

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of 1 Samuel

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INTRODUCTION

- 1) The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel were originally _____ book in the Hebrew Bible. They were divided by the translators of the Septuagint and called 1 and 2 Kings, with the books we now know as 1 and 2 Kings being called 3 and 4 Kings.
- 2) Together, these books provide the _____ of the early monarchy in Israel from a prophetic point of view.
- 3) The Book of 1 Samuel continues the history of Israel from the point where _____ leaves it. (**Judges 21:25**)
- 4) God intended that Israel submit to His _____ as Sovereign in their hearts and lives. This type of government is called a _____. The nation of Israel had declined spiritually during the days of the Judges. They had increasingly put God out of their lives; they were "*untheocratic*."
- 5) By the time of chapter 8, Israel had rejected the idea of God on the throne and felt that they needed a _____ (*a monarchy*). God granted Israel's request, but not without warning them of the consequences of _____ Him as their King. (**8:7ff**)

AUTHORSHIP

- 1) **The Traditional view:** The author of 1 Samuel is _____, but gets its name from one of the book's principle characters, Samuel. 1 Samuel 10:25 indicates that Samuel was the writer of at least one work. Samuel's death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1. From this we can conclude that at least part of 1 Samuel and all of 2 Samuel were written by someone else, possibly Nathan and Gad (**1 Chronicles 29:29**).
- 2) **The Critical view:** Critics would say that 1 Samuel was compiled from two principle sources: "*J*" (*Jehovist*) = 10th century BC and "*E*" (*Elohists*) = 8th century BC.

RECIPIENTS

The Book of 1 Samuel was directed to the young _____ of Israel.

DATE OF WRITING

The book was possibly written sometime between 1025 and 900 BC.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

1. To continue the history of Israel after the period of the judges, especially to show the origin of the _____.
2. To reveal the significant role of the _____ both in the transition from judges to the kings and in their moral exhortations to the kings.

THEME OF THE BOOK

The key to the message of this book might well be the meaning of Samuel's name, "*_____*." (**1:20**)

Since the words _____ and _____ are found often in this book, the chief message of this book may be understood as the place for and the power of prayer in all experiences of life.

- Samuel was given in answer to prayer. (**1:1ff**)
- Samuel's prayer and call for others to pray brought victory to Israel. (**7:5-12**)
- Samuel sought the Lord in prayer during times of distress. (**8:5, 6**)
- Samuel calls the lack of prayer for God's people sin. (**12:19-23**)

OUTLINE

Samuel 1-7

- One of the great leaders of the nation of Israel. He is considered by the Jews as second only to _____ in his leadership.
- He was the last of the _____ and was also a _____. He might be called the first "*circuit riding preacher*." (**3:19, 20; 7:15-17**)
- He was used of God to anoint the first two of Israel's kings: _____ and _____.
- He shows us that whom God finds faithful in _____ things will be trusted with _____ things.

Saul 8-15

- Saul was chosen to be Israel's first king. He had the _____ characteristics that made him appealing to the people. (9:2)
- He begins as a _____ and somewhat reluctant leader (9:21)
- His fall can be seen in the steps he takes away from God.
 1. He intrudes into the office of the priesthood. **(13:9 & 10)**
 2. He orders the death of his own son. **(14)**He
 3. He disobeys God and spares Amalek. **(15:3-9)**
 4. He attempts to kill David. **(18:10 & 11; 19:1)**
 5. He slaughters 85 priests of God. **(22:17-19)**
 6. He seeks the help of a witch. **(28:7ff)**
- Saul's life shows that _____ to God brings success; acting on our own brings _____.

David 16-31

- David is known as the greatest king of Israel: "*a man after God's own* _____." **(13:14)**

An outline of the life of David:

The Shepherd = He was brought from a sheep field near Bethlehem and anointed to be King by Samuel. **(16)**

The Singer = King Saul, troubled by an evil spirit, was soothed by the beautiful music from David's harp. **(16)**

The Soldier = With only a sling and a stone David kills the mighty giant soldier Goliath. **(17)**

The Sought = David's growing popularity with the people incurs Saul's jealousy. Saul hunts David like a wild animal, seeking to kill him. **(17-31)**

As David ran from Saul he learned important _____ that fitted him for the role as King of Israel. We can learn from David's example that God is always in _____, and that He directs the _____ of our lives to mold us and fit us for whatever He has in store for us.