

1 Samuel

“The Birth of a Kingdom”

I. Introduction to 1 Samuel

- A. 1 Samuel is the 9th book of the Bible and the 4th of the historical books.
 - 1. It consists of 31 chapters
 - 2. Covers a period of about 100 years of Israel’s history

 - B. 1 Samuel brings us to another sub-section of the Old Testament books.
 - 1. Genesis to Deuteronomy – Law
 - 2. Joshua to Esther – History
 - a. Joshua to Ruth – Theocracy
 - b. 1 Samuel to 2 Chronicles – Monarchy
 - i. The double books:
 - 1 & 2 Samuel
 - 1 & 2 Kings
 - 1 & 2 Chronicles
 - ii. Bob Utley points out, “Originally the six monarchy historical books were but three books. The division of the original works came when these books were translated into the Septuagint (Greek) version late in the third century B.C. The Hebrew language of the Biblical period did not write symbols for vowel sounds in words. When the Hebrew was translated into the Greek language the vowel letters virtually doubled the size of the scroll. Hence to make the use of the scroll more manageable, the material in each case was somewhat arbitrarily divided into two separate scrolls.
The Septuagint (LXX) named the historical books as follows:
 - 1. 1 Samuel – 1 Book of Kingdoms (in the Vulgate, 1 Kings)
 - 2. 2 Samuel – 2 Book of Kingdoms (in the Vulgate, 2 Kings)
 - 3. 1 Kings – 3 Book of Kingdoms (in the Vulgate 3 Kings)
 - 4. 2 Kings – 4 Book of Kingdoms (in the Vulgate 4 Kings)
 - c. 1 Samuel begins the history of Israel’s monarchy.
 - i. We will be introduced to Israel’s first king (Saul) and then their greatest king (David)
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- C. 1 & 2 Samuel were separated because they deal primarily with David
 - 1. 1 Samuel – The rise of King David
 - 2. 2 Samuel – The reign of King David
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- D. 1 Samuel gets its name from the first of its three main characters
 - 1. Samuel
 - a. Name means “heard by God” and is an apt name for the first of the Prophets
 - 2. Saul
 - 3. David
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- E. Jewish tradition holds that Samuel was the author; assisted by Nathan & Gad
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- F. 1 Samuel gives us:
 - 1. Samuel - the last judge
 - 2. Saul – the first King
 - 3. David – the best King

II. Why study 1 Samuel

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:6 “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.”
- B. 1 Samuel introduces us to some of the most amazing characters and stories in all of human history.
 - 1. It is a star-studded cast of heroes and villains:
 - a. Stars – Samuel, Saul, David
 - b. Supporting cast – Hannah, Eli, Jonathan
 - c. Appearances by – Goliath, Abigail, Doeg
- C. 1 Samuel is not a modern western historical chronology, but an ancient Near-East recounting with each event selected for the theological truth it reveals.
- D. A prophetic look at today.
 - 1. Remember the philosophy during the reign of the Judges?
 - 2. Judges 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
 - 3. This philosophy led to:
 - a. Spiritual confusion
 - b. Moral decay
 - c. Social disorder
 - i. Calamity
 - ii. Murder
 - iii. Immorality
 - iv. Corrupt leadership
 - d. The social calamity caused the people to cry out.
 - i. Judges – they cried out to God
 - ii. 1 Samuel – they cried out to government
 - 4. Key Verse: 1 Samuel 8:4-5 “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
 - a. Instead of looking:
 - i. Up to the Lord
 - ii. Into His Word
 - iii. Back to the foundation of the nation
 - b. They looked out to the other nations
 - i. How did Ammon, Moab, Egypt solve their social issues?
 - ii. Let’s do as they do
- E. Instead of looking at the righteous principles the nation was founded upon, they looked to a king to fix their nation.
 - 1. They gave up personal responsibility and freedoms in the face of impending danger.
- F. It is not difficult to see parallels today in our nation.
 - 1. We have a nation that was founded upon biblical principles.
 - 2. “Thomas Paine is considered by some to have earned the right to the title of *The Father of the American Revolution* because of *Common Sense*, the pro-independence pamphlet he anonymously published on January 10, 1776. “Common Sense” quickly spread among the literate and in three months 100,000 copies (estimated 500,000 total including pirated editions sold during the course of the Revolution – making it the best-selling American book. The pamphlet came into circulation in January 1776, after the Revolution had started. It was passed around, and often read aloud in taverns, contributing significantly to

- spreading the idea of republicanism, bolstering enthusiasm for separation from Britain and encouraging recruitment for the Continental Army.”
- a. “Common Sense” is referred to by one historian as: “The most incendiary and popular pamphlet of the entire revolutionary era.”
3. Paine based his arguments on the fact that a king was a violation of the biblical model of government. He devoted a chapter to his own exposition of 1 Samuel 8 and quoted much of the chapter in his pamphlet.
 4. Paine said:
 - a. “In the early ages of the world, according to the scripture chronology, there were no kings.”
 - b. “Government by kings was first introduced into the world by the Heathens, from whom the children of Israel copied the custom.”
 - c. “As the exalting one man so greatly above the rest cannot be justified on the equal rights of nature, so neither can it be defended on the authority of scripture; for the will of the Almighty, as declared by Gideon and the prophet Samuel, expressly disapproves ‘government by kings’”.
 - d. “The Almighty, ever jealous of his honour, should disapprove of a form of government which so impiously invades the prerogative of heaven.”
 - e. “That the Almighty hath here entered his protest against monarchical government is true, or the scripture is false.”
 5. The United States of America was founded on the Word of God.
 - a. That being said, we also have a nation filled with social calamity.
 - i. Gun violence
 - ii. Sexual depravity
 - iii. Drug abuse
 - iv. Suicide
 - v. Poverty
 - vi. National debt
 6. Our answers will be found looking:
 - a. Back to the founding principles
 - b. Into the Word of God
 - c. Up to the risen LORD
- G. The sin of 1 Samuel is the sin of today.
1. We want a king, not God!

III. 1 Samuel Outline

- A. Best divide by its three main characters
 1. Section 1 - Chapters 1-7 Samuel
 2. Section 2 – Chapters 8 - 15 Saul
 3. Section 3 – Chapters 16 – 31 David
 4. There is overlap from one section to another, but the author’s attention switches to the more prominent figure as the story unfolds.
- B. Section 1 Chapters 1-7 – Samuel
 1. 1 Samuel 1 – 2 Birth and Childhood
 - a. Name means “heard by God”
 - b. Son of godly parents
 - i. We know Hannah to be a woman of prayer (! Samuel 1:10)
 - ii. Trusted in God (1 Samuel 1:17-18)
 - iii. Worshipped God; had a personal commitment to righteousness (1 Samuel 1:19)
 - iv. The way to produce godly offspring is to live godly yourself.

- c. Samuel was raised around the service of God (1 Samuel 1:18 and 3:15)
 - i. Get your kids to serve with you.
- 2. 1 Samuel 3 - His call to Ministry
 - a. 1 Samuel 3:1 The Word was rare in those days
 - b. 1 Samuel 3:2 The Tabernacle was neglected
 - i. Leviticus 24:2 shows an example of ministry within the Tabernacle that was not taking place in 1 Samuel 3
 - c. Samuel has what theologians call a theophany, “a physical appearance from God” 1 Samuel 3:4-10
 - d. His response is in 1 Samuel 3:10 “Speak, for your servant hears.”
- 3. 1 Samuel 4-7 His Ministry Year
 - a. Chapters 4 - 6 once again reveals the dark spiritual condition of Israel
 - i. 1 Samuel 4:19-22 many had lost hope as this story illustrates. As a mother gives birth to a son and names him Ichabod, meaning “the glory has departed”
 - b. Wide spread revival 1 Samuel 7:3-4
 - i. This led to a decisive victory over the Philistines
 - 1. Philistines: The “sea people” as they are called in non-biblical sources, settled en masse in the coastal region of Palestine about 1200 B.C. (the time of Judges).
Coming from the area of Aegean Sea, they first attempt to invade Egypt about 1300 B.C., but were defeated. They settled in the southwest corner of Israel. They had developed Iron Age technology from the Hittites and were able to establish themselves in a circle of five cities: Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath and Gaza. They were organized like Greek city-states, each with its own king.
About 1126 B.C. they began to extend their influence into the lowlands and mountains where they clashed with the Israelite. The chariots and weaponry of this powerful people intimidated the Israelites for forty years. They remained in Israel because of Judah’s inability to drive them out during the time of the Judges

C. Section 2 Chapters 8 – 15 Saul

- 1. In response to the surrounding nations, Israel cries out for a king, Saul is selected.
 - a. He is a man of great potential
 - i. Great upbringing
 - 1. the family was successful, loving, and godly
 - ii. Many natural gifts
 - 1. humble, handsome, tall (head and shoulders above others)
 - iii. Great support team
 - 1. Samuel, Abner, valiant men (1 Samuel 10:26)
 - iv. Giftings from God
 - 1. Anointed for the job (1 Samuel 10:1)
 - 2. Spirit of God (1 Samuel 10:9-10)
 - b. Once in a life-time opportunity.
- 2. Chapters 11 – 15 His Reign
 - a. Sadly it is his own failure
 - 1 Samuel 26:21b sums it up, “Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly.”
 - b. These chapters tell of his demise

- i. As Chapter 15 comes to a close, the Kingdom has been torn from Saul and promised to another
- ii. When the book ends, he has consulted a medium (1 Samuel 28:7)
- iii. And commits suicide (1 Samuel 31:4)
- c. What happened?
 - i. Little-big Sins
 - 1. Coronation day he hid in pride (1 Samuel 10:22)
 - 2. Tooted his own horn over Jonathan's victory
 - 3. Root of bitterness drove him mad
- d. Big-big Sins
 - i. Chapter 13 – Unlawful sacrifice
 - 1. Defied the Word of God (1 Samuel 13:13-14)
 - 2. Feared the people would leave him (1 Samuel 13:11)
 - ii. Chapter 15 – King Agag
 - 1. Amelek, like Jericho was under the curse, all was to be destroyed
 - 2. Disobeyed the Word of God (1 Samuel 15:19)
 - 3. Saul disobeyed, kept the best of the cattle, etc. (1 Samuel 15:21)
 - iii. Key to Saul's downfall
 - 1. Self-will
 - 2. Impulsive
 - 3. Un-submitted
 - 4. He never prayed, "Thy will be done."
 - 5. This would drive him mad.

D. Section 3 Chapters 16 – 31 David

- 1. David's life is summed up in 1 Samuel 13:14 "... a man after His own heart, . . ."
- 2. Chapters 16 – 17 David is introduced.
 - a. Worship leader
 - b. Giant killer
- 3. Chapters 18 – 19 David, the General
 - a. Serves in Saul's army
 - b. Marries Saul's daughter
 - c. Object of Saul's jealousy
- 4. Chapters 20 – 31 David on the Run
 - a. The story of the arrows Chapter 20
 - b. Journey takes him through the Judean countryside
 - c. He experiences great victories
 - i. Chapter 23 – Saves Keilah
 - ii. Chapters 24 and 26 - Spares Saul's life, twice
 - iii. Trains his military men
 - d. He experiences failure
 - i. Acting like a madman in Gath (1 Samuel 2:12-15)
 - ii. Multiple wives Michal, Abigail, Ahinoam, and others
 - iii. Trusts his emotions over God's promises (1 Samuel 27:1)
 - iv. This leads to 16 months of backsliding
- e. He wrote many Psalms (songs) during this time
 - i. After Goliath – Psalm 144 (suggested)
 - ii. After Jonathan rescues David – Psalm 5
 - iii. Michal Rescue – Psalm 59
 - iv. Friendship with Jonathan – Psalm 133 (suggested)
 - v. Flees to Gath – Psalm 34
 - vi. Death of Priests – Psalm 52

- vii. In the wilderness – Psalm 54, Psalm 7
 - viii. In the caves – Psalm 57, Psalm 142
 - ix. Fleeing Saul – Psalm 18
 - x. Nabal – Psalm 14, Psalm 53 (suggested)
 - xi. Back in Gath – Psalm 56
 - xii. A series of other Psalms may fit this time, as well.
- f. The book concludes with the death of Saul and Jonathan

IV. Types of Christ

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

1. David the rightful King of Israel was rejected