

Worksheet 1: Samuel

- Review *IHB*, ch. 1
- Learn ancient and modern nation/states in Middle East (consult *ESV/BA* maps 0-1, 0-11, & 3-1)
- Very early traditions view our 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings as one continuous narrative. The early Hebrew manuscripts broke the history into two parts: Samuel and Kings. When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek not only the language changed but the format went from scrolls to codices (books) and the size meant it was necessary to divide the history once again giving us First, Second, Third and Fourth βασιλειωη (“kingdoms,” “reigns”), or what we know as 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings.

As you read Samuel/Kings be looking for clues the author leaves as to why he is taking this approach to the history of Israel. What theme(s) is he developing? What “problem” is he addressing? In what ways does the narrative of Samuel Kings impact the N.T. story?

As you read Chronicles be looking for clues of the intended purpose of this history. Some clues may be found in noting what the Chronicler includes and excludes in his history when set alongside the history of Samuel/Kings. (See the handout summary of Crockett’s *Harmony*)

- Read *IOT* on Samuel
- Read *IHB* on Samuel
- Using the Historical Synopsis and *IHB* pp. 134-137, write an article (500-word or less) describing the socio-political setting of Samuel/1Chronicles.
- Read Samuel and one sitting and write up your reflections and insights