

People of the Bible

Samuel

Samuel was the last of the Old Testament judges and first of the prophets (after Moses). He lived during the eleventh century BC. The child of Elkanah and his wife Hannah, Samuel was from early on consecrated by his parents for sacred service (1 Samuel 1:11) and trained in the house of Lord at Shiloh by Eli the priest.

Samuel's authority as a prophet was established by God (1 Samuel 3:20). He anointed Saul to be Israel's first king (1 Samuel 10:1). Later as a result of Saul's disobedience to God, Samuel repudiated Saul's leadership. He then anointed David to be king in place of Saul (1 Samuel 16:13).

Samuel's loyalty to God, his spiritual insight, and his ability to inspire others made him one of Israel's great leaders.