

# **A United Kingdom**

## **Year 1, Quarter 3**

**This study covers the development of Israel from a loose association of tribes to a unified nation with centralized government. The historical accounts of this period are 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, 1 Chronicles, and 2 Chronicles 1-9. We will study the lives and reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon with emphasis upon the Davidic covenant.**

### **Outline**

#### **Week 1: Israel Demands a King**

- ◆ Samuel, a Transitional Figure
- ◆ Priestly Corruption
- ◆ The Ark Captured and Returned
- ◆ Samuel, the Circuit Judge
- ◆ Wanted: A King Like the Nations

#### **Week 2: Saul's Rise to Power**

- ◆ Saul Anointed by Samuel
- ◆ Saul Among the Prophets
- ◆ The Presentation of Saul to Israel
- ◆ Saul's First Crisis
- ◆ Saul's Coronation at Gilgal

#### **Week 3: Saul Rejected as King**

- ◆ Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice
- ◆ Jonathan Routs the Philistines
- ◆ Saul's Oath
- ◆ Saul's Sparing of Agag
- ◆ The Anointing of David

#### **Week 4: Saul's Moral and Spiritual Decline**

- ◆ Saul's Initial Jealousy of David
- ◆ Saul's Determination to Kill David

- ◆ The Slaughter of the Priests
- ◆ David Spares Saul's Life
- ◆ Saul's Appeal to Witchcraft

### **Week 5: David's Fugitive Years**

- ◆ David Saves Keilah
- ◆ David and Abigail
- ◆ David Among the Philistines
- ◆ David's Leadership Crisis
- ◆ Saul's Death

### **Week 6: David Consolidates His Throne**

- ◆ Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan
- ◆ A Kingdom in Disarray
- ◆ The Defection of Abner
- ◆ The Murder of Ishbosheth
- ◆ David Reigns over All Israel

### **Week 7: The Royal Covenant**

- ◆ David's Plan to Build a Temple
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### **Week 8: Chaos in the Royal Family**

- ◆ David and Bathsheba
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### **Week 9: David's Twilight Years**

- ◆ Sheba's Rebellion
- ◆ Two National Punishments
- ◆ Preparation for Building the Temple
- ◆ Civil and Religious Organization
- ◆ A Psalm of Triumph

### **Week 10: The Appointment of Solomon**

- ◆ Adonijah's Bid for the Throne
- ◆ Solomon's Rule Affirmed
- ◆ Solomon Charged with Building the Temple
- ◆ Solomon's Second Anointing
- ◆ David's Final Instructions and His Death

### **Week 11: Solomon Establishes His Throne**

- ◆ The Execution of Adonijah
- ◆ Abiathar Exiled, Joab Executed
- ◆ The Execution of Shimei
- ◆ Solomon Requests Wisdom
- ◆ An Early Display of Solomon's Wise Judgment

### **Week 12: The Zenith of Solomon's Rule**

- ◆ Overview
- ◆ The Building of the Temple
- ◆ The Dedication of the Temple
- ◆ God's Second Appearance to Solomon
- ◆ The Dazzling Wealth and Wisdom of Solomon

### **Week 13: The Beginning of the End**

- ◆ Solomon's Slide into Idolatry
- ◆ God's Judgment upon Solomon
- ◆ Hadad and Rezon
- ◆ Jeroboam: The Seeds of Division
- ◆ The Death of Solomon

**Day 1: Samuel, a Transitional Figure**

Israel's settlement in Canaan was not the paradise they had envisioned. They were periodically harassed by their enemies and there was rivalry among the tribes. These troubled centuries were not the fault of God, His Law or the land, itself; they were the result of disregard for and disobedience toward God. But the people could not or would not see this. They felt that all their problems would be solved by a human king ruling over them. God will allow Israel to develop into a monarchy, but He first provides a great leader to guide the nation through the transition - Samuel. Samuel is raised in Eli's household and ministers in the tabernacle at Shiloh from an early age (1 Sam 2:18-21).

1. What vow did Hannah make to God if He would give her a son (1 Sam 1:11)?
2. When did Hannah keep her vow (1 Sam 1:22-24)?
3. How was Hannah blessed because of the faithful performance of her vow?

**Day 2: Priestly Corruption**

The sons of Eli were hopelessly corrupt and abusing their position for personal gain (1 Sam 2:12-17, 22-24). God sends a prophet to Eli who pronounces a perpetual curse upon the old priest and his family (1 Sam 2:27-36). In a rare event for the time, God speaks directly to Samuel and confirms the curse (1 Sam 3:1, 11-14), but He does not fulfill it until Samuel is established before the nation as a prophet (1 Sam 3:19-21).

4. T/F Eli didn't punish his sons because he didn't know what they were doing.
5. Who did Eli honor more than God? What should Eli have done (1 Sam 3:13)?
6. "The word of the LORD was \_\_\_\_\_ in those days; there was no \_\_\_\_\_."

**Day 3: The Ark Captured and Returned**

The capture of the ark by the Philistines (1 Sam 4:1-11) is the lowest point in Israel's history since the wilderness wandering, and its devastating effect is summarized by Phinehas' wife: "*The glory has departed from Israel*" (1 Sam 4:21-22). The Philistines' apparent victory quickly sours as the presence of the ark causes havoc (1 Sam 5:1-7). Upon the ark's return to Israel, the men of Beth Shemesh err by looking into it and are consequently stricken by God with great slaughter (1 Sam 6:13-19). Thus both the Israelites and Philistines painfully learn the lesson of reverence for God. The ark is finally brought to Abinadab's house in Kirjath Jearim where it will remain until the reign of David (1 Sam 6:20-7:1; comp. 2 Sam 6:1-3).

7. How did Israel see the ark (1 Sam 4:3)? Discuss how this can happen today.
8. What did the Philistines know of Israel's history (1 Sam 4:8; 6:6)?
9. How would you answer the first question in 1 Sam 6:20?

#### **Day 4: Samuel, the Circuit Judge**

As a judge, Samuel works to restore the spiritual health of the nation (1 Sam 7:3-6). When the Philistines threaten to attack, Samuel intercedes with prayer and sacrifice (1 Sam 7:7-9). True to the pattern of the judges, God delivers Israel from the hand of their enemy due to their repentance and return to Him (1 Sam 7:10-14). After this, Samuel continues to serve as a circuit-riding judge (1 Sam 7:15-17).

10. Compare 1 Sam 4:3 and 7:8. What had the Israelites learned?
11. What was one function of a judge (1 Sam 7:6)?
12. What do we mean when singing, "Here I raise my Ebenezer"?

#### **Day 5: Wanted: A King Like the Nations**

In spite of Samuel's faithful service as a judge, he indirectly contributes to the people's desire for a king by raising sons like Eli's (1 Sam 8:1-5). At first, the desire for a king seems reasonable. Perhaps the people wish to avoid falling yet again into apostasy, and a spiritually-minded king might help maintain stability. But a closer look reveals other motives. First, how many kings among the nations were exemplary in morals and spirituality? Secondly, no king regardless of his spirituality could restrain an entire nation bent on disobedience. Thirdly, God was willing and able to provide for every need of the people without a king as He had promised through Moses. They want a king to "*go out before us and fight our battles*" (1 Sam 8:20), but the only reason they had battles to fight was due to their disobedience. God considers the request as tantamount to idolatry and tells Samuel that they have rejected Him (1 Sam 8:6-8). Nevertheless, God will grant the request, perhaps realizing that these obstinate people will forever be rebellious and implacable unless they learn by experience that a king is not the secret to receiving God's blessings. Samuel tells the people that there will be a high price to pay for their monarch, but they insist upon a king anyway (1 Sam 8:9-22).

13. How did Samuel react to the request for a king?
14. What would God do when the people would later complain about their king?
15. How is the behavior of the people since the days of Egyptian bondage characterized?

**Day 1: Saul Anointed by Samuel**

In a passage that well defines the relationship between God and His prophets, God identifies Saul as the one Samuel should anoint as king over Israel (1 Sam 9:15-17). Saul is young, tall, powerful, handsome, diligent, respectful and humble - well endowed with characteristics that would make him an attractive and able leader (1 Sam 9:1-2, 5, 7, 21). After treating Saul to a meal in his honor, Samuel anoints him and indicates that he has been chosen as the commander over God's inheritance (1 Sam 9:27; 10:1).

1. Of the terms "seer" and "prophet," which one is older? (cf. 1 Sam 9:9)
2. From what tribe is Saul? Why was it the smallest of the tribes?
3. The anointing of Saul was public/private.

**Day 2: Saul Among the Prophets**

To further assure Saul of the legitimacy of his anointing, Samuel gives him three signs that will come to pass on his return home (1 Sam 10:2-6). The third sign included the Holy Spirit coming upon Saul and enabling him to prophesy. All the signs come to pass, and, together with the endowment of the Spirit, they produce a change within Saul which will help him assume leadership over the nation (1 Sam 10:7-9). Note especially the instruction in v 8; in Saul's very anointing we find the seeds of his eventual downfall.

4. Which sign mentioned two loaves of bread? A Philistine garrison? Saul's father?
5. What was Saul to do when these signs presented themselves?

**Day 3: The Presentation of Saul to Israel**

Samuel gathers the people at Mizpah to present to them their first king (1 Sam 10:17-27). Before doing so, God reminds them of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage which was accomplished without a king. Their reasoning is thus proved faulty and God declares, "*you have today rejected your God who Himself saved you ...*". In a touching scene of humility, Saul hides as the lot falls upon him as the new king. How this will change when the next king, David, will hide in fear of his life from an insanely jealous Saul.

6. How did the people's demand for a king reflect upon God?
7. T/F All the nation was happy when Saul was presented to them. Discuss your answers in class and make current applications.

## **Day 4: Saul's First Crisis**

Nahash the Ammonite presents the first challenge to Saul's leadership (1 Sam 11:1-15). Utterly contemptuous of Israel and their new king, they not only threaten Jabesh Gilead but allow them to send for help. When Saul hears of this threat, he comes under the influence of the Holy Spirit and is moved by righteous indignation. Saul undoubtedly has a special affinity for Jabesh Gilead as this was the city that provided wives for the Benjamite males after the earlier civil war (Jud 20-21). Note the admirable character of Saul in his early days: he is dependent upon Samuel (v 7) and gives God credit for the victory over Nahash (v 13). These attitudes will change in the future.

**8.** After the battle, what did Saul's supporters want to do with those who opposed his appointment as king?

**9.** How was the kingdom to be renewed at Gilgal?

## **Day 5: Saul's Coronation at Gilgal**

There's nothing like a military victory to stir support for a leader. Even in our modern culture, victorious generals have high appeal (e.g. Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf). The victory over Nahash has kick-started Saul's reign, but Samuel pours a little cold water on their enthusiasm at Saul's coronation (1 Sam 12:1-25). He first elicits a public exoneration of his judgeship (vs 1-5). The people thus admit that his rule has not been faulty. He next exonerates God by reminding them of God's deliverance from past enemies through Moses, Aaron and other judges (vs 6-11). It was their fear and lack of trust in God when confronted by Nahash which made them insist on a king (v 12). Nevertheless, Samuel graciously assures them that they and their king can be acceptable to God if they continue in faithfulness and obedience (v 14-15).

**10.** Samuel said the people had done \_\_\_\_\_ in asking for a king.

**11.** How did the people say they had added to their sins? What had convinced them?

**12.** Samuel would sin if he failed to do what for the people? Discuss Samuel's ability to continue with his responsibilities in spite of disappointment.

**13.** What would cause the people and their king to be swept away?

**Day 1: Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice**

Saul's rejection by God begins with his offering of sacrifice at Gilgal (1 Sam 13:1-15) and has its roots in a command given by Moses: *"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you ..."* (Dt 20:1). But Saul does fear the Philistines who have been provoked by Jonathan's attack on their garrison in Geba. Their threat exposes Saul's weaknesses of spirit and character: 1) He depended upon Samuel and his troops more than God, and 2) he thought he could petition God through disobedience. Samuel rebukes Saul for his disobedience and tells him that God has sought someone *"after His own heart"* to be king in his place.

1. T/F Saul's army grew after the Philistines gathered against Israel at Michmash.
2. Explain why Saul felt "compelled" (v 12) to offer sacrifice.
3. What would God have done for Saul if he had been a faithful king?

**Day 2: Jonathan Routs the Philistines**

The Philistines' dominance of Israel at this time was severe as they forbade them to have blacksmiths (1 Sam 13:19-20) and maintained garrisons in various cities (comp. 1 Sam 10:5; 13:3). Perhaps affected by Samuel's judgment against him, Saul's initial zeal has waned and he is paralyzed before the Philistines (1 Sam 14:2). His son, Jonathan, however, sneaks out of the camp and into the Philistine garrison (1 Sam 14:6-14). With God's help, Jonathan puts the Philistines to flight (1 Sam 14:20-23).

4. What did Jonathan understand that Saul did not (1 Sam 14:6; 13:11)?
5. Discuss the action of Jonathan and his armor bearer and its effect upon the other Israelites. How might these principles apply today?

**Day 3: Saul's Oath**

In an effort to further punish the Philistines for his humiliation, Saul puts the Israelites under oath that no one should eat until evening (1 Sam 14:24). This unreasonable demand backfires as 1) Jonathan unwittingly violates the oath (1 Sam 14:25-30); 2) the famished soldiers eat meat without bleeding it (14:31-35); 3) God refuses to answer Saul's inquiry (14:36-38); 4) Saul affirms the oath with further rashness by vowing to execute the offender even if it is Jonathan (14:39-44); and 5) the people must rescue Jonathan from his own father (14:45). This episode shows how Saul's focus as king has



become self-centered, and it teaches us that things done for purely selfish motives are often hurtful to others and contrary to what we hope to accomplish.

6. What did Jonathan think of Saul's oath (14:29-30)?
7. T/F Saul now had no regard for God whatsoever.
8. What should we do if we realize we have promised to do something that is wrong?

## **Day 4: Saul's Sparing of Agag**

1 Samuel 15 gives valuable insight into the relationship between God and man. First, God has delayed punishment upon the Amalekites for several hundred years, giving them time to repent (1 Sam 15:1-3). Secondly, God expects men to keep **all** of what He commands, not just part (15:8-11). Thirdly, sinners can justify their own disobedience by blaming others (15:13-15, 19-21). Fourth, God will not accept substitutes for obedience, even when those substitutes are efforts to worship (15:22-23). Fifth, fear often leads to sin (15:24). Sixth, people are often more concerned with honor before men than honor before God (15:30). Seventh, God's judgment may demand the implementation of some unpleasant actions (15:32-33). Saul has gone past the point of no return. God has already refused to establish his family as a royal family (1 Sam 13:13); Samuel now tells him that *"the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel"* and *"has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you"* (1 Sam 15:26-28).

9. How has Saul changed (see 1 Sam 15:17)?
10. What did Saul spare? (see 1 Sam 15:9, 15, 21). Discuss how man's value system can clash with God's commands.

## **Day 5: The Anointing of David**

Samuel's distress over Saul is remedied by action; God commands him to go and anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king (1 Sam 16:1). The breach between Samuel and Saul is evidenced by Samuel's concern that Saul will kill him if he learns of his mission (1 Sam 16:2). After reviewing seven of Jesse's sons, God informs Samuel that the eighth, David, is to be anointed (1 Sam 16:6-13).

11. How did the elders of Bethlehem react when Samuel came (16:3-4)?
12. How do men and God often differ in their assessments of people?

## **A United Kingdom: Saul's Moral and Spiritual Decline Week 4**

### **Day 1: Saul's Initial Jealousy of David**

David's popularity soars after his great victory over Goliath (1 Sam 18:1-7). By this time, Saul's mental state was becoming unstable because "*the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him*" (1 Sam 16:14; 18:10). This mental instability is aggravated by David's success, and Saul begins to feel jealous and suspicious of his talented subordinate (1 Sam 18:8-16). In one outburst, Saul seeks to kill David outright. Afterward, he schemes to have David killed by offering his daughter as David's wife for 100 Philistine foreskins (1 Sam 18:17, 21, 25-29). When David complies, "*Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David ... and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.*" God's kingdom is to undergo a change of leadership, but the transition will not be an easy one.

1. In Saul's view, to whom did the kingdom belong (1 Sam 18:8)?
2. How did Jonathan feel about David?
3. What is David's attitude even after great success (1 Sam 18:18, 23)?

### **Day 2: Saul's Determination to Kill David**

Saul orders that David should be killed, but Jonathan is able to reason with him and persuade him to rescind the order (1 Sam 19:1-7). Before long, however, Saul makes several more attempts against David's life. At David's request, Jonathan agrees to investigate his father's intentions toward David. Saul becomes angry with Jonathan, curses him, and declares that "*as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom*" (1 Sam 20:30-34). It is now clear to Saul that David is the next king, and he has clearly set himself against God's declaration that his throne would not continue. David and Jonathan tearfully part (1 Sam 20:41-42), David running for his life and Jonathan trying to be the loyal son to an insane, declining father.

4. After expressing concern for Jonathan's throne, what did Saul try to do to him?
5. Why did David weep more than Jonathan? What has David lost at this point?

### **Day 3: The Slaughter of the Priests**

Saul's paranoia drives him over the edge as he imagines a conspiracy against him between David and the priests of Nob (1 Sam 22:7-16). Ahimelech had innocently helped David with provisions but was unaware that Saul was seeking to kill him. In a rage, Saul orders his soldiers to kill the priests but they refuse (1 Sam 22:17-19). Doeg the Edomite, however, an unscrupulous opportunist (and the informant who reported

the events at Nob - 1 Sam 21:7), is all too willing to shed innocent blood to help his own cause. Eighty-five priests are slain along with the entire population of Nob, and only one person escapes - Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech (1 Sam 22:20-23). David feels responsible for the atrocity but refuses to turn against God or Saul.

6. What kind of person is Doeg the Edomite?

7. How can David assure Abiathar that he will be safe if he stays with David?

## **Day 4: David Spares Saul's Life**

David shows a tremendous amount of restraint in sparing Saul's life on two occasions when he might easily have dispatched him. In the first episode, David is urged by his men to kill Saul (1 Sam 24:3-7). In a speech unparalleled in humility and grace, David acknowledges Saul as God's anointed king and declares that he has no intention of taking his life (1 Sam 24:8-15). Saul is convicted of his own guilt by David's words, and he acknowledges the truth with which he has long been obsessed: *"And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand"* (1 Sam 24:20).

In the second episode, Abishai offers to kill Saul for David, giving David the opportunity to lay the blame elsewhere (1 Sam 26:7-12). But David restrains himself out of respect for Saul as God's anointed, and he entrusts Saul's fate to the hand of God. David again proclaims his innocence to Saul and, again, Saul's conscience is briefly touched by David's appeal (1 Sam 26:17-25). The king's thoughts and emotions are completely out of control; he swings back and forth between murderous rage and sorrowful penitence. What a miserable man he must have been - able to catch glimpses of truth and yet unable to hang on to them. David sees this instability and refuses to trust Saul.

8. David understood that vengeance belonged to whom (24:12)?

9. What was the proverb of the ancients (24:13)? What similar thing did Jesus say?

10. What had David's enemies done to him (26:19)?

## **Day 5: Saul's Appeal to Witchcraft**

When Samuel dies and God ceases all communication with Saul, the king in his later years turns to the mediums which he had formerly banished (1 Sam 28:3-7). God allows Samuel to appear to Saul, and the great prophet and judge reaffirms the truths he had spoken to Saul while still alive (1 Sam 28:15-19).

11. Whose wrath had Saul failed to execute upon the Amalekites?

12. Has time or circumstance changed the word of God spoken by Samuel?

**Day 1: David Saves Keilah**

These years as a fugitive are formative for David; they teach David of God's power, providence, and protection, and they form the backdrop of many psalms. After going into hiding, David gathers a small army of malcontents, probably those who had suffered under Saul's domestic mismanagement (1 Sam 22:1-2). After hearing of the Philistine threat to the city of Keilah, David inquires of God what he should do (1 Sam 23:1-4). At God's instruction, David defeats the Philistines and liberates the city, but Keilah repays the favor with the intention of delivering David to Saul (1 Sam 23:5-13). Jonathan's godly character is again manifested as he assures David that his father will be unsuccessful and that David would eventually come to the throne (1 Sam 23:14-18).

1. How did God communicate with David (see 1 Sam 22:5; 23:9-10)?
2. What did Jonathan say that Saul knew about David?

**Day 2: David and Abigail**

The exchange between David and Abigail enlightens us on David's fugitive status. David is coming to destroy Nabal for his refusal to assist David and his men after they had protected Nabal's shepherds (1 Sam 25:21-22). Abigail intercepts David and speaks wisely to him to as to soothe his anger (1 Sam 25:23-31). Note first that the taking of personal vengeance was not allowed under the old Covenant (25:26, 31, 33). Secondly, Abigail is aware that David is God's anointed and will establish him as king (25:28-30). It would seem that the general population of Israel was aware of David's character, God's promises concerning him and the unjust nature of Saul's intent to kill him.

3. Whose battles was David fighting?
4. What does Abigail say about David's intent and its impact upon his future? Discuss.

**Day 3: David Among the Philistines**

After David spares Saul the second time, David becomes discouraged and flees to the Philistines (1 Sam 27:1-4). He had tried this once before but was afraid the Philistines had not forgotten his defeat of Goliath (1 Sam 21:10-15). His time in Ziklag was founded upon deceit; he was raiding the enemies of Israel while telling King Achish that he was fighting against his own people (1 Sam 27:8-12). This deceit gets David into trouble, for Achish comes to regard him so highly that he wants David to go with him into battle against Israel (1 Sam 29:1-5). Fortunately for David, the other Philistines object to his participation and force him from the Philistine ranks.

5. What did David say that indicates that he had become somewhat demoralized?
6. How did Saul react when David went to the Philistines?
7. How long did David dwell among the Philistines (27:7)?

## **Day 4: David's Leadership Crisis**

While David and his soldiers were with the Philistines as they prepared to battle Israel, the Amalekites came against Ziklag and took away all their families and possessions (1 Sam 30:1-5). At this discovery, David's men are ready to stone him (30:6). God has here pushed the patience and endurance of all these men to the limit. Saul is insane; the nation's needs are not being served; David and his men are under a death threat and must live among their most bitterly hated enemies. Further, David could have put a stop to it all by killing Saul on two occasions but he refused. Then David nearly got them into a war against their own people. And **now**, their wives and children have been taken and their city burned. Sometimes our status as the children of God is hidden beneath trouble and hardship, and it is easy to fall into despair when we see no relief in sight.

But through the tribulations which he has endured as a fugitive, David has learned to depend ultimately upon God. In the present crisis, he seeks God's guidance, and God assures David that he will be successful in recovering all that had been taken (1 Sam 30:7-8). After the defeat of the Amalekites, David acts diplomatically by sending some of the spoil throughout those places in Judah where he had wandered through the wilderness period of his life (1 Sam 30:26-31).

8. How did David react when he found Ziklag in ruins?
9. How would sharing the spoil with the cities of Judah help David?

## **Day 5: Saul's Death**

Finally, the day so long awaited by David came; Saul is killed in battle against the Philistines (1 Sam 31:1-13). But this is not an occasion of rejoicing even though the threat against David is removed. First, David has lost his beloved and loyal friend, Jonathan, who died with his father in the battle. Secondly, Israel has suffered an inglorious defeat. Thirdly, Saul's demise will not mean an automatic promotion to the throne as all the tribes are not ready to embrace David as the next king. Even after all that David has suffered, he must still win the hearts of the people and prudently take the throne lest civil war should break out. David yet has much work ahead.

10. Who had prophesied that Saul would die in battle (1 Sam 28:19)?
11. Who took the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan? Why would they do this?

**Day 1: Lamentation for Saul and Jonathan**

David laments for both Saul and Jonathan in the Song of the Bow (2 Sam 1:17-27). David retained his respect for Saul as God's anointed king even though Saul tried to kill him on numerous occasions. We can learn a valuable lesson from David on dealing with our enemies: David was more concerned about the welfare of the nation and the honor of God than his own personal feelings. He continued to do the right thing and entrusted the resolution of the problem to God. We cannot allow ourselves to become bitter, vengeful and suspicious toward our enemies - those were the characteristics of Saul.

1. Who did David not want rejoicing over the death of Saul?
2. Was Saul's reign a total waste (comp. 2 Sam 1:24)?
3. How does David describe Jonathan's love?

**Day 2: A Kingdom in Disarray**

David seeks God's guidance as he takes his first halting steps toward the throne (2 Sam 2:1-4). God tells David to go to Hebron, and there the men of Judah anoint David as their king. David then makes an overture toward Jabesh Gilead when he learns of their recovery of Saul's body (2:4b-7). But Abner, Saul's top army commander, opposes David by making Ishbosheth, Saul's son, king over the rest of the nation (2:8-11). This stalemate continues for a long time, but David's power and influence gradually become stronger (2 Sam 3:1).

4. How long does David reign in Hebron as king over Judah?
5. Discuss our need for patience as God allows things to work themselves out naturally.

**Day 3: The Defection of Abner**

Over the course of time, Abner's influence grows among Israel and Ishbosheth proves to be a weak and ineffective leader (2 Sam 3:6-11). Abner then decides to defect to David, promising that he will help David extend his rule to all Israel (3:12-13). Abner begins to lobby for David, encouraging the northern tribes - especially Benjamin - to accept David's rule (3:17-21). Unfortunately, personal vengeance again rears its ugly head as Joab, the commander of David's army, murders Abner (3:26-30). This is a terrible blow to David's efforts to consolidate the throne, and he buries Abner in great pomp to show Israel that he did not order Abner's assassination (3:31-39).

6. What did Abner know about David (3:9-10, 18)?

7. List the things David did to show that he did not approve of Abner's murder.
8. Did David's efforts convince Israel of his innocence in Abner's death?

### **Day 4: The Murder of Ishbosheth**

Again, David receives "help" he does not need as some overzealous soldiers murder Ishbosheth, thinking they have done an honorable deed (2 Sam 4:1-8). David has consistently rejected all ungodly means of securing his throne, and he has wisely avoided any suggestion that he has approved of the wicked activities of others. So it is in this case as David executes the two murderers (4:9-12).

9. Discuss 2 Sam 4:8 and the tendency some people have to do as they desire and then attribute it to God's will.
10. What does 2 Sam 4:4 say about the strength of Saul's house? Was it necessary to murder Ishbosheth at this point in time?

### **Day 5: David Reigns Over All Israel**

After years patiently enduring attempts against his life, betrayal, warfare, the death of friends, homelessness, banishment, ungratefulness and other difficulties, David finally receives the fullness of God's promise to him:

- 1) Anointed king over all Israel - 2 Sam 5:1-5.
  - 2) Establishes capital city of Jerusalem - 2 Sam 5:6-10.
  - 3) Builds his royal palace - 2 Sam 5:11-12.
  - 4) Subdues the Philistines - 2 Sam 5:17-25.
11. At what age did David begin to reign? At what age did he begin to reign over all Israel?
  12. Who is instrumental in taking Jerusalem for David (see 1 Chron 11:6)?
  13. What did David gradually come to know from his good fortune (2 Sam 5:12)? Can this principle apply to our lives as Christians?
  14. What did David do both times that the Philistines challenged him?

**Day 1: David's Plan to Build a Temple**

The transition of power from Saul to David was a defining moment in the history of Israel and David was aware of its significance: *"So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for His people Israel's sake"* (2 Sam 5:12). Overcome with gratitude toward God, David determines to build a permanent temple for God in his new capital city (2 Sam 7:1-3; 1 Chr 22:7; 28:2). God, however, reveals that it is not His will that David build a temple; instead, God says that He intends to make David a house, an enduring royal house (2 Sam 7:4-11; 2 Chr 6:8-9).

1. T/F God told David that his desire to build a permanent temple was wrong.
2. Discuss 2 Sam 7:7 in reference to the subject of authority. How does *"have I ever spoken a word to anyone ..."* relate to the silence of God?
3. Why does God forbid David to build the temple?

**Day 2: A Royal Lineage**

The prophecy of 2 Sam 7:12-17 is a crucial piece of the Messianic puzzle from the O.T. While it has an immediate fulfillment in Solomon and the building of the temple (see 1 Chr 22:8-9; 28:3-6; 2 Chr 6:9-11), the prophecy also looks beyond Solomon to the eventual coming of a descendant of David who will be a permanent ruler upon the throne. Additional prophecies in coming centuries will clarify the nature of this Messiah ("Anointed One") and will create a great expectation among the Jews. This prophecy of Nathan to David is referred to both by the angel Gabriel as he speaks to Mary (Lk 1:32-33) and by the author of Hebrews (1:5) in reference to Jesus.

4. What would be given to Israel in the days of Solomon?
5. What relationship would exist between God and the descendant of David?
6. Jesus would be called \_\_\_\_\_ of the Highest but \_\_\_\_\_ is called His father.

**Day 3: The Resurrection and Enthronement of Jesus**

Peter in the Pentecost sermon also alludes to the prophecy of 2 Sam 7 (Acts 2:25-36). He quotes Psalm 16:8-11 and stresses that David knew that God would set the Messiah on his throne. The death of the Messiah, therefore, necessitated His resurrection in order for the promise to be fulfilled. This is similar to Abraham's confidence that God would raise Isaac from the dead if necessary in order to fulfill His promises through him.



7. T/F David was a prophet as well as a king.
8. Who raised Jesus from the dead? Who made Jesus both Lord and Christ?
9. Being at the right hand of God is the same as being on David's \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Day 4: David's Reaction to the Covenant**

David is overwhelmed by the covenant which God has made with him, and he reflects upon God's greatness and the relationship He has with Israel (2 Sam 7:18-29). The humility of David is still intact in spite of his great success because he realizes that God has blessed him all along the way.

10. What did David consider a small thing to God?
11. What concepts in 2 Sam 7:23 tie in with the covenant made to Abraham?
12. What had David learned about the words of God (2 Sam 7:28)?

#### **Day 5: David's Continued Success**

God continues to bless David with victory over his enemies (2 Sam 8:1-14). The Philistines, Moabites, Syrians, Ammonites, Edomites, and others are all subjugated. Later, a conspiracy between the Syrians and Ammonites is defeated (2 Sam 10:1-19). David has now reached the zenith of his power and his renown among the nations.

13. David took control of all the territory to what river?
14. "\_\_\_\_\_ preserved David wherever he went."
15. What mistake did Hanun, king of the Ammonites, make that led to his downfall?

**Day 1: David and Bathsheba**

David's adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah are the great blemishes upon his life (2 Sam 11-12; comp. 1 Kgs 15:5). God has blessed David greatly, but Satan uses those blessings to his advantage by stirring up David's pride. From high atop his royal palace, David evidently feels entitled to anything he wants, even another man's wife. As the story unfolds, Uriah's loyalty and godliness thwart David's schemes to cover his crime, and finally David resorts to the murder of his trusted warrior.

The consequences of his sin are far-reaching: the sword would never depart from David's house (2 Sam 12:10); there would be rebellion from within his own house (12:11); the whole nation would behold David's troubles (12:12); enemies would blaspheme God on David's account (12:14); and the child born to Bathsheba would die (12:14-23).

1. Did David know Uriah before this incident (see 2 Sam 23:39)?
2. What responsibility, if any, does Bathsheba bear in this episode?
3. Describe how David used Joab, Uriah, and other soldiers to hide his sin.
4. Discuss David's actions as the child falls ill and then dies.

**Day 2: Amnon and Tamar**

David's household faces another crisis of sexual misconduct as Amnon schemes to rape his own half-sister (2 Sam 13). This angers David but, perhaps morally weakened by his own sin with Bathsheba, he does not punish Amnon. Absalom, however, murders Amnon two years later in retribution. Note throughout this story how David is used first by Amnon (13:5-6), then by Absalom (13:24-26), and later by his opportunist nephew Jonadab (13:32, 35). This is the curse of power and influence: David is used by others to further their own causes (even as he used others against Uriah).

5. What does Tamar recognize about the nature of such a terrible sin as rape?
6. What is often the result when unbridled lust is fulfilled (2 Sam 13:15-17)?

**Day 3: Absalom's Rebellion**

David's judicial weakness is further seen in Absalom's escape from punishment for the murder of Amnon. After three years of self-imposed exile at his grandfathers' (2 Sam 13:37; comp. 2 Sam 3:3), Absalom is allowed to return to Jerusalem (2 Sam 14:23-28).

Absalom, however, begins to use his charisma and political skills to win the hearts of the people away from David (2 Sam 15:1-6).

**7.** List the tactics used by Absalom to undermine David's rule (2 Sam 15:1-12).

### **Day 4: David's Exile**

A full-scale rebellion against David breaks out and he is forced to flee for his life (2 Sam 15:7-14). Eventually, David's battle-seasoned army is able to defeat the forces of Absalom and Absalom, himself, is killed (2 Sam 18:9-15).

**8.** Describe David's attitude as he departs from Jerusalem (2 Sam 15:25-26).

**9.** T/F David wanted Absalom's life spared in the battle (2 Sam 18:5, 12).

**10.** Who killed Absalom? How had he caused David grief before?

### **Day 5: David's Restoration to the Throne**

At a time when David needed to win back Israel's loyalty, his excessive grief over Absalom threatened to alienate the people further (2 Sam 19:1-8). The men of Judah were slow to extend support to David and his diplomacy was not as wise as it was when he first united the kingdom (2 Sam 19:9-15). A quarrel later ensued between Judah and Benjamin and the other tribes concerning Judah's prominent role in David's return (2 Sam 19:40-43). Already, the seeds of division are growing in the nation of Israel over the issue of central rule. Israel wanted a king to fight their battles, and this David did. But Israel also got taxation, scandal, internal strife, assassination and other unpleasantness which accompany royalty. As we shall see in further studies, and as God had warned in the past, an earthly king tends to excite all the base attitudes in men and often leads to social and political chaos.

**11.** What stern warning does Joab give David regarding his conduct over Absalom?

**12.** What did David offer in order to win back the tribe of Judah?

**13.** Why did Israel feel entitled to a prominent role in David's return? Why did Judah feel entitled to the more prominent role?

**Day 1: Sheba's Rebellion**

David's political woes were not over with his restoration to the throne, for God had said *"the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me"* (2 Sam 12:10). Sheba, a Benjamite, raises another rebellion and leads the disgruntled northern tribes away from David (2 Sam 20:1-2). David suffers from his own mistake in appointing Amasa as the commander of the army as he proves to be inept (2 Sam 20:4-7). True to his nature, Joab murders Amasa to regain his position (2 Sam 20:8-13) and successfully ends the rebellion (2 Sam 20:16-22).

1. Which tribe remained loyal to David?
2. Joab has now murdered three men whose names begin with "A". Who are they?

**Day 2: Two National Punishments**

There is a close association between the behavior of the king and the entire nation, perhaps because the influence of the king strongly influences the population in general. In the first case, God punishes the whole land with a three-year drought because of Saul's persecution of the Gibeonites, with whom Israel had made a covenant of peace (2 Sam 21:1-2; see Josh 9:3ff). God's wrath is not appeased until seven of Saul's descendants are executed (2 Sam 21:5-9, 14). In the second case, David takes an unauthorized census and God strikes the nation with a pestilence (2 Sam 24:1-2, 10-17). Note that God is angry with Israel (2 Sam 24:1). Is it because of the rebellions of Absalom and Sheba against David? Is this why David takes the census - to assess the strength of those who might oppose him in the future? These episodes lack in detail and leave us curious, but they teach us some valuable lessons about God's reaction to sin.

3. What does the execution of Saul's descendants teach about keeping a covenant?
4. Why does David choose punishment from God regarding the census (2 Sam 24:14)?
5. Since David had sinned, what would he not offer to God (2 Sam 24:24)?

**Day 3: Preparation for Building the Temple**

Though David had been forbidden by God to build the temple, he gathered materials and resources for Solomon to commence the project after his death (1 Chr 22:1-5; 29:1-9).

6. How does David challenge the people to contribute to the temple (1 Chr 29:3-5)?
7. What kind of giving to God causes us to rejoice?

## Day 4: Civil and Religious Organization

David worked hard in his later years to consolidate the nation and place it on a firm organizational foundation. He divides the Levites according to their ancestry and appoints them to various tasks of public administration (1 Chr 23:1-5, 25-32). David lowers the age of Levitical service to twenty, indicating that *“The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever.”* In so doing, he acknowledges the present fullness of God’s ancient promises regarding Israel. Further, the priesthood is given a schedule of service (1 Chr 24:1-19); musicians are appointed (1 Chr 25:1-6) and gatekeepers assigned (1 Chr 26:1-19). The Levites are also charged with overseeing the treasuries (1 Chr 26:20-28) and acting as royal representatives throughout the nation (1 Chr 26:29-32). Provisions were made for a standing army (1 Chr 27:1-15), and tribal leaders were also designated (1 Chr 27:16-24). Thus we have traced the evolution of the nation from its early tribal disunity to its present monarchic form - **A United Kingdom**.

8. What does David do to increase the number of Levites for service?
9. What did Asaph, Jeduthun, Heman and their sons do?
10. How many men had the oversight of Israel west of the Jordan (1 Chr 26:29-30)?

## Day 5: A Psalm of Triumph

In the twilight of his life, David reflected upon a life of narrow escapes, overwhelming odds, human frailty and unprecedented achievement. An autobiographical psalm surveys this amazing life (2 Sam 22/Psalm 18). The first section praises God for deliverance from an apparently hopeless situation (22:2-19). Of special interest in this section is the figurative/apocalyptic literary style similar to that of Revelation (vv 8-16). The second section establishes the grounds for this deliverance (22:20-28). David is not here declaring absolute innocence but speaks of a devoted, God-respecting life. David was a king who, unlike Saul, made it his primary goal to accomplish the will of God. This is why God established a royal covenant with him, defeated his enemies, and used him to establish the people in the fullness of nationhood. In the third section of the psalm, David exults over his power and might as given by God (22:29-46). We must remember in this and in other psalms of David that he speaks as the anointed ruler of God’s people, not in reference to personal vengeance. The last section of the psalm is a summary praise of Jehovah (22:47-51).

11. T/F David always felt in control of situations and never worried about his enemies.
12. What made David think of God as a rock, fortress, stronghold and refuge? To what time of life is David referring?
13. How is 2 Sam 22:50 used in the NT?

**Day 1: Adonijah's Bid for the Throne**

Adonijah follows in his brother Absalom's footsteps by trying to take the throne by force (1 Kgs 1:5-10). David, admittedly now elderly and feeble, lets the situation go unopposed until it gets out of control. Nathan and Bathsheba appeal to David to reaffirm Solomon as the rightful heir of the throne (1 Kgs 1:11-27).

1. Who were Adonijah's co-conspirators?
2. Discuss how David's laxness toward the behavior of his family has hurt the nation.

**Day 2: Solomon's Rule Affirmed**

David instructs Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah to publicly anoint Solomon and seat him on the throne (1 Kgs 1:28-40). Adonijah proves his unworthiness and incompetence to lead by cowering in fear over the proceedings (1 Kgs 1:41-49). Adonijah appeals for asylum by taking hold of the horns of the altar (1 Kgs 1:50-53), not an act of protection under the Law but a cultural practice that had grown out of Ex 21:14.

3. Upon what did Solomon ride to his anointing ceremony?
4. What did Adonijah's friends do when they learned of Solomon's enthronement?

**Day 3: Solomon Charged with Building the Temple**

David now charges Solomon with the privilege that God had withheld from him: *"Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it"* (see 1 Chr 22:6-19; 28:6-21). David reminds Solomon of the Davidic covenant wherein God stipulated that Solomon would inherit the throne and build the temple; he urges his son to fully obey God from the heart lest God remove him from the throne; he gives Solomon the blueprints for the temple, the resources he has accumulated, the craftsmen who had been trained for the work. Truly the building of the temple was a tremendous responsibility, but God will provide everything Solomon needs to accomplish the task. This assurance David has learned from his own life.

5. What makes it possible for Solomon to concentrate on the temple (1 Chr 22:18)?
6. How does David urge Solomon to serve God (1 Chr 28:9)?
7. Where did the blueprints for the temple come from (1 Chr 28:12, 19)?
8. In what similar ways were both David and Moses disappointed late in life?

## Day 4: Solomon's Second Anointing

After the great public, national commitment to build the temple under Solomon's leadership, the people now hold a second anointing ceremony for Solomon (1 Chr 29:21-25). The first had been a hastily arranged affair to counter the growing influence of Adonijah and only involved the citizens of Jerusalem. It was only fair to Solomon (not to mention politically beneficial) to have another inauguration which included all Israel.

9. Solomon sat on the throne of the \_\_\_\_\_.

10. T/F Solomon enjoyed the loyalty of all the tribes except Benjamin.

## Day 5: David's Final Instructions and His Death

Though the nation had originally asked for a king with evil motives, God had graciously provided the house of David as a royal lineage and promised to bless the nation as long as the king upheld the Law. Thus, in his last words to Solomon, David encourages his son to rule in obedience to God so that the royal covenant might be fulfilled (1 Kgs 2:1-4). He further charges Solomon to punish Joab and Shimei for their crimes and bless the sons of Barzillai (1 Kgs 2:5-9). David was remiss in not punishing these men sooner but perhaps felt his shaky rule would not support such actions.

A brief summation is given of David's life in his obituary (1 Kgs 2:10-12; 1 Chr 29:26-30). The rule is successfully passed to Solomon who "*sat on the throne of his father David.*" It was **David's** throne because God had established the royal covenant with him, just as it was **Abrahamic** promises that were being fulfilled as God had made the original covenant with him. The right to reign over Israel according to this Davidic covenant and the nature of the rule will be crucial issues when the Messiah comes into the world.

11. T/F Regardless of the circumstances, God would always keep a descendant of David on the throne.

12. What distinction is made in killing a man in 1 Kgs 2:5?

13. During Absalom's rebellion, Shimei, of the family of \_\_\_\_\_, cursed David for what reason (2 Sam 16:7-8)?

14. Discuss: Is David justified in charging Solomon with punishing Joab and Shimei?

15. How old was David when he died (2 Sam 5:4)? This length of life at this time in history is called "a \_\_\_\_\_ age, full of \_\_\_\_\_."

**Day 1: The Execution of Adonijah**

Solomon's threat notwithstanding, Adonijah's aspirations to the throne are not dead. Through an unwitting Bathsheba Adonijah appeals to Solomon for permission to marry Abishag, the young quasi-concubine who cared for David in his dying days (1 Kgs 2:13-21; see also 1 Kgs 1:1-4). While he framed his request to Bathsheba in innocence, the marriage to Abishag could be used as a lever of influence against Solomon (comp. 2 Sam 16:22). Solomon is furious at Adonijah's treasonous conniving and orders his execution (1 Kgs 2:22-25).

1. How did Adonijah play to Bathsheba's sympathies in asking for Abishag (1 Kgs 2:15)?
2. Why did Adonijah think the throne rightfully was his (1 Kgs 2:22; 2 Sam 3:4)?

**Day 2: Abiathar Exiled, Joab Executed**

Solomon spares Abiathar though he is worthy of death for his part in Adonijah's coup attempt; however, he is removed from the priesthood and sent to his home city (1 Kgs 2:26-27). Joab hears that Solomon is "cleaning house," and he takes refuge in the tabernacle (1 Kgs 2:28-29). At first, Benaiah is reluctant to slay Joab in the tabernacle, but Solomon realizes that his gesture of taking hold of the horns of the altar is without force according to the Law. He commands Joab to be slain in order to atone for the innocent blood which Joab had shed (1 Kgs 2:30-35).

3. What did the exile of Abiathar have to do with Eli (see 1 Sam 2:31-33)?
4. What was Solomon's main concern in executing Joab? Was it personal vengeance?

**Day 3: The Execution of Shimei**

Solomon places Shimei under oath to remain in Jerusalem under penalty of death (1 Kgs 2:36-38). Perhaps Solomon wished to keep an eye on this one who so hated David, or perhaps he was just using Shimei's disrespect for God's anointed king as an occasion for his execution. In any case, Shimei's life was in his own hands; he would live so long as he obeyed the king's order. Predictably, he does not obey and suffers the consequences (1 Kgs 2:39-46).

5. Was there anything vague or unclear in the instructions of Solomon to Shimei?
6. Were Shimei's slaves worth forfeiting his own life?
7. How might Shimei have rationalized leaving Jerusalem? Do we do this sometimes?



## Day 4: Solomon Requests Wisdom

The seeds for Solomon's eventual downfall are already sown in the earliest days of his reign. He enters a treaty with the king of Egypt and marries Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kgs 3:1). While this does not violate the Law (only Canaanite women were ineligible for marriage - comp. Ex. 34:16; Dt. 7:3; 21:10), it appears that Solomon has by this time *already* married an Ammonite woman who has borne Rehoboam (see 1 Kgs 14:21 and 11:42-43). Further, Solomon shows a weakness in allowing sacrifice upon the high places, a practice that will never be fully eradicated among Israel (1 Kgs 3:2-4).

In spite of these faults, Solomon "*loved the LORD*" and demonstrates as much in his love for Israel and his request to rule over them in wisdom (1 Kgs 3:5-9). God is pleased with Solomon's selfless petition and grants him not only wisdom but also "*riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days*" (1 Kgs 3:10-15).

- 8. Describe Solomon's view of himself and his rule over Israel.
- 9. God was pleased that Solomon had **not** asked what three things?
- 10. Upon what condition would God lengthen Solomon's days?

## Day 5: An Early Display of Solomon's Wise Judgment

A difficult case is brought before Solomon involving accidental death, kidnapping, and lying (1 Kgs 3:16-23). In the days before DNA testing, such a situation would be unsolvable from independent evidence, but Solomon in all his wisdom understood human nature - especially maternal attachment. He used this knowledge to create a situation wherein the maternal instinct to preserve one's child would manifest itself (1 Kgs 3:24-27). The case was resolved and famously illustrated Solomon's wisdom so that the people held him in high regard (1 Kgs 3:28).

- 11. What factors made it impossible to determine whose was the living child?
- 12. What attitude is shown in the reply of the harlot whose child had died (3:26)?

**Day 1: Overview**

Solomon “had it all” (1 Kgs 4:20-34). He had power, wealth, fame, and his kingdom was at peace. He was blessed with knowledge and wisdom which overflowed in the writing of songs and poetry. He was truly the king of kings in his day, but only because he kept the commands of God.

1. What is the geographical extent of Solomon's kingdom?
2. How is dwelling in safety described (1 Kgs 4:25)?
3. How many songs and proverbs did Solomon write?

**Day 2: The Building of the Temple**

Solomon's awareness of the Davidic covenant and the responsibility that it laid upon him urged him to commence construction of the temple early in his reign (1 Kgs 5:3-5). Arrangements are made with Hiram, king of Tyre, to supply cypress and cedar (1 Kgs 5:7-12), and a labor force is organized to quarry stones and prepare timbers (1 Kgs 5:13-18). Finally, after much preparation both by David and Solomon, *“in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel ... he began to build the house of the LORD”* (1 Kgs 6:1). In the midst of the project, God reconfirms the Davidic covenant to Solomon (1 Kgs 6:11-13), even as the Abrahamic covenant was repeated numerous times to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The temple was completed in 7 1/2 years (1 Kgs 6:38).

4. What does God promise to do if Solomon upholds the Law?

**Day 3: The Dedication of the Temple**

Solomon begins his speech at the dedication of the temple with reference to the Davidic covenant: *“So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel”* (1 Kgs 8:20; see 14-21). He then prays that God will continue to honor the covenant (1 Kgs 8:22-26). Solomon acknowledges that the temple is not the literal dwelling place of God (1 Kgs 8:27) but repeatedly asks that the things done in respect to the temple would be duly noted by God in heaven (1 Kgs 8:31, 32, 34, 36, 39, 43, 45, 49). Note especially Solomon's assessment of Israel's present circumstances: *“There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses”* (1 Kgs 8:56). In this, Solomon concurs with the earlier words of Joshua (Jsh 21:43-45; 23:14). Consider the following observation:

“The temple thereby became not only a visible pledge of the lasting duration of the covenant, by virtue of which God would dwell among His people, but also a copy of the kingdom of God, which received at its erection an embodiment answering to its existing condition at the time. As the tabernacle, with its resemblance to a nomad’s tent, answered to the time when Israel had not yet found rest in the promised land of the Lord; so was the temple, regarded as an immovable house, a pledge that Israel had now acquired its lasting inheritance in Canaan, and that the kingdom of God on earth had obtained a firm foundation in the midst of it” (**Keil and Delitzsch**, Vol. 3, p. 87).

5. What quality sets God apart from other gods (1 Kgs 8:23)?
6. What does God know about us (1 Kgs 8:39)?
7. Cite a NT passage which agrees with Solomon’s observation about sin (1 Kgs 8:46).
8. T/F Solomon cursed any foreigner who would ever pray toward the temple.

#### **Day 4: God’s Second Appearance to Solomon**

On the lofty mountains of success and achievement are often sown the seeds of pride and self-sufficiency. Thus, upon the completion of the temple, as the nation is rejoicing together with its king, God appears to Solomon with stern warnings (1 Kgs 9:1-9). Yet again reference is made to the Davidic covenant and God’s conditional promise to keep a descendant of David upon the throne. But He also declares that His glorious house will be brought to ruin if the nation falls into disobedience. The people should not mistake the temple for license; God’s presence among them, as pointed out clearly by Moses, is dependent upon their obedience to the Law.

9. Where had God appeared to Solomon the first time? What happened at that time?
10. What will people ask about the temple if Israel turns to idolatry?

#### **Day 5: The Dazzling Wealth and Wisdom of Solomon**

The queen of Sheba is so taken with Solomon’s reputation for wisdom that she journeys to Canaan with great riches in order to meet him (1 Kgs 10:1-13). She is duly impressed and praises God for setting him upon the throne. This present state is what God intended for Israel: they would be a beacon to the Gentiles through their obedient lives and the consequent blessings of God. Ideally, this would continue until the Messiah would come and gather unto Himself all who were beneficially influenced by a godly Israel under covenant relation with Jehovah. Unfortunately, the warnings notwithstanding, Israel will soon lose this exalted position among the nations.

11. What view do Hiram and the queen of Sheba share (2 Chr 2:11-12; 1 Kgs 10:9)?

**Day 1: Solomon's Slide into Idolatry**

Solomon's wisdom, great as it was, was overpowered by his love of foreign women (1 Kgs 11:1-8). Solomon marries women from prohibited nations, off-limits to Israelites because of their attachment to idols, and thus their idolatry infiltrates Israel. Some 500 years later, Nehemiah says, *"Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. **Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin**"* (Neh 13:26). As in the case of his father David, sexual laxness leads to the downfall of this greatest of all kings.

1. At what stage of life did Solomon's wives turn his heart away from God?
2. T/F Even though David sinned, his heart never embraced idols.
3. Write in the nation which goes with the god: Chemosh - \_\_\_\_\_; Ashtoreth - \_\_\_\_\_; Molech - \_\_\_\_\_; Milcom - \_\_\_\_\_.

**Day 2: God's Judgment upon Solomon**

God's appearances to Solomon, His great blessings to the king, His repeated warnings against idolatry, and even concern for the Davidic covenant are all set aside in favor of Solomon's wives. This angers God (1 Kgs 11:9-13). The punishment: *"I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant."* How these words must have tortured the great king in his latter days!

4. How many tribes would be given to Solomon's son? To the rival king?
5. For whose sake would a tribe remain unto Solomon's son?

**Day 3: Hadad and Rezon**

As in the days of the judges, God raises up adversaries against Solomon and his apparently invincible kingdom (1 Kgs 11:14-25). Hadad caused trouble for the kingdom in the south and Rezon harassed them in the north. Hadad was an Edomite who fled from Joab's slaughter and lived as a refugee in Egypt (2 Sam 8:14). Rezon escaped from Zobah when David attacked it (2 Sam 8:3-6), and his band of raiders took control of Damascus.

6. To whom was Hadad married?
7. What choice did Hadad make that resembled that of Moses some 500 years earlier?

## **Day 4: Jeroboam: The Seeds of Division**

It appears that Solomon augmented the practice of Canaanite slave labor (1 Kgs 9:20-22) with a work force from the northern tribes, especially Ephraim (1 Kgs 11:27-28; 12:4), which was used to affect repairs in Jerusalem. An enterprising young man, Jeroboam, was placed in charge of this work. At this time, it is announced to Jeroboam by the prophet Ahijah that he has been chosen by God to receive the rule over ten tribes (1 Kgs 11:29-39) as punishment for Solomon's disobedience. It is not quite clear if Jeroboam's thoughts of rebellion preceded this announcement or if the prophecy itself stirred his royal ambitions. At any rate, Solomon is made aware of the events and seeks to kill Jeroboam, who seeks refuge in Egypt (1 Kgs 11:40). This is truly the beginning of the end for Israel as a unified nation, for it will never recover the exalted position it once enjoyed under David and Solomon.

- 8.** From what tribe was Jeroboam (1 Kgs 11:26)?
- 9.** Is Jeroboam ever described as a humble, obedient, God-fearing man?
- 10.** Where had God chosen to put His name? Would this city be given to Jeroboam?
- 11.** What will God do for Jeroboam if he is obedient?
- 12.** To what extent is Solomon in rebellion to God according to 1 Kgs 11:40? How is he now more like Saul than David?

## **Day 5: The Death of Solomon**

Solomon comes to a peaceful end even as God had promised, but at his death storm-clouds are gathering on the horizon (1 Kgs 11:41-43; 2 Chr 9:29-31). This man, with such a capacity for greatness, has become a disappointment in his later life and leaves the kingdom on the brink of civil war. David had done so much to consolidate the kingdom for Solomon's sake and for the temple's sake in his old age, but Solomon set his heart against God in his latter days. Men invested with so much capacity to do good can do great harm if Satan captures their heart.

- 13.** How long did Solomon reign over Israel?
- 14.** Who was Iddo and what did he write? (See 2 Chr 9:29; 12:15; 13:22)