

Samuel

Summary

This book was named for the prophet who first appears in 1 Samuel and who anointed Saul and David as king. 1 Samuel follows on the heel of Judges, which talks about the time period after Joshua's death and before Israel's Monarchy. 1 Samuel opens in the 11th century after this period. In 2 Samuel David is anointed king and God makes a covenant with him to establish his royal line forever - a line through which the Messiah would come. Samuel is also about spiritual priorities, obedience, and grace. Eli's death marked the decline of priesthood and the rise of the prophets in Israel. It's in Samuel where he was dedicated to God's service by his mother, Hannah. Samuel finished the work of the judges, started the school of the prophets, and anointed Israel's 1st King. Samson's son turned away from God as did Eli's son.

Author and Date:

Ancient Jewish tradition believes that Samuel wrote most of the book. Prophets Gad and Nathan is believed to have written some of Samuel, as it discusses Samuel's death. But ultimately, Samuel does not actually name an author.

Audience/ Setting:

People of Israel. Begins in the day of the judges. Describes Israel's transition from a theocracy (led by God) to a monarchy (led by a king).

Purpose:

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel highlight the life and influences of prophet Samuel. God wanted to be His people's King, but they wanted a human king like the ones other nations had. So God gave them Saul and then David. The book records the life of Samuel, talks about Israel's last judge, discusses the reign and decline of Saul, and the preparation of David.

Key People:

Eli, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David

Key Places:

Study point

Israel started to covet what other nations had (kings, different leadership). God wanted things to be another way for them, but they believed that there was more pleasure/satisfaction in how other nations were doing things, which ended up hurting them.

Be careful not to covet what the world has and how they do things. All that is lawful isn't expedient. So just because it's not wrong doesn't mean you should take part in it.

References

Application Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible