

the stage for what follows. The range of allusions found within it transcends the traditional source analyses, suggesting that the books of Samuel are a more tightly integrated piece than some have argued – although this integration is not necessarily Deuteronomistic.⁵⁴ The Accession Narrative should not be looked at in source-critical terms since it is so closely integrated to its context. Rather, it needs to be recognised as a supreme literary achievement that it is a demonstration of what could be achieved through the subtlety of well-told narrative. In turn, that such narrative subtlety exists in a narrative that refers to elements across the whole of 1 – 2 Samuel, acting as the climax of the account of Saul whilst preparing for the reign of David, suggests not only that more integrative readings of the text are needed, but also that some of the fundamental issues of sources and redaction may need to be reconsidered.

⁵⁴ Antony F. Campbell, *Of Prophets and Kings: A Late Ninth-Century Document (1 Samuel 1 – 2 Kings 10)* (Washington: Catholic Biblical Association, 1986): 70-71, includes the whole of the Accession Narrative in his ninth-century prophetic record, though includes it as part of the History of David's Rise. If this date can be verified, then given the probable allusions back to Deuteronomistic material, one is forced to take an earlier date for Deuteronomy than the seventh-century one commonly given.