

Samuel-Kings

I. The Main Idea of Samuel-Kings

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings display God's sovereignty in how he deals with Israel and their enemies.

He stands above the events of history, the demands of His people, and the appointed leaders of the nation.

When his people and their rulers are faithful, God is faithful.

When his people and their rulers sin, He disciplines them in justice.

Specifically ...

- 1 & 2 Samuel records Israel's historical transition to a monarchy, and focuses on Israel's greatest OT king, David.
- 1 & 2 Kings records Israel's rise to prominence and prosperity during the days of Solomon and its subsequent fall to exile during the days of the last kings.

II. Outline of Samuel-Kings

1 Sam. 1-7	Israel's Need for a King
1 Sam. 8-15	The Reign of Saul
1 Sam. 16 - 2 Sam. 4	The Rise of David
2 Sam. 5-20	The Reign of David
2 Sam 21-24	Appendices to David's Reign
1 Kings 1-11	Solomon
1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17	The Divided Kingdom
2 Kings 18-25	Judah Alone

III. Interpretive Keys to Samuel-Kings

- Genre: Historical Narrative with Poetry
 - The author of Samuel-Kings intends to communicate historical events. It doesn't tell us everything we may want to know about history, but what it does tell us is a truthful account of the past.
 - 1 & 2 Samuel also include poetic sections that reflect on the events of the book and on God's character which is revealed in the book (1 Sam. 2:1-10; 15:22-23; 2 Sam. 1:18-27; 3:33-34; 22:2-51; 23:1-7).
 - Although 2 Kings does include one poetic section (2 Kgs. 19:1-28), poetry does not play as prominent of a role in 1 & 2 Kings as it does in 1 & 2 Samuel.
- Narrative structure to the stories of Saul, David, and Solomon:
 - "The format of the text regarding the united monarchy (Saul, David, and Solomon) is to relate the appointment of a king, describe his potential and successes, and finally recount his failures and the results of those failures." – Andrew E. Hill & John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), p. 262.

Narrative Emphasis in the History of the United Monarchy

	Saul	David	Solomon
Appointment	By Samuel. Public process. Activated by the Spirit.	First by Samuel. Long process. Later by the people.	By David. By Zadok and Nathan
Success and Potential	Victory over Ammonites.	Taking of Jerusalem. Defeat of Philistines. Bringing Ark back. Davidic Covenant. Expansion of empire.	Dream and request for wisdom. Wisdom and administration of empire. Building of the temple.
Failures	Impatient offering. Placing people under improper oath. Disobeying instructions in the Amalekite war.	Adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. Wrongful taking of census.	Foreign wives' religious practices accommodated. Labor and tax on people.
Results of Failures	Bad judgment, incompetence, and jealousy.	Bloodshed within family (Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah). Rebellion within kingdom (Absalom, Sheba).	Military problems. Division of kingdom.

Adapted from Andrew E. Hill & John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), p. 263.

V. Messianic Elements within Samuel-Kings

- Prophecies:
 - Davidic Covenant – 2 Samuel 7
 - Jesus will be the king who will rule forever on David's throne.
- Foreshadowing Events:
 - Battle between David & Goliath – 1 Samuel 16 & 17
 - In chapter 16, Samuel anoints David, and “the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward” (v. 13).
 - As God’s “anointed one” (a.k.a., Messiah), David represents the people as he goes to fight Goliath.
 - The Israelites did not have to do anything that day to win the victory. He wins the victory on behalf of God’s people. Consequently, God’s people share in the spoils of victory.
 - As God’s “anointed one” (a.k.a., Messiah), Jesus represents the people as he goes to fight against sin and death.
 - Believers did not have to do anything that day to win the victory. He wins the victory on behalf of God’s people. Consequently, God’s people share in the spoils of victory.
- Types of Christ:
 - David: As a “messiah” and a godly king, David leads and serves people in a way similar to how Jesus would later lead and serve.
 - Elisha: Many of the miracles that Elisha did are similar to miracles we see Jesus doing. Out of all the prophets, he is the one who foreshadowed most clearly the ministry of miracles which the Messiah would have.
 - 2 Kgs. 4:1-7 Multiplying oil (similar to Jesus multiplying bread).
 - 2 Kgs. 4:32-37 Raising the dead.
 - 2 Kgs. 4:42-44 Multiplying bread for people to eat.
 - 2 Kgs. 5:1-14 Healing a leper.
 - 2 Kgs. 7:1-20 Predicting the future.