

David the King I

The Rise of a Righteous King (2 Samuel 1:1–10:19)

Review of the background of 1–2 Samuel, overview of the structure of 2 Samuel; the issue of sacral kingship—the examples of Saul and David; David Established as King; Consolidation of the Kingdom; the selection of Jerusalem as a political *and* religious capital; The Davidic Covenant; David's Conquests for and Administration of the Kingdom.

Books of Samuel Reviewed

- Samuel?
 - There's no compelling reason for these to be called "Books of Samuel"
 - Samuel did not write them and only appears in the first of 1 Samuel
 - The Talmud, reflecting Jewish tradition, claimed that **Samuel started the book** and the **Nathan and/or Gad completed it**
- Better title: "Rise of the Monarchy" or "Kingship in Israel"
 - **Sefer Sh'muel** or **the Book of Samuel** (Hebrew)
 - The history of the monarchy was so long that it filled two scrolls, hence the division in titles of Samuel (**Sefer Sh'muel**) and Kings (**Sefer Melachim**)
 - LXX (Greek) actually calls 1–2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings, **1–4 Basileiōn**, "**Kingdoms**" or "**Reigns**"
 - Greek has vowels, whereas Hebrew does not, so the LXX version took 4 scrolls!
 - Modern editions take the titles from the Hebrew text but the divisions from the Greek!
- Authorship
 - Part of the Deuteronomistic history, likely written or heavily edited by **DH?**
 - Written during the exilic period, after the monarchy had failed
 - Obvious **pro-monarchy sources** and **anti-monarchy sources** throughout
 - Originally 1–2 Samuel were one book and cover the period from around 1100 BC - 960 BC
 - Possible sources/lost books
 - Samuel's records (incl. 1 Sam 10:25), books of Nathan the Prophet and Gad the Seer (1 Chr 29:29), Book of Jasher (2 Sam 1:18)

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Structure

- **Samuel (1 Sam. 1–12)** – the last judge who institutes the monarchy at the end of his life
- **Rise and Fall of Saul (1 Sam 13–31)** – the first, problematic king
- **Rise and Decline of David (2 Samuel)** – the glorious king, but whose later sins obscure his triumphs
- **The Rise of David (1:1–10:19)**
 - David Established as King (1:1–5:6)
 - David's Consolidation of the Kingdom (5:6–6:23)
 - The Davidic Covenant (7:1–29)
 - David's Conquests for and Administration of the Kingdom (8:1–10:19)
- **The Decline of David (11:1–24:25)**

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A Review of the Rise and Fall of Saul

A Failed Attempt at Sacral Kingship

- **Anointed by Samuel as “captain of his inheritance”** (1 Samuel 10:1)
 - Later “renewed” in Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:15), where Joshua had judged the people and renewed the covenant
- **God “gave him another heart”** (1 Samuel 10:9), a sign of a spiritual transformation
- **Spirit of Prophecy came upon Saul** (1 Samuel 10:5–6, 11–13)
- Saul saved and delivered Israel from her enemies (Ammonites, Amalekites, and then Philistines)
- **Saul disregarded the Lord's prophet, presumed rights**
 - Offered sacrifice without Samuel at Gilgal (1 Sam 13)
 - May have seen the kingship as sacral (and perhaps it was)
 - Did not totally “devote to destruction” the Amalekites and their property (1 Samuel 15)
 - Obedience is better than sacrifice!
- **Was murderously jealous of David, consulted the witch of Endor, killed the priests of Nob**
 - **The spirit of prophecy came upon Saul one last time after his attempt to kill David with a javelin** (1 Samuel 19:20–24)
- **David repeatedly refused to harm the Lord's anointed**
 - So did his armor-bearer after the final lost battle (1 Samuel 31:4)
 - David punished the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul (2 Samuel 1:14–16)

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David Established as King (1:1–5:6)

- **David Learns of the Deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:1–27)**
 - Report of Saul's Death (1:1–10)
 - **Song: Lament over Saul and Jonathan (psalm, 11:17–27; note verses 19, 23, 25–27)**
- **David Anointed King of Judah (2:1–7)**
- **Civil Strife Between Rival Kings (2:8–4:12)**
 - Ishbaal King of Israel (2:8–11)
 - Ishbaal meant "The Man that is lord" (Ba'al was originally a neutral term, but later scribes connected it with pagan religion and regularly substituted *-bosheth* meaning "son of shame" → hence *Ish-bosheth* for Saul's son)
 - The Battle of Gibeon (2:12–32)
 - Abner was Saul's cousin and Joab and his brothers Asahel (the runner!) and Abishai were David's nephews through his sister Zeruiah
 - Abner Defects to David (3:1–21; note 3:1, 18, 36)
 - Abner is Killed by Joab (3:22–39)
 - Dilemma of continuing blood feuds; David brings it to an end and denies any involvement in Joab's death
 - Ishbaal Assassinated (4:1–12)
 - David again denies involvement and punishes Ishbaal's traitorous servants
- **David Anointed over All Israel (5:1–5)**

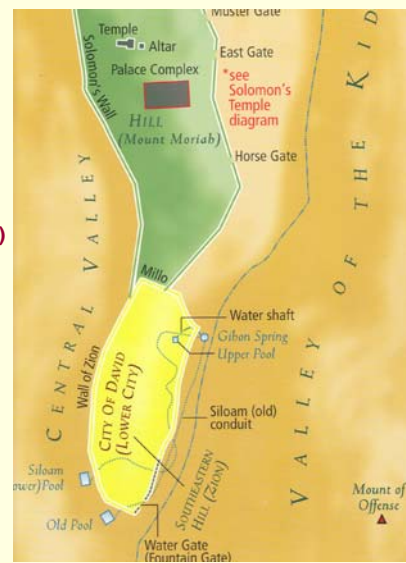
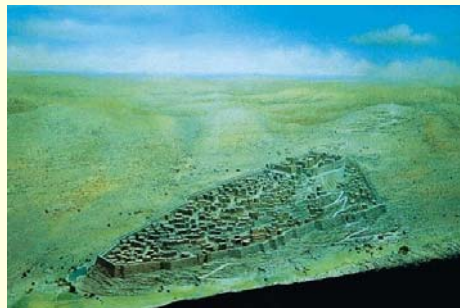
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David's Consolidation of the Kingdom (5:6–6:23)

- Jerusalem Made Capital of the United Kingdom (5:6–16)
 - **First occurrence of "Zion" in the OT at 5:7**
Hebrew scholars debate its meaning—was it a holdover from Melchizedek's earlier city of Salem ("Peace")?
- Philistine Attack Repulsed (5:17–25)
- David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem (6:1–23)
 - **Uzzah's "steadying the ark" incident (6:6–8)**



The Davidic Covenant (7:1–29)

- God's Covenant with David (7:1–17; see also 2 Samuel 23:5; Isaiah 9:7, 55:3–4)
 - Note the role of Nathan the prophet
 - Who is the “seed” promised in 7:12–15? Solomon, all the Davidic kings, or a type of Christ?
 - “I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ***I will be his father, and he shall be my son***” (7:12a–14; see Psalm 2:7)
 - Later Davidic kings saw themselves as adopted sons of YHWH at their coronations—*a type of how Christ was the actual son of the Father?*
 - **“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”** (7:16)
- David's Prayer (a psalm, 7:18–29)
 - Note verses 20–23a, 24–26

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David as a Sacral King

- Repeatedly “inquired of the Lord”
 - presumably through Abiathar the priest and perhaps with the Urim and Thumim but ***perhaps by himself***
- ***Wore the priestly ephod*** (6:14)
- Offers sacrifices and blesses the people (6:18)
- His sons were priests (8:18, KJV “chief rulers” but in Hebrew *kohanim*)
- Did the Davidic house have a **royal priesthood**, i.e. where they each to be a “**righteous king**” (meaning of “**Melkizedek**”)
- As a “messiah,” David saved and delivered Israel
- He was a righteous king and perhaps priest
- Above all, he foreshadowed Christ

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David's Conquests for and Administration of the Kingdom (8:1–10:19)

- David's Wars (8:1–14)
- David's Officials (8:15–18)
 - Note **Joab (military)**, **Abiathar and Zadok (dual high priests)**, and his sons
- David's Kindness to Mephibosheth (9:1–10)
- The Ammonites and Arameans Are Defeated (10:1–19)
- David realized all of the territorial promises made to Abraham
 - All the tribes united under his rule
- Philistines subdued (many became David's mercenaries, the Cherethites)
- Ammon, Moab, and Edom (Israel's "cousins" made vassals)
- Territory in Aram (Syria) made allies or vassals



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