



1 Samuel 2:2

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INTRODUCTION

Background: ¹

1. The books of First and Second Samuel cover a period of more than 100 years.
2. The two books were originally known as the “Book of Samuel” or simply “Samuel.”
3. The Greek Septuagint (250 B.C.) divided Samuel into two books: “First Kingdoms.”
 - a. Second Samuel and First and Second Kings were called “Second, Third, and Fourth Kingdoms.”
 - b. The Latin translations referred to First and Second Samuel simply as “Samuel.”
 - c. Samuel and Kings were eventually divided into four parts; First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings in A.D. 1448.
4. The name “Samuel” has been variously translated “The Name of God,” “His Name is God,” “Heard of God,” and “Asked of God.”

Authorship and Date:

5. It is difficult to know who wrote First and Second Samuel since no one is credited as the author in the books.
 - a. Samuel’s death is recorded in Chapter 25:1 before the end of First Samuel which contains thirty-one chapters; however, he is last mentioned in 15:34
 - b. This probably means that Samuel wrote over half of First Samuel.
 - c. It has been proposed that the prophets Nathan and Gad wrote the rest of First Samuel and Second Samuel since these men accompanied David during his life time.
6. The time these books were written would be between 1050 to 950 B.C.

Background History:

7. First Samuel bridges the historical gap between the judges and the monarchy.

¹ *New Kings James Version* of the Bible; “Introduction,” Broadman & Holman Publishers. Nashville, Tenn., 1996.

- a. The lives of Samuel, Eli, Saul, and the early life of David are described.
 - b. It records the anointing of two kings: Saul and David.
8. The people wanted a king to rule over them for the wrong motive.
- a. They should have chosen God to be their King but they wanted a king “like the other nations” to judge them.
 - b. Saul’s tragic reign proved God’s warning about having a secular king to rule them.

Major Themes and Messages: ²

9. Samuel was dedicated to God by a loving mother, and he became the nation of Israel’s only spiritual and civil leader during this time.
10. It illustrates the loss of families by two godly men, Eli and Samuel.
- a. Eli was too weak and permissive (1 Samuel 2:12-25; 3:13).
 - b. Samuel may have been too busy, or he forced his sons to be something they were not qualified to do (1 Samuel 8:1).
11. The book’s major messages can be summarized with these words, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,” 1 Samuel 15:22 and “The Lord sees not as man sees,” 1 Samuel 16:7.
12. We see a man’s life ruined by his jealousies (Saul), and a man who was selected by God because he was “a man after God’s own heart” (David).
13. First Samuel shows the divine origin of David’s reign, which plays a major role in the coming of the “son of David” who would also be the “Son of God.”
- a. The last words of Jesus were, “I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star,” Revelation 22:16.
 - b. Jesus sits on the throne of David in heaven today (Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32).

² Unger, Merrill, *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, “Samuel.” Moody Press: Chicago, 1967.

Outline of the Book of First Samuel

I. Samuel Is the Last Judge of the Nation of Israel: (1:1 to 8:22)

A. Elkanah had two wives: (1:1-3)

1. This was not the Lord's plan from the beginning.
2. Jesus said that a man is to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife (Matthew 19:3-9 and 1 Corinthians 7:2).
3. One of his wives was Hannah who was childless: (1:2)
4. Elkanah went yearly to worship at Shiloh: (1:3)
5. Eli was high-priest and his two sons served as priests: (1-3)

B. The boy Samuel is born: (1:4-28)

1. Hannah was in great distress because she was childless: (1:4-8)
 - a. Elkanah tried to comfort Hannah: (1:4-5)
 - b. Elkanah's other wife provoked Hannah: (1:6)
 - c. Each year at Shiloh Hannah's bitterness grew: (1:7-8)
2. Hannah prayed for a son: (1:9-18)
 - a. Eli sat upon a seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle: (1:9)
 - b. Hannah made a vow to God, if He granted her a son: (1:10-11)
 - c. Hannah offered a silent prayer: (1:12)
 - d. Hannah was rebuked by Eli because he thought she was drunk: (1:13)
 - e. Hannah gave an explanation: (1:14-16)

Note: This can be compared to the Apostles who were falsely charged with drunkenness in Acts 2:13-17.

- f. Eli gave his blessing: (1:17-18)
3. A son is born to Hannah: (1:19-23)

- a. Hannah names the child Samuel: (1:20)
 - b. Hannah keeps the child until he is weaned: (1:21-23)
- 4. Samuel is "lent" to the Lord to serve Him: (1:24-28)
- C. Samuel gives service at the tabernacle: (2:1 to 3:21)
 - 1. Hannah offers thanksgiving to the Lord: (2:1-11)
 - a. God is her rock:
 - b. God is our Rock: (Psalms 18:2, 31, 46; 92:15 and Luke 6:47-49)
 - 2. The sons of Eli were wicked: (2:12-17)
 - 3. Samuel was a good servant: (2:18-21)
 - 4. Eli rebukes his sons: (2:22-26)
 - 5. A prophecy is given against Eli and his house: (2:27-36)
 - 6. There was no "widespread" revelation from God in those days: (3:1)
 - 7. The Lord calls Samuel: (3:2-10)
 - 8. God tells Samuel of the coming destruction of Eli's house: (3:11-18)
 - a. This is what occurs when a man does not rule his house according to the Lord: Joshua 24:15
 - b. We need to be like Joshua, "As for me and my house, we shall serve the LORD."
 - 9. Samuel was recognized as a prophet of God: (3:19-21)
- D. The Philistines defeated the nation of Israel: (4:1 to 6:21)
 - 1. The Philistines were descendants of Ham: (1 Chronicles 1:8-12).
 - 2. The Hebrews were descendants of Shem: (1 Chronicles 1:24-27)
 - 3. The Philistines win the first battle: (4:1-2)
 - 4. The Israelites bring the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh thinking it would give them victory over their enemy but they were wrong: (4:3-9)

5. The Philistines win the second battle and take the ark: (4:10-11)
 6. Hophni, Phinehas, and Eli die: (4:12-18)
 7. Phinehas' wife dies in childbirth: (4:19-22)
 8. The ark of the Lord in the house of Dagon: (5:1-2)
 - a. The image Dagon falls on its face before the ark: (5:3-5)
 - b. The Philistines were punished for keeping the ark of God: (5:6-12)
 - c. The Philistines return the ark to Bethshemesh: (6:1-18)
 9. The men of Bethshemesh are punished: (6:19-20)
 10. The ark was sent to Kirjathjearim: (6:21)
- E. Samuel served as a prophet of God and judge of Israel: (7:1 to 8:22)
1. The ark was in the house of Abinadab for twenty years: (7:1-2)
 2. Samuel called on Israel to repent of idolatry: (7:3)
 3. The nation of Israel repents and is gathered to Mizpah for renewal: (7:4-8)
 4. The Philistines were defeated and Israel was liberated: (7:9-12)
 5. Samuel was a circuit preacher, prophet, teacher, and judge: (7:13-17)
 6. Samuel's sons were corrupt: (8:1-3)
 7. The people requested a king to rule over them: (8:4-5)
 8. The request displeased Samuel, and he prayed to the Lord about it.
 - a. The Lord gave him directions on what to say and do: (8:6-9)
 - b. Israel wanted more than the Lord thought they needed.
 - c. Samuel was told by the Lord to warn the people about what it would be like to have a king ruling over them.
 9. Samuel warns the people about abuse of power: (8:10-18)
 10. The people insist and a king is granted: (8:19-22)

II. Saul Is Selected to Reign As the First King of Israel: (9:1 to 24:22)

- A. Saul is discovered and is anointed king of Israel: (9:1 to 11:15)
 - 1. Saul is described as choice and handsome and taller than anyone else: (9:1-2)
 - 2. Saul could not find his father's donkeys: (9:3-10)
 - 3. Saul seeks a prophet (Samuel) to help him: (9:11-14)
 - 4. Samuel identifies Saul and invites him to a meal: (9:15-24)
 - a. God speaks to Samuel about Saul: (9:15-17)
 - b. Samuel tells Saul he is to become the Captain of all Israel: (9:18-20)
 - c. Saul protests because of his humble situation: (9:21)
 - d. Samuel brings Saul into his house and feeds him: (9:22-24)
 - e. Samuel confers with Saul about his duties: (9:25-27)
 - 5. Samuel anoints Saul, counsels him, and appoints him king: (10:1-15)
 - a. There was the anointing with oil: (10:1)
 - b. Samuel gives Saul three signs to confirm his selection: (10:2-6-7)
 - c. Saul went to meet Samuel at Gilgal: (10:8)
 - d. Saul is a changed man and prophesies: (10:9-13)
 - e. Saul has a conversation with his uncle: (10:14-15)
 - 6. Saul is inaugurated king over Israel: (10:16 to 11:27)
 - a. Some honored Saul: (10:16)
 - b. Others despised him: (10:17)
 - c. The Ammonites threaten the people of Gilgal and they were afraid: (11:1-5)
 - d. The Spirit of God came upon Saul who expressed his anger because the people were afraid: (11:6)
 - e. The people joined in the fight and had victory over the Ammonites: (11:7-11)

- f. The enemies of Saul are rejected: (11:12-13)
 - g. The kingdom is renewed at Gilgal: (11:14-15)
- B. Samuel gives his farewell address: (12:1-25)
 - 1. Samuel's integrity as judge (ruler) over Israel is expressed: (12:1-5)
 - 2. The people are reminded of their unfaithfulness: (12:6-15)
 - 3. A thunderstorm is given as a sign that God was with Samuel: (12:16-19)
 - 4. Samuel commends them to the mercy of God: (12:20-25)
- C. The early reign and rejection of Saul is detailed: (13:1 to 15:35)
 - 1. There was war with the Philistines: (13:1-23)
 - a. Jonathan, son of Saul, attacks a Philistine garrison: (13:1-4)
 - b. Under the Philistine attack, Saul holds up at Gilgal: (13:5-7)
 - c. When Samuel did not appear, Saul offered a sacrifice: (13:8-10)
 - d. Samuel arrives and condemns Saul: (13:11-15) [Notice Acts 13:22]
 - e. Saul is at Gibeal and the Philistines are encamped at Michmash: (13:16)
 - f. The Philistines raided Israelite villages: (13:17-18)
 - g. The Philistines denied Israel weapons of war: (13:19-23)
 - 2. The battle of Michmash occurs: (14:1-52)
 - a. Jonathan and his armor bearer slip out of the camp: (14:1-3)
 - b. Jonathan and his armor bearer kill 20 Philistine soldiers: (14:4-18)
 - c. Saul and his men join in the rout of the Philistines: (14:19-23)
 - d. Saul's rash order not to eat and its consequence are described: (14:24-32)
 - e. The people are fed: (14:33-35)
 - f. Jonathan is spared: (14:36-46)

- g. Saul defeated all his enemies: (14:47-52)
- 3. Saul sins and is rejected as king: (15:1-33)
 - a. Saul was sent to utterly destroy Amalek (15:1-5)
 - b. Amalek was defeated, but not totally destroyed: (15:6-9)
 - c. Samuel announces God's rejection of Saul: (15:10-23)
 - d. Saul confessed that he had sinned because he feared people and obeyed their voice instead of the voice of God: (15:24-31)
 - e. Samuel killed Agag of Amalek: (15:32-33)
 - f. Samuel and Saul become estranged: (15:34-35)

III. David Is Anointed to Reign as the Second King of Israel: (16:1-13)

- A. The latter portion of Saul's reign is detailed: (16:14 to 17:58)
 - 1. Saul's malady is soothed by David's music: (16:14-23)
 - 2. There is another battle with the Philistines: (17:1-58)
 - a. The army of Saul is set in array against the Philistine army: (17:1-3)
 - b. The Philistine giant, Goliath, challenges Israel: (17:4-11)
 - c. David hears Goliath's boast: (17:12-27)
 - d. David offers to accept Goliath's challenge: (17:28-37).
 - 1) Faith brings victory to the Christian as well: (1 John 5:4)
 - 2) We can face various "giants" in our lives as well.
 - e. David killed Goliath and Israel defeated the Philistine army: (17:38-54)
 - f. Saul takes a renewed interest in David: (17:55-58)
 - 3. Saul hates David and seeks to kill him: (18:1 to 20:42)
 - a. Jonathan and David become close friends: (18:1-4)

- b. David is given command of the army and gains many victories: (18:5-9)
 - c. Saul, while in a fit of jealousy, attempts to kill David: (18:10-11)
 - d. Saul assigned David to an outpost: (18:12-16)
 - e. Saul attempts to have David killed by the Philistines: (18:17-27)
 - f. David marries the daughter of Saul (18:28)
 - g. There is a continued hatred of Saul for David: (18:29-30)
 - h. Saul tells Jonathan and his servants to kill David: (19:1-3)
 - i. Jonathan sought reconciliation between Saul and David: (19:4-7)
 - j. Saul makes several attempts to kill David: (19:8-24)
 - k. David consults with Jonathan: (20:1-10)
 - l. Jonathan sends David away: (20:11-42)
- B. Saul seeks to kill David while David is banished: (21:1-15)
- 1. David and his men are given hallowed bread at Nob: (21:1-7)
 - 2. David is given Goliath's sword by Ahimelech: (21:8-9)
 - 3. David feigns madness at Gath: (21:10-15)
 - 4. David continues to escape: (22:1-23)
 - a. David retires to the cave of Adullam: (22:1-2)
 - b. David made arrangements with Moab for his mother and father: (22:3-4)
 - c. David goes to the forest of Hereth as directed by the prophet Gad: (22:5)
 - d. Saul complains about Jonathan and David: (22:6-8)
 - e. Saul confronts Ahimelech for giving David bread: (22:9-16)
 - f. Saul commands 85 priests to be killed: (22:17-19)
 - g. David learns of the slaughter from Abiathar, a priest: (22:20-23)

- h. David defends the city of Keilah against the Philistines: (23:1-6)
 - i. David leaves Keilah to escape Saul: (23:7-13)
 - j. David lives on a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph: (23:14-15)
 - k. Saul continued to seek after the death of David, but God would not deliver him into Saul's hand (v. 14).
 - l. Jonathan visits David at Ziph: (23:16-18)
 - m. Saul pursues David from Ziph to Jeshimon to Maon then turns away for a battle: (23:16-29)
5. David spares Saul's life: (24:1-22)

IV. The Lives of Saul and His Sons Come to a Tragic End: (25:1 to 31:13)

- A. Nabal dies and David marries his widow, Abigail: (25:2-44)
 - 1. David asks Nabal for provisions for his little army: (25:1-9)
 - a. Samuel dies: (25:1)
 - b. David went to the Wilderness of Paran: (25:1)
 - 2. Nabal refuses the request and returns an insult: (25:10-11)
 - 3. David decides to punish Nabal: (25:12-13)
 - 4. Abigail, the wife of Nabal, appeases David: (25:14-35)
 - 5. Nabal dies and David marries Abigail: (25:36-44)
- B. David spares Saul's life a second time: (26:1-25)
- C. David escapes to the land of the Philistines: (27:1 to 28:2))
- D. The Philistines war with Israel: (28:3 to 30:31)
 - 1. Saul goes to the witch of En Dor: (28:4-25) 28:6-7
 - a. Saul fails with God and tries "other ways".
 - b. What does God think of this "other way"? (See Galatians 5:19-21)

2. The Philistines press the war with Israel: (29:1-11)
 3. The Amalekites ravage the city of Ziklag: (30:1-2)
 4. David recovers his property and wives: (30:3-31)
- E. Saul and his sons are killed in a battle with the Philistines: (31:1-13)

CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord's way and will are always best.
2. The Lord continued to fulfill His promise to send a Savior.
 - a. One of Eve's seed would bear a child that would crush the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15).
 - b. One of Abraham's seed would bless all nations (Genesis 12).
 - c. One of David's seed would reign on his throne in heaven (Luke 1:32).

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