

and courage in helping deliver their people.

- What can we learn from Deborah about being a true friend? How have your friends helped you face difficult challenges or obey the Lord's commandments? How can we be better friends to others?
- As a Nazarite and a member of the house of Israel, Samson made covenants with the Lord. What

covenants do we make with the Lord? How have these covenants strengthened you?

- What were the consequences of Samson's violation of his covenants? (See Judges 16:17–21.) What are the consequences when we violate our covenants?

Additional reading: "Judges, The" and "Judges, Book of," Bible Dictionary, pages 719–20.

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## **"All the City . . . Doth Know That Thou Art a Virtuous Woman"**

# 20

*Ruth; 1 Samuel 1*

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Ruth 1–2. After her husband dies, Ruth goes to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law, Naomi. In Bethlehem, Ruth works in the fields of Boaz, who treats her kindly.
- b. Ruth 3–4. Ruth lies at the feet of Boaz, and he promises to marry her. They marry and have a child.
- c. 1 Samuel 1; 2:1–2, 20–21. Hannah is blessed with a son, whom she lends to the Lord as she promised. She is later blessed with more children.

- What did Ruth give up by going to Bethlehem with Naomi? What did Ruth gain by going with Naomi? (The gospel of Jesus Christ; see Ruth 1:16.) What can we learn from Ruth about making sacrifices for the gospel?
- How do you think Hannah felt about giving Samuel to the service of the Lord? What does the Lord ask us to give him? What should our attitude be about giving to him?
- What righteous qualities did Ruth, Naomi, and Hannah exemplify?

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## **God Will Honor Those Who Honor Him**

# 21

*1 Samuel 2–3; 8*

Study the following scriptures:

- a. 1 Samuel 2:12–17, 22–25. The sons of Eli commit transgressions and are counseled by their father.
- b. 1 Samuel 2:27–36; 3:12–14. A man of God warns Eli about the consequences of the wickedness in his family.

- a. 1 Samuel 3. The Lord calls Samuel, and Samuel responds.
  - d. 1 Samuel 8. The Israelites want a king so they can be "like all the nations." Samuel warns them about the dangers of such a choice.
- What did the actions of Eli's sons suggest about whom they chose to

honor? (See 1 Samuel 2:12–17, 22–25.) In what areas of our lives do we sometimes honor and please ourselves rather than the Lord?

- A man of God came and chastised Eli, saying that Eli honored his sons more than God (1 Samuel 2:27–29). In what way had Eli honored his

sons more than God? How do we sometimes honor other people more than God?

- How did Samuel honor the Lord? How did the Lord honor him? (See 1 Samuel 3:19; see also 1 Samuel 2:30.) How do you think the Lord will honor us if we honor Him?

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## “The Lord Looketh on the Heart”

1 Samuel 9–11; 13; 15–17

# 22

Study the following scriptures:

- 1 Samuel 9–11. Saul seeks guidance from Samuel (9:1–14, 18–24). The Lord reveals to Samuel that Saul is to be king (9:15–17). Samuel counsels Saul and anoints him as Israel’s first king (9:25–27; 10:1–8). Saul is spiritually reborn, and he prophesies (10:9–13). Samuel presents Saul to the people (10:17–27). Saul leads Israel to victory in a battle (11:1–11). He refuses to punish the men who had doubted his ability to lead the people (11:12–15).
- 1 Samuel 13:1–14. Saul offers a burnt offering without the proper authority.
- 1 Samuel 15. Saul is commanded to destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions, but he saves some of their animals for a sacrifice (15:1–9). The Lord rejects Saul as king, and Samuel tells Saul that obedience is better than sacrifice (15:10–35).
- 1 Samuel 16. The Lord chooses David to succeed Saul as king (16:1–13). The Holy Spirit departs from Saul, and an evil spirit takes possession of him (16:14–16; note that in the Joseph Smith Translation

these verses show that the evil spirit was *not* from God). Saul chooses David to play the harp for him and to be his armor bearer (16:17–23).

- 1 Samuel 17. David slays Goliath in the strength of the Lord.
- How did Samuel respond to Saul’s explanation for saving the Amalekites’ animals? (See 1 Samuel 15:22.) How can Samuel’s words apply to us?
- What did Samuel learn while he tried to determine which of Jesse’s sons should succeed Saul as king? (See 1 Samuel 16:6–7.) What does 1 Samuel 16:7 teach about how the Lord evaluates us? What does the Lord look for in our hearts? How can we improve our ability and commitment to see beyond the outward appearance of others and look on the heart?
- How did David get the courage to fight Goliath? (See 1 Samuel 17:32–37, 45–47.) How has the Lord helped you overcome “Goliaths” that you have encountered?

Additional reading: 1 Samuel 12; 14.