

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 1
INTRODUCTION TO FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 – SEPTEMBER 18**

Introduction to First and Second Samuel

The earliest Hebrew manuscripts contained a single book entitled “Samuel” which was named after the priest and prophet God used to establish the first kingship in Israel. Later Hebrew texts and the English divided the single book into what we have today as First and Second Samuel.

Although Jewish tradition identified Samuel as the human author of the books, most commentators agree that the human author of this divinely inspired text is unknown. “The work comes to the reader as an anonymous writing, i.e., the human author speaks for the Lord and gives the divine interpretation of the events narrated.” [The MacArthur Study Bible](#)

First and Second Samuel do not contain any clear indication of the date the book was written. Many commentators believe the book was written before the exile during the period when the nation was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms, of Israel and Judah in 931 B.C.

These books record approximately 135 years of history of Israel. This historical record begins with the birth of Samuel in about 1105 B.C. and concludes with the last words of David (2 Samuel 23:1-7) in 971 B.C.

1 Samuel chapter 1 begins following the time of the Judges. At the time of Samuel’s birth, Israel was at spiritual low. The priests of Israel were corrupt; idolatry was widely practiced and most of the Jewish people disregarded the law of the Lord. The book of Judges concludes in **Judges 21:25** “In those days there was no king in Israel; Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” It is into this moral abyss and confusion that God providentially raises up godly Samuel and later David to change the trajectory of the nation (at least temporarily).

There are four main theological themes in these books (The MacArthur Study Bible):

1. The Lord’s promise of the perfect King, the Messiah, who will come from David’s descendants and establish David’s throne forever. The Davidic Covenant in **2 Sam. 7:12-16**.
2. The sovereignty of God, His absolute rule and authority over all things.
3. The work of the Holy Spirit to empower men to serve the Lord to accomplish the Lord’s purposes on specific occasions.

4. The Books of Samuel demonstrate the personal and national effects of sin. (The MacArthur Study Bible). Related to the tragic consequences of sin, we will also see the significance of the Lord's provision through confession of and repentance from sin.

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel point to Christ, the perfect and righteous King who will rule and establish David's throne forever. He is not only the righteous King, but He is the Prophet and Perfect Priest who redeems for Himself and His glory a people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

First and Second Samuel show the failings and sin of the human kings of Israel. Even David, a man after God's own heart, sinned greatly which pointed to the need of a perfect King. Only Christ as the perfect fulfillment of the Law, the one without stain or blemish could fulfill the promise of the King who will rule God's kingdom forever. He is the one we long for.

As we study and meditate upon the truths of 1 and 2 Samuel, ask the Lord to use His Word to shape us and to conform us to the image of Christ, knowing that "Whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (**Romans 15:4**)