

# Samuel in Review

“The fundamental skill for biblical interpretation, as in much of life, is observation. All other skills depend upon it. As in life, we miss a great deal of the Bible because we examine it hastily and carelessly.”<sup>1</sup>

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years."<sup>2</sup>

## Outlining Samuel

- 1 Samuel 1–7: The Rise of Samuel
- 1 Samuel 8–15: The Advent of Kingship
- 1 Samuel 16:1—2 Samuel 5:10: David’s Rise to Power
- 2 Samuel 5:11—8:18: David’s Consolidation of Power
- 2 Samuel 9–20: David’s Decline
- 2 Samuel 21–24: David as Model King

## Regarding Old Testament Narrative and How We Read It

- The more we know wider scripture, the more we will see.
- The more we read a given passage, the more we will see.
- "Read the Bible like any other book." Yes, and no.
- Pay attention to small details and sweeping trajectories.
- Pay careful attention to beginnings and endings.
- Beware the false dichotomies of story and history, art and fact, bias and authority.

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<sup>1</sup> Dan Doriani, *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting the Bible* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1996), 14.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Spurgeon, "The Talking Book," in *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, vol. 17. <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-talking-book/#flipbook/>.

## **Regarding the Book of Samuel**

- The Suffering of the People Under Ungodly Leaders
- The House of Eli and the Faithful Priest
- The Rise of Samuel and the Faithful Prophet
- Saul vs. David and the Faithful King
- The People's Need/Desire and the Lord's Provision
- The Role of Poetry in the Structure of the Book

## **Regarding Systematic and Biblical Theology**

- The Doctrine of Providence over the Long Haul
- Sin and Its Punishment
- Sorrow that Leads to Repentance
- The Unfolding of the Abrahamic Covenant

## **Further Resources**

Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*. New York: Norton, 1999.

Boda, Mark. *After God's Own Heart: The Gospel According to David*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 2007.

Currid, John D., and David P. Barrett. *Crossway ESV Bible Atlas*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart*. Focus on the Bible. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2010.

———. *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity*. Focus on the Bible. Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2013.