

Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B, 1 Samuel and Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B, 1 Samuel and Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture provides an overview of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. It focuses on the theme of covenant kingship, assessing the kings of Israel and Judah based on their covenant faithfulness and the role of prophets in relation to them. The lecture also contrasts the perspectives of Kings and Chronicles. Kings is presented as retrospective, explaining the exile as a result of unfaithfulness, while Chronicles is prospective, emphasizing David's line, the temple, and obedience to the law for the restored community. Key events like the division of the kingdom, the fall of Israel and Judah, and the importance of Samuel's role in establishing kingship are examined. The lecture highlights crucial translation issues and theological implications within these biblical texts.

**2. 22 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Exodus to Exile).**



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ession10B.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B, 1 Samuel and Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Robert Vannoy's lecture, "Exodus to Exile, Lecture 10B," focusing on 1 Samuel, Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings.

Briefing Document: Vannoy on 1 Samuel, Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings

I. Overview

This lecture excerpt analyzes key passages in 1 Samuel related to the transition from theocracy to monarchy in Israel, focusing on Samuel's role and the establishment of covenant kingship. It then transitions to a discussion of 1 & 2 Kings, highlighting the Deuteronomic perspective in judging the kings based on covenant faithfulness, and finally contrasting the purpose and perspective of Kings with that of Chronicles. The lecture emphasizes the importance of covenantal obligations and the role of prophets in holding kings accountable.

II. 1 Samuel: Transition to Kingship and Covenant Renewal

- **Anti-Monarchy vs. Pro-Monarchy Sources:** Vannoy acknowledges the division within 1 Samuel between passages seemingly against monarchy and those supporting it (9:1-10:16, 11:1-15 vs. 8, 10, 12). He notes mainstream biblical scholars see conflicting accounts harmonized by a "redactional insertion in 11:14 where Samuel says, "Let's go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom.""
- **Samuel's Challenge in Chapter 12:** The lecture focuses heavily on 1 Samuel 12, highlighting Samuel's challenge to Israel to renew its allegiance to Yahweh upon the introduction of kingship.
- **Samuel's Vindication (12:1-5):** Samuel defends his leadership, emphasizing his integrity and contrasting it with the potential abuses of a king "like the nations round about" who "takes." He asks the people, "'Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe...'"
- **Yahweh's Righteous Acts (12:6-12):** Samuel recounts God's deliverance of Israel, arguing that they had "no grounds for asking for a king," showing that "the covenant faithfulness of the Lord to his people through previous generations" should have been sufficient.

- **Kingship as an Instrument (12:13):** Despite Israel's "apostasy," God will use kingship as an instrument of his rule.
- **Covenant Conditional (12:14-15):** Vannoy delves into a detailed grammatical analysis of 1 Samuel 12:14-15, which outlines the covenant conditional related to kingship. He emphasizes the importance of properly translating verse 14 to include the apodosis and avoid redundancy.
- He argues that the expression "Then shall both you and the king who reigneth over you continue with power in the Lord your God" (KJV) is not a redundancy, but an expression that indicates a segment of people "have chosen to follow a particular king in a situation where there was another possible alternative."
- Vannoy connects this idea of divided loyalties to other Old Testament passages (2 Samuel 2:10, 15:13; 1 Kings 12:20, 16:21).
- He suggests that verse 14 highlights the potential for divided loyalties between Yahweh and the human king, arguing that Israel must "show that she continues to recognize Yahweh as her sovereign even though human kingship has been introduced into the structure of the theocracy." He points to his own work on the New Living Translation as reflecting this understanding, where it reads: "Now if you fear and worship the Lord, and listen to his voice, and if you do not rebel against the Lord's commands, THEN both you and your king will show you recognize the Lord as your God."
- **Sign from Heaven (12:16-21):** Samuel provides a sign (thunder and rain during the wheat harvest) to demonstrate the seriousness of Israel's sin in requesting a king.
- **Samuel's Continuing Role (12:23-25):** Samuel describes his ongoing role as a prophet, praying for the people and teaching them the way of the covenant. He reinforces Israel's covenantal obligations and warns of the consequences of apostasy. "'But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart...Consider what great things he's done for you...If you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be destroyed.'"
- **Renewal of Allegiance at Gilgal (11:14-15):** The events at Gilgal after Saul's victory over the Ammonites symbolize a renewal of allegiance to Yahweh's kingdom, not merely the confirmation of Saul's reign. They went to Gilgal to "renew the kingdom" which was Yahweh's and made Saul king there.

III. Samuel Rejects Saul (1 Samuel 13 & 15)

- **Disobedience at Gilgal (Chapter 13):** Saul's impatience and unauthorized sacrifice at Gilgal lead to the announcement that his kingdom will not endure. He did not keep the commandment of the Lord, which would have established his kingdom for all time.
- **Disobedience Regarding the Amalekites (Chapter 15):** Saul's failure to completely destroy the Amalekites (sparing Agag and the best livestock) results in his rejection as king. He was instructed by Samuel "Attack the Amalekites; totally destroy everything that belongs to them, do not spare them, put to death men, women and children and sheep, cattle and pigs."
- **Obedience vs. Sacrifice:** Samuel rebukes Saul, emphasizing that "'to obey is better than sacrifice.'" He quotes Samuel as saying "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

IV. 1 & 2 Kings: Covenant Kingship and the Divided Kingdom

- **Covenant Faithfulness as the Defining Principle:** Kings are judged based on their adherence to the Mosaic covenant.
- **Prophets and Kings:** The relationship between kings and prophets, established by Samuel, is crucial. The kings in whose history the prophets have the most important function are emphasized. "'I am going to teach you to do the right way.'" The king is accountable to the prophet.
- **Key Dates:** 931 B.C.: Division of the Kingdom
- 721 B.C.: Fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria
- 586 B.C.: Fall of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon
- **Purpose of Kings:** To demonstrate that the nation's welfare depended on its faithfulness to the covenant with Jehovah. "The theme of these two books was to demonstrate on the basis of Israel's history that the welfare of the nation ultimately depended upon the sincerity of its faithfulness to the covenant with Jehovah, and that the success of any ruler was to be measured by the degree of his adherence to the Mosaic constitution and his maintenance of a pure and God-honoring testimony before the people."
- **Assessment of Kings:** Unqualified approval is given only to Hezekiah and Josiah. Strong disapproval is given to Ahab and Manasseh.

- **Explanation of Exile:** The book explains the fall of both kingdoms as a consequence of covenant unfaithfulness, idolatry, and rejecting God's decrees. "They rejected his decrees and the covenant he made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and made themselves worthless. They imitated the nations around them." (2 Kings 17:15)

V. 1 & 2 Chronicles: A Different Perspective

- **Retrospective vs. Prospective:** Kings is retrospective, explaining the exile. Chronicles is prospective, addressing the needs of the restored community post-exile.
- **Emphases of Chronicles: Davidic Kingship:** Focus on David and his successors in Judah, emphasizing hope for the promised Messiah.
- **Temple and Service:** The rebuilt temple and its service are seen as evidence that God is not finished with his people.
- **Obedience and Divine Retribution:** The reigns of the kings are described emphasizing that sin brings judgment, while obedience brings blessing.

VI. Conclusion

Vannoy's lecture provides a thorough examination of the transition to monarchy in Israel, emphasizing the importance of covenantal obligations and the role of prophets in holding kings accountable. He highlights the differences between Kings and Chronicles, demonstrating how each book serves a different purpose in addressing the needs of its respective audience. The lecture underscores the Deuteronomic perspective that judges the kings based on their faithfulness to the covenant, emphasizing that disobedience ultimately leads to judgment and exile.

4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B, 1 Samuel and Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings

Kingship in Israel: From Exodus to Exile

Study Guide

I. Anti-Monarchy Sentiment and the Rise of Kingship

- Understand the two sources of anti-monarchy passages in 1 Samuel.
- Examine the significance of the Gilgal event in 1 Samuel 11.
- Explain how the narrative attempts to harmonize conflicting accounts of Saul's selection as king.

II. 1 Samuel 12: Samuel's Challenge to Israel

- Analyze Samuel's vindication of his leadership in 1 Samuel 12:1-5.
- Explain how Samuel uses a resume of Yahweh's righteous acts (1 Samuel 12:6-12) to highlight Israel's apostasy in requesting a king.
- Interpret the significance of 1 Samuel 12:13 regarding God's sovereign purpose in allowing kingship.

III. The Covenant Conditional and Divided Loyalties (1 Samuel 12:14-15)

- Understand the structure and translation challenges of 1 Samuel 12:14, particularly the presence or absence of an apodosis.
- Explain how the phrase "follow Yahweh" in 1 Samuel 12:14 relates to other Old Testament passages (2 Samuel 2:10, 15:13; 1 Kings 12:20, 16:21) and the potential for divided loyalties.
- Summarize the significance of the covenant conditional in the context of the institution of kingship.
- Understand the meaning of Samuel's sign from heaven in 1 Samuel 12:16-21.

IV. Samuel's Continuing Role (1 Samuel 12:23-25)

- Explain Samuel's role in the new order, focusing on his function as a prophet.
- Analyze how Samuel reinforces Israel's covenantal obligations and the threat of covenant curses.

V. Summary of 1 Samuel 8-12

- Understand the narrative arc of 1 Samuel 8-12, emphasizing Israel's sin, God's decision, and the inauguration of Saul.
- Analyze the translation issues related to renewing the kingdom in 1 Samuel 11:14-15.

VI. Samuel Rejects Saul (1 Samuel 13 and 15)

- Understand the circumstances leading to Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 13 and its consequences.
- Analyze Saul's disobedience regarding the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15, focusing on the concept of *herem* and Saul's justifications.
- Compare Saul's response to confrontation with David's.
- Explain Samuel's statement in 1 Samuel 15:22 regarding obedience and sacrifice.

VII. The Divided Kingdom (1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles)

- Know the timeline of the divided kingdom (931-586 B.C.) including the fall of Israel in 721 B.C.
- Name the two kings who receive unqualified approval in the books of 1 and 2 Kings.
- Understand the purpose of 1 and 2 Kings as demonstrating the welfare of the nation's dependence on sincerity and faithfulness to the covenant.
- Understand the relationship between kings and prophets and why certain kings are emphasized (Ahab/Elijah, Hezekiah/Isaiah).
- Analyze the reasons for the fall of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, as described in 2 Kings 17.
- Distinguish between the retrospective perspective of 1 and 2 Kings and the prospective perspective of 1 and 2 Chronicles.
- Identify the emphases of 1 and 2 Chronicles for the restored community.

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. According to mainstream biblical scholars, how are the conflicting accounts of Saul's selection as king in 1 Samuel harmonized?
2. How does Samuel use a resume of Yahweh's righteous acts in 1 Samuel 12:6-12?
3. Explain the translation debate surrounding 1 Samuel 12:14, focusing on the presence or absence of an apodosis and its significance.
4. How does the phrase "follow Yahweh" in 1 Samuel 12:14 relate to the potential for divided loyalties in Israel?
5. What is the significance of the sign from heaven in 1 Samuel 12:16-21?
6. What was Saul instructed to do with the Amalekites, and what did he actually do?
7. Explain Samuel's statement in 1 Samuel 15:22 regarding obedience and sacrifice.
8. What are the key dates related to the rise and fall of Israel?
9. What are the names of the two kings in 1 and 2 Kings who receive unqualified approval?
10. What is the key distinction between the perspectives of 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles?

Answer Key

1. Conflicting accounts are harmonized by a redactional insertion in 1 Samuel 11:14 where Samuel says, "Let's go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom." The phrase "renew the kingdom" is understood as a way to harmonize the conflicting accounts of Saul being chosen by lot and then made king after a military victory.
2. Samuel uses a resume of Yahweh's righteous acts to judicially establish Israel's apostasy in requesting a king. By summarizing the mighty acts of the Lord on Israel's behalf, he demonstrates that Israel had no legitimate grounds for wanting a human king to rule over them.
3. The translation debate revolves around whether 1 Samuel 12:14 has a complete "if...then" structure or just an "if" clause. Some translations (like KJV) include a "then," while others (like NIV, RSV) supply a phrase like "it will be well" or "good." The absence or presence of the "then" affects the interpretation of the verse and whether it expresses a redundancy.
4. The phrase "follow Yahweh" in 1 Samuel 12:14 suggests that Israel must actively choose to continue recognizing Yahweh as their sovereign, even with a human

king in place. This relates to the potential for divided loyalties between God and the king, and the need for Israel to prioritize their allegiance to God.

5. The sign from heaven in 1 Samuel 12:16-21 demonstrates the seriousness of Israel's sin in asking for a king to replace Yahweh. By sending thunder and rain during the wheat harvest, God shows the people the evil of their request and their lack of confidence in His covenant rule.
6. Saul was instructed to attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belonged to them (*herem*), including people and livestock. However, Saul spared Agag, the Amalekite king, and the best of the livestock, claiming they were intended for sacrifice to the Lord.
7. Samuel's statement in 1 Samuel 15:22 emphasizes that obedience to God's voice is more pleasing than burnt offerings and sacrifices. He asserts that rebellion is like the sin of divination and arrogance like the evil of idolatry, underscoring the importance of covenant obedience over ritualistic acts.
8. The key dates are:
 - 931 B.C.: Division of the kingdom after Solomon's reign.
 - 721 B.C.: Fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) to the Assyrians.
 - 586 B.C.: Fall of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) to the Babylonians.
1. The two kings who receive unqualified approval in 1 and 2 Kings are Hezekiah and Josiah.
2. 1 and 2 Kings is retrospective, explaining to the exiles the reasons for their captivity due to covenantal unfaithfulness, while 1 and 2 Chronicles is prospective, emphasizing David's line, the temple, and divine retribution, laying the foundations for a restored community after the exile.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the covenant conditional in 1 Samuel 12:14-15 within the context of the inauguration of kingship in Israel. Analyze the different interpretations of 1 Samuel 12:14 and their implications for understanding the relationship between the people, the king, and Yahweh.
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Saul and David, focusing on their responses to divine commands and prophetic rebuke. How do their actions and attitudes reflect their understanding of covenantal obligations and their relationship with God?
3. Analyze the role of the prophets in the books of 1 and 2 Kings. How do the prophets serve as God's representatives to the kings and the people, and what impact do their messages have on the course of Israelite history?
4. Discuss the reasons for the fall of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, as presented in the books of 1 and 2 Kings. How do these narratives illustrate the consequences of covenantal unfaithfulness and the justice of God's judgment?
5. Compare and contrast the perspectives of 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles on the history of Israel. What are the key differences in their emphases and purposes, and how do these differences shape their portrayal of the kings and the events of Israelite history?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apodosis:** The "then" clause in a conditional sentence, expressing the consequence of the condition stated in the protasis.
- **Apostasy:** The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief or principle.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or treaty between two parties, in this context, between God and Israel.
- **Covenant Conditional:** The stipulations and requirements of the covenant between God and Israel, often expressed in an "if...then" format.
- **Herem:** A Hebrew term referring to something devoted to destruction, often in the context of warfare, as an offering to God.
- **Masoretic Text:** The authoritative Hebrew text of the Old Testament, established and transmitted by Jewish scholars known as the Masoretes.
- **Protasis:** The "if" clause in a conditional sentence, stating the condition.
- **Redactional Insertion:** An addition or modification to a text by an editor or redactor, often to harmonize conflicting accounts or provide further explanation.
- **Retrospective:** Looking back on or dealing with past events or situations.
- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, traditionally said to have been translated by seventy scholars.
- **Synchronous Reigns:** The simultaneous reigns of kings in the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, which are often presented side-by-side in the historical narrative.
- **Theocracy:** A system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god.
- **Vulgate:** The Latin translation of the Bible, primarily translated by St. Jerome.

5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile, Session 10B, 1 Samuel and Covenant Kingship, 1 & 2 Kings, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings & Chronicles

- **What are the main viewpoints regarding the introduction of kingship in Israel as depicted in 1 Samuel?**
- Some passages are considered "anti-monarchy" and some pro. There is some discourse regarding passages that demonstrate a desire for kingship and those that warn of the dangers of it. Mainstream biblical scholars tend to view the passages as stemming from multiple traditions or sources, some early and some later. Some scholars believe the passages are then harmonized through redactional insertion.
- **What is Samuel doing in 1 Samuel 12, and what is the significance of his actions?**
- In 1 Samuel 12, Samuel challenges Israel to renew its allegiance to Yahweh during the introduction of kingship. He vindicates his own faithfulness as a leader, reminds Israel of Yahweh's righteous acts during the Exodus and the period of the judges, and shows how they have turned away from God by asking for a king. Samuel asserts that even with the introduction of kingship, the people must maintain their devotion to Yahweh, and that kingship is conditional.
- **How does the introduction of kingship potentially create divided loyalties for the people of Israel, and how does 1 Samuel 12:14 address this issue?**
- With the advent of kingship, there is a danger that the people may divide their loyalties between Yahweh and the human king. Samuel challenges the people to demonstrate that they continue to recognize Yahweh as their sovereign, even as they accept a human king. 1 Samuel 12:14 emphasizes the need to show that Yahweh is still the main sovereign even as the earthly king is in place. There is discussion surrounding different translations of the passage and the implications of those translations.

- **What are the key reasons behind Samuel's rejection of Saul as king in 1 Samuel 13 and 15?**
- Saul's rejection stems from his disobedience to the Lord's commands as delivered through Samuel. In chapter 13, Saul offers a burnt offering before Samuel arrives, violating Samuel's instructions. In chapter 15, Saul fails to completely destroy the Amalekites and their possessions as commanded. In both cases, Saul attempts to justify his actions, revealing a lack of true repentance and obedience.
- **What is the overall theme or purpose of 1 and 2 Kings?**
- The overarching theme is that the nation's well-being depends on its faithfulness to the covenant with Jehovah. The books demonstrate how the success of each ruler was measured by their adherence to the Mosaic constitution and their maintenance of a God-honoring testimony before the people. It focuses on how the rulers dealt with God and their covenant responsibilities and offers explanation for the events of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.
- **How does the book of Kings assess the various kings of Israel and Judah?**
- The kings are assessed based on their covenant faithfulness. Unqualified approval is only given to Hezekiah and Josiah, while qualified approval is given to others who walked in the way of their father David, but with some reservations (like not removing the high places). The strongest disapproval is reserved for Ahab and Manasseh due to their extreme unfaithfulness.
- **What are the key differences in perspective and purpose between 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles?**
- Kings is primarily retrospective, explaining to the exiled community the reasons for their condition. Chronicles, on the other hand, is prospective, addressing the needs of the restored community and emphasizing those things that would provide a basis for reconstruction after their return from exile. Kings seeks to explain the past, while Chronicles seeks to establish the foundations for the future.

- **What are the primary emphases of 1 & 2 Chronicles that provide a basis for the restored community after the Babylonian exile?**
- Chronicles places major emphasis on (1) the kingship of David and his successors in Judah, emphasizing hope for the promised Messiah from the line of David, (2) the temple and its service, showcasing the continuity of God's presence with his people, and (3) obedience to the law and the prophets, emphasizing divine retribution based on the theme that sin brings judgment, while obedience brings blessing and prosperity.