

# Historical Books

## Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Sam



Bronze Doors ("Gate of Paradise"), Florence Baptistery, Lorenzo Ghiberti, 1378-1455

### Joshua

Josh 1-5	Josh 6-12	Josh 13-21	Josh 22-24
Jordan	Conquest	Distribution	Conclusion
Commissioning, Rahab, Jordan, Circumcision, Divine Warrior, Manna Cessation	Jericho, Ai, Shechem, Law Renewal, Gibeonites, Southern City-States (Judah), Jabin of Hazor	Land Distribution by Lots, Refuge Cities, Levitical Cities	Transjordan (Reuben, Gad, Manasseh), Controversial Altar, Final Address, Shechem Renewal, Death, Burial

Bronze Doors ("Gate of Paradise"), Florence Baptistery, Lorenzo Ghiberti, 1378-1455

## Joshua

### ● Critical Issues

#### ● Not really Deuteronomic composition?

- ~ "Hexateuch" theory: Jordan modeled on Red Sea? Unlikely.
- ~ Priestly hand detectable? Unlikely.

#### ● Etiologies as sources

- ~ Explaining Rahab's descendants, Gibeonites, local topology, stone heaps, tels
- ~ Clearly not Deuteronomic themes, so redacted well, covenant renewal macroframe

# Joshua

## Critical Issues

- Historical reliability: complete conquest claim (Josh 10:40-43 vs. Judges)
  - ~ Highlands expanding immigration?
  - ~ Documented 1200s to 1100s violence? Right time, but wrong places.
  - ~ Slow, sporadic 'apiru + Israelite confederate violence? Only theoretical.
  - ~ Gradual Canaanite emergence lowlands to highlands ("Israel" = Canaanite)?

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# Josh

1. Canaanites still in land
2. Question of Hazor's destruction

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# Joshua

## Critical Issues

- Historical reliability: complete conquest claim (Josh 10:40-43 vs. Judges)
  1. Highlands unwall'd villages boom, Canaanite, 13th-11th cent.
  2. Egyptian Merneptah victory stela, defeating "Israel," 13th cent.
  3. Weakness: whence Israelite monotheism?
  - ~ Documented 1200s to 1100s violence? Right time, but wrong places.
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# Joshua

## Theological Themes

- Covenant in Joshua (key elements given in commission played out by narrative)
- Deuteronomistic Program is fleshed out in Joshua
  - ~ Anthropology: incorrigible human sin, even in Israel, starts immediately
  - ~ Theology: even those forewarned given renewed chances multiple times
  - ~ Inheritance: fundamental centrality of Promised Land (giving, taking, keeping)
- Problem of violence
  - ~ Enemy obliteration just part of wider Ancient Near Eastern practice?
  - ~ Religious act of devoting by sacrifice all to the god?

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# Joshua

- | Joshua's Commission                            | Story Fulfillment                           |
|--|---|
| 1. Unilateral divine gift of land              | 1. Divine crossing of the Jordan            |
| 2. Unstoppable divine will, even by the chosen | 2. Divine warrior encounter                 |
| 3. Conquest still requires courage, obedience  | 3. Jericho, Ai Failure > Achan > Ai Victory |
| 4. Land retainment requires law obedience      | 4. Joshua's Valedictory, Shechem Renewal    |
- ~ Inheritance: fundamental centrality of Promised Land (giving, taking, keeping)
  - Problem of violence
    - ~ Enemy obliteration just part of wider Ancient Near Eastern practice?
    - ~ Religious act of devoting by sacrifice all to the god?

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# Joshua

- Conquest Violence
- "The account in Joshua crystallizes for the reader an aspect of the God of the Bible that remains deeply troubling . . . the God of these stories . . . remains a mysterious and often threatening power" (KH: 126).
- Problem of violence
    - ~ Enemy obliteration just part of wider Ancient Near Eastern practice?
    - ~ Religious act of devoting by sacrifice all to the god?

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# JUDGES

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### Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
1st Prologue	2nd Prologue	1-5 + King	6-12	1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
Conquest Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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### Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
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Philistine Eglon of Moab, bathroom murder, detail of Ehud's dagger, Eglon's fat

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### Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
Conquest Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	6-12	1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
			Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

Tribes of Naphtali, Zebulun vs. Jabin of Hazor, general Sisera, Deborah, Barak, Kenite Jael's tent peg into temple

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## Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
Tribes of Naphtali, Zebulun, Asher, Manasseh vs. Midian, rocks, fleece, dreams, victory, apostasy				1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
Conquest, Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Oniela, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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## Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
Gideon's son, Abimelech, seizes kingship, brutally murders 70 brothers, a predictive omen of what Israel's kingship portends				1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Oniela, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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## Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
1st Prologue	2nd Prologue	Foolish pledge and sacrifice of daughter		1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
Conquest, Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Oniela, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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## Judges

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
Nazirite, Philistine wife, lion, carcass honey, riddles, foxtail fire, Philistine family reprisals, ass jawbone slaughter, Gaza prostitute, Delilah marriage, Dagon's temple				1st Epilogue	2nd Epilogue
Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Oniela, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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**Judges**

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
Summary of Period “In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes” (Judg 17:6; 21:25).					
Conquest Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Judges Cycle	Abimelech	Jephthah, Samson	Center	vengeance, Benjaminites

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**Judges**

Judg 1-2	Judg 2-3	Judg 3-9	Judg 10-16	Judg 17-18	Judg 19-21
1st Prologue	Levite abandons domestic service to Micah's idol for tribal service to tribal idolatry of same idol at Dan				3rd Prologue
Conquest Reprise (failure noted 9x), Angelic Word: Displeasure	Joshua Dies, Gen X Apostasy, Intro of Judges Cycle	Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Triad, Gideon, Abimelech	Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Jephthah, Samson	Levite, Micah, Dan Cult Center	Levite, Concubine, Rape, Vengeance, Benjaminites

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**Judges**

● Critical Issues

- Historical reliability: problem of Canaanites, archeological ambiguities
- Strange attraction of local, Canaanite gods suggests slow syncretism
  - ~“El” as ancient Canaanite tradition: worship center at Shechem example
  - ~Deborah’s song: Yahweh like a “storm” evokes storm-god, Hadad (Judg 5:4-5)
  - ~Gideon’s name of Jerubbaal, constant need of persuasion from Yahweh, apostasy
  - ~Micah’s worship of domestic idol with help of hired Levite
  - ~Canaanite pantheon for climate, crops, herds, in unyielding land (Judg 10:6)

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**Judges**

1. Canaanites still in land  
2. Question of Hazor’s destruction

● Critical Issues

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# Judges

## "El" and the Worship Center at Shechem

- Ugarit: shows El is progenitor of Canaanite Baal
- Jacob: sacrifices to "El" at Shechem
- Abimelech: Shechem temple to both "El-Berith" and "Baal-Berith"

- ~ Gideon's name of Jerubbaal, constant need of persuasion from Yahweh, apostasy
- ~ Micah's worship of domestic idol with help of hired Levite
- ~ Canaanite pantheon for climate, crops, herds, in unyielding land (Judg 10:6)

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# Judges

## Canaanite Pantheon

- El, the Ur-god (Ugarit)
- Dagon of the Philistines
- Hadad, the storm-god
- Baal and consorts Ashtart and Asherah
- Gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammonites

### Critical Issues

- Historical re
- Strange att
- ~ "El" as a
- ~ Deborah's
- ~ Gideon's
- ~ Micah's worship of domestic idol with help of hired Levite
- ~ Canaanite pantheon for climate, crops, herds, in unyielding land (Judg 10:6)

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# Judges

### Critical Issues

- Role of women (Deborah, Jael, Jephthah's daughter, Delilah, Levite's concubine)
- Sources and Traditions
  - ~ Abundance of folklore, separate tribal legends
  - ~ Deuteronomic redaction: collection and melding

### Theological Themes

- Extends covenant answer to exile (Judges cycle sustains all Deuteronomic themes)
- Failure extends to even elected leaders (Gideon, Samson particularly)
- Beginning the Deuteronomic polemic against kingship (Abimelech)

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# Judges

## Deuteronomic Redaction

- Significance of 12 judges: arbitrary to represent all Israel's experience
- Conquest reprise introduction emphasizing Canaanites still present
- Shapes individual tribal traditions to conform to Deuteronomic themes
- Abimelech insertion as premonition of Israel and kingship
- Double epilogue with formulaic phrase ("right in their own eyes")

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# Judges

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- Sources and Traditions
  - ~ Abundance of folklore, separate tribal legends
  - ~ Deuteronomic redactions, "Deuteronomistic" editing

## Theological Themes

- Extends covenant and Deuteronomistic theology (sustains all Deuteronomistic themes)
- Failure extends to even elected leaders (Gideon, Samson particularly)
- Beginning the Deuteronomistic polemic against kingship (Abimelech)

At odds with "David-Zion" theology of 2 Sam 7

# THE BOOK OF RUTH

## Ruth

Ruth 1	Ruth 2	Ruth 3	Ruth 4
Ruth	Boaz	Naomi	David
Elimelech, Naomi, Famine, Moab, Orpah, Ruth, Widows, Return, Bethlehem	Boaz, Grain, Ruth, Gleaning, Encounter, Relationship	Naomi Schemes to Secure Her Future, Seduction Plan, Kinsman Claim	Boaz, Kinsman Negotiation, Marriage, Son, Naomi's Inheritance, Davidic Line

## Ruth

### Ruth's Conversion

"Do not press me to leave you, or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die —there I will be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" (Ruth 1: 16-17).



# Ruth

## • Critical Issues

### • Date and Provenience

- ~Solomonic: Davidic lineage, glorify nascent Davidic kingdom
- ~Postexilic: Aramaisms, exogamy (Ezra-Nehemiah), land ownership, critical temple income, concern over failure to restore Davidic dynasty

### • Gender of author

- ~Man: patriarchal society, so presumption of man reasonable
- ~Woman: proactive females (males only react), feminine insight, perspectives

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But Naomi's fortuitous scheming not glorious; Aramaisms suggest linguistic context of exile or after

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Davidic line survival had been challenged before, but faithful, loyal Israelites saw to its continuation under difficult circumstances.

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# Ruth

## • Theological Themes

### • Loyalty (of family and faith)

- ~Elimelech: famine flight to Moab (Deut 23:3), permitting Moabite marriages
- ~Ruth: family fealty, religious conversion (contrast negative Naomi)
- ~Boaz: model of kindness, uprightness

### • Land (of Promise)

- ~Elimelech: disdain for God's promise of land, provision
- ~Ruth: trust in land, provision, crops
- ~Kinsman redeemer: restores part of Promise Land to productivity

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# Ruth

## Theological Themes

But what about Jacob fleeing famine to Egypt?

### Loyalty (of family and faith)

- ~ Elimelech: famine flight to Moab (Deut 23:3), permitting Moabite marriages
- ~ Ruth: family fealty, religious conversion (contrast negative Naomi)
- ~ Boaz: model of kindness, uprightness

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# Ruth

## Theological Themes

Foreign idolater becomes heroine of Israel

### Loyalty (of family and faith)

- ~ Elimelech: famine flight to Moab (Deut 23:3), permitting Moabite marriages
- ~ Ruth: family fealty, religious conversion (contrast negative Naomi)
- ~ Boaz: model of kindness, uprightness

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- ~ Ruth: trust in land, provision, crops
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# Ruth

## Theological Themes

### Line (of David)

- ~ Elimelech: from Bethlehem, David's family (1 Sam 16:1-5)
- ~ Ruth: fountainhead of Davidic lineage

### Centrality of women to fulfillment of God's plans

- ~ Neighbors' blessing Boaz's marriage: focus on women in history of Israel (Raahael, Leah, Tamar; Ruth 4:11-12)
- ~ Women crucial to creating right conditions for birth of a nation

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# 1-2 SAMUEL

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# 1-2 Samuel

1 Sam 1-7	1 Sam 8-12	1 Sam 13-15	1 Sam 16-31	2 Sam 1-8	2 Sam 9-20
Samuel	Transition	Saul	Transition	David	Solomon
Hannah's Vow, Samuel's Birth, Eli's Sons, Ark Adventures, Samuel Judge	King Demand, Saul's Ecstasy and Victory, Samuel's Warnings	Philistine War, Impious Altar, Fast Crisis, Amalekite War Spoils	David's Rise, Saul's Demise, Success and Jealousy, David Hiding	Consolidation, Moving Ark, Temple Plans	Succession, Bathsheba, Solomon, Tamar, Rebellions
2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

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# RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

1 Sam 1-7	1 Sam 8-12	1 Sam 13-15	1 Sam 16-31	2 Sam 1-8	2 Sam 9-20
Samuel	Transition	Saul	Transition	David	Solomon
Hannah's Vow, Samuel's Birth, Eli's Sons, Ark Adventures, Samuel Judge	King Demand, Saul's Ecstasy and Victory, Samuel's Warnings	Philistine War, Impious Altar, Fast Crisis, Amalekite War Spoils	David's Rise, Saul's Demise, Success and Jealousy, David Hiding	Consolidation, Moving Ark, Temple Plans	Succession, Bathsheba, Solomon, Tamar, Rebellions
2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

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Double intro: anointing and Goliath = David trusts Yahweh, popularity, Jonathan and Michael support, on the run, priests of Nob, deceives Philistines, witch of Endor, Saul's death

1 Sam 1-7	1 Sam 8-12	1 Sam 13-15	1 Sam 16-31	2 Sam 1-8	2 Sam 9-20
Samuel	Transition	Saul	Transition	David	Solomon
Hannah's Vow, Samuel's Birth, Eli's Sons, Ark Adventures, Samuel Judge	King Demand, Saul's Ecstasy and Victory, Samuel's Warnings	Philistine War, Impious Altar, Fast Crisis, Amalekite War Spoils	David's Rise, Saul's Demise, Success and Jealousy, David Hiding	Consolidation, Moving Ark, Temple Plans	Succession, Bathsheba, Solomon, Tamar, Rebellions
2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

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# 1-2 Samuel

Dealing with Saul's house, defeating Philistines, Michal's ark dancing rebuke, temple plans inspiring house for David inverse promise = famous "David-Zion" dynastic succession promise

1 Sam 1-7	1 Sam 8-12	1 Sam 13-15	1 Sam 16-31	2 Sam 1-8	2 Sam 9-20
Samuel	Transition	Saul	Transition	David	Solomon
Hannah's Vow, Samuel's Birth, Eli's Sons, Ark Adventures, Samuel Judge	King Demand, Saul's Ecstasy and Victory, Samuel's Warnings	Philistine War, Impious Altar, Fast Crisis, Amalekite War Spoils	David's Rise, Saul's Demise, Success and Jealousy, David Hiding	Consolidation, Moving Ark, Temple Plans	Succession, Bathsheba, Solomon, Tamar, Rebellions
2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

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1-2 Samuel					
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2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

David lusts Bathsheba, kills husband Uriah, Amnon rapes Tamar, Absalom murders Amnon and rebels, Joab kills Absalom, Benjamite Sheba rebels

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1-2 Samuel					
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2 Sam 21-24	Appendix	Saul, Philistines, Psalm, Speech, Heroes, Census, Purchase			

"Davidic Appendix" preserving other Davidic traditions

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## 1-2 Samuel

- Critical Issues
  - Multiple textual traditions (Masoretic, LXX)
    - ~ Distinct witnesses to Samuel books
    - ~ Suggests alternate "editions" of Samuel
  - Use of sources (clear, clever, erudite, blending, bending to Deuteronomic aims)
  - Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideals
    - ~ Divinity relationship: kingship as gift of gods from heaven, kings as incarnations
    - ~ Jewish adaptation: king and Yahweh in special relationship (cf. "David-Zion" ideal)
    - ~ Deuteronomist works to undercut "David-Zion" ideology

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Different details of Samuel's birth (whether Hannah does or does not embrace her vow); David and Goliath significantly different (Masoretic additions in 1 Sam 17:12-31, 50, 55-59; 18:1-5 making contradictions); Dead Sea Scrolls texts (before Masoretic development) agree more with LXX

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## 1-2 Samuel

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- Multiple textual traditions (Masoretic, LXX)
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- Use of sources (clear, clever, erudite, etc.) (Deuteronomistic aims)
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Egypt: king as incarnation of Horus, associated with Osiris after death

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## 1-2 Samuel

### Critical Issues

- Multiple textual traditions (Masoretic, LXX)
  - ~ Distinct witnesses to Samuel books
  - ~ Suggests alternate “editors”
- Use of sources (clear, clever, erudite, etc.) (Deuteronomistic aims)
- Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideals
  - ~ Divinity relationship: kingship as gift of gods from heaven, kings as incarnations
  - ~ Jewish adaptation: king and Yahweh in special relationship (cf. “David-Zion” ideal)
  - ~ Deuteronomist works to undercut “David-Zion” ideology

Seriously doubts kingship justice (1 Sam 8) and critiques reliance on weak human beings (1 Sam 11-20); ends his story with hollow validation for Jehoiachin in exile eating at another king’s table

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### Deuteronomist’s Critique of “David-Zion”

The Deuteronomist’s critique of the “David-Zion” ideology was likely unsuccessful, unable to withstand the popularity, legends, and longings for the house of David. Note Psalm 89 demanding God redeem the Davidic dynasty as promised after the exile. Note also the modulation of the “David-Zion” ideology into Jewish messianism after the exile, a powerful and dynamic Jewish movement which became the ground of Christian eschatology.

- ~ Jewish adaptation: king and Yahweh in special relationship (cf. “David-Zion” ideal)
- ~ Deuteronomist works to undercut “David-Zion” ideology

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## 1-2 Samuel

### Theological Themes

- Israel’s kingship experiment illustrates all contours of Deuteronomistic theology
  - ~ God’s commitment to covenant and justice
  - ~ Israel’s commitment to idolatry
  - ~ God’s commitment to mercy to preserve the covenant
  - ~ Conclusion: Babylon not a sign of God’s weakness but of God’s power

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## 1-2 Samuel

### Theological Themes

#### Critique of Israel's kingship expands

- ~ Saul denied common ANE miraculous birth narrative (1 Sam 1:28; cf. Samuel)
- ~ Positive ideals (1 Sam 9-11) framed by negative (1 Sam 8 and 12)
- ~ Saul wastes no time illustrating problems of kingship
- ~ Positive Davidic legends purposefully included due to overwhelming popularity
- ~ Interspersing negative stories to counteract (ark dancing, parental failures)
- ~ Polemic climaxes powerfully in 1-2 Kings

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## 1-2 Samuel

"Best of David" cycle in 1 Sam 16—2 Sam 8  
(great musician, mighty warrior, able statesman,  
honorable foe, generous patron)

- ~ Birth narrative (1 Sam 1:28; cf. Samuel)
- ~ Positive ideals (1 Sam 9-11) framed by negative (1 Sam 8 and 12)
- ~ Saul wastes no time illustrating problems of kingship
- ~ Positive Davidic legends purposefully included due to overwhelming popularity
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- ~ Polemic climaxes powerfully in 1-2 Kings

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## 1-2 Samuel

### Theological Themes

#### Beginning polemic on Wisdom Theology

- ~ Amnon's "wise" friend, Jonadab, counsels how to rape Amnon's sister
- ~ Joab recruits Tekoa "wise" woman to persuade David to let Absalom to return

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