

1 SAMUEL

Author: Samuel & others

Date: approx. 1100 - 1015 B.C.

First and Second Samuel were originally one book that was later divided into two. First Samuel recounts eventful history interwoven with the biographies of three colorful personalities—Samuel, Saul, and David. Samuel became a prophet, a priest, and a judge. His main mission was organization of the kingdom. He anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. Samuel later anointed David as the second king. David was a shepherd boy who became the most famous king in Israel's history. Other key characters in this book are Eli (High Priest), Hannah (Samuel's mother), and Jonathan (Saul's son and David's best friend).

First Samuel begins in the days of the judges and describes Israel's transition from a theocracy (led by God) to a monarchy (led by a king). Samuel emerged as the last judge in the 350-year span of the judges.

Jews and Christians have been challenged and encouraged by the stories of Samuel, David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, David's plight from Saul, his kindness to Mephibosheth, and his sorrow over his son Absalom's rebellion and death. On a more doctrinal level, readers have studied the Davidic Covenant and see how David begins the dynasty that leads to the Messiah.

The theme is how God, Israel's true King, at the people's request, delegated royal sovereignty first to Saul, and then to David and his lineage. God has always been and will always be King. God's sovereignty over all the world, in heaven and on earth. God's redemptive plan continues to unfold.

Key verse: "There is no one holy like the Lord: for there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:2.

OUTLINE

- I. The Rise and Ministry of Samuel (1:1 – 7:17)
 - A. Samuel's birth, childhood, and early ministry (Chapters 1-3)
 - B. The Ark of God (Chapters 4-7)
- II. The Rise and Reign of Saul, Israel's First King (Chapters 8–15)
 - A. A king is demanded and chosen (Chapters 8-9)
 - B. The anointing and confirmation of Saul (Chapters 10, 11)
 - C. Samuel's rebuke and charge to the people (Chapter 12)
 - D. Saul's disobedience and rejection (Chapters 13-15)
- III. David's Life Until the Death of Saul (Chapters 16-30)
 - A. Anointing by Samuel as future king (16:1-13)
 - B. Ministering to Saul and defeating Goliath (16:14-17:58)
 - C. Marrying Michal (Chapter 18)
 - D. Fleeing from Saul (Chapters 19-26)
 - E. Living in Philistia (Chapters 27-30)
- IV. Saul's Death (Chapter 30)