

1 and 2 Samuel  
1 Samuel 8:4-18; 2 Samuel 18:24-33  
March 15, 2023

I. Introduction

II. Overview

- A. Time of transitions
  - 1. Judges to kings
  - 2. Marginalized tribes to centralized state
  - 3. Poor farming to great wealth
- B. Viewpoint of Deuteronomic Historian
  - 1. Theological interpretation of history
  - 2. Regards kingship with suspicion
  - 3. Prophets as check on royal power
  - 4. Vivid and realistic
- C. Characterization
  - 1. Most in depth of OT
  - 2. Samuel, Saul, David dominate story
  - 3. Often foils for one another
- D. God is constantly shaping events (1 Sam. 16:18; 18:14, 28)
- E. David and Solomon remembered as golden age
- F. Textually difficult
  - 1. Masoretic Text is corrupt
  - 2. Modern translations based on LXX, Qumran, and others

III. Sections

- A. Samuel (1 Sam. 1:1-7:17)
- B. Inauguration of kingship (1 Sam. 8:1-15:34)
- C. David's rise to power (1 Sam. 15:35-2 Sam. 5:10)
- D. Reign of David (2 Sam. 5:11-12:31)
- E. Revolt of Absalom (2 Sam. 13:1-20:22)

IV. Passage: 1 Sam. 8:4-18

- A. Pivotal for identity of Israel (8:5, 7)
- B. God permits but does not approve (8:9)
- C. Verb: "take" (8:11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
- D. Freed from slavery in Egypt, now freely choose slavery (8:17)
- E. God will not answer calls as in Exodus and Judges (8:18)

V. Passage: 2 Sam. 18:24-33

- A. Summary of events (2 Sam. 12:10)
- B. Ahimaaz loses nerve (18:28-29)
- C. David hears news as father, not as king (18:32-33)
- D. David could not die for his child; it takes God (18:33)

VI. What else is applicable for us?

VII. LET US PRAY!

**Next time: April 5      Kings**

## 1 Samuel 8:4-18

<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah <sup>5</sup> and said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” <sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, <sup>7</sup> and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup> Just as they have done to me<sup>[a]</sup> from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

<sup>10</sup> So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup> He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots, <sup>12</sup> and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. <sup>15</sup> He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. <sup>16</sup> He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your cattle<sup>[b]</sup> and donkeys and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you on that day.”

## 2 Samuel 18:24-33

<sup>24</sup> Now David was sitting between the two gates. The sentinel went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he looked up he saw a man running alone. <sup>25</sup> The sentinel shouted and told the king. The king said, “If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth.” He kept coming and drew near. <sup>26</sup> Then the sentinel saw another man running, and the sentinel called to the gatekeeper and said, “See, another man running alone!” The king said, “He also is bringing tidings.” <sup>27</sup> The sentinel said, “I think the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok.” The king said, “He is a good man and comes with good tidings.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, “All is well!” He prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king.” <sup>29</sup> The king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “I saw a great tumult when the king’s servant Joab sent your servant, but I do not know what it was.” <sup>30</sup> The king said, “Turn aside, and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

<sup>31</sup> Then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” <sup>32</sup> The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to do you harm be like that young man.”

<sup>33</sup> <sup>[c]</sup> The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept, and as he went he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”