

I & II SAMUEL: INTRODUCTION

I. TITLE

- A. Samuel (Heb. - "heard of God," "the name of God," or "his name is God")
 - 1. Samuel the key character (1:20).
 - 2. Anointed the two other main characters of the books: Saul and David (ISam.10:1, 16:13).
 - 3. National leader (3:20).
- B. Two books were one in the Hebrew Bible under the heading of the Former Prophets (cf.ISam.31 7 IISam.1).
 - 1. LXX (Septuagint) first to divide - First and Second Books of the Kingdoms
 - 2. Vulgate - First and Second Books of Kings.
 - 3. English Bible - First and Second Samuel

II. AUTHOR AND DATE:

- A. No internal evidence points to one particular writer.
 - 1. Samuel up to his death (ISam.10:25; 25:1).
 - 2. Nathan and Gad (IChron.29:29).
- B. Possibly compiled long after the actual events.
 - 1. Looking back to time when prophets were "seers" (ISam.9:9).
 - 2. Possibly after kingdom was divided - Israel and Judah (ISam18:16).
- C. Time of events in books:
 - 1. Approx.130 years
 - a. Life of Samuel to Saul's election - 50 years (ISam.8:1,6).
 - b. Saul's reign - 40 years (Acts 3:21).
 - c. David's reign - 40 years (II Sam.5:4).
 - 2. Approx. 1101 B.C. - 971B.C.

III. IMPORTANT EVENTS AND CHARACTERS OF BOOKS:

- A. I Samuel provides the historical account linked by the birth of Samuel, the last of the Judges, to the death of Saul, the first of the Kings (ISam.1:20; 10:1,13:1; 31:5).
 - 1. The ark of the Lord and the Philistines (4:1-7:2).
 - 2. Israel desiring a king like the other nations around them (8:20).

3. Saul's rejection as King (13:1-15:35).
 - a. Striking lesson on obedience (15:22).
 4. David anointed as King (16:1-17:58).
 5. David fleeing from Saul (18:1-28:2).
 - a. Friendship of Jonathan and David (19:1; 20:17)
 - b. Saul and witch of Endor (28:7-25).
- B. II Samuel provides the historical account of the reign of David over Israel up to his old age (cf. II Sam. 24; I Kings 1).
1. David's triumphs (2-10).
 - a. In Hebron seven and one-half years (5:4-5).
 - b. In Jerusalem thirty three years (5:4-5).
 - c. Striking lesson on consequences of sin (6:3,6).
 - d. Messianic promise of everlasting King (7:12-13; Acts 2:30).
 2. David's sin (11-12).
 - a. Adultery with Bathsheba.
 - b. Having Uriah killed.
 3. David's troubles (13-20).
 - a. Own family - Absalom's sin and rebellion.
 4. David's last acts and words (21-24).
 - a. David's Psalm of praise (23).
 - b. David's sin of numbering the people (24).
- C. Main characters:
1. SAMUEL - Prophet, Priest, Judge (ISam. 3:20, Acts 3:24, Heb. 11:32; ISam. 2:11, IChron. 6:33-38; ISam. 7:15, Acts 13:20).
 - a. God approved man (Psalm 99:6; Jer. 15:1).
 - b. Leader of company of prophets (ISam. 19:18-20)
 2. SAUL - King with great promise who fails.
 - a. Physical superiority (9:2).
 - b. Modest (9:21); Discreet (10:27), against sorcery (28:3).
 - c. Disobedience (13:13,15:24)
 - d. Jealousy to playing the fool (18:8; 26:21).
 3. DAVID - Israel's great King
 - a. Man after God's own heart (cf. Acts 13:22).
 - b. Sin followed by contrite heart (II Sam. 11-12; Psm. 51).
 - c. Only character in the Bible named David.

IV. PREPARATION FOR STUDY:

A. Twelve lessons:

1. Samuel as Judge (ISam. 1-7).
2. Samuel Anoints Saul as King (ISam.8-12). 3. Saul's Early Reign (ISam.13-15).
4. God Chooses David as King (ISam.16-17).
5. Saul's Jealousy of David (ISam.18-19:17). 6. David's Flight From Saul (ISam. 19:18-26).
7. David's Continued Flight and Saul's Death (ISam.27 - II Sam.1). 8. David's Early Reign in Hebron and Jerusalem (IISam.2-8). 9. David's Sin (IISam.9-12).
10. David's Trouble with His Son Absalom (IISam.13-18:32) 11. David Returns to Jerusalem (II Sam.18:33 -20).
12. David's Last Acts and Words - Appendices (IISam.21-24).

B. Map of places in the two Books: