



First Samuel – 31 chapters

Title:

Samuel – Named after one of its chief characters.

Author:

Anonymous, tradition suggests possibly Jeremiah

Occasion and Purpose:

Probably written at the end of the monarchy. It shows the monarchy at its best and at its worst. The story is told in such a way as to highlight the difference between a godly king (who leads the nation into blessing) and an ungodly king (who leads the nation into punishment). The point is that the monarchy was ended because of the influence of bad kings, when they could have been so much better. Yet there is still hope because God is faithful to His covenant.

Themes:

1. Deuteronomistic Theology
2. Character of leadership
3. Kingship- leadership under authority
4. Preparation- road to leadership
5. Contrast Faithfulness

Summary:

The story of three leaders in the history of Israel and how there came to be a king. Samuel functioned as a judge and the first of the prophets. He led the nation faithfully and brought reform. As Samuel neared death, the people called for a king to lead them in battle. Samuel anointed Saul to be king. Saul proved to be a good leader in battle, but disobeyed God and slowly became a terrible leader. After God rejected Saul as king, Samuel anointed David to be the next king. David began to grow in influence and fame. Saul became jealous of David and the rest of the book finds David running for his life from the threats of Saul. A great study of 2 leaders, one good and one bad.

Organization:

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| Transition to Monarchy | Samuel's birth and call – chs. 1-3 | 1:1-15:35 |
| | The Ark Narrative – chs. 4-7 | |
| | Saul becomes King – chs. 8-12 | |
| | Saul reveals his heart – chs. 13-15 | |
| Transition from Saul to David | David anointed – ch. 16. | 16:1-31:13 |
| | David vs. Goliath – ch. 17 | |
| | David struggles with Saul – chs. 18-26 | |
| | Saul's final Battle – chs. 27-31 | |

Key Verses:

8:5-8; 12:13-14; 13:13-14; 15:22-23; 17:45-47