

# 1, 2 SAMUEL: Introduction

All of God's Story is about a Kingdom. God has always been the King of all things, and all of the Bible is telling about how His Kingdom comes to earth. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel bring this idea front and center, as Israel itself becomes a kingdom and has its first kings.

After the long years of Joshua and Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel are about a time of great transition for Israel: From judges to kings. From scattered tribes to a united kingdom.

Almost entirely narrative (and so fun to read!), these books are character-centered, focusing on the stories of Samuel, Saul, and David. It might be helpful to think of these divisions as you read:

**1 Samuel 1–7** – Samuel

**1 Samuel 8–15** – Saul

**1 Samuel 16–31** – Saul's decline and David's rise

**2 Samuel 1–20** – King David

**2 Samuel 21–24** – Epilogue

It is impossible to overstate how important David is and will continue to be in the story of the Bible. Understanding his character and his place in the Bible metanarrative is absolutely necessary. Although He is far from perfect, He becomes a prototype of the Coming King, Jesus, who the Gospels will call the Son of David.

Let these ideas guide you as you read:

- These books tell the story of **kings and a kingdom**. What do they teach about the difference between good and bad kings? And how do they highlight God as the true and eternal King?
- One defining mark of a good king is that he **obeys the Word of God**. How do you see this idea play out in the life of Israel? And how does this speak to your own life?
- Pay attention to what 1 and 2 Samuel teach about **sin, consequences, and true repentance**.
- Characters are front and center in these books, but **God is always present, directing and orchestrating all things**. What do you notice about Him?