

LITERARY OVERVIEW

Title: Samuel, name of main character in 1st part of book 1. Originally 1 and 2 Samuel were one in Hebrew Bible. The Septuagint divided the book into two parts.

Author: Unknown, but likely compilation of prophets who were "insiders" to the main events.

Date: It covers the main events of David's 40 year reign, from about 1011B.C. (reign in Hebron) to 971B.C.

Purpose: To tell the story (through narrative) of the rise, fall, and difficulties of the greatest King of Old Covenant Israel, David. Also to give us the historical account of God's covenant with David.

Plotline: David, as God's chosen king and replacement for Saul, after Saul's deal is initially recognized by a few, and then by all Israel, as her king. Things go well, and kingdom is expanded, but there is a heartbreaking downturn when David sins with Bathsheba and against Uriah. From that time on things become very difficult for David, and there is trouble in his house and the kingdom.

Main Character: David (with many sub-characters and antagonists).

Form/Genre: Mostly historical narrative, hero stories and tragedy, as well as a Psalm and final words.

OUTLINE¹**Unit 1 – David's Triumphs (1:1-10:19)**

- I. **POLITICAL TRIUMPHS**
 - A. **The Reign of David in Hebron over Judah (1:1–4:12)**
 - David is in Hebron for 7.5 years
 - B. **The Reign of David in Jerusalem (5:1–25)**
- II. **SPIRITUAL TRIUMPHS**
 - A. **The Transportation of the Ark (6:1–23)**
 - B. **The Davidic Covenant (7:1-29)**
- III. **MILITARY/KINGDOM TRIUMPHS (8:1-10:19)**

Unit 2 – David's Transgressions (11:1-11:27)

- I. **THE SIN OF ADULTERY WITH BATHSHEBA (11:1-5)**
- II. **THE SIN OF MUDER AGAINST URIAH (11:6-27)**

Unit 3 – David's Troubles (12:1-24:25)

- I. **TROUBLES IN DAVID'S HOUSE**
 - A. **Nathan's Confrontation (12:1-14)**
 - B. **The Child Dies (12:15-25)**
 - C. **Joab's Loyalty (12:26-31)**
 - D. **Incest in David's House (13:1-20)**
 - E. **Murder in David's House (13:21-36)**
- II. **TROUBLES IN DAVID'S KINGDOM**
 - A. **Rebellion of Absalom (13:37-17:29)**
 - B. **Absalom's Murder (18:1-33)**
 - C. **David Restored as King (19:1-20:26)**
 - D. **Closing Events of David's Reign (21:1-24:25)**

APPLICATIONS

- 1.) The cause/effect connection between sin and difficulty.
- 2.) God is not a respecter of persons.
- 3.) The place of suffering in deep spiritual experience.
- 4.) The grace of God seen in David's great sin, yet his place among the righteous.
- 5.) The longing of a greater king than the mere human.
- 6.) Christ seen in the David Covenant and in David.

¹ This mostly outline taken from Wilkerson and Boa's [Talk through the Bible](#).