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.
## First Samuel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Range</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Key Verses</th>
<th>Christ in 1 Samuel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BIRTH</td>
<td>Samuel's godliness</td>
<td>Typhied in Samuel, who was a prophet, priest, and judge; also portrayed in the life of David . . . shepherd, king, and born in Bethlehem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>GROWTH AND CALL</td>
<td>National hope</td>
<td>8:6–9; 13:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>MINISTRY</td>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–12</td>
<td>CHANGE</td>
<td>Purity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–16</td>
<td>REJECTION BY GOD</td>
<td>Impatient, Rash, Disobedient, &quot;Insane,&quot; Jealous, Murderous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17–31</td>
<td>REBELLION AGAINST GOD</td>
<td>DAVID chosen, trained, tested, protected . . .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Beginning
- **Samuel**: The Last Judge
- **Saul**: The First King

### Ending
- Saul's apostasy
- Depression
- Personal despair
- Suicide

### Theme
- Though leaders and nations change, God's purposes always move forward.

### Attitude of the People
- Public trust
- Public disillusionment

Copyright © 1979, 1996, 2009 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.