

“WE WANT A KING”

The First and Second Books of Samuel

Who wrote The Books of Samuel?

The Books of Samuel were written by anonymous Deuteronomistic writers. The stories in these books were probably a vital part of Hebrew oral tradition written to have a record of the heroes of the faith.

How did the Books of Samuel get their name and/or what does that name mean?

Samuel was one of the great Kings of Israel who was an example of this important period in the Hebrew's journey of faith.

When did these events take place?

The Books of Samuel refer to events that occurred between approximately 1080-1000 B.C.

For more about The Books of Samuel:

See page 243 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Imagine how confusing things would be if you found yourself on a team without a coach, if the policemen in your town suddenly didn't exist, or if the bullies at school had free reign of the place. It probably wouldn't take long for you to wish things could get back to normal. In the middle of chaos, you'd soon realize that the authority figures are in your life for a reason. Without them, there is no one to look to for help or guidance.

The Hebrew people had reached this point by the time of Samuel, the last great judge of Israel. Now, they had grown to expect a permanent leader. Hundreds of years had passed during the "time of judges" in which ruler after ruler was raised up by God to lead them in battle to defeat their enemies. But now, they wanted a king to lead them in the ways of God.

In The First and Second Books of Samuel, you'll read how, through the persons of Samuel, Saul and David, Israel embarks on the establishment of a Monarchy that will feature Kings to rule the land for the next 400 years. Full of drama and suspense, The First and Second Books of Samuel also remind us how human even the Kings of Israel were and how, like us, their success in life was so dependent on a loving and forgiving God.

Interesting Fact: Israel had no way to make metal swords to battle the Philistines. The Philistines had all the iron in the land. (1 Samuel 13, 19)

Bonus Point: In 2 Samuel, who killed the man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot?