

The Book of Samuel

The Author, Title, and Date of Samuel

1. Author: Anonymous. “The human author speaks for the Lord and gives the divine interpretation of the event narrated.” MacArthur.
2. Title is taken from the first of three important characters of the book: Samuel, the last judge and first prophet, whom God used to establish the line of kings in Israel.
 - a. Both books were considered to be one book in the Hebrew: *Samuel*.
 - b. The books were divided in two in the LXX.
3. Date: The date of writing is unclear – From the end of Judges up into the time of the divided monarchy. cp. *1 Sa 11.8; 17.52; 18.16; 2 Sa 5.5; 11.11; 12.8; 19.42-43; 24.1, 9*

The Background and Setting of Samuel.

1. Background
 - a. 1 Samuel chronicles the transition from the Judges to the Monarchy under Saul.
 - b. 2 Samuel chronicles the Monarchy under David.
 - c. Together, the books chronicle God’s critical establishment of the Monarchy he promised to Abraham. (Ge 49.10; Nu 24.17)
2. Historical Setting
 - a. The book begins with the end of the book of Judges.
 - 1) This means that the spiritual, moral, and social conditions of Israel were still appalling! Moral and political chaos, faithlessness and idolatry.
 - 2) i.e. The priesthood was corrupt, and the nation was at a spiritual low point.
 - b. God addressed this problem by establishing a godly king according to His covenant: David.
 - c. The book ends with the Davidic Kingdom established.

The Purpose of Samuel

1. The book of Samuel gives an account of God’s establishment of the monarchy under *His chosen king*, David, according to *His covenant promises*, to the end that His sovereignty will be established; ultimately, through the Messiah.
2. Therefore, the author records the history of this time, giving the divine interpretation of these events. This is not a mere narrative, but a *theological* narrative. ***God’s purpose and plan is the entire point.***

The Message of Samuel

1. God begins establishing the monarchy in 1 Samuel, through Samuel and Saul.
2. God completes the establishing of the monarchy, according to His covenant, by establishing David as King,
 - a. in David’s heart of obedience (*5.12-15; 7; 9; 12; 15; 19; 24*)
 - b. in spite of David’s sins (*11, 12, 24*)
 - c. in spite of David’s enemies (*Philistines, Absalom, Sheba*)
 - d. in order to display God’s glory (*7.23-26; 10.12; 22-24*)

The Structure of 1-2 Samuel

1. Structure (Elliot Johnson)
 - a. 1.1-7.29 – The *Consolidation* of David's Kingdom is *completed* in Jerusalem in the *Restoration* of the Tabernacle and the Davidic Covenant.
 - b. 8.1-10.19 – The *Expansion* of David's Kingdom *proceeds* in David's *Conquest* of his enemies.
 - c. 11.1-21.22 – The *Continuation* of David's Kingdom *stumbles* as the *Sin* of David Impacts his House.
 - d. 22.1-24. 25 – The *Summarization* of David's Kingdom *rests* in YHWH's hand, as He uses David and overrules David.
2. Key Verses: 5.10, 12; 6.21-22; 7.8-17; 24.10, 14, 24

The Themes of 2 Samuel

1. The Davidic Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant)
 - a. God's purpose in human history is to establish *His sovereignty* through a monarchy, ultimately and eternally fulfilled in the Messiah. 2 Sa 7.12-16 + He 1.5; 2 Sa 22.51
 - b. *cp. Ge 49.8-12; Nu 24.17-19*
2. David's heart for God
 - a. *This* is what sets David off, and sets the standard for the Davidic line.
 - b. 2 Sa 1.13-16; 2.1, 12; 5.12, 19, 23; 6-7; 7; 9; 15.25-26; 19
3. David's trust in God
 - a. Saul's death and David's coronation - chs. 1-2 - He sought the Lord
 - b. Against the Philistines - 5.17-25
 - c. Concerning the Abrahamic Covenant, and Temple - ch. 7
 - d. Repentance and forgiveness - ch. 12
 - e. Exile and return - chs. 15, 19
 - f. Judgment - ch. 24
4. The consequences of sin - 6.6-7; 12.13-14