



The book of 1 Samuel

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

The book bears the name of its author, although it does not indicate it directly. However, by inference, there is some indication that Samuel is the author. The passage most often mentioned to attribute authorship of this book to Samuel is 1 Chronicles 29:29. In fact, some believe that Samuel may indeed be the author of both 1 and 2 Samuel, while others believe that he wrote only part of it, attributing co-authorship to other names mentioned in the aforementioned passage, which are Nathan and Gad. In any case, Samuel's name as author is obvious either as the main author or as co-author.

Date

Originally, 1 and 2 Samuel were one book. But the translators of the Septuagint, a Greek version of the text, separated them and they have remained that way ever since. As for the question of the date, the book tells the history of the people of Israel over a period of one hundred years (1100 B.C. - 1000 B.C.). Thus, one tends to set the date of the writing of this text before the period of exile. However, there is no clear and precise indication of its date of writing.

The main theme and target audience

The text tells an important piece of history in the life of the people of Israel. There is a transition from the reign of the judges, after Joshua's death, to the establishment of the first kingdom of Israel. The text begins with the miraculous birth of Samuel and his call by God to become a prophet. In a sense, the book recounts Samuel's life and ministry in part. In addition, it recounts the reign of King Saul as the first king of Israel whom God chose to rule the people. The text provides details about the success of this king as well as his failure because he violated God's commandment. King Saul's disobedience led to his rejection and God's choice of David through the prophet Samuel to replace him.

Outline of the book

1. Samuel: a prophet and a judge for the people of Israel (1 S. 1:1-7:17).
2. Saul as the first king over Israel (1 S. 8:1-15:35).
3. The reign of King Saul.
4. The decline of King Saul.
5. David as the future king of Israel (1 S. 16:1-31:13).
6. David is anointed by Samuel and persecuted by Saul.
7. The death of Saul.