

1 Samuel Overview

Authorship and Date

The author is unknown (anonymous) but it is commonly speculated to be **Samuel** himself

The date of writing (if the author is Samuel) of course would be prior to his death in **1015 BC**

1 and 2 Samuel are originally **1 single book** in the Hebrew Bible

Scope

First Samuel traces the transition of leadership in Israel from the time of the judges to the time of the kings, chronicling Israel's shift from a **Theocracy** to a **Monarchy**

The book covers a **93** year period of history between the birth of Samuel and the death of Saul

Key Figures and themes

There are 3 key figures: Samuel, Saul, and David

The pride of DISOBEDIENCE,

The humility of God-honoring OBEDIENCE.

1 Samuel is the first book to use the word **Messiah** "anointed" in 2:10.

Theological focus

YHWH is sovereign

Organization

Samuel (1-7)

Saul (8-31)

David (16-31)

Culture

A culture of honor and shame

For Further Study and Reflection

- *Four Views on God and Canaanite Genocide: Show Them No Mercy*, Edited by Stanley N. Gundry
- *Leap Over a Wall* by Eugene Peterson
- <https://bibleproject.com/videos/1-samuel/>
- *Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry