

The Books of 1st and 2nd Samuel

(The Kingdom of Israel Becomes Organized)

INTRODUCTION: These books were originally written as only one book in the Hebrew Bible, called the Book of Samuel. But because it was a long book, the first translation of the Bible (the Greek Septuagint translation, made about 200 B.C.) divided it into 2 sections. Since that time most translations have come to follow that practice, although the 2 books were originally written as one history of the beginning of the kingdom of Israel.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the book is to record the history of the nation of Israel, from the end of the ruler ship of the judges until when the nation had become strong and organized under King David.

AUTHOR: The prophet Samuel probably wrote most or all of 1 Samuel up to 1 Samuel chapter 25, where we read of Samuel's death, 1 Sam.25:1. The scriptures tell us that Samuel was a writer who wrote one or more books, 1 Sam.10:25 & 1 Chron.29:29. Samuel also started a school of the prophets (1 Sam.19:20), just as Elijah & Elisha later trained schools of the prophets. One of the prophets trained in the school probably gathered together the writings of some of the great prophets of that time (1 Chron.29:29) as well as perhaps other writings (2 Sam.1:17, 1 Kings 15:19 & 29) to compile and complete this history of how the kingdom of Israel became organized.

THE BOOK OF 1st SAMUEL:

THE BOOK OF 2nd SAMUEL:

A. SAMUEL, THE LAST JUDGE, 1 SAM.1-7

1. The Birth of Samuel
2. The Sin of Eli's house
3. The Call of Samuel
4. Israel defeated, Eli dies
5. The Ark brings judgment to Philistia
6. The Philistines return the Ark
7. Samuel leads a National Revival

B. SAUL, THE FIRST KING, 1 SAM.8-31

PART 1: SAMUEL WORKS WITH SAUL

8. Israel wants a King
- 9 & 10 Saul Chosen & Anointed by Samuel
11. Saul's first Victory
12. Samuel confirms Saul
13. Saul's first Disobedience
14. Jonathan's Victory, Saul's Curse
15. Saul disobeys again, God rejects him

PART 2: SAUL REIGNS, DAVID PREPARED

16. David anointed by Samuel
17. David defeats Goliath
18. David becomes Popular, Saul is Jealous
- 19-26 Saul Persecutes David
27. David flees to the Philistines
28. Saul visits the Medium
29. David spared from fighting Saul
30. David recovers all from the Amalekites
31. The Death of King Saul

C. DAVID, THE GREAT KING, 2 SAM.1-24

PART 1: DAVID'S VICTORIES

1. Saul dies and is Mourned by David
2. David Anointed King of Judah
3. Abner is Murdered
4. Saul's son, Ishbosheth, is Murdered
5. David is Anointed King over all Israel
6. The Ark is brought to Zion
7. David's House is Eternally Blessed
8. David's Military Victories
9. David and Mephibosheth
10. More Military Victories

PART 2: DAVID SINS & REAPS JUDGMENT

11. David Sins
12. Judgment Prophesied, Son Dies
13. The Sins of Two of David's Sons
14. Absalom Returns
- 15-17 Absalom Rebels, David Flees
18. Absalom Murdered
19. David Returns
20. Sheba leads a Rebellion
21. Famine and War
22. David's Praise
23. David's Mighty Men
24. David's Census and the Plague