

1 & 2 Samuel

I. Key Passages of Samuel

1 Samuel 2 – Hannah’s Prayer

- Hannah’s prayer at the beginning of the book introduces some of the themes that will be emphasized in Samuel-Kings, including:
 - “your salvation” (v. 1): God rescues Israel from their enemies.
 - “There is none besides you” (v. 2): The concept of monotheism. There is only one God so Israel should not be worshiping other gods.
 - “by him actions are weighed” (v. 3): God weighs the value of Israel’s leaders throughout Samuel-Kings.
 - “he brings low and he exalts” (v. 7): God raises up leaders and casts down leaders throughout the history.
 - “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness” (v. 9a): Blessings come to those faithful to God; judgment comes to those who are not.
 - “not by might shall a man prevail” (v. 9b): Battles are won when God helps Israel and lost when He does not.
 - “he will give strength to his king and exalt the hon of his anointed [a.k.a. Messiah]”: Introduces the idea of a king ruling over Israel.

Storyline

- The second-to-last judge, Eli the high priest, fails to lead the nation well, and the Ark of the Covenant is lost in battle to the Philistines. However, God miraculously demonstrates his superiority over the gods of the Philistines, and demonstrates his sovereignty over Israel by appointing a young man named Samuel to be the next (and final) judge.
- However, the nation of Israel rejects God as their king and demands that Samuel gives them a human king. So God directs Samuel to anoint a man named Saul to be Israel’s first king. Saul fails to be a godly leader, is rejected by God, so God chooses “a man after his own heart” named David. After he was anointed by Samuel, David was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- At first David was welcomed by Saul and served in his administration. His victory over Goliath was the first of many victories David won for Saul, but eventually Saul became jealous and David had to



flee. A band of soldiers gathered around David, and Saul continually pursued him. But David patiently waited for God's timing and refused to rise up against Saul.

- Eventually, Saul died in battle against the Philistines, and David was crowned king over the tribe of Judah. He reigned over Judah for about 7 years while one of Saul's sons reigned over the rest of Israel. After that time, David was crowned king over all twelve tribes. He conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it his capital. He ruled over all Israel for 33 years.
- David loved God and led the people to worship Him. When he expressed a desire to build God a "house" (a temple), God responded with the Davidic Covenant: a promise that David's dynasty would never end and that one of his descendants would sit on his throne eternally.



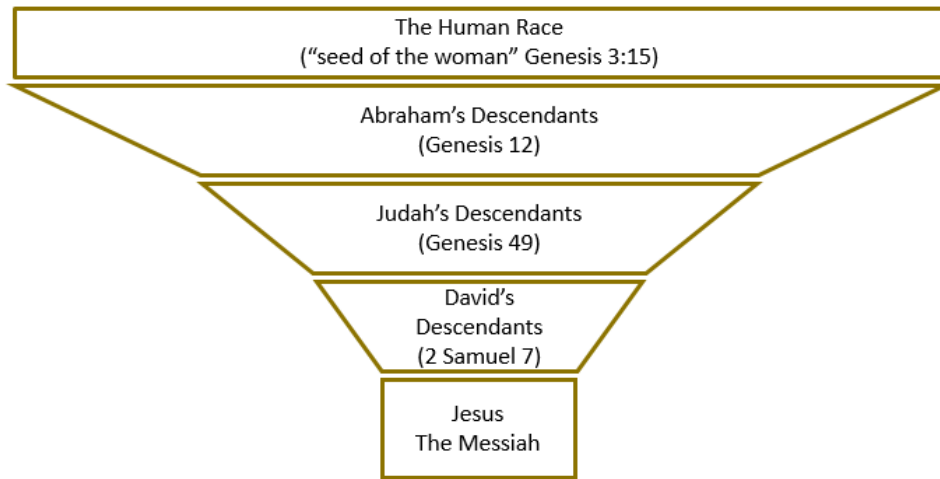
2 Samuel 7 – The Davidic Covenant

- Parties: Made between God and David (2 Sam 8-9, 11; 23:5)
- Type of Covenant:
 - Unconditional? – 2 Sam 23:5; Jer 33:20-21
 - Conditional? – 2 Sam 7:14; Jer 22:30; 36:30
 - Resolution:
 - Similar to the Abrahamic Covenant (with its sign of circumcision), each generation in David's line had to decide whether or not they would participate in the blessings that were available to them because of the covenant. The blessings were always there; it was up to each king to decide whether or not to tap into those blessings.
- Time Period: eternal, permanent. "an everlasting covenant" (2 Sam 23:5; cf. 2 Sam 7:16; Psa 89:28, 33-37; Ps. 132:11; Jer 33:20-21).
- Sign of Covenant: none.
- Promises: Various components, but most importantly David's dynasty, kingdom, and authority will endure forever. (2 Sam 7:16)



City of David, Palace of David area, large stone wall

God's Salvation Plan



Back to the Storyline ...

- David served God faithfully, but not perfectly. After committing adultery and murder, he suffered the consequences of God's judgment in various ways. But David ended his life well and left his son Solomon a secure kingdom.
- Solomon was crowned king by David, ruled wisely, served God, and built the Temple. But later in his life his many wives turned his heart away from God.
- As a consequence for Solomon's sin, God tore away most of the tribes and gave them to a new king (Jeroboam I) after the death of Solomon.