



Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: Israel displays their great evil in the Promised Land in Judges 17-21 (~14th Cent. BC). Ruth and her benefactor, Boaz, show rare faith in Israel (11th Cent. BC). Samuel is born to the tribe of Levi as the final, faithful judge (~1080 BC).

Law & Gospel Themes: Micah is an Israelite, but he shows the rejection of the LORD so common among the people now in the Promised Land as he sets up an idol and ordains a Levite to be his priest, doing "what was right in his own eyes." The tribe of Dan compounds the evil by stealing the idol and taking the false priest to

be their own. The men of the tribe of Benjamin show their terrible evil against a Levite and his concubine, inciting warfare with the rest of Israel and leading to the death of tens of thousands & further sin. A Moabite, Ruth, shows tremendous faith and is grafted into the tree of Israel leading to Jesus. She is "redeemed" by Boaz, pointing to the role of Jesus. Samuel is set aside as a clear type of Jesus, acting as a priest, prophet & kingmaker.

Life Application Starters: What similarities do you see between Israel in the period of the judges and

America today? To what degree is the Christian church (and you) also guilty? What should we learn & follow from Ruth and Boaz? What are you willing to give to the Lord in thanks for His blessings (consider Hannah)?

Prayer Starters: To be preserved from the terrible sin that befell the nation of Israel in the days of the judges. To humbly seek the Lord's power as you stand up for what is right in His sight. For faith like Ruth. For compassion like Boaz. For commitment and thankfulness to God like Hannah.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Judges 17:1-18:31

Tuesday: Judges 19:1-20:48

Wednesday: Judges 21:1-25

Thursday: Ruth 1:1-2:23

Friday: Ruth 3:1-4:22

Saturday: 1 Samuel 1:1-28

June's Memory Verses:

Ruth 1:16b, "For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

1 Samuel 2:1-2, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."

1 Samuel 12:24, "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."

Author of Judges: Unknown

Date Judges was Written: c 1000 BC

Author of Ruth: Unknown

Date Ruth was Written: c 1000 BC

Author of 1 Samuel: Unknown

Date 1 Samuel was Written: c 970 BC

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

Share insights & Ask Questions on Facebook: **"Faith Bible Reading Journey"**

Faithfully Living Every Relationship in God's Way...

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Historical Context: Samuel is born to the tribe of Levi as the final, faithful judge, just before Saul becomes the first king of Israel (~1080-1049 BC).

Law & Gospel Themes:

Words are important. Vows are not to be broken. Hannah lives by this and praises the LORD with her words. Eli & his sons forget their vows & bear God's curse. Samuel commits to following the Word of the Lord & grows "both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man." (2:26) He answers God's call in faith. Faithless Israel falls to the hands of the Philistines, losing the ark

of the covenant as they trust in it as a mere good luck charm. Samuel points Israel to the LORD, but they demand a king so they might "be like all the nations." Rather than God, they want the king to fight for them. God condemns their sin and curses them by giving what they want. Still, God never abandons His chosen people.

Life Application Starters:

Do you keep your word of promise to others...to God? Consider your confirmation vow to remain faithful to all God's Word & Sacraments even to the point of death. How is your family/church like

Eli & his sons? How is your family/church like Elkanah, Hannah & Samuel? What should politicians & citizens today learn from this week's readings (consider authority, use of force, responsibility, etc.)

Prayer Starters: To trust in the promises of the LORD. To keep our vows to God and man. That we will praise the LORD always as we reflect on His constant faithfulness. For families and congregations united in love. For courage to rebuke evil. For faithful government that submits to God's ultimate control. That we will not go along with the sinful crowd.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Samuel 2:1-36

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 4:1-22

Thursday: 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2

Friday: 1 Samuel 7:3-17

Saturday: 1 Samuel 8:1-22

June's Memory Verses:

Ruth 1:16b, "For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

1 Samuel 2:1-2, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."

1 Samuel 12:24, "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."

Author of 1 Samuel: Unknown Date 1 Samuel was Written: c 970 BC

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Historical Context: Saul becomes king of Israel as Samuel delivers the word of the LORD to them. (~1048 to 1031BC)

Law & Gospel Themes: The LORD chooses Saul from the tiny Matrite clan of the tiny tribe of Benjamin to be king over Israel. Saul is fearful & even tries to hide. Some reject Saul as king because he seems too weak. With God's power, Saul leads Israel to unite & defeat the Ammonites. Saul shows mercy to his opponents in Israel. With a weather sign from God, Samuel speaks judgment & promise to Israel before he dies. In spite of their sin, God will

graciously forgive. Saul offers a burnt offering against God's will & starts down a path to his selfish destruction. The people "ransom" Jonathan from Saul's rash vow. God's "regret" over choosing Saul is a way of speaking for our benefit to show God's sorrow over our sinful rebellion. He still knows all things & works all for our ultimate good.

Life Application Starters: In what ways are you like Saul...fearful to follow God's call; quick to become puffed up; self-reliant; penitent; rash; disobedient? How is God merciful & gracious with

you as He was with Saul? Where do we find prophetic words to guide us in God's way? Does God ever need to "regret" His call on your life? Like Israel for Jonathan, who has ransomed you from God's just wrath?

Prayer Starters: For courage to follow God in His ways that seem too hard for us. To listen to those whom God has chosen even though they seem weak; esp. our Savior, Jesus. That we will not make foolish vows. To ransom the mistreated. For faithfulness lest we lose the favor of the LORD.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Samuel 9:1-10:27

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 11:1-15

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 12:1-25

Thursday: 1 Samuel 13:1-23

Friday: 1 Samuel 14:1-52

Saturday: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

June's Memory Verses:

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Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faithgb.org

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Historical Context: Saul moves further from the LORD as David rises up in his place as king (~1031-1010 BC)

Law & Gospel Themes: Samuel is grieved over Saul's rebellion & hesitant to move ahead. The LORD directs Samuel to His continued grace that will now be revealed through David. The LORD sometimes allows evil so His ultimate good might be fulfilled (SEE 16:14) Small David acts with the mighty power of God to defeat Goliath. Deep friendships sustain the LORD's faithful children as seen in David & Jonathan. Jealousy is a destructive force. Saul

works & plots for David's death to no avail since God is on his side. Even though David is God's chosen deliverer, he must still suffer many trials along the way. Yet, God protects, empowers & uses David for the good of Israel.

Life Application Starters: How have you become frozen in your path as you regret the past? How has the LORD used evil situations in your life to draw you closer to Him & down better paths? Who do you rely upon to speak up for you & keep you from despair when evil comes your way? What giants are you afraid to

face? What does David's life teach you about perseverance? What does Saul teach us about betrayal from those whom we think we should trust? In whom alone should we fully trust?

Prayer Starters: For courage to move ahead & leave our regrets in the hands of the LORD. To be preserved from the assaults of Satan & his demons. To courageously go wherever God leads. To be a true & trustworthy friend by the power of the LORD. To fix our eyes on Jesus as our trustworthy Savior always.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Samuel 16:1-23

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 18:1-19:24

Thursday: 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15

Friday: 1 Samuel 22:1-23

Saturday: 1 Samuel 23:1-29

June's Memory Verses:

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Historical Context: Samuel dies, Saul continues his steady fall toward his own death & David rises in power. (~1010 & 1009 BC)

Law & Gospel Themes: David acts mercifully toward Saul as the LORD's anointed even though his men advise vengeance. Saul battles between good & evil, but still relies on his own power. A faithful wife, Abigail, protects her foolish husband, Nabal, from David's wrath, but cannot protect him from God's judgment. David is able to forgive Saul by the Spirit's power. God is silent to rebellious Saul so he sinfully turns to the medium of En-

dor who calls up Samuel from the dead. Saul receives only the prediction of his death to come the next day. When David's wives & many other women & children were captured, he "strengthened himself in the LORD his God." (30:6) Even though Saul died in disgrace, his people still honored him as the LORD's anointed.

Life Application Starters: Are you able to show mercy to those who hate you & harm you? Even if they do it repeatedly? By what power can we show such mercy? What does Abigail teach about the

roles of a faithful wife & woman of God? What will come to all who call on sorcery or any other power besides the LORD? How should we treat God's chosen servants, including elected officials today?

Prayer Starters: For the strength to be merciful even to those who persistently harm us. In thanks for godly women who protect foolish men from their self-destruction. To never give in to the temptation to call upon evil powers. To always receive our strength from the LORD. For all those who are called as servants of the LORD.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 25:1-44

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 26:1-25

Thursday: 1 Samuel 27:1-29:11

Friday: 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Saturday: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

June's Memory Verses:

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1 Samuel 2:1-2, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."

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