

1 & 2 Samuel

Breakdown

- Although he doesn't appear at all in the second book, 1 & 2 Samuel are named for Samuel who is one of the three most prominent figures in the books. In the original Hebrew manuscripts, 1 & 2 Samuel were one book. They were later divided when the books were translated into Greek.
- 1 Samuel covers a period of about 115 years from the childhood of Samuel through the turbulent times of Saul to the beginning of the reign of King David.
- 2 Samuel covers the ups and downs of the 40-year reign of David as king of Israel.

Main Points

- 1 Samuel reveals God as the King of the universe – He always has been and always will be. The Israelites wanted Samuel to appoint a king over them so they could be like the nations around them, but that was in direct opposition to the Law God had given to set them apart. God gave them what they wanted, but no human king would ever be able to succeed unless he was appointed by God and completely committed to God.
- 2 Samuel shows us a turning point in the story of God's plan of redemption. God chose David to be the beginning of an everlasting dynasty which would bring us the King of Kings - Jesus. God used David to fulfill his eternal plan of salvation, not because he was perfect from a human viewpoint, but because God was "with him".

Did you know?

- While Samuel was a young boy, the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant. They took it to the temple of their false god, Dagon, but a lot of strange things started taking place. What happened, and how did the Philistines respond?
- King Saul's son, Jonathan, boldly walked into the Philistines' camp and jump-started a win against the enemy. Despite Jonathan's bravery, his father ordered him to be killed. Why did the king say he must die, and what happened to prevent his death?
- David spent so much time dodging King Saul's attempts to kill him that he eventually got tired of running and escaped to the land of Israel's long-time enemies, the Philistines. What happened to David while he was there?
- After Saul's death, only one tribe of Israel accepted David as their king. How did David end up becoming king over all of Israel?
- King David had to leave Jerusalem to avoid bringing disaster on his servants, the city and himself from his son. Why was Absalom trying to kill him, and what was the outcome?

Further Thought

- God gave Israel a king even though that was not what He wanted for them. Why do you think God granted their request, and what does that teach us?
- Even though Saul started out as a good leader, his time as king went drastically downhill. What changed for Saul, and what can we learn from his mistakes?
- God promised David that his house and his kingdom would continue for all time and his throne would be secure forever. What does this promise to David mean for us?