

**Monday, March 28—Ruth 1-4**

The book of Ruth records an account of God's covenant faithfulness to provide for those who hope in Him. It also presents a development in God's redemptive program in Naomi's great, great grandchild.

**Tuesday, March 29—1 Samuel 1-3**

Samuel is born to Hannah according to God's special providence as reflected in His name (*Samuel—heard of God*); He is devoted to the service of the Tabernacle at Shiloh; Samuel's godliness stands in stark contrast to the corruption of Eli's sons who pervert the service of the Lord; notice the sovereign purpose of God reflected in the situation with Eli's sons (1 Sam.2:25)

**Wednesday, March 30—1 Samuel 4-7**

Because of their apostasy the Israelites are defeated by the Philistines; the ark of the covenant is captured and, as it were, God is exiled from among His people (4:21- the meaning of *Ichabod—gone into exile*); God plagues the Philistines and the ark is returned; Samuel faithfully leads the people all his life.

**Thursday, March 31—1 Samuel 8-10**

In Samuel's old age Israel demands a king to judge them like the nations around them; Samuel is greatly displeased with the request and seeks the Lord concerning it; the Lord instructs Samuel to grant the people's request and Saul is anointed king over Israel. What was at the heart of Israel's request for a king (1 Sam.8:7-8)?

**Friday, April 1—1 Samuel 11-13**

Saul defeats the Ammonites and delivers the people of Jabesh-Gilead; Samuel's farewell address and admonition not to forsake the Lord; Saul sins by offering the sacrifice and is rejected as king.

**Saturday, April 2—1 Samuel 14, 15**

Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat a band of Philistines; in his self-centered ambition Saul forces a foolish oath upon the people forbidding them to eat any food until he has vengeance upon his enemies. Why does God reject Saul from being king over Israel in the incident with Agag and the Amalekites (1 Sam.15:11)?

**Sunday, April 3—1 Samuel 16, 17**

David is anointed king in the place of Saul; he ministers to Saul who is tormented by an evil spirit from the Lord; David goes out against the Philistine giant, Goliath, in the name of the Lord, to slay the enemy who has defied the army of the living God. What was David's purpose for defeating the giant (see chp.17:46).