

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Week # 7– Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

Notes – The Kings

Oct 21 & 22, 2025

1 Samuel 10:17-27, Saul Is Chosen King
1 Samuel 15:10-35, Saul Is Rejected
1 Samuel 17:12-54, David Kills Goliath
2 Samuel 5:1-12, David Is Proclaimed King
2 Samuel 6:12-23, The Ark in Jerusalem
2 Samuel 7:1-17, God's Covenant with David
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, David's Death
1 Kings 3:1-15, Solomon's Prayer
1 Kings 6:1-14, Solomon Builds the Temple
1 Kings 11:1-13, Solomon Rejects God
1 Kings 11:26-40, God's Promise to Jeroboam

1. 1 and 2 Samuel was originally one book, as was 1 and 2 Kings.
2. There are often two different accounts of many of the events of this period, one from an early source and another from a late source.
3. The biblical narrative spanning from 1 Samuel 7:15 to 2 Samuel 7:17 chronicles the end of Samuel's judgeship and the establishment of God's covenant with King David.
4. 1 Kings chapters 2–11 document the rise and fall of King Solomon, highlighting his wisdom, wealth, and grand building projects, as well as his eventual downfall.
5. As God's prophet in Israel, Samuel was responsible for achieving a high level of justice among the people as well as peace with their enemies. But in Samuel's old age, the people became restless and dissatisfied. They wanted a king.
6. The Israelites had won many battles with small tribes and "petty" kinglets but were unprepared to do battle with a real army or the force of an empire.
7. The Israeli army suffers a humiliating defeat. And decided to take matters into their own hands.
8. God issues specific warnings about trusting a human king.
9. The people demand a king, and God enters into the project with Samuel.
10. God does not abandon the Israelites, but the Israelites will come to suffer because of their decision.
11. **1 Samuel 10:17-27** describes the public confirmation of Saul as Israel's first king.
12. **1 Samuel 15:10-35**, Saul Is Rejected after disobeying God in a battle with the Amelekites.
13. **1 Samuel 17:12-54**, the biblical account of David defeating the Philistine giant Goliath through faith in God.

14. **2 Samuel 5:1-12**, David Is Proclaimed King

15. **2 Samuel 6:12-23**, King David's joyous and humble procession of the Ark of God into Jerusalem, which draws the contempt of his wife, Michal.

Religious tradition describes the Ark of the Covenant, as a sacred gold-plated wooden chest described in the Hebrew Bible, accompanied by an ornamental lid known as the Seat of Mercy. It purportedly held the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod and a pot of manna. It was the most sacred object to the Israelites, symbolizing God's presence and central to their religious practices.

16. **2 Samuel 7:1-17**, King David desires to build a permanent temple for God, but the Lord, speaking through the prophet Nathan, refuses the offer.

17. God promises to make David's name great and establish a secure, permanent place for his people, promising to build him a "house"—a royal dynasty that will last forever.

18. **1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12**, the dying King David gives his final instructions to his son, Solomon, urging him to be strong, follow God's statutes and commandments to ensure prosperity, and act wisely in his reign.

19. **1 Kings 3:1-15**, summarizes how God offers Solomon anything he desires in a dream, and Solomon humbly asks for wisdom to govern his people justly.

20. The chapter opens with Solomon solidifying a powerful alliance with Egypt through marriage to Pharaoh's daughter. This act, while politically shrewd, foreshadows the eventual problems caused by his many foreign wives.

21. **1 Kings 11:1-13**, Solomon Rejects God

22. The downfall of King Solomon and his empire was not simply a religious story of disobedience, but a social, political, and economic collapse, caused by oppressive imperial policies.

23. Solomon's accumulation of wealth, weapons, and power including the building of "chariot cities" and other large projects violated God's explicit instructions for how a king should govern.

24. Solomon funded his lavish projects through forced labor and heavy taxation, exploiting his own people. By hoarding wealth and requiring a third of the Israelites' time in service, Solomon created a system of injustice that undermined the very foundation of his kingdom.

25. **1 Kings 11:26-40** details the prophecy of the prophet Ahijah to Jeroboam, a high-ranking official under King Solomon.

26. Ahijah's message foretells the division of the Israelite kingdom after Solomon's death, with Jeroboam set to rule over ten of the twelve tribes as divine punishment for Solomon's idolatry

REFLECTIONS

1. Why were the Israelites so insistent on having a king, and what does this choice show about their trust in God as their king?

2. What does the fact that Saul, an "unlikely" candidate, was chosen, say about God's method of choosing leaders?
3. What does this passage teach about the difference between human regret (based on ignorance) and God's "regret" (which is a sorrow for evil that was fully foreseen)?
4. God chose an unlikely hero in David. In what areas of your life have you seen God use an unlikely or seemingly insignificant person to accomplish His purpose?
5. How does the idea of an eternal, unconditional covenant change your understanding of God's promises?
6. Solomon's actions were gradual, with his heart being led astray as he grew old (v. 4). Can you think of a time when your own faith was eroded by slow, subtle compromises rather than a single dramatic failing?
7. How can reflecting on Solomon's life point you toward a greater dependence on Jesus, who perfectly models the obedience and love that Solomon failed to demonstrate?

Notes by The Rev. Janice Y. Cook, Executive Associate Pastor, The Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, California

Primary Source: Discovering the Bible: A New Generation, published by The Kerygma Program, Pittsburgh, PA. Boyd Lien, author.

Religious tradition describes the Ark of the Covenant, as a sacred gold-plated wooden chest described in the Hebrew Bible, accompanied by an ornamental lid known as the Seat of Mercy. It purportedly held the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod and a pot of manna. It was the most sacred object to the Israelites, symbolizing God's presence and central to their religious practices. Its current location has been unknown since the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE

