

# Introduction to The Book of Samuel

## *Who Will Lead God's People?*

### I. Introduction

#### A. What would a society in anarchy look like? Leadership is good.

1. God's design (from the beginning) was for His people to live under godly leadership, yet in a fallen world, a leader is "as capable of leading mankind to the abyss as to the sunlit uplands."<sup>1</sup>
2. In the book of Samuel, we will see the importance of godly leadership and how God's plan for our everlasting happiness involves a good and eternal king.

#### B. Surveying the "terrain" of 1, 2 Samuel

1. The larger wall map – how Samuel fits with the surrounding cities (books)
2. The local paper map of all of Samuel – the neighborhoods in 1, 2 Samuel
3. The globe – how Samuel fits in the story of redemption

### II. Samuel's Setting: The Anarchy of the Time of the Judges *[wall map]*

#### A. Timeframe

1. 1105 B.C. (birth of Samuel)
2. 971 B.C. (the end of David's reign as king).<sup>2</sup>

#### B. The spiritual and political setting:

1. Remember that **Joshua** led the Israelites, God's people, into the place God promised.
2. But in the time that followed the conquest, in **Judges**, we see, "*In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" (Judges 21:25)
3. Why does this matter?
  - a. They have had 200 years plus of upheaval and near anarchy...
  - b. **The questions floating in the background are:**
    - (i) "*What sort of leader/king is needed for God's people?*" and
    - (ii) "*How will they get such a king/leader?*"

### III. Samuel's Storyline: God's Sovereign Grace in Raising up Godly Leaders for His People *[full map of the city]*

#### A. Outline of Samuel

1. Samuel, a prophet and king anointer (1 Sam. 1-7)
2. Saul, a king in God's place (1 Sam. 8-15)
3. David, a man after God's heart (1 Sam. 16-2 Sam. 8)
4. David, a servant under God's discipline (2 Sam. 9-20)
5. Epilogue (2 Sam. 21-24)

#### B. Message of Samuel

1. The poems give a summary of the main theme / message that the storyline communicates (see 1 Sam. 2:2-4, 10; 2 Sam. 22:28, 32, 51).
2. **Key theme:** The Lord brings down those who are indifferent (i.e., prideful) to His rule, and He will raise up those who would lead His people with a humble dependence on Him.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Kissinger, *Leadership*, xxi.

<sup>2</sup> Saul is anointed ~ 1050. David is born around 1040. David reigns from around 1010-971.

- a. He brings down Eli and his sons and raises up Samuel.
- b. He brings down Saul and raises up David (see 1 Sam. 15:22-23 cf. 1 Sam. 16:6-13).
- c. The necessity of God's Spirit and presence for accomplishing His work (1 Sam. 16:13).
- d. Summary:
  - (i) A godly leader is one who recognizes that God is the ruler of all and obeys Him.
  - (ii) A godly leader relies on God's empowerment to lead others in His ways.
  - (iii) God graciously raises up such leaders.

#### IV. Samuel and the Storyline of the Bible: An Eternal King *[globe]*

A. The storyline of the Bible: God's people, in God's place, enjoying his presence, under His rule.

B. A biblical theology of kingship

1. **Creation** - God as king, Adam and Eve exercise dominion (Gen. 1:28).
2. **Fall** - God's people rebel against God's rule and struggle to exercise dominion (Gen. 3).
3. **Abraham** is chosen by God to be a great nation from whom "kings shall come" (Gen. 17:6).
4. **Judah** - The kingship shall reside with the tribe that descends from Judah (Gen. 49:10).
5. **Moses**, a godly leader, gives instructions for the future kings to fear God (Deut. 17:14-20).
6. **Judges** shows what happens when there is no king, and autonomy rules (anarchy).
7. **Saul** is the king like the nations Moses warned about (cf. Deut. 17:14-20).
8. God raises up **David** and makes an everlasting covenant with him (2 Sam. 7).
9. As to the book of **Kings**, we see that the line of David continues in Judah.
  - a. It continues until the exile, when God removes His people from His place for their rebellion.
  - b. Will this mean an end of the Davidic dynasty?
10. Even while **Isaiah** prophesies about this exile, he also speaks of the Davidic line continuing (11:1-5).
11. Then comes the **Christ, the son of David** (Matt. 1:1, Luke 1:32-33)
12. He has inaugurated His kingdom and will establish its fullness
  - a. Christ's **second coming** will bring judgment on His enemies (Rev. 19:12-16).
  - b. He will reign in a **millennial** kingdom on the earth (Rev. 20:4, 6).
  - c. In the **new heavens and earth**, there will be a return and escalation of what we saw in Genesis chapter 1 (Rev. 22:1-5).

C. Application

1. **Holiness**: We are in His inaugurated kingdom even now: empowered by His Spirit, proclaiming His excellencies.
2. **Hope**: We will one day reign forever in His new heavens and new earth; we must steward each day with that great hope and great role that awaits on the horizon.
3. **Praise** God for Jesus: The anointed one, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the great son of David, who is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. We need a godly leader, and we have him in Christ.