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# WELCOME TO KALEIDOSCOPE

First of all, thank you for picking up a copy of Kaleidoscope! We are glad to have you. In the following pages, you'll experience the Bible in a whole new way.

Kaleidoscope was borne from the need to provide a fun, engaging, age-appropriate retelling of the Bible for elementary-aged children to transition them from "little kid" Bibles to adult translations.

At Kaleidoscope, we are producing single volumes for every book of the Bible. They're designed to read like chapter books, so you'll turn pages and look forward with anticipation to the next volume.

But don't let the fact that we are focused on kids deter you if you are a "big kid!" Good children's books are almost always as good for adults as they are for kids.

Get excited! In the pages that follow, you'll see God's wonderful good news. Our prayer is that His kindness, gentleness, and love will melt our hearts and make us more like Jesus.

*The Kaleidoscope Team*



To Keaton, Cedric, and Keller, may the  
Promised King always be your hero.

In this creative retelling of 1&2 Samuel, Elizabeth Santelman points children to King Jesus as each leader in the Old Testament is just a shadow of Him. Gentle, instructive, and engaging, *Shadows of the King* reminds children (and adults!) how all our hero stories help us long for King Jesus, who will make all things right. I wish I had this book when my own children were younger!

-Ashley Hales, author of *A Spacious Life* and *Finding Holy in the Suburbs*

*Shadows of the King* brings the stories of 1&2 Samuel to life, both in the original horizon of the text and their fulfillment in Christ! I heartily recommend this book to parents who want to help their children see Old Testament narratives in light of God's big story in the Bible.

-Walter Shaw, blogger at WTSreads (@wtsreads)

In her book, *Shadows of the King: The Story of 1&2 Samuel*, Elizabeth pours out solid biblical teachings through stunning illustrations and powerful storytelling. This book is timely and shelf worthy for every family! A must-read for children of all ages.

-Cassandra Speer, bestselling author, Bible teacher, and Vice President of Her True Worth

A powerful retelling of 1&2 Samuel, leaving us wanting more of Jesus, our one true hero. Woven all throughout this masterpiece you will see the good news of the gospel shining in the shadows. The connections will draw kids to a clear understanding of God's presence, place, people, and purpose. A Biblical resource every family needs!

-Jennifer Edewaard, Author of *Encamp*

# CREATORS



## **Elizabeth Santelmann**

lives in Oklahoma with her three small boys and husband. Her family laughingly says they have a revolving front door because, with Elizabeth's extroversion, their home is a hub for entertaining. Her hope is to share, through writing, what she is learning about gently nurturing children toward the gospel. Follow her @sunshineinmynest on Instagram.



## **Garyfallia Leftheri**

studied French Professional Translation, but her passion for drawing drove her to ORNERAKIS School of Cartoon and Animation in Athens, Greece, and later on to the University of Glamorgan in UK, where she studied Stop Motion Animation. She lives in Athens with her husband and their twins and works as an illustrator for educative and children's books. She loves sewing kids' toys, cooking, and reading fairy tales.



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# INTRODUCTION

We all love stories of kings and heroes and brave men and women.

The books of 1st & 2nd Samuel have some of the best heroes of the Old Testament. But you'll notice that as exciting as these stories are, the leaders, priests, kings, and princes all leave us wishing for something, or rather *someone* more: the Promised King, who is King Jesus. Of course, everyone in this book has good, even admirable, qualities. But they all are merely shadows of Jesus.

Before we get too far, let's back up to a time before all the leaders, priests, kings, and princes...

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, God created a beautiful garden known as "Eden." Because of a lie from Satan, the people living there, Adam and Eve, believed they could be "like God." They chose to rebel against God, trying to be like Him. Because of this rebellion, sin entered the world. Since then, people have tried to be like God themselves or looked for someone like God to save them.

Even still, because of God's kindness, He left Adam and Eve with a promise in Eden: a King would come to crush the head of Satan!

After Eden, God did some incredible things. First, against all odds, He made a special nation known as Israel through Abraham's family. Then, He guided the people of Israel out of Egypt and helped them defeat their enemies. All that time, God was faithful. He gave them a law to keep them safe and judges to help them obey God. But even then, they drifted away. The stories in 1st & 2nd Samuel take place after the judges ruled.

Now, remember those two lies Adam and Eve believed in Eden? 1. I can be like God. 2. Someone like God can save me. We'd like to think that those lies would lose their luster after hundreds of years had passed. However, in the days of 1st and 2nd Samuel, you'll see that these lies still controlled people's hearts and minds.

But here's the good news: even though the leaders, priests, kings, and princes in 1st & 2nd Samuel believed the lies of Eden, they were only shadows of King Jesus. Shadows are great, but they aren't the "real thing."

Throughout this book, you'll see God's good news lurking in the shadows. For example, it's good news that God protected His people against their enemies. However, still to come was the ultimate protection from sin and death, which would be provided through Jesus's death and resurrection. We'll also meet King David, who had many admirable traits. Still, his leadership will often leave us longing for King Jesus, who has every admirable trait. Every person, nation, and event in these books hint at Jesus and help us long for the "real thing," not shadows.



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Lower and Upper Beth-horon  
Mizpah  
Ramah  
Geba  
Gibeah  
Nob  
Jebus (Jerusalem)  
Kiriath-jearim

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

AMALEK

SAUL'S KINGDOM

0 10 20 30 ml  
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# TRYING TO DO RIGHT

1 Samuel 1

Silence... eerie dead, quiet.

God's people all were doing what they thought was right, but they had no one to guide them.

Ever since the days of the judges, God had been silent. The people of Israel were waiting. God had promised a King. Where was the King? God had promised a Messiah. Was He coming?

In a small house tucked away in the hill country, the cry of a newborn echoed through the four rooms that Peninnah, Hannah, and their husband Elkanah shared. Peninnah had given birth to a new baby. The next day Hannah crept in and slowly lifted the tiny baby into her arms. She petted the baby's soft head, but this baby did not belong to her.

Oh, how her heart longed for even just one child, yet months passed, and no baby arrived for Hannah. Instead, as years passed, Peninnah had more and more children while Hannah grew more and more distressed.

Every year the entire family took a special trip to Jerusalem to worship God. The whole trip, Peninnah taunted Hannah for not having babies. She had no compassion for Hannah. Instead, she was delighted that she was the one who'd blessed their shared husband with children.

After a long journey to the tabernacle, Peninnah mocking her the whole way, Hannah ran to the tabernacle of God to pray. She threw herself to the ground in the outer court. The smell of burning incense lay thick in the air. There were sounds of sheep bleating, knives slashing over sharpening stones, and voices murmuring all around her, but Hannah was so upset that all of that noise fell away, as she was lost in prayer, crying and begging God for a child.

"Oh God, see how sad Your daughter is. Don't forget me. Please give me a baby! I won't keep him for myself. I will raise him and give him back to You." She was so deeply focused on her prayer that her lips moved, but she didn't use any words.

This was quite an unusual scene. The head priest, Eli, was concerned when he saw Hannah. *Who was this strange woman? Eli thought. Drunk and behaving oddly in the tabernacle!*

Eli decided to correct her, so he marched over and yelled, "How long will you stand here drunk?"

Hannah looked up startled and afraid she would be dragged out. She carefully answered Eli, "No, no, I am not drunk. I've been praying. Please don't make me leave. I was telling God that I want more than anything to have my own baby."

Eli had compassion for Hannah. She was just one woman among hundreds who visited each day, but Eli saw a girl who was so sad yet had so much faith that she didn't care how she looked to others.





Please  
don't  
forget me!

Eli bent down, helped Hannah stand up, and spoke words that made her heart leap with joy: "Go in peace, and may God answer your prayer."

God filled the emptiness of Hannah's heart with hope, and soon the emptiness of Hannah's womb was filled with her longed-for baby. His name was Samuel. God's silence to His people was over. He was about to fulfill His promise.

## **Kaleidoscope Corner**

### **What is a Tabernacle?**

Hey, did you notice? The tabernacle is our first "shadow" in this story. Even after Adam and Eve left Eden, God wanted to be with His people.

You've probably heard about a temple or church, which are buildings for worshiping God, but at this time, Israel had a tabernacle. A tabernacle was a tent for worshiping God. However, it wasn't just a cloth tent made for camping. This tent was built with specific directions from God. Even when Israel was wandering in the desert, they could pack it up and take it with them.

This tent had an enormous courtyard for people to gather and make sacrifices.

At the center of the courtyard was the huge, beautiful room called the "Holy of Holies." This room is where God lived.

"Holy" means "set apart." Everything in this room reminded the people that God is perfect and sinless. Inside was the Ark of the Covenant. "Covenant" is a fancy word for a promise. The Ark was a gold box with the Ten Commandments, a budding staff, and a jar of manna inside. These were all things God had used to show Israel He would take care of them. The Ark had angel wings on top, and they also called it the "mercy seat" because God promised to rest there among Israel.

Because the holiness of God was so powerful in the Holy of Holies, if a person went in after sinning, they would die immediately.

You may be thinking, *that doesn't make sense. God wants His people to be with Him, but they die if they get close to Him when they sin?! All of us sin. We can't stop sinning just because we want to.*

You're right. God wanted to be with His people so much that He made a way for them to enter once per year. Every year the priests would kill a lamb and then burn it as a sacrifice. God used sacrifices like this to remind them that the consequence of sin is death.

Jesus came as our perfect sacrifice. The moment Jesus died for our sin, the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the people tore down the middle, showing us that we can approach God without the fear of death.