

LIGHT FOR LIFE

EXPLORING GOD-BREATHED GLORY

The
HOLY

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For with you is the fountain of **life**;
in your light do we see **light**.

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Psalm 36:9

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SAMUEL

Author: (Samuel, Nathan, Gad)?

Date: c. 931 - 722 B.C.

Canon: 3rd of Prophets
(Historical Books)

Establishing and Anticipating
God's Kingdom and King



TITLE

Hebrew	שמואלא	Samuel
Greek	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΩΝ Α'	First Kingdoms
Latin	PRIMUS REGUM	First Kings

AUTHORSHIP

- No explicit author given
- Entitled as a tribute to Samuel as a testimony to his spiritual leadership
 - **Jeremiah 15:1** – Then the LORD said to me, “Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go!
- Jewish tradition: Samuel, Nathan, Gad
 - **1 Chronicles 29:29** – Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer
 - **1 Sam 10:25** – Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD.

DATE

- No explicit textual indication
- Kingship of Saul: 1050 BC
- 1 Samuel 8:1: "Samuel became old" (50-60): 1110 BC
- The book covers approximately 140 years of history

BOOKENDS

Narrative	Poem	Poems	Narrative
Barren woman blessed and exalted	New mother responds in thanksgiving and exalts God	Triumphant king gives thanks for victories	Self-exalting king judged and abased
1 Sam 1:1 – 1:28	1 Sam 2:1 – 2:10	2 Sam 22:1 – 23:7	2 Sam 24:1 – 24:25
A	B	`B	`A

OVERALL STRUCTURE

SAMUEL		SAUL		DAVID		
Prophet	Judge	Appoint ment	Failure	Rise	Reign	Review
(I) 1:1 - 4:1	4:1 - 7:17	8:1 - 12:25	13:1 - 15:35	16:1 - 31:13	(II) 1:1 - 20:26	21:1 – 24:25
60 Years		40 Years			40 Years	
1110 BC		1050 BC		1010 BC		970 BC

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

- Joshua: “What happened after Moses”
- Judges: “What happened after Joshua”
- Samuel: “What happened after Samson”
- Kings: “What happened after David”

EXTENDED NARRATIVE

Conquest	Establishment of the Kingdom		Exile
	Idolatry	David Anointed King Davidic Covenant	Idolatry
Josh 1:1 – Judg 16:31	Judg 17:1 –	— 1 Kgs 11:43	1 Kgs 12:1 – 2 Kgs 25:30
1406 BC – (820 years) – 586 BC			

HISTORICAL PURPOSE

To present an historical narrative of Israel's transition from a theocratic *confederacy* to a theocratic *monarchy*; God's kingship to God's king.

1 SAMUEL

- Provides the record of transition between confederacy to monarchy; from judgeship to kingship; from Samuel to Saul.
 - Documents the reign of the first king of God's kingdom

THEOLOGICAL PURPOSE

God is the only true King, obedience the only wise course, and God's Kingdom will come with God's King.

- To call attention to the failure of man-centered government:
 - anarchy (*an*– no + *archos*– head)
 - democracy (*demos*– the people + *kratia*– rule, authority, power)
 - autocracy (*auto*– self + *kratia*– rule, authority, power)
 - human sovereignty
- To call God's people in the present to live with increasing anticipation for God's Kingdom and King.

STRUCTURE

SAMUEL		SAUL	
Decline of Judges		Rise of Kings	
Eli	Samuel	Saul	David
1:1 – 4:1	4:1 – 7:17	8:1 – 15:9	15:10 – 31:13

KEY PEOPLE

Samuel	Son of Elkanah and Hannah; a Nazarite; a Priest; a Judge; a Kingmaker
Saul	First king of Israel; son of Kish a Benjamite; first of many <u>bad</u> kings Israel would suffer through
Hannah	Wife of Elkanah and mother of Samuel
Eli	High Priest and Judge of Israel; wicked sons - Hophni and Phineas
Jonathan	Eldest son of Saul and close friend of David; father of Mephibosheth
David	Son of Jesse; anointed by Samuel as King of Israel; first of few <u>good</u> kings
Agag	King of Amalekites, sinfully spared by Saul

KEY CHAPTERS

- 1-4 Eli to Samuel
- 8 Israel demands a king
- 9-10 The choosing of a king
- 13 Saul assumes priestly office
- 15 Saul spares Agag
- 16 God chooses David as king
- 17 Goliath slain
- 18 David: Jonathan's friend, Saul's enemy
- 24 David spares Saul's life
- 25 David and Abigail
- 28 Saul and the witch of Endor
- 31 Saul and his sons killed

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And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams."

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1 Samuel 15:22

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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 on the heart.”

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1 Samuel 16:7

SAMUEL THE PROPHET

Characteristic	Moses	Samuel
Miraculous childhood with a faithful mother	Ex 2:1-2, 9	1 Sam 1:20, 28
Reared outside of birth home	Ex 2:10	1 Sam 1:24-25
Called by a distinctive presence	Ex 3:4	1 Sam 3:3
Called by repeated address	Ex 3:4	1 Sam 3:10
Wrote down regulations from the Lord	Deut 31:9, 24-26	1 Sam 10:25
Functioned as a Judge	Ex 18:13	1 Sam 7:6
Functioned as a Prophet	Deut 18:15	1 Sam 3:20
Functioned as a transitional (spiritual) leader	Ex 3:10	1 Sam 8:22

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THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

MAJOR THEME #1

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

1. Kingship
2. Sovereign Will and Power
3. Election
4. Providential Guidance
5. Human Responsibility
 - a) Pride and Humility
 - b) Disobedience and Obedience
 - c) Retribution and Discipline

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

MAJOR THEME #2

GOVERNMENT “LIKE THE NATIONS”

- Military Service
- Civil Service
- Bureaucracy
- Impact Labor/Economy
- Taxation
- Property
- Dominance (“for his”)
- Control (“will take”)
- Oppression



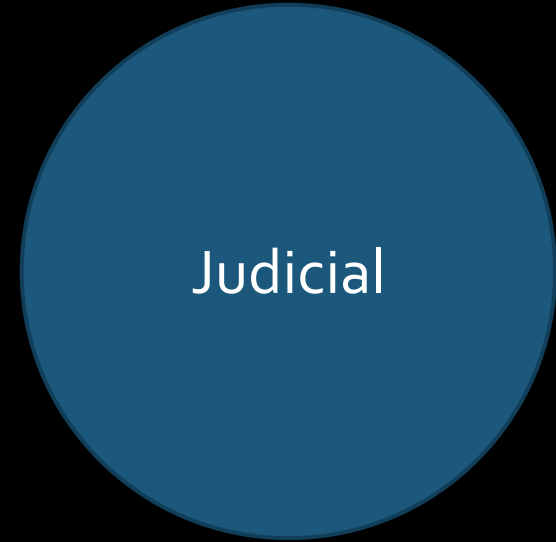
Executive

(enforces laws and defends nation)



Legislative

(makes laws)



Judicial

(interprets and applies laws)



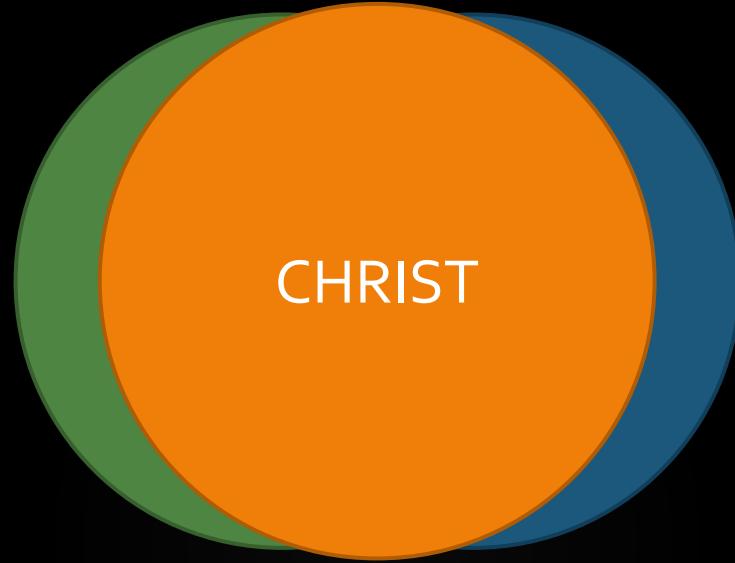
(enforces laws and defends nation)



(makes laws)



(interprets and applies laws)



(absolute monarch)

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THE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD

MAJOR THEME #3

THE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD

- The Priests
- The Ark of the Covenant
- The Word of God
- The Prophets
- **The Kings**

KING SAUL

- He was known for being tall and handsome (1 Sam 9:1–3)
- He was appointed to serve the Lord (1 Sam 9:16)
- He refused to punish those who were unwilling to pay him homage (1 Sam 10:27)
- He was an able and inspiring leader (1 Sam 11:12-15)
- He was gifted to speak as a prophet (1 Sam 19:24)

KING SAUL

- By all human standards, Saul was a successful king
 - Defeated the Ammonites (1 Sam 11:1-11)
 - Defeated the Philistines (1 Sam 13:3)
 - Defeated the Philistines (1 Sam 13:5)
 - Defeated the Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Zobah (1 Sam 14:47)
 - Defeated the Amalekites (1 Sam 15:1-9)
 - Defeated the Philistines (1 Sam 17:1)
 - [Defeated by the Philistines and Dies (1 Sam 31:1-6)]

KING SAUL'S PRIDE

- Lack of the Fear of God
- Fear of Man
- Compromise
- Envy and Jealousy
- Anger
- Spiritual Depression
- Paranoia
- Fear of Death
- Occult
- Suicide