



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?

Survey of the Book of 1st Samuel

1. The writer : Jewish tradition attributes this book to the last Judge and first Prophet, Samuel, but his death before the end of the recounted history renders this theory impossible. The style is the same as that of 2nd Samuel (cf. 1Sam31v11-13 & 2Sam1v1). The Priest Abiathar is the only literary person present during this long period of the time of Samuel until the end of the life of David (cf. 1Sam22v20-23, 23v6 & 2Sam5v24-29 as well as 20v25).
2. The date : The history dates from the year 1067 BC, at the birth of Samuel, to 1011 BC, at the death of Saul (Ac13v21). It was written around 960 BC since there are references to the kingdom of David (1Sam28v17).
3. The readers : The Nation of Israel before the division into two kingdoms (cf. 1Ki12 v16-17). This was a period of learning for a people who had never had a king.
4. The divisions : Three Men !

ch1-7 Samuel, the last Judge
ch8-15 Saul, the first King
ch16-31 David, the new King
5. The key word : "LORD" 352x & "Saul" 298x
6. The message : "Do not look at his appearance or at the height (meaning of the name Saul) of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 NASB
7. The application : "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22 NASB

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PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS :