

GOD IN HIS WISDOM, FOR OUR LEARNING,
gave his inspired and holy word:
promise of Christ, for our discerning,
by which our souls are moved and stirred,
finding our hearts within us burning
when, as of old, his voice is heard.

Symbol and story, song and saying,
life-bearing truths for heart and mind,
God in his sovereign grace displaying
tenderest care for humankind,
Jesus our Lord this love portraying,
open our eyes to seek and find.

Come then with prayer and contemplation,
see how in Scripture Christ is known;
wonder anew at such salvation
here in these sacred pages shown;
lift every heart in adoration,
children of God by grace alone!

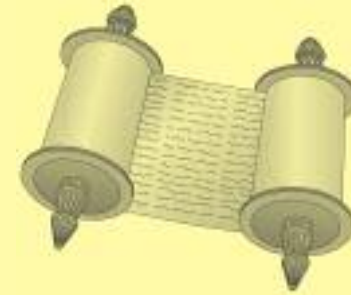
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ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED

AN OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW



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JUDGES, SAMUEL & 1 KINGS From Chaos to Kingship

*“The Lord chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.*

*He built his sanctuary like the high mountains,
like the earth that he established for ever.*

*He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheep pens;*

*from tending the sheep he brought him
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,
of Israel his inheritance.*

*And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;
with skillful hands he led them.”*

PSALM 78:68-72



JUDGES

Chapter 1-2:5 • Settlement in the Land

Failure to remove the Canaanites results in centuries of social upheaval, moral degeneration and religious syncretism – a terrible falling-short from God's ideal.

Chapters 2:6-16 • Deliverance by the 'Judges'

There is a cyclic pattern of apostasy by Israel, oppression from her neighbours, repentance and then deliverance that continues to recur. God raises up a series of 12 'saviours' (judges or deliverers) who bring stability – if only temporarily. Behind them, six of whom (Othniel, Ehud, Deborah/Barak, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson) are described in some detail, we see the grace and unceasing faithfulness of God toward his people even through their failure.

Chapters 17-21 • Corrupt Religion and Debased Morality

The book concludes with two appalling episodes, the former indicating how superficial religious practices had become and the latter how perverted are the values and behaviour amongst some within Israel.

1 SAMUEL

Chapters 1-7 • Samuel's call and his role as judge and prophet

His special birth indicates the special purpose Samuel will fulfil within Israel. The degeneration marking Judges continues with Eli and his sons, resulting in the Philistines' capture of the ark. Yet God uses Samuel's work as a 'judge' as the catalyst for a move back to Himself.

Chapters 8-15 • The monarchy: Saul annointed ... only to be rejected

Samuel warns about having a king. However Saul is annointed and then publically proclaimed. But through repeated disobedience Saul forfeits the priviledge of God's blessing as leader.

Chapters 16-31 • The David-Saul relationship

Samuel annoints David as the future king. Victory over Goliath and friendship with Jonathan are marks of God's blessing, but David's life is

endangered through Saul's jealousy. Whilst an outlaw he twice spares Saul's life. The book ends with the contrast between Saul's dabbling in spiritism and his death and David's military successes.

2 SAMUEL

Chapters 1-10 • David's reign developing and established

Saul's death grieves David. Initially only Judah acknowledges David as King – with resulting civil war. Finally, once terms are made, David is installed at Jerusalem. He would like to provide a dwelling for God, but is not permitted to do so.

Chapters 11-20 • David's difficulties as things unravel

Adultery with Bathsheba starts a catalogue of failure and problems. Absalom rebels – and finally pays the price (again to David's distress).

Chapters 21-24 • An appendix of various events in David's reign

This collection of episodes includes the appeasement of Gibeon, David's victory song and his final thoughts on the kingdom. The three 'mighty men' are celebrated and God's displeasure at the census is recorded.

1 KINGS

Chapter 1,2 • David's last days and Solomon's accession

Adonijah & Solomon are rivals for the throne. David gives instructions to Solomon before dying and Solomon secures his position.

Chapters 3-11 • Solomon's reign

God grants wisdom to Solomon – who demonstrates this in his decision making. The building of the temple culminates in a wonderful dedicatory prayer. With significant trade, the kingdom is at its height – as the Queen of Sheba appreciates. Yet in his latter years Solomon turns from God to idol worship: a greater than Solomon is still awaited.