
BOOK OVERVIEW

I Samuel

Author: unknown (see note below)

Date: about 1110–1000 B.C.

Recipients: not indicated

Summary: the history of Israel from the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul

Key word: anoint (7 times), rejected (7 times)

Key verses: I Samuel 8:19–22

Notes:

In the Hebrew Bible I & II Samuel were considered one book.

A Jewish tradition indicates that Samuel was the author, but that seems improbable, since many of the things recorded happened after he died. Some Bible scholars believe that Gad or Nathan wrote the books of I & II Samuel.

The book covers about 110 years.

Eli knew what was right and instructed both his sons and Samuel. His sons, Hophni and Phinehas, rejected God and Eli's instruction; but Samuel accepted Eli's instruction and followed after God.

The book is a good example of what happens when we run ahead of God. It is clear that God would have eventually given Israel a king. It was probably God's plan to have David as Israel's first king rather than Saul.

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