

## 1 & 2 Samuel

### A. Introduction

#### 1. Title

a. Hebrew: "Samuel"

b. LXX: "I & II Kingdoms"

c. Vulgate: "I & II Kings"

2. Date of Events: From the Birth of Samuel (c. 1110 B. C.) to the last words of David (c. 970 B. C.) [ca. 140 years]-shorter time-more events

### B. Outline (I & II Samuel)

1. Samuel: Righteous Judge & Prophet for Israel (I, 1-7)

2. Saul: Israel's First King in Her Monarchy (I, 8-15)

a. The Rise of Saul (8-12)

b. The Fall of Saul (13-15)

3. David and Saul: God Choses a Man After His Own Heart (I, 16-31)

a. God Raises Up David (16-17)

b. Conflict Between David and Saul (18-20)

c. David's Suffering Under Saul (21-28:2)

d. The Death of Saul (28:3-31)

4. David's Reign as King of Israel (II, 1-20)
  - a. David's Ascension to King over Judah (II, 1-3:5)
  - b. David's Ascension to King over Israel (II, 3:6-5:16)
  - c. David's Triumphal Reign (II, 5:17-8:18)
  - d. David's Troubled Reign II, (9-20)
5. Epilogue (II, 21-24)

### **Alternative Outline**

#### **"Judges to Kings"**

1. Samuel (I, 1-9)
2. Saul (I, 10-31)

#### **"David's Reign as King"**

1. David's Triumphs (II, 1-10)
2. David's Transgressions (II, 11-12)
3. David's Troubles (II, 13-24)

### **C. Major Themes**

1. The Instruments of Yahweh
  - a. The Priests (I, 1:3, 9; 2:11, 13, 14, 15, 28, 36; 14:3, 19, 36; 21:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9; 22:11, 17, 18, 19, 21; 23:9; 30:7; II, 8:17; 15:27, 37; 17:15; 19:11; 20:25, 26)

1 Samuel 2:12-13 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD <sup>13</sup> and the custom of the priests with the people. When any man was offering a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand.

1 Samuel 2:22–23 Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting. <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people?”

1 Samuel 2:29–30 ‘Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling*, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?’ <sup>30</sup> “Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, ‘I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever’; but now the LORD declares, ‘Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.’”

1 Samuel 3:13 “For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.”

1 Samuel 4:10–11 So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. <sup>11</sup> And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

- b. The Ark of the Covenant (I, 3:3; 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22; 5:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11; 6:1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21; 7:1, 2; 14:18; II, 6:2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17; 7:2; 11:11; 15:24, 25, 29)

- c. The Prophets (I, 2:27; 3:20; 9:9; 10:10, 11, 12; 19:20, 24; 22:5; 28:6, 15; II, 7:2; 12:25; 24:11)/ Seer (I, 9:9, 11, 19; 15:27; 24:11)
  
- d. The Word of Yahweh (I, 3:1, 21; 9:27; 15:10, 23, 26; II, 7:4; 12:9; 16:23; 22:31; 24:11)
  
- e. The Ruler/King
  - 1) The "Anointed" One (I, 2:10, 35; 12:3, 5; 16:6; 24:6, 10; 26: 9, 11, 16, 23; II, 1:14, 16, 21; 19:21; 22:51; 23:1)

Genesis 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples."

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth."

1 Samuel 2:10 "Those who contend with Yahweh will be shattered; against them He will thunder in the heavens, Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king, and will exalt the horn of His anointed."

2 Samuel 22:51 “*He* is a tower of deliverance to His king, And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever.”

2) The King (I, 2:10; 8, 9, 12, 14-19, 21-28; II, 2-22, 24)

## 2. The Major Men

a. Samuel (I, 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, 19, 25, 28)

b. Saul (I, 9-31; II, 1-7, 9, 12, 16, 19, 21, 22) [CBCOT, 40]

1 Samuel 15:22-23 Samuel said, “Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> “For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from *being* king.” ... <sup>26</sup> But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

1 Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

c. David (I, 16-30; II, 1-24) [CBCOT, 28, 41]

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 17:26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:37 And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

1 Samuel 17:43-47 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." <sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. <sup>46</sup> This day Yahweh will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that Yahweh does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is Yahweh's and He will give you into our hands."

1 Samuel 17:49–51 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground. <sup>50</sup> Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. <sup>51</sup> Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

2 Samuel 15:13, 30 Then a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." ... <sup>30</sup> And David went up the ascent of the *Mount of Olives*, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went.

1 Samuel 26:7–16 So David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold, Saul lay sleeping inside the circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the people were lying around him. <sup>8</sup> Then Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time.” <sup>9</sup> But David said to Abishai, “Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’S anointed and be without guilt?” <sup>10</sup> David also said, “As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish. <sup>11</sup> “The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go.” <sup>12</sup> So David took the spear and the jug of water from *beside* Saul’s head, and they went away, but no one saw or knew *it*, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a sound sleep from the LORD had fallen on them. <sup>13</sup> Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance *with* a large area between them. <sup>14</sup> David called to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” <sup>15</sup> So David said to Abner, “Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came to destroy the king your lord. <sup>16</sup> “This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, *all* of you must surely die, because you did not guard your lord, the LORD’S anointed. And now, see where the king’s spear is and the jug of water that was at his head.”

2 Samuel 16:6–11 He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David... <sup>7</sup> Thus Shimei said when he cursed, “Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow! <sup>8</sup> “Yahweh has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and Yahweh has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are *taken* in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed!” <sup>9</sup> Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over now and cut off his head.” <sup>10</sup> But the king said, “What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if Yahweh has told him, ‘Curse David,’ then who shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’ ” <sup>11</sup> Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “Behold, my son who came out from me seeks my life;



how much more now this Benjamite? Let him alone and let him curse, for Yahweh has told him.

2 Samuel 11:1-2 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

2 Samuel 11:15 He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

3. The Sovereign Action of Yahweh

4. The Davidic Covenant (I, 2:10; 8:20 [cf. Deut. 17:14]; 13:14; 15:28; 16:12; 20:15, 42; II, 7:1-29; 22:51; 23:1-7)

2 Samuel 7:8-11 "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. <sup>9</sup> "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. <sup>10</sup> "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, <sup>11</sup> even from the day that I

commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you."

2 Samuel 7:12-16 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

D. Purpose: Yahweh established a human monarchy over His theocratic nation Israel and guaranteed its future in His Covenant with David.

E. Bibliography

1. Exegetical: Gordon, *1 & 2 Samuel: A Commentary*.
2. English Interpretation: Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel* (NAC).
3. Expositional: Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*  
Davis, *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*

F. Selected Interpretive Problems

1. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (I, 10:6, 10; 11:16; 16:13, 14; 19:20, 23; II, 23:2)

2. “An evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him (I, 16:14, 15; cf. 18:10, 19:9)  
[MSB, 375]

3. “Bring up Samuel” (I, 28:11-19) [MSB, 375]

#### G. Preaching & Teaching Samuel