

1 & 2 SAMUEL SERIES

RISE AND FALL

PROPHETIC PAUSE

WEEK 1: Introduction and Hannah's Prayer

Title: "The Birth of Samuel: A Prayer of Faith"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:1-10

Key Themes: Faith, Prayer, God's Providence

Overview: Introduction to the series. Discuss Hannah's deep faith and prayer for a child, Samuel's birth, and her prayer of thanksgiving. Highlight the importance of prayer and trust in God's timing.

WEEK 2: The Call of Samuel

Title: "Called by God"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Key Themes: Hearing God's Voice, Obedience, Prophetic Calling

Overview: Explore Samuel's call as a prophet, his obedience to God's voice, and the importance of listening to God in our lives.

WEEK 3: The Rise of Saul

Title: "The Rise of King Saul"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1-22; 10:1-27

Key Themes: Leadership, God's Sovereignty, Human Authority

Overview: Discuss Israel's demand for a king, Saul's anointing, and his initial success. Reflect on the balance between human leadership and divine authority.

WEEK 4: The Fall of Saul

Title: "The Fall of a King"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15

Key Themes: Leadership, God's Plan, Transition of Power

Overview: Saul's tragic end and David's anointing as king over Judah. Consider the consequences of disobedience and the unfolding of God's plan through David.

WEEK 5: David and Goliath

Title: "David's Faith and Courage"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Key Themes: Faith, Courage, God's Power

Overview: The story of David and Goliath highlights David's faith in God and courage against overwhelming odds. Emphasize trusting God in difficult situations.

WEEK 6: David's Patience and Saul's Pursuit

Title: "Patience in Persecution"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 26:1-25

Key Themes: Patience, Trust in God's Timing, Mercy

Overview: Reflect on David's patience and mercy towards Saul, despite being pursued. Discuss trusting God's timing and showing mercy to others.

WEEK 7: : David's Mistakes (though a righteous man falls 7 times...)

Title: "David's sinful heart met with God's mercy"

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11 & 12, Psalm 51, John 8:1-11

Key Themes: Leadership, sin, adultery, confession, pride and humility.

Overview: David a man after God's own heart falls into the temptations of man. The righteous fall. God is merciful and even in our mistakes is in control of our hope.

WEEK 8: David's Covenant and God's Promise

Title: "The Everlasting Covenant"

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-29

Key Themes: Covenant, God's Promises, Future Hope

Overview: God's covenant with David, promising an everlasting kingdom. Highlight the messianic promise and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, connecting the Old Testament to the New Testament.

The major theme of 1 & 2 Samuel is the establishment of kingship in Israel, highlighting the transition from the period of judges to the monarchy. This overarching theme is explored through several key sub-themes:

1. God's Sovereignty and Providence

Throughout 1 & 2 Samuel, God's sovereignty is a central theme. He is depicted as the ultimate authority who raises leaders, directs events, and fulfills His purposes despite human failures and flaws. The stories of Samuel, Saul, and David illustrate how God's plans are carried out in history.

2. Leadership and Kingship

The books focus on the qualities and responsibilities of leadership. The transition from the judges to the monarchy marks a significant shift in Israel's political and spiritual life. Samuel, as the last judge and a prophet, anoints the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David, setting the stage for understanding godly leadership.

3. Faithfulness and Obedience

Faithfulness to God and obedience to His commands are emphasized, especially in the contrasting lives of Saul and David. Saul's disobedience leads to his rejection by God, while David, despite his imperfections, is seen as a "man after God's own heart" due to his repentance and desire to follow God.

4. Covenant and Promise

The theme of covenant is prominent, particularly in God's covenant with David (2 Samuel 7). This covenant promises that David's descendants will rule Israel and establishes the foundation for the messianic hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It underscores God's faithfulness to His promises and His long-term plan for His people.

5. Human Weakness and Divine Grace

The narratives in 1 & 2 Samuel reveal the weaknesses and sins of human leaders and the need for divine grace. Characters like Eli, Saul, and David exhibit moral and spiritual failings, yet God's grace and purposes prevail, showing His mercy and redemptive plan.

6. Repentance and Forgiveness

The importance of repentance is illustrated in the life of David, especially in his responses to sin. David's genuine repentance and God's forgiveness demonstrate the possibility of restoration and the importance of a repentant heart.

In summary, the major theme of 1 & 2 Samuel revolves around the establishment of kingship in Israel, emphasizing God's sovereignty, the qualities of godly leadership, the importance of faithfulness and obedience, the significance of covenant and divine promise, human weakness, divine grace, and the necessity of repentance. These themes are woven together to depict the unfolding of God's plan for His people through the rise of the monarchy and the anticipation of the ultimate King, Jesus Christ.