

Long Story Short: Samuel(1 and 2)



The Big Picture:

1 Samuel

1-7: Samuel's rise and governorship

- ◆ 1-3 Samuel's birth and rise to power
- ◆ 4-7 Israel's struggles with the Philistines

8-15 The rise of the monarchy > Saul's reign

- ◆ 8 Israel requests a king
- ◆ 9-12 Saul appointed as Israel's king
- ◆ 13-15 Saul's failure and disobedience

16-31 The decline of Saul and rise of David

- ◆ 16 David appointed as Israel's king
- ◆ 17-20 David begins to supersede Saul
- ◆ 21-27 Saul chases and persecutes David
- ◆ 28-31 Saul's final days

2 Samuel

1-4: David's rise to power after Saul

5-10 David's reign in obedience

- ◆ 5-6 David establishes Jerusalem as capital
- ◆ 7 God's covenant promise to David
- ◆ 8-10 David's victories as Israel's king

11-15 David's reign in disobedience

- ◆ 11-12 David's sin with Bathsheba
- ◆ 13-14 David's family falls apart
- ◆ 15-18 Absalom's revolt against David
- ◆ 19-21 David restored to power

22-24 David's Final Days

- ◆ 22-23 David's Songs
- ◆ 24 David's census of Israel

Key Themes in 1-2 Samuel:

1. Samuel arises while Israel continues a downward spiral of apostasy: 1 Sam 1-7
 - o The priesthood is in the hand of corrupt leadership (Eli's sons): 2:11-36
 - o The people treat Yahweh as a magical genie for winning their wars: chs. 4-6
2. The Israelite monarchy is established with questionable origins
 - o The people ask for a king for the wrong reasons ('to be like all the other nations' 1 Sam 8:5) and pick Saul for all the wrong reasons (he's strong and handsome, 1 Sam 9:1-2)
 - o Samuel is skeptical about the whole thing: 1 Sam 8:10-22, 12:1-18
3. Israel's kings must be devoted to Yahweh and obey the terms of the covenant → Saul fails
 - o Samuel's warning to Saul and the people: 1 Sam 12
 - o Saul fails to obey Yahweh: chs. 13 and 15, especially 15:20-23
4. David arises as Israel's true king, but waits for Yahweh's timing and deliverance
 - o David anointed as king: 1 Sam 16
 - o Saul's irrational hostility towards David: 1 Sam 18-2 Sam 1
 - o David finally becomes Israel's king: 2 Sam 2-5
5. Yahweh chooses David's line to continue the Abrahamic covenant for blessing the nations
Key Story: God makes a covenant with David - 2 Samuel 7 (see also Psalm 132)
 - o A great name vs. 9 [see Gen 12:2, Abrahamic covt.]
 - o A place: the land vs. 10 [see Gen 12:7, Abrahamic covt.]
 - o Shalom vs. 11
 - o A 'house' (= dynasty) vs. 11
 - o A 'seed' (= descendant) vs. 12 [see Gen 22:18, Abrahamic covt.]
 - o A future temple vs. 13
 - o Father/Son relationship vs. 14
 - o An eternal kingdom vs. 16 [see Gen 17:6, Abrahamic covt.]

Key Themes in 1-2 Samuel:

6. Israel's kings may disqualify themselves from blessing if they disobey,
but God's covenant promise to David is eternal
 - o 2 Sam 7:14-15 > This sets the stage for 2 Sam 11-12 and the book of 1-2 Kings

7. David's affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah shows how
 - (1) Yahweh deals justly with David's sin but still
 - (2) remains faithful to his covenant promises.
 - o David's sins against Bathsheba and Uriah do not cancel the covenant: 2 Sam 11-12
 - o David's sins do result in his family and his kingdom falling apart: 2 Sam 13-20

8. And so, the hope of a messianic king from David's line remains a future hope
 - Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth;
 - He will give strength to his king
 - and exalt the horn of his anointed one (= messiah) 1 Sam 2:10 [Hannah's Prayer]

 - "He gives his King great victories;
 - he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed one (= messiah),
 - to David and his seed forever 2 Sam 22:51 [David's Song]