

Judges are contemporaries, the record of Judges is that of the futility of the tribes governing themselves without a full yieldedness to the Divine order. It is full of object lessons of disobedience and poor judgment and, while some of the individual judges stand out as men of heroic spiritual character, many of the accounts in the book become better illustrations of how the flesh does things poorly. The exact date of composition is not known but the events of the book run their course into the 11th century BC. It seems that the book of Ruth is contemporary to the age of Judges and for that reason the two seem to have been tied together in some of the earlier canonical accountings.

### (3) Samuel

Once again the authorship is uncertain...Samuel dies in the middle of the first book and it is not likely that he wrote it...more likely is the idea that one of the court secretaries wrote the book during the reign of David. The end of the amphyctionic state is seen in Samuel and the coming of the new Kingdom under the intervening power of Jehovah. The Samuel books make interesting reading and they have perhaps the most complicated text problems of any of the Old Testament books...the MT and the LXX often being at rather wide variance and the DSS texts not offering a lot of corrective help as of yet.

### (4) Kings

The books of Kings have no proven author and may have been diary type chronicles kept for each king. It does seem certain that in the ancient near-eastern world this was a sort of standard practice...the chronicles of the Assyrian kings and the Babylonian rulers being examples of such. Each king seems to have had his own "staff" (in the Bible) and no doubt an official ledger of his dealings. The kings books may have used these as basic source materials although the content is so revelatory of kingly behaviour and mis-behaviour that it seems likely personal comments of prophets and others are added to the official chronicle. The books likely grew (in the proper sense) with the passage of time and were regarded as rendering the hands unclean since they showed the definitive role of the Lord in the history of the nation.