

Year of the Bible: 1 Samuel Reading Guide

Week of Dec. 22-28, 2014

The people of Israel have made it to the promised land, but it hasn't gone quite like they expected. The book of Judges painted a picture of political, economic, and religious instability. 1 Samuel is the introduction of a period of human kings for Israel, also called "the monarchy." The people had had human leaders, like Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. Now, however, they ask for a king "like the other nations." Is this a good thing or a bad thing? As you read, look for the ways in which the monarchy is presented positively *and* negatively. How does God feel about setting a king over Israel?

Additionally, take note of Hannah's song in chapter 2. She praises God's ability to transfer power (the weak become strong, the lowly are raised up, etc.). Keep an eye out for God making drastic changes in power dynamics.