

LITERARY OVERVIEW

Title: Samuel, name of main character in 1st part of book, and secondary character until ch.25. Originally 2 books were one in Hebrew Bible. The Septuagint divided the book into two parts.

Author: Unknown, but likely compilation of the "insider" to the main events (Samuel, up until his death). 1Chronicles 29:29 refers to the books of "Samuel the Seer", "Nathan the Seer", and "Gad the Seer", possibly pointing to the literary contributions of the school of the prophets.

Date: Samuel born around 1105 B.C., and book covers up until Saul's death around 1011 B.C., about 94 years.

Purpose: To give the history of the preparation and establishment of a human monarchy in Israel.

Plotline: Judges 21:25 indicates that a part of the problem of the cycles of sin in that book was that "there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Instead of submitting to the Lordship of their God, the people of Israel demanded a human king. This king is recognized through God's prophet (Samuel), but the story turns into a tragedy (Saul). God does not give up on His people, but uses their mistakes to raise up a man after His own heart to fulfill the role of King, the shepherd boy David.

Main Characters: Samuel (with Eli as backdrop), Saul, and David.

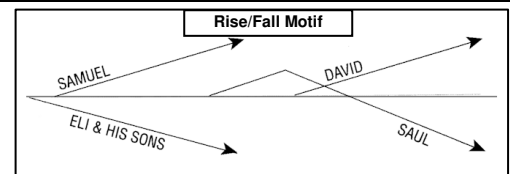
Form/Genre: Mostly historical narrative, hero story (Samuel and David), tragedy (Saul), suspense (David's fugitive days).

OUTLINE**Unit 1 – The Rise of a Samuel (1:1-7:17)**

- I. The Birth of Samuel (1:1–2:11)
- II. Samuel and the Sons of Eli (2:12–36)
- III. The Beginning of Samuel's Prophetic Ministry (3:1–21)
- IV. The Loss and Gain of the Ark of the Lord (4:1–7:2)
- V. Samuel's Judges Israel (7:3–17)

Unit 2 – The Rise and Demise of Saul (8:1-15:35)

- I. Israel Demands a King (8:1–22)
- II. Saul Chosen to be King (9:1-26)
- III. Saul Anointed to be King (9:27-10:16)
- IV. Saul Announced as King (10:17–10:27)
- V. Saul's Initial Victory (11:1–15)
- VI. Saul's Coronation (12:1–25)
- VII. Saul's Disobedience and Foolishness (13:1–15:35)
 - A. Unlawful Sacrifice (13:1-15)
 - B. Laziness/Cowardice (14:1-23)
 - C. Rash Oath (14:24-46)
 - [Saul's Administration (14:47-52)]
 - D. The Sparing of Agag (15:1-35)

**Unit 3 – The Rise of David (16:1-31:13)**

- I. David's Anointing as King (16:1–13)
- II. David's Placement in the King's Court (16:14-23)
- III. David's Victory over Goliath (17:1–58)
- IV. David's Fame Spreads (18:1-16)
- V. David's Marriage into the Royal Family (18:17-30)
- VI. David's Escapes from Saul's Murderous Resentment (19:1-20:42)
- VII. David as a Fugitive (21:1–31:13)
- VIII. The Death of Saul (31:1–13)

APPLICATIONS

- 1.) The tension of the right of God as King, and yet desire for a human king
- 2.) The influence of leadership for the good or ill of a people
- 3.) Contrast between Saul (as tragedy) and David (as hero)
- 4.) Christ in 1 Samuel
 - Samuel as a type of Christ in His priestly, prophetic, and judging roles
 - David as a type of Christ in His kingly role