

Kings to exile
Home Study 6



Day 1

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and 17:42-53.

What does God do for David? What do the people get from David's victory?

Day 2

Read 1 Samuel 22:1-2 and 2 Samuel 23:8-39.

What kind of men does David gather to himself? What does he turn them into?

Day 3

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29.

What does God promise David's Son?

Day 4

Read 1 Kings 8:1-21.

Why do they build a temple?

Day 5

Read 2 Kings 24:20 – 25:21.

Why does the exile occur? (Refer to last week's study)

Day 6

Read Luke 1:26-38.

Who is David's son who fulfils the promise of 2 Samuel 7?

Day 7

Read Acts 13:16-43.

How is Jesus greater than David?

Kings to exile Group Study 6



- Rejecting the real King
- Wrong king
- Right king – David
- Solomon
- Road to exile

Rejecting the real King

True believers see the Angel of the Lord as King. They believe in him (Judges 2:1-6) and know the blessing of trusting him. A great example of this is Hannah. Listen to her speaking in the last times of the Judges before Israel even had a king:

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. 'He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.' (1 Samuel 2:10, NIV).

We now see the last of the Judges, Samuel (1 Samuel 7:15-17). He too fails to bring the kingdom of God (1 Samuel 8:1-3).

Despite this the beginning of the book is dominated with the ark of the covenant – where the King is enthroned. But the Israelites can't see that, as with the idols of the nations, they too must bow before Jesus. They want to be like the nations with an earthly king. But God's accusation is clear.

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. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you' (1 Samuel 8:7-8, NIV).

It is not Samuel who is being rejected but Jesus who redeemed them!

Pause for thought

What causes you to struggle with Jesus' rule over your life?

Wrong king

The king is chosen – Saul. He is the kind of king all the nations would be proud of – a king after the people's heart (See 1 Samuel 12:13). God anoints and empowers him but still he fails miserably (1 Samuel 15).

Why? Because he thinks that sacrifice and ritual are everything whereas God gave them only to point to Christ. **Read 1 Samuel 15:22.**

Saul, because he was chosen as the type of king the people wanted, is the wrong king. The next king will be different, a king after God's heart who will reflect Jesus' rule over his people. **Read 1 Samuel 13:14.**

Right king – David

It is important to see that however much he points to Jesus he has to trust in Jesus himself. **Read 1 Samuel 17:45.**

David was a believer who confessed Christ as Lord – he is an example of saving faith. **Read Acts 2:25, 2:31, Matthew 22:43 and Romans 4:6.**

Over and over again in the Psalms he shows his trust is not in himself but in his Saviour and his desire is teach others this same truth.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you (Psalms 51:13, NIV).

We must read his life and trust in Christ alone.

What kind of king?

God chooses another king from the tribe of Judah as he had said (Genesis 49:10). He is an unlikely choice, being the youngest and smallest of Jesse's sons. Not even Jesse thought he would make the shortlist (See 1 Samuel 16:10-12)!

David is anointed – the reflected hope

Questions:

1. **Read 1 Samuel 16:13.** What happens to him when he is anointed?

Both 'Christ' (Greek) and 'Messiah' (Hebrew) mean 'Anointed one'
See N.I.V. footnote for John 1:20.

David's victory – the reflected hope

2. **Read 1 Samuel 17: 51-54.** It is because of this anointing that he defeats Goliath. What is the result of the victory?

3. **Read Ephesians 4:7-12.** What does Jesus' victory accomplish for his church?

David suffers – the reflected hope

Instead of David knowing increased popularity he has to live with the knowledge that the people do not know he is the Lord's anointed. He endures suspicion (1 Samuel 18:11-12), secret opposition (1 Samuel 19:1), open hostility (1 Samuel 19:9-10), narrow escape from death (1 Samuel 19:10-26:25). Then everyone forsakes him (1 Samuel 30:1-6).

As Jesus suffered

Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? (Luke 24:26, NIV).

David gathers – the reflected hope

4. **Read 1 Samuel 22:1-2.** What kind of people are they?

2 Samuel 23 tells how they are changed into mighty men. One kills eight hundred men in one day. One withstands a great army. Another defends a field so that the rest of God's people can enjoy the plunder.

The change in the men at Adullam's cave is dramatic – just like Jesus changing sinners to saints.

David is able to reflect Jesus but he does this because he trusts in the risen Christ. The Israelites were called not to look to him for their salvation but Jesus.

Saul dies and David finally represents the Lord's anointed king! The jewel in the physical land – Jerusalem – is taken against impossible odds. It is David who finally brings the conquest of the land (See 2 Samuel 5:6-7). This city in the Bible goes on to be a great symbol of heaven itself.

David's Son – the real hope

David's first desire is to bring the symbol of the real king back to the heart of the people. He brings the ark to Jerusalem and wants to build a permanent home for God among the people. God's answer to his request is remarkable (See 2 Samuel 7).

David is not the Lord's anointed – he is only a picture and he knows it. David's Son is the Lord's anointed.

5. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16. What will David's offspring bring?

This kingdom (a new Garden of Eden) will last forever.

The remainder of the book shows how David is a sinner like us all who needs a Saviour. And David knows it. He succeeds when he obeys God and fails when he doesn't.

Great quote

Whatever David's qualities as a person, as a king he proved a failure – he failed to govern his kingdom, and was unable to govern his family, because he didn't govern himself.

Alec Motyer

6. Read Luke 1:31-33, Revelation 22:16 and 2 Timothy 2:8. Who is David's Son who brings this kingdom?

Jesus succeeds where David failed.

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. (John 17:4, NIV).

The right way to respond to the life of David?

7. Read Luke 18:35-43. Why does the blind man call Jesus the Son of David?

We too as we read David's life should cry out for mercy from great David's greater son.

Pause for thought

What do you think makes Jesus such a great King?

Solomon

Solomon shows great wisdom

Solomon asks the Lord for wisdom (1 Kings 3:7-9) and God gives it to him (1Kings 4:29-34). **Read 1 Kings 3:28.**

8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. Jesus is the wisdom of God. What does the wisdom of Jesus give us?

Solomon builds a temple for God

Jesus moves in as he did in the tabernacle. **Read 1 Kings 8:10-11.**

Solomon knows – just as with the tabernacle – this is a picture of something greater. **Read 1 Kings 8:27-30.**

It is a place to meet with God in all circumstances – a place to live with God. **Read 1 Kings 8:31-53.**

Jesus then comes in the Gospels and says something quite remarkable.
I tell you that one greater than the temple is here (Matthew 12:6, NIV).

In his death Jesus destroys the meaning of the old temple:
And the curtain of the temple was torn in two (Luke 23:45, NIV).

He even prophesies its destruction:

'Do you see all these great buildings?' replied Jesus. 'Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down' (Mark 13:2, NIV).

9. Read John 2:19-21. How does this occur?

10. Read Colossians 1:19. What makes Jesus better than Solomon's temple?

11. Read 2 Corinthians 6:16 and Ephesians 2:20-21. Now Jesus is ascended on high, where can we meet with God?

12. Read Revelation 21:22. Why is there no temple/tabernacle in the new heavens and earth?

The nations praise God because of Solomon

Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom (1 Kings 4:34, NIV).

13. Read 1 Kings 10:6-9. The Queen of Sheba sums up the nations' attitude perhaps best of all. What is her reaction to meeting Solomon?

Jesus is better

The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42, NIV).

Solomon is not the Lord's anointed because he sins terribly. He is less like the Lord's anointed than his father David. **Read 1 Kings 11:4.**

The proper reaction to the early life of Solomon and the temple is the reaction of the Queen of Sheba – 'Praise be to the Lord your God'. Solomon could see past the temple to the Jesus it pointed to. We too like her must see past Solomon to the Saviour. Why? Because Solomon, like David, like Abraham is a sinner who fails and desperately needs the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Road to exile

The people still refuse the real King and long to be like the nations who are unclean – just as they did in the time of Samuel. They turn away from the living God to idols (See 1 Kings 1:26, 2 Kings 17:12, 21:11, 23:24) just as the Israelites did after the Exodus (1 Kings 12:28).

In the reign of Solomon's son the land is divided. And as soon as the division takes place it brings the beginning of the end.

The kings as a whole fail. The standard of behaviour is set by how they measure up to David (2 Kings 14:3 16:2). Some kings are like David, notably Josiah, but even he is incapable of turning away God's anger (See 2 Kings 23:25-26).

Prophets who speak on behalf of the real King

It is important to notice the role of the prophets who dominate 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings. Two of these take up huge sections of the books – Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:12) and Elisha (1 Kings 19:16 – 2 Kings 13:21).

They are the ones who bring God's word to the people. It is through them that the nation is led. They are also the ones who (through God) state Israel's destiny. The kings (including David) are taught to tremble before the prophets.

Great Quotes

It is not the kings who rule Israel but the prophets. If you want to see where the real power lies you listen to the prophets.

J Woodhouse

14. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. How is Jesus greater than the prophets?

Pause for thought

How are we to know God's rule over our lives?

There is no one quite like David and not one of David's sons is able to bring the kingdom of God. Israel, the northern kingdom, falls (2 Kings 17) and is exiled to Assyria. Judah falls to Babylon in 2 Kings 24-25. Is there any hope left now the land has gone?

Read 2 Kings 25:27-30. There is a Davidic king on the throne but the question remains – where is the Christ?

Summary Questions:

What did this study teach me about Jesus?

What did this study teach me about the Bible?

What did this study teach me about myself?

Jesus

