The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

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Backdrop to 1–2 Samuel

- The Covenant with Yahweh in Exodus—Deuteronomy
 - * Deut 6:4–5. Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is one. And you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

The Debauchery of Judges and the Curse Context

* Refrain 1. "The people did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh"

Judg 3:7—Othniel	6:1—Gideon
3:12—Ehud	10:6—Jephthah
4:1—Deborah and Barak	13:1—Samson

The Debauchery of Judges and the Curse Context

- * Refrain 1. "The people did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh"
 - ❖ Judg 2:18–19. Whenever Yahweh raised up judges for them, Yahweh was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of judge. For Yahweh was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

- **God's response: curse**
 - ❖ Judg 2:15. Whenever they marched out, the hand of Yahweh was against them for harm, as Yahweh had warned, and as Yahweh had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.
 - ❖ Deut 7:9-10. Know therefore that Yahweh your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them.

- * Deut 7:12, 14. And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, Yahweh your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. . . . ¹⁴ You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock.
- 1 Sam 1:2. He had two wives. The name of the hone was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

- * Refrain 2. "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - **❖** Judg <u>17:6</u>; 18:1; 19:1; <u>21:25</u>.
 - * Deut 12:8, 28. You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes. . . . ²⁸ Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of Yahweh your God.

* The Messianic Hope

- * Judg 21:25. In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- * 1 Sam 2:10. The adversaries of Yahweh shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed.
- * Gen 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

- * Gen 22:17b-18. And your offspring will possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.
- ❖ Gen 49:8, 10. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. . . . ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

* Num 24:17, 19. I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and bread down all the sons of Sheth. ¹⁸ Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. 19 And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities.

- Deut 17:14–20. When you come to the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' 15 you may indeed set a king over you whom Yahweh your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. 16 Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since Yahweh has said to you, "You shall never return that way again." 17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.
 - ¹⁸ And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

1–2 Samuel at a Glance

The Need to Honor Yahweh and the Hope of a King-Priest	1 Sam 1–7
Misappropriated Kingship and Saul's Dishonoring of Yahweh	1 Sam 8–14
David's Honoring of Yahweh and the Rise and Establishment of an Ideal Royal Figure	1 Sam 15–2 Sam 8
David's Dishonoring Act and the Demise of His Reign	2 Sam 9–21
Appendix: The Fruits of Honoring Yahweh Recast	2 Sam 22–24

Introductory Issues

- ***** Key Transitions:
 - **Historical:** From judge to king
 - **Geographical:** The central sanctuary shifts from a roaming tent to a permanent location in Jerusalem.
 - * Theological: From a typical Near Eastern king (= Saul) to one truly committed to honor Yahweh (= David)

Dual Key Themes:

- * Yahweh exalts the humble but despises the self-sufficient.
- * Yahweh brings salvation to and through his anointed king.
 - * 1 Sam 2:9-10. He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.

 10 The adversaries of Yahweh shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed.

* 2 Sam 22:2–3, 26. Yahweh is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence....³ Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.... 26 With the faithful you show yourself faithful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

- **Luke 18:14.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.
- * 1 Peter 5:5. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The Need to Honor Yahweh & the Hope of a King-Priest (1 Sam 1–7)

* Part 1—The Call to Honor Yahweh

- * Episode 1. Hannah's shame and Godhonoring plea, God's response, and Hannah's God-exalting, prophetic song (1 Sam 1:1–2:11).
- * Episode 2. Hophni and Phinehas' self-exaltation and God-dishonoring acts, God's prophetic response (2:12–36).
- * Episode 3. The exaltation of God's Word through Samuel (3:1–21).

* Part 2—The Need to Honor Yahweh

- * Lesson 1 (for Israel). Those who honor themselves over Yahweh will be dishonored (ch. 4)
- * Lesson 2 (for Philistia). Yahweh is supreme in all the world and should be glorified by all (5:1–6:12).
- * Lesson 3 (for Israel). Yahweh, the holy God, must be revered (6:13–7:2)
- * Lesson Learned. Yahweh gives Israel victory because he honors those who honor him (7:3–17).