**Lesson 5- Saul, David, Solomon, and the Divided Kingdom**

1. Chronological context explained
2. Toward the end of the period of the Judges, Samuel begins to hear from the word of the Lord. He is someone who can say, “Thus says the LORD.” An authoritative prophet. This is a dividing line between the time of the Judges and the time of the prophets and kings.
3. Differences between 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles.
   * + 1. 1 Samuel- Saul’s rise and fall as king. Anointing of David. David on the run as a shepherd who is destined to be king.
       2. 2 Samuel- David as king
       3. 1 Kings starts by showing us the story of Solomon and then how the kingdom was divided between Judah and Israel. And from there, 1 & 2 Kings gives us a chronological picture of this history and events of the kings of both Judah and Israel.
       4. 1 & 2 Chronicles- Strictly the kings of Judah, not the kings of Israel. That is, the family line of David and all those kings who come from him.
4. Samuel and Saul
5. Samuel’s call. The “Word of the Lord” came to him visibly.
6. The defeat to the Philistines who stole the ark and death of Eli the high priest.
7. The demand for a king was rejecting God.
8. Saul anointed specifically as one chosen by God Himself.
9. Saul rebels with compromised “obedience” and is rejected for a man after God’s own heart.
10. David’s rise
11. 1 Samuel 16- David anointed. The picture of a shepherd. Psalm 23.
12. 1 Samuel 16:23- David became Saul’s musician to calm him.
13. 1 Sam 17- David and Goliath as a picture of Christ saving His helpless people from their enemies. “Saul his thousands, David his tens of thousands.”
14. David is hunted down by Saul. Jonathan, Saul’s son, became a best friend of David and even acknowledged that he would be king next instead of him.
15. 1 Sam 22- Cave of Adullam. Picture of Christ. He became captain of all those who were in debt. He welcomes everyone as the true leader.
16. David gets repeated opportunities to take the kingdom by force but refuses. He constantly appeals to God’s authority and timing. Ultimately, Saul dies, and the people of Judah receive him as their king. The other tribes stick with Saul’s house.
17. David as king
18. Israel and Judah at war as Judah strengthens and house of Saul weakens until the northern tribes receive David.
19. Conquering Jerusalem in 2 Sam 5:6-7
20. Attempting to bring the ark to Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 6 showing that God expects fear and reverence for what He has commanded.
21. 2 Samuel 7- David wants to build a house for God. 7:12-13- In one sense God is saying Solomon will build the temple, but this kingdom and throne will last forever and the house itself will be established forever. Solomon’s temple was eventually destroyed. Christ reigns forever.
22. Bathsheba and Psalm 51- 2 Samuel 12.
23. Amnon and Tamar, Absalom
24. I Kings- Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam
25. Temple built by Solomon as a place to call on the LORD.
26. Desires wisdom. Taxed the people heavily and worked them heavily.
27. Rehoboam took over. Jeroboam as leader of other tribes asked Rehoboam to treat them gentler than his father. Rehoboam threatened to work them harder. This is where a split happens. Israel to the north, Judah to the South.
28. From here on out in the Old Testament, Judah typically refers to the area ruled over by the kings of David’s family line, Israel most often refers to the kingdom of the North ruled by the people starting with Jeroboam.
29. Jeroboam set up Samaria as the capital, placing a golden calf there. He also set up a golden calf in northern Dan. He made access to idolatry easier, and attempted to keep people from desiring to return to the temple in Jerusalem.
30. History of the kings
31. It is beneficial to look at a timeline to see where these kings line up with one another.
32. The Judah kings have some who follow the Lord, some who do not.
33. Israel kings are always sinful and never turn to the Lord.
34. Much of the prophets are warnings to Israel and/or Judah that if they continue in their idolatry they will be disciplined.
35. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians and scattered.
36. Judah was eventually led into captivity in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.
37. 2 Chr 36:15-16 is a powerful summary statement of these times.
38. Ezra- A scribe who restored order in worship and ensured that the people understood the book of the law after the Babylonian exile.
39. Nehemiah- Rebuilt the walls, establishing the city again.
40. Esther- Story of the persecution of God’s people and how God’s sovereignty protected them. The name of the LORD is not mentioned in Esther, and yet God’s hand is seen throughout. Even in the most seemingly random turn of events, God is totally in control.

**Conclusion:** “Do you really take the Bible literally?” These books were clearly written to describe actual events that really took place in a real location at a particular point in time. Thus, when we read the prophets, we can evaluate what they are saying and why they are saying it by recognizing that they are speaking directly to the people of these times, with regard to specific ways of living or thought these people are having.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions**

* + - 1. Reflect on Samuel's call as a prophet in 1 Samuel 3. How does the "Word of the Lord" coming to Samuel signify a new era of prophetic authority? How does this transition from the time of judges to the time of kings mark a significant shift in Israel's leadership?
      2. Read 1 Samuel 15:13-26. Discuss:

1. Why is Saul delusional? How does this delusion display itself today?
2. V. 14-15- What does this teach us about the obedience God calls us to?
3. V. 22-23- What is the importance of obedience to the Lord? What does he compare half-hearted “obedience” to?
   * + 1. Analyze the encounter between David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. How does David's victory over Goliath foreshadow Christ?
       2. Discuss David's reaction to Saul's repeated attempts to kill him in 1 Samuel 24 and 26. How does David's refusal to take the kingdom by force demonstrate his reliance on God's timing and authority? What does this teach us as Christians?
       3. Explore the significance of David's desire to build a house for God in 2 Samuel 7. How does God's response to David's request reveal His eternal plans for the Davidic dynasty? How does this passage point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises?
       4. Why does Matthew introduce Jesus as “The Son of David” in Matthew 1:1 as well as stress that even Joseph was “son of David” in Matthew 1:20? What is the significance in light of what this lesson taught?
       5. Read Matthew 9:27, 12:23, 15:22, 20:30-31, 21:9. How important is it to understand that the Christ is the son of David? Why is this so important to his identity as a shepherd and king?
       6. Matthew 22:41-46. What was Jesus teaching? How is Jesus David’s Lord even though he was born of a woman roughly 1,000 years after him?