

## OT Survey Class 7 The United Kingdom

As the title suggests, today's lesson pertains to a kingdom. What's the first thing you need in order to have a kingdom? A king. Right! This class will cover 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles with a brief mention of Joshua and Judges.

Although the Israelites were united in the taking over of the Promised Land (Joshua) as well as during the times of the Judges, they were not yet a kingdom in the regular sense of the word. Yes, God was their King to be certain. He was their King, their Lord, and their God. But the people never looked at God as a King.

### Joshua

The Book of Joshua picks up right where Deuteronomy leaves off: After the death of Moses - God says to Joshua, Moses is dead, get the people and let's get you into that land I promised you.

Joshua chapters 1-12 cover

1. the preparation for and entry into the land of Canaan
2. The story of Rahab and the spies
3. Crossing the Jordan and kicking a lot of tail (including the five kings of the Amorites)
4. Achan's sin (and the defeat by little ole Ai)
5. Repentance from sin (and then defeating little ole Ai)
6. The Gibeonite deception (when a nearby nation tricked Israel into signing a peace treaty all because Israel did not go to their king for guidance)

In Joshua 13:1, we see Joshua well advanced in years. And yet there was still large areas of land to be taken. Up to this point, all 12 tribes of Israel fought together against their enemies. Then, starting in Chapter 13, something curious happens. After the land gets divided, the responsibility of driving out the remaining inhabitants would belong to the individual tribes who settled in the different parts of the land. They had to fight their own battles and they were individually responsible for driving out the remaining inhabitants.

### Judges

The Book of Judges picks up right where the book of Joshua leaves off: After the death of Joshua.

God told them to utterly destroy every trace of the inhabitants of the land.

Q: Is that what the 12 tribes of Israel did?

A: Nope. They not only didn't destroy them, they made peace treaties with them.

Judges chapter one is a rundown of all the instances where the 12 tribes didn't completely drive out their enemies. Judges 2 is the introduction of the need for the actual judges.

*Judges 2: 10*

*<sup>10</sup> After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.*

They signed peace treaties and then started worshipping their foreign gods. Then God raised up Judges.

I'll give a copy of "The Tale of Three Kings" to anyone who can give me the names of five of the thirteen Judges in the book of Judges:

Othniel (3:7-11)  
Ehud (3:12-30)  
Shamgar (3:31, 5:6)  
Deborah (4-5)  
Gideon (6-8)  
Abimelech (9)  
Minor Judges: Tola and Jair (10:1-5)  
Jephthah (10:6-12:7)  
Minor Judges: Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15)  
Samson (13-16)

Okay, now we'll look at the United Kingdom.

### The United Kingdom

United is a bit of a misnomer as there really wasn't a great deal of unity. The only way unity can truly happen is when we are in submission to God – as our King, as our Father, as our Lord. Now we are at the transition of rule that had existed from judgeship to monarchy. It starts with the last of the Judges:

Q: Can anyone name the last Judge of Israel (Tale of Three Kings book as a prize)  
A: Samuel (actually Joel and Abijah, the two sons of Samuel)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel

The first few chapters of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel talk about the birth of Samuel and his years as judge, priest and prophet – all long before the anointing of Saul of course.

Chpt 1-2 Hannah's prayer and the birth and dedication of Samuel

Chpt 3 Samuel was taught by Eli;

*1 Samuel 3:1*

*The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.*

God speaks to Samuel – his judgment and punishment of Eli's sons and his entire house.

Chpt 4-6 The Philistines defeat Israel, they actually take the Ark of the Covenant, and Eli's sons die.

Chpt 6-7 The ark is sent back to Israel (Beth Shemesh) by the Philistines but the people had no knowledge of how to treat it and, as a result, dishonor God by looking into it. The townspeople ask the men of Kiriath-Jearim to come get it.

Q: Where it remained for how long? (Tale of Three Kings book as a prize)

A: 100 yrs - all of Samuel's judgeship, Saul's reign, and most of David's reign

## Chpt 8-12

Now we find ourselves at Chapter 8

- Samuel is old and has just appointed his own sons as Judges over Israel.
- There is a major problem, however. His sons were corrupt and did not walk in his ways. They turned aside to dishonest gain, accepted bribes and perverted justice.
- The elders of Israel, as a result, ask Samuel for a king
- But that was only part of the reason. They also wanted to be like all the other nations.
- This really angered Samuel. God said to him in

*1 Samuel 8:7*

*<sup>7</sup> And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.*

Q: Do you think this surprised God?

A: No - Genesis 17:6 God had told Abraham that kings would come from him.

God knew they were rejecting him yet he went along with them anyway. Through Samuel God told them how their life would change and the demands of a kingship. They demanded a king anyway. It's odd how they were willing to submit to a king with all these negative consequences yet unwilling to submit to a God who always rescued and blessed them and had proven himself to them over and over.

*Life Example:* God uses his word and his spirit to teach us how to live our life to please him, however, like Israel, we think we know what's best for us. We believe that what God says will happen is either not that bad, it's worth it, or perhaps won't really happen. This independence and arrogance really is disbelief and it's deeply rooted in us. Think of Eve in the Garden of Eden eating the forbidden fruit. Like Eve, we're easily led astray by our independence and it's appealing temptations.

*God's Character:* God is incredibly patient and gracious. Although what Israel did was reject God, God did not withhold his love or faithfulness. Maybe they didn't even see they were once again rejecting God and being unfaithful. Yes, God let them have their way.

Q: Why?

A: Perhaps so they could learn the hard way.

*1 Samuel 12:13-15*

*<sup>13</sup> Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup> If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God-good! <sup>15</sup> But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers.*

He allows them their king yet brings them back to his sovereignty.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Life Example:* How are we with those we love and are trying to help in our faith? Are we willing to be gracious and supportive as God is so the person can learn or are we demanding and judgmental when that person chooses their own way?

## Chpt 13-15

Only took 2 years and Saul was choosing his own way over God's way. He rejected God by not trusting God. This distrust led to disobedience.

*1 Samuel 13:5-9*

*<sup>5</sup> The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. <sup>7</sup> Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup> So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.*

Whooooopppsss! Bad timing Saul.

He had been specifically instructed to wait for Samuel. His own fear clouded his judgment. He stopped trusting God. When Samuel came and saw this and confronted Saul, who just made excuses and justifications. He didn't even own his choices. He passed the blame onto others. Saul was not a man of true courage and honor and because he refused to submit to God. He reflected where Israel was – a nation not devoted to God, a nation self centered and worldly not God centered and pleasing to Him.

So what do you think Saul does now? Do you think he has a change of heart and turns to God in humility?

Nope! He continued on as though he and God were totally cool. Saul turned further away from God when God removed the kingship from him yet God still wanted to be with Saul.

God was true to his word - he turned his hand against Saul rejecting him as king.

Q: Was God being harsh?

A: No - He had told the people they and their king needed to follow him and that if they did not then he would turn against them. He let them have the king of their liking, that pleased and impressed them yet he failed them and God. Now God would give them the king they needed.

God still protected Israel and used Saul and his son Jonathan to do so on a few occasions...in spite of Saul.

In Chapter 15 the Amalekites had gone against Israel and God wanted to avenge his people. He gave specific instructions. Saul had another opportunity to obey God. But what does he do? He disobeyed God and did not destroy Agag, their king. He destroyed the people but not their king like God commanded. Again, he justifies himself when confronted. It's at this point God rejects Saul as king once and for all.

Repeatedly Saul kept a little bit of the corruption around him. He didn't utterly destroy everything. Just like us today, God calls us to give up everything to follow Him in Luke 14:33 and 9:24. Saul said he was willing but he really wasn't.

As you can see in chapter 15:30, Saul was more interested in his image before the people than his righteousness before God.

*Life Example:* A life and/or a leadership not God centered will splinter and fail. When it does splinter we often still don't get why because we're focused on it not being our fault and justifying ourselves. 2 Co 7:8-11 godly sorrow, taking responsibility. We don't submit to God.

*God's Character:* Patient. God was patient and faithful and persistent. Although he rejected Saul as king he did not reject Saul.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Life Example:* Jesus compares us to sheep in the NT because sheep are easily led. The men (sheep) following Saul also made choices to go against their leader (Saul) and do what they deemed right just as Saul went against God and did what he wanted (Jonathan and the honey 14:45 the men went against their king and his command). If we aren't living to honor God then that will pass to those we influence. What do life do we want them to see and to choose?

### Chpt 16

16:14 "...God sent an evil spirit..." The Hebrew word here means evil, injurious, tormenting. Why would God do this? Because he had not given up hope for Saul. Yet Saul still did not turn to God instead he sought comfort in other things. God kept on working on Saul because he loved him and wanted him to come to him. In the 1 Co 5:5 we see God even said turn the sinner over to Satan so he may be saved.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Life Example:* When God is working on us and we feel tormented...where do we go and how do we respond?

16:7 Now God chooses the king who is best for his people, yet he leaves his people with the king they chose while he prepares the king he knows they need.

### Chpt 17-31

David comes on the scene in 16 when he is anointed. He is the king that pleases God. Unlike Saul he's just the youngest son, a shepherd, forgotten about in the field.

17: David and Goliath – a story we have heard many times. Some might say David was arrogant or cocky when he boasted he could defeat Goliath but really he was full of idealism, really it was trust, hope, faith, and joy. He viewed God, and therefore himself, as invincible because God does not fail. He knew God could do anything.

But this wasn't enough. His faith had to be matured. David was brought through many years of trial and persecution so that he/his faith could be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

*James 1:2-4*

*<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Submitting to God when life goes our way is easy. It's tough to submit to God when it's really hard, unfair, or even unjust.

David became close to Saul's son Jonathan. Jonathan was an example of being who you choose to be not who you are made to be. Although the throne, should go to him, Jonathan chose God's view and accepted that the throne would be David's. He was loyal to David and to his father and believed the best of his father in spite of his father and called him to do what was right. He served his father faithfully until his death and did not try and

usurp him or split the kingdom. He let God handle it. (This is not what we see later on in David's life with his own son Absalom. This is exactly what the book "Take of Three Kings" highlights)

David honored God to the point that he would not touch Saul because he was God's anointed nor would he accept anyone else harming the Lord's anointed. His focus was to honor God. He didn't retaliate, he didn't turn away from God, he didn't badmouth or blame God. He accepted the instruction of others as well, like Abigail.

*Life Example:* Do we have a healthy view of ourselves as imperfect and are we willing to accept God trying to perfect us? Or do we blameshift, justify, get angry, and resentful?

At the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, in chapter 31, Saul and his son Jonathan die. Saul by his own hand, Jonathan by the hand of the Philistines.

## **2 SAMUEL**

Long war between House of Saul and House of David, ie: Israel and Judah

David mourns the death of Saul and Jonathan and soon after is anointed king.

The effects of Saul's refusal to submit to God affected his other children. When he died his son, Ish-bosheth proclaimed himself king of Israel. He wasn't willing to submit to God and the division widened.

When Ish-bosheth was eventually murdered, the people of Israel came to David to ask him to be their king as well.

### **Chpt 6**

It's at this point David tries to bring the ark back. God's rules were not followed so Uzzah died. David's response was fear, not reverence, and (like we all do when we've been hurt) he puts distance between himself and God (the ark). David didn't understand what happened or why but his response was to pull back instead of looking at himself, what he did, what his people did, and to seek God and ask why.

This is an interesting note on leadership: God set up kingship (and all leadership roles) to need other leaders and guidance.

What happened with David and the ark has a modern day application too.

Q: If we don't know God's word, how can we submit to it?

A: We may just be following a man instead of following God.

Not submitting to God's plan has repercussions, whether we have the knowledge that what we're doing is wrong or even if we don't. God makes himself clear but we have to choose to know him. David's priests should have known how the ark was to be carried and told David and David should have asked the priests if they knew how God wanted it to be done. Following God as a church requires unity among us. That means Evangelists need elders as mentors, young women need older women to teach them, one disciple needs another disciple to sharpen them. It's God's plan.

It wasn't until God blessed that city (Obed-edom) that David softened and brought it back – this time carried by men as instructed by God. (1 Ch15:15). Obviously, David and the priests had looked at God's commands...after the fact.

### 7 and 1 Ch 17

God wouldn't let David build him a house but God built him one. David wanted to *do* more to honor God yet God told him it was not his place. David was finally living a very successful and peaceful life because of God. God wanted David to keep that heart and life and leadership of the people and David submitted to God's way.

*Life Example:* How do we feel when we really want to do something that we think would be great for God and He says no? Do we take it as a blow to our self esteem, as an offense or injustice, or with a humble and grateful heart for all that God has done for us and submit?

### 9 and 10 and 1 Ch 19

David treated Jonathan's son and his men who were disgraced with honor.

### 11-12

David didn't go out to battle. He was not a man who could not be active and purposeful and so he fell to a pleasing temptation. Yet, when God sent Nathan to confront him and God punished him he had been broken and submissive to God.

*Life Example:* We need to be purposeful and active, it's a need and it helps us not sin. However, when we do sin, we need to have the heart and submissiveness of David.

### 13-

David's own house was full of divisions for David had many wives and concubines and they did not all follow God. David's sons – Amnon and Tamar, Absalom and Amnon.

### 14

David mourned for Absalom but was not willing to forgive or see him. He only saw him because of Absalom's manipulations.

### 15-18

David trusts God when Absalom revolts.

### 24 and 1 Ch 21

David numbered his people. Reliance on people not God. V13 David chose to fall into the hands of God not men, he mourned his sin against God and asked God to let him bear the punishment not his people.

### 1 Ki 1 and 2 and 1 Ch 29

David left the supplies for Solomon to build the temple.  
David's death.

At the time, Israel was far from God and had not become a people with their own faith and convictions. With a good judge they were good, with a bad judge they were bad. They repeatedly were unfaithful to God and cried out to Him, He came through for them, they repented for a time then the cycle began again. The transition from judge to kingdom marks another time of their unfaithfulness to God yet God used stayed with them through it. .

It really was only a "united kingdom" under Saul and that only loosely. During Saul's kingship David was anointed king. The people knew that Samuel had anointed David and David would be king. David won their hearts and Saul gradually lost their respect as king and a division began. At Saul's death a more concrete division happened with Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, becoming king of Israel and David king of Judah. After Ish-bosheth's death David became king of both Israel and Judah but there was never a unity. Much like the Middle

East today, it was a culture of tribes, not nations, that were loosely held together. The unity was, and is today, to come from God.

It is very much like us, we are independent, we want to go our own way even knowing God may lead us differently. Look at our own state motto, "Live free or die." We are still a fractious people. Only when we submit to God can we be united with one another.