Israel and Her Kings

Chronological studies in the Books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles designed to familiarize the student with the history of Israel from the time of the establishment of the monarchy until the dissolution of the Kingdom of Judah in the Babylonian Captivity. The study will also include consideration of the various prophets of the Kingdom period in their appropriate historical context.

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Lessons One: The Birth and Youth of Samuel

Lesson Aim: Learn about the early life of Israel's first prophet.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 1:1–2:11

Memory Verse: Psalm 127:3–5

Questions for Review

1. Who was Elkanah?
2. Where was he from? What does the name of this place mean?
3. Unto whom was Elkanah married?
4. Where did Elkanah and his family go every year? Why? (See: Deuteronomy 12:10–11)
5. What was located there? How long had it been there? (See: Joshua 18:1)
6. Who is the High Priest at this time? What does his name mean? (See: Luke 3:23)
7. From which son of Aaron did he descend? (See: 1 Kings 2:27; 1 Chronicles 24:3)
8. Who served in the priest's office with Eli? Describe him. (Cf. 1 Samuel 2:12; 3:1; 4:15,18)
9. What problem affected Elkanah's relationship to Hannah?
10. Who was Hannah's adversary? How did she provoke Hannah?
11. How did this affect Hannah? Why do you suppose this was so important to Hannah?
12. What did Elkanah do to alleviate Hannah's grief? Did he succeed?
13. What mistake did Eli make regarding Hannah when she came to the Tabernacle?
14. Why might Eli make this mistake? (Cf. 1 Samuel 1:16 and 2:12)
15. What blessing did Eli confer upon Hannah upon learning that she prayed?
16. What was the name of Hannah's firstborn son? What does this name mean?
17. What vow did Hannah make regarding this son? What warning did Elkanah give concerning it?
18. When did Hannah next go up to the Tabernacle?
19. What did Hannah take with her to the Tabernacle? Why?
20. What significance did the offering she made have?
21. Unto whom did Hannah present her son at the Tabernacle?
22. In what sense was Samuel 'lent' to the Lord?
23. Who is the King to whom Hannah refers in her prayer of thanksgiving in 1 Samuel 2:10?

The Geography Lesson

Locate Ramathaim-zophim and Shiloh on the map of Palestine. Indicate the location of the Tabernacle by a star or cross. Mark the Jordan River, Sea of Chinnoreth and the Dead Sea.

Research Project

Why is Samuel's father called an Ephraimite? To what tribe did Elkanah belong? How was Samuel able to minister in the Tabernacle, if he was not a Levite? (See: 1 Kings 11:26; 1 Chronicles 6:33, 38; 23:2 6, 24, 28, 31; Joshua 21:20; Numbers 4:1-20)
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Lesson Two: The Wickedness of Eli's Sons
Lesson Aim: See the sad and sinful condition into which Israel had fallen since the Conquest.
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-4:1
Memory Verse: Jeremiah 23:10,11

Questions for Review

1. What character of men were the sons of Eli? What are they called?
2. What does it mean to be a son of Belial? (See: Deuteronomy 13:13; Judges 19:22; 2 Corinthians 6:13)
3. What sins did Hophni and Phinehas commit in their ministry as priests? (Cf. 1 Samuel 2:17,22)
4. What was the lawful portion of the sacrifice assigned to the priests? (See: Leviticus 7:29-34)
5. What portion were Hophni and Phinehas taking of the sacrifice?
6. What other demand were they making of worshipers at the Tabernacle?
7. What part of the sacrificial ritual were they leaving out? (See: 2:16 and cf. Leviticus 3:1, 5,16)
8. What was the consequence of their sin upon Israel? (See: 2:17,24; cf. Malachi 2:7 9; 1 Kings 15:26)
9. How did Eli deal with his sons' sins? (Cf. 1 Samuel 3:13)
10. Could Eli have done more than he did? Why do you think so?
12. Whom did God send to Eli? For what purpose was this man sent?
13. What did the messenger from God tell Eli concerning his sons and his progeny?
14. Who was Eli's father? (See: Exodus 28:1 4; 30:7,8) What covenant had God made with him?
15. To whom would God grant the promises of the covenant made with Eli's father? (Cf. 1 Samuel 2:30)
16. How did Eli and his sons 'kick' at the sacrifices of God? (See: Deuteronomy 32:15)
17. What would be the confirming sign of the prophecy of the man of God?
18. Who is the faithful priest of 1 Samuel 2:35 which God raised up?
20. What did Hannah bring to Samuel every year?
21. How did Jehovah bless Hannah for having kept her vow?
23. When did God call Samuel? How many times did God call Samuel? How did Samuel answer?
24. What did God reveal to Samuel concerning Eli and his sons? How did Eli respond?
25. Unto whom does Samuel compare in authority and privilege as a prophet?

The Geography Lesson

On your map identify the territories of the Twelve Tribes. Locate Dan, Beersheba, Egypt and Philistia.

Research Project

Trace the fulfillment of the threatened ruination of the house of Eli. Create a genealogy of the High Priests descending from Eli. (Hint: Use your concordance and search Eli. Then follow your cross references.)
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Lesson Three:  *Ichabod, The Glory Is Departed*

Lesson Aim: See how Israel’s sins bring them once again to destruction at the hands of her enemies.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 4:1b–7:1

Memory Verse: Psalm 78:58–61

Questions for Review

1. Against whom did Israel go out to do battle?
2. What was the outcome of this conflict? How many casualties were suffered?
3. What plan did the elders devise in order to secure victory over the Philistines?
4. Who brought the Ark to Ebenezer? What did the people do when the Ark arrived?
5. What effect did the arrival of the Ark have in the Philistine camp? Why? (Cf. 1 Samuel 4:8)
6. What was the outcome of the second engagement with the Philistines? How many casualties?
8. When the messenger gave the report, how did the city react?
9. Where was Eli? (Cf. 1:19) How did he react to this news?
10. When the wife of Phinehas heard this news what happened to her?
11. What name was given to Phinehas’ son? What does this name mean? Why call him this?
12. Where was the Ark of the Covenant taken?
13. Who is Dagon? Describe him?
14. What happened to Dagon when the Ark was placed beside him?
15. Why do none who go in Dagon’s house tread upon the threshold?
16. What did God cause to come upon the Philistines because of the Ark?
17. Upon whom did the Philistines call in order to get rid of the Ark?
18. What was their advice?
19. How did the Philistines send the Ark back to Israel? What did they send with it?
20. What sign did the diviners give to show that this plague was the work of Jehovah?
21. What is an ‘emerod’?
22. What part did mice play in the plague that came upon Philistia?
23. Where did the oxcart carrying the ark stop? What did the people do when it arrived?
24. What mistake did the men of this place make regarding the Ark? How many died as a result?
25. Where and with whom did the men of Beth-shemesh place the Ark?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map: Ebenezer, Aphek, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Gaza, Askelon, Beth-shemesh, Kirjath-jearim. Make a blue star to indicate the location of the Ark of the Covenant.

Research Project

The judgeship of Eli was 40 years (1 Samuel 4:18). How much time passed from the conquest of the land that was lead by Joshua and the death of Eli?
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Lesson Four: The Judgeship of Samuel
Lesson Aim: Familiarize the student with the events leading up to the establishment of the monarchy.
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 7:2 8:22
Memory Verse: Psalm 99:6

Question for Review

1. How long did Israel languish under the oppression of the Philistines? Why?
2. What was the proof that Israel had returned to the Lord with all the heart?
3. Who is Ashtaroth? Describe her?
4. Who is Baal? Describe him?
5. How did Samuel restore Israel to Jehovah?
6. What did the Philistines do when the heard that Israel congregated at Mizpeh?
7. What did Israel do when the Philistines came out against them?
8. How was this different from the previous time Israel met them in battle? (Cf. 4:3 5)
9. How did Samuel intercede for Israel against the Philistines?
10. How did Jehovah overthrow the Philistines?
11. How great victory did Jehovah give?
12. What is Ebenezer? What had happened there? (Cf. 4:1; 5:1)
13. What was the significance of setting up EBenezer?
14. How long did Samuel judge Israel? What was his circuit?
15. What did Samuel build at Ramah? Explain this?
16. Whom did Samuel appoint as judges to succeed him? What were their names?
17. What kind of judges did they prove to be?
18. What request did Israel make because of Samuel's sons? How did Samuel respond?
19. What did the Lord tell Samuel to do regarding Israel's request?
20. To what did Jehovah attribute Israel's desire?
21. What kind of king would Jehovah give Israel?
22. Was Samuel able to dissuade Israel? What did they say?
23. What was Israel's motive in asking for a king?
24. Unto whom did Jehovah liken the Israelites of that generation? (Cf. 8:8,9)
25. Whom had Israel rejected in asking for a king?

The Geography Lesson

Locate: Mizpeh, Bethel, Gilgal, Shen. Draw the circuit that Samuel made in judging Israel each year.

Research Project

Find examples in the history of Israel that demonstrate the nation got exactly the kind of king Jehovah warned them against (see: 1 Samuel 8:11 18).
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Lesson Five: Jehovah Chooses a King for Israel

Lesson Aim: Learn the events that lead to the establishment of the first dynasty of kings in Israel.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 9:1–10:16

Memory Verse: Acts 13:20

Questions for Review

1. Who was Saul? (Cf. 1 Chronicles 9:35–44) Describe him? How does he describe himself?
2. What circumstances brought Saul to the prophet Samuel?
3. What is a seer? What is a prophet?
4. Where is the land of Zuph? (See: 1 Samuel 1:1) What city is located there? (Cf. 1 Samuel 7:17)
5. Who was traveling with Saul? What is unusual about their relationship?
6. How does Saul’s companion describe Samuel?
7. What did he propose that they give Samuel? Why?
8. How did Saul chance to meet Samuel? Where was he going?
9. What was the purpose for the feast that day?
10. What instruction did Samuel give to Saul?
11. What remarkable statements did Samuel make? How did Saul reply?
12. What had Samuel set aside for Saul? What did this indicate?
13. Where was this sacrificial meal eaten? Why?
14. Where do Samuel and Saul go afterward?
15. When and where did Samuel anoint Saul?
16. What three signs did Samuel give Saul verifying his selection to be the king of Israel?
17. Where is Rachel buried? How far is it from there to the Hill of God?
18. What is the Hill of God? (See: 1 Samuel 10:5, cf. to the NIV) What was located there?
19. What proverb was established in Israel as a result of the third sign given Saul? What does it mean?
20. How was Saul able to prophesy that day?
21. Who met Saul in Gibeah? (Cf. 1 Samuel 14:50; cf. 1 Chronicles 9:39)
22. What did he ask Saul? What answer did Saul give?
23. Where was Saul to go after reporting home to his family?
24. How long was Saul to wait there? What did Samuel say would happen there?
25. 1 Samuel 10:9 says that God gave Saul another heart. What does that mean?

The Geography Lesson

What circuit did Saul travel in search of his father’s she–asses? Trace out a route that would bring Saul to Ramah in Ephraim, Rachel’s tomb at Bethlehem and back to Gibeah in one day (1 Samuel 10:9).

Research Project

Explain why there is a Philistine garrison in Gibeah if these enemies were subdued by Samuel, and came no more into the coasts of Israel (1 Samuel 7:13; 17; cf. Judges 3:3)?
Lesson Six: The Institution of the Monarchy

Lesson Aim: See the events by which God led the people to accept His choice of Saul as Israel’s first king.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 10:17–12:25

Memory Verse: Acts 13:21

Review Questions

1. To where did Samuel call the people to consecrate the king? What significance does this place have?
2. Of what did Samuel remind the people concerning their history?
3. How had Israel rejected their God in demanding a king?
4. How was the king selected? (See: 1 Samuel 10:20,21)
5. How were they able to enquire of the Lord? (Judges 20:27; 1 Samuel 22:10; 2 Kings 3:11)
6. Who was chosen to be king? Where was he? What does this reveal about Saul?
7. What was the initial reaction to the selection of Saul as king of Israel?
9. Where did Saul go after his selection to be king? Who went with him there?
10. Who is Nahash the Ammonite? What did he do?
11. What did the men of Jabesh ask of Nahash? Upon what terms did Nahash agree to do it?
12. Why would this have been a reproach upon Israel? (Cf. 1 Samuel 17:26)
13. Unto whom did the men of Jabesh Gilead send for help?
14. What means did Saul use in order to raise an army for the defense of Jabesh Gilead?
15. How would you describe Saul’s character at this time? (Cf. 1 Samuel 11:6,7)
16. How large an army did Saul raise? How many companies did he organize? In how many days?
17. How long did the army of Israel engage the Ammonites? What was the outcome?
18. What proposal was made concerning those that rejected Saul as king? What did Saul do to them?
19. How did Israel celebrate their great victory and Saul’s ascendancy to the throne?
20. With what did Samuel charge Israel at Gilgal? What was the punishment for this sin?
21. How might Israel and her new king avoid the evil of their actions?
22. What lessons does Samuel use in order to reinforce his warning to the people of Israel?
23. What reason does Samuel assign for Israel’s desire of a king?
24. Describe Samuel’s character throughout his life and judgeship.
25. What Samuel promise to continue to do for all Israel?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on the map: Gibeah, Jabesh Gilead, Bezek and Gilgal. Draw the frontier between Israel and Philistia and between Israel and Ammon. Shade the territory of Philistia with a contrasting color.

The Research Project

Consider Samuel’s farewell address. What characteristics of the ideal preacher does he reveal in this sermon delivered to Israel on the occasion of instituting the monarchy?
Questions for Review

1. How old was Saul when he began to reign in Israel?
2. What did Saul do in the second year of his reign?
3. What did Saul order the remainder of the Israelite army to do?
4. Where did Saul post the troops in his army? Why?
5. What did Jonathan do with the troops that were with him? What did this cause to happen?
6. What did Saul command Israel to do after the attack in Geba? Where did they meet him?
7. How many Philistines came out against Israel?
8. Did Israel go out to meet the Philistines? Why or why not?
9. What kind of weapons did the Israelites have? How many swords did Israel have? (Cf. Luke 22:38)
10. What did Samuel command Saul to do at Gilgal?
11. What did Saul do at Gilgal? What justification did he offer for his actions?
12. What rebuke did Samuel give Saul? After this where did Samuel go? Who remained with Saul?
13. What would happen to the kingdom as the consequence of Saul’s act?
14. What did Jonathan do without the knowledge of Saul? Who was with him?
15. What are Bozez and Seneh? What do their names mean?
16. What did Jonathan say to his armor bearer that reveals his confidence in Jehovah?
17. What was the sign by which Jonathan knew the Lord would deliver the Philistines into his hands?
18. How many Philistines did Jonathan and his armor bearer slay? In how large an area?
19. What happened next that turned the battle into a complete rout of the Philistines?
20. Why did Saul call for the ark at this time? Explain the command given Ahijah, Withdraw thy hand.
21. Who joined Jonathan and Saul in this battle? To where did they pursue them?
22. What foolish oath did Saul swear during the pursuit? Who violated Saul’s oath unwittingly?
23. What sin did the people commit because of Saul’s oath? How did Saul seek to avert their sin?
24. What question does Saul ask Jehovah? What answer did he receive? What does Saul conclude?
25. Whose sin in Aijalon caused God not to answer Saul? Who was blamed? Who was punished?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map: Michmash, Gibeah, Gilgal, Geba, Beth haven, Ophrah, Beth horon, the Valley of Zeboim. Indicate by a square the garrison of the Philistines. Indicate by three triangles the marauding companies of Philistines. Indicate by a star the camp of Israel. Use arrows to show the Philistine retreat.

The Research Project

What relation is each of the following to Saul: Kish, Ner, Abiel, Abner, Ahinoam, Merab, Mical, Jonathan, Ishui, Melchi shua, Ish bosheth & David?
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Lesson Eight: Saul Is Rejected
Lesson Aim: See Saul lose the kingdom through rebellion and stubbornness.
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 15:1–32
Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:22,23

Questions for Review

1. Against whom did Saul make war during his reign? (See: 1 Samuel 14:47–48)
2. Whom did God command Saul to smite and utterly destroy all that they have?
3. For what reason did Jehovah give this commandment? (See: Exodus 17:8–16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19)
4. Where did Saul muster his army? How many men did he number there?
5. Whom did Saul allow to separate themselves from the Amalekites? Why? (See: Judges 1:16; 4:11)
6. What did Saul keep from among the Amalekites stuff? What did he destroy?
7. Did Saul keep the commandment of the Lord concerning Agag and the spoil of the Amalekites?
8. After war with the Amalekites, where did Saul go and what did he erect there? (Cf. 2 Samuel 18:18)
9. To where did Saul journey from Carmel? Why?
10. What did Jehovah say about Saul’s behavior? What did He determine to do concerning Saul?
11. When Samuel arrived at Gilgal, how did Saul greet the prophet? What was Samuel’s reply?
12. What excuses did Saul begin to offer in self-justification of his actions? (See: 15:15)
13. What personal attribute did Saul possess for which Jehovah chose him to be king? (See: 15:17)
14. How does Samuel explain God’s rejection of the proposed sacrifices of the people? (See: 15:22)
15. Unto what does Samuel liken rebellion and stubbornness?
16. What does Saul do after this rebuke by Samuel? Was he sincere?
17. What is Samuel’s reaction to Saul’s confession?
18. What did Saul do as Samuel turned to leave? What happened to Samuel’s robe?
19. What prophetic interpretation did Samuel make of this?
20. Who is the Strength of Israel? What can he not do? Why?
21. Why do you suppose that Samuel finally turned again after Saul to worship the Lord?
22. For whom does Samuel call to be brought before him at Gilgal? What does Samuel do unto him?
23. After the events at Gilgal, where does Samuel go? Where does Saul go?
24. What did Samuel do for Saul? When did he next see Saul?
25. What did the Lord do respecting Saul? What does this mean?

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following on your map: Telaim, Havilah, Shur, Carmel (the city, see: Joshua 15:55), Gilgal, Ramah and Michmash. Color the region occupied by the Amalekites (see: Numbers 13:29; 14:43–45).

The Research Project

Research the Amalekites and the Kenites and see what prophecies, if any, were made concerning their destiny in connection with Israel.
Lesson Nine: David Anointed King
Lesson Aim: See God give the kingdom to a man after his own heart.
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 16:1–23
Memory Verse: Acts 13:22

Questions For Review

1. Why did Israel mourn for Saul?
2. Who was Jesse the Bethlehemite? (1 Chronicles 2:1–12; cf. Ruth 4:17–22)
3. Where did GOD send Samuel?
4. For what purpose did He send him there?
5. For what did Samuel fear? Why?
6. What plan did GOD propose Samuel do to alleviate his fear?
7. How many Sons did Jesse have?
8. What were their names (1 Chronicles 2:13–17)
9. Whom did Samuel want to anoint to be king?
10. How did JEHOVAH reply to this suggestion?
11. Of what were the men of Bethlehem afraid?
12. Whom did Samuel finally anoint?
13. How do the Scriptures describe David’s appearance?
14. Who came upon David from the time of his anointing? What had happened to Saul at this time?
15. What solution to Saul’s troubles did his servants propose?
16. Whom did the servant of Saul suggest for this position?
17. What was David’s reputation among the servants of Saul?
18. In what occupation was David engaged at this time?
19. How did the elders sanctify themselves? (Cf. Exodus 19:10, 14)
20. Why was David sent from the sacrifice?
21. Why did Jesse send bread, wine and a kid to Saul with David? (See: Proverbs 18:16)
22. What was Saul’s evil spirit?
23. When Saul learned of David, what did he do? (Cf. 1 Samuel 8:11)
24. What was Saul’s disposition toward David?
25. What was David able to do for Saul by playing the harp?

The Geography Lesson
Locate the following on your map: Bethlehem, Ramah, Gilgal and Gibeah.

Research Project
Hebrews 6:18 affirms, GOD cannot lie. However, it appears that JEHOVAH allowed Samuel to dissemble regarding his purpose in going to Bethlehem. How do you reconcile these apparent discrepancies?
Lesson Ten: David and Goliath
Lesson Aim: See the faith of David in his encounter with Goliath.
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 17:1 – 18:5
Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 17:46, 47

Questions for Review

1. Where did the armies of Israel and the Philistine gather to do battle?
2. Who was Goliath? Describe him.
3. What challenge did Goliath make to the armies of Israel?
4. What was the reaction of Saul and the Israelites to this challenge?
5. How long had Goliath made this challenge?
6. Who among David’s brothers, Jesse’s sons, were with Saul in the Valley of Elah?
7. Where was David while his brothers were with Saul? What was he doing?
8. What did Jesse send to his sons who were with Saul by the hands of David? Why?
9. What did David see Israel do when Goliath came onto the battlefield?
10. How did this affect David?
11. What had the king promised the man who killed Goliath?
12. How did Eliab respond to David’s words?
13. What was David’s reply?
14. Who heard about David’s zeal for the God of Israel?
15. What did David offer to do? How did Saul respond?
16. What qualifications as a warrior did David have?
17. Upon whom was David relying to deliver him from Goliath?
18. What did Saul put upon David as he went to fight Goliath?
19. What did David do with these? Why?
20. With what did David go out to meet Goliath?
21. What threat did David make against Goliath? Did he carry it out? How?
22. What did the men of Israel do when they saw David slay Goliath? To what end?
23. To what rank did Saul promote David after the battle of Elah?
24. What happened to the head of Goliath and his armor?
25. Who became David’s friend? What gifts did he give to David?

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following on your map: The Valley of Elah, Shocoh, Azekah, Gath, Ekron, Shaaraim and Jerusalem. Designate the Valley of Elah as the site of an Israelite victory with a red “X”.

Research Project

Why did Saul ask Abner concerning the identity of David, if he had been at court in Gibeah? (Cf. 1 Samuel 17:55, 56; 16:21) Did Saul know who David was or not?
Questions for Review

1. When David returned with the army of Israel to Gibeah, what did the women sing?
2. What was Saul’s reaction to this praise of David?
3. With what was Saul overcome? What did Saul fear David would take from him? (Cf. 1 Samuel 15:28)
4. What came upon Saul the next day? What did it cause him to do?
5. What did Saul try to do to David? How many times?
6. Why was Saul afraid of David?
7. To what position did Saul demote David? Why?
8. How did David behave himself in this new office?
9. What was the disposition of the people toward David? How did Saul’s feel toward him? (Cf. 1 Sam. 17:25)
10. Whom did Saul promise as wife to David? Why?
11. What was David’s opinion of himself in this matter? Why?
12. What treachery did Saul commit against David concerning Merab?
13. What plan did Saul concoct in order to destroy David?
14. What did David bring to Saul as a dowry for Mical?
15. Was David popular with the people at this time? Was Saul popular as well?
16. Who is Jonathan? What does he do for David?
17. Why did Saul’s attitude toward David revert to evil?
18. How did Mical help David escape from Saul? Where did David go? What is Naioth?
19. When Saul found David what did he do? What happened?
20. To whom does David flee next?
21. What plan do they devise to learn Saul’s intent?
22. What covenant did Jonathan and David make?
23. What action of Saul convinced Jonathan that he intended to kill David?
24. What sign did Jonathan give David that let him know Saul’s intentions?
25. What is Ezel? What does this name mean?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map the possessions of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Where do you think Ezel may have been located? Why would there be a feast of the new moon in Bethlehem in David’s father’s house?

Research Project

In 1 Samuel 20:8, Jonathan and David enter a covenant of the Lord. What is such a covenant? How is it different from other covenants? What obligations are upon those who make such a covenant of the Lord?
Lesson Twelve: *David, the Outlaw*

Lesson Aim: See the increasing evil caused by jealousy and envy in Saul as David continues his flight.


Memory Verse: Matthew 12:3, 4

Questions for Review

1. To where did David flee upon leaving Jonathan?
2. What did David ask of Ahimelech?
3. Who is Ahimelech?
4. What lie did David tell Ahimelech in order to get what he wanted?
5. Upon what condition was the priest willing to give David what he wanted?
6. Why would this make a difference? (See: Exodus 19:14, 15; Leviticus 15:16–18; 22:4, 5)
7. Did David ever accept responsibility for the lie told at Nob? (Cf. I Samuel 22:22, 23)
8. Who else was at Nob? Why was he there? (See: Leviticus 13:4, 5)
9. Besides bread, what else did David ask of Ahimelech?
10. What was he given? Where had it been? What did David say about it? (See: 1 Samuel 17:4–7)
11. To whom and where did David flee upon leaving Nob?
12. Who do his servants believe David to be? To what song about David do they refer? (See: 1 Samuel 18:6–9)
13. Why is David afraid in Gath? To what song about David do they refer? (See: 1 Samuel 18:6–9)
14. Where does David flee to from Gath? Who came to be there? Why would David flee to here? (Ruth 4:10–17)
15. Who is Amasai? (See: 1 Chronicles 12:16–18)
16. From Adullam where do David and his family flee? Why?
17. Who came to David there? What command did he give to David? (See: 1 Chronicles 21:9)
18. What bitter behavior does Saul begin to manifest against his son and servants?
19. What does Doeg the Edomite tell Saul? What false information does Doeg give Saul?
20. Of what does Saul accuse Ahimelech?
21. What does Saul believe David is doing in the forest of Hareth?
22. What defense of David does Ahimelech make? What defense of himself does Ahimelech make?
23. What command did Saul give? Was the command obeyed? By whom?
24. How many priests died at the hand of Saul? Who escaped from Nob?
25. What prophecy did this murderous attack on the priests fulfill? (See: 1 Samuel 2:31–33; 3:13,14; 14:3)

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following on your map: Nob, the cave of Adullam, Mizpeh of Moab, the forest of Hareth and Gath. Place a blue triangle on the map to indicate the location of the tabernacle. Sketch the territories of Edom, Moab and Philistia.

Research Project

David lied to Ahimelech in order to get the shewbread. Was David justified in his actions? (See: Matthew 12:1–9; Leviticus 24:1–9)
Lesson Thirteen: Saul Seeks to Capture David

Lesson Aim: See Saul’s bitter spirit grow as he pursues David


Memory Verse: Romans 12:19-21

Questions for Review

1. Who came up against Keilah? For what purpose?
2. What did the Lord tell David to do?
3. Why did David’s men fear to go to Keilah?
4. What did JEHOVAH promise David regarding Keilah?
5. What happened at Keilah?
6. What had Abiathar brought to David?
7. What did David make of this? (See: Exodus 28:15-32)
8. What plan did Saul make when he heard David was in Keilah?
9. How did David learn of Saul’s plans and escape? How many men were with David now?
10. Upon leaving Keilah where did David and his men go? Who met him there?
11. How did Jonathan strengthen David’s hand in God?
12. What conspiracy did Saul enter into with the Ziphites? (Cf. Psalms 54)
13. While Saul was riding toward Ziph, where did David go?
14. How did Jehovah deliver David out of Saul’s hands on mount Maon?
15. What does Sela hammahlekoth mean?
16. Where did they ride after this escape? Where do David and his men resort?
17. With how many men does Saul pursue David?
18. How came Saul into the place where David and his men were hiding?
19. What did David’s men want him to do when he had this obvious advantage over Saul?
20. Why did David cut off the skirt of Saul’s robe?
21. What reason did David give for not killing Saul?
22. How does David characterize the nature of the threat that he represents to Saul?
23. How does Saul react to David’s humble and merciful spirit?
24. What does Saul confess that he knows? What oath does Saul ask of David? Did David swear?
25. Who died about this time? Where was he buried? (See: 2 Kings 21:18; 2 Chronicles 33:20)

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following: Hebron, Keilah, Ziph, Maon, the Arabah, Sela hammahlekoth and Engedi.

Research Project

Read 2 Samuel 22:1-51. How does David describe the GOD of his salvation, his deliverer from his enemies? (Cf. Psalm 18)
Israel and Her Kings

Lesson Fourteen: David Shows Mercy

Lesson Aim: See the character of David grow in the treatment of his enemies.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 25:1–26:25

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:30, 31

Questions for Review

1. Who was Nabal? Describe him. What does his name mean?
2. Who was Abigail? Describe her. What does her name mean?
3. How many sheep and goats did Nabal own? What request did David make of Nabal?
4. What had David done for Nabal? How do the herdsman of Nabal describe David and his men?
5. How did Nabal respond to David’s request for food? How did David intend to avenge himself on Nabal?
6. Who interceded with David for Nabal? What did she bring to David in order to appease him?
7. How did Abigail greet David when she met him?
8. How did Abigail refer to her husband?
9. How had Nabal insulted David? (See: 1 Samuel 25:10,11)
10. When Abigail met David how did she address him?
11. What did Abigail expect for David’s house? (1 Samuel 25:28)
12. Of what Scriptural principle did Abigail remind David which prevented him from committing a great sin?
13. What did Abigail find Nabal doing when she returned from David? When did she tell him what she had done?
14. What happens to Nabal when Abigail told him these things?
15. How did David interpret the things that came upon Nabal?
16. After Nabal’s death whom did David marry? Unto whom was he already married?
17. What resort did the men of Ziph bring to Saul? Concerning David, how did Saul respond to this report?
18. How did David outwit Saul in the wilderness of Ziph?
19. Who is Abishai? What did he urge David to do? Why did David restrain Abishai?
20. Whom would David let smite Saul? How? What did David choose to do instead?
21. Why was David able to enter Saul’s camp? How did David embarrass Abner while proving his love for Saul?
22. How does David describe himself as the object of Saul’s pursuit?
23. What charge does David make against his enemies? What does he imply about them?
24. What two things does Saul confess to David? (1 Samuel 26:21, 25)
25. In whom does David put his trust for deliverance from his enemies?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map: the Wilderness of Paran, the Wilderness of Ziph, Maon, Carmel, Jezreel and Gallim, the Hill of Hachilah. Who came from Gallim? What is the significance of Jezreel?

Research Project

Start a family tree for David showing his parents, brothers and sisters, wives and their family heritage. Save this chart for later use.
Lesson Fifteen: David Returns to the Kingdom of Gath

Lesson Aim: See the kingdom of Saul begin to fail as the righteous and valiant come to David in Ziklag.


Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:32-34

Questions for Review

1. Where did David go because he feared that Saul would continue to pursue him?
2. Who went with David there?
3. When Saul learned of David's flight, what did he do?
4. What did Achish give David at his request? Why?
5. How long was David among the Philistines?
6. What did David and his men do while there?
7. What did David tell Achish he was doing?
8. Who were the Geshurites, Gezrites and Amalekites? Why did David attack them?
9. What did Achish believe Israel's attitude toward David was?
10. Who joined David in Ziklag? (1 Chronicles 12:1-7) What was unusual about this?
11. What plans do the Philistines make that involve David? To what degree does Achish trust David?
12. What complaint do the Lord's of the Philistines make against David?
13. What solution does Achish offer for the problem?
14. Where do the Philistines proceed? Where does David go?
15. What had happened at Ziklag while David was with Achish in Aphek?
16. What did the men with David want to do to him?
17. For whom and what did David call? Why?
18. What did God tell David? What did David do?
19. How many men pursued the Amalekites with David?
20. Whom did David find after crossing the Brook Besor?
21. What did this man promise to do? What guarantee did he get from David for his help?
22. When David found the Amalekites, what did he do?
23. What did David recover from the Amalekites? How was this spoil divided?
24. With whom else did David divide the spoil taken from the Amalekites? Why do this? (1 Sam. 30:31)
25. Who escaped from David from among the Amalekites?

The Geography Lesson

Locate: Gath, Ziklag, Shur, Aphek and Jezreel. Find the Brook Besor.

Research Project

In 1 Chronicles 12:22 we learn that there was an increasing number of Israelites that were defecting to David. What explanation can you offer for this change of loyalty among the captains of Israel?
Lesson Sixteen: The Fall of the House of Saul

Lesson Aim: See the ruin of Saul on account of his pride and faithlessness.

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 28:3-25; 31:1-13; 2 Samuel 4:4; 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:18

Questions for Review

1. Where did Israel and the Philistines meet to do battle?
2. Before engaging the enemy unto whom did Saul go to seek counsel? Why go o this person?
3. Upon going, Saul disguised himself, why?
4. What is a familiar spirit? Why was consorting with such a spirit forbidden by the Law?
5. What promise did Saul make to this woman in order to get what he wanted?
6. Who did Saul want the woman to bring up?
7. Did the woman succeed? Why was she afraid?
8. Why does the woman call Samuel a god?
9. What question did Samuel put to Saul?
10. What was Saul’s answer?
12. What does Saul do when he hears Samuel’s words?
13. After Samuel leaves what do the woman and Saul’s men constrain him to do? Why?
14. What happens the next day on Mount Gilboa?
15. Who died with Saul that day? How did Saul die?
16. What did the people dwelling in the cities of the valley do when they saw Saul’s army defeated?
17. What did the Philistines do to the Israelite cities?
18. The day after the battle what did the Philistines do with the body of Saul?
19. What did the Philistines do with Saul’s armor?
20. What happened to Jonathan’s youngest son in the retreat from Jezreel? What was his name?
21. What did the Philistines fasten in the temple of Dagon?
22. What did the men of Jabesh Gilead do?
23. What ritual was observed in conjunction with the burial of Saul?
24. What did the Philistines send throughout their land?
25. Why did Saul die?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map of Palestine: Mount Gilboa, the Plain of Israeli, Jabesh Gilead, Bethshan, Endor and Shunem. Mark Mount Gilboa with a black X indicating that this was a place where Israel was defeated in battle with the Philistines. Mark Jabesh with a purple S to identify Saul’s burial place.

Research Project

What was the teaching of the law concerning a familiar spirit, witchcraft and wizardry? Define these terms and explain what was involved in these sinful practices.
Israel and Her Kings

Lesson Seventeen: David Made King in Judah

Lesson Aim: See God’s plan for Israel develop as David comes to the throne in Judah.

Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 1:1–3:5

Memory Verse: Proverbs 24:17,18

Questions for Review

1. Who came to David at Ziklag? Describe his appearance? What news did he bring?
2. What claim did he make concerning his knowledge of the facts? Was this the truth? (1 Samuel 31:1–6)
3. What did David and his men do when they heard this news? Why?
4. What tokens did this man offer as proof of his story? How did he come by these? (Cf. 1 Samuel 31:8)
5. What did David do to the Amalekite that claimed to have slain Saul? Why?
6. What is the Book of Jasher? What is written there?
7. What is the Song of the Bow? What is it about? Who wrote it?
8. Why not tell of the death of Saul in Gath, nor publish it in the streets of Askelon?
9. Why does David speak of Saul as though he had not been anointed? (Cf. 2 Samuel 1:21)
10. Why does David speak with such high praise of Saul and Jonathan in his lament?
11. Where was David when he asked Jehovah if he should go up to Judah?
12. To which city in Judah does he resort? Why go to Judah at all? (Cf.1 Samuel 30:26–31)
13. Whom did David bring with him on his return to Judah?
14. Who else came to David in Hebron? What did they do there concerning David?
15. Unto whom did David promise to show kindness upon being made king in Judah?
16. Why did David make this overture of kindness and goodwill?
17. Who is Ishbosheth? (Cf. 1 Chronicles 8:33; 9:39–44) What does his name mean?
18. Where was Ishbosheth made king? Why? (Cf. 1 Samuel 31:7)
19. Who was occupying most of the northern territory of Israel at this time?
20. How long did it take Abner to regain the territory lost by Saul as a result of the battle of Gilboa?
21. When and where did civil war begin between the servants of David and the servants of Ishbosheth?
22. What horrible incident exacerbated the rivalry between David and Ishbosheth at Helkath hazzurim?
23. Who was Asahel? Describe him? By whom was he slain? How did it happen?
24. How many die in this first battle?
25. What was the ultimate outcome of the conflict between David and Ishbosheth?

The Geography Lesson

Locate: Jabesh Gilead, Mahanaim, Hebron, Helkath hazzurim, Giah, the Hill of Ammah. Mark Hebron with a red crown to indicate the place where David was proclaimed King of Judah. Mark Mahanaim with a blue crown to indicate the palace where Ishbosheth was proclaimed king of Israel.

Research Project

What relation is Joab to David? (See: 1 Chronicles 2:13–17) Add this information to your chart of David's family tree. What relation was Abner to Saul and Ishbosheth? How were David and Abner related?
Lesson Eighteen: David Becomes King Over All Israel

Lesson Aim: Watch David as he relies upon Jehovah to establish his kingdom in Israel.

Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 3:6–5:16

Memory Verse: Psalm 28:3–5

Questions for Review

1. In what sense was Abner strong for the house of Saul?
2. What was implied by Abner’s relationship with Rizpah? (See: 2 Samuel 16:21,22; 1 Kings 2:23–25)
3. What do Abner’s actions regarding Rizpah imply about him?
4. What threat did Abner make to Ishboseth? What did he immediately do toward carrying it out?
5. What does Abner confess he had been doing respecting God’s will for Israel and Judah?
6. How did Ishboseth respond to Abner’s anger and threats? What did this imply about him?
7. What demand does David make before he will make a pact with Abner? Why?
8. Why does David demand Ishboseth return Mical to him? How does this further weaken him?
9. Unto whom had Mical been given? How did he react to the king’s decree concerning his sister?
10. What other preparations does Abner make for delivering the kingdom to David?
11. What evidence is there that the rule of Ishboseth never was very strong over Israel?
12. How did David and Abner finalize their league concerning the kingdom of Israel at Hebron?
13. Of what did Joab accuse Abner upon learning that he and David had made a covenant?
14. What did Joab and Abishai conspire to do to Abner? Why?
15. How did David absolve himself in the conspiracy against Abner?
16. How does David describe Joab and Abishai? Unto whom did David deliver them for judgment?
17. Who were Baanah and Rechab, the sons of Rimmon? What evil thing did they do?
18. How did David punish them? Why?
19. Where was Abner buried? Where was Ishboseth buried?
20. After these things, who came to David at Hebron? What did they desire of David? Why?
21. How many armed men of Israel joined David at Hebron? (See: 1 Chronicles 12:23–40)
22. How long did David reign over all Israel? How long did he reign over Judah?
23. What was the first objective of the new king? What did David call this place?
24. Who built David a house as a coronation gift? (Cf. 1 Chronicles 14:1–2)
25. What did David perceive of the Lord concerning his kingdom?

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following on your map: the Kingdom of Geshur, Dan, Beersheba, Beeroth, Jerusalem and Tyre. List the other names by which Jerusalem has been known in the Old and New Testaments.

Research Project

2 Samuel 3:2 5 and 5:13 16 lists the sons and daughters that were born to David in Hebron and Jerusalem. Add these names to David’s family tree after studying 1 Chronicles 3:1 9 and 2 Samuel 13:1.
Lesson Nineteen: The Conquests of David

Lesson Aim: See God complete His promise to Israel by giving David victory against their enemies.


Memory Verse: Psalm 68:1,2

Questions for Review

1. Who were the first enemies against which David began to fight after becoming king in Jerusalem?
2. Where did this first battle occur? What does the name of this place mean? (See: Joshua 15:8; 18:16)
3. Who joined David in the first engagement? (See: 1 Chronicles 11:10–19) Describe these men?
4. What act of bravery and devotion toward David did these three men perform?
5. What was the outcome of the first campaign against the Philistines?
6. What did David call the place of victory? What does this name mean?
7. How did Israel defeat the Philistines in their second engagement?
8. In the third engagement David went on the offensive and captured what city? (See: 1 Chronicles 18:1)
9. In this battle David was nearly killed by whom? Who saved David’s life?
10. After this battle what did the servants of David ask that he not do any more?
11. Name the four sons of Goliath that were slain in the Philistine wars and the men who killed them.
12. With whom did David go to war next? (1 Chronicles 18:2) How did David punish them?
13. Who was Benaih the son of Jehoiada? (1 Chronicles 11:22) What did he do in the war with Moab?
14. What did Hanun do to precipitate war with Israel? With whom did he form an alliance?
15. After the defeat at Medeba, where did Hadadezer retreat for reinforcements? (2 Samuel 8:3 8)
16. Where did David catch Hadadezer? How many did David slay? What did he take from them?
17. How many did David slay of the armies of Damascus?
18. What calamity befell Israel about this time? (See: Psalm 60 (title); 2 Samuel 21:1-14) Why?
19. What effect did this have on David’s efforts to subdue his enemies? (Psalm 60:1-3)
20. What did Jehovah require as atonement for Saul’s bloodguiltiness? (See: Joshua 9:3, 15-17)
21. How many were slain of the armies of Edom? Who slew the Edomites? (Cf. 1 Kings 11:14 22)
22. What happened at Rabbah? Which of David’s mighty men died in battle there? Why?
23. As a result of these victories, where did David place garrisons?
24. Who is Hadoram son of Tou? What did he bring to David?
25. What did David do with the gold, silver and brass that he carried away from the nations?

The Geography Lesson

Mark the following battle sites on your map indicating victories against Israel’s enemies: Baal perazim, Gath, Geba, Gazar, Methgammah, Hamath, Zobah, the Valley of Salt, Damascus, Medeba and Rabbah. Define the borders that David controlled after his wars and the territories from which he received tribute.

Research Project

Try and reconcile the numbers that appear in the following passages: 2 Samuel 8:4 and 1 Chronicles 18:4, 2 Samuel 10:18 and 1 Chronicles 19:18, 2 Samuel 10:6 and 1 Chronicles 19:6.
Lesson Twenty: David Leads Israel in Spiritual Revival

Lesson Aim: See David learn the importance of obedience in the service one offers to Jehovah.


Memory Verse: Colossians 3:17

Questions for Review

1. With whom did David consult in his plans to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem?
2. What motives did David have for bringing up the Ark? (See: 1 Chronicles 13:3)
3. Where was the Ark located? How long had it been there? How did it come to be there?
4. What criteria did Israel follow in moving the Ark from Kirjath jearim? (1 Chronicles 13:4)
5. How did David presume to move the Ark of the Covenant? Where did this idea come from?
6. What happened at Nachon's threshing floor in Chidon?
7. What does Perez uzza mean? Why did David give this name to the place?
8. Into whose house did David carry the Ark? How long did it remain there? With what results?
9. What two emotions are attributed to David after Nachon s threshing floor?
10. What preparations did David make for the Ark in Jerusalem?
11. What did David learn in the three months the Ark remained in Chidon? (Cf. Numbers 4:15; 7:9)
12. What solemn charge does David give to the priests and Levites concerning the movement of the Ark?
13. What explanation does David offer for the breach Jehovah made upon Israel at Perez uzza?
14. How did the Levites transport the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Obed edom?
15. Whom did David appoint as choirmasters of the Levites? What three instruments were appointed?
16. Who was the captain in charge of bearing the Ark? Which were appointed doorkeepers for the Ark?
17. What was the purpose of the trumpets that were blown? (See: Numbers 10:1–10)
18. How often did David and his company offer sacrifice as they brought the Ark to Jerusalem?
19. What did David wear in the procession? What was the significance of this apparel?
20. Why was Mical displeased with David when she saw him from her window?
21. What did David give to every man and woman in Israel that day?
22. What does David deliver to Asaph to thank the Lord? (Cf. Psalm 96, 105, 106)
23. What worship is instituted in Jerusalem at this time? What continues to be observed in Gibeon?
24. What did David desire to build in Jerusalem? What was God's will in the matter?
25. How did David react to God's rejection of a temple? Why?

The Geography Lesson

Locate on your map: Shihor of Egypt, the entering of Hamath, Kirjath jearim, Gibeon. Mark your map with a star or cross at Kirjath jearim and Jerusalem to indicate resting places of the Ark of the Covenant. Mark Gibeon as the site of the Tabernacle.

Research Project

Compare 2 Samuel 7:12–17 with 1 Chronicles 17:11–17 and Psalm 89. What does Jehovah promise David concerning his house with respect to Solomon, his descendants and the Messiah?
Lesson Twenty-one: The Matter of Uriah the Hittite

Lesson Aim: Learn the consequences of sin in the home, in the nation and in the heart.

Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 11:1–12:24

Memory Verse: 1 Kings 15:5

Questions for Review

1. Where was David while Israel was in the field warring against the Ammonites?
2. Whom did David see from the palace rooftop? Describe her? What was she doing?
3. Who was Uriah the Hittite? What was his relationship to David? (2 Samuel 23:39)
4. What sin did David commit with Bathsheba? What came of this sin? (2 Samuel 11:5)
5. What was David’s first attempt to cover up his sin with Bathsheba?
6. What was David’s second attempt to cover up his sin with Bathsheba?
7. Why would Uriah not go down to his house while in Jerusalem?
8. Where was the Ark of the Covenant at this time?
9. What was David’s third attempt at covering up his sin with Bathsheba? Whose help did he enlist?
10. What happened at Rabbah? Who was killed there?
11. Who is Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? How did he die at Thebez?
12. How did David respond to the news that Uriah the Hittite was dead?
13. What command did David give Joab’s messenger?
14. What did Bathsheba do when she heard that her husband was dead?
15. When did David take Bathsheba to be his wife? How long after Uriah’s death was this?
16. What was Jehovah’s disposition toward David in this matter? (See: Genesis 50:10; 1 Samuel 31:13)
17. Whom did the Lord send unto David?
18. What parable did Nathan tell David? How did David react to this story? (See: Psalm 51)
19. According to Nathan what consequences would David’s sin bring to him?
20. What reason did David give for his unusual actions?
21. Why did the infant born to Bathsheba have to die? How do you reconcile this with God’s goodness?
22. Who is Solomon? By what other name was he known? What do these two names mean?

The Geography Lesson

Find the following on your map: Rabbah, Thebez, Jerusalem. Indicate by a red X that Rabbah was the site of an Israelite victory.

Research Project

Add Bathsheba to the chart of David’s family tree. Indicate which sons and daughters were born to him by her. Trace the lineage of Solomon and his older brother Nathan (2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Chronicles 3:5 9; 14:3 7). From which of these two families was Jesus born?
Lesson Twenty-two: The Rebellion of Absalom

Lesson Aim: See David’s sin affect his family and undermine his authority as a father.

Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 13:1-16:23

Memory Verse: Numbers 32:23

Questions for Review

2. Who is Tamar? Describe her.
3. Who is Amnon? What were his feelings for Tamar?
4. Who was Jonadab? Describe him.
5. What evil advice did Jonadab give to Amnon?
6. How did Tamar try to persuade Amnon from committing a terrible sin?
7. How did Amnon feel toward Tamar afterward? Why?
8. Why did Amnon put Tamar forth from his chamber?
9. What did Tamar do to manifest her grief and sorrow over the way Amnon had treated her?
10. What was David’s reaction to the reaction toward Amnon’s sin? What did he do?
11. What was Absalom’s reaction to Amnon’s sin? What did he plan to do?
12. How much time passed from the rape of Tamar unto the murder of Absalom?
13. What do these events reveal about the affects of David’s sins upon his house?
14. To where did Absalom flee after Amnon’s murder? Why here? How long did he live there in exile?
15. How did Joab convince David to send for Absalom? When did David see Absalom?
16. Did David forgive Absalom?
17. What did Absalom begin to do in Israel? How did he accomplish this?
18. How long after his return did Absalom succeed in his plan? (See: NASV, NKJV, NIV or Josephus)
19. What did Absalom intend to do in Hebron?
20. How did Absalom convince David that his servants were turned against him?
22. Whom does David rely upon to thwart the rebellion of Absalom through bad counsel?
23. Who was Mephibosheth? What did he expect to happen as a result of this rebellion against David?
24. Who was Shimei? What did he do? Why did David spare his life?
25. What did Absalom do to demonstrate that he was the new king?

The Geography Lesson

Locate the following on your map: Baalhazor, Geshur, Tekoa, Hebron, Giloh, Jerusalem, Olivet and Bahurim. Draw a red crown at Hebron to indicate the place where Absalom was proclaimed king.

Research Project

Who were the Cherethites, the Pelethites and the Gittites? What was their relationship to David?
Israel and Her Kings

Lesson Twenty-three: Civil War In Israel
Lesson Aim: See Jehovah prove to be all that David needed in order to defeat his enemies.
Lesson Text: 2 Samuel 17:1–18:33
Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

Questions For Review

1. What counsel did Ahithophel give that would make an end of resistance to the new King?
2. What counsel did Hushai give on this matter?
3. Whose counsel did Absalom follow?
4. What was GOD’s purpose in the opposing counsel of Hushai?
5. What network of spies did David have in Absalom’s court?
6. How did Hushai counsel David to avoid being swallowed up?
7. How did Jonathan and Ahimaaz escape from Absalom?
8. What did Ahithophel do when his counsel was rejected?
9. To where did David and his troops retreat?
10. Who met David there? What did they bring to David?
11. Who was Amasa?
12. What was the desire of Israel concerning David on the day of battle?
13. Where did the armies of David and Absalom meet to do battle?
14. How did David set his troops for the battle with Absalom?
15. What command did David give to Joab, Abishai and Ittai?
16. How did Absalom chance to meet the servants of David?
17. How did Joab slay Absalom?
18. Why had the man who found Absalom not slain him?
19. After Absalom was slain, what did Joab do?
20. Where was Absalom buried?
21. What had Absalom erected in the King’s Dale? Why?
22. Whom did Joab send to David with the news of the battle? Why?
23. What purpose did Ahimaaz have in running to David with a false report?
24. How did David react to the news of Absalom’s death?
25. How was Ahimaaz recognized by the watchman in the tower?

The Geography Lesson

Show on the map David’s line of retreat from Jerusalem and the location of the battle for the kingdom. Place a purple X on the location of the Wood of Ephraim to indicate a civil war battleground.

Research Project

What is the significance of Mahanaim in the history of Israel? What relationship has it sustained to the Kings of Israel? Was David’s retreat to this place symbolic or strategic?
Questions For Review

1. What was the reaction of the people over the death of Absalom and the restoration of the monarchy?
2. What rebuke did Joab give to David? Of what did he warn David?
3. How did David respond to the crisis following Joab’s rebuke?
4. What was David expecting the elders of Judah to do after Absalom’s rebellion was put down?
5. Upon what basis did David appeal to them?
6. What did David offer Amasa in order to reassure him that reconciliation was desired?
7. What affect did David’s entreaties have upon the elders of Judah?
8. Where did the elders meet David?
9. Who came with the elders to meet the king? What did he want?
10. What had this man done to David? (See: 2 Samuel 16:4–14 and 19:25-30)
11. What did Abishai want David to do to Shimei?
12. What promise did David make to Shimei?
13. Who else came to meet David at Gilgal?
14. What had he done since the attempt to remove David from the throne?
15. How had his servant deceived David? (2 Samuel 16:1–4)
16. What was the motive for the servant’s deception? What was David’s solution to their conflict?
17. Who was Barzillai? What had he done for David? (2 Samuel 17:27–29)
18. What did David want to do for Barzillai? Why did he refuse? What did he allow David to do?
19. Who was Sheba? What did he do?
20. What did David do with the concubines whom Absalom had defiled? Why?
21. Whom did David send to pursue Sheba?
22. Whom did David send next to pursue Sheba?
23. Why did Joab slay Amasa at Gibeon?
24. How did the men of Abel save their city and deliver Sheba to Joab?
25. To what place was Joab restored after the rebellion of Sheba?

The Geography Lesson

Locate the Brook Kidron, Gilgal, Jordan River, Enrogel, Bohurim, Gilah and Abel of Beth Maachah. Place a purple X at Abel of Beth Maachah to indicate a civil war battleground.

Research Project

What was the relationship between Joab, Amasa, Absalom and David? Consult David’s family tree chart and determine their kinship. (Hint: 2 Samuel 19:13; 17:25)
Israel and Her Kings

Lesson Twenty-five:  *David Numbers the Army of Israel*

Lesson Aim:  See David err again through pride in the strength of his armies by numbering Israel.


Memory Verse:  Psalm 60:11

Questions for Review

1. Who tempted David?  (See: 1 Chronicles 21:1)
2. Why did God move David against Israel?  How did He do this?
3. For what purpose were the people numbered?
4. Who resisted David's desire to number the people?  What was his opinion of David's command?
5. How many valiant men that drew the sword were in Israel?
6. After David had numbered the people what did he realize?
7. What choice of punishments did God offer David?
8. Who was Gad?
9. How did David determine which one to choose?
10. What did God send upon Israel as punishment?
11. How did David halt the plague?  (Cf. 1 Chronicles 21:16–17)
12. Who is Araunah, the Jebusite?  What did David purchase from him?  For how much?
13. What did David erect on Ornan's threshing floor?
14. How did God demonstrate his acceptance of David and his offering?  (1 Chronicles 21:26)
15. Where was the tabernacle at this time?
16. What would later be built on the site of Ornan's threshing floor?  (1 Chronicles 22:1)
17. Into how many courses did David divide the army of Israel and what was their rotation of duty?
18. How many soldiers were numbered in the standing army of the host of Israel?
19. Of what tribes were the captains of each course in the army?
20. What was the minimum age for conscription into the army of Israel?
21. List the princes of the tribes of Israel during the days of David.
22. How many men of war did Joab number in Israel?  (1 Chronicles 21:1-8)
23. Whom did Joab exclude from the census?  Why?  (1 Chronicles 27:24)
24. Whom did David place over the king's property?  (1 Chronicles 27:25-31)
25. Who were David's advisors?  What relation were they to him?  (See: 2 Samuel 11:3; 23:4; 21:21)

The Geography Lesson

Draw a map showing the extent of David's kingdom in Palestine including the territories he put under tribute as well as those regions that he possessed from his enemies.

Research Project

How many sons did David have and what were their names?  List them according to their mothers and age if possible.
Questions for Review

1. Where did David choose that the Temple be built? (See: 1 Chronicles 21:18–22:1; 2 Chronicles 3:1)
2. Who were the strangers David set to hewing stone and wood for the Temple? (See 1 Kings 9:20–21)
3. What materials did David lay up for the building of the Temple?
4. Who had helped David in making plans and provisions for the Temple?
5. How long had these plans and preparations been in progress?
6. For what reason were the Sidonians included in the workforce for the Temple? (See: 1 Kings 5:6)
7. After preparations were made, for whom did David call? What command did he give to him?
8. Why was David not allowed to build the Temple?
9. What would God do for Solomon during the days of his reign that would allow the Temple to be built?
10. On what conditions would Jehovah allow Solomon to prosper as king over Israel?
11. What did David accomplish that had not been accomplished in the preceding 400 years?
12. How many Levites were counted in the census that David took for the Temple?
13. What assignments did David make to these Levites? Into how many courses did David divide them?
14. How was the order of the courses determined?
15. At what age was the Levite allowed to enter into service? Why this change? (Numbers 4:3; 8:24–26)
16. Who were Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun? (See: 1 Chronicles 6:31–48)
17. How many courses of musicians were selected? What was their total number?
18. What would the singers do with harps, psalteries and cymbals?
19. How many doorkeepers did David appoint? How many guard stations were in the Temple?
20. What were the responsibilities of the porters? (See: 1 Chronicles 9:22-34) How many were there?
22. How much gold did David give for the building of the Temple? How much silver?
23. How much gold, silver, brass and iron did the princes bring for the Temple?
24. Who provided the gold and silver for the vessels, candlesticks and furniture of the temple?
25. From where does David say the offering for the Temple came?

The Geography Lesson

On your map of Jerusalem indicate the location of the Temple complex on Mount Moriah (Araunah's threshing-floor), the City of David (Zion) the Mount of Olives and Golgotha (Calvary).

Research Project

Trace the lineages of Zadok the high priest and Ahimelech. Why was Ahimelech removed from the priesthood and the family of Zadok given the high priesthood exclusively?