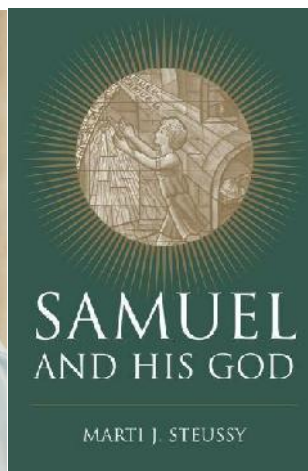


“The causes of kingship, its identity, and its ideological or theological import for Israel, are ... unclear in the narrative. The story’s emplotment is inconsistent. This inconsistency would elicit a picture of kingship’s beginnings and of the past in general that was fuzzy, a memory that was blurred and would invite many readings and considerations of political transition. As throughout the deuteronomistic corpus, the overarching problem is failure to adhere to Torah— that is, disobedience and its consequences—but in this particular instance one could not reconcile the precise details. Samuel and Saul’s narrative is riddled with overdetermination, multiple causes, and plot lines leading to the same outcome: Israelite kingship.” (Wilson, 121)

“A proven form of leadership (judgeship under Samuel) fails on account of problems with dynasty, and the dynastic form of leadership that replaces it (kingship under Saul) fails to prove its ability to lead. Kingship’s unlikely rise at judgeship’s expense is matched by its immediate and unlikely fall, confirming both sides of the doublethink.” (123)



“Scholars make their living by disagreeing with one another and coming up with new theories, so of course they do not all agree on how to account for these different pictures of Saul.” (Steussy, 31)