

## CLASS 6: *The Kingdom: Leadership, Unity, and Division (Samuel-Chronicles, Prophets)*

### Jax Church OT Survey Series Fall 2023

Words/People to Know					
Hannah	Saul	David	Solomon	Judah / Israel	Hezekiah
Nathan	Elijah/Elisha	Abigail	Jeroboam	Assyria	Babylon

*1 Sam 16:7b The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

### Background on the Kingdom of Israel (1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles)

#### Authorship

- Mix of recent history with later theological edits
- Samuel-Kings written earlier than Chronicles
- The Prophets seem to be autobiographical with exilic edits

#### Literary Form

- “Redemptive history”—theologically based didactic (teaching) history
- Don’t be surprised about times, dates, facts (not their emphasis)
- Prophetic emphasis—telling the story of God / Israel / Humanity

#### Kingdom of Israel Chronology Highlights (See Sidebar)

- **Samuel:** Transitional prophet leader from judges to kings
- **Saul:** The people choose a king “like the other nations” (1 Sam 8:18)
- **David:** God chooses a king (1 Sam 13:14) renews his Covenant
- **Solomon:** Kingdom pinnacle and the beginning of the end/division
- **Elijah/Elisha:** The greatest of the prophets (after Moses)
- **Few “Good” Kings:** Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah [Asa, Uzziah, Jotham]
- **The Prophets:** Calling Israel/Judah back to the Covenant
- **The Nations:** Philistines, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Others

#### Kingdom Themes

1. **The God Factor:** We tend to forget what is really important to our own peril  
Ex: Covenant, Spiritual Warfare, Treasure, Legacy (Next Generation)
2. **Leadership Paradox:** We need and then idolize leaders to their peril  
Ex: Judges, Kings, Ministry Staff
3. **Justice over Power:** Kings reversed God’s laws on justice and equality  
Ex: Solomon (peace) rejected power restrictions on kings (Dt. 17) resulting in slavery, aristocracy, and misuse of authority; Prophets preached justice
4. **Fragile Unity:** We tend to villainize people  
Ex: Who was/is “good” vs. “bad”? What are we?  
“I desire mercy” (Mt 9:13, Hos 6:6) and “complete unity” (Jn 17:23)

#### Survey of the Kingdom of Israel / Judah

##### Samuel—“the one God heard”

- Birth Story: 1 Sam 2:1-10 Hannah’s prayer vs. Mary’s song (Luke 1:46-55)
- Like Jesus: 1 Sam 2:26 “*Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and men*” (Luke 2:42).
- Prophet’s Call: 1 Sam 3:10-11 “*The Lord came and stood there... “speak for your servant is listening”*
- 3 Crises: Religious; Succession (legacy); Political/Military
- Covenant Renewal: 1 Sam 12:14-25 “**IF** you fear the Lord (condition) ... **IF** you persist in doing evil”

#### Kingdom Chronology

1075 Judge/Prophet Samuel

**1050-930 United Kingdom**

1050 King Saul [Samuel]

1025 David/Goliath [Philistine]

1010 King David [Nathan]

970 King Solomon [No Prophet]

**972-612 Assyrian Empire**

**930-586 Divided Kingdom**

#### *Prophets to Israel’s Kings*

880 Elijah to Ahab/Jezabel

**870-849 Jehoshaphat [Judah]**

850 Elisha to Joram/Jehu

786+ Amos

**750+ Jonah to Nineveh**

740+ Hosea

**722 Israel to Assyrian Exile**

#### *Prophets to Judah’s Kings*

740+ Isaiah/Micah

**716-686 King Hezekiah**

701 Sennacherib’s Siege

**640-609 King Josiah**

630+ Jeremiah

621 Zephaniah

612 Habakkuk

**612 Nahum to Nineveh**

**612-539 Babylonian Empire**

**607 1<sup>st</sup> Babylonian Deportation**

605-530 Daniel

592-570 Ezekiel

590? Joel

586 Obadiah to Edom

**586 Judah to Babylonian Exile**

**607-539 Babylonian Exile**

**539-300 Medo-Persian Empire**

### **Saul**—“a king like the other nations”

- Son of Kish—of the tribe of Benjamin (recall Judges 19-21) not Judah (Gen 49:10)
- Prophet—filled with the Spirit and charisma (10:10, 19:23); then filled with an evil spirit (16:14)
- Defined by His Decisions: 1 Sam 13 (wait for Samuel); 1 Sam 15 (lies); 1 Sam 28 (witch)
- Contrast 1 Sam 15:22-23 “*to obey is better than sacrifice...*” “*rebellion is like divination*” vs. 28:1ff “*the Lord did not answer*” so Saul goes to a medium/witch

### **David**—“a man after God's heart”

- Who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> King of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam 2:10) [Tel Dan—"House of David"]
- David's Dominance: 2nd only to Moses in terms of text; considered the greatest King
- Introduced: anointed by Samuel; musician/armor-bearer to Saul; giant-slayer to Goliath (snake killer)
- Twice Anointed (“Messiah”): king outside of Jerusalem (1 Sam 16); king in Jerusalem (2 Sam 2)
- Covenant Renewal: 2 Sam 7:4-17 Nathan's prophecy about David's line and the temple
- Pivotal Chapter: 2 Sam 11 “*what David did displeased the Lord*”; before he was blessed; after he was cursed (Amnon/Tamar, Absalom, Shimei's curses, Sheba's rebellion, counts the army)
  - Compare role of Abigail in his life to Bathsheba
- Name that Tune: \_\_\_\_\_ How did David view his ups/downs at the end of his life? He was faithful!

### **Solomon**—the kingdom Poet (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)

- Who was the fourth king of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 1:5)
- 1 Ki 2 David's instructions: kill the remaining “problem” people
- 1 Ki 3: asks for wisdom—distinguish right/wrong (Eden!)
- 1 Ki 6:12-13 vs. 11:11-13 “if you keep my covenant” vs. “you have not kept my covenant” (the kingdom was divided during his lifetime; but he was spared because of David)
- 1 Ki 6:38-7:1 built temple in 7 years then build his palace for 13 years
- 1 Ki 11:1-5 Legacy: Wisdom, Wealth, and... a heart led astray by women (700 wives, 300 concubines)

### **The Divided Kingdom**—lessons in leadership

- Northern Kingdom/Samaria [Jeroboam I set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan]
  - 931-874 **Heresy**: Jeroboam to Omri [Omri built Samaria]
  - 874-841 **Apostacy**: Ahab/ Jezebel [Baal/Ashtoreth] to Jehoram. **Elijah then Elisha**.
  - 841-798 **Dependence**: Jehu [Obelisk of Shalmaneser III] to Jehohaz; dependent on Syria
  - 798-722 **Disintegration**: Zechariah-Hoshea; **Assyria exiles Israel**
- Southern Kingdom/ Judah (Jerusalem)
  - 931-848 Decline to 1st Revival: Rehoboam to **Asa/Jehoshaphat** [Elijah]
  - 848-698 Decline to 2nd Revival: Jehoram to **Hezekiah** [Sennacherib's Prism]
  - 698-608 Decline to 3rd Revival: Manasseh to **Josiah** [The Book of the Law]
  - 608-586 Decline to No Revival: Jehohaz to Zedekiah; **Babylon exiles Judah**

### **Resources**

- Bible Project Video: Justice <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/justice/>
- Steve Kinnard's OT Classes: <https://www.teachicoc.org/ot-survey-historical-book-by-book1>
- Brett Kreider's Classes on Poets & Prophets:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQB9ZhJowHu-X9aueN7ZstHRik1am1EUa>
- Description of Babylonian Rulers: <https://www.wednesdayintheword.com/kings-babylon/>