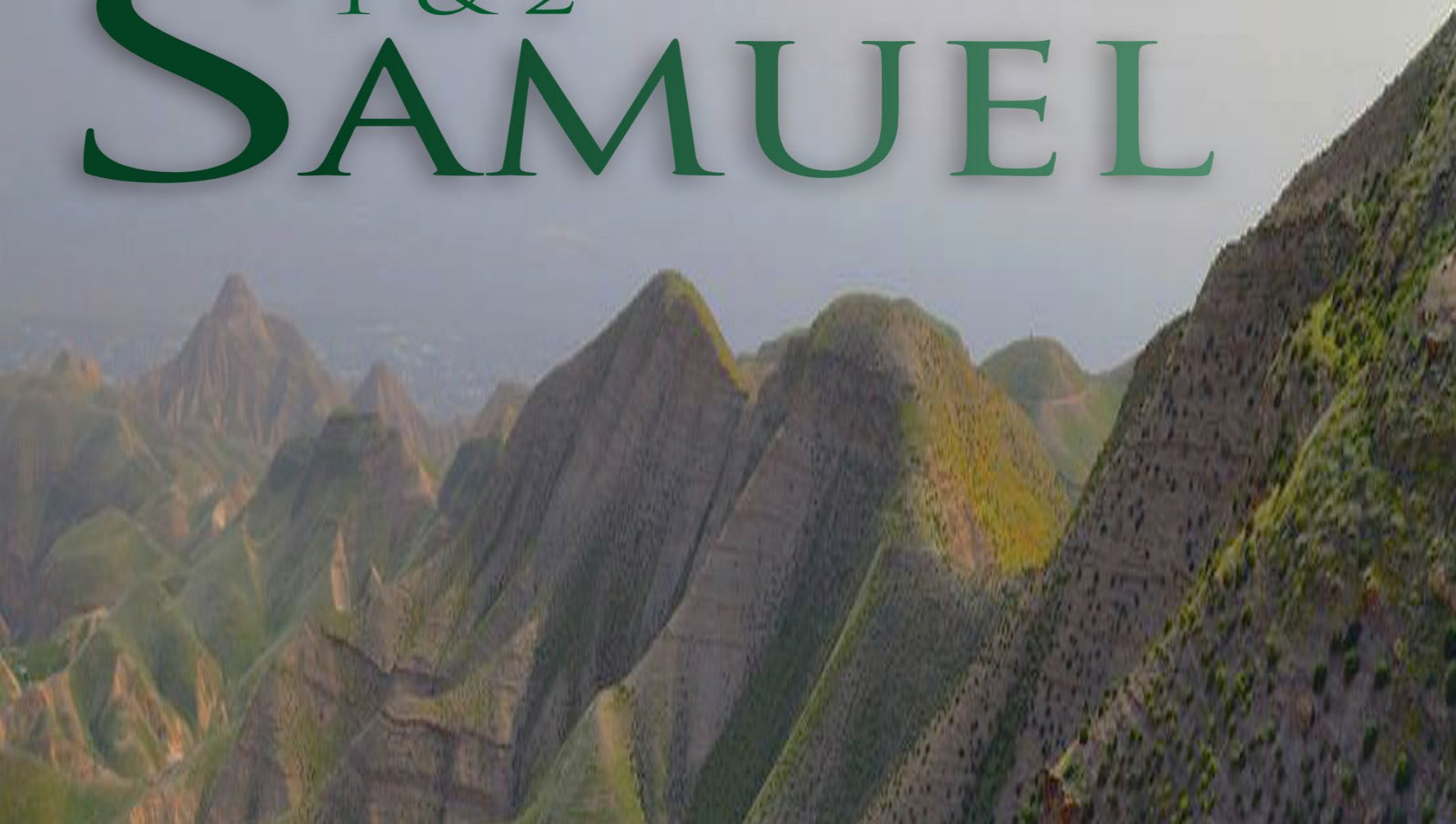


^{1 & 2} SAMUEL



Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come into your presence. Jesus, we know you are here and love us. Thank you, Lord, that we belong to you. Thank you, Jesus, that you want to speak to our hearts through Scripture. Open our hearts as we reflect upon your word. Come, Holy Spirit, and enlighten our minds to Your truth.

- Amen

Bible in Context

- **The Bible is a library of books with many different literary genres (CCC 110)**
 - It contains; poetry, songs, letters, history, myth, prayers, parables, stories, etc.... (i.e., GN 1-11)
- **“In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to man in a human way” (CCC 109)**
- **Remember the social, cultural, and traditional settings where/when the inspired authors lived**
- **Man’s mind remains finite, even when supernaturally elevated by divine revelation**

Bishop Barron's 5 Interpretive Strategies

- 1. Be attentive to the variety of literary genres**
- 2. In a sense Bible is still one book. Scripture is finally telling one great story**
- 3. A “canon within the canon” of Scripture. “Love God above all things and our neighbor for the sake of God” - St Augustine**
- 4. Distinguish between what's in the Bible and what the Bible teaches**
- 5. The Bible is the Church's book. Scripture was assembled by the Church and for the Church**

1 and 2 Samuel

- **1 and 2 Samuel were originally a single book**
- **Division into two books was the work of those responsible for the Septuagint, ~200 – 300 BC**
- **The 2-book division was accepted into the Hebrew Bible in the 16th Century AD**
- **Scholars attribute anonymous authorship to writers/editors of “Deuteronomistic History” of Israel (Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings)**

Documentary Hypothesis

Tradition	~Date	Place	Names for God	Characteristics
Yahwist (J) First to set events in sequence	~950 BC, time of Solomon	Jerusalem / Judah	YHWH (Lord)	God has human traits, stories of sin and mercy, promises to Abraham, lively-colorful style
Elohists (E) Combined with J after 721 BC	~850 BC, time of Elijah	Israel (N Kingdom)	Elohim (God)	God is more distant (messengers, dreams, prophets) emphasis on fear of God, Moses
Deuteronomist (D) Influenced Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings	~650 BC and later, after fall of the N Kingdom	Jerusalem (with N influence)	Varies	Call to remember & repent, Temple worship, Sinai Covenant, homiletic style
Priestly (P) Final editors of Pentateuch	~550 BC and later, during the Exile	Babylon	El Shaddai, Elohim, YHWH	Emphasis on worship, genealogies & lists, God's fidelity – is there life after Exile?

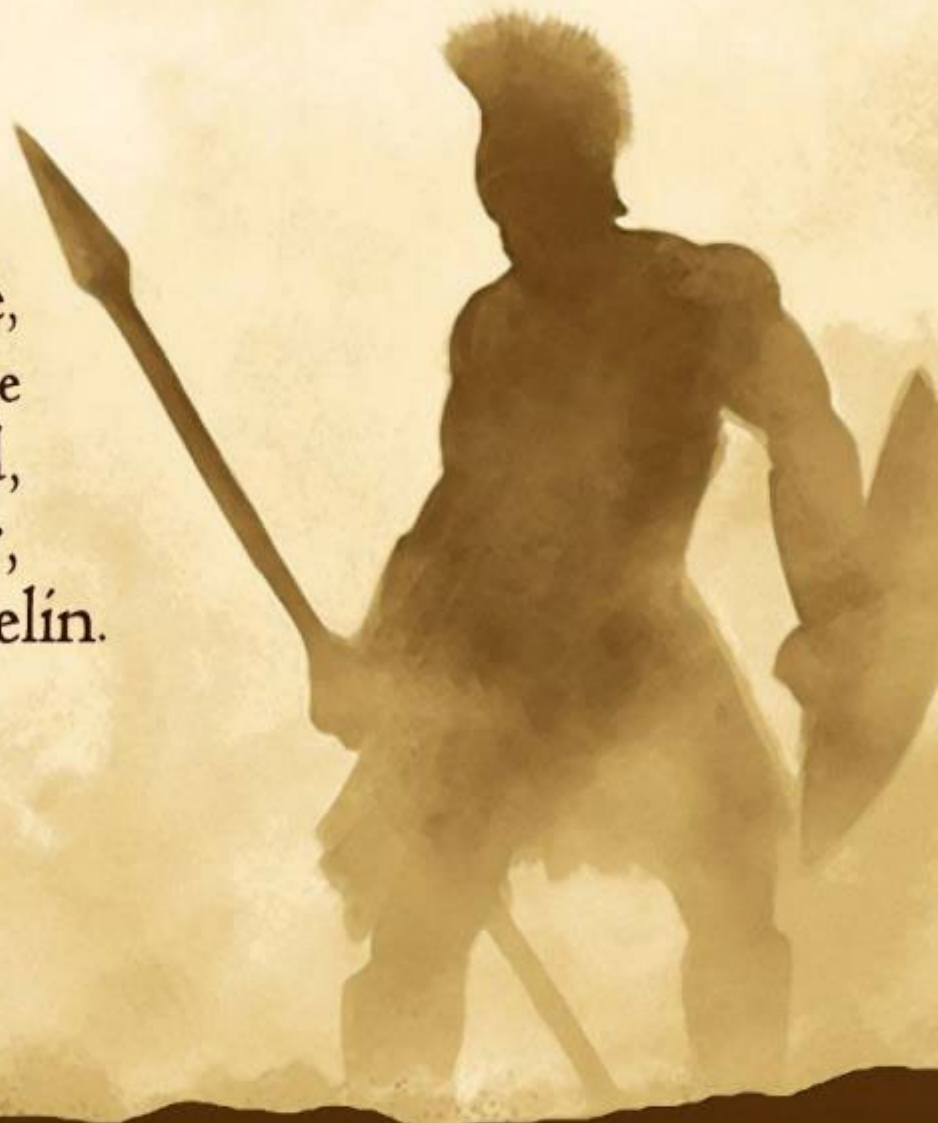
1 and 2 Samuel

- **These are not schoolbook “type” history events**
- **“Deuteronomistic History”; Israel’s life is shaped by God, not by human beings nor by political, military, or economic forces**
- **The stories are told to provide the Hebrew people with hope for the future and a pattern for covenant life in the promised land**
- **God is the principal character in this story, even though God’s actions are often unnoticed**

The Ark – Captured and Returned



Then
David said
to the Philistine,
“You come to me
with a sword,
with a spear,
& with a javelin.



But I come to you in the name of YHVH of Hosts,
the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”
FIRST SAMUEL SEVENTEEN: FORTY-FIVE

1 and 2 Samuel

- **The books describe the development of the Monarchy of Israel with three central characters; Samuel, Saul, David**
- **Bridge the gap between the period of the Judges and the monarchy. Samuel is the last Judge**
- **Presents both Israel's rejection of the Lord as their sovereign – and – God's plan to deliver the people using imperfect human kings (Prophets)**
- **Samuel's concerns about royal abuse of power foreshadow misdeeds by Israel's future Kings**

1 and 2 Samuel

- **The books portray David as a model king**
- **Greatest theological contribution; David is promised an eternal dynasty (2 Sm 7). The basis for the Messianic Promise throughout the Bible**
- **Despite his personal limitations and sins David always enjoyed the Lord's favor**
- **David kept God's plan in his heart and when he sinned, he always sought forgiveness (Ps 51)**

David Gazes Upon Bathsheeba with Lust

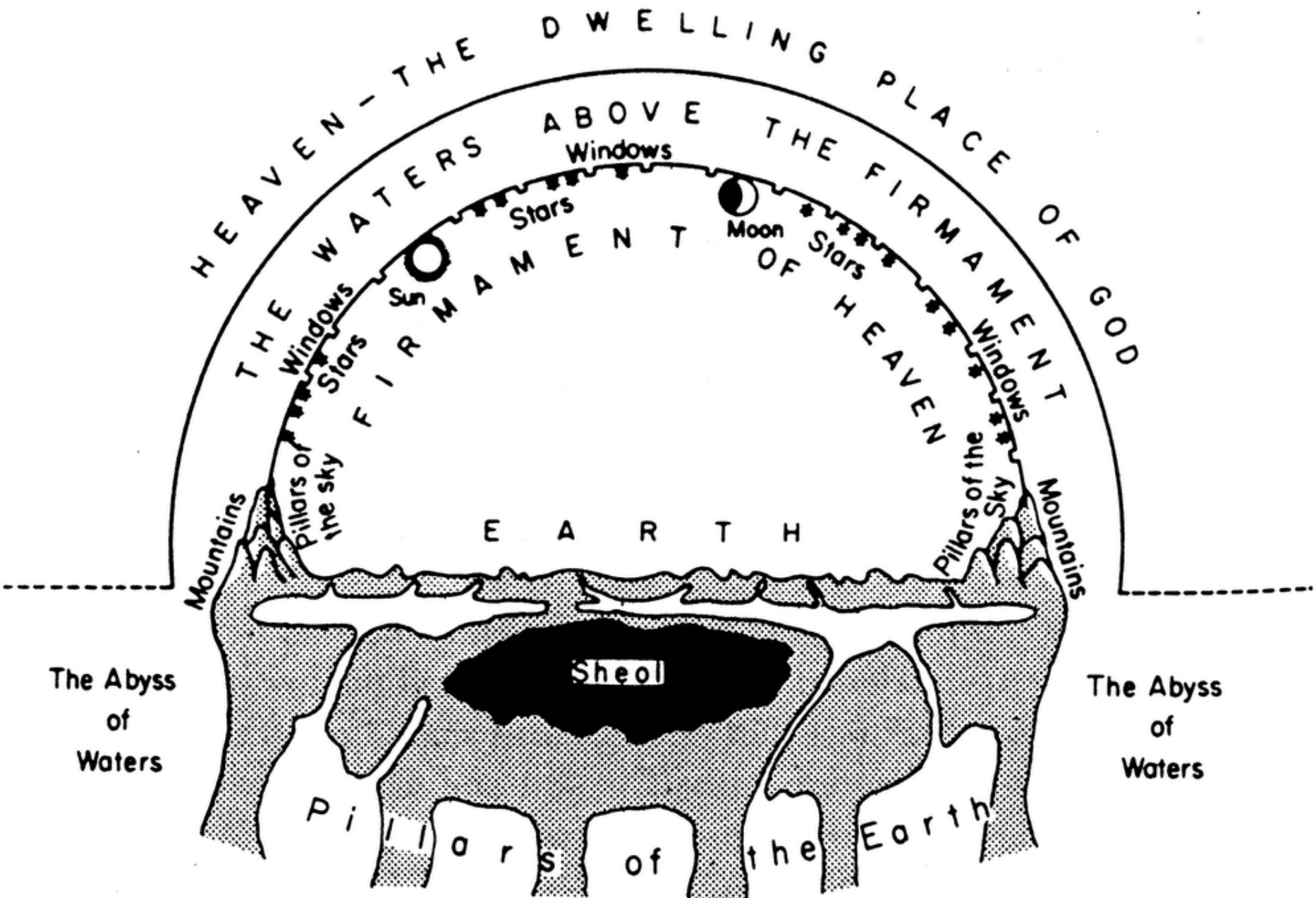
Painting by Jean-Leon Gerome





“Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness; in your abundant compassion blot out my offense. Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me... A clean heart create for me God; renew in me a steadfast spirit. ” PSALM 51, when Nathan the prophet confronts him after his affair with Bathsheba.

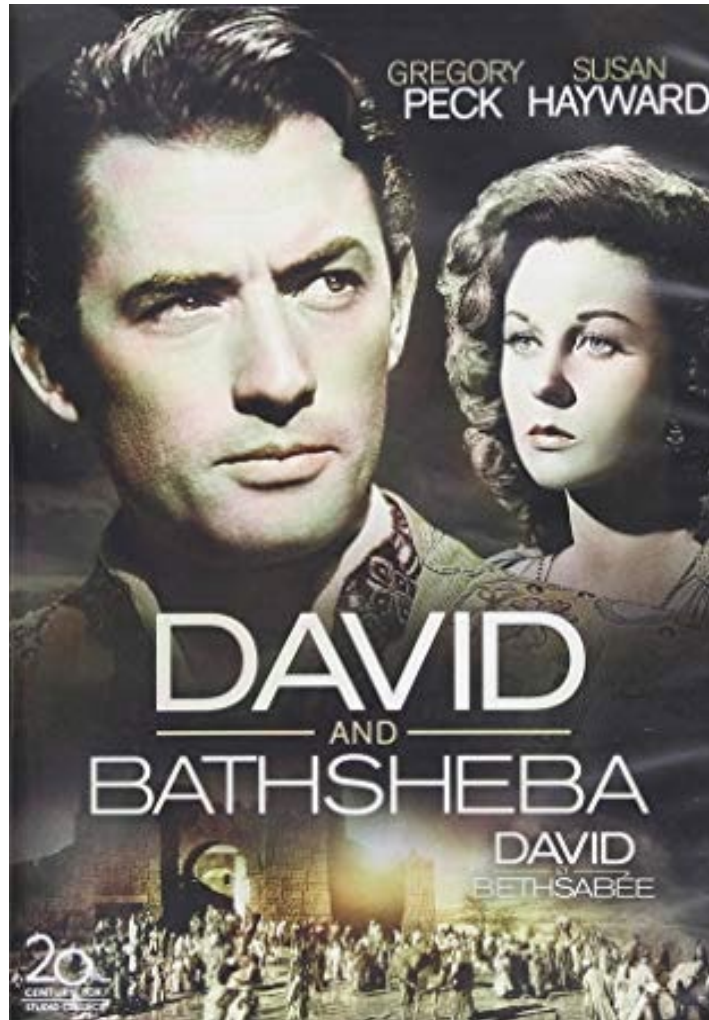
How Biblical Writers Viewed the World



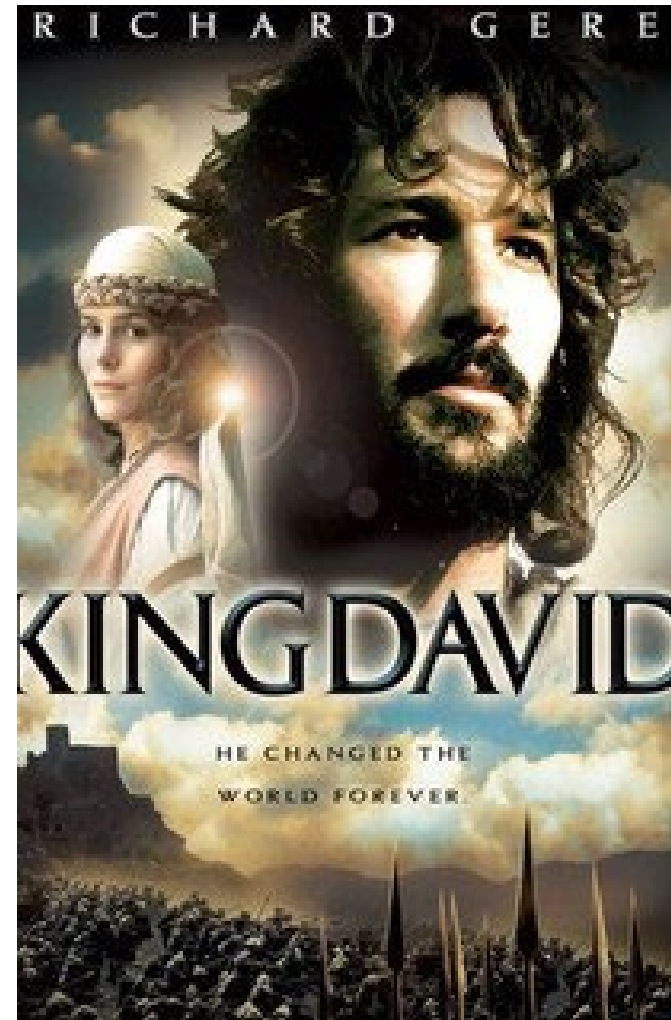
Structure and Content

- **The history of Samuel (1 Sam 1:1 – 7:17)**
- **Samuel and Saul (1 Sam 8:1 – 15:35)**
- **Saul and David (1 Sam 16:1 – 2 Sam 1:27)**
- **King David (2 Sam 2:1 – 8:18)**
- **The Succession to David (2 Sam 9:1 – 20:26)**
- **Epilogue (2 Sam 21:1 – 24:25)**

Even Hollywood has used the Books of Samuel



1951



1985