

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction: First Samuel is a book which contains great _____ for God's children to learn. A close study of this book will prove to be very _____.

I. The Author

- A. Samuel likely _____ most of the material in the book (1 Sam. 10:25).
- B. Nathan and Gad _____ it after Samuel died (1 Chron. 29:29).
- C. The book was written after _____ B.C.
- D. "First Samuel covers the ninety-four-year period from the _____ of Samuel to the _____ of Saul" (Talk Thru the Bible).

II. The Main Characters

- A. Three very colorful _____ are prominent in 1 Samuel.
- B. Samuel was the last _____ of Israel.
- C. Saul was the first _____ of Israel.
- D. David was the _____ king of Israel.
- E. Saul became the _____ king, and David was chosen by God and was the _____ king; a man after God's own heart (2 Sam. 7:8).

III. The Setting

- A. This book transitions Israel from a theocracy to a _____.
- B. The priesthood was a _____ (1 Sam. 2:12-17; 3:13).
- C. Israel _____ to have one centralized leader to protect them (1 Sam. 8:6).

IV. The Theme/Purpose

- A. "The theme of Samuel is how God, Israel's _____ King, at the people's request, delegated royal sovereignty first to Saul, and then to David and his lineage" (MacDonald).
- B. God _____ all along to give Israel a king, but the people were rejecting Him (Deut. 17:14-20; 1 Sam. 8:7).
- C. Yet even during the monarchy, God was still in complete _____ of setting up and removing kings (1 Sam. 15:22-23; Ps. 75:7; Ro. 13:1).
- D. Saul's life will powerfully illustrate the high price of _____.

Conclusion: "Without 1 and 2 Samuel there would be a gaping hole in the OT Canon" (MacDonald).