

# Old Testament Survey

## Session Thirteen

### The Book of 1 Samuel

### The Book of 1 Samuel – General

- The Book of Samuel-A (שמואל א) *Samuel Aleph*
- Author: Unknown
  - No direct claim to authorship in the book
  - Samuel's death is recorded prior to the end of 1 Samuel (25:1)
  - Samuel was a circuit judge and is said to have established a school of prophets; one or more of these may have compiled and completed the book (1Sam 7:15-17)
- Date:
  - Deaths recorded include: Samuel (27) and Saul (31)
  - Saul ruled for 40 years according to Acts 13:21 (but see interpretive issue below); therefore, his reign was from 1050 BC until 1010 BC.
- Covers: @1100 – 1010 BC
  - Samuel was born sometime before Saul's reign, perhaps around 1100 BC.

## The First Book of Samuel – Major Themes

- Kingship
  - God is the true king over Israel
  - Israel wants to be like the other nations
  - God uses kingship for His own glory
  - God had already foreordained kingship
- Divine Reversal
  - Prophesied by Hannah (Peninnah & Hannah)
  - House of Eli, Samuel
  - The Philistines, The Ark
  - Saul, David

## Location of the Book of 1 Samuel

### English

#### [Historical Books]

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- Samuel
- Kings
- Chronicles
- Ezra/Neh/Est

### Hebrew

#### [Former Prophets]

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings

#### [Writings]

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#### [Writings]

- . . . Proverbs
- Ruth . . .

- During the time of the judges... (Ruth 1:1)
- Salmon was the father of Boaz, Boaz was the father of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David (Ruth 4:21-22)

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#### [Writings]

- Men worshipping elsewhere while "House of God" is at Shiloh (Judg 18:31)
- Men instead going to Shiloh because they need to steal wives (Judg 21:19ff)
- Man with two wives going to Shiloh to worship; he did it year after year! (1 Sam 1:1ff)

## The First Book of Samuel – Major Characters

- Samuel
  - Last and greatest judge
  - Prophet (3:19-4:1a)
  - Priest (3:1)
  - Blameless (12:1-5)
- David and Saul
  - David won't strike the Lord's anointed; Saul will.
  - David can defeat Philistines; Saul can't.
  - David's modest in stature; Saul magnificent.
  - David's heart seeks God; Saul's doesn't.
  - David inquires of God through ephod; Saul inquires of Samuel through medium.
  - David turns to God in fear of people (29:6); Saul turns away from God in fear of people (15:24).

## The First Book of Samuel – Major Characters

- The Philistines
  - Nemesis of Israel at end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium
  - Exodus 13:17 – Reason for Israel's detour
  - Joshua 13:2 – People still needing to be conquered
  - 1 Samuel 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31 – A perpetual enemy in the time of Samuel
  - 1 Samuel 13:19-22 – An unfair advantage
  - 2 Samuel 2:8 – Fully inhabiting the hill country
  - Cf. 1 Kings 20:28 – God of the hills?

## **The First Book of Samuel**

### **Review of the Time Period**

- Solomon ruled from 970 BC onwards (to be discussed later)
- David ruled for 40 years (2 Sam 5:5).  
Therefore, his reign was from 1010 BC until 970 BC.
- Saul ruled for 40 years according to Acts 13:21 (but see interpretive issue below). Therefore, his reign was from 1050 BC until 1010 BC.
- Samuel was born sometime before that, perhaps around 1100 BC.

## **Prelude to the First Book of Samuel**

- Ruth
  - “Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled” (1:1)
- Judges
  - The city of Shiloh (21:19)
- 1 Samuel
  - “Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh” (1:1-3)

## **The First Book of Samuel – Structure**

- The Judgeship of Samuel (1-7)
  - Samuel’s Call (1-3)
  - Samuel’s Commission (4-7)
- The Kingship of Saul (8-15)
  - Selection of Saul (8-12)
  - Reign of Saul (13-15)

## **The First Book of Samuel – Structure**

- The Kingship of David (16-31)
  - David’s Kingship Announced by Samuel: David the Shepherd (16-17)
  - David’s Kingship Announced by Jonathan: David the Courtier (18-19)
  - David’s Kingship Attacked by Saul: David the Fugitive (20-31)



## Reading the OT in Old Hebrew

- Only great minds can read this.
- This is weird, but interesting!
- fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too.
- Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.
- i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacny uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the lltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! if you can raed tihs forwrad it

## Reading the OT in Old Hebrew (cont.)

- בְּרֵאשִׁית, בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים, אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ
- וְהָאָרֶץ, הָיְתָה תוֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ, וְחֹשֶׁךְ, עַל-פְּנֵי תְהוֹם; וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים, מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים, יְהִי אוֹר; וַיְהִי-אוֹר
- בראשיתבראאֱלֹהִיםאֶתהשמיםואֶתהָאָרֶץוְהָאָרֶץהִיְתָהתוֹהוּוְהָבֹהוּוְחֹשֶׁךְעַלפְּנֵי תְהוֹםוְרוּחַאֱלֹהִיםמְרַחֶפֶתעַלפְּנֵימַיִםוַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִיםיְהִיאוֹר
- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- nthbgnnngdcrttdthhvndthrthndthrthswthtfrmndvdnddrknsswspnthfcfthdpndthsprtfgdmvdpnthfcfthwtrsndgdsdLtthrbghtndthrwslght

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End Session Thirteen

Question Time!