

4 **TENTS, TEMPLES, PALACES** 5

This study is outlined generally on the ICI course of the same name, authored by Rick C. Howard. Further information on the course can be obtained by contacting Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone, Springfield, Missouri 65804.

6 7 8 **Lesson 6** 9 **THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL UNITED (THE GOLDEN ERA)**

10
11 So far, in review:

- 12 • We have covered the History of the Human Race
- 13 • The history of God's Chosen People
- 14 • The history of Faith and Worship
- 15 • The Promised Land From God to the Chosen People

16
17
18 We have watched God's people as they struggled and rose up like a newborn infant
19 learning to walk. Under the leadership of JOSHUA, they entered the land of Palestine.
20 They made many conquests and settled there. Then they went through a troublesome
21 period of transition under the judges. Times were difficult, but God raised up leaders to
22 deliver Israel from their oppressors. It was during this time that the last judge,
23 SAMUEL, became Israel's leader.

24
25 It was Samuel who anointed SAUL, Israel's first king. **SAUL'S REIGN MARKED**
26 **THE BEGINNING OF THE KINGDOM ERA.** This era, the Golden Era of Israel,
27 continued through two more kings, David and Solomon, each of whom ruled for about
28 forty years.

29
30 The kingdom era was the most brilliant of Israel's history. Out of the dark ages of the
31 Book of Judges and Ruth came the golden age. Israel took its place among the nations
32 of the world. Its buildings (particularly the Great Temple built by Solomon), writings,
33 and prosperity showed forth God's blessing for all the world to see.

34
35 **The Golden Era began with God's call to Samuel to divest King Saul and anoint**
36 **young David as the new King of Israel.**
37
38

VIDEO

- Israel's demand for a king came as no surprise to God. It was prophesied in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deut. 17:14-20 (New Living Translation)

"You will soon arrive in the land the Lord your God is giving you, and you will conquer it and settle there. Then you may begin to think, 'We ought to have a king like the other nations around us.' [15] If this happens, be sure that you select as king the man the Lord your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite, not a foreigner. [16] The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself, and he must never send his people to Egypt to buy horses there, for the Lord has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' [17] The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will lead him away from the Lord. And he must not accumulate vast amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

[18] "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy these laws on a scroll for himself in the presence of the Levitical priests. [19] He must always keep this copy of the law with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of this law. [20] This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. This will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

1. What an incredible order from God. There was no question that Israel would one day have a king rather than a theocracy.

THEOCRACY: A government in which God Himself is the ruler. The best and perhaps the only illustration among nations is Israel from the time that God redeemed them from the power of the pharaoh by drying the Red Sea (Exod. 15:13; 19:5,6) until the later days of Samuel - as already shown in the video. From the human standpoint, the power was largely in the hands of the priests, who acted on the basis of laws issued by God, in whom were united all the powers of the state – legislative, executive and judicial. Such a government was possible only because of God's special revelation of Himself to the nation.

2. God's PERFECT WILL for Israel was the theocracy, not a monarchy (rule by an earthly king). But God had foreseen the day when they would want a king and long

1 before the time came, He had given them instructions on how their king should behave.

2
3 A. He was to be a Jew.

4 B. He was not to amass horses (the typical conveyance of the day which might
5 tempt the people to want to return to Egypt. Solomon had stables of horses.)

6 C. He must not have multiple wives. Both David and Solomon shattered that
7 command.

8 D. He was not to amass personal wealth. (David had wealth but gave it for the
9 construction of the Temple. Solomon, on the other hand, was wealthy beyond measure.)

10 E. **The king must personally copy down all the laws of the Torah and read**
11 **from it every day of his reign. The KJV reads: “...that he may learn to fear the**
12 **Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes to do them: that**
13 **his heart be not lifted up above his brethren and that he turn not aside from the**
14 **commandment....”**

15

Why was Israel’s demand for a king such a great sin? God had promised the Israelites that He would care for them, protect them, provide their needs. *They did not trust God to stand by His commitment, His word!* Their sin was this: LACK OF FAITH! Hebrews 11:6: “Without faith, it is impossible to please God!” May we believers always remember that our foundation, our source, our everything is GOD! This is why God said to Samuel, “You are not the one they have rejected. I am the one they have rejected as their king” (I Samuel 8:7).

- 16
17
18 • The video monologue (Samuel) you saw earlier was simply a dramatization of
19 God’s prediction about a king and his actions toward the people. Here is the
20 scripture setting:

21
22 **1 Samuel 8:11-18**

23 **"This is how a king will treat you," Samuel said. "The king will draft your sons**
24 **into his army and make them run before his chariots. [12] Some will be**
25 **commanders of his troops, while others will be slave laborers. Some will be forced to**
26 **plow in his fields and harvest his crops, while others will make his weapons and**
27 **chariot equipment. [13] The king will take your daughters from you and force them**
28 **to cook and bake and make perfumes for him. [14] He will take away the best of**
29 **your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own servants. [15]**
30 **He will take a tenth of your harvest and distribute it among his officers and**
31 **attendants. [16] He will want your male and female slaves and demand the finest of**
32 **your cattle and donkeys for his own use. [17] He will demand a tenth of your flocks,**

1 **and you will be his slaves. [18] When that day comes, you will beg for relief from**
2 **this king you are demanding, but the Lord will not help you."**

3
4 **** Verse 18 was certainly fulfilled upon the death of King Solomon when his no-
5 good son Rehoboam became the ruler. He imposed such restrictions and taxation upon
6 the people that they split the nation in two.

7
8 Even after the warning, the people were not moved; they wanted a king. So God told
9 Samuel to go ahead and anoint them one.

10
11 With King Saul as their leader, Samuel gave his farewell to the people - even though he
12 would live quite a bit longer:

13
14 **1 Samuel 12:1-15**

15 **Then Samuel addressed the people again: "I have done as you asked and given**
16 **you a king. [2] I have selected him ahead of my own sons, and I stand here, an old,**
17 **gray-haired man. I have served as your leader since I was a boy. [3] Now tell me as I**
18 **stand before the Lord and before his anointed one—whose ox or donkey have I**
19 **stolen? Have I ever cheated any of you? Have I ever oppressed you? Have I ever**
20 **taken a bribe? Tell me and I will make right whatever I have done wrong."**

21 **[4] "No," they replied, "you have never cheated or oppressed us in any way, and**
22 **you have never taken even a single bribe."**

23 **[5] "The Lord and his anointed one are my witnesses," Samuel declared, "that**
24 **you can never accuse me of robbing you."**

25 **"Yes, it is true," they replied.**

26 **[6] "It was the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron," Samuel continued. "He**
27 **brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt. [7] Now stand here quietly before**
28 **the Lord as I remind you of all the great things the Lord has done for you and your**
29 **ancestors.**

30 **[8] "When the Israelites were in Egypt and cried out to the Lord, he sent Moses**
31 **and Aaron to rescue them from Egypt and to bring them into this land. [9] But the**
32 **people soon forgot about the Lord their God, so he let them be conquered by Sisera,**
33 **the general of Hazor's army, and by the Philistines and the king of Moab.**

34 **[10] "Then they cried to the Lord again and confessed, 'We have sinned by**
35 **turning away from the Lord and worshiping the images of Baal and Ashtoreth. But**
36 **we will worship you and you alone if you will rescue us from our enemies.' [11] Then**
37 **the Lord sent Gideon, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel to save you, and you lived in**
38 **safety.**

39 **[12] "But when you were afraid of Nahash, the king of Ammon, you came to me**
40 **and said that you wanted a king to reign over you, even though the Lord your God**

1 was already your king.

2 [13] All right, here is the king you have chosen. Look him over. You asked for
3 him, and the Lord has granted your request.

4 [14] "Now if you will fear and worship the Lord and listen to his voice, and if you
5 do not rebel against the Lord's commands, and if you and your king follow the Lord
6 your God, then all will be well. [15] But if you rebel against the Lord's commands
7 and refuse to listen to him, then his hand will be as heavy upon you as it was upon
8 your ancestors.

9
10 So.....we have learned God's parameters for Israeli royalty. Now....how did the royalty
11 rank in obedience to Him?

12 13 THE REIGN OF KING SAUL

14 15 1 Samuel 9:1-2

16 Kish was a rich, influential man from the tribe of Benjamin. He was the son of
17 Abiel and grandson of Zeror, from the family of Becorath and the clan of Aphiah.
18 [2] His son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller
19 than anyone else in the land.

- 20
- 21 • We will learn before Samuel ultimately anoints David to be the SECOND king of
22 Israel that God does not look upon the outward appearance. If the outward
23 appearance were the primary qualification, Saul would have scored well.
 - 24
 - 25 • In I. Samuel 9 we learn of Saul's coming to the throne.
 - 26
 - 27 • As commander of Israel's armies, Saul was a brilliant leader. He won victory
28 after victory. But Saul could not bring himself under the authority of God. This
29 was the primary failure that caused God to ultimately reject him as king.
 - 30
 - 31 • Saul was rejected by God because the king did not think it necessary for him to
32 completely obey the Lord. What was the straw that broke the camel's back?
 - 33

34 For decades, a primary enemy of Israel was the tribe of Amalek. God commanded Saul
35 and his armies to: **1 Samuel 15:3**

36 Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women,
37 children, babies, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys.' "

38
39 The battle was very successful.....BUT.....
40

1 **1 Samuel 15:9**

2 **Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and cattle, the**
3 **fat calves and lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed**
4 **only what was worthless or of poor quality.**

5
6 And that was the end of God's patience.....

7
8 **V I D E O**

9
10 **1 Samuel 15:10-11**

11 **Then the Lord said to Samuel, [11] "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he**
12 **has not been loyal to me and has again refused to obey me." Samuel was so deeply**
13 **moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.**

14
15 **THE DEATH OF KING SAUL**

16
17 The Philistines continued to come against Israel again and again. All this time, instead
18 of strengthening the kingdom and mending his relationship with God, Saul spent his time
19 trying to find David to kill him. By this time, God had turned away from Israel. Saul
20 sought spiritual counsel from a witch in a cave at Endor (not far from the Sea of Galilee).
21 I Samuel 31 tells the sad, sad story:

22
23 **1 Samuel 31:1-6**

24 **Now the Philistines attacked Israel, forcing the Israelites to flee. Many were**
25 **slaughtered on the slopes of Mount Gilboa. [2] The Philistines closed in on Saul and**
26 **his sons, and they killed three of his sons—Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malkishua. [3]**
27 **The fighting grew very fierce around Saul, and the Philistine archers caught up with**
28 **him and wounded him severely. [4] Saul groaned to his armor bearer, "Take your**
29 **sword and kill me before these pagan Philistines run me through and humiliate**
30 **me." But his armor bearer was afraid and would not do it. So Saul took his own**
31 **sword and fell on it. [5] When his armor bearer realized that Saul was dead, he fell**
32 **on his own sword and died beside the king. [6] So Saul, three of his sons, his armor**
33 **bearer, and his troops all died together that same day. When the Israelites on the**
34 **other side of the Jezreel Valley and beyond the Jordan saw that their army had been**
35 **routed and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and fled.**
36 **So the Philistines moved in and occupied their towns.**

37 **[8] The next day, when the Philistines went out to strip the dead, they found the**
38 **bodies of Saul and his three sons on Mount Gilboa. [9] So they cut off Saul's head**
39 **and stripped off his armor. Then they proclaimed the news of Saul's death in their**
40 **pagan temple and to the people throughout the land of Philistia. [10] They placed**

1 his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of
2 the city of Beth-shan.

4 THE REIGN OF KING DAVID

- 6 • It is noteworthy that David did not immediately rush to the throne. He actually
7 mourned over Saul's death. 2 Samuel 5 tells us that David was anointed king over
8 all Israel at Hebron, where he reigned for 7 years. Then David took Jerusalem from
9 the Jebusites who lived there and established it as his capital of the united kingdom
10 for 33 years.
- 11
- 12 • One of David's first acts was to take back the Ark of the Covenant from the
13 Philistines (1 Samuel 5 - 7). Although the Philistines had put the Ark in a town
14 called Kiriath - only 8 miles west of Jerusalem, the Ark had remained there for over
15 60 years, including all of Samuel's time as a judge and all of Saul's years as king and
16 even part of David's reign. REMEMBER THE THINGS OF GOD WERE NOT
17 OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO KING SAUL.
- 18
- 19 • As time went on, David, blessed by God, extended Israel's borders by making foreign
20 conquests. He defeated the Philistines, the Moabites, and the Ammonites (2 Samuel
21 8-10). All was going well for David

23 THEN CAME BATHSHEBA

- 24
- 25 • Every person has a weakness which Satan attempts to exploit. David's weakness was
26 women, a trait that would be inherited by his son Solomon.

27 2 Samuel 11:1-5

28 The following spring, the time of year when kings go to war, David sent Joab and
29 the Israelite army to destroy the Ammonites. In the process they laid siege to the city
30 of Rabbah. But David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

31 [2] Late one afternoon David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a
32 stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of
33 unusual beauty taking a bath. [3] He sent someone to find out who she was, and he
34 was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the
35 Hittite." [4] Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with
36 her. (She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual
37 period.) Then she returned home. [5] Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she
38 was pregnant, she sent a message to inform David.
39
40

1 You perhaps know the rest of this sordid story. David sent her husband Uriah to the
2 front lines of battle in nearby Jordan where Uriah was killed. Thus David broke two of
3 the Ten Commandments: adultery and murder. He would pay for his sins again four-
4 fold. In each penalty, there was death. **SIN, WHEN IT IS FINISHED, BRINGS**
5 **FORTH DEATH.** It does not matter who you are.

- 6
- 7 • David is loved by most for his ruling abilities. Yet it cannot be truly said he was a
8 good, moral man. When he sinned, he repented. But he sinned so often! And he
9 was a truly lousy father.
- 10
- 11 • One of the penalties for his sin was through his children.
- 12 ▶ Bathsheba's child (by David) died at birth
- 13 ▶ One of David's sons, Amnon, raped his half sister Tamar
- 14 ▶ Absalom, Tamar's brother, murdered Amnon
- 15 ▶ Absalom usurped the throne from his father David for a time and was killed while
16 fleeing the wrath of General Joab
- 17 ▶ Even after his death, there was struggle among David's offspring. When he died,
18 Adonijah, one of his sons, tried to claim the throne. He was prevented from
19 doing so, however, and Bathsheba's second son Solomon became the king.
- 20
- 21 • David also sinned against God by "numbering" the people. He was indicating to
22 God in that moment that he had more trust in the size of his army than he did in God
23 Himself. His action costs many Israelite lives through a plague. Only when David
24 repented did the plague relent.
- 25

26 **THE REIGN OF KING SOLOMON**

- 27
- 28 • During the reign of Solomon, God brought Israel to a magnificence that astounded the
29 world. Solomon ruled for 40 years. He began in GREATNESS. How he ended
30 his reign is quite another matter.
- 31
- 32 • When Solomon began to rule, God appeared to him and asked him what he would like
33 to have. Solomon requested wisdom to rule God's people. (I Kings 3:5-14) God
34 was pleased with the request and Solomon became known for his wisdom.
- 35
- 36 • During his reign, many sacred songs and writings were produced. Solomon alone
37 wrote 3,000 proverbs, of which some 375 are preserved in the Old Testament. He
38 also wrote 1,005 songs, three of which are in the Bible: Psalms 75 and 117 and the
39 Song of Solomon.
- 40

- 1 • The wealth of Solomon was incredible. We have a description of his power, fame
2 and resources in **1 Kings 4:21-28** **King Solomon ruled all the kingdoms from the**
3 **Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines, as far south as the border of**
4 **Egypt. The conquered peoples of those lands sent tribute money to Solomon and**
5 **continued to serve him throughout his lifetime.**

6 [22] **The daily food requirements for Solomon's palace were 150 bushels of**
7 **choice flour and 300 bushels of meal, [23] ten oxen from the fattening pens,**
8 **twenty pasture-fed cattle, one hundred sheep or goats, as well as deer, gazelles,**
9 **roebucks, and choice fowl.**

10 [24] **Solomon's dominion extended over all the kingdoms west of the Euphrates**
11 **River, from Tiphseh to Gaza. And there was peace throughout the entire land.**

12 [25] **Throughout the lifetime of Solomon, all of Judah and Israel lived in peace**
13 **and safety. And from Dan to Beersheba, each family had its own home and**
14 **garden.**

15 [26] **Solomon had four thousand stalls for his chariot horses and twelve**
16 **thousand horses. [27] The district governors faithfully provided food for King**
17 **Solomon and his court, each during his assigned month. [28] They also**
18 **brought the necessary barley and straw for the royal horses in the stables.**

- 19
- 20 • In I Kings, chapters 5 through 8, there is a description of the great Temple to God
21 built by Solomon. The Temple sat where the golden dome of the Mosque of Omar
22 rests today. Some have estimated that the value of this temple in today's currency
23 would exceed five billion dollars. The labor force alone included 30,000 Jews and no
24 fewer than 153,000 Canaanites.
- 25
- 26 • But in spite of all Solomon's success, he failed in his devotion to God. Even as his
27 kingdom increased in wealth, strength and fame, Solomon made alliances with
28 foreign nations and married many wives from outside Israel, although God's
29 command was against a king having many wives (Deut. 17:17). Solomon's wives
30 led him away from his father's God. **1 Kings 11:1-8** **Now King Solomon loved**
31 **many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from**
32 **Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. [2] The Lord had**
33 **clearly instructed his people not to intermarry with those nations, because the**
34 **women they married would lead them to worship their gods. Yet Solomon**
35 **insisted on loving them anyway. [3] He had seven hundred wives and three**
36 **hundred concubines. And sure enough, they led his heart away from the Lord.**
37 **[4] In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship their gods instead of**
38 **trusting only in the Lord his God, as his father, David, had done. [5] Solomon**
39 **worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable**
40 **god of the Ammonites. [6] Thus, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord's sight;**

1 he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done. [7] On
2 the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a shrine for Chemosh, the
3 detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the
4 Ammonites. [8] Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for
5 burning incense and sacrificing to their gods.

- 6
- 7 • Solomon began to act like the tyrannical kings who ruled in the surrounding nations.
8 When he died, the kingdom which had risen to such greatness was on the decline.
9

10 The biblical news of Solomon's death was terse: **1 Kings 11:41-43**

11 **The rest of the events in Solomon's reign, including his wisdom, are recorded in**
12 **The Book of the Acts of Solomon. [42] Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over all Israel**
13 **for forty years. [43] When Solomon died, he was buried in the city of his father,**
14 **David. Then his son Rehoboam became the next king.**

And so the golden era of the Kingdom Age ended. Rehoboam was a young, inexperienced and foolish monarch whose first major decision resulted in the split of the kingdom - Judah (two tribes) to the south with Jerusalem remaining the capital and Israel (10 tribes) with Samaria as its capital to the north.

Next week, July 29th, in our 7th study, we will consider the WRITINGS OF THE KINGDOM AGE - which include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

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