

# 100 DAYS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE

Together  
In The Word

## 1 & 2 SAMUEL

**Special Note:** 1 and 2 Samuel were originally written as one book, which is very important to consider when studying the overall structure. The reason Samuel is broken up into two books in our English Bibles is simply because the scribes who translated the book from Hebrew to Greek could not fit it on one scroll. The same is true for Kings and Chronicles as well.

**Key Themes:** God is King: The major theme of Samuel is the universal Kingship of Yahweh. Yes, Samuel records the establishment of the monarchy in Israel, as well as the rise to power of both Saul and David. However, the narrator is clear from beginning to end that God is High King and earthly kings are subject to Him. This is evidenced most clearly in the fact that God is the one who raises kings to power, and God is the one who derails their reign when they forsake His Word.

History from God's Perspective: It is natural to interpret life's events through a merely human perspective. But Samuel teaches readers to look for God's sovereign hand in all things. Whether it be a major world event, like the rise of political powers, or a seemingly mundane event, like which cave you choose to relieve yourself in, the theocentric view of history that Samuel presents teaches readers to interpret every aspect of life through the lens of God's Sovereign Reign.

Messianic Promise: The events recorded in the book of Samuel took place roughly 1,000 years after God's promise to bless all the nations of the earth through Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), and roughly 1,000 years before Christ came as the ultimate fulfillment of that promise. In 2 Samuel 7 God reveals that He will fulfill His promise to Abraham through David's line. This is known as the Davidic Covenant, where God promises to bless all the nations of the earth through a son of David who will sit on David's throne forever and ever. This is a monumental event in salvation history. Even though David was a man after God's own heart, he still failed and his kingdom suffered for it. Israel needed a king like David, but they needed a better David. They needed King Jesus.

**Key Verses:** 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (the theology of Hannah's prayer precludes all the major themes of the book). 2 Samuel 7:1-29 (specifically 13-19) (In one of the most important chapters in the Bible, God reveals that He will bless all the nations of the earth through a son of David).

**Key Takeaway:** Consider Samuel's theocentric presentation of history and let it encourage you to look everywhere for God's sovereign hand as you live out your life in His story.

# 1 & 2 KINGS

## **Rough Timeline:**

- Around 1400 B.C. Israel entered the promised land.
- 1010-970 B.C. King David reigned.
- 970-931 B.C. King Solomon reigned.
- Around 930 B.C. The Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) split from the Southern Kingdom (Judah and Benjamin).
- 722 B.C. The Northern Kingdom is conquered and exiled by Assyria.
- 586 B.C. The Southern Kingdom is conquered and exiled by Babylon.

**Key Themes:** God is King: The book of Kings records 400 years of history about kings, kingdoms, empires, armies, prophets, and miracles, but what remains consistent throughout is that God is the One who is completely in control. Even when it seems like everything is out of control, God reigns supreme and accomplishes all of His purposes.

True Worship: The narrator evaluates every king based on the same criteria: Did they worship the God of Israel alone? Did they strive to rid Israel of its idolatry? Were they faithful to the covenant? These were the determining factors regarding whether or not the king (and therefore the nation) succeeded or failed. The Northern Kingdom had 0 of its 20 kings meet the criteria, while Judah had 8 faithful kings and 12 wicked kings.

The Word of God that Never Fails: On a specific note, the book of Kings has echoes of Deuteronomy throughout. The narrator is explicitly showing that everything that is happening is a direct result of obeying or forsaking the covenant, just as Deuteronomy said it would. Consider Deuteronomy 17 and the guidelines God gives for kings; Solomon breaks every single one of them and the appropriate judgements/consequences ensue. In short, the narrator's position is clear: Israel is getting exactly what they deserve. But on a broader note, despite Israel's apostasy, God is still faithful to keep His promises to Abraham and David, hence His preservation (even in Exile) of the Davidic line.

**Key Verses:** 1 Kings 2:2-4 (Echoing Moses to Joshua, David urges Solomon to remain faithful to the covenant), 2 Kings 17:7-23 (Israel gets exactly what they deserved).

**Key Takeaway:** Life is full of events that seem really important at the time. But when it is all said and done, in the grand scheme of eternity the only thing that will matter about your life is this: Did you worship God and God alone? Or did you lust after other gods?