Samuel and Saul Timeline

for commercial purposes or to attain personal gain or advantage. ~1076BC 1046BC Birth of Eshbaal YHWH informs ~1033BC Saul defeats the Jonathan conquers a Philistine ~1023BC The 1006BC Eshbaal. YHWH sends Samuel Samuel that Saul Ammonites 1Sm11:1-11 Birth of (Ish-bosheth), Saul's outpost, near Michmash, to task Saul with the Battle of Elah at age 40. made Saul youngest (?) son is to be king destruction of the 1Sm17:1-11,52-53 In Gilgal, Saul is which precipitates a panic king of North Israel 1Sm9:15-17 1Sm9:1-2 1Sm14:49, 1Chr8:33,9:39 Saul holds a New Moon among the Philistines, and there confirmed as "King" **Amalekites** by Abner Feast at which David ~1050BC The is a general route 1Sm11:14-15 1Sm15:1-3 2Sm2:8-10 ~1035BC Samuel does NOT appear **Battle of Ebenezer** 1Sm14:1-23.31-35 Samuel anoints YHWH informs Samuel is called ~1017BC Death 1004BC is old and has - the Ark is 1Sm20:24-29 Saul and Jonathan Saul makes a rash vow Saul to be King Samuel that Saul by YHWH of Samuel Death of appointed his Saul severely castigates captured by the defeat the Philistines which condemns Jonathan 1Sm9:20bis rejected as (age 16?) sons as "Judges" (assuming age Eshbaal Philistines; Eli and Jonathan for consorting restoring Israelite 1Sm14:24-30.36-44 21,27,10:1 Saul King 1Sm15:10-1Sm3:1-18 80) 1Sm25:1 2Sm4:5-8 1Sm8:1-3 with David 1Sm20:30-34 his sons die receives the Holy control of Gibeah / the people save Jonathan 12a,14-19,22-1Sm4:1b-18 Geba 1Sm13:2-4 1Sm14:45 Spirit 1Sm10:2-13 23,28-29,35 Saul is

Samuel is delayed

Saul performs

sacrifices and is

castigated

1Sm13:8-15a

around Israel

1Sm14:47-48.52

Samuel grew up in the "Temple" at Shiloh under the tutelage of Eli 1Sm1:24-28 2:11,18-20,26

established as a prophet

1Sm3:19-21.4:1a

Birth of

Samuel

1Sm1:20

After the death of Eli. Samuel becomes the "Judge of Israel" 1Sm7:15-17 Samuel initiates a reform 1Sm7:3-9 The Philistines are

pushed back 1Sm7:10-14 Samuel's early career:

king 1Sm8:4-5,19-20 Samuel objects 1Sm8:6.10-18 But YHWH acquiesces 1Sm8:7-9,21-22

The people demand a

Saul seeks the advice of "the seer" 1Sm9:3-14 Samuel entertains Saul 1Sm9:18-20a.22-26

"Judgeship" about 15 years - Samuel age ~50-~65

presented to

the people

and

proclaimed

"King" at

Mizpah

1Sm10:17-24

The Philistines retaliate with a joining the army, so large force; many

desert Saul: he regroups at Gilgal 1Sm13:5-7,15b-18

Samuel relinquishes his role as "Judge of Israel" 1Sm12:1-25

Saul gathers the army and defeats the Amalekites but retains spoil and takes the Agag captive 1Sm15:4-9.20-21 Saul also sets up a "monument" in Carmel

Saul's ongoing 1Sm15:12b-13 success against the kingdoms

Samuel kills the Agag 1Sm15:32-33

David is in Saul's service 1Sm17:55-58,18:2,5-7,16:14-23 Saul becomes jealous and attempts to kill David 1Sm18:8-16,19:1-17

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David flees from Saul Saul hunts for David 1Sm22:6-8,23:19-26, 24:1-2,26:1-3

1011BC The Battle of Mount Gilboa - the Philistines push to neutralize Saul 1Sm28:1a,4-5,29:1-2a Saul establishes a position on Mount Gilboa with the people of

En-gannim (Gina) tasked to protect his rear: they desert and the 1Sm21:10a,23:15,27:1 Philistine archers advance and wound Saul and kill three of his sons; Saul kills himself 1Sm31:1-4, 2Sm1:21

Samuel's background: Elkanah was of the tribe of Levi (1Chr6:22-28,33-38). Ramatham-zophim is Ramah, the city in the land of Zuph (1Sm1:1,19,2:11,7:17. 8:4,9:5-6,25:1). The occasion at Shiloh is probably the Feast of Tabernacles. The sacrifice (1Sm1:3-4) is likely a "peace offering" (Lv3:1-17,7:11-18) Hannah's Prayer: (1Sm2:1-10) has many themes in common with "Magnificent of Mary" (Lk1:46-55).

Eli and his sons: Eli was descended from Phinehas, grandson of Aaron. according to 2 Esdras 1:1-3; or from Ithamar, son of Aaron, according to Josephus Antiquities 5:11:5. 1Chronicles 6:4-8 supports the Phinehas descent. Eli's sons, Phinehas and Hophni, were corrupt priests at Shiloh (1Sm1:3,2:12-17). Eli was warned of the destruction of his house (2Sm2:27-36, 3:11-18), which occurred at the Battle of **Ebenezer**. Phinehas had two descedants - Zadok and Abiather: thev were priests to David and Solomon.

The Ark of the Covenant: the Ark was constructed at Horeb (Ex25:10-15,37:1-5); resided in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle (Ex26:33-34.40:1-2.20-21, Nm7:89); led the Israelites in the 38 years of wandering (Nm10:33-35, Jsh3:1-17); led the Israelites in the conquest of Canaan (Jsh6:4-13); placed at Shiloh after the conquest (Jsh18:1); was occasionally moved (Jdg20:26-28); and finally captured by the Philistines at the Battle of Ebenezer. The Philistines try to treat it as a trophy of war, but are cursed by YHWH (1Sm5:1-12). The ark is with the Philistines 7 months (2Sm6:1). The Ark is returned to Israel at Beth-shemesh (1Sm6:2-18), and then passed on to Kiriath-jarem (Ballah, Balle-judah) (1Sm6:19-21,7:1-2) where the Ark remains for about 20 years. Saul takes it with him to battle (1Sm14:16-18), but apparently returns it to Kiriath-jarem, from where David attempts to fetch it (2Sm6:1-9, 1Chr13:3-12). The Ark is 3 months under the care of Obed-edom (1Sm6:10-12a, 1Chr13:13-14) before David fetches it to Jerusalem (1Sm6:12b-15, 1Chr15:1-28).

Chronological Data: Thiele establishes 931BC as the death of Solomon (Thiele, E.R., The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1965, page 52). Allowing 80 years for David and Solomon (2Sm2:11,5:4-5,1Kg2:11,11:42), gives a date of 1011BC for the Battle of Mount Gilboa. Eshbaal was 40 at his accession and he reigned two years (2Sm2:8-10). At his death, David became King in Jerusalem: 1011BC - 7.5 = 1004BC. Two years prior, 1006BC, he was 40; therefore, he was born in 1046BC. There seems to be no hard evidence to precisely date the Battle of Ebenezer: but all sources put it at "around" 1050BC. The "forty years" (At13:21) encompass the period of Samuel's judgeship and Saul's kingship - the "missing digit" in 1 Samuel 13:1 being a "2".

Hebrews and Israelites: The name "Hebrew" is derived from "Eber". great-grandson of Shem. All "Israelites" are "Hebrews"; but NOT all "Hebrews" are "Israelites". From Peleg to Terah we have no information on sons other than the given direct line to Abraham, as well as the many other sons of Joktan - presumably there are many branches of "Hebrews" about which we know nothing, until some of the show up as "Habiru" in Canaan. In the Amarna Letters we find Habiru mercenaries selling their services to the Philistines, the Arameans, and the Israelites (1Sm14:21).

Amalekites: Amalek was the son of Eliphaz the son of Esau – so a second cousin of Jacob's twelve sons (Gn36:9-12, 1Chr1:35-36). By the time of the Exodus, the Amalekites were a significant power in Canaan (Nm24:20) – they were found in the Negeb, the valleys, and hill country (Nm13:29.14:25.40.45). Just before the Israelites got to Mount Sinai, when they were in the area of Horeb, a contingent of Amalekites attacked them at Rephidim, and were defeated by Joshua (Ex17:8-13). This resulted in YHWH declaring perpetual war on Amalek (Ex17:14-16, Dt25:17-19). In the time of Saul and David there are two identifiable groups of Amalekites: in the hill country in the western territory of Ephraim (Jdg12:15), and in the extreme south of the Negev (1Sm30:1). There were also "Kenites" both in the north and in the south (Jdq1:16,4:11). Saul was primarily concerned with the northern Amalekites because he wanted to get control of the Jezreel Valley to link his territory with the territory of the Northern Tribes near the Sea of Galilee (1Sm14:48,15:1-9). Saul appears to have fought with both groups of Amalekites (1Sm15:5,7,12). The "city of Amalek" is most likely in the northern area. Saul's setting up a "monument" in Carmel indicated his suzerainty over the conquered territory. At the **Battle of Mount Gilboa**. Saul's forces are located near Jezreel. The Philistines are on the opposite side of the Valley with a significant chariot force. Saul retreats up Mount Gilboa to neutralize the chariots, trusting his vassals, possibly Amalekites, to guard his rear at En-gannim (1Sm31:3, 2Sm1:8).