

Outline of 1 Samuel	
1-3	Leadership (Eli to Samuel)
4-7	Judgeship of Samuel
8-12	Leadership (Samuel to Saul)
13-14	Reign of Saul
15-31	Leadership (Saul to David)

Authorship and Date of Writing

Our English Biblical books of 1 and 2 Samuel was one book in the Hebrew Bible. It was not until the Old Testament was translated into Greek that the book was split into two books. The Talmud ascribes the author to be Samuel. Much of the book takes place after the death of Samuel (1Sa.25). Clearly Samuel did not write all of it, but it describes his great ministry in Israel. 1 Chronicles 29:29 reveals that Samuel, Nathan, and Gad contribute to writing the books of Samuel. The author lived after the death of Solomon because the divided monarchy is referenced (1Sa.27:6). However, the mention of the tabernacle in Shiloh places it before 1050 BC when it was destroyed by the Philistines (1Sa.1:3; Je.7:12,14).

“Make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (1Sa.8:5)

Leadership in Transition

Israel was to occupy the land God promised to them. They did not! The gradual infiltration of Canaanite social and religious practices had a negative

1 SAMUEL

1 Samuel is the record of Israel's political transformation from a marginal tribal community to a centralized independent monarchy. It is the transition from a theocracy to a monarchy.

effect upon Israel. They degenerated into a state of apostasy. Israel had no visible king like the surrounding nations had. Israel wanted to emulate the nations around them over the Lord's leading them. Thus the people pressed for a human king. They picked Saul which was the way of human wisdom, and not of faith in God. They got the second best. The Lord's deliverance of the people of Israel from oppression will not be seen from leaders like Eli or Saul who trusted in their natural strength, but through Hannah, Samuel, Jonathan, and David who recognized their weakness and trust in Him.

- Samuel is the last of the Judges
- Saul is the first of the Kings
- David is the greatest of the Kings

LEADERSHIP IN TRANSITION	
Judgeship of Samuel Chapters 1-12	Kingship of Saul Chapters 13-31
From Judges to Kings Chapters 1-15	From Saul to David Chapters 16-31

Schools of the Prophets

God commanded the Hebrews to teach their children His Word. Samuel established what we call the “Schools of the Prophets”. These were to provide youths instruction into the deeper truths of the Word of God, and to seek wisdom from above. Samuel founded these schools as a barrier against widespread corruption. They were called the sons of the prophets. They were intelligent,

HISTORY

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1Sa.
1 SAMUEL
31 CHAPTERS

studious, and had themselves enjoyed communion with God. These pupils sustained themselves by their own labor which at least included tilling the soil or mechanical employment. This was typical and was considered a crime to allow children to grow up in ignorance of useful labor. The chief subjects of study was the law of God. This included Moses, sacred history, and poetry. A spirit of devotion was cherished.

Samuel's Multiple Roles

Samuel is the first of the Prophets. He was both a prophet, judge, and priest. Samuel connects the period of the Judges with the period of the Kings. He began the “school of the prophets” (1Sa.10:10-12; 19:20-24; 2Ki.4:38-40).

CHRIST IN 1 SAMUEL

- Samuel is a precursor of Christ as he was a Prophet, Priest, and Judge, which foreshadows Christ's ministry.
- Hannah's prayer extols God as her rock (1:2). Jesus is the “Rock” in so many aspects (Ro.9:33; 1Co.10:4; Jn.4:10).