

I and II SAMUEL

Named after Samuel, (principal figure who anointed Saul and David).
Written around 1000 B.C.

-Primarily by David, but also Nathan, Gad and maybe one of Nathan's sons

Possibly originally a single book (scroll) which was divided when translated into Greek

The books of Samuel cover a period of time (about 100 years) from the birth of Samuel to the near end of the reign of David.

First Samuel presents the transition from Israel's judges to the monarchy.
-from being ruled by God to being ruled by men

Second Samuel deals almost exclusively with the history of David

1st Samuel

Samuel born

-Hannah is one of two wives of a godly man named Elkanah

-she is barren, the other has children

-while worshipping at the temple, she cries out to God and says:

1Sa 1:11 She made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

-Eli can't hear her and just sees her mouth move

-he thinks she's drunk and tells her to put her booze away

-she explains and he tells her God will give her what she asked for

-Samuel is born, brought to the temple to be raised and disciple by Eli the priest

-before the story of Samuel, there is a quick mention of Eli's sons (who were priests to the Lord)

1Sa 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD

-they were in charge of the priestly duties but did not know the Lord

- they basically took what they wanted from the offerings people gave to the Lord
- they went so far as to have sex with the women serving at the temple

-it is worth mentioning that not everyone who claims to represent God actually knows Him

- many preachers and televangelists today live very extravagant lifestyles doing the same thing that the sons of Eli did
- Remember what Jesus said:

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*."

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

-Samuel is raised at the temple where he hears the call of God

- thinks it is Eli calling him in the middle of the night
- We often think that it must have been great to live in bible times
 - it sounds like it was easy to have faith because God was always doing something big or speaking to people
- listen to this:

1Sa 3:1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

-and from our lesson about Gideon last week:

Jdg 6:12 The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior."

Jdg 6:13 Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

- words from the Lord were rare
- visions were infrequent
- "our fathers told us about His miracles but we have never seen them"

-We make the mistake of thinking that the stories in the bible were written as one continuous story

-the truth is that often times hundreds of years passed between these great and miraculous events

-they struggled with faith just like many of us do

-But remember what Jesus said to Thomas after He rose from the dead:

Joh 20:29 Jesus *said to him, "**Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**"

The ark taken

-The Hebrews fight and lose against the Philistines

-30,000 men of Israel die

-the ark is taken by the Philistines

-Eli's two sons die in the battle

-one Benjamite escapes and brings word back to Eli

-when Eli hears that the ark has been captured, he falls backwards off his seat and breaks his neck and dies (he was old and fat)

-Philistines put the ark in the house of their god, Dagon

-Dagon keeps falling face first before the ark

-God strikes the Philistines with tumors and apparently mice

-they can't stand it, send the ark back on a cart with golden tumors and mice as a guilt offering

-when it returns, the men of Israel burn the cart and sacrifice the oxen

-Samuel is the last judge of Israel along with help from his sons

Israel's first king – Saul

-The people demand a king

-Samuel's sons were wicked

-the people wanted a king like all the other nations

-Samuel relents but gives them a warning

-A king will take your sons, daughters, fields, everything....

-he will use the best of the land for himself

-you're going to hate it

-but the people insisted

Saul is Chosen

- Saul is out looking for his father's donkeys
 - he comes upon Samuel, the man of God (seer)
 - God had shown Samuel the day before that Saul would come and that he was to be anointed king of Israel
 - Saul is made king
- Saul gets impatient and makes a burnt offering to the Lord
 - Offerings were to be done by Levites only
 - by this act of disobedience, God now turns His eye elsewhere for a new king
- shortly after, Samuel gives Saul instructions to wipe out the Amalekites
 - kill the king, his animals and people
 - again Saul takes matters into his own hands
 - he keeps some of the best of the flocks for himself
 - then lies and says he kept them to sacrifice to the Lord
 - He captures king Agag instead of killing him

-That was the last straw

1Sa 15:28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you.

Then Samuel in his old age does what Saul wouldn't do

1Sa 15:32 Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

1Sa 15:33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal.

-From here, it's all downhill for Saul

-David comes into the picture

- David is anointed by Samuel
- The Spirit departs from Saul
- Saul begins to be terrorized by an evil spirit
- the remedy is interesting

1Sa 16:15 Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you.

1Sa 16:16 "Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play *the harp* with his hand, and you will be well."

1Sa 16:23 So it came about whenever the *evil* spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play *it* with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

-Some people think music is just entertainment

-Music can be a very powerful thing

-especially in a spiritual sense

-Just the playing of a harp by a godly person caused the evil spirit to flee

-people make such a big deal about what kind of music is good and what is bad

-should we use drums, pianos, too fast, too slow...

-from what I can see in the bible, the type of instruments and melody don't seem to be that important

-music is not good or evil, right or wrong

-it is neutral, just like money and paper

-with money, you can choose to do great things or wicked things

-with paper you can print a bible or a pornographic magazine

-to music you can add poisonous, hateful lyrics or positive God-honoring lyrics

-David kills Goliath

-brings his severed head back to Saul

-David and Jonathan become friends

-Saul will give David his daughter Michal for a wife

-for 100 philistine foreskins (thinking surely this would get him killed)

-he brings back 200 and his fame begins to grow

-Slowly David becomes more popular than Saul

-and all the while, he is more noble

Note the contrast between the two kings

When the people demanded a king:

1Sa 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor.

1Sa 9:2 He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.

-Not only handsome, but he most handsome in the land

-not only tall, but taller than all the people of the land

-This is what the world is after

-This is what Hollywood tells us is desirable

-tall, handsome, from a popular family

When God chooses a king:

1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

-while the world defines success by outward appearance, God looks at nothing but our heart

-this should give us all a great sense of relief

-no matter how pretty you are, how much money you have or how popular you are, there will always be someone richer, better looking, and higher on the totem pole than you

Saul's hatred for David grows

-he pursues him to try to kill him

-two times, David spares his life

-Saul finally has to admit that David is more honorable than him

Samuel dies

The witch of Endor

-Saul is afraid to go to battle

-the Lord departed from him and quit speaking to him

-he wants to know if his army will be successful against the Philistines

-he goes to the medium (witch) at Endor

-Asks her to raise Samuel from the dead

-she is able to conjure him up

-Look at her reaction

1Sa 28:11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

1Sa 28:12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul."

- she is so surprised that she screams
 - probably a phony and this never happened before
- this is a very unusual story
 - many people were raised from the dead throughout the bible
 - this is the only instance I know of where God allowed the spirit of a dead man to speak to someone
- Samuel's news is bad
 - He says that Saul and his sons will die in the battle the next day

Conclusion

- 1st Samuel closes with Saul and his sons dying in the battle as prophesied
 - Saul is wounded and falls on his sword so the enemy won't find him alive

2nd Samuel

2nd Samuel opens with David mourning the loss of Saul and Jonathan

David becomes King

Moving the ark

- David and his men are moving the ark from one location to the other
- they are carrying it on a cart pulled by oxen
- David and his men are having a great time
 - celebrating and playing all sorts of instruments
- the oxen stumble and a man reaches out to steady the ark
- God kills him on the spot when he touches the ark
 - can you imagine
 - one second everyone is dancing and playing music
 - the next, God strikes one of them dead
- sounds a little extreme, doesn't it?
- if you go back to Numbers, you will see that this is not an angry outburst from God
- God had given the children of Israel very clear instructions on how to carry the ark

Num 4:15 (after dismantling the tabernacle) "When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy *objects* and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry *them*, so that they will not touch the holy *objects* and die. ...

And we remember what happened the last time the ark was traveling on a cart pulled by oxen

-it was how the enemy sent it back to the camp of Israel

God gives David peace from all his enemies

David and Bathsheba

-times are so good that David decides not to go out with his men to battle

-he sees Bathsheba and wants her

-winds up sleeping with her while Uriah is off to war

-she gets pregnant

-Since her husband, Uriah, is too honorable to sleep with his own wife while his men are in the battle field, David arranges to have him killed

-listen to the pattern James outlined

- **Jas 1:14** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Is this not exactly what happened to David?

-lust, sin, death (murder)

We might think that no harm can come from the things we look at when no one is around

-Don't fool your self

Pro 6:27 Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

-stop trying to see how close you can get to sin without falling in

After these events, David has some serious family problems

-the son from Bathsheba dies

-his son rapes his daughter

-one son kills the other to avenge the raped sister

-his own son leads a rebellion against him to take his throne

-David has to flee Jerusalem

-Absalom the traitor is finally killed

-David is grief-stricken over his mess of a family but is finally restored as king

2nd Samuel ends with David taking a census of his people

-this was contrary to the will of God (pride)

-God is angry with David and lets him choose his own punishment

-seven years of famine

-flee from his enemy for 3 months

-three days of pestilence in his land

-David's answer really shows you his heart

2Sa 24:14 Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the LORD for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

Because of David's sin, 70,000 of his men died of a pestilence

-then the Lord relents

2Sa 24:16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!"

JESUS TYPES:

After the ark is returned from the Philistines, God kills those who look into the ark

1Sa 6:19 He struck down some of the men of Beth-shemesh because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. He struck down of all the people, 50,070 men, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.

-how is this a picture of Christ?

-the ark itself is a picture of God

-within the ark is the 10 commandments (Law)

-the mercy seat represents Christ's sacrifice

-slab with 2 angels (one at each end)

Joh 20:11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;

Joh 20:12 and she *saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

-with the mercy seat removed, the law was exposed

-those who looked into it died

-it is only through Christ that we can come to the Father

Joh 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."