

3. In between is all manner of high drama full of deep disappointments & exhilarating successes.
4. By the end of the book there will be three major offices in the nation: prophet, priest, and king.

III. Challenges in Interpreting “Samuel”

A. God’s Opinion about Kingship

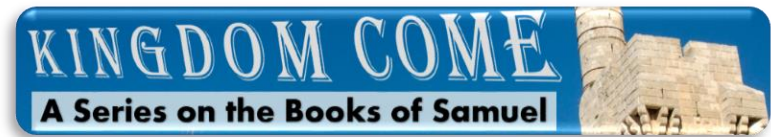
1. It may feel at times as if the book gives differing ideas about Israel having a human king. **I Sam 8:7; II Sam 7:21**
2. God’s protest is more about the kind of king Israel wanted and the timing in which they demanded it. But it had been his plan all along to give His people a king. **Gen 49:10**
 - a. The section on David (I Sam 16 – 2 Sam 24) is one of the most prolonged sections of narrative in the Old Testament.
 - b. God uses David to reestablish the priesthood and restore worship centered around the sanctuary & the Ark of the Covt.

B. Variant Readings in the Hebrew Text

1. Early in the copying of the book, accidental errors occurred resulting in many variant readings. E.g., **1 Sam 13:1; II Sam 21:19**
2. Many of these errors were addressed in ancient translations and even in the Hebrew text of the books of Chronicles, written late in Old Testament times.

IV. The Structure of “Samuel”

- A. The books of 1st and 2nd Samuel were originally one long book. Sometime before the NT era, it came to be copied in two halves.
- B. The split in copies was made between the rise of David (1st Samuel) and the rule of David (2nd Samuel).
- C. But the writing can be divided up into 5 major sections (see VOC).



BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL

Pastor M. Scott Bashoor, Community Bible Church (Anaheim)

June 7, 2020

- I. **The Purpose of “Samuel”** – The books of Samuel chronicle God’s transformation of Israel from a nation into a kingdom, culminating in the establishment of the Davidic dynasty.
 - A. At the beginning of the book, Israel has been a nation for 330 years, since Moses led them out of Egypt.
 - B. By the end of the book 140 years later, Israel will have become a kingdom under the dynasty of David.
 - C. This institution of the kingdom is a major advancement in God’s plan.
 1. While the kingdom of God eternally exists, it has taken different forms in its manifestation on the earth.
 2. By establishing a monarchy in Israel, God sets in place a major building block in His plan to fully reestablish His direct rule over the earth through David’s greatest Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. The highpoint of the book is in 2 Sam 7 when God initiates the “Davidic Covenant,” promising unparalleled peace & victory to the house of David.
- II. **The Author and Dates of “Samuel”**
 - A. No author is credited in the book. One Jewish tradition says that some of Samuel’s own records comprised much of the first half with the remainder written by the prophets Nathan and Gad.
 - B. The book spans 140 years (1110 BC – 970 BC) from the judgeship of Samuel thru the reign of Saul to the reign of David. These will be some of the most fractious & glorious years in Israel’s history.
 1. At the beginning of the book, the tribes are loosely confederated and often warring.
 2. By the end of the book, they are united under a king and a renewed central place of worship.

The Books of SAMUEL

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Purpose: The books of Samuel chronicle God’s transformation of Israel from a nation into a kingdom, culminating in the establishment of the Davidic dynasty. God promised in a covenant with David’s house to bring unprecedented peace to Israel & everlasting glory in the fulfillment of His kingdom plan.

Author: Undeclared. Traditionally a composite of records by the prophets Samuel, Nathan, & Gad.
Compilation Date: Some time after David’s Reign
Years Chronicled: c. 1110 BC – 970 BC

PRELUDE TO THE DAVIDIC DYNASTY: The Roles of Samuel & Saul 1 Samuel 1:1 – 14:47		INTRODUCTION TO DAVID: Saul’s Fall & David’s Rise 1 Samuel 15:1 – 31:13		INSTITUTION OF DAVID’S REIGN: The Kingdom Consolidated 2 Samuel 1:1 – 9:13		DAVID’S ROYAL FAILURES: The Kingdom in Jeopardy 2 Samuel 10:1 – 20:26		FINAL REFLECTIONS: Highlights from David’s Life 2 Samuel 21:1 – 24:25	
The Rise of Samuel: Light in Darkness 1:1 – 7:17	The Rise & Fall of Saul: Kingship Introduced 8:1 – 14:52	David’s Rise during Saul’s Decline 15:1 – 28:2	Saul’s Demise & David’s Victory 28:3 – 31:13	Overcoming Divided Kingdom Loyalties 1:1 – 4:12	Divine Favor on King David Richly Outpoured 5:1 – 9:13	Rocked by Wartime Scandal & Coverup 10:1 – 12:31	Fending Off Repeated Rebellion & Sedition 13:1 – 20:26	Cycle One: David’s Challenges & Victories 21:1- 22:51	Cycle Two: David’s Victories & Failures 23:1- 24:25
Samuel’s Miraculous Birth: Hannah’s Lament & Thanks 1:1 – 2:11 Transitions in Leadership Prophesied: Eli’s Fall & Samuel’s Rise 2:12 – 4:1a Victories of the Lord of Hosts: The God of the Ark Not Manipulated 4:1b – 7:17	Israel’s Premature Demand for a King 8:1-22 God’s Choice of Saul Disclosed 9:1 – 10:16 God’s Choice of Saul Confirmed 10:17 – 12:25 Saul’s Weaknesses Evidenced 13:1 – 14:52	God’s Rejection of Saul Confirmed 15:1-35 God’s Selection of David Opposed 16:1 – 28:2 David’s Dramatic Entrance 16:1 – 18:5 Saul’s Long War against David 18:6 – 28:2	Saul’s Ominous Interaction with the Dead 28:3-25 David’s Deliverance & Victory 29:1 – 30:31 Saul & Jonathan’s Deaths in Battle with Philistines 31:1-13	David’s Honoring of Saul’s Memory 1:1-27 David’s Reign Begun at Hebron 2:1-4a Conflict between the Houses of Saul & David 2:4b – 4:12	David’s Reign Consolidated in Jerusalem 5:1-16 The Ark Brought to Jerusalem 6:1-23 The Davidic Covenant 7:1-29 The Many Victories of David Surveyed 8:1 – 9:13	War against Ammon Begun 10:1-19 Affair with Bathsheba: David’s Sin & Prophetic Punishment 11:1 – 12:25 War against Ammon Concluded 12:26-31	The Long Insurrection of Absalom 13:1 – 19:41 The Trigger of the Tamar Incident 13:1- 38 Absalom’s Exile 14:1-33 Absalom’s Rebellion Unleashed 15:1 – 16:34 The Rebellion Repulsed & David’s Return 17:1 – 19:41 The Brief Insurrection of Sheba 19:42 – 20:26	Judgment of Famine for Saul’s Covenant Unfaithfulness 21:1-14 First Honor Roll of David’s Mighty Men 21:15-22 David’s Hymn of Thanks for Years of Deliverance 22:1-51	David’s Final Oracle: Praise for the Davidic Covenant 23:1-7 Second Honor Roll of David’s Mighty Men 23:8-39 Judgment of Plague for David’s Proud Census 24:1-25