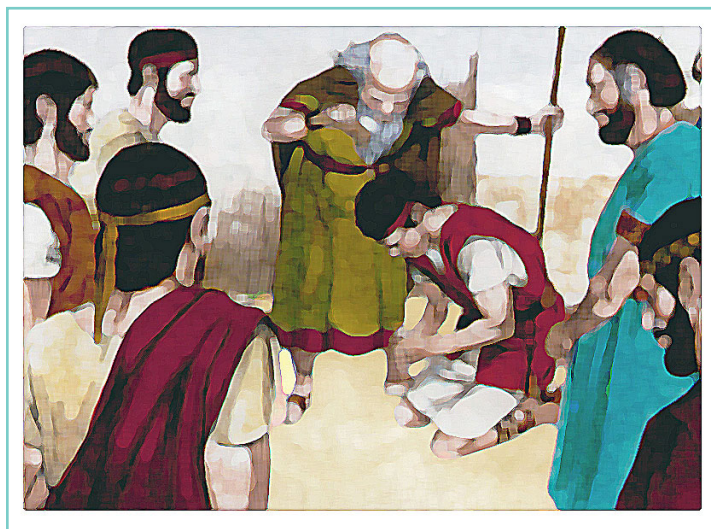


Lesson 2: Election



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

The book of 1 Samuel tells the story of King Saul and King David.

The Old Testament: History

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel and the books of 1 and 2 Kings tell the story of Israel as a united nation and the subsequent division into north and south kingdoms. Part of the biblical books of History, some of this same content is repeated in 1 and 2 Chronicles in a more abbreviated form.

Introduction

God sent the prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to reveal God's choice of a new king. When God passed by all Jesse's older sons, they called in the youngest, who was in the fields with the sheep. Samuel anointed young David as king.

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

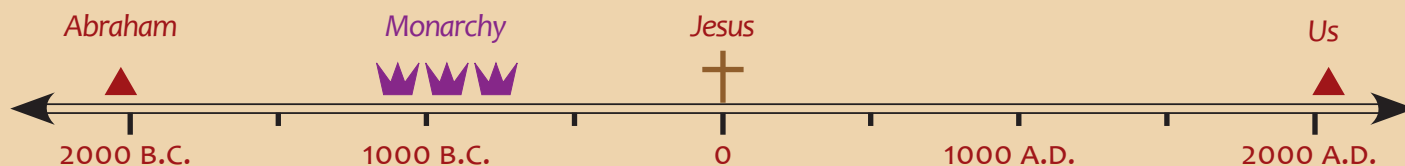
Biblical Time Period: Monarchy

For the nation of Israel, the time of the Monarchy was a high point; one king ruled over a united land. The first was King Saul, a troubled leader who later turned away from God. The Lord raised up King David to take Saul's place, calling Samuel to anoint the new king.

David and Saul struggled against one another until the death of Saul, when David ascended to the throne. David ruled for many years and was succeeded by his son, King Solomon, who built the temple in Jerusalem.

When in Time?

The best way to remember the timeline of Bible history, and where **we** fit into the picture, is to put Jesus at the center. We live about 2,000 years after Jesus; Abraham lived about 2,000 years before Jesus. The days of the united monarchy were halfway between Abraham and Jesus, about _____ B.C.



Who do the three crowns on the line above represent?

Answer: 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____

Discuss: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. When God told Samuel to go to Jesse and choose a king, Samuel was afraid. Why? What was he worried about? What did Samuel finally do?
2. What was the reaction of the people in Bethlehem when they saw the prophet Samuel coming? Why might some Christians have a similar reaction when the pastor comes to visit? Is this understandable?
3. Who did Samuel think should be the king? Why? Did God agree with Samuel's choice? What did God tell him?
4. How many of Jesse's sons did Samuel see before David appeared? How did the prophet know to anoint young David as king?
5. Seeing that God chose David as king over his older, stronger brothers, what does this tell us about how God does his work among us? How is that encouraging to you in your life of faith?
6. Have you ever compared yourself to other people and felt jealous of something they had? Do you think David's brothers felt this way? How can this story help you let go of that jealousy?
7. Read Acts 2:22-32. The Apostle Peter was speaking nearly 1000 years after David lived. What did David foretell about the Lord Jesus (v. 25-28)? How does Peter say that Jesus differs from David (v. 29-32)?
8. What does the story of David's anointing have in common with the story of Jesus' birth — literally and thematically?

Where in the World?

Israel was located between the more powerful nations of the Hittites, Assyrians, and Egyptians.

The close-up map to the far right shows the extent of David's kingdom. He greatly expanded the area from what was ruled by King Saul.



The coastal lands were occupied by the "Sea Peoples" — the Philistines and the Phoenicians — with whom the Israelites continued to be in conflict throughout this period in history.

At the time of this story, the prophet Samuel was living in the town of Ramah, which about 30 miles away from Bethlehem. (Ramah is the same town referred to as Ramathaim-zophim where Samuel's parents were from.)

