

THE OLD TESTAMENT

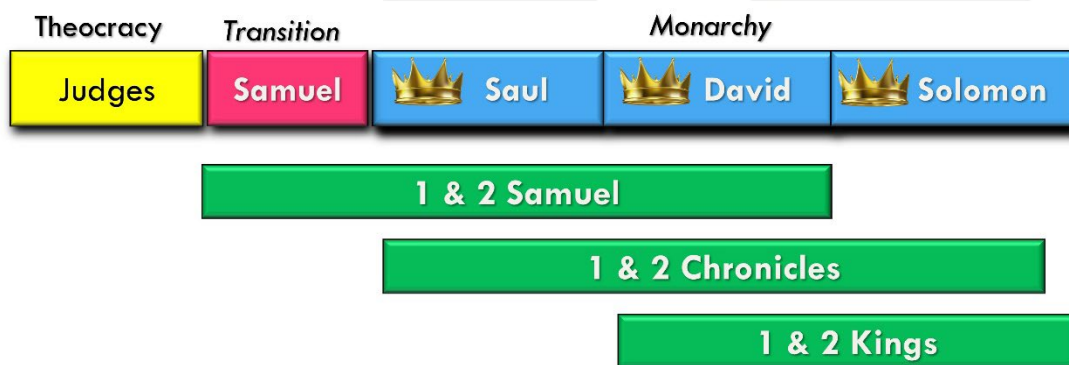
Seeing the Big Picture

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PART 8: THE UNITED MONARCHY PERIOD

Before the establishment of kingship, the Israelites were governed by judges and tribal leaders, which often led to instability and conflict. The neighboring nations around Israel had kings, and the Israelites may have felt pressure to adopt a similar form of government to be on par with these neighboring powers. Kingship was seen as a symbol of strength and stability, offering protection against external threats and providing a sense of unity and identity among the disparate tribes of Israel. Overall, the Israelites wanted a king to provide stability, protection, and leadership, both politically and spiritually, in a manner that would align with their cultural context and religious beliefs.



I. THE KINGSHIP OF SAUL (1 SAMUEL 8--31)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saul began by putting the Lord first in his life.• He had physical superiority (1 Samuel 9:2).• He was given the Holy Spirit (1 Samuel 10:9-13).• He was discreet (1 Samuel 10:27), generous (1 Samuel 11:12, 13), and had godly companions (1 Samuel 10:25, 26).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He relied less on Samuel's advice.• He took the priestly function, which should have been Samuel's, into his own hand against the will of God (1 Samuel 13:8-13). As a result, his kingdom did not flourish (1 Samuel 13:14).• He didn't execute Agag the Amalekite (1 Samuel 15:9).• He lost the Spirit of God (1 Samuel 16:14).• His frustration caused him to kill the priests of Nob (1 Samuel 22:11-19).• He turned to witchcraft at Endor (1 Samuel 28:7-20).• He committed suicide to end his life (1 Samuel 31:4).

II. THE KINGSHIP OF DAVID (2 SAMUEL 1; 1 KINGS 2; 1 CHRONICLES 11–29)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A valiant spirit.• Military strategy.• Diplomatic skills.• Musical and poetic gifts.• Ability to admit his faults.• An unshakeable trust in God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committed adultery with Bathsheba.• Arranged the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband.• Directly disobeyed God in taking a census of the people.• Poor father--his reluctance to take needed disciplinary action brought bloodshed within his own family.

III. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 SAMUEL 7:1-17)

- A. David is to have a child, yet to be born, who shall succeed him and establish his kingdom (2 Sam. 7:11-12).
- B. This son (Solomon) shall build the temple instead of David (2 Sam. 7:13a).
- C. The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam. 7:13b).
- D. The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon) even though his sins justify chastisement (2 Sam. 7:14-15).
- E. David's house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam. 7:16).

IV. THE KINGSHIP OF SOLOMON (1 KINGS 3—11; 2 CHRONICLES 19)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested wisdom from God so that he could successfully lead Israel.• Directed the construction of Israel's first temple.• Led Israel to become a significant kingdom in the ancient near east.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Married foreign pagan women.• Allowed pagan wives to divert his devotion from God.• Established excessive taxation.

V. TEMPLES OF ISRAEL

- A. 1st Temple: Built during Solomon's reign (mid 900s BC), destroyed later by Nebuchadnezzar (586 BC).
- B. 2nd Temple: Completed in 516 BC, beautified by Herod the Great and completed in AD 64. Destroyed by Titus in AD 70.
- C. 3rd Temple: Future (Tribulation Period) temple. See Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14.
- D. Ezekiel's Temple: A future temple? (Ezekiel 40-43).