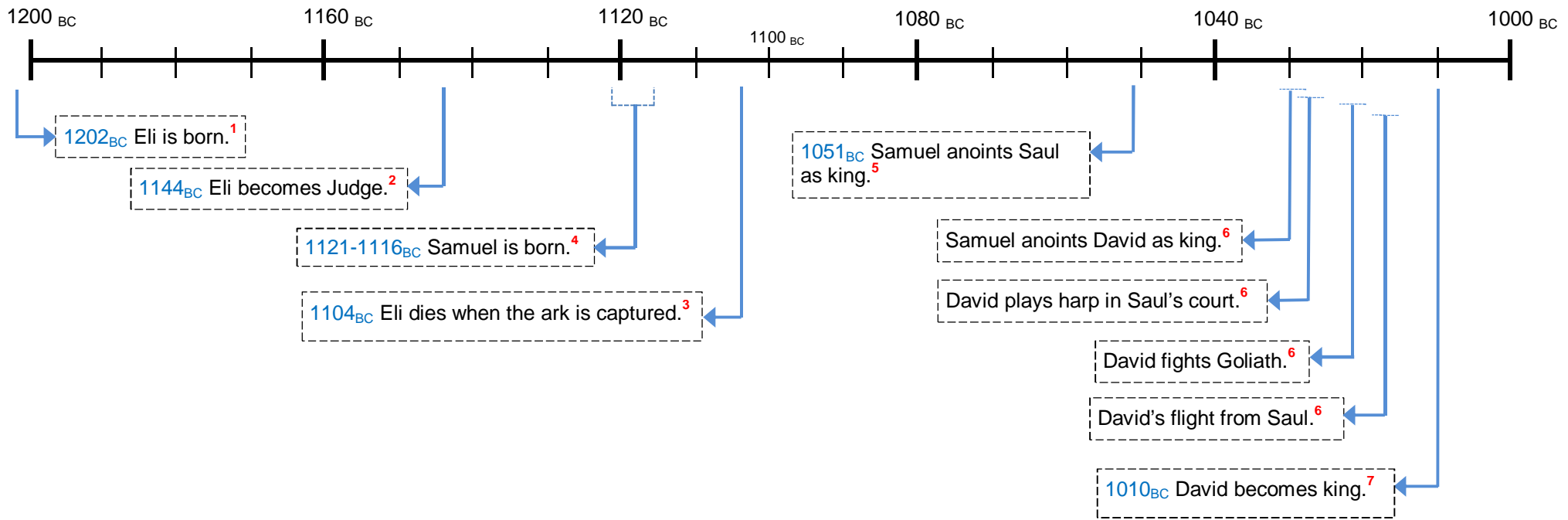


Timeline of 1 Samuel



The dates are based on info from the Bible Knowledge Commentary except where noted, so they are open to interpretation. Please see my notes and thoughts on the next page.

¹ In the BKC (Bible Knowledge Commentary) we are told at verse *1 Sam 7:2* that the ark of the LORD is captured in 1104_{BC}. We also find in our Bible in *1 Sam 4:15* that Eli dies at the age of 98 years old when the ark is captured. So by doing the math we find that Eli was born around 1202_{BC}.

² In our Bible in *1 Sam 4:18* we are told that Eli was a judge for 40 years. So by doing the math we see that he became judge around 1144_{BC}.

³ In our Bible in *1 Sam 4:18* we are told that Eli died when he heard news that the ark was captured. See footnote 1 above for date when the ark was captured.

⁴ In the BKC at verse *1 Sam 8:1-6* we are told that Samuel was around 65 to 70 years old when he anoints Saul to be king in 1051_{BC}. So by doing the math we see that Samuel was born around 1121-1116_{BC}.

⁵ In the BKC we are told that Samuel anoints Saul as king in 1051_{BC}.

⁶ The approximate dates for these events in David's life were taken from: "Smith, J. E. (1995). *The Books of History. Old Testament Survey Series. Joplin, MO: College Press*". See chart #30.

⁷ This date is found in several resources, but there are others which use different dates.

My Notes and bibliographic info:

- The BKC notes that the ark was captured by the Philistines in 1104_{BC}.¹ This section also says that the first year of David's reign was in 1003_{BC}.
- The BKC notes that Samuel anointed Saul as king in 1051_{BC}.² This section also states that Samuel was between 65 and 70 years old when he anointed Saul king.
- Harper's Bible Dictionary states that David reigned as king over Israel 1010_{BC} until 970_{BC}.³
- Harper's Bible Handbook has a timeline (see footnote below for location) which shows Saul being king from 1020_{BC} until 1000_{BC}. It also shows David being king from 1000_{BC} until 962_{BC}.⁴
- The ESV Study Bible has a chart showing Saul's reign starting between 1050_{BC} – 1030_{BC} and ending at 1010_{BC}.⁵ It also shows David's reign from 1010_{BC} until 970_{BC}.
- Nelson New Illustrated Bible Commentary has a chart which shows Saul becoming king at 1050_{BC} and David becoming king at 1010_{BC}. It also shows David being anointed by Samuel at 1018_{BC}.⁶
- The NIV Study Bible has a timeline at the front which shows Saul reigning from 1050_{BC} until 1010_{BC}. It also shows David reigning from 1010_{BC} until 970_{BC}.⁷
- David's age at his anointing was taken from my other timeline (David's age at events in his life) which are noted as taken from *The Books of History. Old Testament Survey Series* or from the *Faithlife Study Bible* infographics.⁸ These are approximate dates.

As expected there is disagreement on exact dates for this time period before Solomon's reign. I have noticed that there is much more agreement with dates during and after Solomon's reign in various Bible reference materials. This may be due to outside archaeological material which helps fits in with what our Bible tells us. So this timeline that I have put together here will give a general impression of how events transpired during the time of *1 Samuel*. I find it very useful in grasping an understanding of what God tells us through the Bible when I can picture the chronological sequences.

I did not include Saul's dates (date of birth and date of death) on the timeline (other than what BKC stated as the date that he was anointed) due to variations mentioned in Bible footnotes. We see in the Bible in *1 Sam 13:1* that Saul was 30 years old when he began to reign and reigned 42 years (per NIV 1984 edition). But there are footnotes next to this text that the original language for this verse has issues. Other translations (NASB, ESV, KJV, NKJV) usually have similar footnotes. The BKC goes into detail in saying that there appears to be a dropped word or figure from the original language manuscripts. And it goes on to state that the text literally reads "*Saul was years old when he began to reign and he reigned two years over Israel*".⁹ So with such discrepancies, I decided to omit these possible dates from this timeline.

¹ Merrill, E. H. (1985). 1 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (1 Sa 7:2). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Merrill, E. H. (1985). 1 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (1 Sa 8:1–6). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³ Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row, & Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). *Harper's Bible dictionary* (1st ed.) (208). San Francisco: Harper & Row.

⁴ Dockery, D. S., Butler, T. C., Church, C. L., Scott, L. L., Ellis Smith, M. A., White, J. E., & Holman Bible Publishers (Nashville, TN). (1992). *Holman Bible Handbook* (57). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

⁵ Crossway Bibles. (2008). *The ESV Study Bible* (32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (1 Sa). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

⁷ Zondervan NIV Study Bible (2002), The New International Version.

⁸ Smith, James E. *The Books of History. Old Testament Survey Series*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995. Or from FaithLife Study Bible, Faithlife Study Bible Infographics. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2012.

⁹ Merrill, E. H. (1985). 1 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (1 Sa 13). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.