



Introduction to 1 & 2 Samuel

- Author:** Probably Samuel at the beginning, then others
- Date:** 10th Century B.C.
- Theme:** Transition from the days of the Judges to the Kings

Place in the Old Testament: While counted among the historical books of the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible categorizes the books somewhat differently. In the original, 1 & 2 Samuel are a single book – Samuel. Along with Joshua, Judges and Kings, it is counted among the books that are labeled The Former Prophets. The Latter Prophets consisted of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and The Twelve (a.k.a. The Minor Prophets).

A Very Quick Outline

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| I. | Samuel the Judge | 1 Samuel 1 – 8 |
| II. | Saul is Anointed and Rejected | 1 Samuel 9 – 15 |
| III. | David's Anointing to the Death of Saul | 1 Samuel 16 – 31 |
| IV. | The Death of Saul to David's Rule | 2 Samuel 1 – 4 |
| V. | David Rules and Absalom Revolts | 2 Samuel 5 – 14 |
| VI. | Absalom's Revolt to David's Census | 2 Samuel 15 - 24 |

What's in 1 & 2 Samuel?

- The man Samuel takes us from the times of Israel's judges to the earliest days of the kingdom period.
- Samuel might be counted as the last of the judges and the first in the role of prophets who served alongside the kings.
- He personally anointed the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.
- The book takes us through the rise and fall of King Saul into the rise of David and through his reign.
- We see them both in times of battle and get a glimpse into their rivalry, which was really quite one-sided, perpetuated only by Saul.
- Once David is king, we see the issues that he dealt with in his home life, including the failed rebellion of one of his sons, Absalom, who declared himself king.