

## Samuel and Kings

### STRUCTURE

- I. 1 Samuel
  - a. (1-9) Pre-monarchy
  - b. (10-31) Reign of Saul
    - i. 10-14 Saul's Rise
    - ii. 15 Saul's disobedience, God's rejection of Saul
    - iii. 16 David anointed as true and better king
    - iv. 17 David and Goliath
    - v. 18-26 Saul (still king) Persecutes David
    - vi. 27-31 Saul's Death
- II. 2 Samuel
  - a. 1-4 David begins to reign
  - b. 5-10 David's prosperous rule
    - i. Things are going really well, it looks like God's promise to bless the whole world through a faithful Israel might finally come to pass through David, this great, and faithful king.
  - c. 11-12 Adultery, followed by murder to cover it up
  - d. 13 Son Amnon follows in his perverse footsteps
  - e. 14-18 Absalom kills Amnon, dethrones David, nation divided in civil war
  - f. 19-20 Second smaller civil war between "Israel" and "Judah" – first time this division appears.
  - g. 21-24 David's final days
- III. 1 Kings
  - a. 1-2 End of David's reign
  - b. 3-10 Solomon, and Israel's glory
  - c. 11 Solomon turns away
  - d. 12 Solomon loses the kingdom
  - e. 14-22 histories of kings and dynasties in Israel and Judah
- IV. 2 Kings
  - a. 1-8:15 Elijah ministry ends (2), Elisha's prophetic ministry
  - b. 8-17:6 More kings' reigns (both halves of the nation) - steady downward spiral
  - c. 17 - Israel's fall to Assyria 723 BC
  - d. 18-25 Judah's independent history
  - e. 25 Fall of Jerusalem - Babylonian captivity begins 586 BC

### Elijah and Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8-18)

- 1. 18:20-40 Contest with the prophets of Baal
  - a. Doesn't change the nation, Jezebel, instead of repenting, sends mercenaries to kill Elijah.
- 2. He flees to Mt. Horeb (same mountain that Moses received the ten commandments)
  - a. Remember Deut. 18:15
  - b. 19:9
    - i. same cave, same cleft that God hid Moses in when he revealed himself? (Maybe)
    - ii. God asks, "what are you doing here?"
  - c. Elijah's answer – in essence saying: "the people have forsaken your covenant, I'm the only one left - we need a new covenant - start over with me! Surely, I am THE Prophet that Moses prophesied about!"

- i. Note: this is presumptuous, and God calls him on it (19:18 - there are still 7k faithful in the land, you're not so alone)
  - ii. But, given what he has seen and done, it's not too crazy of a thing to think.
- 3. Notes the comparisons with Moses receiving the Law with 11-12: "the Lord passed by"
  - a. cf. Exodus 34:6, "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "the LORD, the LORD..."
    - . The wind: Exodus 19:16 (right before the ten commandments) "On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast."
  - a. The earthquake:
    - . Exodus 19:18b "the whole mountain trembled greatly."
    - i. Haggai 2:21 "I am about to shake the heavens and the earth" - new covenant language
  - b. The fire
    - . Exodus 19:18 "Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire."
    - i. Deuteronomy 5:22 (immediately after the 10 commandments) - "These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me."
    - ii. Deuteronomy 18:16 (right after, "prophet like me, listen to him") "just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'"
  - c. The "Low Whisper" (~Thin Silence - notice there is no content of this whisper - because God (anti-)climactically gives Elijah no new covenant.)
  - d. Expects to get a new covenant from God, but God sends him back to Israel to just keep carrying on under the covenant of Moses.
    - i. Instead ends up being an emphatic pointer back to the continuing validity of Moses
  - e. Malachi 4:4-5 - Keep listening to Moses.
    - i. Just like Elijah points back to Moses
    - ii. Before I send the New Moses, I will send a New Elijah to point to him. (John the Baptist, and Jesus)
  - f. Matthew 17:5 – transfiguration of Christ, with Elijah and Moses on the mountain. "Listen to him (Jesus)."

## DISCUSSION

1. 1 Samuel 15:22-23
  - a. What does this verse teach about the ideal king?
  - b. What does this teach about God's will for your life?
2. 1 Samuel 17:45-47
  - a. How does this help us understand the narrative of Samuel and Kings?
  - b. What is more important? Military might? Or faithfulness to God?
3. 2 Kings 25:27-30
  - a. Here we see that the Davidic line is still alive, and is now receiving some blessing.
  - b. What does this passage suggest about the point of the book as a whole?