

1 & 2 SAMUEL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 11	1 Sam 1:1–2:11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 12	1 Sam 2:12–3:21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 13	1 Sam 4–5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 14	1 Sam 6–7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 15	1 Sam 8–9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 18	1 Sam 10–11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 19	1 Sam 12:1–13:7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 20	1 Sam 13:8–14:23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 21	1 Sam 14:24–52
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 22	1 Sam 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 25	1 Sam 16:1–17:26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 26	1 Sam 17:27–18:5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 27	1 Sam 18:6–19:24
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 28	1 Sam 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 29	1 Sam 21–22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 2	1 Sam 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 3	1 Sam 24–25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 4	1 Sam 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 5	1 Sam 27–28
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 6	1 Sam 29–31
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 9	2 Sam 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 10	2 Sam 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 11	2 Sam 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 12	2 Sam 4:1–6:4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 13	2 Sam 6:5–7:29
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 16	2 Sam 8–9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 17	2 Sam 10–11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 18	2 Sam 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 19	2 Sam 13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 20	2 Sam 14:1–15:12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 23	2 Sam 15:13–16:2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 24	2 Sam 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 25	2 Sam 18:1–19:15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 26	2 Sam 19:16–20:2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 27	2 Sam 21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 30	2 Sam 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 31	2 Sam 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nov. 1	2 Sam 24

Summary

The eighth and ninth books of the Hebrew Bible (ninth and 10th in most Christian versions of the Old Testament). Narrates events beginning with the birth of Samuel through the establishment of the monarchy—first and briefly under Saul, and then under David. Concerned primarily with extolling David as the ideal king of Israel.

The story of 1 and 2 Samuel tells of ancient Israel's experimentation with the monarchy, tracing the transition from the chaos and disorder of the tribalism of the book of Judges to the rule of a king.

Two songs frame the entire narrative: Hannah's song in 1 Sam 2, and David's song in 2 Sam 23 (Childs, *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*, 263–80). This frame puts all that comes in between—war, familial strife, death, and intrigue—in the context of the interaction and salvation of Yahweh (Brueggemann, *David's Truth*).

The theme which binds the narratives of 1, 2 Samuel together is that of kingship and covenant. Although the author himself never specifically formulates his purpose for writing the book, reflection on its content suggests that the author intends to describe this period of Israel's history in a way which demonstrates that kingship as requested by the people was a denial of the covenant; kingship as instituted by Samuel was compatible with the covenant; kingship as practiced by Saul failed to correspond to the covenantal ideal; and kingship as practiced by David was an imperfect but true representation of the ideal of the covenantal king.

The mighty, handsome, seemingly impressive people of the world (such as Peninnah, Saul, Goliath, and Absalom) are exposed as bankrupt, while the small, weak, infertile, and unimpressive (such as Hannah, Samuel, Jonathan, and David) are exalted (see 1 Sam. 2:1–10). In Samuel, the important distinctions between the worldly strong and the worldly weak are that those who are weak in the world's eyes rely on Yahweh and repent of their sin. Not so with those who are impressive in worldly terms. Yahweh judges them, therefore, and their death shows that no matter how strong they may be in the world's eyes, those who seek their own kingdom rather than Yahweh's meet bitter ends.

Content and Structure

1-2 Samuel is arranged around three individuals:

1. **Samuel**—who anoints Israel's first king, Saul (1 Samuel 1–8);
2. **Saul**—Israel's first king, (1 Samuel 9–15);
3. **David**—godly, but imperfect king (1 Samuel 16–2 Samuel 24)

Key Passages

1 Samuel 13:13–14 (ESV) ¹³And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Key Themes

leadership, kingship, covenant



Outline

The books of 1-2 Samuel

1 Sam 1-7—The story of Samuel

- 1 Sam 1-3—Birth and childhood
- 1 Sam 4:1-7:1—The ark narrative
- 1 Sam 7:2-17—Samuel as judge

1 Sam 8-15—Saul's election and rejection

- 1 Sam 8:1-22—Requesting a king
- 1 Sam 9-11—Electing Saul
- 1 Sam 12—Samuel's farewell
- 1 Sam 13-15—Rejecting Saul

1 Sam 16-2 Sam 8—The rise and reign of David

- 1 Sam 16-20—David in Saul's court
- 1 Sam 21-30—David on the run
- 1 Sam 31:1-13—Death of Saul
- 1 Sam 31-2 Sam 5—David becomes king
- 2 Sam 6-8—The ark returns and the Davidic covenant is inaugurated

2 Sam 9-20—The succession history of King David

- 2 Sam 9—Mephibosheth reinstated
- 2 Sam 10-12—The sin of David
- 2 Sam 13-14—The downfall of David's house
- 2 Sam 15-20—Civil war: Father vs. son

2 Sam 21-24—Concluding appendices

1-2 Samuel in the N.T. Quotations or Citations (0)

Allusions (1 Sam. = 31)

Matthew 12:3-4
Mark 2:25-28
Luke 1:15
Luke 1:46-48
Luke 1:55-66
Luke 2:52
Luke 6:3-4
Acts 13:21-22
Acts 27:34
Romans 11:1-2
Hebrews 11:33

Quotations or Citations (2 Sam. = 1)

Heb. 1:5

Allusions (2 Sam. = 14)

Matthew 2:6
Luke 1:32
John 7:42
Acts 2:24
Acts 2:30
Acts 7:45
Acts 7:46
Acts 13:23
Acts 27:34
Romans 15:9
2 Corinthians 6:18
2 Timothy 4:14
Hebrews 12:7
Revelation 21:7

Psalms attributed to David

