

## BWCC-UNIVERSITY READING OUTLINE-MARCH-2023

**BOOK: 1 & 2 Samuel** “*I gave thee a king in mine anger; and took him away in my wrath* (Hosea 13:11).”

**WRITER:** The name of Samuel is identified with these two historical books, not because he was the writer primarily, but because his story occurs first and is so prominent and that he anointed as king both Saul and David. Samuel is considered the author up to 1 Samuel 25 (his death). Nathan and Gad completed the writing (1 Chronicles 29:29). The books of Samuel have more than a biographical and historical interest. The central theme of the book’s traces God’s gracious and overruling sovereignty in the sad state of the affairs in Israel at the end of the period of judges by His providential selection of righteous men (i. e., Samuel and David) who would weld the nation into an instrument of His will and a people for Himself.

**HISTORY:** The narrative in 1 Samuel is centered around Israel’s last judge, Samuel who also served as priest and prophet. The books of Samuel go on to sketch Israel’s cry for a king and the resultant selection of Saul as its first king, the failure of Saul, and the growing contest between Saul and David which was resolved with the establishment of the Davidic Kingdom. The period covers nearly a century of Israelite history (c. 1064-971 B.C.), tracing the fortunes of Israel from the depths of apostasy and political fragmentation in the closing era of the judges up to the growing triumphs of the united monarchy.

**KEY WORDS:** Prophets and Kings

### **THEME:**

**Prayer** – 1 Samuel opens with prayer; 2 Samuel closes with prayer.

**Kingdom** – The change of the government from a theocracy to a kingdom; God’s covenant with David.

**Prophet** – The rise of the office of prophet, who became the messenger of God in place of the priest.

**KEY VERSE:** Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house (1 Samuel 10:25).

### **OUTLINE:**

#### **I. God’s prophet, priest, and judge, Chapters 1 -- 8**

##### **A. Birth of Samuel, chap. 1, 2**

1. Hannah’s prayer and answer, chap. 1
2. Hannah’s prophetic prayer; boy Samuel in the temple, chap. 2

##### **B. Call of Samuel, chap. 3**

##### **C. Last judge and first prophet, (prophetic office), chap. 4 -- 8**

1. Ark captured by Philistines; word of God to Samuel fulfilled; Eli dies and his sons slain, chap. 4
2. God judge Philistines because of the ark; ark returned to Bethshemesh, chap. 5, 6
3. Samuel leads in revival (put away idols and turn to Jehovah); victory at Ebenezer, chap. 7
4. Israel rejects God and demands a king; Samuel warns nation but promises a king, chap. 8

#### **II. Saul: Satan’s man, chapters 9 – 15**

##### **A. Saul received, chapters 9, 10**

1. Saul chosen as king, chap. 9
2. Saul anointed as king, chap. 10

##### **B. Saul reigning chap. 11, 12**

1. Saul’s victory over the Ammonites, chap. 11
2. Transfer of authority from Samuel to Saul, chap. 12

### C. Saul rejected, chapters 13 -- 15

1. Saul rebellion against God, chap. 13
2. Jonathan responsible for victory over Philistines; Saul took credit, chap. 14
3. Saul's glaring rebellion and disobedience regarding Agag, chap.15

## III. DAVID: God's man, and SAUL: Satan's man, Chap. 16-31

### I. David anointed, chap. 16

### II. David trained, chap. 17, 18

1. David slays Goliath, giant of Gath, chap. 17
2. Jonathan and David make covenant; Saul gives daughter Michal to David, chap. 18

### III. David disciplined, Chapters 19 -- 30

1. Saul attempts to kill David again, chap. 19
2. Jonathan helps David escape, chap. 20
3. David escapes to Nob and Gath, chap. 21
4. David gathers his men; Saul slays priests of God, chap. 22
5. David fights Philistines: Saul pursues David; Jonathan and David make covenant, chap. 23
6. David spares Saul's life at En-gedi, chap. 24
7. Samuel dies; David and Abigail, chap. 25
8. David again spares Saul's life in the wilderness of Ziph, chap. 26
9. David retreats to land of Philistia (Ziklag), chap. 27
10. Saul goes to witch of Endor, chap. 28
11. Philistines do not trust David in battle, chap. 29)
12. David fights Amalekites because of destruction of Ziklag, chap. 30

### IV. Saul, mortally wounded in battle, commits suicide, chap. 31

#### TRANSITION:

Saul's interview with the witch of Endor poses and provokes many questions. The primary one relates to Samuel. Did she bring Samuel back from the dead? If so, this is the only instance in Scripture. Scripture positively condemns such practices of necromancy (Deut. 18:9-14). The New Testament account of Lazarus and a rich man indicates there can be no return (Luke 16:19-31). Paul was silenced about his experience of being caught up to the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-4). Scripture warns of such practices and predicts a future outbreak (Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Rev. 16:13, 14).

Saul was abandoned of God, (1 Sam. 28:6, 15). Because heaven was silent, Saul turned to hell. We maintain that Samuel did not appear. There are 2 possible explanations;

- (1) it was fraud, the witch was a ventriloquist (this is the position G. Campbell Morgan);
- (2) an over whelming desire to communicate with the dead loved ones makes people victims of deceit. We believe a false spirit appeared – not Samuel. Even the witch was deceived and frightened (1 Sam. 28:12-15). The false spirit communicated nothing that was not previously revealed.

#### Saul's tragic end:

*Saul failed in ruling God's property*

*The end is self-destruction*

*God and His authority are rejected.*

*Saul spared the Amalekites; Saul was killed by Amalekites.*

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**BOOK:** **2 Samuel** *continues the message of 1 Samuel. Governance of this world in the hands of man is a failure.*

**WRITER:** The prophets Nathan and Gad are suspected to have completed the writing of 2 Samuel (1 Chronicles 29:29). Since the division of the kingdom had already taken place (1 Sam. 27:6). The final form of the two books must have taken shape after the death of Solomon in 931 B.C.

The Davidic covenant is clearly set forth in 2 Sam. 7:4-17. It includes God's promise to perpetuate the line of David until the coming of the Messiah. Thus, the events in this book record God's providential protection of the dynasty and of His covenant people, Israel.

**HISTORY:** Second Samuel picks up the narrative where 1 Samuel left off, and it serves as a transition from the reign of Saul to the reign of David. An account of the death of Saul opens the book, followed by the abortive reign of his son Ish-bosheth. It then traces David's rise to power, first at Hebron in Judah, and then in Jerusalem over all Israel. David's success is described as the result of God's blessing on his life during a time when Israel's neighbors ---Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria --- were in decline. By contrast, this was the dawning of the golden era for the kingdom of Israel. The consecutive 40-year reigns of David and his son Solomon established Israel as one of the greatest nations of the ancient East.

### OUTLINE:

#### I. TRIUMPHS of David, Chapters 1 – 10

- A. David mourns the death of Saul and Jonathan, chap. 1
- B. David made king over Judah, chap. 2
- C. Civil war – Abner joins with David but murdered by Joab, chap. 3
- D. Ish-bosheth, son of Saul, killed, chap. 4
- E. David made king over all Israel; moves his capital to Jerusalem, chap. 5
- F. David's wrong and right attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem, chap. 6
- G. God's covenant to build the house of David, chap. 7
- H. David consolidates his kingdom, chap. 8
- I. David befriends Mephibosheth, chap. 9
- J. David wars against Ammon and Syria, chap. 10

#### II. TROUBLES of David, Chapters 11 – 24

- A. David's two great sins, chap. 11
- B. Nathan faces David with his sins; David repents, chap. 12
- C. David's daughter Tamar raped by Ammon, David's son; Ammon murdered by Absalom, David's son, 13
- D. David permits Absalom to return with half-hearted forgiveness, chap. 14
- E. Absalom rebels against David, chap. 15
- F. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, deceives David; Shimei curses David, chap. 16
- G. Absalom's advisers (Ahithophel and Hushai) disagree on attack against David, chap. 17
- H. Absalom slain and David mourns, chap. 18
- I. David restored to throne, chap. 19
- J. Sheba revolts against David, chap. 20
- K. Three years of famine; Gibeonites take vengeance on house of Saul; war with Philistines, chap. 21
- L. David's song of deliverance (Psalms 18), chap. 22
- M. David's last word, David's mighty men, chap. 23
- N. David's sin in taking census; chooses punishment and buys threshing floor of Araunah, chap. 24

## BWCC-UNIVERSITY READING OUTLINE-MARCH-2023

### **BOOK: 1 & 2 Kings**

**WRITER:** Is unknown but appears to have been written while the first temple was still standing (1 Kings 8:). Modern scholarship assigns the authorship to the “prophets.”

**THEME:** Standard of the Kingdom: “as David his Father” (repeated 9 times in 1 Kings). It was a human standard, but man failed to attain even to it.

**KEY VERSES:** <sup>22</sup>For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; <sup>23</sup>Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day (2 Kings 17:22-23). <sup>21</sup>And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land (2 Kings 25:21).

### **KINGDOM HISTORY:**

First Kings records the division of the kingdom; Second Kings records the collapse of the kingdom. Considered together, they open with king David and close with the king of Babylon. They are the book of man’s rule of God’s kingdom. The throne on earth must be in tune with the throne in heaven if blessings come and benefits accrue to the people. Yet man’s plan cannot over throw God’s purposes.

### **FEATURES:**

1. Practically all the rulers were evil.
2. God’s patience in dealing with them.
3. Names of the mothers are given of both good and bad kings.
4. God’s grace in sending revival when the king, with the people turned to Him.
5. Prominence of the prophet and insignificance of the priest.
6. God’s long delay before captivity of both Israel and Judah.
7. Man’s total inability to rule for God.
8. Wicked kings who had godly sons, also good kings who had wicked sons.

### **PURPOSE:**

It is a continuation of the narrative begun in 1 & 2 Samuel. Actually, 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings can be viewed as one book. In these four books the history of the nation is traced from the time of its greatest extent, influence, and prosperity under David and Solomon to the division and finally the captivity and exile of both kingdoms.

The moral teaching is to show man his inability to rule himself and the world. In these four books we have the rise and fall of the kingdom of Israel.

### **OUTLINE:**

**I. Death of David**, 1 Kings chapters 1, 2

**II. Glory of SOLOMON’S reign**, chapters, 1 Kings 3-11

- A. Solomon’s prayer for wisdom, chap. 3-4
- B. Building of the temple, chap. 5 --- 8
- C. Fame of Solomon, chap. 9 – 10
- D. Shame and death of Solomon, chap. 11

**III. DIVISION of the kingdom**, chapters, 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 16

**IV. CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL by Assyria**, 2 Kings 17

**V. DECLINE and CAPTIVITY of JUDAH BY BABYLON with fierce**, chap. 2 Kings 18-25.

## BWCC-UNIVERSITY READING OUTLINE-MARCH-2023

### BOOK: 1 & 2 Chronicles

**WRITER:** Jewish tradition assigns the authorship to Ezra as there's a striking resemblance to Ezra and Nehemiah. It is believed that the books of Chronicles was a compilation, assembled by Ezra, of diaries and journals of the priests and prophets. Although Kings and Chronicles cover much of the same ground from Saul to Zedekiah, they are not duplications. There's more in these books of Chronicles that does not occur in the other historical books.

#### ISRAEL'S HISTORY:

David is the subject of 1 Chronicles

The house of David is prominent in 2 Chronicles

Chronicles gives us the history of Judah while ignoring the northern kingdom.

Chronicles does not record David's sin --- when God forgives, He forgets.

The temple and Jerusalem are prominent in Chronicles.

In Kings, the history of the nation is given from the throne;

In Kings, the palace is the center.

Kings records the political history.

Chronicles is an interpretation of Kings.

Kings gives us man's viewpoint.

In Chronicles, the history of the nation is given from the altar.

In Chronicles the temple is center.

Chronicles records the religious history.

Chronicles gives us God's viewpoint.

**THEME:** History is important to God and thus he allows man's viewpoint in Kings and God shares his viewpoint in Chronicles.

#### OUTLINE:

##### I. Genealogies, Chapters 1-9

*This is important to God. We must be sons of God before we can do the work of God. "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). These help explain the two genealogies of Christ in Matthew and Luke (compare 1 Chronicles 3:5 with Luke 3:31).*

##### II. Saul's reign, Chapter 10

##### III. David's reign, Chapters 11-29

A. David's mighty men, Chapters 11, 12

B. David and the ark, Chapters, 13-16

C. David and the temple, Chapter 17

D. David's wars, Chapters 18-20

E. David's sin in numbering the people, Chapter 21

F. David's preparation and organization for building the temple, Chapters 22-29

### BOOK: 2 Chronicles

##### I. Solomon's reign, Chapters 1-9

*Building the temple was his most important accomplishment.*

##### II. Division of the kingdom and history of Judah, Chapters 10-36

Reformations given in prominence:

A. Asa's, Chapters 14-16

B. Jehoshaphat's, Chapters 17-20

C. Joash's, Chapters 23, 24

D. Hezekiah's Chapters 29-32

E. Josiah's, Chapters 34, 35