

OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE - Dr. Chris Miller

Session 4 - 1-2 Samuel - Exploration of narrative genre

Why use Narrative?

1. It draws the reader into the story allowing us to “**see**” and “**feel**” truth.
2. It **illustrates** (versus **teaches**) propositional truths.
3. E.g., “Do not murder” “Do not commit adultery”
4. If the purpose of stories is to **illustrate** then how should we **interpret** (find their meaning) them?

OT & NT Narratives... unless there is a “caption” (proposition) or the writer is explaining it to you, you might come up with an interpretation of the story that is completely different from what was intended.

Genesis stories that come after chapter 3 that make more sense in light of it?

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Gen 3:15 “big idea”

Cain & Abel - The call of Abraham

Genesis stories that come after chapter 12 that make more sense in light of it?

Sarah in Egypt - God is unconditionally committed to His promise.

Sacrifice of Isaac - Exodus - God making a great nation fulfills Gen 12:2

Balaam - God protects His people even when they turn away from him.

Joshua - God is fulfilling the land.

Coming of Jesus -

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ” 2 Cor 1:20

What does Narrative illustrate?

1. Are we left to our own to find out?
2. Does each story have a “moral” of its own?
3. Is 1-2 Samuel just a collection of miscellaneous “good” stories?

All the Biblical narratives are **well-written** and very **selective** literary pieces which point to a **singular theme**. Everything fits the big idea.

That theme or **propositional truth** is always stated within the book... and usually **early** in the book.

What is the proposition & thus, point of Samuel?

Where do we find statements of truth early in the book?

The words of Hannah provide the theme which the rest of the book merely illustrates.

*There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called **Hannah** and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none... Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.* 1 Sam 1:1-2, 6

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." 1 Sam 1:10 - 14

"After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always." 1 Sam 1:22

*****Chapter 2 - poetic form - really important Hannah's speech = the stories of David & Saul**

Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. "There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

"Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

"The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.

Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more.

She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

"The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.

7 The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

"For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; on them he has set the world.

He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. 2 Samuel

9 "It is NOT by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. (shattered)

The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth.

"He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

God gives and takes away depending on whether one's attitude towards God is one of pride or humility. God gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud.

- **This truth** gives unity to the whole book.

God prospers faithful Hannah, 1 Sam. 1–3

God opposes unfaithful Israel, 1 Sam. 4–7

God prospers faithful Saul, 1 Sam. 8–15

8-31 Saul is on the rise. He turns from God and life ends in tragedy.

God opposes unfaithful Saul and prospers faithful David, 1 Sam. 16–2 Sam.

God prospers faithful David, 2 Sam. 2–9

Strength Increases 2-3

Nation United - Northern & Southern tribes come together 3-5

Determines Place of Worship 6 - Moves the ark to Jerusalem

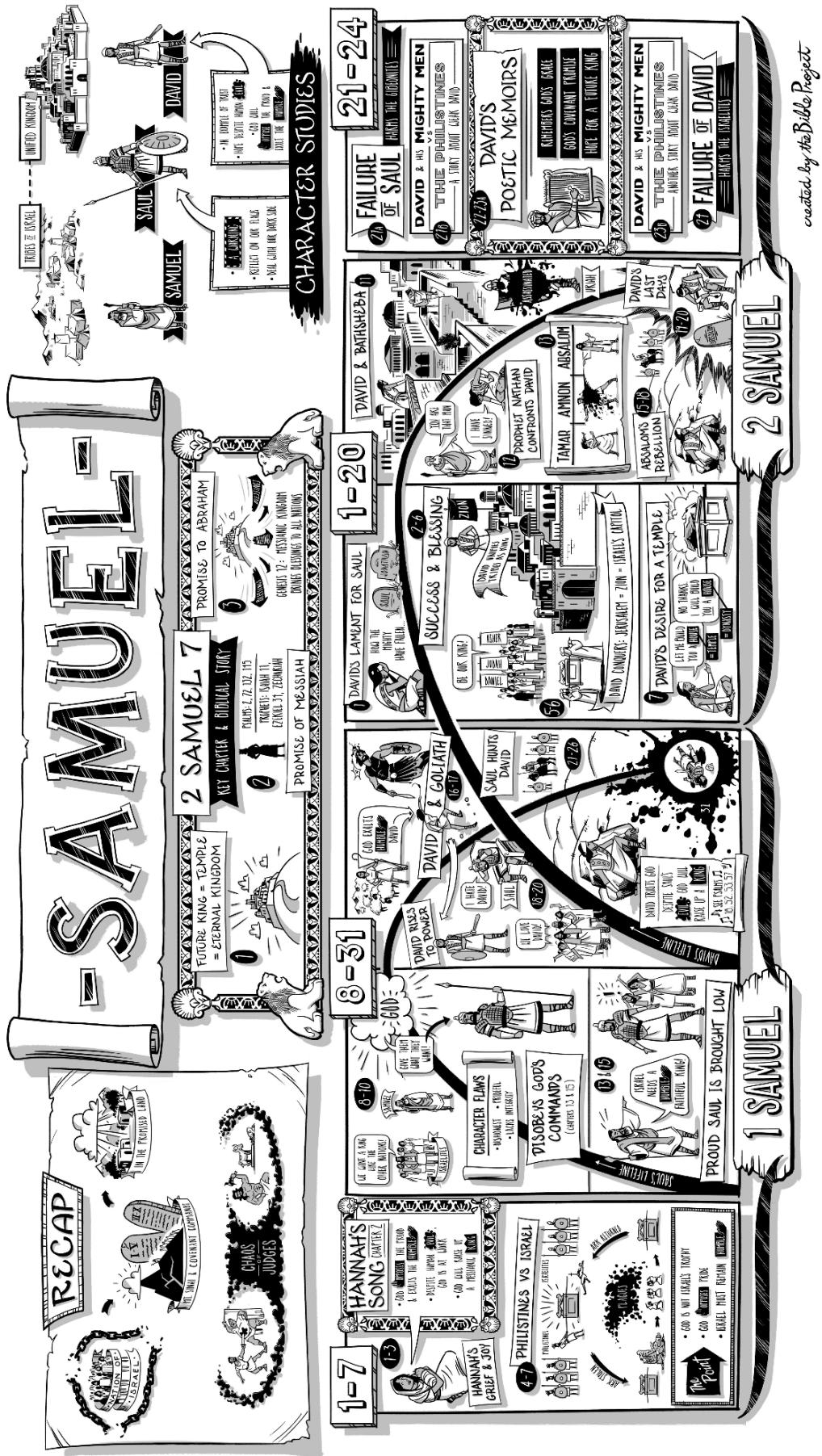
Throne Established - Important Promise - Davidic Covenant 7

God opposes unfaithful/proud David, 2 Sam. 10–12 David covers his sin.

Amnon dies 13

Absalom dies 14-19

More rebellion 20 (4 of David's sons die)



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Davidic Covenant

If David isn't the seed, then is it his son? 2 Sam 7:11-16

Background:

In 2 Samuel God blesses David so that he can unite the country and establish his capital Jerusalem.

After David builds his palace and moves the tabernacle to Jerusalem he begins to contemplate what he can do to further honor God.

Hmmmm... I'm living in this nice permanent house and God is living in a mobile home...

Hmmmm... "I'd like to build you a permanent house (Temple) God."

2 Samuel 7:11 The Lord tells you that he will make you a house
David will have a dynasty.

2 Samuel 7:12 I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body.

1. The promise concerns one of David's physical descendants
He shall build a house for me.

Who is the son?

Solomon

Physical descendant - Built temple - Reigned on the throne... but NOT forever.

Zerubbabel

Physical descendant - Built temple - But didn't reign on throne

JESUS

Physical descendant through Mary - Built a temple? (Ezekiel)
Reign on a throne forever - ultimate fulfillment.

2 Sam 7 Son of David

Gen 49

Gen 12 Son of Abraham

Gen 3:15

And between they seed and her seed;

Cain - **Abel**

Seed - **Seed**

Lamech - **Enoch**

Canaan - **Shem - Abraham - Judah**

David (Matthew lists 17 verses of Genealogy)

He shall crush thy head, you will bruise his heel

SATAN - **SEED Noah, Joseph, Isaac, Solomon, Zerubbable - DAVID!**

The last section of the book:

21: Failure of Saul: harms Gibeonites

21: David and his Mighty Men

Story about a WEAK David

22-23 David's poem about hope for a future king

23: David and his Mighty Men

Story about a WEAK David

24: Failure of David: causes plague & harms Israelites

Good illustration of Hanna's important truth: God opposes the proud and exalts the humble.

Saul - not a good choice, not from the line of Judah

David - 1st king from the line of Judah, did some good things and God will bring someone else through him, but ultimately David did not crush the head of the snake. David needed a Savior too. At his best he was a good picture, but David was not always at his best.

We need a better David.

All the rest of the kings say... We need a better king than David. Hmmmm...