

STRUCTURE OF 1-2 SAMUEL

- I. Samuel Cycle (1 Samuel 1-12)
 - A. Samuel's Birth, Dedication and Early Ministry (1:1-4:1a)
 - B. The Travels of the Ark (4:1b-7:17)
 - C. Search for a King (8:1-12:25)
- II. Saul Cycle (1 Samuel 13-31)
 - A. Saul's disobedience (13:1-15:35)
 - B. Saul versus David (16:1-31:13)
- III. David Cycle (2 Samuel 1-24)
 - A. David's rise to power (1:1-8:18)
 - B. Dynastic succession struggles (9:1-20:26)
 - C. David's last days (21:1-24:25)

HANNAH'S PRAYER

- 1 Sam 2 Hannah prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.
- 2 "There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
- 3 Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.
- 4 *The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.*
- 5 *Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.*
- 6 The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.
- 8 *He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.^c*
- For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world...."

Chiasm in depiction of kingship's origins

- a) 8.1-22, a warning by Samuel against kingship
 - b) 9.1-10.16, complimentary portrait of Saul and his anointing of Samuel
 - c) 10.17-27, warning by Samuel and public selection of Saul,
who is described pejoratively
 - b') 11.1-15, an inspired victory by Saul over Ammonites, complimentary
- a') 12.1-25, final admonition by Samuel

REPETITION IN 1 SAMUEL

1. Israel's request for a king in 1 Sam 8

1 Sam 8:1 When *Samuel became old*, he made his sons judges over Israel... ³*Yet his sons did not follow in his ways*, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, "*You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.*"

⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "*Give us a king to govern us.*" Samuel prayed to the LORD, ⁷and the LORD said to Samuel, "**Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you;** for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸Just as they have done to me,^a from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹Now then, **listen to their voice**; only--you shall solemnly warn them, and *show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.*"

10 So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹He said, "*These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; ¹²and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle^b and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸*And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.*"*

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰so that **we also may be like other nations**, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." ²¹When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. ²²The LORD said to Samuel, "**Listen to their voice and set a king over them**"

2. Samuel's farewell address in 1 Sam 12

12:1 Samuel said to all Israel, "*I have listened to you in all that you have said to me, and have set a king over you.* ²See, it is the king who leads you now; I am old and gray, but my sons are with you. I have led you from my youth until this day....

6 Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who^b appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of the land of Egypt. ⁷Now therefore take your stand, so that I may enter into judgment with you before the LORD, and I will declare to you^c all the saving deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your ancestors:

⁸When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them,^d then your ancestors cried to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought forth your ancestors out of Egypt, and settled them in this place. ⁹But they forgot the LORD their God; and he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of King Jabin of^e Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

¹⁰Then they cried to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served the Baals and the Astartes; but now rescue us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve you.' ¹¹And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak,^f and Jephthah, and Samson,^g and he rescued you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety.

¹²BUT when you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, '*No, but a king shall reign over us,*' though the LORD your God was your king. ¹³See, here is the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; **see, the LORD has set a king over you.** ¹⁴If you will fear the LORD and serve him and heed his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well; ¹⁵but if you will not heed the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king...