

## 1 – HISTORICAL BOOKS: SAMUEL & FIRST CHRONICLES

### I. The Nature of the Historical Books

- The historical books are known as "narratives."
- Biblical narratives tell us about what happened - but not just any things.
- They are not just stories about people who lived in Old Testament times.
- They are stories about what God did to and through his people.
- They are not allegories or stories filled with hidden meanings.
- They do not always teach directly.
- Each narrative within a narrative does not necessarily have a moral all its own.

### II. Reading Old Testament Historical Books

- A narrative does not directly teach a doctrine
- They usually illustrate a doctrine or doctrines taught propositionally elsewhere.
- They record what happened - not necessarily what should have or ought to have happened.
- What people do is not necessarily a good example to the reader.
- Most of the characters are far from perfect and their actions are too.
- We are not always told the end of a narrative, whether what happened was good or bad.
- All narratives are selective and incomplete.
- They are not written to answer all of our theological questions.
- They teach either explicitly (clearly stating) or implicitly (clearly implying).
- Implicit does not mean secret.
- God is the hero of all Old Testament narratives.

### III. The Book of 1 & 2 Samuel

#### A. The Title

- The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel take their names from the Prophet Samuel.

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- The earliest Hebrew manuscripts made no division between the two books.
- The Septuagint was the first version to divide the material into two parts.

## B. Authorship & Date

- The authorship of 1 and 2 Samuel is anonymous.
- Jewish tradition has always affirmed that Samuel was the author.
- It is recognized that the contents of the books are from eye witnesses to the events.
- The date of the composition of the books cannot be determined with any degree of precision.

## C. General Observations

- The Books of Samuel sets the stage for the forming of the monarchy.
- Illustrates the principle that obedience to God is more important than sacrifice.
- This book records God's goodness to David from his rise to the throne to his death.

## D. Outline of the Books

### 1. 1 Samuel

### The Structure of the Book of 1 Samuel

	Samuel					Saul					Saul & David														
Chapter	1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	21	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Samuel's Birth	Hannah's Song & The Problem at Shiloh	Samuel's Calling	The Ark	The Demand for a King	The Anointing of Saul	Saul's First Victory	Samuel's Final Address	Saul's First Rebuke	Jonathan & Saul's Foolish Vow	Saul Rejected As King	The Anointing of David	David & Goliath	David Runs From Saul	David in Exile	David Flees to Ziklag	The Witch at Endor	David's Despair at Ziklag	Saul's Death						

- The Book of 1 Samuel can be divided into three main sections.
  - a. Samuel: The Last of the Judges (1 Samuel 1:1-8:22)
  - b. Saul: The First of the Kings: (1 Samuel 9:1-15:35)

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c. Saul and David (1 Samuel 16:1-31:13)

## 2. 2 Samuel

### The Structure of the Book of 2 Samuel

	The Triumphs of David					The Troubles of David													
	David at Hebron	Jerusalem & the Ark	The Davidic Covenant & David's Campaigns	David's Kindness to Saul's Family	The Demand for a King	David & Bathsheba	Amnon's Sin	Absalom's Rebellion	David's Return to the Throne	Judgment on Saul's Sons	David's Song	David's Heroes	David's Census						
Chapter	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

- The Book of 2 Samuel can be divided into two main sections.

a. The Triumphs of David (2 Samuel 1:1-10:19)

b. The Troubles of David (2 Samuel 11:1-24:25)

## IV. The Book of 1 Chronicles

### A. The Title

- The name of the book in Hebrew is "the words (events) of the days (years)."

- The Septuagint entitled it "the things omitted."

- Jerome entitled it "Chronicle of the whole sacred history."

- They were originally one book in Hebrew which was divided by the Septuagint.

### B. Authorship & Date

- The Bible itself is silent.

- Jewish tradition has suggested that it was Ezra.

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- It has become customary to refer to the author as “the chronicler.”
- They could not have been written later than the end of the fifth century B.C.
- There are two texts in the books that imply a period after the return of the Exile for the writing.

C. General Observations

- It primarily focuses on God's promises to David and his son(s).
- There is also an emphasis on all of God's people being united.

D. Outline of the Book

## The Structure of the Book of 1 Chronicles

	<b>Genealogies</b>	<b>The Kingship of David</b>										
<b>Chapter</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 12</b>	<b>13 16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
		Saul's Death	David's Heroes	The Ark & Jerusalem	David's Desire for a Temple	David & the Nations	David's Census	David's Plans for the Temple	Organization of David's Kingdom	David's Farewell		

- The Book of 1 Chronicles can be divided into two main sections.
  1. Genealogies from Adam to David (1 Chronicles 1:1-9:44)
  2. History of King David (1 Chronicles 10:1-29:30)
    - a. Saul's Death (1 Chronicles 10:1-14)
    - b. David's Heroes (1 Chronicles 11:1-12:40)
    - c. The Ark & Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 13:1-16:43)
    - d. David's desire for a Temple (1 Chronicles 17:1-27)

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- e. David & the Nations (1 Chronicles 18:1-20:8)
- f. David's Census (1 Chronicles 21:1-22:1)
- g. David's Plans for a Temple (1 Chronicles 22:2-19)
- h. Organization of David's Kingdom (1 Chronicles 23:1-27:34)
- i. David's Farewell (1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30)