

BIBLE PROJECT 2.02

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL CONSOLIDATED

1 Sam 10—1 Kings 11



Crown on far left – Saul



BIG IDEA 1: SAUL'S CROWN IS GRAY – VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO SAUL

Saul anointed 1 Sam. 10:

Benjamite

Centrally located

Immediately threatened

Small Tribe—so jealousy would not create immediate problems

1 Sam 11: Saul responds to Ammonites who invaded Eastern territory [East Bank of Jordan] at Israel's weakest time and laid siege to Jabesh Gilead offering treaty in exchange for the gouging out of the right eye of all the men.

Saul is seized by spirit of God (1 Sam 11.6) so that he quarters his oxen on the spot and summons all Israel to battle.

The people actually respond.

Victory results in renewed acclamation of Saul as king,

Saul never establishes the trappings of monarchy, however.

Saul at first called *N`egid* (leader) not *Melech* (king)

No harem

No administrative machinery or bureaucracy – just a few loyal retainers – Abner and Doeg the Edomite

No palace/court – “Gibeah of Saul” was essentially a fortress, not a palace. Functioned as SAUL’S CAPITAL CITY.

Reasons for Saul’s failure

- Quarrel with Samuel – exceedingly courageous, but personality unstable [1 Sam 13ff]
 1. Offering: right thing in a wrong way; he can’t wait for Samuel, usurps place
 2. Disobedience: Failure to “dedicate to destruction” Agag & Amalekites [1S 15]
 3. Murder of priests: 1 Sam 22.18 ff.—drives priests into hands of David
 4. Turns to medium – witch of Endor 1 Sam 28
 5. Samuel expected that Kings would be subservient to Covenant
 6. 1 Chron 10.13 ff. “*Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD.*”
- Could not quite deliver the knockout blow to the Philistines
- Appearance of David on scene
- Saul sucked into Battle he should never have fought at Mt. Gilboa. (1 Sam 31, 2 Sam 1) Ignominiously died.

Center Crown – David



BIG IDEA 2 (4 SMALLER IDEAS): STAR OF DAVID—GREAT GOLDEN AGE becomes focal point of Idolized Kingdom dreams in NT era

Rise of David—1 Sam 16-30.

REVIEW: David’s origins: See the Genealogy of David in Ruth 4.18-20

Judah(Tamar)→ Perez→Hezron→Ram→Aminadab→Nashon→Salmon (Rahab)→Boaz (Ruth) → Obed→Jesse→ DAVID

How did Ruth manage to get accepted, though a Moabitess? Remember the origins of Moab? (Gen 19.37)

What does Ruth’s acceptance mean for God’s plan for Israel to be a blessing?

Judah/Israel **division gets a geopolitical reality** at death of Saul: David is King of Judah only. Capital at Hebron.

Philistines probably glad to have David rule Judah –divide and conquer strategy. They might have thought he was their protégé.

Israel installs Saul's son Esh-baal [Baal exists]/ [“Ish bosheth” man of shame] as king in Manaihim – Transjordan for 2 years.

No real basis for hereditary kingship – *divine commission rather than blood succession*

David did not press Esh-baal; publicly repudiated the murders of Eshbaal, Abner

In essence David took charge through diplomacy and did not fight to become king of United Kingdom.

David ruled 7.5 years at Hebron; 33 years in Jerusalem

David now seen as charismatic successor to Saul – union of Israel is in his person – proves brittle

PHILISTINES ATTACK AS SOON AS DAVID IS MADE KING

They realize that Jerusalem is strategic and so attack David outside Jerusalem—probably a Philistines dependency – Sorek and Ai Valleys used

So strategic is this place that even after one defeat, they try in essentially the same place again.

A FIRST POINT OF CROWN —JERUSALEM CAPITAL—

JERUSALEM TAKEN AND MADE CAPITAL—David first to take and hold Jebusite city.

Jerusalem itself represents the incomplete “conquest.” Jerusalem was 13 acres in size.

Location – Central on edge of Benjamin, but belonging to no tribe—Wash, DC

Saul's capital to north was Gibeah. David's first capital to south was Hebron.

Jerusalem was between them and between Judah and Northern Tribes.

Taken with personal troops, not conscripts.

Became David's personal city, hence designation “City of David”—Bethlehem earlier called David's city.

Rule from Capital of non-Israelite origin as a personal holding of King, was further change from old Tribal Order.

B SECOND POINT OF CROWN —PHILISTINE TERROR OBLITERATED

BUT NOW THE PHILISTINES ARE SOUNDLY DEFEATED.

2Sam 5.25 – David struck down Philistines all the way from Geba to Gezer (still not held until given to Solomon as a wedding gift by King of Egypt. 1 Kgs 9.16)

2 S. 8.1 – David subdued the Philistines

2 S 21.15-22

2 S 23

Coastal Plain south of Joppa – Solomon's administrative districts 2 K 4.9-11

Gath was taken – 2 Chr 11.8

Ekrone drastically restricted – Beth Shemesh now was Israelite.

Philistine threat ended, though Ashdod, Ashkelon and Gaza remained Philistine.

C THIRD POINT OF CROWN —JERUSALEM BECOMES RELIGIOUS HEADQUARTERS

Ark now brought to Jerusalem—1 Chron 15.1ff & 16

David seemed to understand in a way Saul did not the power of Israel's ancient spiritual institutions

Abiathar/Ahimilech, son of Abiathar – Shiloh priestly line; and Zadok – perhaps Hebron Aaronic line

David sought to make the state and the religion overlap where Saul had neglected the Ark and the trampled on the priesthood.

But David was prevented from building a permanent temple in Jerusalem – such a place

would have been comparable to Canaanite “dynastic sanctuary” – ie. religion controlled by the state for the state’s ends. This becomes a primary prophetic concern in the declining years of Israel’s existence. So now we see Nathan’s opposition beginning that prophetic tradition. 2 Sam 7

David now takes “control” of all those still unconquered Canaanite sites and subjects them to central government in Jerusalem. Israel now has a definite territorial definition. 2 Sam 8-10.

Then David goes on to build an empire

- Ammonites –2 S 10; siege of Rabbah – Bathsheba
- Southern Transjordan – Moab and Edom; Hadad escapes from Edom to Egypt
- Syria – Hadadezer of Zobah; David hamstring horses and destroys chariots 2 Sam 8
- Treaty relationships with North Syria & Hiram of Tyre

“The very nature of such a state betokened a sweeping change from the old order. Israel was not longer a tribal confederacy led by a charismatic [leader] who had been acclaimed king, but a complex empire organized under the crown. The tribal confederacy was no longer coterminous with “Israel,” nor did it even comprise the greater part of it; only with limitations could it be said to be the center of it. The center of this new Israel was actually David himself. The union of north Israel with Judah in which it had begun was a union in the person of David. The capital city was David’s personal holding. The Canaanite population annexed into Israel were subjects of the crown, not of the Israelite tribes as such. The foreign empire had been won and held, thanks chiefly to David’s professional army, not to the tribal levies of Israel....A concentration of power in the crown was, ...inevitable.”

--Bright, p. 205

David’s Administration

Harem

Table

Body Guard

Personal troops 2 S 23

Census? Story provides background for selection of Temple site see also 1 Chron 21—Threshing floor of Arunah—the hill above the “City of David” traditionally Mount Moriah.

Conscription? Taxation? Forced labor? We just do not know the reason for the census or the reason God objected.

D DARK POINTS OF CROWN –DAVID’S SIN WITH BATHSHEBA BRINGS DISUNITY

Succession strife –

Had no children by Michal, Saul’s daughter, estranged.

David named no heir publically – until Adonijah’s rebellion.

Absalom – Son of Maacah [Geshurite princess 2 Sam 3.3] David indulged his sons; refused to punish Amnon’s rape of Tamar. (Remember Eli?)

Sheba the Benjamite [may have been a relative of Saul] tried to divide Israel north from South (2 Sam 20).

Adonijah – now probably oldest living son

Bathsheba—**Granddaughter of Ahithophel**, David’s favorite Counselor who defects to Absalom – intercedes for Solomon. (2 Sam 11.2b & 2 Sam 23.34)



BIG IDEA 3: THIRD CROWN – SOLOMON

BIG HEAVY CROWN– expansionist policies lead to heavy taxes, labor conscription and a king devoted more to his foreign wives than to the LORD.

Solomon's Kingdom reaches the fullest extent of the promise of God to Abraham: Gen 15.18 *on that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates..."*

1 Kings 4.20-21 ²⁰ *The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy.* ²¹ *And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon's subjects all his life.*



Life Application Chronological Bible



Nelson's Bible Maps

Solomon –self-defeating, like Saul –
wise in politics and economics, BUT
LACKING in ethics and faith.

1 Put down Joab with Benaiah; removed Abiathar (Eli's descendent) for supporting Adonijah –

2 Foreign policy—marriage alliances—the cornerstone

Pharaoh Siamun King of Egypt captured Gezer and gave it as a wedding gift when his daughter married Solomon (1Kings 9. 16) Solomon rebuilt Gezer because it was strategically critical at the West end of the Ai Valley and was the gateway for dividing Israel. This opened Jerusalem itself for attack from the north side—geographically least protected side. [This was in fact the

route used by the Israelis to take Jerusalem in the 1967 War. See *Visual Guide to Bible Events*, p. 96-97, note 23. This was a great gift strategically, but it was also part of the “Trojan Horse” of its time—it brought down Solomon’s Kingdom because his alliance with Pharaoh’s daughter brought more idolatry into the Kingdom of Israel which will prove to be its undoing. 1 Kings 11.1-6, where Pharaoh’s daughter is explicitly mentioned.

Tyre expanding westward to Sardinia, Cypress, Sicily – financially desperate to sell cities in north

Defense – cities fortified and standing army deployed; chariots employed – stables at Jerusalem, Megiddo now excavated

Troubles in empire -

Hadad in Syria – small problem

Syria – Rezon, servant of Hadadezer in past – never really brought to terms.

Commerce

- Red Sea: Ezion-geber – ships, Ophir—Somaliland – Gold and Monkeys
- Arabia by caravan – Sheba
- Copper Industry – one of the most important developments not mentioned in Bible.
South of Dead Sea—largest copper refining known in ancient Orient
- Horse and chariot trade –controlled trade routes to Cilicia for horses, Egypt for chariots – large arms merchant – chariots were the ICBMs of the ancient orient.

3. 1 Kings 11.1ff King Solomon loved many foreign women. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods. Ashtoreth and Moloch, included. The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart turned away from the LORD, the god of Israel...forbidden to turn away from following other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD’s command (1 Kings 11.9)

“The temptation was inevitable to hallow the state in the name of God and to suppose that the aims of the state and the aims of religion must necessarily coincide.” ... “In popular thought the promises to David and the presence of Yahweh in his Temple guaranteed the continuance of the state [kingdom]. To suggest that it could fall would be regarded as tantamount to accusing God of breach of covenant...”—John Bright. *History of Israel* – p. 227

BIG IDEAS RECAP

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BIG IDEA 2: (4 SMALLER IDEAS): STAR OF DAVID—GREAT GOLDEN AGE

A FIRST POINT OF CROWN —JERUSALEM CAPITAL—

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C THIRD POINT OF CROWN —JERUSALEM BECOMES RELIGIOUS HEADQUARTERS

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BIG IDEA 3: THIRD CROWN – SOLOMON

The Bible Project 2.0

OT 14 Consider the following if you choose to prepare for next class:

Heads up: The next period is complex and will require patience and perseverance by students: It's the divided Kingdom North ("Israel") and South ("Judah").

The primary Biblical passages for Northern Kingdom (Israel) are 1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17. Read this week for the Northern Kings stories—great stories including Elijah and Elisha. Pay most attention to the highlighted Northern Kings below. **ALSO NOTE the prophets** you find in the reading. Also review the readings in Samuel, Kings and Chronicles for what you find about **prophets, prophecy, seers and the Word of the Lord.** List the prophets you find. Begin with Samuel.

ISRAEL

(Northern Kingdom)

Jeroboam I

Nadab

Baasha

Elah

Zimri

Omri

Ahab

Ahaziah

Jehoram

Jehu

Jehoahaz

Jehoash

Jeroboam II

Zechariah

Shallum

Menahem

Pekahiah

Pekah

Hoshea

JUDAH (Southern Kingdom)

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah (queen/regent)

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz—These four together

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

MARKERS

2 Samuel 11-12

2 Samuel 7 & 1 Chr 17

1 Kings 1

1 Kings 8

1 Kings 11

1 Kings 12

Bathsheba

Covenant with David

Solomon anointed

Temple dedicated; great prayer

God's judgment of Solomon

Northern Kingdom revolts