

Samuel (AKA Leonard Nemoy!)

1. birth, childhood - Hannah from grief to gift 1 Samuel 2
 2. as a boy he had to learn to listen 1 sam 3
 3. people want king (Saul) from Theocracy to Monarchy 1 Sam 8-10
 4. Sam confronts Saul (obedience is better than sacrifice) ch 13-15
 5. Sam Anoints David ch 16
 6. he speaks from a dead spirit ch 28
 7. He is never mentioned in 2 Samuel!?
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1. Samuel is a miracle child.

The Bible tells of many significant adults, but only a handful of significant pregnancies. Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob & Esau, Perez, Samson, John the Baptist, and Jesus are the others.

We meet Samuel's parents before we meet him. His mother Hannah cannot have children, but God hears her prayers and opens her womb, blessing her with the child Samuel.

2. Samuel's name means "name of God."

The translation of Samuel (sometimes spelled "Samual" when spelled in the English alphabet) literally means "name of God," or "God has heard."

3. Samuel is from the tribe of Levi.

Not only was Samuel from the tribe of Levi, but he may have had Ephraimite blood, too ([1 Ch 6:33–38](#), [1 Sa 1:1](#)). This qualified him to serve in the temple, but Samuel was much more than a priest (see below).

4. Samuel is the last judge.

You can read about most of the judges in the book of—you guessed it!—[Judges](#). After [Joshua](#) dies, the nation of Israel enters the "days of the judges," ([Ru 1:1](#)) when there was no centralized government.

During this time, God would raise up individuals to deliver Israel from her enemies ([Jdg 2:16](#)). The book of Judges tells us about 12 judges, and First Samuel introduces two more: Eli and Samuel.

Why is Samuel the last? Because after Samuel, Israel is led by kings ([Ac 13:20](#)).

5. Samuel anoints the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.

When the people demand a national king, God directs Samuel to anoint Saul, a tall man from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul doesn't turn out so well, and so God has Samuel anoint a young shepherd named David as the future king: not the king Israel needs, but the king they deserve. You can read all about that in [First Samuel](#).

Samuel is qualified to do this because of another office he holds . . .

6. Samuel is the first of the prophets.

In the [book of Acts](#), Peter also considers Samuel to be the first of the prophets—after Moses, that is ([Ac 3:24](#)).

A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. Samuel isn't the first person to be called a prophet in the Bible (Moses is both earlier and greater), but as far as we can tell, he led an order of prophets in Israel ([1 Sa 19:20](#)).

Samuel's prophetic ministry is significant because it begins at a time when words from the Lord are rare and infrequent ([1 Sa 3:1](#)). But after Samuel, Israel's history comes alive with prophetic revelation: much of which is recorded in the [prophetic books of the Bible](#).

7. Samuel is a priest.

He begins his ministry serving the chief priest in the tabernacle ([1 Sa 3:1](#)). Samuel makes sacrifices on behalf of the people, and offers intercessory prayers to God for them ([1 Sa 7:9](#).)

8. Samuel is a Nazarite.

Like the mighty Samson, Samuel is dedicated to the Lord as a child. This dedication was for life, and so he never cuts his hair ([1 Sa 1:11](#), [Nu 6:1–21](#)).

9. Samuel is the only ghost we meet in the Bible.

After Samuel dies, Saul meets with an Ewok—er, a witch of En-dor ([1 Sa 28:7](#)). The medium conjures up the spirit of Samuel, who isn't too happy about what Saul has done. You can read the whole story in First Samuel chapter 28.

10. Samuel led the greatest Passovers.

Hundreds of years after Samuel's death, a king named Josiah celebrates the Passover. It's such an affair, the author says it's the greatest Passover ever—well, ever since Samuel's day ([2 Ch 35:18](#)).

11. Samuel is remembered for his prayers.

[The psalmist](#) who penned Psalm 99 ranks him with Moses and Aaron as one who called upon the Lord's name ([Ps 99:6](#)).

12. God calls Samuel by name—twice

Samuel is one of 8 people in the Bible that [God calls by name ... twice](#). The others are Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Martha, Simon, "My God," and Saul.

1 Samuel 1:6 Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.

1 Samuel 1:10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly.

1 Samuel 1:11 And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

1 Sam 3 - The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.

³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Vs 11 - - -

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,^[a] and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,

ch 3:19 The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.

1 Samuel 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things human beings look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."