

Old Testament Survey

1 and 2 Samuel

1 and 2 Samuel

- Definition of ‘Samuel’
 - In the Hebrew, ספר שמואל *Sefer Sh'muel*
 - Could mean “name of God” or “God has heard”

1 and 2 Samuel

- Central Theme

- *God rules His people through the king, who is a representative of the people and whose actions will bring God's blessing or punishment*

1 and 2 Samuel

- Background to the Book of Samuel
 - Named after the prophet in light of the key role he plays throughout the historical narrative
 - Believed that Samuel might have written portions of it (1st Chronicles 29:29-30), however the author is unknown
 - Other contributors are believed to be Nathan and Gad
 - It was originally one book in the Hebrew texts, but have been split into “1 and 2 Samuel”

1 and 2 Samuel

- Background to the Book of Samuel
 - Time period is from 1105 B.C. to 971 B.C.
 - During this time, Israel is transformed from a loosely knit group of tribes under ‘judges to a united nation under the reign of a centralized monarchy
 - Samuel reigned from 1105 – 1030 B.C.
 - Saul reigned from 1052 – 1011 B.C.
 - David reigned from 1011 – 971 B.C.

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **I. Samuel: Prophet and Judge to Israel (1:1–7:17)**
 - A. Samuel the Prophet (1:1–4:1a)
 - 1. The birth of Samuel (1:1–28)
 - 2. The prayer of Hannah (2:1–10)
 - 3. The growth of Samuel (2:11–26)
 - 4. The oracle against Eli's house (2:27–36)
 - 5. The Word of the Lord through Samuel (3:1–4:1a)
 - B. Samuel the Judge (4:1b–7:17)
 - 1. The saga of the ark (4:1b–7:1)
 - 2. Israel's victory over the Philistines and the judgeship of Samuel (7:2–17)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **II. Saul: First King Over Israel (8:1–15:35)**
 - A. The Rise of Saul to the Kingship (8:1–12:25)
 - 1. The demand of Israel for a king (8:1–22)
 - 2. The process of Saul becoming king (9:1–11:13)
 - 3. The exhortation of Samuel to Israel concerning the king (11:14–12:25)
 - B. The Decline of Saul in the Kingship (13:1–15:35)
 - 1. The rebuke of Saul (13:1–15)
 - 2. The wars of Saul (13:16–14:52)
 - 3. The rejection of Saul (15:1–35)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **III. David and Saul: Transfer of the Kingship in Israel (16:1–31:13)**
 - A. The Introduction of David (16:1–17:58)
 - 1. The anointing of David (16:1–13)
 - 2. David in the court of Saul (16:14–23)
 - 3. David, the warrior of the Lord (17:1–58)
 - B. David Driven from the Court of Saul (18:1–20:42)
 - 1. The anger and fear of Saul toward David (18:1–30)
 - 2. The defense of David by Jonathan and Michal (19:1–20:42)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **III. David and Saul: Transfer of the Kingship in Israel (16:1–31:13)**
 - C. David's Flight from Saul's Pursuit (21:1–28:2)
 - 1. Saul's killing of the priests at Nob (21:1–22:23)
 - 2. Saul's life spared twice by David (23:1–26:25)
 - 3. David's despair and Philistine refuge (27:1–28:2)
 - D. The Death of Saul (28:3–31:13)
 - 1. Saul's final night (28:3–25)
 - 2. David's dismissal by the Philistines (29:1–11)
 - 3. David's destruction of the Amalekites (30:1–31)
 - 4. Saul's final day (31:1–13)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **IV. The Consolidation of Kingship in Israel (2 Samuel 1–20)**
 - A. David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan (1)
 - B. David Becomes King over Judah (2–4)
 - Civil War – Abner joins with David but is murdered by Joab (3)
 - Ish-bosheth, son of Saul, is killed (4)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **IV. The Consolidation of Kingship in Israel (2 Samuel 1–20)**
 - C. David Becomes King over All Israel (5:1–5)
 - D. David Conquers Jerusalem (5:6–25)
 - E. David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem (6)
 - F. God Promises David an Everlasting Dynasty (7)
 - God's covenant to build the house of David

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **IV. The Consolidation of Kingship in Israel (2 Samuel 1–20)**
 - G. The Extension of David's Kingdom (8)
 - War against Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ammon, and Amalek
 - H. David's Faithfulness to His Covenant with Jonathan (9)
 - David befriends Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son
 - I. David Commits Adultery and Murder (chs. 10–12)
 - David's Sin with Bathsheba (11-12)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **IV. The Consolidation of Kingship in Israel (2 Samuel 1–20)**
 - J. David Loses His Son Amnon (chs. 13–14)
 - Amnon rapes Tamar; Absalom takes revenge
 - David permits Absalom to return
 - K. David Loses His Son Absalom (chs. 15–20)
 - Absalom revolts against David and David flees (15-17)
 - David defeats Absalom; Joab kills Absalom (18)
 - David restored to the throne (19)

1 and 2 Samuel - Overview

- **V. Final Reflections on David's Reign (2 Samuel 21–24)**
 - Punishment for Saul's sin
 - A. Great Faith
 - David's Psalm of Praise (22:1 – 23:7)
 - B. Great Strength
 - David's Mighty Men (23:8-39)
 - C. Great Sin
 - David's Punishment for the Census (24)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - We note from Deuteronomy 17:14-15
 - “When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say “I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me, you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose’”

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - In 1 Samuel 8:5-6, the people of Israel demand that a king be appointed
 - Samuel doesn't want God to grant their request as it Israel's rejection of God as their King
 - We see this also in verse 19-20, after the warning by Samuel as to what the king will be like, they are unmoved in their demand for a king

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - A human leader could never be the people's ultimate hope
 - As one leader declines, God raises up another to take his place
 - We see that from Eli to David
 - The leaders, even kings, never provide the perfect rule that the people need
 - Will monarchy work in Israel?

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - Clearly, the answer is NO – at least not how the Jewish people thought it would
 - They thought an earthly king would bring them comfort and safety they sought
 - Through the books of Samuel, God begins to deal with the people based on the faithfulness or faithlessness of the king

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - When Israel chooses Saul, they look at his outward appearance (1 Samuel 9:1,2; 10:23,24)
 - When God chooses David as king, he looks at his heart (1 Samuel 16:7)
 - “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘ Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart’”.
 - God desires obedience over sacrifices (15:22)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - From Deuteronomy 27-28, it outlines the responsibilities of the king, as he is God's representative
 - If the king is faithful, the people are blessed with prosperity and peace
 - If the king sins and breaks faith, the people are cursed with famine and exile, just like God foretold through Moses

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - We see this in 2 Samuel 21:1
 - “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, ‘There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death’”
 - One king’s disobedience affects the whole nation

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - These developments point to a future hope when God's people will be led by a perfect king who rules in perfect righteousness
 - The LORD uses king David as a type of Christ, drawing the eyes of God's people to the only king who perfectly leads his people
 - 2 Samuel 8:14-15 "The LORD gave David victory wherever he went. David reigned over all Israel, doing what is just and right for all his people."

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Monarchy
 - The books of Samuel not only chronicles the beginning of Israel's monarchy, but they are signposts directing us to the ultimate monarch, Jesus Christ

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Davidic Covenant
 - An unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Davidic Covenant
 - This doesn't necessarily mean that David or his descendants could do anything without punishment, but rather God would keep his promise in spite of their action
 - 1 Kings 11:11-13 (after Solomon marries foreign women and worships their gods)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Davidic Covenant
 - What are the key promises of the covenant?
 - God reaffirms the promise of the land that He made with both Abraham and Moses (2 Samuel 7:10)
 - God promises David's descendant or 'seed' will succeed him as king of Israel and that David's throne will be established forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
 - This is a reference to the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Davidic Covenant
 - There are also mentions of the coming Messiah in the beginning and ending of the book of Samuel
 - Prayer of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:10)
 - Song of David (2 Samuel 22:51)
 - This is fulfilled in the New Testament
 - Luke 1:31-33
 - Romans 1:3, Matthew 22:45, Psalm 110:1

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- Sovereignty of God
 - Response to Hannah’s prayer (1 Samuel 9:17; 16:12, 13)
 - Nothing can frustrate God’s plan to have David rule over Israel (1 Samuel 24:20)
 - The choice of not removing the favour of the LORD from David as with Saul (2 Samuel 7:15)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- The Personal and National Effects of Sin
 - Sins of Eli and his sons
 - The sons of Eli did not know the LORD (2:12)
 - They had disregard for the role of the priesthood
 - Eli does warn his sons about their sin, but they are unmoved and he does not restrain them (2:22-25; 3:13)
 - The result/consequence of this is as follows:
 - His sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will die on the same day (2:34)
 - The line of priesthood will cease in Eli's family (2:31)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- The Personal and National Effects of Sin
 - Lack of Reverence for the Ark of the Covenant
 - David returns the Ark from Kiriath-jearim, from the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:2) after defeating the Philistines (2 Samuel 6:1-3)
 - The Ark was carried on a cart, driven by Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab
 - Uzzah puts his hand on the Ark after the oxen stumbles
 - God strikes down Uzzah because of his ‘error’
 - What is the error?

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- The Personal and National Effects of Sin
 - Saul's disobedience
 - Saul's unlawful sacrifice of the burnt offerings and the peace offerings (1 Samuel 13:9)
 - Consequence: The kingship of Saul will not continue (13:14)
 - Saul's dealing with Amalekites
 - Instead of total destruction, Saul took some of the plunder
 - Consequence: The LORD rejects Saul as king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:23, 26)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- The Personal and National Effects of Sin
 - David's sin of adultery and murder
 - David lusts after Bathsheba and impregnates her (2 Samuel 11:1-5)
 - David also plots the murder of her husband, Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 12:14-21)

1 and 2 Samuel – Major Themes

- The Personal and National Effects of Sin
 - David's sin of adultery and murder
 - The result of this action is:
 - Rebuking of David by God through Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1-15)
 - The death of his first-born from Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:18)
 - Raise up evil from your own household (2 Samuel 12:11a)
 - » We see this in Amnon and Tamar
 - » We see this in the rebellion of Absalom
 - His wives will be given to his neighbours (2 Samuel 12:11b)

Next class

- December 16 - Guest Speaker
- December 23 – Psalms
- December 30 – Job

References

- Longman, Tremper III, and Raymond B. Dillard. An Introduction to the Old Testament, second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- <http://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/we-equip/adults/core-seminars/old-testament/>
- <http://www.gty.org/resources/bible-introductions/MSB05/1Samuel>