

“Dancing with David”

02 The Miracle Birth of Samuel: The Herald of the Star Dancer

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A. The Structure of the Samuel Narrative

1. Samuel's Miraculous Birth (1:1–2:11a)
2. Samuel's Call to Prophetic Ministry (2:11b–4:1a)
3. Samuel's Public Ministry (4:1b–7:17)
4. Samuel and the Emergence of Kingship in Israel (8:1–16:23)
 - a. The Rise of Saul (8:1–12:25)
 - (1) The Crisis of Leadership in Israel (8:1–22)
 - (2) YHWH's Solution for the Crisis (9:1–11:13)
 - (3) Samuel's Response to the Crisis (11:14–12:25)
 - b. The Demise of Saul (13:1–16:23)
 - (1) The Philistine Crisis (13:1–14:52)
 - (2) The Amalekite Crisis (15:1–35)
 - (3) The Spiritual Crisis (16:1–23)
5. The Haunting Role of Samuel (19:18–24; 28:3–25)
 - a. Samuel's Prophetic Power over Saul (19:18–24)
 - b. Samuel's Necromantic Power over Saul (28:3–25)

- (1) The Nature of the Crisis (28:3–6)
- (2) Saul’s Response to the Crisis (28:7–25)

B. Samuel’s Roles in Israel’s Story

1. Samuel the Administrator (שפוט)
2. Samuel the Priest
3. Samuel the Nazirite (1:11)
4. Samuel the Prophet

C. Two Notable Stories in the Dancer’s Herald’s’ Arrival on the Scene

1. Samuel’s Miraculous Birth (1:1–2:11a)
 - a. The Account of Samuel’s Birth (1:1–280
 Elements of Biblical “Birth Narratives”:
 Examples: Sarah (Gen 18:9–15), Rebekah (Gen 25:19–26), Rachel (Gen 30:1–24)
 Samuel and John ben Zacharias (Luke 1:5–25, 57–80)
 - b. The Celebration of Samuel’s Birth (2:1–11a)
2. Samuel’s Call to Prophetic Ministry (2:11b–4:1a)
 - a. The Context of the Call: The Crisis of Spiritual Leadership in Israel (2:11b–36)
 - b. The Nature of the Call: The Provision of Spiritual Leadership in Israel (3:1–4:1a)
 - (1) Differences from Other Call Narratives
 - (2) Samuel’s Character as a Youth

D. Application

“Trust and Obey”