



# SAMUEL

## Introduction

The author of the Book of Samuel writes as a description of the times in which Samuel was born, **"In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions."** (1 Samuel 3:1)

What do you think that meant and how does that verse make you feel?

Why do you think the times were such that the **"word of the Lord was rare"**?

If an inspired author were to write the book of our times and circumstance (2023, Dallas), how do you think it would be described? Why? What does that mean for you personally and for us as a gathering of believers?

## Who Is He?

See if you can fill out the chart below – you may use your electronic device for assistance from the www!

Where in Scripture it tells of his life?	
Name and meaning of his name?	
When did he live?	
Where did he live?	
What is his major impact?	

## Highs and Lows

Samuel functioned in unique ways and during unique times. As such, we can identify times in his life which we might describe as "highs" and others that would be described as "lows". Look up the following passages and mark each as a "high" or "low". Then discuss what conversations you might have had with Samuel during these various times in his life:

- 1 Samuel 2:11, 18; 3:1 –
- 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1 –
- 1 Samuel 8:1-22 –
- 1 Samuel 9:1-10:1 –
- 1 Samuel 15:1-35 –
- 1 Samuel 16:6-13 –

## Well Trained

One of the more famous lines from Samuel's life comes early on when he responds to God's night-time calls with, "**Speak, for your servant is listening.**" (1 Samuel 3:10) Samuel's life as a prophet and judge was carried out in line with this request – the Lord spoke to Samuel, and he faithfully spoke that Word of God to the people of Israel... no matter the consequences. This was his training as a young lad in service in the Temple.

- 1) What training *ought* we require of those who will serve as God's called mouthpieces in 2023 (pastors and teachers)?
- 2) What are the 3 top skills or traits that you hope for in someone who would serve as your pastor?

## A Legacy

I'm not sure whether Samuel was an optimist or a realist (that latter, I suspect). However, Samuel was perceived during his life, he had such a tremendous impact on the people of Israel that when he died, "**all Israel assembled and mourned for him**" (1 Samuel 25:1). He was remembered as a prophet who told the truth, boldly. It is often at one's memorial/funeral that people have opportunity to express their gratitude for someone's influence. Take a moment to think about those things you want your memorial/funeral to say to people...

- ✓ What readings do you want to have?
- ✓ What hymns do you want to sing?
- ✓ What "sermon text" do you want the pastor to preach on?
- ✓ What will be the "flavor" of the service?