

Outline of Samuel and 1 Kings

1 & 2 Samuel

1. [Samuel Cycle \(1 Samuel 1-12\)](#)
 - A. [The Early Samuel \(1:1-4:1a\)](#)
 - B. [Travels of the Ark \(4:1b-7:17\)](#)
 - C. [Search for a King \(8-12\)](#)
2. [Saul Cycle \(1 Samuel 13-31\)](#)
 - A. [Saul's Disobedience \(13-15\)](#)
 - B. [Saul versus David \(16-31\)](#)
3. [David Cycle \(2 Samuel 1-24\)](#)
 - A. [David's Rise to Power \(1-8\)](#)
 - B. [Dynastic Succession \(9-20\)](#)
 - C. [David's Last Days \(21-24\)](#)

Samuel's birth was a miracle and he distinguished himself early on as a prophet in Shiloh ([1 Samuel 1-3](#)). The Philistines captured the ark of the covenant, later returning it ([4-6](#)), but thereby revealed themselves as Israel's most dangerous foe. Samuel rescued Israel from the Philistines, but Israel demanded a king ([7-8](#)). Samuel anointed Saul king ([9-10](#)) and he demonstrated his leadership by rescuing Jabesh-Gilead ([11](#)). But then Saul broke holy war rules and Samuel removed Saul's divine endorsement, though Saul remained in office ([12-15](#)). Samuel anointed David king ([16](#)) and he demonstrated his character by defeating Goliath and the Philistines ([17](#)). This led to an intense rivalry between Saul and David that had Saul pursuing David to kill him, and David always eluding Saul's grasp ([18-27](#)). Saul faced the Philistines in a final battle in which he and his sons died ([28-31](#)).

David, earlier designated king, now took office in Judah and later all the tribes of Israel accepted his authority ([2 Samuel 1-5](#)). David set Jerusalem as his capital and moved the ark of the covenant there ([6](#)) and Nathan presented Yahweh's eternal endorsement of the Davidic line ([7](#)). David defeated Israel's enemies ([8-10](#)) but sinned with Bathsheba and needed to be punished ([11-12](#)). This took the form of severe infighting among his sons as they positioned themselves in line for the throne ([13-14](#)). David's son Absalom actually took the throne from his father for a time, but was killed for it ([15-19](#)). David consolidated his power and further built his empire ([20-24](#)).

1 Kings 1- 11

1. Solomon and the Unified Monarchy

A. Solomon versus Adonijah

B. Solomon's Wisdom

C. Building the Temple

D. Solomon's Downfall

Solomon gained control of the monarchy in Jerusalem by eliminating his rivals Adonijah and Joab ([1 Kings 1-2](#)). He was recognized for his wisdom ([3-4](#)) and effectively made Jerusalem the religious capital of Israel by building the temple ([5-8](#)). Solomon lost popular and divine support due to his excesses; too much public debt and too many wives ([9-11](#)). After Solomon died, the northern territories rebelled against Solomon's son Rehoboam and created their own nation, called Israel, led by Jeroboam ([12-14](#)).

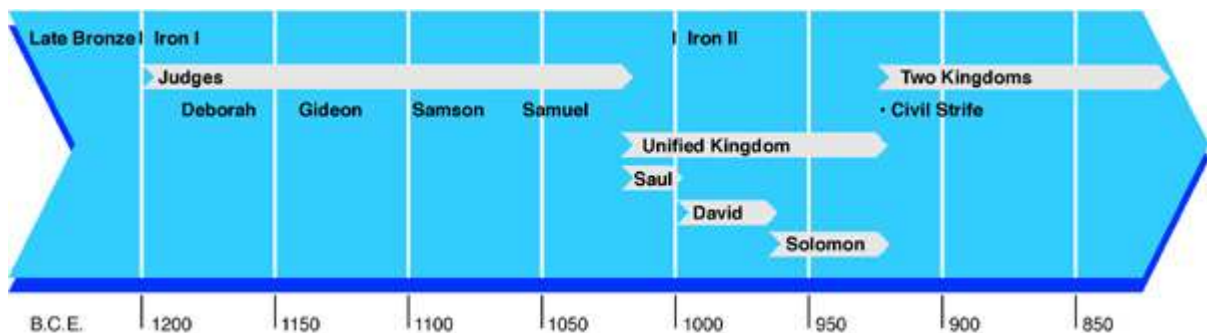


Table 8.1 Sources in Samuel

8:1-22	Samuel's warning against kingship	anti-monarchy
9:1-10:16	Saul and his anointing	pro-monarchy
10:17-27	Another warning by Samuel	anti-monarchy
11:1-15	Saul's victory over the Ammonites	pro-monarchy
12:1-25	Final warning by Samuel	anti-monarchy