

Chronology of 1 & 2 Samuel

The data found in First and Second Samuel are not sufficient to establish a precise chronology for the major events of this period in Israel's history. One factor contributing to chronological uncertainty is that the author has not always arranged his material in strict chronological order. So the following dates only provide an approximate chronological framework for the times of Samuel, Saul and David.

Before 1100 BC	Birth of Samuel (1 Sam 1:20)
1080 BC	Birth of Saul (compare 1 Sam 13:1)
1050 BC	Saul anointed to be king (1 Sam 10:1)
1040 BC	Birth of David
1025 BC	David anointed to be Saul's successor (1 Sam 16:1–13)
–	Death of Samuel (1 Sam 25:1)
1010 BC	Death of Saul and beginning of David's reign over Judah in Hebron (2 Sam 1:1); 2:1, 4, 11)
1003 BC	Beginning of David's reign over all Israel and capture of Jerusalem (2 Sam 5)
997–992 BC	David's wars (2 Sam 8:1–14)
991 BC	Birth of Solomon (2 Sam 12:24; 1 Kings 3:7; 11:42)
980 BC	David's census (2 Sam 24:1)
–	Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam 15–19)
970 BC	End of David's reign (2 Sam 5:4–5; 1 Kings 2:10–11)