
Lesson 27: Conclusion

The book of Samuel is the story of three personalities: Samuel, Saul, and David - one judge and two kings.

This book stands, therefore, between the book of Judges and the book of Kings. Samuel was the last of the judges, but he stands out by his commanding stature as both leader and prophet, as a man who guided his people during hard times with his prophetic vision and practical leadership.

The two first kings of Israel were different from any of the later kings. Not only were they the first monarchs but they stood out by their qualities in the history of ancient Israel.

With David this book reaches the climax of its narrative. We follow David's story in its four stages: the early life when David went to the royal court (1 Samuel 16-19); his wanderings as a refugee from Saul when David appeared to have slipped from a pinnacle of fame into complete oblivion (1 Samuel 20- 2 Samuel 4); his ascent to the throne, his dramatic conquests and his continued humility even at the height of royal power; and, finally, the story of his sin and repentance, and the rebellion within his own family, when David humbly submitted to the divine punishment.

The story of king David is the story of a man. He is not described as a superhuman hero. On the contrary, David is represented as a man who rises and falls, who is great but also very human in his desires, hopes and sufferings. God's grace is upon David, the man who was taken from his father's pasture to become the greatest king in the history of Israel.