

“The Book of 1st Samuel” (Route 66)

All right... Let’s turn in our Bibles, this morning, to the Book of 1st Samuel... This is REALLY an EXCITING Book of the Bible (which I probably say EVERY week, but)...

Today, I REALLY mean it... This is the PART of the study where I tell everybody to MAKE SURE that you go back **REGULARLY** and RE-VISIT the books we have covered up-to-this-point... simply because, if you DO, it’s just going to make SO MUCH MORE SENSE...

Like, “*True Confessions of a Pastor*” time... I’ve had people come up to me after a Bible study and say, “*I have no idea what you were talking about this morning.*”

And, I ask, “*When was the last time you were here?*” – And they say, “*About a month ago.*” – THAT’S WHY! – We are studying **THROUGH** the Bible!

If you skipped FOUR EPISODES of your favorite TV show... or SKIPPED four chapters in the NOVEL you were reading, you’d have a hard time following along... Because you haven’t **COMMITTED** TO IT...

Guys, COMMIT to the STUDY of scripture... You’ll be AMAZED at the things you’ll learn!

Okay... We are TRANSITIONING OUT of... the BLEAK Period of the Judges, and into the TIME OF THE KINGS... the MONARCHY...

In the Hebrew Bible, 1st and 2nd Samuel are accepted as **one** book... it isn’t until the Septuagint—around the 2nd Century BC—that they’re broken into TWO books.

In the Vulgate, 1st and 2nd Samuel are called 1st and 2nd Kings... What **WE** think of as 1st and 2nd Kings are called 3rd and 4th Kings... together, they’re known as “*The Books of the Kingdoms.*”

1st Samuel COVERS about 140 years—starting with the birth of SAMUEL, around 1150 BC—and ENDING with the death of Saul, about 1010 BC.

Now, we don’t know FOR SURE who WROTE this Book... We’d ASSUME that Samuel wrote it, but... he actually **DIES** six chapters before the end of the book (SPOILER ALERT!)...

It’s BEEN suggested that Samuel either wrote—or supplied the information for—the first TWENTY-FIVE CHAPTERS, and then... the REST of the book was written by somebody else.

Some have suggested Abiathar, the priest.... Others have said Nathan or Gad (both prophets)... Some have suggested a LATER editor, like Jeremiah or Ezra...

David Guzik writes: “[The books] are called... 1st and 2nd Samuel, **not** because Samuel wrote all of them, but because they describe his great ministry.” – And that’s **TRUE**...

Jon Courson writes: “Samuel was a transitional figure, in that he was the last Judge of Israel. However... although the Philistines plagued the land, Samuel didn’t deliver [Israel] physical... He delivered them spiritually. Samuel did not lead armies; he was a spiritual leader. He was a godly man who ministered to the people in the difficult days... between the time of the Judges and the rule of the Kings.”

The three main characters of this book are **Samuel, Saul, and David**. One author writes: “These three were important leaders whose actions would transition Israel from a group of tribes ruled by judges into a unified kingdom ruled by... David in Jerusalem.”

We see these three PICTURED... very neatly (I think) in 1st Samuel 15:28, which says: “**So Samuel said to him**”—SAUL—“**The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and... given it to a neighbor of yours who is better than you.**” – That’s DAVID...

There is **LOTS** we could talk about from 1st Samuel... The Philistines Capture of the Ark of the Covenant... Jonathan and his armor-bearer... Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice... David & Goliath, David & Jonathan, Saul’s pursuit of David, David living like an outlaw for years!

It’s a book of MYSTERY, and INTRIGUE, and ADVENTURE, and BETRAYAL! – But in the interest of TIME—we’re gonna USE **these three characters**—of SAMUEL, SAUL, and DAVID—to provide something of a **STRUCTURE** for our study, this morning.

Howard Vos writes: “The contents of Samuel can be outlined as follows: **THE JUDGESHIP OF SAMUEL** (in Chapters 1—7)... the **RISE OF SAUL** (in Chapters 8—15)... and the **DECLINE OF SAUL and THE RISE OF DAVID** (in Chapters 16—31).”

See, if I had to identify: “What is the **SPINE** of this book? – What **LARGER** story is the book seeking to tell? – Or, “How does it move the **OVERALL NARRATIVE** of the Old Testament forward?” – I would say this...

It sees the **END** of the Period of the Judges, under SAMUEL... The **ESTABLISHMENT** of the **FIRST KING** in Saul... and Saul’s **REJECTION** and **REPLACEMENT** as King, by David... By the **END** of the Book, David is **SET-UP** to **SIT ON THE THRONE** in 2nd Samuel...

In some ways, the “**PLOT**” of this book is set-up from the very beginning... In Chapter 2, a woman named HANNAH shares a **POEM**, or a **SONG**...

Now, I’m **NOT** going to read the **WHOLE THING**... But—in Verse 1—she says: “**My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD.**”

At the END of Verse 3, she says: “...**the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.**” – In Verse 4: “**The bows of the mighty men are broken... and those who stumbled are girded with strength.**”

In Verse 7, she says: “**The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory.**”

I mean, we could ALMOST say that THESE TWO THINGS are EXACTLY what we’ll see happen with SAUL and DAVID...

THEN—in Verse 10—she says: “**The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed.**”

Now REMEMBER... AT THIS TIME, Israel HAS NO KING... And so, “*when Hannah spoke of ‘His king’ she looked ahead to the Messiah... This is the first place in [scripture] Jesus is referred to as the Messiah, God’s ‘anointed.’*”

Adam Clarke writes: “[It is Hannah who] first applies to [Jesus] the remarkable title MESSIAH in Hebrew, CHRIST in Greek, and ANOINTED in English, which **THEN** becomes adopted by David, Nathan, Ethan, Isaiah, Daniel, and the succeeding prophets of the Old Testament; and by the apostles and inspired writers of the New Testament.”

David Guzik writes: “Zecharias—the father of John the Baptist—quotes Hannah in Luke Chapter 1... when he prophetically calls Jesus a horn of salvation, quoting 1st Samuel 2:10. Mary—the mother of Jesus—quotes Hannah’s song often (in Luke Chapter 1).”

So, just **KEEP HANNAH’S POEM IN MIND**, this morning, as we work our way through this Book... We’ll refer BACK to it later...

The Book opens with this woman named HANNAH—UNABLE to have Children... She GOES to the house of the Lord, and she PRAYS and says: “[Lord] **If You will... give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life...**”

And the Lord DOES, indeed, BLESS her... she conceives “**and bore a son, and called his name Samuel...**” – And, “**when she... weaned him, she... brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh.**” – We read: “**Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child...**” and that he “**grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.**”

Now, in Chapter 3, the Lord FIRST CALLS SAMUEL... And, it’s QUITE DRAMATIC... I don’t have time to read EVERY VERSE... But—in Verse 1—we read:

“The boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli [the priest]. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass...”
– Verse 3 says: **“...while Samuel was lying down... the LORD called [to him]. And [Samuel] answered, “Here I am!”**

Now, Verse 7 TELLS us that: **“Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.”** BUT, Verse 6 says: **“...the LORD called yet again, “Samuel!”** And, Verse 8 says: **“...the LORD called Samuel... [a] third time.”** – And, at the END of Verse 10, Samuel **“answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.”**

So, **“the LORD said to Samuel”**—Verse 11—**“Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.”** – So, this is setting-up the DRAMATIC CHANGES about to take place in this Book...

Verse 19 says that **“Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.”**

Now, there’s some INTERESTING PARALLELS between **SAMUEL and JESUS**... BOTH of them were children of PROMISE... Samuel’s CONCEPTION was MIRACULOUS, as was Jesus’... They were BOTH DEDICATED BEFORE they were born...

They both spent time in the HOUSE OF THE LORD from a young age... Samuel, we read: **“grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.”** – Luke 2:52 says the EXACT SAME THING of Jesus...

They both BRIDGED PERIOD’S OF TRANSITION in Israel... From the time of Joshua to the Call of Samuel, **“the Word of the Lord was rare.”** – It was about 400 years...

And, between the END of the Old Testament and the Birth of Christ was 400 years—a time during which the Lord spoke VERY LITTLE...

BOTH OF THEM CORRESPOND to the **‘prophet like Moses’** in Deuteronomy 18... The BOTH preach REPENTANCE... Samuel COMBINES offices of prophet and priest. Jesus is a Prophet, Priest, and King...

Now—starting in Chapter FOUR, until Chapter SEVEN—the Philistines oppress Israel for at LEAST 20 years... But, by the OPENING VERSES of Chapter 7, Samuel REALLY step-into his office as JUDGE over Israel... And—again—it’s quite DRAMATIC...

Verse 3 says: **“Samuel SPOKE to all the house of Israel, saying, ‘If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, [and] put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you,**

and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only... He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”

Verse 6 says: **“So they gathered together at Mizpah... they fasted that day, and said, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.”**

The end of Verse 10 says: **“the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines...”** – That’s pretty much what HANNAH said, back in Chapter TWO...

We read: **“[So the Lord] confused them [and] they were overcome before Israel.”** – Verse 15 says that: **“Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.”** – So, things are GOOD, right??? Well... Chapter 8 OPENS... **“Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his SONS judges over Israel.”** – Verse 3 says: **“But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.”**

So—in Verse 4— **“All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said... “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”** – Now, we OFTEN give the Children of Israel a hard time when they ASKED FOR A KING... But, David Guzik writes:

“[Their] desire to have a king was not bad [in and of itself]. God knew [they] would have a king. 400 years [earlier] God gave [them] instructions... about their future king (in Deuteronomy Chapter 17). A king was in God’s plan for Israel... It was the reason [they] wanted a king [that] was wrong.” – They said: *“Make us a king... like all the nations.”* – *“We often get into trouble by wanting to be like the world when we SHOULD be transformed into the image of Christ.”*

Now, God TELLS Samuel to **“forewarn [the people], and SHOW them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.”** – And, HE DOES, in Verses 11—18 of Chapter 8...

“Nevertheless,” Verse 19 says, **“the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and... said, “we will have a king over us, that we... may be like all the nations...”**

And, this is where SAUL comes on the scene... Now, SAUL is really a COMPLEX FIGURE... Because, he **INITIALLY HE STARTS SO WELL!**

In Chapter 9, we learn that he is of tribe of BENJAMIN... **“a choice and handsome son” of “a mighty man of power.”** – We read: **“There was not a more handsome person... among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.”** – We might say Saul was *“Head and Shoulders Above the Rest.”*

In Chapter 10, he’s ANOINTED by Samuel... Samuel TELLS him: **“the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you... you will prophesy... and be turned into another man.”** – I love that!

He says: **“God is with you.”** – We read: **“God gave [Saul] another heart; and... the Spirit of [the Lord] came upon him, and he prophesied...”** – **“Valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.”**

In Chapter 11, Saul SAVES Jabesh Gilead... **“the Spirit of [the Lord] came upon”** him... He was a GOOD MILITARY LEADER... At his coronation—Saul **GIVES CREDIT** TO GOD for the victory! – David Guzik writes...

“[These] chapter[s] record Saul’s inward & outward battles... inwardly Saul defeated the... temptations to pride, insecurity, and revenge.” – William Blaikie wrote: *“O Saul... how well for thee it would have been hadst thou maintained this spirit!”* – But, UNFORTUNATELY... he DOESN’T... And—in Chapter 13—things start to go WRONG...

Again, **“the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel...”** – **“Thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen... people as the sand which is on the seashore...”**

Verse 6 says... **“When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger... the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits... Some of the Hebrews crossed... the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.”** – We read: **“As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.”** – Now, here’s what we read...

Verse 8: **“[Saul] waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from [Saul]. So, Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And [Saul] offered the burnt offering.”**

Now, we READ this, and think, *‘What’s the BIG DEAL?’* – Well, it was SPECIFICALLY FORBIDDEN for a KING to function as PRIEST... But, that’s EXACTLY what Saul is doing by offering the sacrifice...

To make matters WORSE, though... We read: **“As soon as [Saul] finished presenting the burnt offering... Samuel came... And Samuel said [to him], “What have you done?”** – And SAUL just starts to make EXCUSES...

He says: **“When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come”** – You know... like you said you would... It’s really YOUR fault, Samuel! – **“and... the Philistines [were] gathered at Michmash... I said, ‘The Philistines [are gonna] come down on me [now]... and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I [was] compelled, and offered a burnt offering.”**

“Hey, I just wanted to WORSHIP, Samuel! What’s wrong with that?” – See, there’s no REPENTANCE at all... So, Samuel says:

“You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD... For... the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.” – Now, in Chapter 15, there’s a SIMILAR SITUATION...

Samuel **TELLS** Saul: **“Go and attack Amalek,”** because they AMBUSHED the Children of Israel when they came up from Egypt. – He says: **“utterly destroy all that they have... do not spare them... man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox, sheep, camel and donkey.”**

So, we read: **“Saul attacked the Amalekites... [and] took Agag king of the Amalekites alive... [They] spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them.”**

So, once again, SAMUEL SHOWS UP, and says: **“Hey... what’s the ‘bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?’”** – He says: **“If you KILLED EVERYTHING, Saul... how am I hearing ANIMALS???”**

He says: **“The LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘utterly destroy... the Amalekites... until they are consumed.’ Why... did you not obey the voice of the LORD?”**

So, Saul said to Samuel: **“I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.”** – He’s like, *“I OBEYED... AND I DIDN’T DO IT!”*

And, again, he’s TRYING to sound spiritual! He says: **“the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”**

Samuel says: **“You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”** – He says: **“The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbour of yours, who is better than you.”**

And THIS, of course, is a reference to DAVID... the **“man after [God’s] own heart...”**

Now, I want to quickly **REMINDE** us... what the OLD TESTAMENT is all about... In Genesis 15, God makes a SPECIFIC PROMISE to a man named ABRAHAM...

We call it *‘The Abrahamic Covenant.’* – God **TELLS** him: **“In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...”** – And, this reference to Abraham’s SEED is a reference to JESUS...

We KNOW this, because—ALL THE WAY OVER in Galatians Chapter 3—Paul says: **“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “your Seed,” who is Christ.”**

So, a SPECIFIC DESCENDANT of ABRAHAM in Whom all the NATIONS of the earth are going to be BLESSED... It's a REFERENCE to JESUS—the GOSPEL... AND...

This PROMISE passes SPECIFICALLY to Abraham's son **ISAAC**... then, to Isaac's son **JACOB** (whose name gets changed to ISRAEL)... then, to ISRAEL'S son **JUDAH**...

And—if you remember last week, at the VERY END of the Book of Ruth—we read: **“Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife... and she bore a son... And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.”**

We read: **“This is the genealogy of Perez”**—who was one of the sons of JUDAH... **“Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram... Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon... Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz... Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.”** – This is WHY—when David is FIRST INTRODUCED—in scripture—it is in the CONTEXT of being **Jesse's son**...

In Chapter 16... (God has JUST REJECTED SAUL from being KING over Israel)... NOW, God says to Samuel: **“Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king [from] among his sons.”**

When Samuel sees DAVID, God says to him: **“Anoint him; for this is the one!”**
“Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.”

Now... AS THE READER... we **NOW KNOW** that God has **REJECTED SAUL** from being king over Israel... and that God has **ANOINTED DAVID** to be king... And YET...

Between **THIS** MOMENT and the time that David ACTUALLY SITS ON THE THRONE... is about FIFTEEN years... That doesn't happen until SECOND SAMUEL...

So, what's the rest of THIS BOOK about? – Well, here's it's NOT about...

DAVID does not leave THIS OCCASION and undertake a *“let's get rid of Saul”* campaign. – David is COMPLETELY WILLING to let God decide when HE is ready to sit upon the throne...

Now... I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION to the word **“anointed”** that is used of David... In Hebrew, it's *māšîaḥ*... It's where we get our word **MESSIAH**... (Again, ‘Messiah’ means *“Anointed One”*)...

So, think back to HANNAH'S POEM from Chapter 2... **SHE** said: **“[The Lord] will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His ANOINTED.”** – And DAVID is FIRST INTRODUCED... as **“God's Anointed”**... the **MESSIAH**... DESCENDED from JUDAH...

And **DAVID** becomes a REMARKABLE OLD TESTAMENT PICTURE of Jesus Christ—God’s **ULTIMATE** ANOINTED... David Guzik writes:

*“David [is] one of the **greatest** men of the Bible, mentioned more than 1,000 times – more than Abraham, Moses, more than any [other]... It is no accident that Jesus was not known as the ‘Son of Abraham’ or the ‘Follower of Moses,’ but the Son of David.”*

FB Meyer said: *“Abraham may have excelled him in faith... Moses in... fellowship with God, Elijah in the fiery force of [miracles]... But none of these was so many-sided as the richly gifted son of Jesse.”*

IN the VERY NEXT Chapter... 1st Samuel SEVENTEEN... Again—**“The Philistines gathered their armies... to battle...”**

“And Saul,” Verse 2, “and the men of Israel were gathered together... [And] The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side... And a champion,” Verse 4, “went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath...”

So, this is the famous **DAVID and GOLIATH PASSAGE**... We read Goliath’s **“height was six cubits and a span.”** – Anywhere from 8’5” to 9’2” tall...

Verse 10 says this **PHILISTINE GIANT** said: **‘I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.’ [And] When Saul and all Israel heard these words... they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”**

But, DAVID’s is ON THE SCENE... He’s been SENT there to bring some CHEESE, and BREAD to his BROTHERS and their CAPTAIN... Verse 23 says: David HEARD GOLIATH...

And, he’s like, **“DUDE.”** – (That’s MY paraphrase)... He goes it to Saul—in Verse 32—**“Let no man’s heart fail because of [this Philistine]; your servant will go and fight with [him].”**

Now, Saul is WATCHING all of this... He KNOWS that God has CHOSEN **SOMEBODY ELSE** to be KING... And, he doesn’t know who it is... But, he’s getting PARANOID...

David goes out to Goliath, and—in Verse 45—he says: **“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” – “This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.”**

And David **RUNS** TO MEET HIM... Verse 49 says... David put **“his hand into his bag and [took] out a stone; and... slung it and struck the Philistine... so that the stone sank into his forehead...”** – Now... That’s **COOL ENOUGH**, right?

But I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION to a DETAIL in Verse 5... We read Goliath **“had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail...”** – Interesting...

The NIV reads: **“He... wore a coat of scale armor...”** – The New American Standard says: **“he was clothed with scale-armor...”** – The New English Translation says Goliath wore **“scale body armor.”** -- Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance DEFINES “*mail*” as “**scales**.”

So, CATCH THE PICTURE here... We have God’s ANOINTED—DAVID, the MESSIAH... They’re IN the LAND OF JUDAH... He’s going out to face a NINE-FOOT GIANT... Who is DRESSED LIKE AN **ENORMOUS SNAKE**... And, what happens?

David CRUSHES HIS HEAD! – Why is that a big deal? – BECAUSE... ALL THE WAY BACK in Genesis 3:15, God had been PROPHESED...

That He would **“put enmity between [the serpent]...”** and the **“Seed of the woman.”** – WHO, God said, would **“shall crush [the serpent’s] head...”**

This is how DAVID is INTRODUCED in SCRIPTURE! – GOD’S ANOINTED... DESCENDED FROM JUDAH... INHERITOR OF THE PROMISE... CRUSHING A HUGE SNAKE’S HEAD... It’s ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!

Now... There’s LOTS that we could talk about from the REST of 1st Samuel... We could talk about JONATHAN, Sauls’ son... and HE and DAVID’S FRIENDSHIP...

We could talk about SAUL’S MANY ATTEMPTS to KILL DAVID... The NUMBER OF TIMES David DOESN’T KILL SAUL... SAMUEL’S DEATH in Chapter 25...

We could talk about SAUL CONSULTING a WITCH... Or David LIVING LIKE an OUTLAW, hiding in CAVES, LIVING amongst the Philistines... But, we’re NOT... We’re out of time... The book CONCLUDES with the DEATH of Saul and his sons...

Chapter 31 says—**AGAIN**—that the: **“Philistines fought against Israel... [they] killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul’s sons.”** – Verse 3 says: **“The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded...”** – Verse 6 says: **“Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.”**

Now, you’d THINK that—when David HEARS this news—he might rejoice... But, not so... In 2nd Samuel Chapter 1—when David HEARS THIS NEWS—he: **“Took hold of his... clothes and tore them... [he] mourned and wept and fasted...”** – He ISSUES a TREMENDOUS LAMENTATION called *‘The Song of the Bow,’* saying...

“The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! – The bow of Jonathan did not turn back... the sword of Saul did not return empty. Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided... O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul... How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! -- How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” – Which is PRETTY MUCH what HANNAH SAID back in CHAPTER TWO...

But, this brings to an **END** the “official reign” of Saul as 1st king over Israel, and it sets up David... to become king in the book of SECOND SAMUEL next week...

Which is what our NEXT STOP will be on ‘ROUTE 66’—our journey through the entire Bible!

Hey, if you need SPECIAL PRAYER, this morning, our PRAYER PARTNERS are available in the BACK... we would LOVE to talk to you more ABOUT... **the MESSIAH**...

Don’t forget, we have our ITALIAN SODAS on sale in the Gathering Grounds... And our WORSHIP TEAM LUNCH will be in the WAREHOUSE...

We will be BACK on Wednesday morning for a DEEPER DIVE into 1st Samuel... Let’s all STAND and PRAY, and then we’ll CLOSE with a final worship song...