

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA—ESTHER
1 SAMUEL: NATION IN TRANSITION
A SURVEY OF 1 SAMUEL



The Heart of the Matter

Transition times can be rather disconcerting. Those who have gone through the remodeling of a home can testify to that! Likewise, changes in leadership at one's place of employment or moves across the country or new policies and procedures set in motion bring the need to adapt. Being creatures of habit, we are disturbed by these changes. What is true for us individually is equally true on a national level. Presidential and governmental changes affect our feelings just as much as they alter the stock market. For centuries, God governed His people Israel. Throughout His theocratic rule, God used *His* anointed leaders to govern His people. We call the final group of these leaders the judges. The last judge—Samuel—transitioned the nation into a new way of governance. After Samuel, Israel was led by a king—King Saul, the *people's* choice. We will survey some of the changes that occurred during Israel's transition from theocracy to monarchy . . . from God's anointed servants to Israel's appointed king.



Discovering the Way

1. Comparing Six Books

The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles cover a period of nearly six hundred years in the life of God's people, a period that witnessed the nation's transition to being ruled by kings, the reigns of David and Solomon, the breaking apart of God's people, and the exile of both the northern and southern kingdoms.

2. Understanding 1 Samuel

While the book covers the transition from Samuel's judgeship to Saul's kingship, the pivotal moment in the book comes when Samuel anointed David as the future king of Israel.

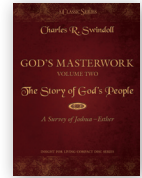


Starting Your Journey

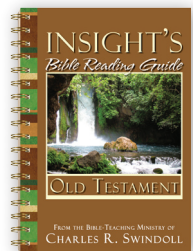
Two principles endure: no environmental handicap can cripple anyone whose life is touched by God. And second, no amount of high qualifications can preserve anyone who willfully rejects God.



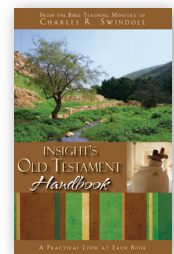
Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
People—A Survey
of Joshua—Esther**
by Charles R. Swindoll
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**Insight's Bible Reading
Guide: Old Testament**
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FIRST SAMUEL

BEGINNING	Samuel The Last Judge				Saul The First King		ENDING
	BIRTH	GROWTH AND CALL	MINISTRY	CHANGE	REJECTION BY GOD	REBELLION AGAINST GOD	
Samuel's godliness					Impatient		
National hope					Rash		
Motivation					Disobedient		
Purity					"Insane"		
					Jealous		
					Murderous		
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTERS 2-3	CHAPTERS 4-7	CHAPTERS 8-12	CHAPTERS 13-16	DAVID chosen, trained, tested, protected . . .	Saul's apostasy
						CHAPTERS 17-31	Depression
							Personal despair
							Suicide
Attitude of the People	Public trust				Public disillusionment		
Theme	Though leaders and nations change, God's purposes always move forward.						
Key Verses	8:6-9; 13:14						
Christ in 1 Samuel	Typified in Samuel, who was a prophet, priest, and judge; also portrayed in the life of David . . . shepherd, king, and born in Bethlehem						

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