

1 and 2 Samuel

Warning!

Compare NRSV with other translations. The book of Samuel is particularly difficult, and the translator, P. Kyle McCarter, chose other texts and translations (e.g., Josephus, the LXX, 4QSam^{abc}, the Dead Sea scrolls) over against the MT.

Contents

- I. Narrative of Birth of Samuel (chaps 1-3)
- II. Ark Narrative (chaps 4-6)
- III. The rise of David (1 Sam 16- 2 Sam 8)
 - A. King Saul and David (1 Sam 16- 2 Sam 1)
 - B. King David (2 Sam 2-8)
- IV. The Succession to the Throne of David (2 Sam 9-20)
- V. Appendices (2 Sam 21-24)

Change of Leadership

- *Samuel as Judge (ch. 7)--priest, seer, war leader, and judge
- *Views of kingship (chs. 8-12)

Saul's Account and Two views of monarchy

- ch. 8: Israel demanded king (v.5—Samuel old and his sons not doing their job)
- ch. 9:1-10:16 –positive
- ch. 10:17-27—negative (NRSV 27f is not in MT, taken from 4QSam^a)
- ch. 11: --positive
- ch. 12—negative (v. 12-- People's fear of the Ammonites)

Saul's rejection

- 1. Not conforming to Sam's (YHWH's command)
 - 1 Sam 13:8-14 (cf. 10:7-8 and 11:14-15)

Indictment; 13:13

v. 13. You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which he commanded you.

10:7-8 Go to Gilgal and Sam will present burnt offering and well-being offering

11:14f Sam came to Gilgal, and made Saul king in public and offered sacrifices.-----Apparently, Sam's coming to Gilgal is to renew his kingship that was despised by some (10:27)

Punishment: 13:14

but now your kingdom will not continue; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart; and the Lord has appointed him to be ruler over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you

- 2. Not conforming to YHWH's command, failing to observe herem (15:1-33)

Indictment: YHWH's herm not kept. Amalekite king Agag spared and the best portion of sheep, cattle, fatlings, lamb, and valuables kept (cf. Achan narrative in Josh. 7)

Punishment: rejection of Saul to be king over Israel

15:28--- The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

Both accounts prepares a way to the rise of David as a king.

Saul and David (1 Sam 16- 2 Sam 1)

Interest in the rise of David and so the decline of Saul. Hans Wilhelm Hertzberg used an expression, "David must increase, Saul must decrease" (OTL, 1 & 2 Sam, 241), reminding us of the saying of John the Baptizer in the synoptic gospels.

- David is a divinely appointed king (ch 16), and not a usurper

How did David come to Saul's court?

1. David's musical capabilities (1 Sam 16:14-23)
2. David's skill at arms (1 Sam 17---David and Goliath)

Two Goliath stories--- 1 Sam 17 and 2 Sam 21:19—Elhanan, son of Jaare-oregim [Read 1 Sam 17:57]

Compare and constrast!!!

1. Saul attempted to pin David to the wall twice (18:11; 19:10).
2. David spared Saul's life in his hand twice (chapters 24 and 26).