

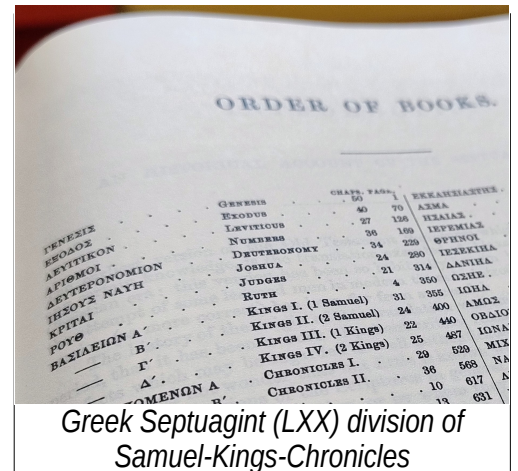
1. AUTHOR

Q. What do you know about *Samuel*?

A. The author is unknown. Should that bother us? Not really; Samuel has always been a fundamental part of the 'Former Prophets' in the Hebrew Bible (MT, DSS, LXX). It is referred to, alluded to, or quoted by the NT, for example:

Acts 13:22 And when [God] had removed [Saul], he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' *ESV*

[Luke citing the apostle Paul in Pisidian Antioch quoting 1 Samuel 13:14 about *Saul* and *David*.]



Greek Septuagint (LXX) division of Samuel-Kings-Chronicles

2. ONE KEY THEME – ‘THE HEART’

The issue is not primarily whether the king is a sinner or not – they all are until King Jesus. Samuel is all about whether people’s *hearts* want to love, trust and obey the LORD God. So, when first Saul is rejected as king, followed by each of David’s brothers, we read:

*1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on [Eliab’s] appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: **man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.**”* *ESV*

The words above in bold represent the key theme in Samuel, and are worth memorising.

Indeed the *heart* theme is often dealt with negatively in Samuel, for example, when *Eli* mistakes *Hannah*’s motives:

1 Samuel 1:13 *Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman [– but the LORD saw her heart].*

When the LORD subsequently rejects *Eli* as high priest:

1 Samuel 2:35 *And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed for ever. [Samuel, Zadok then ultimately Jesus, our great high priest]*

When *Michal*, David’s wife, despises him for his immodesty (about the *heart*, not *dancing*):

2 Samuel 6:16 *As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart [– and she died childless].*

When *Joab* kills the usurper *Absalom*, and to emphasise the source of *Absalom*’s problem:

2 Samuel 18:14 *Joab ... took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak.*

Indeed, there are 40 or more references to the *heart* in Samuel.

3. SHAPE & TEXTUAL STRUCTURE OF SAMUEL?

Samuel-Kings-Chronicles are mainly about the kings of Israel and Judah, so it is helpful to put

this era into biblical context, especially to see where it is all heading – towards King Jesus.

A	EVENTS	DETAIL	CHRONOLOGICAL BOOK ORDER	WESTERN BIBLE BOOK ORDER
1400 – 1050 BC	Judges	Othniel to Samuel	Judges, Ruth	Judges, Ruth
1050 – 1010 BC	Kings ↑ ↓	Saul	Samuel ¹	1 Samuel ¹
1010 – 970 BC		David		2 Samuel ¹
970 – 930 BC		Solomon	Kings	1 Kings
930 – 722bc		Divided kingdom		2 Kings
722 – 586 BC		Judah only		
586 BC –	Exile(s)		Earlier prophets, Esther, ...	Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, ...
537 BC? –	Return		Ezra, Nehemiah, Later prophets	Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah
c. 5 BC	The Kingdom of God	King Jesus	Gospels, ...	Matthew, Luke, ...

B		TEXTUAL STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF SAMUEL ITSELF	
CHAPTER	FOCUS	DALE RALPH DAVIS ²	ALTERATIVE SUMMARY
1 Samuel 1 – 7	Samuel	A prophet from God's grace	Establishment of monarchy by Samuel
1 Samuel 8 – 14	Saul	A king in God's place	King Saul: A failed monarch
1 Samuel 15 – 2 Samuel 8	David	A man after God's heart	David's rise to power and reign begins
2 Samuel 9 – 20		A servant under God's rod	David's faithfulness and unfaithfulness
2 Samuel 21 – 24		A kingdom in God's hands	Preparations for the future, tidying up loose ends

4. KEY VERSE(S)

1 Samuel 13:14; 16:7

5. KEY GROUPS OF PEOPLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eli & his sons 2. Samuel & other prophets (Nathan, Gad) 3. Saul & family (Jonathan, Michal) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. David & family (wives, sons, women) 5. Philistines & other enemies 6. The LORD himself as King of kings |
|--|--|

¹ Whilst Samuel is divided into two books in the traditional western biblical order, it is in reality a single book, that only became split into multiple scrolls when the compact Hebrew was translated into the more expansive Greek for the Septuagint (Lxx) from the 3rd century onwards. See photo of Septuagint on page 1.

² Dale Ralph Davis, Commentaries on 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, *Looking on the Heart*, CF, 1999-2012

6. GREAT EVENTS

1. Samuel replaces Eli.
2. The Philistine steal & return the ark.
3. The LORD gives Israel a bad king.
4. David replaces Saul as king.
5. David kills Goliath (and Philistines etc.)
6. The LORD preserves David many times.
7. The witch of Endor.

8. The death of Saul & his sons.
9. David rules well.
10. The ark comes to Jerusalem.
11. David's adultery & other sins.
12. Absalom's coup & death.
13. David's sinful census.

7. THEMES

1. Various people's bad hearts
2. The LORD's, David's & others' good hearts
3. Good & bad shepherds, prophets, priests and kings (**1 Samuel 16:11**).
4. The defeat of the LORD's enemies.

5. An aching longing for a perfect king.
6. The LORD's covenant with David & Solomon (2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 9)
7. David's weaknesses, especially women (2 Samuel 11-12).

8. JESUS IN SAMUEL

For the first time in Scripture, Jesus is typified as shepherd, prophet, priest and king through God's providential use of both good rôle models and bad ones.

TYPICAL RÔLE	GOOD TYPE	BAD TYPE
Shepherd:	David (1 Samuel 16:11; 17:40 <small>ESV</small> ; 2 Samuel 5:2; 24:17 <small>NIV</small> ; Ezekiel 34:23 <small>ESV</small> ; Psalm 23:1 <small>ESV</small>)	Saul (1 Samuel 22:18; 2 Samuel 5:2), Doeg the Edomite (1 Samuel 21:7; 22:18)
Prophet:	David (Acts 2:29-30), Nathan, Gad	Saul (1 Samuel 10:11) & others
Priest:	Samuel (nearly David in 2 Samuel 24:25 ³ , see also 2 Samuel 6:14)	Eli, Saul? (1 Samuel 13:8-10)
King:	David	Saul

King Saul attempted to be prophet, priest and king in 1 Samuel 10:10-12; 13:8-10. Only King Jesus properly fills all three rôles, plus that of shepherd. The 1646/7 *Westminster Confession*⁴ states: *'It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only-begotten Son, to be the mediator between God and men, the Prophet, Priest, and King; the head and Saviour of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world ...'*

9. SAMUEL IN PRACTICE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Samuel 5:1-16 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. ² In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King

³ But presumably the actual priestly functions themselves were performed by Zadok, Abimelek Jr., or another Levitical priest (2 Samuel 8:17).

⁴ 1646/7 *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 8 Of Christ the Mediator (1).

David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. ⁵ At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

⁶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." ⁷ Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. ⁸ And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." ⁹ And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all round from the Millo inwards. ¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

¹¹ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. ¹² And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

¹³ And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. ¹⁴ And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ¹⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, ¹⁶ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. *ESV*

Q1. What good, bad or sinister themes from page 3, '7. Themes', feature in the passage above?

ESV

Q2. In what ways does David seem to foreshadow Jesus in 2 Samuel 5:1-16?

John 10:11-16

Luke 3:23?

Matthew 27:11

Q3. Which is the most important statement in Samuel? Why?

Ideas: 1 Samuel 2:30; 1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Samuel 5:2; 2 Samuel 12:13; 2 Samuel 24:14,17

10. HOMEWORK

Read Samuel; be thankful for King Jesus.

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