

Reading 1-2 Samuel

The Big Picture

1Samuel

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

2Samuel

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

11-21 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
 - The priesthood is in the hand of corrupt leadership (Eli's sons): 2:11-36
 - The people treat Yahweh as a magical genie for winning their wars: chs.4-6
2. The Israelite monarchy is established with questionable origins
 - 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)
 - 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
 - Samuel's warning to Saul and the people: 1 Sam 12
 - 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
 - David anointed as king: 1 Sam 16
 - Saul's irrational hostility towards David: 1 Sam 18-2 Sam 1
 - 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)

- A great name vs. 9 [see Gen 12:2, Abrahamic covt.]
- A place: the land vs. 10 [see Gen 12:7, Abrahamic covt.]
- *Shalom* vs. 11
- A 'house' (= dynasty) vs. 11
- A 'seed' (= descendant) vs. 12 [see Gen 22:18, Abrahamic covt.]
- A future temple vs. 13
- Father/Son relationship vs. 14
- An eternal kingdom vs. 16 [see Gen 17:6, Abrahamic covt.]



