

The Scriptures Summarized / Book 9 – I Samuel

The next 2 historical narratives began as a single volume. The material was divided into 2 books by the translators of the Greek Septuagint, which they called the first and second books of the Kingdoms. Later Hebrew tradition labeled them after one of their recognized writers Samuel. Yet, it is clear that he did not write nor compile all of this material, because he dies before volume 2.

I Chron. 29:29 As for the events of King David's reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer,

The most important single historical development in the book is the transition from anarchy to monarchy. The nation rejected theocracy as the preferred government, because they desired to be like the other nations around them.

I Samuel 8:6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. **7** And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9** Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

Another important transition is the rise in prominence of the office of prophet which replaces the judges. These individuals are also called seers indicating their ability to foretell the events of the future. This was their confirming feature from God. Their message was tell forth God's Word often beginning with "Thus says the Lord...".

I. The Ineffective Priest as Leader

Eli — tribe of Levi

A. His Failures as a Priest

1. He lacked Vitality
2. He Lacked Vision
3. He lacked Values

B. His Failures as a Parent

C. His Failures with his Protege

D. His failures with his People

II. The Intercessory Prophet as Leader

Samuel — tribe of Ephraim

A. Samuel prayed when wars were to be fought 7:2-12

B. Samuel prayed when the Word was to be taught 12:23-24

C. Samuel prayed when God's Will was sought 8:6

III. The Insecure but Popular Leader

Saul — tribe of Benjamin

A. He was Physically Impressive

B. He was Spiritually Immature

C. He was Organizationally Impatient

D. He went temporarily Insane

IV. The Intended and Providential Leader

David — tribe of Judah

A. David within a Family of Sons

B. David with a Flock of Sheep

C. David with his Five Stones

D. David won the Favor of the Soldiers

E. David's Forte with Songs

F. David with his Father-in-Law's Schemes

G. David with his Fugitive Scoundrels