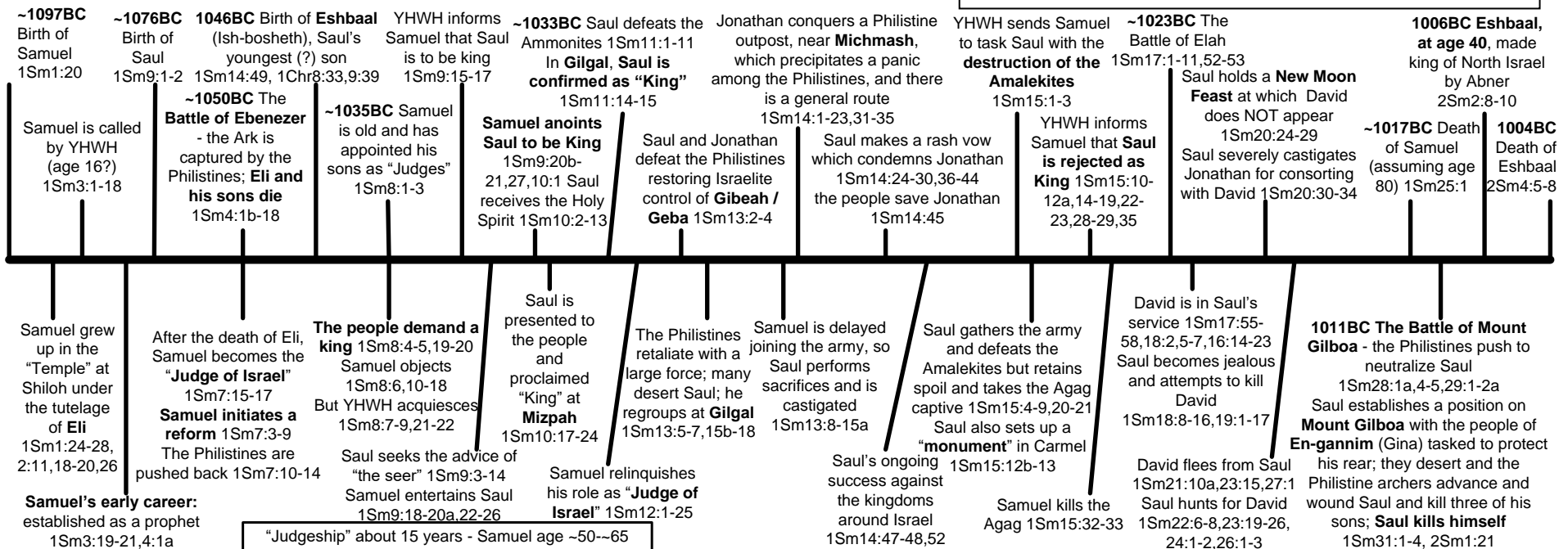


# Samuel and Saul Timeline

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**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 descended - **Zadok** and **Abiathar**: they 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).

**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 Negebe, 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 (Jdg1:16,4:11). 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).

**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).