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The Birth and Dedication of Samuel
First Samuel 1:1 to 2:11



First Samuel immediately follows **Judges 21** in the Hebrew text, while the book of **Ruth** is among the "Writings," the third division in the TaNaKh (**to see link click Ac – The Life of King Sha'ul from a Messianic Jewish Perspective: The use of TaNaKh**). By inserting the book of **Ruth** into the place where it belongs in the history of **when the judges ruled (Ruth 1:1),** the Christian canon drew attention to the long-term theological importance of **David** as the forerunner of the one born **King of the Jews** in Bethlehem. Furthermore, **Ruth the Moabitess** was among **David's** ancestry through **Boaz**, **the kinsman-redeemer** (Hebrew: *go'el*), and genealogy (see the commentary on **Ruth Bd – Coda: The Genealogy of David**) is another link with the Gospels (see **The Life of Christ Ai – The Genealogies of Joseph and Mary**).[8]

You cannot read the records of the past without seeing the hand of **ADONAI-**

Tzva'ot (**The LORD of heaven's** angelic **armies**) at work in the events of what we call history, for **He** is **the Chief Actor** in this drama. Men and women are free to make their decisions, good or bad, but it is **YHVH**, **the LORD** of history, who ultimately accomplishes **His** purposes in and through **the nations (Acts 14:15-17** and **17:24-26; Dani'el 4:25** and **32**). Indeed, "history is ***His*** story," a truth that is a great encouragement to **God's** people who suffer for their faith. But this truth is also a warning to unbelievers who ignore or oppose the will of **the LORD**, because **ADONAI-Tzva'ot** will ultimately triumph (see the commentary on **Revelation Fo – The Great White Throne Judgment**).

The birth and dedication of **Samuel** happened at a critical time in Jewish history when the weak confederation of tribes desperately needed direction. **Samuel** would be the last of the judges (see **Bm – The Last Judge**) and the first of a new line of prophets after **Moses** (see **Ax – Samuel's First Prophecy**). He established a school of the prophets, and he anointed two kings – **Sha'ul** who failed and **David** who succeeded. At a time when the ages were colliding and everything seemed to be shaking, **Samuel** gave spiritual leadership to **the nation** of **Isra'el** and helped to move **them** toward unification and spiritual redemption.

In human history, it may seem to us that truth is "forever has a noose around its neck" and wrong is "forever on the throne." But that isn't heaven's point of view. As you study **First Samuel**, you will clearly see that **ADONAI** is always in control. While **He** is longsuffering and merciful, and answers the prayers of **His** people, **He** is also holy and just and punishes sin. We live today in a time of radical worldwide change, and the Church needs leaders like **Samuel** who will help **God's** people understand where they've been, who they are, and what they are called to do.[9]