

Why is Saul mostly only in First and Second Samuel?

Israel's first king appears initially in [1 Sam. 9:2](#) and is only mentioned a few times outside of Samuel. He dies at the end of First Samuel, but is mentioned in Second Samuel because of Jonathan (#25), Mephibosheth, and a few others. (There are also some parallel accounts in First Chronicles chapters 10-12.) Otherwise, Saul is mostly forgotten because he was a failed king. He is mentioned negatively in the titles of [Psalms 18, 52, 54, 57, and 59](#), and the only reference to him in the New Testament is a brief one by Paul in [Acts 13:21-22](#).

Why is King Saul mentioned in such great detail?

Saul's life story is long, extending from [First Samuel chapter nine through chapter 31](#). One reason for this is because many of these chapters are also about David, but there are many chapters before David first appears in chapter 16. So there must be more to it than just the contrast with David.

The long account shows why Samuel and God were greatly disappointed in Saul ([1 Sam. 15:35, 16:1](#)). Though he showed promise as a king at first, he was for the most part a failure. Later even David failed to some extent. The only One who does not disappoint is the Lord Jesus ([Acts 13:33, Rom. 9:33, 10:11](#)).

Why did Paul include King Saul in his Acts 13:16-41 sermon?

Like Stephen in Acts chapter seven, Paul (#10) reviewed the history of Israel before mentioning the Lord Jesus. Perhaps Paul mentioned King Saul to better show the step-by-step transition from the exodus to King David. It is probably important to note the contrast that Paul drew between Saul and David in [13:22](#). Saul was removed but David pleased God. So the Messiah came through the line of David.

Why did Saul fail?

There are various reasons, but the basic one is that Saul did not live by faith. His heart was often not right with God. Unlike David, he was selfish and fearful.