

First Book of Samuel

Introduction

Author and Date

Is the authorship of the book of 1st Samuel known?

Title

What is the Hebrew title for the books of Samuel?

Place in the Canon

Where does the book of 1st Samuel fit in the Hebrew Bible?

How does Christian tradition regard the book 1st Samuel as it relates to the canon?

Structure

What is the threefold structure of the book of 1st Samuel?

Content and Themes

What are the historical and theological dimensions of the book 1st Samuel?

Christian Perspective

How does Christian tradition view the book of 1st Samuel?

Read (1:1-2) What tribe is Elkanah from? (Note 1:1)

Why was polygamy permitted within the tribes of Israel? (Note 1:2)

Read (1:3) What is the meaning of term “the Lord of hosts”? Where is Shiloh located at? (Note 1:3)

Read (1:4-11) What are the implications of the solemn vow made by Hannah? How is the birth of Samuel similar to that of Samson and John the Baptist? (Note 1:11)

Read (1:19-20) What is the meaning of the Hebrew name Samuel? What are the parallels between Samuel and Moses? (Note 1:20)

Read (2:1-10) What is the theme of Hannah's Song? How is it worked out through the book of 1st Samuel? (Note 2:1-10)

Read (2:11) Is Samuel a Levite? (Note 2:11)

Read (2:12-25) What are the sins committed by Eli's son's? (Note 2:12-25)

Read (2:27-36) What is the prophecy against Eli's household? Note (2:31-36)

Who is the faithful high priest in the prophecy? (Note 2:35)

Read (3:1-14) How does God call Samuel? (Note 3:2-14)

Read (4:1-11) What is the Ark of the Covenant? (Note 4:3)

Read (4:12-18) How did Eli and his sons die? (Note 4:18)

Read (4:19-22) How much longer did the priestly line of Eli continue? (Note 4:21)

How do the Philistines fare with the Ark of the Covenant in their possession?
(Note 5:1-12)

Read (6:1-3) What is a guilt offering? (Note 6:3)

Read (7:3-4) Does Samuel call Israel to repentance? (Note 7:3-4)

Read (7:12-13) After repentance does Israel defeat the Philistines? (Note 7:12, 7:13)

Read (8:1-22) Does Israel desire to be like the other nations? (Note 8:1-22)

Does Israel seek national security and prosperity apart from God? (Note 8:5)

What are some of the drawbacks of having a king? (Note 8:9)