

The only thing that matters is that you are reading God's word regularly. While that is still true with this schedule, the goal with this one is to get a better understanding of the entire story of the bible. There is no substitute for reading God's word. Keep reading! My website is at <http://graceofourlord.wordpress.com>. I encourage you to get the actual reading plan I am currently following. You can get it from the same place I do - at [this link](#). They have some great guidance for the reading plan there as well, and they have it all in both PDF and in Kindle format!

May 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
Week 18	1 Sam 1	1 Sam 2	1 Sam 3	1 Sam 4	1 Sam 5-6	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Week 19	1 Sam 8	1 Sam 9	1 Sam 10-11	1 Sam 12	1 Sam 13	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Week 20	1 Sam 15	1 Sam 16	1 Sam 17	1 Sam 19	1 Sam 28	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Week 21	2 Sam 5	2 Sam 6	2 Sam 7	2 Sam 11	2 Sam 12	
27	28	29	30	31	Notes: June 1	
Week 22	2 Sam 15	2 Sam 16	2 Sam 17	2 Sam 18	2 Sam 19	

Note: This bible reading schedule was not designed by me. I am simply following it this year. This schedule skips some chapters in order to accommodate the goal of "getting the big picture" of the whole Bible as the story of God's plan of salvation.

May Week 1 (Week 19) Summary

1 Samuel 8, 9, 10-11, 12, and 13 - Click the chapter below to go to the ESV Bible passage for that chapter and read or listen.

[1 Sam 8](#) - Samuel is getting old, and has appointed his sons Joel and Abijah as judges. But they are corrupt (verse 3) and the elders come to Samuel and tell him that they want a king. It was not wrong for them to want a king - as a matter of fact, Moses had told them in Deuteronomy 17:14-15 that they could have one when the time came. But what they wanted was a military leader, when all along it had been God who fought for them. It was a rejection of the Lord (verse 7) and God points out to Samuel in verse 8 that it had been so with them ever since he brought them out of Egypt. But at God's instruction, Samuel warned them of the "ways of the king" that will reign over them (verses 11-17) - "he will take..." is emphasized over and over. Some of this is the common practice of rulers, and necessary - like taxes. But some as in 14 and 16 were prophetic of abuse, and indeed verse 18 predicts that they will "cry out because of your king" as slaves. This type of servitude labor would come to pass for them, as we will see in 1 Kings 5:13-16 and elsewhere.

[1 Sam 9](#) – From the tribe of Benjamin, Saul comes with a servant looking for his father's lost donkeys. With no luck in finding them, his servant tells him of a seer, known to be a man of God (a prophet), and happens to have bit of silver to bring him (a gift was customary). Saul is just the sort of man that the people are looking for - very handsome, and very tall (verse 2). In verses 20 and 23, Samuel has already demonstrated to Saul that he has special knowledge from God, so that what he is about to tell him will be believed. The leg presented to Saul to eat in verse 24 would be known to Saul to normally be the priest's portion (Exodus 29:27).

[1 Sam 10-11](#) – In a private ceremony, Samuel anoints Saul as king, then tells him of several signs that will prove to him the God has made king (ch. 9 verses 2-7). The threat from Nahash the Ammonite in 11:2 makes a lot more sense when you learn that one of the Dead Sea scrolls (4QSam) contains an account of that Ammonite king gouging out the eyes of the Gadites and Reubenites on Transjordan - and 7,000 men fleeing to Jabesh-Gilead. When he granted the request for their delay in decision (verse 3), he did not believe they would be getting any help. When told of the threat, the Spirit of the Lord rushes upon Saul, and he does what God had intended for him, hastily putting together an army and defeating the Ammonites. In 11:12-15, we have Saul at last acting like a leader. Better still, he credits God with the victory. How different might things have been if only he had remained that sort of man in the coming chapters?

[1 Sam 12](#) – This is not Samuel's last public address, but it does sound very much like Joshua's farewell address, especially Joshua 23:1-13. Samuel reminds them of all that God has done for them, and reminds and rebukes them for their lack of loyalty to the Lord. The unseasonable storm of verses 17-18 are not punishment for wanting a king, rather a sign of the Lord's displeasure at their lack of faith, trust and loyalty to Him. Nevertheless, Samuel warns that all will be well with them and their king as long as they "do not turn aside from following the Lord." Here, "king" refers to present and future, as verse

25's warning of them and their king being swept away is prophetic of their fate. The "empty things" of verse 21 refers to idols and idol worship.

[1 Sam 13](#) - The translation of verse one is different in many versions because the Hebrew in that text is difficult. Paul tells us in Acts 13:21, that Saul reigned for 40 years. All we know other than that is that Samuel is old enough here to have a son (Jonathan) commanding (victoriously) a battle. This chapter illustrates Saul in verses 1-4 as once again being the military leader that the people wanted in a king. God gave them what they asked for. Now we begin to see that he is not the king they need, as he disobeys the Lord's instructions given to him by His prophet, Samuel. But it is more than that - it is a matter of the heart. Samuel gives him notice in verse 14 that "the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart." Not once do we hear of any remorse (or concern for that matter) on Saul's part.