

Books of the Bible – Old Testament

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Week 9 – 1 & 2 Samuel



1 & 2 Samuel

- These two books were originally counted as one book by the Jews.
 - It was the translators of the Septuagint that divided it into two books, about 285 B.C.
 - 1 Samuel – judgeship of Samuel & kinship of Saul
 - 2 Samuel – kingship of David
- The Prophet and Judge, Samuel wrote the first 24 chapters (until his death)
- The rest was probably written by Nathan or Gad (unsure of actual author)



1 & 2 Samuel

- These two books center around the lives and ministries of 3 people:
 - The Prophet/Judge Samuel (last judge) – patriot with lowly, contrite heart
 - King Saul (first king) – selfish, wayward, jealous, unfaithful to God
 - King David – a man after God's own heart
- They cover the transition of Israel from being a judge ruled kingdom, to a king ruled kingdom.



Judge vs. King

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Judges, God was the king over Israel• Israel was unlike other nations• Judges acted as God's agents• Judges righted wrongs• The people were to serve God• God was glorified | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1 Samuel, the people asked for a man to be their king• Israel became like other nations• Kings acted as their own agents• Many kings committed wrongs• The people were to serve the king• Man was glorified |
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End of Judges

And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. ²⁵ In those days *there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

- Judges 21:24-25



Samuel

- The time of the judges doesn't end with the end of the book of Judges, because Samuel was the last judge.
 - He served as judge, priest, and prophet
- The book of Judges ends with the kingdom of Israel in anarchy.
 - They have no judge leading them
 - They have no king reigning over them
 - They have rejected God as king



Samuel

- The book of 1 Samuel starts with the calling of Samuel to the office of judge
 - He served as judge his entire life
 - When he was getting old, he appointed his sons to be judges (8:1-3)
 - The sons failed as judges
- During Samuel's time, the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines (ch 4-6)



Calling for a King

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, ⁵ And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

- 1 Samuel 8:4-6



Calling for a King

And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. ⁹ Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

- 1 Samuel 8:7-9



King Saul

- Saul came from a good family – his father was “a man of standing” – 1 Sam 9:1
- He was an “impressive young man without equal”
- Saul “looked like a king”
 - Was “a head taller than any of the others”
- God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as king over Israel



King Saul

- Saul was predisposed to failure
 - He became king because the people wanted a king, not because God wanted the people to have a king
 - He was selected as a leader for his looks, not for his integrity, character, commitment to the Lord, or anointing
 - Wasn't ready to accept God's call on his life
- However, God uses even the ungodly



King Saul

- Lost his anointing to be king
 - Failed to seek the anointing (11:5)
 - He was impatient (13:8-12)
 - Replaced true worship with religious acts
 - Relied on natural things, instead of God
 - Lack of obedience to God (15:3-19)
 - *Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*
- Lack of repentance



King David

- Was raised up, and anointed to be king even during the time of Saul's kingship
- Didn't take the throne until after Saul's death
 - First was king over Judah for 7 years, 6 months
 - Didn't rush to "fulfill the vision" – waited on God's timing
- Saul tried to kill him several times
 - He didn't retaliate



King David

- Was first known for his ability as a psalmist – worshipping the Lord, as he pastored his father's sheep (4 legged)
 - Wrote half of the book of Psalms
- Best known as "a man after God's own heart"
 - This term is typically taught as meaning "quick to repent"
 - Based upon David's reaction to Nathan's prophecy, when David sinned with Bathsheba
 - Do we want God to be quick to repent?
- God's heart is defined as "haceed love" 1 Jn 4:8



King David

- A man after God's own heart:
 - David cuts covenant with Jonathan (King Saul's son) – 1 Sam 18:1-4
 - Saul & Jonathan die in battle – 1 Sam 31:1-13
 - King David seeks a heir of Jonathan – 2 Sam 9:1
 - Ziba, servant of Saul, brought before David & questioned – 2 Sam 9:2-4
 - Mephibosheth brought to King David from Lo Debar (pastureless) – 2 Sam 9:5-6
 - He was crippled in both feet – 2 Sam 4:4
 - King David adopts Mephibosheth as a son – 2 Sam 9:7-10



King David

- A man after God's own heart:
 - Absalom, David's oldest surviving son (3rd) raises up in rebellion, trying to take the kingdom – Mephibosheth saw this as an opportunity to regain the kingdom – 2 Sam 16:1-3
 - When David returned, he pardoned Mephibosheth – 2 Sam 19:29
 - When the Gibeonites desired 7 male descendants of Saul for vengeance on the covenant broken by King Saul – 2 Sam 21 – David spared Mephibosheth – 2 Sam 21:7



King David

- Desired to build a temple for God, but God didn't allow him to do so
 - Instead, he left plans and funds for his son, Solomon to complete it
- Although David was a great king, and a great servant of God, he was a miserable father
 - He lost 4 sons due to his sin – Bathsheba's baby; the firstborn who committed adultery with his half-sister, and was killed by her brother; and two who were killed because of raising up rebellions against their father.



1 & 2 Samuel

- These books end as we are drawing near to the end of David's life and rule; but before he places his son, Solomon, upon the throne.
- The last act in these books is David buying a threshing floor, in order to make a sacrifice to God, for the sin of counting the army.
 - That threshing floor became the site of the temple which Solomon built.

