

1 & 2 Samuel

The bible is not a book. It is a library of books from different authors, times, and viewpoints.

Samuel is a long book, originally one book but divided into two at the point of Saul's death. It is mostly narrative and gets into the personal lives of the characters. God stays mostly behind the scenes.

It outlines the transition from Israel being governed by judges to a king. But not an absolute, do what I want king. Israel's King was to be subject to a higher power, rules of law, and morality.

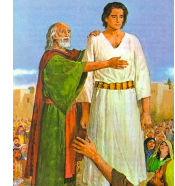
Samuel 1 covers

Eli (1-4) Elkanah was Samuel's dad with two wives. Similar to Jacob's story the first wife has no problem having kids. But the second wife, Hannah, didn't have any for awhile. When she finally had Samuel she gave him to God and he ends up working for Eli.

Samuel (5-12) - After learning from Eli and what not to do from Eli's rotten sons, Samuel becomes the judge of the group. There are some battles with the Philistines in this period. Then Samuel lets his less than perfect sons take over being the judge. The sons take bribes, benefit themselves from decisions, etc. The people decide they want a King instead like the neighbor countries have. Of course some of this makes no sense in real life. Samuel is old he has to pass his judge duties to his sons, yet he lives quite awhile longer to get the next kings ready.

Saul (13-31) Samuel anoints Saul king because he had a dream. Samuel sees himself as teaching Saul to be king. There are wars with various neighbors. Saul is victorious mostly and starts thinking he has the hang of this king thing.

There was a bit of a misunderstanding between what Saul did with the Amalekites and what Samuel told him God wanted him to do. Apparently God wanted Saul to obliterate the beaten people and their livestock. I guess they ended up keeping the livestock and carting off all the riches. So now Samuel and Saul are not on good terms.



David steps in. David slays Goliath. But Saul notices that David is the hero now and gets the cheers from the people. Saul says he can marry his daughter Michal if conditions are met. It is a trap and Saul's own son Jonathan and Michal help David escape.



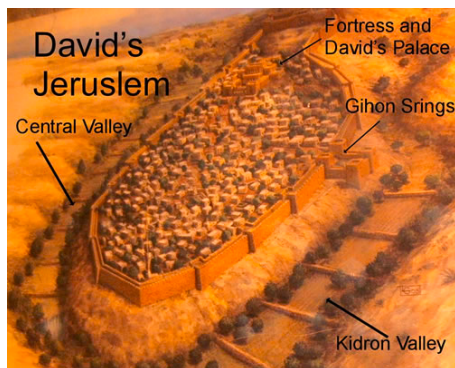
David meets Samuel and Samuel takes him under his wing.

David is sought after by Saul who has turned obsessed and hateful. David has opportunities to kill Saul but does not. Samuel dies then Saul and Jonathan die.



Samuel 2 then finishes covering David.

Now David is ruling over one tribe at Hebron while the son of Saul, Ishbosheth, is ruling over the rest. David is having kids with various mothers. Ishbosheth is slaughtered and David is now king of the whole group.



He takes over Jerusalem, drives the Canaanites out and eventually brings the ark to Jerusalem and builds a temple.

Years later, David falls in love with Bathsheba and has her husband, Uriah, more or less killed.

Nathan, the new prophet in town, is upset by this and tells him so. Turmoil abounds from then on. David knows his time is numbered and prepares Solomon to be king.

