

1 Samuel

Introduction

The royal history of the nation of Israel begins with the book of 1 Samuel. The book receives its name from one of its principle characters and probable author—Samuel. Samuel was dedicated to God from his mother’s womb and he lived a life of influence for God. Samuel was unique in that he played the vital roles of prophet, priest and judge for God’s people, Israel. The events of this book cover approximately 150 years. The book begins with the birth of Samuel and follows to the beginning of David’s reign.

In 1 Samuel, Israel wanted a king and Saul was chosen to reign. In 2 Samuel, we have the record of the rule of Saul’s successor, David, and his triumphs as well as troubles as king of Israel. In fact, 2 Samuel is, in many ways, a biography of David’s life. This book basically spans a 40-year period. This book includes the Davidic covenant essential to our understanding of Messianic prophesy. This book touches all of our lives because of the struggles of David’s life. He is said to have been “a man after God’s own heart,” yet there is heartache and heartbreak experienced in his life that serves as a warning and witness for us today.

- The book of 1 Samuel describes the transition of leadership in Israel from judges to kings.
- 1 & 2 Samuel were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible and simply known as *Samuel*.
- The name, Samuel, means “heard” or “asked of God”.
- Three characters are prominent in the book of Samuel:
 - Samuel, last judge/first prophet
 - Saul, first king of Israel
 - David, king of God’s covenant
- The book of Samuel teaches us that God...
 - keeps His promises
 - provides for His people
 - never violates His principles

Outline

I. 1 Samuel is divided by the life and influence of its three principle characters:

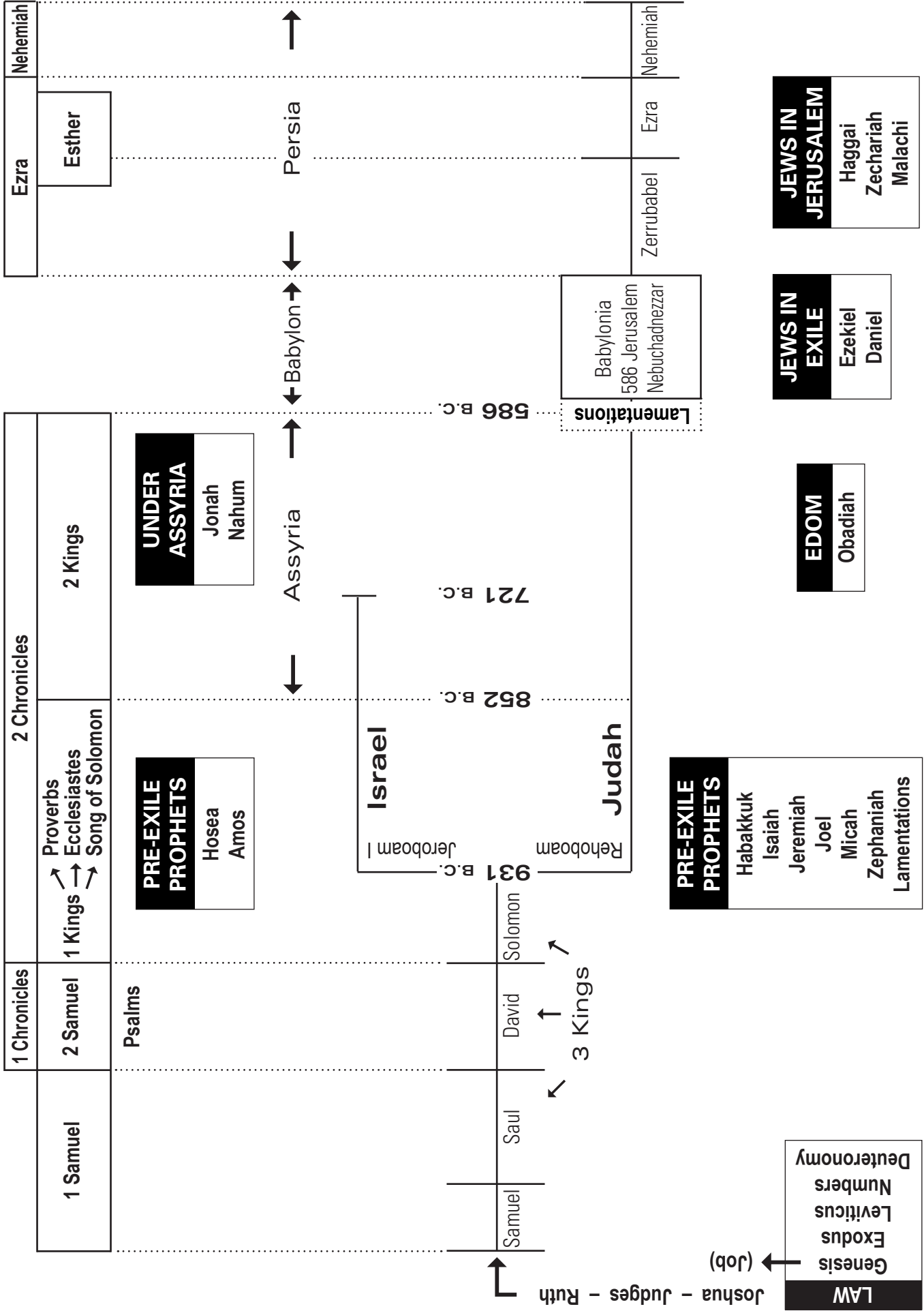
Samuel	1–7
Saul	8–15
David	16–31

II. 2 Samuel—David is king

David’s Rise to Rule	1–10
David’s Fall Into Sin	11–20
David’s Final Days	21–24

Principle Lessons of Samuel

- Surrender The story of Samuel’s birth is one of the most moving in Scripture. Infertility and desperation met with prayer and devotion resulted in a birth and “baby dedication.” 1 Samuel 1:20
- Ebenezer 1 Samuel 4; 4:21; 7:12-14
- Leadership 1 Samuel 9:2
 - Character and humility are essential to be used of God. In 1 Samuel 15:23, Saul was rejected and disposed by God.
 - Pride is the greatest pitfall for great leaders. 1 Samuel 15:23
- Prodigals 1 Samuel 2:12 (Sons of Eli); 1 Samuel 8:1-6 (Sons of Samuel)
- Faith 1 Samuel 16, 17:37, 17:47
- _____ 1 Samuel 18:1
- (Continued Next Week)** _____ 1 Samuel 24:3-7
- _____ 2 Samuel 7:11-14
- _____ 2 Samuel 11:2-5
God _____ what we _____.
God _____ the _____,
but not the _____ of sin.
Galatians 6:7-8
- _____ 2 Samuel 24:21-24
When God measures love and devotion, He does not measure our _____; He measures our _____.



United

Divided

Exiled

Restored