

TABLE III.I PROGRAMMATIC TEXTS IN DH: SAMUEL-KINGS

1. Speech of Samuel (1 Samuel 12): The fateful choice of monarchy

Recapitulation of oppression, repentance, and deliverance under the judges
Israel confesses the sin of asking for a king
If people and king obey the Law, Israel will continue as Yahweh's people; if they disobey the Law, they will be "swept away"

2. Speech of Nathan and prayer of David (2 Samuel 7): The promise of a "house" for David and a "house" for Yahweh

Yahweh gives David "rest" from all his enemies, and Israel has peace and security unknown under the judges
Yahweh will build a "house" (dynasty) for David, and David's son will build a "house" (temple) for Yahweh
The dynasty of David will last forever, although a particular wicked king in the dynasty may be chastised

3. Blessing and prayer of Solomon (1 Kings 8:14-6): The temple ("house") dedicated as a lasting focus for Law observance

Solomon has fulfilled the promise of Yahweh that David's son will build the temple
Solomon prays for fulfillment of Yahweh's promise that David's dynasty shall last forever
Whenever individual Israelites or the whole people sin, they will turn to the temple, repent, and pray for deliverance, including preservation in any possible future exile from the land
All the promises of Yahweh to Moses have been fulfilled; Israel has "rest" and is urged to continue to observe the Law

4. Discourse (2 Kings 17:17-23): Rationale for the fall of the northern kingdom (Israel)

Jeroboam, first king of Israel, sinned and set a pattern habitually followed by later kings of the north
Israel has fallen and its people exiled because they turned to the religious apostasies of other nations and their own wicked kings
In spite of repeated warnings by prophets, Israel stubbornly adhered to its apostasies
Judah also began to practice the same apostasies as Israel

5. Discourse and speech of prophets (2 Kings 21:2-16): Rationale for the fall of the southern kingdom (Judah)

Manasseh, king of Judah, introduced idolatry to Jerusalem and seduced Judah into more evil than the Canaanites had committed
Manasseh also "shed very much innocent blood"
Prophets announce that Judah, like Israel, is soon to be "measured" and "cast off" in judgment