

**I. Introduction.**

**II. How does I Samuel fit into the history of the Old Testament?**

**A. Beginnings and foundations - Genesis 1-11 (4000 BC?)**

1. God created the world 'very good', and man in His image as the pinnacle of creation. Gen. 1-2 1:26,31
  - a. God created the world in six days. Ex. 20:11
  - b. God established creation ordinances - work (and rest), marriage. 2:1,15,18-25
  - c. God gave man one prohibition. 2:16-17
2. Man rebelled against God and plunged the human race into ruin. Gen. 3 3:6
  - a. The creation itself is under the curse. 3:17-18 Ro. 8:20-21
  - b. In judgment there is a promise and a picture of a Deliverer. Gen. 3:15,21
3. Mankind's sin spreads and intensifies resulting in God's judgment in the flood. Gen. 4-9 6:1-8 (2300 BC?)
  - a. Again, God shows mercy in the midst of judgment - Noahaic covenant. 9:1-17
  - b. The ark is a picture of Christ. I Pe. 3:20-21
4. Man continues to rebel against God - Babel and the scattering of the nations. 10-11 11:1-9

**B. The Patriarchs - Genesis 12-50 (2166-1805 BC)**

1. Abraham. Gen. 12-25
  - a. Out of all the nations and peoples God chooses Abraham. 11:27ff
  - b. God promises Abraham a land, a people, and that all peoples will be blessed through him. 12:1-3,7 13:14-17 15:1-21 17:1ff
  - c. God's covenant with Abraham is the primary covenant in the Old Testament. Gal. 3:15-18
  - d. Abraham is the paradigm of justification by faith. 15:6 Rom. 4:1ff
  - e. After much waiting and travail Isaac, the son of promise, is born. 21:1ff
  - f. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son is a picture of the cross. 22:1ff 22:2,10 John 3:16
  - g. Christ is the true seed of Abraham. Gal. 3:16
2. Isaac - to whom the promises are confirmed. Gen. 24-27 26:3-5,24
3. Jacob (Israel). Gen. 25-50
  - a. God chooses Jacob over his twin brother Esau. 25:23
  - b. Jacob acquires the birthright and the blessing through deceit. 25:29-31 27:1ff
  - c. Jacob wrestles with God. 33:24-32
  - d. Jacob's twelve sons become the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - e. The Messiah will come from the line of Jacob's son Judah. 49:8-12
4. Jacob's son Joseph delivers the people of Israel from the famine and brings them to Egypt. Gen. 37-50 15:13 50:20

**C. Moses and the Exodus - Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. (1526-1406 BC)**

1. God delivers (redeems) Israel from the slavery and oppression of Egypt. Ex. 1-15
  - a. God kept his promise to give Abraham a multitude of descendants. Ex. 1:7
  - b. A Pharaoh who knew not Joseph arose and oppressed Israel. Ex. 1:8ff
  - c. God raises up Moses as a deliverer for His people. Ex. 2-6
  - d. God brings plagues upon Egypt. Ex. 7-11 9:16 Rom. 9:17-18
  - e. The Passover (which points to Christ). Ex. 12-13 I Cor. 5:7
  - f. Pharaoh's army is destroyed. Ex. 14
  - g. The redemption of Israel is a picture of the redemption Christ brings.

2. God provides for His people and protects them from their enemies. Ex. 15-18 Num. 22-24
  3. God gives His Law - the Mosaic covenant. Ex. 19-40 Leviticus, Deuteronomy God promises blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. Deut. 28
  4. The Law points to Christ Who fulfills the Law. Mt. 5:17-18
    - a. The system of priesthood, tabernacle and sacrifices are fulfilled and superceded by Christ. Heb. 7:23-28 8:6 9:11-14 10:10,14
    - b. The office of a prophet is defined and will receive its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. Deut. 13:1-5 18:18-22 Heb. 1:1-2 3:1-6
    - c. Our inability to keep the law demonstrates our need for the forgiveness and grace Jesus brings. Gal. 3:24
    - d. He keeps the law perfectly and provides us with the perfect righteousness the law demands. Heb. 10:10,14
    - e. He is the Rock. Num. 17:6 I Co. 10:4
    - f. The bronze serpent is a picture of Christ. Num. 21 John 3:14-15
  5. The people of Israel are faithless.
    - a. They worship the golden calf. Ex. 32
    - b. They repeatedly grumble against God and Moses. Ex. 16 Num. 11-12 I Co. 10:10
    - c. They commit idolatry and adultery. Num. 25 2 Pet. 2:15-16 Rev. 2:14
    - d. God is incredibly patient.
    - e. The Exodus generation is unable to enter the land because of their unbelief. Num. 13-14 14:32-35 Heb. 3:15-4:11
- D. Joshua leads the people in conquering the land - Joshua. (1406-1385 BC)**
1. Moses dies without entering the promised land and passes the torch to Joshua. Num. 21:17
  2. After the faithless generation dies off in the wilderness, God enables Joshua to conquer Canaan, thus fulfilling God's promise to Abraham. Josh 23:1,14
  3. Jesus is a conqueror who defeats Satan and enables us to enter God's rest. 1 John 3:8 Ro. 16:20
  4. Joshua's farewell address summarizes God's faithfulness to Israel and warns them to be faithful to the covenant. Josh. 23-24 24:2-15
- E. The troubled times of the Judges - Judges and Ruth. (1385-1055 BC)**
1. Israel didn't finish the job of driving the Canaanites out of the land. 1:21,27-30
  2. A pattern emerges.
    - a. The people turn from God - sin.
    - b. God brings judgment, using their enemies - servitude.
    - c. The people cry out to God - supplication.
    - d. God raises up a deliverer (Judge) - salvation.
    - e. The people again turn from God...
  3. The Judges themselves fell very short as leaders. Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah (and Barak), Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson.
  4. The book of Judges ends with two horror stories showing the darkness of those days. Judges 17-21
  5. There is a great need for a strong godly leader (king). 21:25 19:1 18:1
  6. There is a beam of grace in these dark days. Ruth
    - a. God delivers Naomi and Ruth through a kinsman redeemer (Boaz).
    - b. Christ is our Kinsman Redeemer.
    - c. Ruth, the Moabitess, is David's great-grandmother - in the line of Christ! 4:21f

- F. The United Kingdom - I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings 1-11 I Chron. 1 - II Chron. 9 (1050-930 BC)**
1. **Saul. (1050-1010 BC) The people's king.**
  2. **David. (1010-970 BC) God's king.**  
Jesus is the Son of David. Mt. 1:1-17 Luke 2:4 Rom. 1:3 Mark 11:2ff
  3. **Solomon. (970-930 BC)**
  4. **The Writings are composed (primarily) during this period.**
    - a. **The Psalms - a hymnbook for God's people. (Which points to Christ).**  
Ps. 2:7,9 22:1,8,16,18,22-24 110:1 118:25-26
    - b. **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon - wisdom literature. (which looks ahead to Christ who became to us Wisdom from God). I Cor. 1:30 Col. 2:3**
    - c. **Job(?)**
- G. The Divided Kingdom (Israel in the North; Judah in the South). I Ki. 12 - II Ki. 25 II Chron. 10-36 (930-586 BC)**
1. **Again God's people fail to keep the covenant.**
  2. **God raises up many prophets (prosecuting attorneys) to warn His people of the judgment they were bringing upon themselves.**
    - a. **Prophets to Israel include Elijah, Elisha, Hosea, and Amos.**
    - b. **Prophets to Judah include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Joel and Zephaniah.**
    - c. **Prophets who focused on God's judgment of other nations include Jonah, Nahum, and Obadiah.**
    - d. **The prophets anticipate the Messiah. Isa. 7:14 9:1ff 52:13-53:12 Mic. 5:2ff Zech. 9:9**
  3. **The fall of Israel and Judah.**
    - a. **The Assyrians conquer and scatter Israel in 722 BC. 2 Ki 17**
    - b. **Judah is conquered by the Babylonians and sent into exile in 586 BC. 2 Ki. 25**
    - c. **God's faithless people received the full measure of the curses of covenant disobedience. 2 Chron. 36:14-21 Deut. 28**
- H. Restoration to the land. 586-430 BC**
1. **The Lamentations are written during the exile.**
  2. **During the time of exile, God is still with His people (Daniel and Esther) and sends prophets to encourage them including Ezekiel.**
  3. **After seventy years, Judah was allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple - Ezra, Nehemiah. II Chron. 36:22-23 Isa. 44:28 45:1**
  4. **Judah continued as a weak vassal state for many centuries.**
  5. **The Lord raises up prophets to warn them of their sin and to promise the Messiah - Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Mal. 4:5-6**
- I. Centuries of prophetic silence before the Messiah appears. 430BC- 6 BC (or 26 AD)**
1. **The silence is shattered first by the birth of the Messiah and then by John the Baptist's prophetic ministry.**
  2. **All of God's promises to His people are fulfilled in Christ.**
- J. The order/organization of our Old Testament.**
1. **The Pentateuch - Genesis - Deuteronomy.**
  2. **The Historical books - Joshua - Esther.**
  3. **The Writings - Job - Song of Solomon.**
  4. **The Prophets - Isaiah - Malachi.**

## **K. Key themes in the Old Testament.**

- 1. God reveals His true Nature and attributes.**
- 2. These are not merely random events, but the unfolding of God's plan. Gen. 50:20  
Rom. 8:28**
- 3. Human sin is widespread and comes under God's judgment.**
- 4. God offers hope, forgiveness and redemption.**
- 5. The Old Testament points to Christ who is the fulfillment of all God's promises.  
Luke 24:26-27 Rom. 15:8 II Co. 1:20**

## **III. Approaching I Samuel.**

### **A. Background -**

- 1. We are not certain of the author or the date of this book. 11:8 17:52 18:16**
- 2. These events begin in the days of the Judges. 1105 BC until 970 BC**

### **B. Israel was facing a leadership crisis - looking for a leader. 1050 BC**

- 1. The nation was in disarray. Judges 21:25**
- 2. 1 and 2 Samuel are organized by those who led Israel.**
  - a. Neither Eli nor Samuel could establish a dynasty. I Sam. 1-7**
  - b. Saul, the people's choice, does not measure up. II Sam. 8-15**
  - c. David, the man after God's own heart. I Sa. 16-II Sa. 24**
  - d. But even he falls short. II Sam. 11-12**
- 3. Christ alone is the true king of His people.**

### **C. We are facing a leadership crisis - in our nation, our churches, and in our homes.**

### **D. How will we approach our study of 1 Samuel?**

- 1. These things were recorded for our instruction. I Co. 10:11**
- 2. Old Testament narrative is to be understood and interpreted in light of the law.**
- 3. Keep the big picture in mind.**
- 4. Major themes in 1 and 2 Samuel**
  - a. God is the sovereign King. Ex. 15:18 Dt. 33:5**
  - b. The Davidic Covenant.**
  - c. The Holy Spirit empowers men for divinely appointed tasks.**
  - d. The personal and national effects of sin.**
- 5. Ultimately 1 Samuel points to Christ, the true Son of David and the one leader worth following.**

## **Discussion questions**

- 1. How does our understanding of the creation and the fall relate to I Samuel?  
Where can we see Christ in the creation and the fall?**
- 2. How does our grasp of God's dealings with the Patriarchs help us to understand I Samuel?  
Where can we see Christ in God's dealings with the Patriarchs?**
- 3. Why is our understanding of God's Law revealed through Moses important in helping us to understand 1 Samuel? How does the Law of Moses point to Christ?**
- 4. Why is it especially important for us to know what things were like in the days of the Judges as we approach our study of I Samuel?**
- 5. What problems does Israel face as I Samuel begins?**
- 6. How will studying I Samuel benefit us today?**