



Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

Second Series: "The Bottom Edge" Old Testament: History

Lesson #9: Saul, David and Solomon

I. Introduction

- A. The historical events surrounding the United Kingdom are contained in the books of I, II Samuel and I Kings. I, II Samuel were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible. In the Septuagint (Greek translation) these books were referred to as "Books of the Kingdom," specifically as the First, Second, Third and Fourth Kingdoms.
- B. The author of I, II Samuel is presumed to be Samuel. Tradition suggests that I Kings was primarily written by the prophet Jeremiah. The compiler (whom ever he was) had access to a number of documents like the Book of the Acts of Solomon (11:41), the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel (14:19) and the Book of the Chronicles of the King of Judah (14:29, 15:7).
- C. The key leaders covered in the monarchical books are Samuel (I Samuel 1-7), Saul (I Samuel 8-31), David (II Samuel 1-24) and Solomon (I Kings 1-11).
- D. Samuel is the last Judge and the first great prophet in Israel. He will anoint both Saul and David as kings.
 1. Transition from Eli to Samuel I Sam. 1:1-3:21
 2. Samuel as Judge I Sam. 4:1-7:17
 3. Transition from Samuel to Saul I Sam. 8:1-12:25
- E. The time frame of the books:
 1. I Samuel covers 94 years (approx. 1105-1011 BC)
 2. II Samuel covers 40 years (1011-971 BC)
 3. I Kings covers 40 years (Until the division of the kingdom)

II. An outline of I Samuel

Special note: Christ alluded to I Samuel twice: Matt. 12:3-4 referring to 21:6 and Luke 16:15 referring to 16:7.

- A. Transition from Eli to Samuel (1:1-3:21) Birth of Samuel (1:24-28)
- B. Judgeship of Samuel (4:1-7:17)
- C. Transition from Samuel to Saul (8:1-12:25)
 1. Israel clamors for an earthly king. Their motive (see 8:5) and criteria for the monarchy (see 9:2) are wrong.

- 2. Samuel anoints Saul (10:17-27)
- D. The reign of Saul (13:1-15:9)
 - His failures: sacrifices that he should not have made (13:5-23), his curse (14:1-52) and his lack of obedience (15:1-9).
- E. Transition from Saul to David (15:10-31:13)
 - 1. God rejects Saul (15:10-35) and takes His spirit from him (16:14-23)
 - 2. God anoints David (16:1-13)
 - 3. God confirms His choice (17:1-18:9)
 - 4. Saul attempts to slay David (18:10-20:42)
- F. David in exile (20:1-28:2) David saves Saul's life twice (24:1-22, 26:1-20)
- G. The final decline of Saul (28:3-31:13)
 - 1. God does not answer Saul, so he consults a medium
 - 2. Saul is killed by the Philistines

Samuel confronts Saul (15:1-9)

David and Goliath (17:1-58)

Saul and the witch (28:7-25)

III. An outline of II Samuel

David reigns over Judah for 7 in Hebron and ½ years, and then over Israel for 33 years in Jerusalem.

- A. Political Triumphs (1:1-5:25)
 - 1. David is anointed as king over Judah (The southern tribes) (2:1-7)
 - 2. Ishbosheth is King over Israel (the northern tribes)
- B. Spiritual Triumphs (6:1-7:29)
 - The Davidic Covenant (7:1-29)
- C. Military Triumphs (8:1-10:19)
 - David defeat the Philistines, Moab, Syria and Ammon
- D. The sins of David (11:1-27)
- E. The troubles of David (12:1-24:25)
 - 1. Nathan's confrontation (12:1-14)
 - 2. Incest (13:1-20)
 - 3. Amnon is murdered (13:21-36)
 - 4. Absalom's rebellion (13:37-18:1-33)
- F. David is restored as King (19:1-24:25)
 - David's mighty men (23:8-39)

Transporting the Ark (6:1-23)

David and Bathsheba (11:1-27)

IV. An outline of I Kings

At the death of David, his son, Solomon begins to reign over the United Kingdom.

Special Note: David was not allowed to build the Temple because his reign was characterized as “bloody”. See I Kings 5:3 and I Chronicles 28:2-8.

Chapters 1-11 cover the life and reign of Solomon. For 40 years there was tranquility in the land. Jerusalem remained the capital.

- A. On his death bed, David chooses Solomon to reign after him (1:1-2:12)
- B. Solomon consolidates his rule (2:13-3:15)
- C. Solomon judges with wisdom (3:16-4:12)
- D. The temple is built (5:13-8:66)
- E. God’s promises and warnings (9:1-28)
- F. The Queen of Sheba visits (10:1-13)
- G. Solomon makes the gold shields (10:14-29)
- H. Solomon turns from God (11:1-40)
- I. Solomon dies and the kingdom splits (11:41-43)

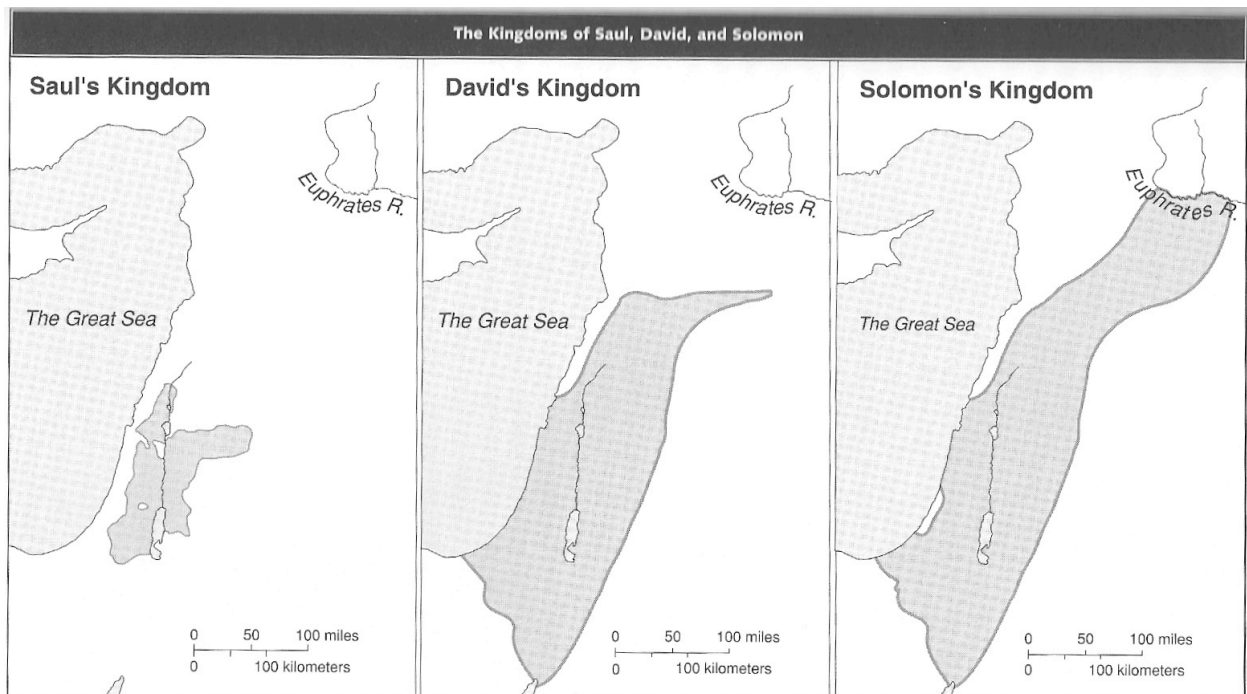
Story of two women with one baby 1 Kings 3:23-28

V. Note this Narrative Emphasis in the History of the United Kingdom

Narrative Emphasis in the History of the United Monarchy			
	Saul	David	Solomon
Appointment	1. By Samuel 2. Public process	1. By Samuel 2. Long process	1. By David 2. By Zadok & Nathan
Successes & Potential	Victory over Ammonites	1. Taking of Jerusalem 2. Defeat of Philistines 3. Bringing ark back 4. Covenant 5. Expansion of empire	1. Dream and request for wisdom 2. Wisdom and administration of empire 3. Building of temple
Failures	1. Impatient offering 2. Placing people under improper oath 3. Disobeying instructions in Amalekite war	1. Adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah 2. Wrongful taking of census	1. Foreign wives’ religious practices accommodated 2. Labor and tax on people
Results of failures	1. Bad judgment, incompetence and jealousy	1. Bloodshed within (Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah) 2. Rebellion in kingdom (Absalom, Sheba)	1. Military problems 2. Division of kingdom

(A Survey of the Old Testament, p. 213)

VI. The geography of the land controlled by each King



(A Survey of the Old Testament, p. 221)

VII. So What? The major purpose of these three books is not historical, but rather theological. The establishment of the Davidic covenant emphasizes divine authority. God chooses the king and sets up the dynasty. God rules the affairs of men. He rules our lives as well! See I Cor.15:27-28 and Rev. 11: 15-18.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Israel clamor for a king? Was Saul a good king? How would you describe his failures?
2. Why did God establish covenants with Abraham (Gen. 12) and David (II Sam. 7)? How are they similar/different?
3. What can we learn from David's sin with Bathsheba?
4. What was Solomon's weakness? What can we learn from his experiences?