



Lesson 3-1

Samuel & Kings

Samuel & Kings

✦ What's in Samuel and Kings?

- 1-2 Samuel & 1-2 Kings essentially comprise the story of Israel's kingdoms.
- 1-2 Samuel have three main characters: Samuel, Saul, and David
 - Samuel's birth, rise, and leadership of Israel
 - Saul's anointment as Israel's first king, and subsequent downward spiral and bitter end.
 - David's rise to power (as Saul falls)
- The books of Samuel bear witness to one of the most important transitions in ancient Israel's history: from a loose federation of tribes to a monarchy firmly in place under David.

Samuel & Kings

✦ What's in Samuel and Kings?

- 1-2 Kings deals with all the remaining kings, beginning with the end of David's reign and Solomon's subsequent rise.
- The books of Kings cover more than four centuries of ancient Israelite history
 - Rest of the story of the monarchy
 - The division of the united kingdom into two separate kingdoms
 - The eventual fall of those separate kingdoms

Samuel & Kings

✦ A major theological theme that threads through both Samuel & Kings is the relationship between God's will and human power

- Samuel & Kings relate both the results of human activity and the working of the providence of God.
- God often works through the messy events, characters, and social/political realities to accomplish God's will.
- At the same time, God shapes the messy human world to overturn and reverse the usual (and destructive) patterns of power.
- God's commitment to an imperfect world continues to be worked out in Samuel & Kings

Samuel, Saul, & David

1-2 Samuel

The Books of Samuel

✦ Outline of the Books of Samuel:

- Early stories of Samuel (1Sa 1.1-4.1)
- Ark of the Covenant (1Sa 4.1-7.2)
- Beginnings of the monarchy: Saul (1Sa 7.3-15.35)
- David's entrance and rise to power (1Sa 16.1 - 2Sa 5.10)
- David's power and dynasty consolidated (2Sa 5.11-8.18)
- David's struggle to maintain power despite personal and familial difficulties (2Sa 9-20)
- Epilogue: David's successes and failures, God's judgment and pardon (2Sa 21-24)

Samuel the Prophet

✦ The Character Samuel

- Samuel's importance ranks with the leadership of Moses and Abraham.
- He played many roles for Israel, at a time when Israel was in great need of broad leadership.
 - Samuel the Priest
 - Samuel the Judge
 - Samuel the Prophet
 - Samuel the King-Maker

Saul

✦ Saul: Israel's First King

- Enjoys some shining moments and military success... at first
- But personal flaws hinder him even from the beginning
- Some see Saul as a tragic figure, while others consider him a wholly incompetent failure.



Saul

✦ Three strikes for Saul:

- Saul's unauthorized offering at Gilgal (1Sa 13.5-15a)
- Saul's rash order (1Sa 14.16-46)
- Saul's failure to carry out *herem* against the Amalekites (1Sa 15.1-35)

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.

- 1 Samuel 15.23

Saul & David

✦ Saul & David: close ties, murderous intentions

- David is anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel. But *the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.* (1Sa 16.14)
- Saul's servants bring in a musician to comfort Saul, who turns out to be David.
- David is an intimate friend of Saul's son Jonathan, and is also married to Saul's daughter. Despite these close ties, Saul attempts to kill David on several occasions
- David constantly evades Saul's murderous intentions. At one point he catches Saul off guard but spares his life.

Saul's End

✦ Saul's Bitter End (1Sa 28-31)

- Philistines plague Israel; Saul visits the witch of Endor.
- The witch at Endor conjures Samuel, who foretells Saul's tragic defeat by the Philistines.
- Saul and his sons die in battle against the Philistines.

✦ The "Golden Age of Israel" under the reigns of David and Solomon follow...

David & Monarchy

✦ Civil Conflict in Israel (2Sa 1-4)

- Important characters in the first part of 2 Samuel:
 - Ishbaal / Ishbosheth: Saul's surviving son who inherits the throne
 - Abner: Saul's general who places Ishbaal on the throne
 - Joab: David's commander during the ensuing civil war
- David anointed (again) as King of Judah at Hebron
- Civil war ensues among the tribes of Israel

David & Monarchy

✦ Establishment of the Davidic Kingdom

- Abner makes a deal with David for peace, but Joab assassinates Abner. (3.22-39)
- Ishbosheth's governance falls apart. Ishbosheth is assassinated by two men, who take Ishbosheth's head to David as a trophy. David has the two men executed. (2Sa 4.1-12)
- After ruling from Hebron for five years, David captures the city of Jerusalem and makes it the capital city.
- With his charismatic, intelligent and shrewd leadership, along with his genuine piety, David becomes king over all Israel and establish a monarchy that would last four centuries. (2Sa 5-6)

David & Monarchy

✦ Establishment of the Davidic Kingdom

- David enjoyed much military success, controlling more territory than at any other time in Israel's history (2Sa 8.1-18)
- The biblical authors, however, frequently point out that David's success was due to the fact that the Lord was with David (1Sa 18.12, 14, 28; 2Sa 5.10; 1Ch 11.9; 2Ch 1.1)



Territorial Peak of Israel Under King David

1. Purple: Saul's Conquest
2. Green: David's Conquest

Davidic Covenant

✚ The Davidic Covenant Established (2Sa 7)

- I will make for you a great name
- I will appoint a place for my people and plant them there to give them rest
- I will build you a house
- Your offspring will build me a house, and I will establish the kingdom of your offspring forever.
- I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.
- When he commits iniquity, I will punish but not take my steadfast love from him as with Saul.

The House of David

✦ Trouble in the House of David

- David, Bathsheba, and Uriah (2Sa 11.1-12.25)
- Absalom, Tamar, and Ammon (2Sa 13)
- Absalom, David, & Joab: Absalom Returns (2Sa 14.25-15.6)
- Absalom, David, & Joab: Absalom Rebels (2Sa 15.7-17.23)
- Absalom, David, & Joab: Absalom Dies (2Sa 17.24-19.8)
- David, Joab, & Amasa: Sheba's Rebellion (2Sa 20.1-26)

Portrait of David

✦ David's Political Accomplishments

- Unparalleled Victories in Battle and Consolidation of Spoils
- Philistines Finally Restrained
- Political Centralization & Establishment of Jerusalem

✦ David's Political Struggles & Failures

- Challenges from within the Court: Absalom, Joab
- Challenges from within the Land: Ishbaal, Sheba

Portrait of David

✚ David's Great Acts of Mercy & Piety

- Shows mercy and kindness
- Religious reform and enthusiastic participation
- Repentant after Nathan's rebuke

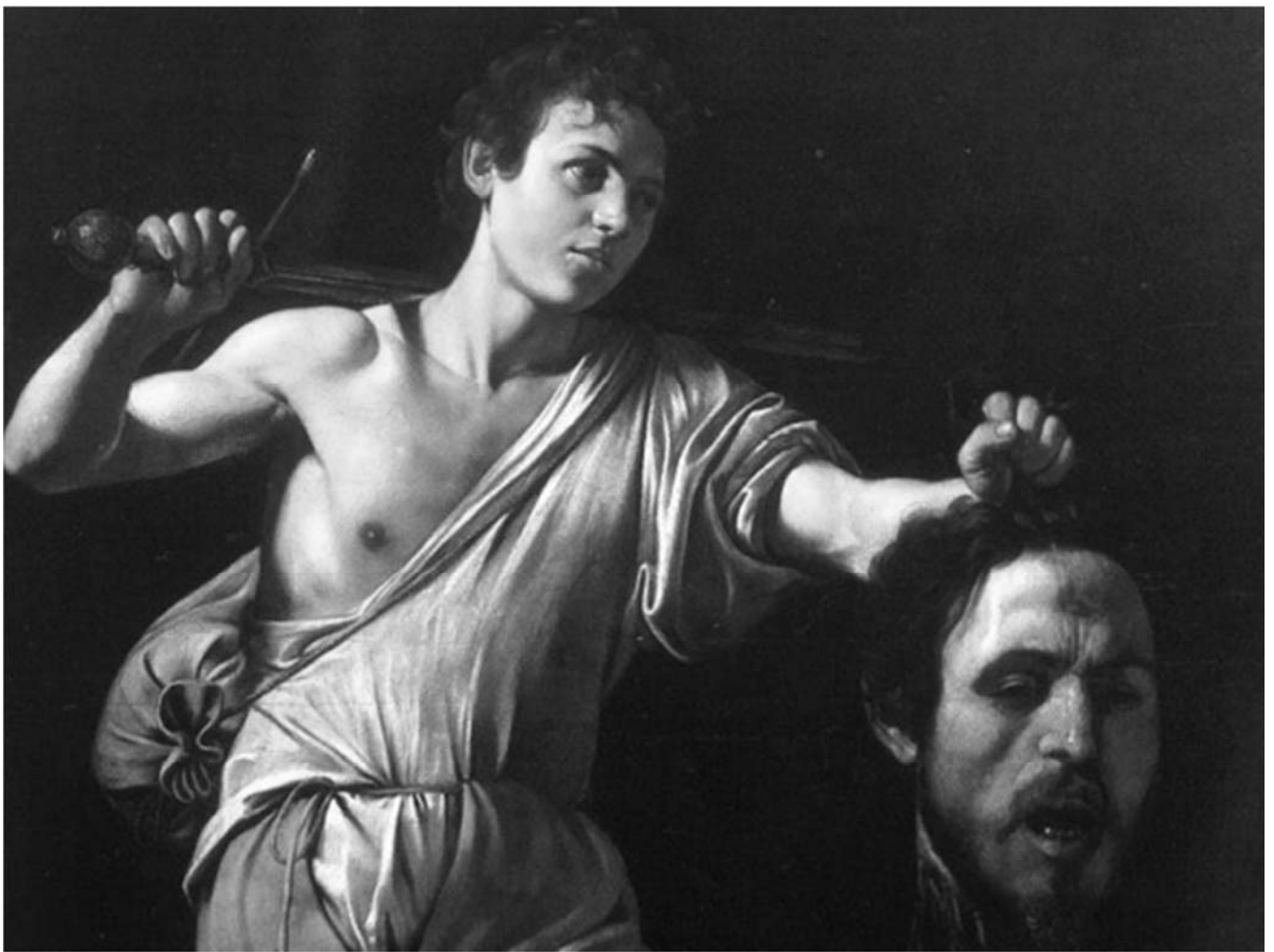
✚ David's Abuses of Power & Moral Failures

- Uriah & Bathsheba
- Failed house



David
Michelangelo







Portrait of David

- The story of the house of David is a "tragic human story of intrigue and counter intrigue, love and blood, shining success and wretched failure."
- The story of the house of David is also a story of the Lord's faithfulness to an imperfect (and sometimes messy) humanity, and the accomplishment of the Lord's will through imperfect lives.

