

Session 5: The United Monarchy

Apprentice Track Workshop: Biblical Story

Historical Overview of the United Monarchy

1) A _____ **Start: The Rise and Reign of Saul (1 Samuel 9-31)**

- a) We begin with Saul who reigned over Israel from _____ -1010 BC.
- b) We're first introduced to him several years before that in 1 Samuel 9.
 - 1) Saul looks great on the _____ – he's tall and handsome, from a wealthy family.
 - 2) Saul is mildly _____ - Saul is sent on a divinely orchestrated donkey errand.
 - 3) Saul dodges _____ - hiding behind the luggage.
- c) Once king, Saul has great _____ military success.
 - 1) He defeats the Ammonites at Jebesh-gilead.
 - 2) In many ways, Saul was just like the _____. His primary role is to be a military defender of Israel against the increasingly advancing Canaanites and Philistines.
- d) However, very quickly into his reign Saul _____ in his commission.
 - 1) First, he offers an unlawful _____.
 - 2) Second, he fails to obey God's direct commands in _____.
 - 3) And finally (and most importantly), Saul refuses to take _____ and _____. (This failure to repent is what really separates Saul from David). **1 Samuel 15**
- e) So twice God _____ him as king. For the rest of his reign, as described in 1 Samuel 16-31, Saul struggles to maintain his grip on the kingdom.

2) The _____-King: David's Reign (2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Chronicles 10-29)

- a) Next up is David, the king of God's own choosing, who reigned from 1010-_____ BC. His reign is described in two places, 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles 10-29.
 - 1) David _____ Israel by winning a civil war against Saul's son.
 - 2) David Captures _____ and makes the city his capital.
 - 3) God gives David rest and victory from all surrounding nations.
 - 4) God makes an eternal _____ with David and his royal descendants.
 - 5) David _____ against Bathsheba and Uriah.
 - 6) From this point on the kingdom slowly begins to unravel as David scrambles to deal with the fall out of his adultery.
 - 7) His son Absalom _____, and another civil war ravages the nation.
 - 8) As soon as he _____ control another rebellion rises.
 - 9) David sinfully takes a _____ of the land, bringing God's judgement.
- b) Objective analysis of Israel's most famous king: a _____ bag. However, from now on future generations of Israelites would look back and long for the return of a king like David.

3) Israel's _____: Solomon (1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9)

a) Solomon reigned from 970-930 BC.

1) Solomon _____
Israel's reputation as a significant
player in _____
politics. (Wisdom and wives)

2) Solomon presides over the
building of the _____.

(1) This is a privilege his father
was denied.

(2) The Temple is meant to remind
us of Eden.

(a) Inside Solomon's temple
were carvings of all sorts of
tree and fruits, it was a lush
garden.

(b) It faced east just like Eden.

(c) The Temple contained onyx
and gold, two medals found
in the garden.

(d) In the middle of the garden
was the tree of life, and in
the middle of the temple was a lampstand.

(e) Adam was commissioned to "work and keep" the garden, the only other time
that language is used in the OT is to describe the priests who served in the
tabernacle and temple.

(f) The Holy of Holies contained the Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of God's
presence with the people, just as he dwelled with Adam and Eve in the garden.

(g) The same Hebrew phrase "walked back and forth" is used to describe God in
the garden with Adam and Eve and his presence in the temple.



- (h) Just as an angel was sent to guard the entrance of the garden after Adam's exile, so an angel stood atop the ark, guarding the presence of God in the temple.
- 3) At the end of his reign, Solomon turns from the _____ and sets up high places of idol worship. In response, the Lord raises up adversaries who will eventually bring about the division of the kingdom after his death.
- b) If David was Israel's greatest king, Solomon oversaw the nation's greatest prosperity. Yet, even in the wise and glorious reign of Solomon, _____ begin to show in the foundation.

Major Themes from United Monarchy

Theme Summary:

- a) God brings promised _____ through His promised _____ who mediates His promised _____.
- b) God's promise, kingship, and presence are tightly interwoven.
- 1) _____ **is the central character in the history of Israel's monarchy** (not Samuel, Saul, Solomon or even David).
 - a) If we read the record of Israel's kings as just a collection of _____ historical stories, we _____ the point.
 - b) David and Goliath in 1 Samuel. 17.
 - c) If we ignore themes like this and try to apply these books to our lives without putting them in the context of redemption history, we'll miss the point. And we may read into them promises that God never made.
- 2) **Rest**
 - a) What's new(ish) in the United Monarchy period is the central focus on rest. With the _____ of David's kingdom and line, Israel finally begins to enjoy some of this _____ rest.

b) The narrative of the United Monarchy period crescendos around the theme of rest as God makes a glorious _____ with David in 2 Samuel 7.

- Yahweh plays with the Hebrew word _____.

- “Near and Far” Fulfilment of prophecy

- 1 Kings 4:20-25

- Hebrews 3:6

3) Kingship

a) Israel demonstrates a pattern of _____ God’s leadership for human leadership (1 Samuel 8:19-20).

b) The king functions as a _____ of the nation, especially when it comes to the _____ blessings and curses that God promised in Deuteronomy.

(1) 2 Sam. 21:1: “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, ‘There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.’”
One king’s disobedience affects the whole nation.

(2) This theme is continued in the account of David’s sons and even in Solomon’s life in 1 Kings 1-11. When Solomon’s humility leads him to seek wisdom from God the nation prospers but when Solomon is led astray by idol worship the entire nation is led into idolatry as well.

c) God used Israel’s kings to point to a _____ hope when God’s people will be led by a _____ king. These kings point us to Christ in two ways.

i) The ways that they _____ highlight the need for someone better.

ii) But the tremendous good that they do—especially David—is a _____ of what a perfect King will be _____.

- (1)** Why does the New Testament reference David more than any other Old Testament figure? Why does Revelation 22:16 remind us that Jesus is “The Root and Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star?”
- (2)** Because no one prefigures the perfect kingship of Jesus like David did. 1&2 Samuel don’t just chronicle Israel’s early monarchy. They point to the ultimate monarch, Christ himself.