

## Introduction to 1–2 Samuel

Why study the Old Testament?

2 Timothy 3:16–17, Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:6

Why study 1–2 Samuel? Where do 1–2 Samuel fit in God’s Big Story?

How do we study 1–2 Samuel?

*Above all, with prayer and lots of reading. Read it, read it again, and read it more.*

### **Tips:**

- Remember that narrative is different from New Testament letters.
- Use the tools of narrative:
  - Setting
    - There’s a reason the author tells you the setting. Pay attention to what it is and when it changes.
  - Plot
    - Just like reading a book or watching a movie, pay attention to how the story develops. Notice when the scene changes. Notice when the story speeds up and slows down.
  - Characters
    - Pay attention to who the characters are and what is said about them. Watch how the character develops as the plot develops.
  - Narration
    - The narrator knows more than the characters of the story know. Pay attention to what the narrator says. He’s not wasting words.
  - Repetition
    - Look for repeated words, phrases, ideas.
- Remember that all of our questions will not be answered. We’re seeking to know:
  1. What does the text say?
  2. What did the text mean to its original audience?
  3. How does the text point to Christ?
  4. How does this text change how I live?

## An Overview of the Book: 1 Samuel 2:1–10

**1** *And Hannah prayed and said,*

*“My heart exults in the Lord;*

*my horn is exalted in the Lord.*

*My mouth derides my enemies,*

*because I rejoice in your salvation.*

**2** *“There is none holy like the Lord:*

*for there is none besides you;*

*there is no rock like our God.*

**3** *Talk no more so very proudly,*

*let not arrogance come from your mouth;*

*for the Lord is a God of knowledge,*

*and by him actions are weighed.*

**4** *The bows of the mighty are broken,*

*but the feeble bind on strength.*

**5** *Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,*

*but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.*

*The barren has borne seven,*

*but she who has many children is forlorn.*

**6** *The Lord kills and brings to life;*

*he brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

**7** *The Lord makes poor and makes rich;*

*he brings low and he exalts.*

**8** *He raises up the poor from the dust;*

*he lifts the needy from the ash heap*

*to make them sit with princes*

*and inherit a seat of honor.*

*For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,*

*and on them he has set the world.*

**9** *“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,*

*but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,*

*for not by might shall a man prevail.*

**10** *The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;*

*against them he will thunder in heaven.*

*The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;*

*he will give strength to his king*

*and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*