

1st & 2nd Samuel

Author: Samuel & Others, perhaps the prophets Gad & Nathan (1 Chr. 29:29)

Date: 1000 to 970 B.C.

| I Samuel | | II Samuel I Chronicles | | I Kings 1-11 II Chronicles 1-9 | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Eli is H. Priest. | Ahitub | Ahimelech (aka Ahija). | Abiathar acts as H. Priest | Zadok acts as priest Ahimelech acts as priest | Zadok is H.Priest |
| Age of Judges | | Kingdom Founded | | | |
| Samson Judges Samuel Born | Samuel Judges | Saul is King | David is King | Solomon is King | Rehoboam is King |
| c.1085 BC | | 1050 BC | 1010 BC | 970BC | 930 BC |

Structure of 1st & 2nd Samuel:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1-2:11 | Introduction: Samuel's birth & Hannah's Song (2:1-10) |  |
| 1:12-7:17 | The Rise of Samuel as Judge | |
| 8-12 | A King "like all the Nations" | |
| 13-15 | The Fall of the House of Saul | |
| 16-2 nd Sam. 1 | The Rise of the House of David | |
| 2-10 | The Rise and Establishment of David's Kingdom and the "Davidic Kingdom" | |
| 11-21 | The decline of David's Kingdom | |
| 22-24 | Conclusion: David's Song (22:2-51 & the last words of David (23:1-7) | |

Main Themes in Samuel

- 1.) Israel's downward spiral into chaos and defeat continues without a king.
(1 Sam. 2:12-36; 4-6)
- 2.) The Kingdom of Israel is Established
(1 Sam. 8-11)
- 3.) Israel's kings must follow Yahweh
 - The downward spiral under the judges continues if the king is not devoted to God & Scripture (Torah). Saul proves this.
(1 Sam. 13-31)
 - both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God. "If you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers. (1Sa 12:14-15 NAU)*
- 4.) Each leader commits his own sin and suffers the consequences of his own sin

Comparison of sinful leader and the replacement

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Eli & Sons | Samuel |
| Samuel's sons | Young Saul |

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Older Saul | David |
| David's sin | Results in Family Strife |

5.) Jerusalem becomes God's acceptable place of worship (tabernacle) (2 Sam. 5-6)

6.) God chooses David's line for blessing his people

The Davidic Covenant

- A great name v.9
- A place: the land v.10
- Rest from enemies – Shalom v.11
- A house: Dynasty v.11
- An heir who will build the temple v.12-13
- Father-Son relationship v.14
- An eternal kingdom: authority v.16
- An eternal throne: place of rule v.16

7.) The covenant is eternal, akin to the Abrahamic Covenant, but individual kings could forfeit the blessing for themselves. v.14-15

8.) The covenant promise regarding the land is FINALLY fulfilled under David's leadership (2 Sam. 8-10)

9.) God is both faithful & just.

- David's adultery with Bathsheba & murder of Uriah does not invalidate the Davidic promise.
- They do cause personal & political upheaval for him.

10.) God uses prophets as a means to hold kings accountable.

| Prophet | → | King |
|---------|-------|-------------------|
| Samuel | Saul | (1 Sam. 9-13, 28) |
| Samuel | David | (1 Sam. 16) |
| Nathan | David | (2 Sam. 12) |
| Gad | David | (2 Sam. 24) |

11.) The Davidic (Messianic/anointed) king becomes a future hope.

Samuel begins with:

"Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed." (1 Sam 2:10 NAU)

Samuel ends with:

"He is a tower of deliverance to His king, And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever." (2 Sam 22:51 NAU)

Outline of 1st Samuel

Part I – Samuel, the Prophet and Priest – Ch. 1-12

Part II – Saul, the King – Ch. 13-31

Chapters 1-2 – God Provides a Son

- 1:1 - Elkanah is a Levite, residing in Ephraim
- 1:2-18 – Hannah is the image of barren Israel, crying out for deliverance
- 1:19-28 – Hannah gives birth to Samuel, devoting him to serve God

Chapters 2-5 – Samuel Delivers a Message of Judgment Against Eli’s House

- 2:1-10 – Hannah’s Song: “There is no Rock like our God”
- 2:11-21 – Samuel grew up in a corrupt priestly environment.
- 2:22-36 – God pronounces judgment against Eli for not stopping his sons.
- 3:1-21 – God begins to speak through Samuel, “and the Lord appeared again” (v.21)
- 4:1-22 – The Ark, like an idol, is taken into battle, and lost: God’s judgment is fulfilled.
- 5:1-12 – The Philistines suffer with the Ark in their midst.

Chapters 6-7 – The Ark is Returned and the People Repent

- 6:1-18 – A Philistine experiment proves that the God if Israel is real.
- 6:19-21 – Many Israelites die for irreverently looking into the Ark.
- 7:1-17 – Israel turned back to God and Samuel judged them “all the days of his life”

Chapters 8-11 – The People’s Choice: Israel Asks for a King “like all the nations.”

- 8:1-22 – Samuel’s sons fail to follow God, and the people ask for a king.
- 9:1-27 – God chooses Saul to be the king the people are asking for.
- 10:1-13 – Saul is anointed, given God’s enabling power with the Holy Spirit.
- 10:14-16 – Saul fails to tell his uncle “about the kingdom”
- 10:17-27 – Saul is crowned king, after attempting to hide in the baggage.
- 11:1-15 – Saul delivers the men of Jabesh-Gilead from Ammonites.

Chapters 12 – Samuel’s Farewell Address to Israel

- v.14-15 – The Mosaic Covenant is still in force, and it applies to the King.
- NOTE – concept of Federal Headship is now in force. Blessing depends on the King!

Part II – Saul the King

Chapters 13-15 - God Rejects Saul as King

- Ch. 13 – Saul’s Self-focused, Impatient Presumption
- Ch. 14 – Saul’s Self-focused, Rash Vow
- Ch. 15 – Saul’s Self-Focused Rebellion

Chapters 16-17 – God Chooses Saul’s Replacement, David the Shepherd

- 16:1- (in contrast to 15:35) God has selected “a king for Himself”
- v.7 – God looks at the outward appearance – this is not the “people’s choice”
- v. 13 – Samuel anoints David, and the Spirit came upon him “mighty”
- v.14 – The Spirit departed from Saul, and a demon is introduced into Saul’s life.

v.15-23 – David’s Royal internship begins, as a palace musician.

17:11 – Saul fails to lead, act as deliverer or seek God, in face of Philistine threat.

17:26-58 – David acts as deliverer, confident in the Lord, in the face of the threat.

Chapters 18-19 – Saul’s Fury and David’s Flight

18:1-5 – David’s friendship with Jonathan the Prince grows

18:6-16 – David “prospers” and is loved by Israel and insecure Saul grows jealous

18:17-

Chapters 20-21 – David’s finds help with the Prince, the Priest and the Pagan

Chapter 22 – David gathers band of misfits while Saul executes the priests who helped.

v.1-2 – Who makes up David’s army?

v. 3 – Why Moab?

v. 7-8 – Note Saul’s tools of manipulation

v.14 – Ahimelech advocates for David

v.18 – Why is Doeg willing to do what Saul’s servants were not?

v.19 – Prophecy partially fulfilled: 1 Sam. 2:27-36; 4:10-14

Chapters 23-24 – God becomes David’s ROCK and DELIVERER

23:1-12 – David seeks God like a king would, and “delivers” Keilah.

23:13-29 – David is delivered from Saul by God, and he takes refuge at the “rock”

24:1-22 – God delivers Saul into David’s hand, and David’s restraint spares Saul’s life.

Chapter 25 – David is delivered from foolish revenge, by a wise woman’s restraining spirit.

Chapter 26 – God delivers Saul into David’s hand again, and David shows restraint & integrity.

v.13-16 – David makes fools of Saul’s men, while showing his own innocence.

v.18-20, 22-24 – David makes his final appeal for reconciliation to Saul.

v.24 – David appeals to God for justice.

Chapter 27 – David despairs and escapes to the service of another Pagan, Achish of Gath.

v.1 – David loses any hope that Saul will change, and leaves Saul’s territory.

v.5-12 – David pretends to attack Israel for the Philistines, but only fights Israel’s enemies.

Chapters 28-29 – Despairing Saul uses sorcery in the face of Philistines and silence from God.

28:1-2 – Achish calls David’s bluff.

28:3-6 – The usual means of talking with God are gone: Samuel, priests, prophets, etc.

28:7-25 – Samuel speaks to Saul from beyond the grave to deliver God’s final judgment.

29:1-12 – David gets out of fighting against Israel when Philistines don’t trust him.

Chapter 30 – David and his men rescue their families from raiding the Amalekites

v.6 – David strengthened himself in the Lord – “took courage in”

v.21-25 – David delivers his men from legalism, and instructs them in grace

v.26-31 – David shares with all in the territories that he has resided in.

Chapter 31 – Saul and his sons die in battle against the Philistines.

v.1-4 – Saul’s despair and insecurity catch up with him and he kills himself.

v.6-7 – Without their king, God’s people have no hope.

v.8-18 – Brave men from Jabesh-gilead recover the desecrated remains of Saul & sons.