul and his family from the kingdom. After mourning a long time about this, Samuel was sent by God to Bethlehem to anoint David as king. This occurred forty years before the rebellion of Absalom. {#1Sa 16:1 2Sa 15:7} David was a handsome-looking lad who was called away from shepherding his father's sheep. {#1Sa 16:11,12,18 2Sa 7:3 Ps 78:70,71} Because David was preferred over his older brothers and was being anointed in their presence, {#1Sa 16:13} they were envious of him. {#1Sa 17:28} David's brothers were as envious of him as Joseph's brothers were of him. David was also made king over Judah at the same age that Joseph was made ruler over Egypt. {#Ge 41:46 2Sa 5:4} From the day of his anointing, the Spirit of God came upon him, giving him his courage and wisdom. {#1Sa 16:13,18 18:5,13,14,30 2Sa 5:2} As a result of this, while Saul lived, he was made general

over all Israel and became a great warrior to fight the Lord's battles. {#1Sa 25:28} He became known as a prophet and the sweet Singer of Israel who, by his divine Psalms, would teach and instruct the people of God. {#Ac 2:30 2Sa 23:1,2} [L50]

2949c AM, 3659 JP, 1055 BC

401. King Achish planned to invade the Israelites with his Philistine army. He took David along with him. {#1Sa 28:1,2} While David was on the march with his six hundred men, he gathered a number of others from the tribe of Manasseh who joined him. {#1Ch 12:19} The Philistines were then encamped at Shunem and the Israelites were in Gilboa. {#1Sa 28:4}

402. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he became afraid and sought counsel from the Lord. Receiving no answer in a dream, or by Urim, or through his prophets, he went to Endor by night to consult with a witch. When she conjured up a vision of Samuel, Saul received the dreadful message:

“God shall deliver Israel, together with thyself, into the hands of the Philistines; and tomorrow, thou and thy children shalt be with me.” {#1Sa 28:5,6,19 1Ch 10:13,14}

443. Forty years after the anointing of David by Samuel, Absalom followed the advice of his chief counsellor Ahithophel and took possession of his father's kingdom. {#2Sa 15:7} This happened between the Passover and the Feast of Pentecost. Codomanus assumed this to be the season, from what Barzillai provided for David when he fled with new fruits and roasted grain. {#2Sa 17:28}

444. David composed the third and fifty-fifth psalms against the practices of Absalom and Ahithophel. {#Ps 3:1-8 55:1-23} Shimei, of the tribe of Benjamin, railed against David as he fled. {#2Sa 16:5} [L55]

1 Samuel 3

1. And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3. And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4. That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

5. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

8. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

9. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15. And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

16. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

17. And he said, What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.

19. And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.

21. And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.