

Samuel & The United Monarchy

1st Samuel

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2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

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1st Kings

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1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles

1117-975 BC

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel (Author - Samuel +)

Samuel & The United Monarchy

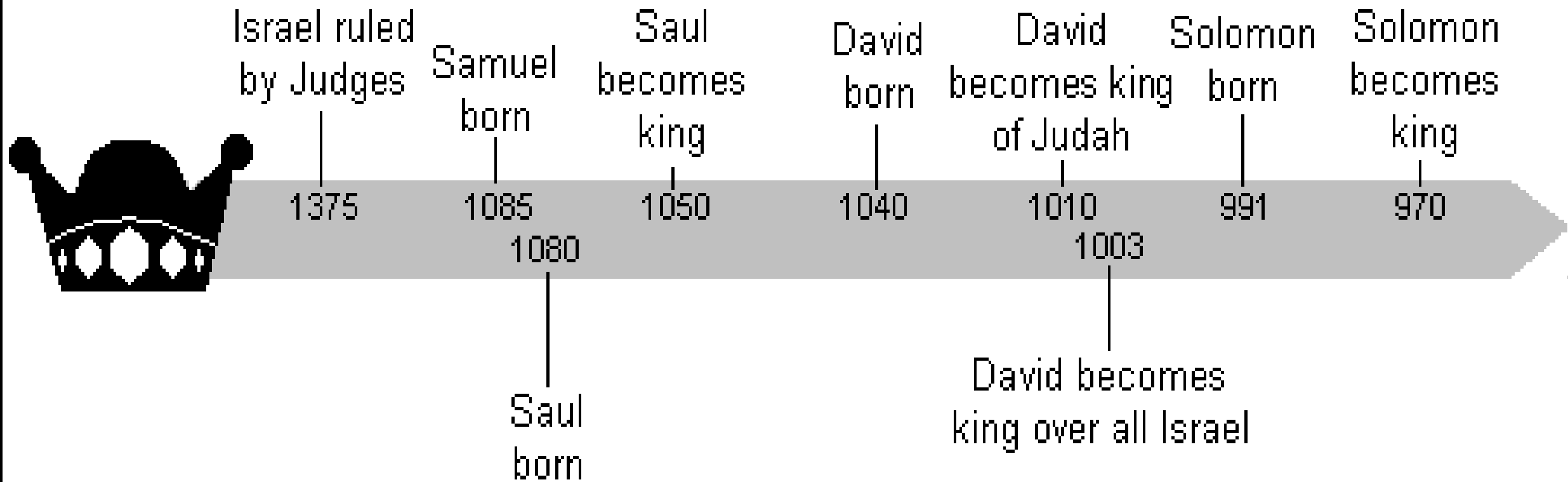
- The Shiloh Traditions (1-4).
  - The birth, adoption, & calling of Samuel as judge/prophet/priest.
- The Ark Narrative (4-7).
  - The loss & return of the Ark, Eli's death, and the apostate state of Eli's sons.
- The Institution of the Monarchy (7-12).
  - The failure of Samuel's sons & Israel demands a king.
- The Reign (& reprobation) of Saul (13-15).
  - Saul's calling, reluctance, rashness, (later) resentment towards David, unfaithfulness, occultism & rejection by God.
- David's rise to power (16 – 31).
  - David's anointing, defeats Goliath, resorts to the wilderness,
  - Saul's death (+ Jonathan's) fighting the Philistines.

1117-1055 BC

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# 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel & The United Monarchy

## TIMELINE OF 1 SAMUEL



The map illustrates the geographical context of the biblical narrative. The Great Sea is to the west, and the Dead (Salt) Sea is to the south. The River Jordan flows through the center. Major cities and locations are marked with black dots, and Mt. Gilboa is marked with a yellow triangle. The map also shows the borders of the Philistines to the southwest, Ammon to the east, and Edom to the south. The location of Ashdod (Azotus) is highlighted with a red dot and an inset map showing its coastal position.

**305 Years: 1399-1094 BC**  
**Shiloh:**  
 Philistines Destroyed in 1094: Jer 7:12  
 Josh 18:1; Judg 18:31  
**Extinction of Shiloh and priestly line of Ithamar/Eli**  
 1 Sam 2:35-36; 4:17-18  
 1 Sam 22:18-19  
 1 Kings 2:26-27

**Jericho**

**Tabernacle of Moses Extinct in 960 BC**  
**58 years: 1018-960**  
**Gibeon**

**House of Obed-edom 3 months**

**76 years: 1094-1018**  
**Nob: Saul Killed priests in 1018:**  
 1 Sam 21:1; 22:16

**Jerusalem**  
**41 years: 1001-960**  
**Tabernacle of David erected in 1001 BC**

**Steve Rudd**  
**www.bible.ca**  
 July 2019

**The Ark goes for a 7 month ride!**

**Tabernacle moves**

**50,070 killed 1 Sam 6:19**

**92 yrs: 1093-1001**

**Kiriath-jearim**

**Beth-Shemesh (Tell er-Rumeileh)**

**Gath, Moresheth (Tell es-Safi)**

**Ekron (Tell Miqne)**

**Ashdod (Azotus)**

**Joppa (Tel Aviv)**

**Ebenezer (Izbet Sartah)**

**Aphek**

The Ark was with the Philistines 7 months.

# Major Themes

Israel's folly (& God's faithfulness).

- Israel's theological failure, brought military failure, and loss of the Ark.
  - Emblematic of Israel's systemic (although not exhaustive) unfaithfulness to God (and each other) and unworthiness of His presence & blessings.
    - God made a way (judging the Philistines) to return to Israel (Abrahamic).

The establishment of Monarchy.

- Moses prophesied God would establish a monarchy for His purposes (Deut 18).
- Israel ask for a king to accommodate their inadequacies (not God's purposes).
- Saul had God's sanction, but Saul became emblematic of the people's failures.
  - Saul had all the natural attributes to be king (strong/humble).
  - Proved unfaithful, rash, cowardly, divisive, resentful & occultic.

# Samuel

# Major Themes

## Shift in Theocracy (God's rule).

- Previously, God ruled/protected Israel directly as King through His Law.
- When Israel were disobedient and divided (tribal/region) God sent oppressors.
- God appointed Judges to restore Israel, when Israel repented of apostacy.
- A hereditary Kingship COULD compensate for Israel's disobedience & division.
- A King acts as a Judicial mediator between the people & God (priests religious).
- The King takes ultimate responsibility for discipline/defence + religious integrity.
- Israel devolved their judicial responsibility to the King & forfeited freedoms.

# Samuel

# Major Themes <sup>(2)</sup>

- A Godly king would remove 'idolatry', but a bad king could import 'idolatry'.
- Israel would be blessed/judged as a single unit (not per individual, or tribe).
- Added another mediatorial office to Israel's relationship with God (+ priests).

## **David, 'a man after God's own heart'.**

- Started with the right 'spiritual' credentials.
- Believed God's word, despite his limitations, and contrary circumstances.
  - (in contrast, Saul had all the natural attributes and conducive circumstances, but doubted God).

# Kingship

- **Don't multiply horses** – Nat security doesn't depend upon military strength.
  - **Don't multiply wives** – General distraction/taking foreign wives = making treaties with foreign nations.
    - Encourages religious syncretism.
    - Suggests Israel's security dependant on diplomacy, politics.
    - The king's royal offspring (heir apparent) could be half Jew, half gentile.
  - **Don't multiply silver and gold**
    - Don't seek wealth as an end, or abuse position for personal gain (take bribes).
    - Suggests Israel's security dependent upon wealth.
  - **Do rule according to God's Law**
    - The king is 'under' (subject) to the same law as his 'brethren' (Theocracy).
    - The king cannot make/change The Law (unlike Medes & Persians).
      - Autocracy – everyone does what the king says God said.
        - Theocracy – Priest represents God (no civil power) king serves God (no religious power).
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