

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

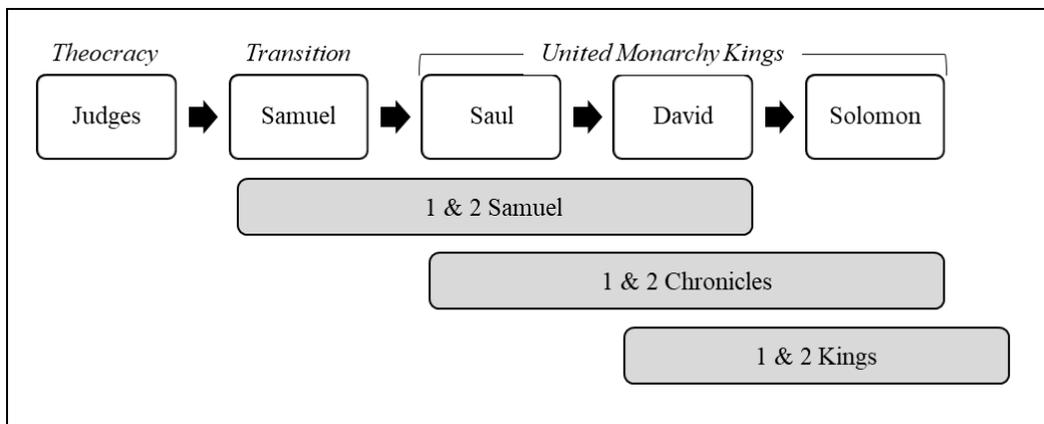
## Part 6: The Period of the Kings

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info



### I. ISRAEL TRANSITIONS FROM A THEOCRACY TO KINGS



#### A. SAMUEL

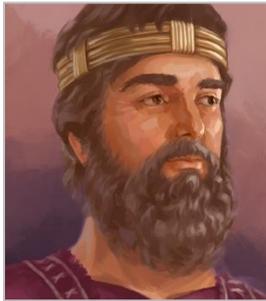
Samuel was a man chosen by God from his miraculous birth until his death. He served in several important positions during his life, earning God's favor because he listened to God and obeyed unswervingly.



Samuel was born to an initially barren woman named Hannah, who prayed longingly to God for a child. The Bible says "the Lord remembered her," and she became pregnant. She providentially named the child Samuel, which means "the Lord hears." When Samuel was weaned, Hannah presented him to God at Shiloh because God heard her cry for a child, and placed him in the care of Eli the high priest.

The Bible describes how Samuel grew in wisdom and eventually became a prophet. Following a great Philistine victory over the Israelites, Samuel became a judge and rallied the nation against the Philistines at Mizpah. Unfortunately, Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah, who had been delegated to follow him as judges, were corrupt, so the people demanded a king. Samuel listened to God and reluctantly anointed the first king of Israel, a tall, handsome Benjaminite named Saul.

## **B. KING SAUL**

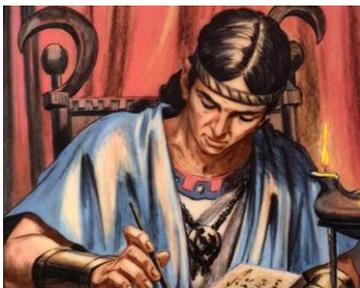


The youngest son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin, Saul was a modest shepherd boy, a resident of Gibeah, when the prophet Samuel, after a chance meeting, secretly chose and anointed him king of Israel. It was a period of national humiliation, for the Philistines had defeated the Israelites at Shiloh and captured the Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized the presence of God in their midst. This calamity convinced the Israelites that they must either strive for national unity with a king as leader or face complete and

permanent subjugation.

Saul succeeded in freeing Israel of its enemies and extending its boundaries. He fought successfully against the Philistines, Ammonites, Moabites, Edomites, Arameans, and Amalekites. He also succeeded in drawing the tribes of Israel into a closer unity.

## **C. KING DAVID**



David killed Goliath, champion of the Philistines when he was only a youth and Goliath a giant and veteran warrior. David was victorious because he trusted not in himself, but in God for the victory.

In battle, David killed many of Israel's enemies. But he refused to kill King Saul, despite several opportunities. Saul, God's first anointed king, pursued David out of mad jealousy for years, but

David would not raise a hand against him.

David and Saul's son Jonathan became friends, like brothers, setting a model of

friendship that everyone can learn from. And as a model of faithfulness, King David is included in the "Faith Hall of Fame" in Hebrews 11.

David was an ancestor of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who was often called "Son of David." Perhaps David's greatest accomplishment was to be called a man after God's own heart by God himself.

#### D. KING SOLOMON



King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived and also one of the most foolish. God gifted him with unsurpassed wisdom, which Solomon squandered by disobeying God's commandments.

Solomon was the second son of King David and Bathsheba. His name means "peaceable." Over his 40-year reign, Solomon did many great things, but he succumbed to the temptations of lesser men.

Solomon built the first temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, a seven-year task that became one of the wonders of the ancient world. He also built a majestic palace, gardens, roads, and government buildings. He accumulated thousands of horses and chariots. After securing peace with his neighbors, he built up trade and became the wealthiest king of his time.

## II. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM PERIOD

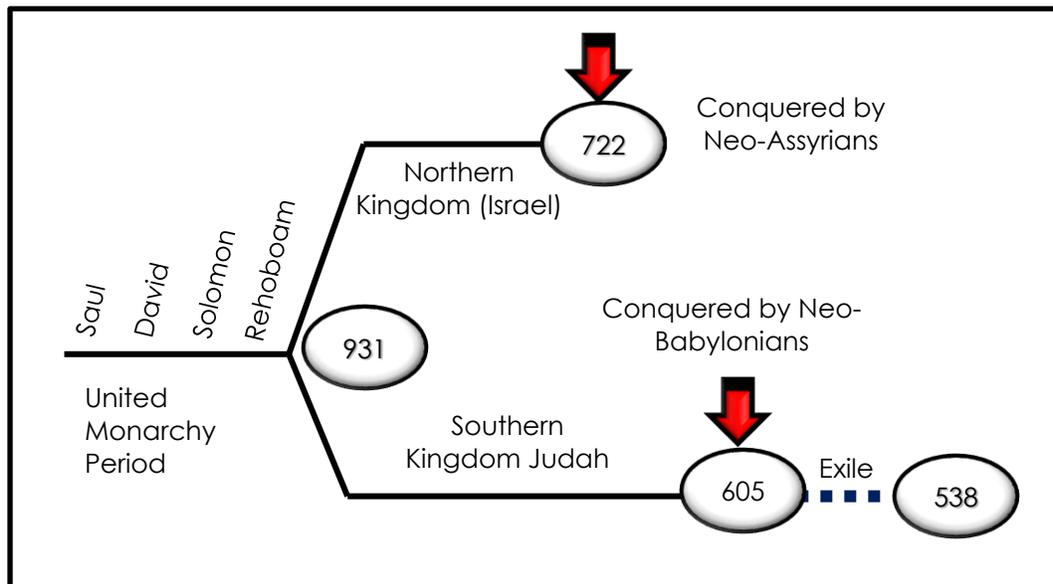


Figure 1 The Divided Kingdom Period

After the death of Solomon, the nation of Israel divided into two kingdoms; the northern kingdom called the Kingdom of Israel consisting of ten tribes was led by

Jeroboam.

The southern kingdom of Judah, essentially the tribes of Judah and Benjamin that remained loyal to Rehoboam, maintained its capital in Jerusalem and enjoyed three-and-a-half centuries of Davidic kings upon the throne.

The northern kingdom of Israel, however, lasted two hundred years under a series of dynasties unrelated to David. At times, due to their lush valleys and access to ports, Israel enjoyed a position of prosperity, power, and prestige unrivaled by Judah. For example, the efficient administration of king Omri so impressed Assyria that Israel was called the "House of Omri" a century after the end of his dynasty. King Jeroboam II expanded the borders of Israel to their former Davidic extent. At other times, Israel experienced internal strife. Eight of their nineteen kings came to power through assassination. Close proximity to Canaanites meant constant temptation to worship their god, Baal. During this divided monarchy period God sent his prophets warning them of the consequences of their disobedience as described in Deuteronomy 28.

### A. KINGS OF ISRAEL & JUDAH

Northern Kingdom (Israel) 931-722 BC	Southern Kingdom (Judah) 931-586 BC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ten tribes</li><li>• 20 Kings</li><li>• All judged "evil" by the author of the book of Kings</li><li>• Lasted 240 years</li><li>• Kingdom fell in 722 BC—captured by Neo-Assyrians</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two tribes</li><li>• 19 Kings, 1 Queen</li><li>• Eight judged "good" by the author of the book of Kings</li><li>• Lasted 395 years</li><li>• Kingdom fell in 586 BC—captured by Neo-Babylonians</li></ul>

### III. THE RESTORATION

As prophesied in Scripture, the Jewish people would be allowed to return to Jerusalem after about 70 years of exile. That prophecy was fulfilled in 538 B.C., when the Jews were allowed by King Cyrus of Persia to return to the land of Israel and begin rebuilding the city and temple. The return under the direction of Ezra led to a revival among the Jewish people and the rebuilding of the temple.

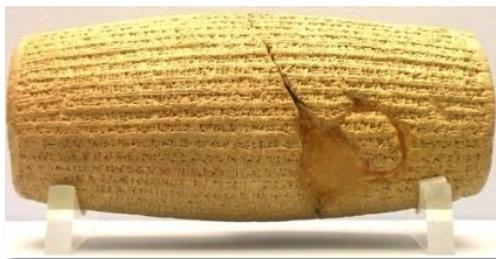


Figure 2 The Cyrus Cylinder