

LOOK AT THE BOOK

1 & 2 SAMUEL

Ralph Porter
© 2002

AUTHOR

The books of Samuel were originally one.
Samuel may have written a large part of 1 Samuel, but could not have written all of it.
It may be a compilation of records left by Samuel, Nathan and Gad (1 Chron. 29:29).

DATE

Events begin near the end of the times of the judges, slightly before Samuel's birth.
1 Samuel ends near the time of Saul's death in 1011 B.C.
2 Samuel recounts events during David's reign, from 1011 to 971 B.C.
Total time covered runs from about 1100 until about 970 B.C.
As to the date of writing, time has passed since division of kingdom in 931 B.C. (1 Sam. 27:6).
The author's silence concerning it may indicate a date prior to the fall of Israel in 722 B.C.

BACKGROUND

As the period of the Judges ends, everyone did as they pleased, due to lack of national leadership.
Rebellion resulted in oppression by other nations, until repentance caused God to provide a deliverer.
God prepares Samuel, the last of the judges, to free His people from the Philistines.
Spiritually the nation is full of sin and idolatry; the priesthood is corrupt and self-seeking.
Samuel calls the people to repentance, and then leads them to victory over the Philistines.
As Samuel's ministry ends, people reject his sons, because they didn't walk rightly before God.
The people appeal to God for a king like the other nations have.
Though Samuel warns them of the dangers, they insist. Therefore, God gives them a king.
Saul is a good choice from man's perspective, but failed to depend on God. Thus God rejects him.
God then provides another king: David, a man after His own heart.
When unity was needed, competition developed between northern and southern tribes.
God brought David onto the scene to unite them and to deliver them from the Philistines.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Historically,

1 Samuel traces the transition from the judges to the establishing of the monarchy.
2 Samuel, shows how David, the king after God's own heart, comes to the throne.

Theologically, Samuel repeats the pattern of other historical books.

God is faithful to His covenant, holy, gracious to forgive, and in control of all the nations.

Israel is unfaithful and disobedient, continuing to seek its own way.

When God forces the nation to submission, they repent and obey Him.

God repays obedience with blessing and disobedience with cursing.

God presents, by precept and by illustration, the principles which are to govern Israel:

God is to rule the nation; He is in control. The king is His representative.

Those who submit to God's authority demonstrate it by submitting to God's king.

The example of Saul and David presents two alternatives Israel's king may follow:

Later kings would choose which path they would follow, man's pattern, or God's pattern.

The results of their reign depended on their choice.

People learn that blessing is based on obedience to God's Word and submission to His ruler.

They too must make a choice.

As 2 Samuel begins, David obeys God's Word and leads the people to do so.

As a result, both the nation, and David personally, prosper.

When David sins, the book turns from triumph to tragedy, as personal and national problems develop

Even God's king had to pay dearly for his failure to submit to God's standards for his life.

1 & 2 SAMUEL

SEEKING A KING AFTER GOD'S HEART

Ralph Porter

SAMUEL	SAUL	DAVID
GOD'S JUDGE REPLACED 1 Sam. 1-8	MAN'S KING INSTALLED 1 Sam. 9-15	GOD'S KING ANOINTED 1 Sam. 16 - 2 Sam. 24
<p>His promise 1:1-18</p> <p>His birth 1:19-2:11</p> <p>His youth 2:12-36</p> <p>His call 3:1-4:1a</p> <p>His ministry 4:1b-8:22</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Concerning the oppression of the Philistines 4:1b-7:17</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Concerning the pressure for a king 8</p>	<p>Election of the king 9-12</p> <p>Rejection of the king 13-15</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Caused by presumption 13:1-14</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Affected by rash judgment 13:15-14:52</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Caused by disobedience 15</p>	<p>David's selection and persecution 1 Sam. 16-31</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">David chosen 16:1-12</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">David anointed 16:13</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">David feared 16:14-20:42</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">David protected 21-28:2</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">David delivered 28:3-31:13</p> <p>David's achievements 2 Sam. 1-10</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rule over Judah 1-4</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rule over all Israel 5-10</p> <p>David's failure 2 Sam. 11-12</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Commission of sin 11</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Condemnation of sin 12:1-12</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Confession of sin 12:13</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Consequence of sin 12:14-23</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Restoration after sin 12:24-31</p> <p>David's afflictions 2 Sam. 13-24</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Affliction concerning his family 13:1-19:40</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Affliction concerning his nation 19:41-20:26</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Final words and deeds 21-24</p>