

Old Testament Stories

For Levels 11 - 14

*As told by
Bettye Garrett*

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Young Samuel

I Samuel 1-3

In our last lessons we learned about the judges of Israel. Now we will learn about Samuel, the last of the judges over God's people, Israel. At this time a man called Eli was the high priest over Israel, and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests at the Tabernacle in Shiloh.

Elkanah, a Levite from the territory of Ephraim, lived in Ramah with his two wives, Peninnah and Hannah. Each year Elkanah and his family went to Shiloh to worship at the Tabernacle. Elkanah would give Peninnah and her sons their fair portion of the sacrifice. He gave a double portion to Hannah because he loved her, but she had no children. Peninnah made fun of Hannah because she had no children, and Hannah was very sad.



One year when they went up to Shiloh to worship, Hannah was at the Tabernacle praying. She was very upset and she prayed fervently to the Lord. She made a vow saying, "Lord, if you will give me a son, then I will give him to you. All the days of his life he shall be the Lord's, and he shall be a Nazirite." As Hannah continued her prayer, Eli, the high priest, saw her. He watched as Hannah's mouth moved as if she were speaking but no words came out. Eli said to her, "Woman, why do you come here drunk? Put away the wine!" Hannah told Eli that she was not drunk. She said, "I have made a

vow to the Lord." She told Eli about her vow, and Eli said, "Go in peace, daughter of Israel. May the Lord God give you what you have asked." Hannah returned to her family, and she was no longer unhappy. They returned to Ramah, and soon Hannah knew that God had heard her prayer. When her son was born, Hannah called him



SAMUEL.

Hannah did not go with Elkanah to Shiloh to worship until Samuel was weaned. Then she took the child and her offering and went to Shiloh. Hannah took the boy to Eli and said, “I am the woman who stood here praying for a child. This is the son I prayed for. The Lord has given him to me. Now I give him to the Lord. As long as he lives he shall be the Lord’s.” Then they worshiped God at Shiloh. Elkanah and Hannah returned to Ramah, but Samuel stayed to serve Eli at the Tabernacle. Samuel grew in stature (size) and in favor with God and man.

The two sons of Eli were evil men, and they cheated the people. When sacrifices were brought to them, they took (by force if necessary) parts of the sacrifices which were not really theirs. Eli heard about the evil his sons did, and he talked to them, but they did not listen.

Each year Hannah went with Elkanah to Shiloh and took Samuel a coat she made for him. Eli blessed Hannah saying, “May the Lord God bless you and give you other children to take the place of the one you have given to the Lord.” So God blessed Hannah, and she had three more sons and two daughters.

A prophet of God went to Eli and told him that God was very angry because of the sins of Eli’s sons. The prophet said, “Every member of your family will be cut off and will not be allowed to be part of the priesthood. Your family will be wiped out of the priesthood completely. This is a sign that I am speaking truthfully: both your sons will die on the same day. I will raise up a faithful priest, and he will do all that is pleasing to me.”

When Eli was old and his eyesight was poor, the Lord God spoke to Samuel during the night. Samuel slept near Eli’s bedroom, and one night he heard a voice calling, “*Samuel. Samuel.*” Samuel ran to Eli saying, “Here I am.” Eli told Samuel that



he had not called, so Samuel returned to bed. Again Samuel heard someone calling his name, but again Eli said he had not called.

The third time Samuel heard the voice, Eli said, “The Lord must be calling to you. The next time you hear the voice say, ‘Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.’” Samuel returned to his bed, and he heard the voice again. Samuel said, “Speak, Lord. I am listening.”

God told Samuel, ***“Behold I am about to bring judgment against the house of Eli. I told him I would punish him if He did not discipline his sons.***

Now the family of Eli shall not serve in my tabernacle any more.”

The next morning Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him. Eli said to Samuel, “Tell me what the Lord told you. Do not hide anything from me. Tell me everything He said.” So Samuel told Eli all the things God had spoken. Eli said, “It is the Lord. Let Him do whatever seems good to Him.” So Eli accepted the words of the young boy and the judgment of God against his house.

Samuel grew up, and his words became known throughout the whole land of Israel. The people all realized that Samuel was a prophet of God.

It is very important for parents to teach their children things that are right in the sight of God. God commanded, “Children, obey your parents.” If we want to please God, we **MUST** obey our parents! Parents **MUST** train their children to be obedient to God’s commandments.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who was the high priest in this lesson?
2. Who were the sons of Eli?
3. Where did Elkanah and his wives go every year to worship?
4. Which of his wives did Elkanah love the most?
5. What was Hannah doing when Eli first saw her?
6. What did Hannah ask God to give her?
7. What did Hannah promise to do with her son if God would give her one?
8. What did Hannah name her son?
9. Where did Hannah take her son when he was weaned?
10. What did Samuel become known as in all the land of Israel?

Memory Verse Level Eleven

Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Memory Goal Eleven

Some of the Prophets

Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah, Jonah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Joel, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi.

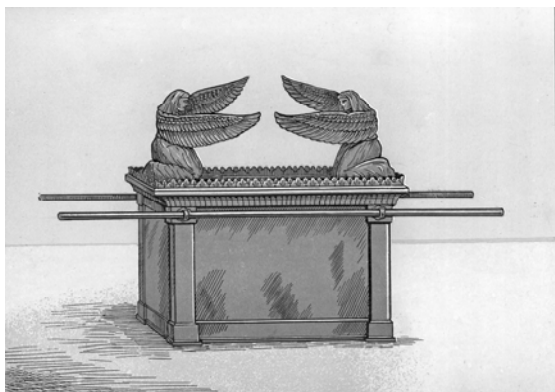
ANSWERS-1. Eli 2. Hophni & Phinehas 3. Jerusalem 4. Hannah 5. praying
6. A son 7. Give him to the Lord 8. Samuel 9. Jerusalem 10. Prophet

Samuel, Judge of Israel

1 Samuel 4-7

God chose Samuel to be a judge and prophet of His people, Israel. Samuel grew up in the Tabernacle serving Eli the priest. God warned Eli that he would lose the priesthood because of his sinful sons. Samuel became known in all the land as a judge and prophet.

The Philistines came to battle with the Israelites, and the people of Israel were badly beaten. They returned to their camp, and the elders decided that they should bring the Ark of the Covenant into the war camp so God would be with them against the Philistines. They sent men to Shiloh to bring back the Ark. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were with the Ark, and they took it to the war camp. When the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant, they all shouted with such happiness that the earth shook with their noise. The Philistines heard this noise and wondered what was happening. When



they realized that the Ark of the Covenant was in the Israelite camp, many of them were afraid to fight because they knew what God had done to the Egyptians. But other Philistines said, “Be brave, Philistines! Be brave and fight Israel or you might end up as slaves to the Israelites!” So the Philistine army went out to battle Israel.

Israel was defeated again, and about thirty thousand soldiers of Israel died that day. The Philistines killed Hophni and Phinehas and stole the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord! A man ran from the battlefield and came to Shiloh. His clothes were torn and dirty from the battle. When the people of Shiloh heard what the man said about Israel being beaten in battle, they cried out with great sorrow. Eli was sitting by the road waiting for news from the battle. He was very anxious and afraid because the Ark of the Covenant had been taken to war without God's instructions.

The soldier told Eli that the battle was terrible, and Israel had suffered many deaths. Then the soldier said, “Your sons are dead, and the Ark of the Covenant has been taken by the Philistines!” When Eli heard about the Ark, he fell over backward, broke his

Level 11B

neck and died. Eli, the priest, had been a leader of Israel for forty years. God warned him that his sons would die on the same day, and God always does what He says He will do.

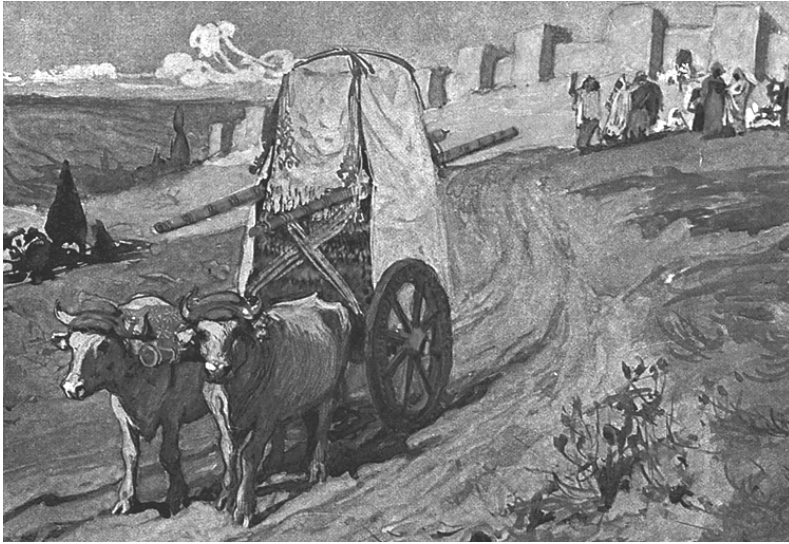
The Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant of God to the city of Ashdod and set it up beside the idol god which is called Dagon. The next morning when the people came to the temple of Dagon, they found their god lying on his face upon the ground. They set him up again, but the next morning they found Dagon lying on the ground again. This time the head and arms of the idol were broken off. God's hand was against the city



of Ashdod because they had stolen the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites. God made the people break out in boils and sores, and many died. The people of Ashdod sent for the five lords of the Philistines and asked, “What can we do about the Ark of the God of Israel?” The lords said, “Send the Ark to Gath!” So they sent the Ark to Gath, and God brought sores, and boils, and troubles to this city. Then the people of Gath sent the Ark to Ekron. The people of Ekron did not want the Ark, and they said, “Send it back to its rightful place so we will not be killed.”

The Ark of the Covenant had been in the Philistines' country for seven months. The people asked their wise men, “What shall we do with the Ark of the God of Israel?” The wise men said, “If you send the Ark back to Israel, do not send it empty. Return it with a guilt offering, then you will be healed. “The people asked what kind of guilt offering should be sent. The wise men told the Philistines to return the Ark with a guilt offering of five gold mice (like the mice which had invaded the land) and five gold sores (like the sores which had come upon the people). The five gold sores represented the five cities of the Philistines, and the five mice represented the five lords of the Philistines. The wise men told the people to put the Ark and the offering on a new wooden cart and put two milk cows to pull it. The wise men said, “Take the calves away

from the milk cows. Send the cows out, pulling the cart carrying the Ark. Watch to see



what happens. If the cows go straight down the road toward the place of the Israelites, you will know that the God of Israel has brought all this trouble on you. If the cows turn back to their calves, you will know that this trouble has just happened by chance and is not from a god.”

The Philistines did all that the wise men said. They made the gold guilt offerings and put them into a box. They put the Ark of the Covenant on a new cart and put the box containing the offering on the cart with the Ark. They put the two milk cows to pull the cart, and the cows walked straight down the road toward the land of the Israelites.

The people of Beth-shemesh (in Israel) were in their fields working when they saw the cows pulling the cart toward them. They took the Ark from the cart, and they took the gold offering. Then they cut up the cart and offered the two cows as a burnt offering to God. The Philistines who had followed the cart saw that it was safely in the hands of the Israelites, so they returned to their own land. Some of the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, and God’s anger came against them, and many people died. The people of the city were afraid, and they sent a message to Kiriath-jearim telling the Israelites where to come to get the Ark. The men of Kiriath-jearim took the Ark of the Lord to the house of Abinadab, and they appointed Abinadab’s son, Eleazar, to take care of the Ark. The Ark of the Covenant remained in Kiriath-jearim for twenty years, and all the people of Israel were crying to God for help. Samuel told the people to return to God and serve Him only. He told them to tear down the idols they had built, and then God would save them from the Philistines. The people tore down their idols and gathered with Samuel at Mizpah, and Samuel offered a sacrifice for the people.

Level 11B

The Philistine came to fight Israel at Mizpah, and the Israelites cried out in fear. Samuel prayed to God for help and offered sacrifices. The Philistines came up to fight, but God fought for Israel, so the Philistines ran away. The Israelites chased after them and defeated them.

Samuel named the place Ebenezer, which means *the Lord helped us*. God protected Israel from the Philistines all during the life of Samuel. He did not help them when they went their own way without His authority. Today we should be very careful to pray and ask God's blessings and guidance in the things we plan to do.

STORY QUIZ

1. What nation was at war with Israel in this lesson?
2. What did the elders of Israel want brought to the battlefield?
3. Who stole the Ark of the Covenant?
4. What two men died in the battle fulfilling a prophecy?
5. Who fell and broke his neck when he heard about the Ark being stolen?
6. What was the name of the Philistine idol god?
7. What did God cause in each Philistine city where the Ark was taken?
8. What was sent along with the Ark when it was returned to Israel?
9. Who was appointed to take care of the Ark in Kiriath-jearim?
10. What did Samuel call the place where God fought for Israel?

Memory Verse Level Eleven

Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Memory Goal Eleven

Some of the Prophets

Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah, Jonah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Joel, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi.

ANSWERS: 1. Philistines 2. The Ark of the Covenant 3. The Philistines
4. Hophni & Phinehas 5. Eli 6. Dagon 7. plagues of sores
8. A guilt offering 9. Eleazer 10. Ebenezer

A King For Israel

I Samuel 8-12

When Samuel was old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel, but; these sons were not good men. The elders of Israel came to Samuel saying, “You are old, and your sons are not good judges. Appoint a king to rule over us, so we will be like the nations around us.” Samuel did not like this idea, so he prayed to God about it. God said to Samuel, **“Do as the people ask and give them a king. They have not rejected you as their leader, but they have rejected me as their king.”** God told Samuel to warn the people about all the bad things a king would do. Samuel spoke to the people and said, “If you have a king he will take your sons into his army. He will make you plow his fields and plant his crops. You will have to work for the king, making weapons of war and chariots. The king will take your daughters for his cooks and housemaids. He will take one tenth of your seed and one tenth of your herds. The king will take your best servants for his own. Then you will call upon God for help, but God will not listen to you!”



The people told Samuel that they still wanted a king so they could be like the nations around them. God told Samuel, **“Listen to the people. Appoint them a king.”**

Now a man named Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, had a son named Saul. Saul was a big, tall, handsome man. Kish sent Saul and a servant to search for some donkeys which were lost. Saul and the servant searched for three days but could not find the donkeys. Finally Saul said, “Come, let’s go home or my father will begin to worry about us instead of the donkeys.” The servant told Saul that a seer (a prophet) of God lived in the city nearby. The servant said, “Let’s go ask the seer if he knows

anything about the donkeys.” Saul agreed to go into Ramah to talk to the seer.

Now God had spoken to Samuel saying, ***“Tomorrow a man from the tribe of Benjamin will come to you. Appoint him to be the king over Israel. He will free my people from the Philistines.”***



As Saul and his servant entered Ramah, Samuel was going up to give sacrifices for the people. When Samuel saw Saul, God said to Samuel, ***“This is the man I told you about. He shall rule my people.”***

Saul went up to Samuel and asked for directions to the seer’s house. Samuel said, “I am the seer. Go with me now to the place of sacrificing, then you will go with me and eat at my house. The donkeys you are searching for have been found.”

Samuel took Saul to a special feast that had been prepared. Thirty other men had been invited to the feast, but Saul was given the place of honor. Saul spent the night at Samuel’s house, and the next morning as he was leaving Samuel said, “Send your servant ahead, so I may speak to you the words of the Lord.” When the servant was gone, Samuel poured oil from a flask over Saul’s head and said, “The Lord has appointed you as king over His people.”

Samuel told Saul that he would meet a man near Bethlehem who would tell him that the lost donkeys were found. Samuel also said that Saul would meet some prophets as he was returning home, and that he (Saul) would receive the Spirit of God and prophecy also. Samuel told Saul to go home, and he would be officially anointed as king before all the people at Gilgal. All the things Samuel spoke of happened as Saul returned home. God was with Saul, and he was a changed man when the Spirit came upon him.

Later Samuel called all the people of Israel together at Mizpah and said, “This is

what God says to you, *‘I brought you to this land from Egypt, but you have rejected me as your king, saying give us a king!’*” Samuel then had all the tribes come before him, and they cast lots to choose the king. The tribe of Benjamin was taken in the first lot, then the family of Kish was taken. Finally the lot fell to Saul, but he could not be found! God told the people that Saul was hiding among the baggage, so they ran and brought him out. Saul was a tall man; he stood head and shoulders above the crowd. Samuel said, “Look! This is the one God has chosen. There is no one like him among all the people.” Then all the Israelites shouted, “Long live the King!” Samuel told the people all the laws concerning the new kingdom, and he wrote the laws in a book which was kept in the Tabernacle. Saul returned to his home in Gibeah, and some good men of Israel went with him. Some of the evil men of Israel said, “How can this man help us?” And they hated Saul.

Nahash, the Ammonite, came and laid siege against the city of Jabesh. The people of Jabesh sent a message throughout the land begging for help against Nahash. When Saul heard of the trouble at Jabesh, the Spirit of God came upon him, and he was very angry. He cut two oxen into many pieces and sent the pieces with messengers throughout



the land of Israel saying, “Your oxen will be like this if you do not come to fight Nahash.” The people were afraid of Saul because they knew God was with him, so three hundred thirty thousand men of Israel came to fight. The next day Saul’s army attacked the Ammonite camp. God was with Saul and his army, so many Ammonites were killed and the rest was scattered. The Israelites said, “Bring us the men who spoke against Saul. We will kill them!” Saul said. “No! No man shall be put to death because today the Lord has brought victory to Israel.”

Samuel then took Saul and the Israelites to Gilgal, and they anointed Saul as King of Israel, and they gave sacrifices there. All of Israel rejoiced because they now had a king like the nations around them.

Even though the Israelites rejected God as their king, He still loved them and gave them a king, but He warned them of the troubles they would have because of the king. Sometimes we beg God to give us things that may not be best for us. Sometimes God gives us what we ask for, even though He knows we would be better off without it. We should ask God to give us things that are His will for us.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who did the Israelites want to rule over them?
2. God said the Israelites had rejected who as their leader?
3. Who became the first king over Israel?
4. Who was the father of Saul?
5. From what tribe was Saul?
6. Who picked the first king over Israel?
7. Who anointed the first king over Israel?
8. At what city was Saul officially anointed in front of all the people?
9. What city needed help and sent for Saul?
10. Who was the first enemy Saul and his men fought?

Memory Verse Level Eleven

Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Memory Goal Eleven

Some of the Prophets See page 199

ANSWERS--1. A king 2. God 3. Saul 4. Kish 5. Benjamin 6. God
7. Samuel 8. Gilgal 9. Jabesh 10. Ammonites

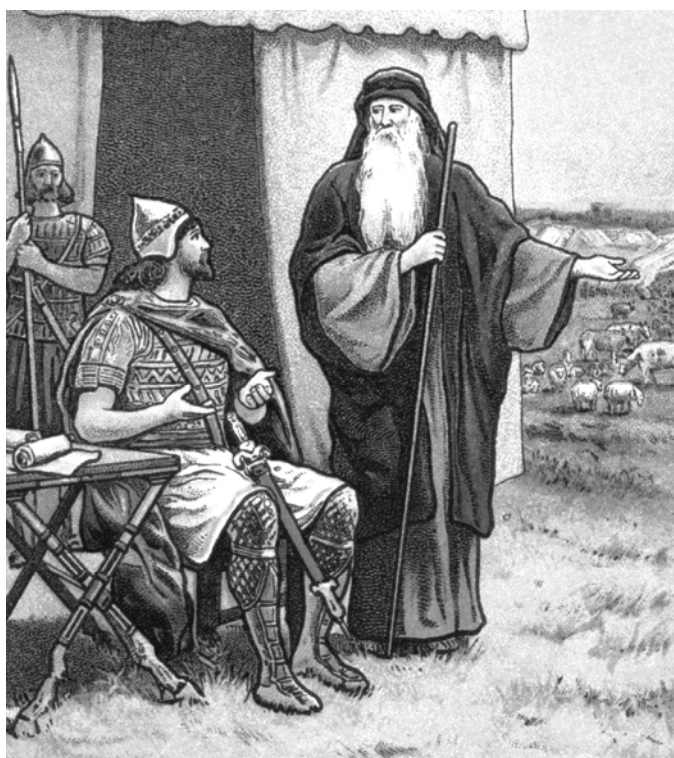
King Saul

I Samuel 13-16

Saul, the son of Kish, began to rule as king over Israel when he was about forty years old. Saul had three sons: Jonathan, Ishbosheth, and Malki-shua, and two daughters named Merab and Michal.

King Saul chose an army of three thousand men of Israel. He put one thousand men under the command of his son, Jonathan. Jonathan and his men attacked the Philistine fort at Geba and won a great victory for Israel. Saul then sent for all the army to meet with him at Gilgal. The Philistine army, which came up to fight Saul, was huge. They had thirty thousand chariots and as many soldiers as the sand on the seashore. The Israelites were very afraid and hid in caves,

in pits, and in the forest. Saul was waiting for Samuel to arrive in Gilgal. Samuel had promised to offer sacrifices and ask God's help for the battle. When Saul saw how frightened his army was and that Samuel did not arrive when Saul expected, Saul said, "Bring me the offering." As soon as Saul finished offering the burnt offering to God, Samuel arrived. Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul answered, "My men were afraid, and they were running away. You did not come when I expected you, and I thought the Philistines would attack at any moment. I needed to ask God's



blessings on the battle, so I forced myself to offer the burnt offering."

It was unlawful for Saul to offer the burnt offering to God. This was a special job for the priests appointed by God. Saul knew the law, and he knew it was wrong for him to make the sacrifice. He did what he wanted to do rather than what God commanded.

Samuel said to King Saul, "You have acted foolishly! You disobeyed God's

Level 12A

commandment. God would have made your kingdom great, and it would have been yours forever, but now you will lose the kingdom! God will raise up a man after His own heart, and he will rule over Israel, because you have disobeyed the Lord God.” Saul thought it would be acceptable for him to give the offering before the battle, but Samuel told Saul that he had sinned. Saul’s kingdom would be taken from his family and given to another man. You see, sometimes we sin by doing things we think are all right. But if we do things different from what God commanded, we sin.

Saul won many victories over the Philistines because God was with Jonathan. The war with the Philistines continued all the years of Saul’s reign. Saul took all the strong, brave, young men of Israel into his army just as Samuel had said the king would do.

Saul now had about 210,000 men in his army.



Some time after Saul’s sin of offering a burnt offering, Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord says to you, ***“I will punish Amalek because they came out against Israel when they came out from the land of Egypt. Now Saul, take your army and fight Amalek. Kill every man, woman, child, and animal. Completely destroy them all!”*** So Saul took his army to the city of Amalek. Saul attacked and destroyed the Amalekites, but he took King Agag as a prisoner. Saul also kept all the best animals, and did not destroy them as God had commanded.

God spoke to Samuel saying, ***“I am sorry I ever made Saul king over My people because he has stopped obeying Me.”*** Samuel went to see Saul at Gilgal. Saul said, “I have carried out the Lord’s commandment.” Samuel said, “What is the sound I hear of sheep bleating and oxen lowing?” Saul answered, “The people have brought back the best of the herds and flocks in Amalek to give as a sacrifice to God. We destroyed all the

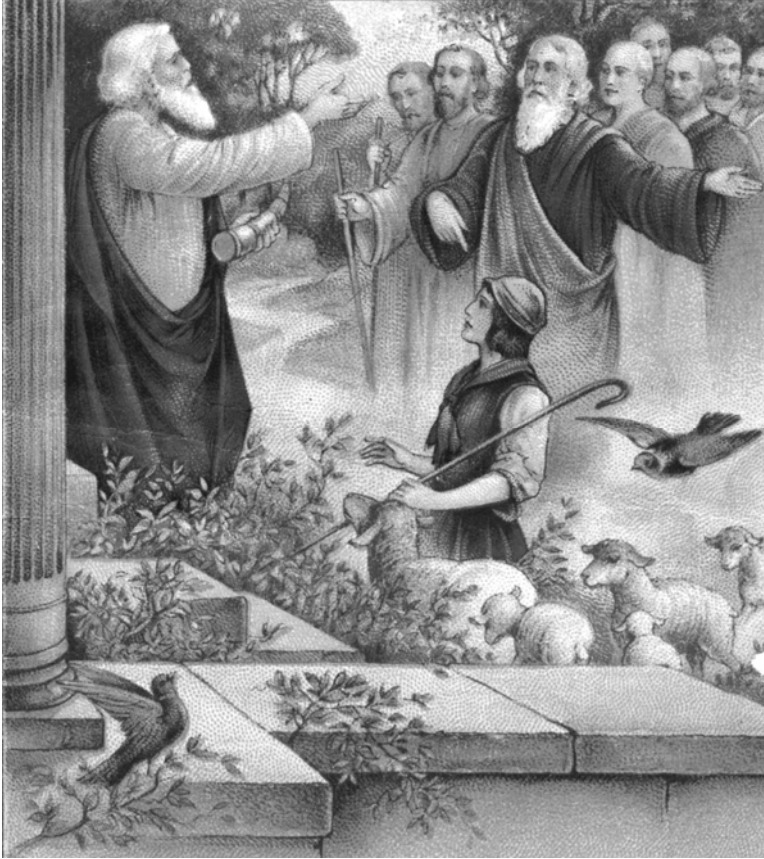
rest!” Samuel said to the King, “The Lord chose you and made you king over His people. He sent you to destroy the sinful Amalekites, but you have disobeyed God. You have brought back part of the animals.” Saul cried, “But I did obey God! I destroyed Amalek as God said. The people brought back some of the best things to give as sacrifices to God!” Samuel said to Saul, “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king over His people.”



Saul told Samuel that he knew he had sinned and he was sorry. He begged Samuel to stay and worship, but Samuel turned to leave. Saul reached out and grabbed Samuel’s robe and tore it. Samuel said, “God has torn the kingdom from your hands and given it to another man!” When Saul begged Samuel to go with him to sacrifice, Samuel finally agreed. Samuel sent for King Agag, and he killed the Amalekite king before the Lord and worshiped God at Gilgal. Samuel then left Saul and returned home to Ramah. Samuel never saw King Saul again, but he mourned over Saul because God rejected him as King of Israel.

God spoke to Samuel in Ramah saying, ***“Stop grieving over Saul, for I have rejected him. Take your horn of oil and go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have selected a king from among the sons of Jesse.”*** Samuel was afraid Saul would hear about this and come out to kill him. God told Samuel to take an animal with him and say he was in Bethlehem to worship. God said, ***“Invite Jesse to worship with you. I will show the one you are to anoint as the new king over my people.”***

Samuel obeyed God and went to Jesse’s house in Bethlehem. Each of Jesse’s sons came before Samuel. When Samuel saw Eliab, the oldest son, he thought, “Surely this is the one God has chosen!” But God said to Samuel, ***“Do not look at his appearance or his height because I have rejected him. God does not see like man sees. Man looks on***



the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”

Seven sons of Jesse came before Samuel but not the one God had chosen. When Samuel asked if there were other sons, he was told that the youngest son was in the field with the sheep. They brought the youngest son, David, from the field. He was a very handsome young man with beautiful eyes. When Samuel saw David, God spoke saying, **“This is the one. Anoint him.”** Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his family. The Spirit of God came upon David from that

day forward. Samuel then returned home to Ramah, and David returned to his work as a shepherd for his father.

Saul was still the official king of Israel, but God’s Spirit was no longer with him. David, son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah, was chosen by God to be the second king. Saul’s sins of disobedience caused him to lose his power and the whole kingdom!

STORY QUIZ

1. What son of Saul was placed in command of 1000 soldiers?
2. Who did Saul expect to offer sacrifices at Gilgal?
3. What did Saul do when he got tired of waiting for Samuel?
4. What did Samuel tell Saul about the offering?
5. What kind of man did Samuel say God would raise up to be the new king?
6. What did God tell Saul to do to the Amalekites?
7. What did Saul take alive from the Amalekite battle?
8. Samuel told Saul that what is better than sacrifices?
9. To what city did God tell Samuel to go to anoint the next king?
10. What son of Jesse did Samuel anoint to be the second king?

Memory Verse Level Twelve

But Samuel replied, “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” I Samuel 15:22

Memory Goal For Level Twelve

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

ANSWERS: 1. Jonathan 2. Samuel 3. Offered the sacrifice himself
4. He had disobeyed God 5. A man after God's own heart 6. Destroy all of them
7. Agag and best animals 8. Obedience 9. Bethlehem 10. David

Saul Meets David

I Samuel 16-17

God's Spirit departed from King Saul because he had disobeyed God. God sent Samuel to anoint the youngest son of Jesse as the second king over Israel.

Three of Jesse's sons were in Saul's army. The Philistine army came and camped in the land of Judah. Saul and his men camped on the mountain opposite the

Philistine camp, and the valley of El ah was between them. The Philistines had a champion warrior named Goliath from the city of Gath. Goliath was nine feet six inches tall (or six cubits and a span). His coat of armor was made of bronze and weighed one hundred fifty-six pounds. His spear was huge, and its head weighed about nineteen pounds. He was indeed a very awesome champion!



Every day Goliath would come out and shout over to the Israelite camp saying, "Send out a man to fight me! If he beats me, the Philistines will be your servants, but if I beat him, you will be our servants." Saul and his men were very afraid of this giant Philistine. For forty days Goliath tormented the Israelites with his insults.

Jesse sent David, his youngest son, with some food for his three sons serving in Saul's army. David left early in the morning and came to the Israelite camp. He left his baggage in the camp and went to the front lines to talk to his brothers. As they were talking, Goliath came out to shout his message to the Israelites. The men of Israel were afraid, and they ran away from Goliath. David said to the men around him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine? Who does he think he is to make fun of the army of the Lord?" The men told David that the man who killed Goliath would be given many riches and could also marry the daughter of King Saul. Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard David talking, and he was angry at him. Eliab said, "Why did you come here? Where are your sheep? I know you, you just came to see the battle." David answered, "What have I done? I

only asked a question.” David continued asking the soldiers, “Who does this Philistine think he is to insult the army of God?”

King Saul heard about the talk and sent for David. David said to King Saul, “I will go and fight the Philistine.” Saul said, “You are only a youth (David was probably a teenager or in his early twenties) and the Philistine has been a mighty warrior for many years.” David said, “When I am tending my sheep, and a lion or bear takes one of the lambs, I go after him. I free the lamb, then I kill the lion or bear. This Philistine is nothing more than one of these animals because he makes fun of the Lord’s army. The Lord saved me from the lion and the bear. He will save me from this Philistine!” Saul said, “Go, and may God go with you.” Saul put his own armor on David and gave him a sword, but David said, “I have not tested this armor. I am not accustomed to it, so it will only hinder me.” David took off the king’s armor and took his shepherd’s rod and his sling and went out to meet Goliath. David picked up five stones from the brook, and he held his sling in his hand.

When Goliath saw David coming, he laughed and said, “Am I a dog that you come after me with sticks?” David answered, “You come at me with a sword, a javelin, and a spear, but I come at you in the name of the Lord God of Israel whom you have insulted! The Lord will give you to me, and I will strike you down and remove your head from your body. The bodies of the Philistines will feed the birds and beasts, so all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel!”

As Goliath started toward David, David ran at him while taking a stone from his pouch. Using the sling, David threw the stone at Goliath and hit





him in the forehead. The stone sunk into the giant's head, and he fell over dead. David ran to Goliath, took the giant's sword and cut off Goliath's head. When the Philistines saw their champion dead on the ground, they were afraid and ran away. The army of Israel chased after them and killed Philistines for many miles. David took Goliath's head to Saul, then he took it to Jerusalem. David kept the giant's sword and armor and later left it at the Tabernacle as a trophy.

What great faith and trust David had in God! He was not afraid of Goliath, and he won the battle easily. Today, we need to learn to have this same kind of faith and trust in God.

STORY QUIZ

1. How many of David's older brothers were in Saul's army?
2. Who was the Philistine champion?
3. What did Goliath challenge Saul's army to do?
4. What did Saul offer the man who defeated Goliath?
5. Who said, "Who is this Philistine to make fun of the army of the Lord?"
6. Who told David to be quiet and go home to tend his sheep?
7. What two animals did David say he had killed?
8. What weapons did David take to fight against Goliath?
9. What did David use to kill Goliath?
10. What did David do with Goliath's head?

Memory Verse Level Twelve

But Samuel replied, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22

Memory Goal Twelve

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

ANSWERS: 1. Tree 2. Goliath 3. Send out a man to fight him. 4. His daughter as a wife. 5. David 6. Eliab 7. Lion and Bear 8. God, sling, and 5 stones 9. A single stone 10. Took it to Saul

David and Jonathan

I Samuel 18-20

After David killed Goliath, the Philistine champion, he took the giant's head to Saul. Saul took David into his household that day. David became a harp player for King Saul. When David played, Saul's evil temper would be calmed, so he loved to listen to



David play.

Now Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David very much, and they became the closest of friends. Jonathan made a covenant with David and gave David his armor, including his sword, his bow, and his belt.

You will remember from other lessons that a covenant is a very special agreement between two or more people. There was usually a ceremony which involved the mixing of blood, usually animals were sacrificed for this purpose.

The people making the covenant made promises to one another and gave gifts as a sign of covenant friendship. The covenant promises were considered to be vows made before God and all promises had to be kept as long as the people lived. Jonathan and David made a covenant friendship because they loved one another very much.

David lived at Saul's house and soon Saul put him in command of the army. The people of Israel loved David and were very happy to have him as their commander. Once when David and his men returned from battling the Philistines, the women of Israel came into the streets and sang a song for David. The song said, "Saul has killed thousands, and David has killed ten-thousands." Saul was



very angry and jealous because the people loved David so much. He became suspicious

of David and watched him. The next day the evil spirit came on Saul, and he was raving mad. David was playing the harp when Saul threw his spear at him, but twice David escaped and was not hurt. Saul was afraid of David because God was with him, so he sent David out of his household, putting him in command of one thousand men. David continued to please God, and the Israelites loved him, but Saul hated him. Saul was afraid David would take over the entire kingdom.

Saul told David that he could marry his daughter, Merab, if David would fight the Philistines for him. But David said, “Who am I that I should be the king’s son-in-law? So Merab was given to another man. Michal, Saul’s other daughter, loved David. When Saul learned of this he was pleased, thinking ...”I will give her to David, and it will bring great trouble to him!” Saul told his servants to talk to David and tell him that the king wanted him to marry Michal. David told the servants that he was a poor man and had nothing to offer Saul as a dowry. (A dowry is a gift or payment to the family of the bride.) When the servants reported this to Saul, he told them to tell David that the only dowry Saul required was proof that he had killed one hundred Philistines. Saul thought this dowry would bring death to David ... maybe David would be killed trying to get the dowry. David liked this dowry, so he went out that day and killed 200 Philistines and brought proof to Saul. So David married Michal, but when Saul saw that Michal loved David, he became even more afraid of David.

Saul told Jonathan and all his servants to kill David, but Jonathan loved David and warned him to be on guard and hide until Jonathan had a chance to speak with his father. Jonathan asked Saul not to kill David, saying, “Why are you doing this? David has done nothing to you. Why are you trying to kill him?” Saul listened to Jonathan and said, “I have sinned! David shall not be killed.” Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he again lived in Saul’s house. Soon David went out again to fight the Philistines and won a great victory. David was playing the harp for Saul when again Saul tried to kill David with the spear, but David escaped.



Level 12C

Saul set a guard on David's house through the night so David could be taken and killed the next morning. Michal helped David escape through a window, then she made the bed look like David was sleeping in it. When Saul's men came to get David, Michal would not let them enter the room, saying that David was sick. Saul commanded that David be brought on his bed to the palace so he could kill David. Saul was furiously angry when he learned that Michal, his own daughter, had tricked him to let David escape.

David escaped and went to Ramah to see Samuel. He told his story to Samuel, then the two of them went to Naioth. Saul heard where David was staying and sent men to kill him. The Spirit of God came upon Saul's men when they saw Samuel, and they began to prophesy. Saul sent more men to kill David, and the same thing happened to them. A third time Saul sent men to Naioth to kill David, and they too began to prophesy! Finally Saul himself went so he could kill David, but God was protecting David!! The Spirit of God came upon Saul, and he too prophesied with the others! So again David was able to escape Saul. David went to see Jonathan and asked him why Saul was trying to kill him. Jonathan did not know because Saul had not told him about the plan to kill David. Jonathan promised to help David, so they made a plan which would allow David to escape if Saul was really trying to kill him.

David was expected at a three day feast in Saul's house, but he would not go, and Jonathan would make an excuse for David's absence. If Saul was angry about David being absent., then Jonathan would know he still intended to kill David. David and Jonathan renewed their covenant promises, promising before God to help take care of one another. They worked out a plan so Jonathan could tell David how Saul reacted at the feast.

Here is their plan. David was to hide in a certain place. Jonathan would come to the field and shoot three arrows, and tell his servant to get them. If Saul was angry, Jonathan would shout to the servant, "The arrows are beyond you." Then David would know that Saul



wanted to kill him, and he could escape. If Saul was not angry Jonathan would shout, “The arrows are on this side of you! Get them.” Then David would know everything was okay, and he could come out from hiding.

So David hid himself and waited for Jonathan. The first day of the feast Saul said nothing about David being absent. However, on the second day Saul asked for David, and Jonathan made excuses for David saying he went home to see his family. Saul became very angry at Jonathan saying, “Don’t you know that as long as David lives you will never be the king? Now, go and bring David here, for he must die.” Saul was so angry that he threw his spear at Jonathan but did not hit him. Jonathan knew that Saul was determined to kill David.

Jonathan took his servant boy into the field the next morning. He shot an arrow and sent the boy to get it. Then he shot another arrow past the boy and shouted, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you? Run quickly now! Do not stand there just looking.” The boy found the arrows and gave them to Jonathan, but he did not know about the message Jonathan had just given to David. Jonathan sent the boy back home and went to David. They hugged one another and cried together. Then Jonathan said, “Go in safety. I have warned you as I promised. May the Lord be with you!” So Jonathan returned home, and David ran away to keep out of Saul’s way.

Saul, the first king of Israel, turned from God, so God appointed a new king, DAVID. Saul did not know that Samuel had anointed David, but he could see that God was with David, so he was afraid of David. Saul was very evil, and he hated David, but Jonathan loved David and was very faithful to his friend. He protected David even though he knew it could mean his own death. Friends are very important to us. We need to always be faithful to our friends. We need to remember that promises must be kept, especially promises to our good friends.

STORY QUIZ

1. What son of Saul was David's best friend?
2. What kind of pact or agreement did David and Jonathan make?
3. What was David's position in Saul's army?
4. Who said, "Saul killed thousands, but David killed ten thousands."?
5. Who was Merab?
6. What daughter of Saul loved David?
7. What is the gift that a man gave to the family of the woman he wanted to marry?
8. How many Philistines did David have to kill for Michal's dowry?
9. To whom did David go when he escaped Saul through the window?
10. Who warned David that it was not safe for him to return to the palace?

Memory Verse Level Twelve

But Samuel replied, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22

Memory Goal Twelve

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

ANSWERS: 1. Jonathan 2. Covenant 3. Armor Bearer 4. Women
5. Saul's daughter 6. Michal 7. Dowry 8. 100 9. Samuel 10. Jonathan

Saul Seeks David

I Samuel 21-24 and 26-31

In our last lesson we learned how Saul hated David and tried to kill him. During the years Saul was searching for David, Samuel, the prophet and judge of Israel, died and was buried at Ramah. After David, with Jonathan's help, escaped Saul, he went to Nob and the priest Abimelech came out to meet him. David told the priest that he was on a special mission for the king and he asked the priest for food for himself and his men. Since the only food available was the holy bread used by the priests in worship, Abimelech told David that he and his men could eat the holy bread.

David told Abimelech that he had gone out on this mission in such a hurry that he didn't even have a spear or sword and asked the priest if a spear or sword was available for him to use. Abimelech told David that the only weapon he had was Goliath's sword which David had left after killing the giant. David took Goliath's sword as his own weapon. From Nob David and his men went to Gath, Goliath's hometown. When David saw that the king recognized him, he took his men and went to live in a cave at Adullam. His parents and his brothers heard he was there and went out to him. Men who had been



somehow mistreated by Saul also joined David's men. David took his father, Jesse, and his mother to Moab and asked the king there to take care of them until things were settled with Saul. Then David and his men returned to the cave in Adullam and stayed there until a prophet of God told him to return into Judah to the forest of Hereth.

When Saul was told that the priest, Abimelech, had helped David, he sent for all the priests of Nob. He accused them of treason because they helped David. Abimelech told the king that David had always been a faithful servant and he did not know anything about a feud between Saul and David. Saul was very angry that the priest had helped David, so he commanded his men to kill Abimelech and all the priests of Nob. In all, 85 priests and all their wives and children were killed because of Saul's rage.

God sent David and his men to Keilah to help them against the Philistines. Saul heard that David was in Keilah so he went there with all his army. God told David that

Level 12D

he should leave Keilah because the men of Keilah would surrender him to King Saul. So they left Keilah and moved about from place to place, hiding from Saul. David's army was now about 600 men.

While David was camped in the wilderness of Ziph, Jonathan came out to see him. He told David, "Do not be afraid because Saul will not find you. You will be the next king of Israel and I will be your servant." David and Jonathan renewed their covenant and Jonathan returned home. The men of Ziph told Saul to come out and they would



help him capture David. David heard of the plan and escaped into the wilderness of Maon. Saul and his men chased after them and were surrounding David and his men when Saul received an urgent message to return home because the Philistines were attacking the capital city.

After fighting the Philistines, Saul continued his pursuit of David. Saul went into a certain cave where David and his men were hiding but Saul did not know they were there. David's men said, "This is the day God is giving your enemy to you!" David refused to harm Saul because Saul was the

Lord's anointed king, so he went very near Saul and cut off a piece of Saul's robe. After Saul left the cave, David went outside and called out to Saul, bowing himself to the ground. He said, "My king, why are you trying to kill me? I have done nothing wrong! I had a chance to kill you just now in the cave; see here is a piece of your garment! But I will not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed." Saul began to cry and said, "You are more righteous than I! You have always treated me with goodness and I have been evil to you. I know you will be the next king of Israel, but please promise me that you will be good to my family and treat them with kindness." David made the promise to Saul and the king returned home.



Later Saul heard that David was camped in Ziph so he took 3000 of his soldiers and went out to find David. During the night David went to spy on Saul and his men. He saw them all sleeping on the ground with Saul in the middle of his men. David and

Abishai, Joab's brother, went right into the sleeping camp to where Saul lay, for God had caused a deep sleep to fall on the camp. Saul's spear was standing in the ground near Saul's head. Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy to you! Let me take the spear and put it through him!" David would not allow Abishai to kill Saul. He took Saul's spear and water jug and they left the sleeping camp.

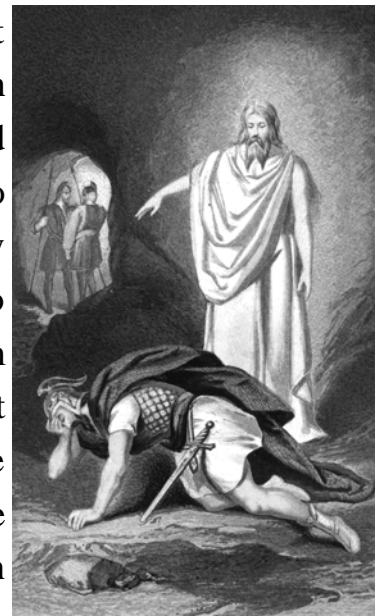
When morning came, David stood on a nearby hilltop and shouted into Saul's camp. He called to Abner, commander of Saul's army, "You have not guarded the king!



You must be punished because you have not done your duty. Someone entered your camp and could have killed the King while you slept. Look! I have the king's spear and his water jug!" Saul called out, "Is that you David?" David answered, "Yes. Why are you trying to hurt me? Why are you trying to kill me?" Saul

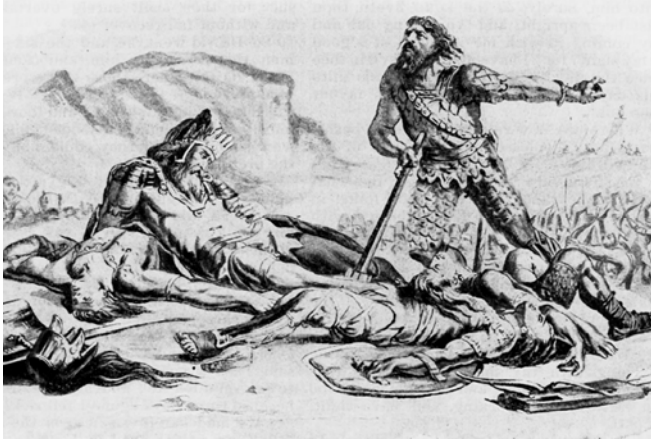
replied, "I have sinned. Come back to me and I will do you no harm because you had a chance to kill me but did not." But David knew he would not be safe with Saul, so he asked one of Saul's men to come and get the king's spear and water jug. Then Saul and his men returned home and David and his men went to live in the land of the Philistines.

The Philistines gathered a huge army to go out against Saul's army. David had volunteered his own men to fight with the Philistines but the lords of the Philistines were afraid David would turn against them in the battle, so David did not go out to fight. When Saul saw the huge Philistine army he was very afraid and he called out to God for help, but God did not listen to Saul. Saul asked his servants if they knew of a witch or medium living in Israel. Now, Saul had already made a law against witchcraft in Israel and anyone practicing witchcraft would be killed. But when God would not listen to Saul, he was desperate and wanted help. Saul's servant told him that there was a witch living in Endor, so Saul disguised himself one night and went to see the witch of Endor.



Level 12D

Saul told the witch, “Make the person I name appear here before me.” The witch said, “What are you talking about? Are you trying to get me killed? You know Saul has made a law against witchcraft!” Saul said, “I promise that this will be kept secret and no



harm will come to you.” The witch said, “Who do you want me to call up?” Then Saul said, “Call up Samuel.” The witch began to perform her ceremony but when she saw the shape of Samuel appearing before her, she screamed and said, “You have tricked me! You are King Saul!” Saul assured the witch that she would not be harmed and asked what she was seeing.

When Saul heard the witch’s description, he knew that Samuel was appearing. Then Samuel appeared and said, “Why have you disturbed me by calling me up?” Saul told Samuel that God would not listen to him and he was very afraid because of the Philistines. Samuel said, “Why are you asking me for help when God has already left you? I told you that God has taken away your kingdom and given it to his servant David. Now, the Philistines will destroy the army of Israel tomorrow and you and your sons will die.” When Saul heard this, he fell on his face on the ground because he was very afraid. The witch gave Saul some food and he returned to his camp.

The Philistines attacked the army of Israel killing and burning the cities. They caught Saul and his men at Mount Gilboa. Jonathan and his two brothers were killed by the Philistines and King Saul was hit with Philistine arrows. Saul told his armor-bearer to kill him so the Philistines would not capture him and torture him. The armor-bearer was afraid to kill the king, so Saul fell on his own sword and died. Just as Samuel had said, Saul and his sons died that same day.

When the Philistine army found Saul’s body the next day, they cut off his head and sent it around to the cities of the Philistines. Then they took Saul’s body and the bodies of his sons and hung them on the walls of the city of Bethshan. During the night some Israelite men from Jabesh came and took down the bodies and took them to Jabesh where they burned the bodies and buried the bones in Jabesh. The Philistines took over many cities of Israel and lived in them.

Saul, the first king of Israel, spent most of his last five years searching for David, but God was with David and protected him against Saul’s wickedness. David had several opportunities to kill Saul, but he refused he raise his hand against God anointed king. David ran away and hid rather than fight with Saul... This does not mean David was afraid and weak. He knew it would be wrong to kill God’s anointed king and he knew that when the right time came, God would take care of Saul. Sometimes it takes more courage to walk away from a fight than to stand and fight. Jesus taught us that we need to love our enemies. To please God, we need to do what it right.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who hated David and was determined to kill him?
2. What did the priest at Nob give David to eat?
3. Why did David refuse to harm Saul?
4. Who went with David into Saul’s camp while everyone slept?
5. Who did David accuse of not guarding the King of Israel?
6. Where was Samuel buried?
7. To what unlawful person did Saul go seeking help?
8. Where was Saul’s army when the Philistines attacked?
9. Who fell on his sword and died?
10. Where was King Saul buried

Memory Verse Level Twelve

But Samuel replied, “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” I Samuel 15:22

Memory Goal Twelve: Psalm 23

ANSWERS: 1. Saul 2. Holy Bread 3. He was the Lord’s anointed king.
 4. Abishai 5. Abner 6. Ramah 7. The witch of Endor 8. Mount Gilboa
 9. Saul 10. Jabesh

King David

II Samuel 1-5

In our last lessons we learned about Saul, the first king of Israel. Because of his sins, God rejected Saul as king and appointed David, the son of Jesse, to be the new king. David and his men were in Ziklag when an Amalekite man came into the camp. The man was dirty and ragged since he was just coming from the battle at Mount Gilboa. The man fell down before David and told him that he had just come from



Israel's battle. When David asked how the battle was going, the man said, "Many Israelites are dead! The battle is lost. Saul and Jonathan are dead!" The man told David that he had passed by Mount Gilboa and had seen Saul with the sword through him. Then the man said, "The king asked me to kill him because he was in great pain, so I killed the king. I knew he did not have long to live. I have brought you the king's crown and his arm

bands." David and his men tore their clothes and wept when they heard this news. They mourned for Saul and Jonathan all that day. In the evening David sent for the Amalekite messenger and said, "Why is it that you were not afraid to raise your hand against the Lord's anointed king?" Then David commanded one of his soldiers to kill the Amalekite.

David asked God if he should go up to Judah, and God told him to go to Hebron in the land of Judah. David took all his men and their families to Hebron. At this time David had three wives, Michal, the daughter of Saul, Ahinoam, a woman of Jezreel, and Abigail, the widow of Nabal. David had met Abigail during the years of hiding from Saul. He had asked Nabal to provide food for his men, but Nabal refused. While Nabal was drunk, Abigail secretly brought food for David and his men. When Nabal heard what his wife had done, he got so angry he died! David then took Abigail to be his wife.



Level 13A

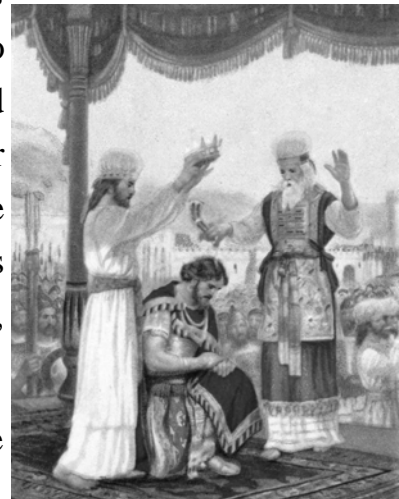
David and his people went to Hebron, and the men of the tribe of Judah anointed David as their king. Abner, Saul's army commander, made Saul's young son, Ishbosheth, king over the rest of the land of Israel. David was thirty years old when he became king, and he ruled in Hebron for seven and a half years.

Abner and his men met Joab and his men in Gibeon. Joab (David's army commander) and his men fought a hard battle. Asahel, Joab's brother, chased after Abner for a long time. Abner warned him several times to turn back, but Asahel kept after him.



Finally, Abner killed Joab's brother, Asahel. Joab's army chased Abner's army for a long time before turning back. At the end of the day, Joab had lost only twenty men, but Abner had lost three hundred sixty men. The men of David warred with the men of Saul for a long time, but God was with David, so he grew stronger and stronger.

Abner, Saul's army commander, was making himself powerful during these years of war. Ishbosheth and Abner had a disagreement, so Abner sent word to David saying that he would like to make a covenant with David. David agreed to see Abner on the condition that Michal (David's wife) be returned to him. Michal returned to David, so Abner and twenty of his men went to Hebron to see David. They made a covenant feast, and Abner said he would bring the people of Israel to David so that he could be made king over all the nation of Israel. Soon after Abner left the camp, Joab and his men returned from a battle. Joab was very angry when he learned that Abner had been in the camp. He said to David, "You know Abner came here only to spy on us. He is our enemy and you let him leave here!" Joab sent men to capture Abner and bring him back, but he did not let David know what he was doing. Joab killed Abner, because Abner had killed his brother, Asahel. David was very sorry when he heard what Joab had done. He cursed Joab, wishing bad things for him and his family. David mourned for Abner saying, "Today a great man of Israel has fallen."



When King Ishbosheth heard that Abner was dead, he

was very afraid. One day while he was sleeping, two of his men came secretly into his house and murdered him. They took the king's head to David and said, "We have killed your enemy!" David said to the two men, "The man who came telling me of Saul's death thought he would please me when he said he killed the king. I had that man put to death. Now you have killed a good man, and I will take your lives for his!" David commanded his men to kill the two soldiers who had murdered Ishbosheth, and they buried the King's head in Abner's grave.

Now all the tribes of Israel came to Hebron and anointed David as ruler over all the land of Israel. David had ruled in Hebron for seven and a half years. He would rule over all the land for thirty-two and a half years, making a total of forty years that David ruled as king of Israel. David took the city of Jerusalem for his capital city, and he called it the city of David. (Bethlehem is also referred to in the Bible as the city of David because it was David's hometown.) David's power became greater and greater because God was with him. David realized that God had made him the king of a powerful nation.

When the Philistines heard that David was the king, they came out against him. God told David how to fight the Philistines, and David did exactly as God said. David and his men won a great victory

over the Philistines. David is called the man after God's own heart, and we can see from this lesson that David was indeed a very good man. He refused to raise his hand against the man God had chosen as king. He also killed the men who murdered Ishbosheth. David



loved and trusted in God, and always asked for God's help and advice. We should be like David and remember to ask God before making important decisions.

We should talk to God often and ask Him to help us do the things He wants us to do. David, son of Jesse, wrote many songs and psalms to worship and praise God. Many of the psalms were written while David was a shepherd, and others were written while

Level 13A

he was king over Israel. The songs of David are included in our Bible in the book called Psalms.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who told David that King Saul was dead?
2. What did David do when he knew Saul was dead?
3. Who told David to go to Hebron to be appointed as the king over Judah?
4. How many years did David rule in Hebron?
5. What son of Saul did Abner set up as king of Israel?
6. Who did David agree to meet with if Michal was returned to David?
7. Who was very angry because Abner had been in the camp?
8. Who killed Abner?
9. What city became David’s capital?
10. David is known as the man after God’s own what?

Memory Verse Level Thirteen

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” I Samuel 16:7

Memory Goal Thirteen

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100

- ANSWERS: 1. An Amalekite 2. Tore his clothes and wept 3. God
 4. seven and a half 5. Ishbosheth 6. Abner 7. Joab
 8. Joab 9. Jerusalem 10. Heart

King David

II Samuel 6-9

King David wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem. The Ark had been at the house of Abinadab from the time it was returned by the Philistines. David and his men went to Kiriath-jearim to get the Ark of the Covenant of God. They placed the Ark on a new cart, and Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, led the oxen which pulled the cart. This was not the right way to move the Ark of the Covenant. God had commanded that it was to be carried by Levite priests.



David and his men were dancing and singing with joy because they were returning the Ark to its rightful place. Suddenly the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out and touched the Ark of the Covenant because he thought it was falling. God was angry when Uzzah touched the Ark, and he died immediately. David was angry because God had killed Uzzah, and he was afraid to take the ark into Jerusalem, so he left the Ark at the house of Obededom. When he heard that God was blessing Obededom, David went again to bring the Ark into Jerusalem. This time David had the Levite priests carry the Ark as God had commanded. David and the Israelites were very happy to have the Ark of the Covenant in the city, so they danced and shouted with joy. David walked in front to the Ark as it entered the city, and he danced and shouted and praised God. David had the Ark set up in a tent and gave sacrifices for himself and the people of Israel.



When David went home, Michal (Saul's daughter) told him that she had seen him from her window. She said that David had acted like a fool, running and shouting in the streets with the common people. David explained to Michal that he had not acted foolishly, but he had been worshiping and praising God. God was not pleased with Michal when she made fun of

Level 13B

her husband when he worshiped. God never allowed Michal to have children because of this. David had many wives and many sons and daughters. There are seventeen sons of David named in the Bible.

The king of Tyre sent wood and carpenters, and they built a palace for David in Jerusalem. When it was finished David spoke to Nathan, the prophet of God, saying, “I



live in a house made of cedar, but God’s house is only a tent.” Nathan told David to do what he thought was right and God would be with him. That night God spoke to Nathan, ***“Tell David, I have not lived in a house but in a tent from the time the people came out of Egypt. I have not asked you to build Me a house. I will make your family great, and I will raise up your son to serve Me. Your son will build my house, and he will be a great man. I will punish him when he sins, but I will be with him always, and the house of David will rule forever.”***

Nathan told David all that God said and David prayed a long prayer to God. He thanked God for all He had done, and he thanked God for the promise concerning the kingdom. David did not build a house of worship for God did not want His house built by a man of war.

David had about thirty thousand men in his army, and they were very strong, brave men. They defeated the Philistines and took control of the cities. David defeated the Moabites and all of Israel’s enemies. Wherever David went God was with him and helped him. All the gold and silver captured in war was given to God. The defeated nations had to pay taxes to David. David’s kingdom was set up by God, and it was very strong. Joab was the leader of the army, and Zadok was the priest. David’s sons were given posts as chief ministers of Israel.

Some time after David became king, he asked one of Saul's old servants if he knew of anyone in Jonathan's family who was still living. The servant, Ziba, said that Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, was living in Lodebar in the house of Machir. David sent men to bring Jonathan's son to Jerusalem. Mephibosheth was five years old when Saul and Jonathan died. When his nurse heard that King Saul and Jonathan were dead, she took the child and ran away to hide. She probably thought that David's men would come and kill all members of Saul's family so that David could be king. In her rush to escape, the child fell and hurt his legs, and he was crippled all the days of his life.



When Mephibosheth came before David, he was very afraid. He had probably been taught that David was his enemy, and that David had stolen the kingdom from the family of Saul. Mephibosheth bowed before the king, and David said, "Do not be afraid of me! I will show kindness to you because your father was my best friend, and I made a covenant with him. Now I will give you all the land that belonged to your father and your grandfather. You shall eat here at my table every day!" David commanded Ziba (the servant), "You and your family will be servants of Mephibosheth. You will work his land and care for his things, for he is the son of Jonathan.

So David kept his covenant promises with Jonathan and took care of Jonathan's son. Mephibosheth lived the rest of his life in Jerusalem as if he were one of the sons of King David. David was a good man who loved God. David was kind and tenderhearted, even though he was brave and strong. He trusted in God's promises concerning his kingdom, and he kept his own promises to his friend. We should try to remember David's faith and trust in God, because it will help our faith to be stronger. We should also be careful to keep the promises that we make, just like David remembered.

STORY QUIZ

1. What special article of worship did David want to bring to Jerusalem?
2. What two men were in charge of the cart carrying the Ark of the Covenant?
3. Who touched the Ark when he thought it as falling?
4. What happened to Uzzah when he touched the Ark?
5. Who did David take with him to bring the Ark from the house of Obededom?
6. Who told David he had acted like a fool in front of the people?
7. What did David want to build for God?
8. Why did God not allow David to build the temple?
9. What son of Jonathan did David bring to live in the palace in Jerusalem?
10. Why did David show kindness to Mephibosheth?

Memory Verse Level Thirteen

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” I Samuel 16:7

Memory Goal

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100

ANSWERS: 1. Ark of the Covenant 2. Uzzah and Ahio 3. Uzzah 4. He died
5. The Levites 6. Michael 7. Temple 8. He was a man of war. 9. Mephibosheth
10. Because of his covenant with Jonathan

David and Bathsheba II Samuel 11-12

Joab and the army of Israel were away at war with the Ammonites, but King David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David could not sleep, so he went out on his roof to walk. As he looked about, he saw a very beautiful woman bathing in a nearby house. David found out that the woman was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of the soldiers in David's army. David sent for the woman and loved her, then he sent her back home to her house.



When David learned that Bathsheba was going to have his baby, he sent a message to Joab asking him to send Uriah back to Jerusalem. When Uriah arrived David asked about the battle, then he told Uriah to go home and be with his wife, then the next day he could return to the battle.



Uriah would not go home to his wife while the rest of the army was in the battlefield. The next night David tried again to get Uriah to go home, but Uriah refused to go. (David wanted Uriah to believe Bathsheba's baby was his child.) David finally sent Uriah back to the battlefield. He gave him a note to deliver to Joab. In the note, David told Joab to put Uriah on the front lines of the battle, then turn back and leave him alone to be killed. Joab obeyed David's command, and Uriah died in the battle. When the time of Bathsheba's mourning for her dead husband was complete, David took Bathsheba for his wife. God was not pleased with what David had done. David sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba and by murdering Uriah.

God sent the prophet Nathan to David, and Nathan told David this story: Two men lived in a city. One was rich and one was poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds, but the poor man had only one little ewe (female) lamb. The poor man loved his

Level 13C

little ewe lamb and took special care of her. Some guests came to visit the rich man, but he would not kill one of his own sheep to feed his guests. Instead, he stole the poor man's little ewe lamb, and he fed his guests.

When David heard this story he was very angry and said, "That man deserves to die! Bring him to me, and I will make him pay back four times as much as he has



taken!" Nathan said, "My King, you are the man! God sent me to tell you this, ***"I set you up in a great kingdom and gave you everything you have, but you have taken Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and you murdered Uriah. Now, I will allow evil to come against you and your house."***

David was very sorry for his sin, and he repented. Nathan told David that God had forgiven him of his sin, but the child of Bathsheba would die because of the sin. The child became very sick. David fasted and prayed, begging God to let the child live. On the seventh day the child died, but the servants were afraid to tell David. When the king saw his servants whispering among themselves, he knew the child was dead. David went and washed himself and ate. The servants could not understand this, and they said, "When the child was living, you fasted and prayed. Now the child is dead, and you are eating and behaving normally." David told the servants that as long as the child was living there was a chance God might change His mind, but fasting and praying could not bring the dead back to life.

David and Bathsheba mourned for their baby son. Later, Bathsheba had another son for David and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved Solomon and he is the one God anointed to be the third king over Israel.

In this lesson we learned that David, the man after God's own heart, sinned. David repented of his sin, and God forgave him, but David was still punished for what he had done. God did not leave David, as He had left Saul. Saul was not sorry when he sinned,

but David was sorry, and he repented. REPENT means to turn away from sin and feel very sorry when we commit sins. We all sin, but God will forgive us if we will repent and try very hard to obey His commandments.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who was the commander of David's army?
2. What beautiful woman did David see bathing?
3. Who was Bathsheba's husband?
4. Who told Joab to place Uriah at the front lines of battle?
5. What did David do when Uriah was dead?
6. Who went to tell David that God was displeased with him?
7. What sin did David and Bathsheba commit?
8. What kind of story did Nathan tell David?
9. What was David's attitude about his sin?
10. Who was the second son of David and Bathsheba?

Memory Verse Level Thirteen

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7

Memory Goal Thirteen

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100

- ANSWERS: 1. Joab 2. Bathsheba 3. Uriah 4. Joab
 5. Married Bathsheba 6. Nathan 7. Adultery
 8. About a rich man and a poor man 9. He was sorry and repented
 10. Solomon

DAVID AND ABSALOM

II Samuel 13-19

David, king of Israel, had many wives and many children. Two of David's sons were Absalom and Amnon. These men had different mothers but both were sons of David. Absalom hated Amnon because Amnon had mistreated Absalom's sister, Tamar. Absalom waited for two years, then he conspired to have Amnon murdered. Then Absalom ran away and lived in Geshur for three years. David loved Absalom very much and wanted him to return to Jerusalem, but he could not allow this since Absalom was a murderer.



Joab, David's friend and commander of the army, could see how the king felt toward Absalom, and he finally persuaded David to send for Absalom. Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem, but David refused to see him. Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years and did not get to see the king. Finally Absalom sent for Joab, but Joab would not go to see him. Absalom told



his servants to burn a field which belonged to Joab. Joab went to Absalom asking why he had burned his field. Absalom said, "I sent for you, but you would not come, so I burned your field to get your attention. I have been here in Jerusalem for two years, and I have not yet see my father. I might as well have stayed in Geshur! Please get me in to see the king!" Joab told David what Absalom said, and David agreed to see his son. Absalom bowed to his father, and David kissed his beloved son.

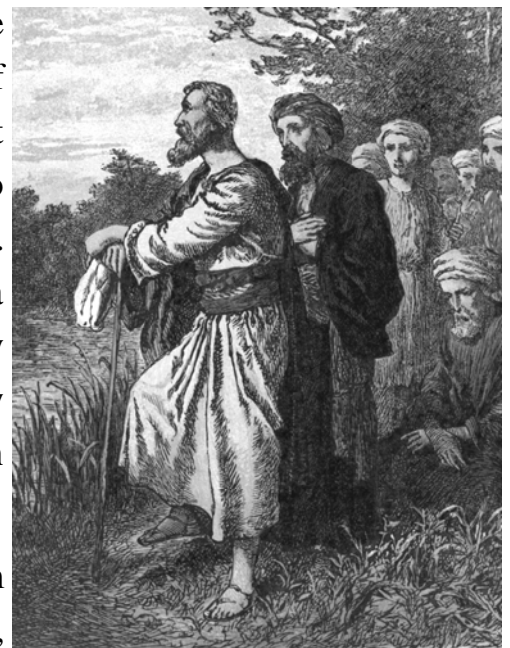
Absalom was a very handsome man with thick, long hair. He bought himself a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty men to run in front of his chariot. Then Absalom planned to steal the kingdom away from his father, David. He would go to the gates of the city and wait for men who came to seek judgment from

the king's court. He would listen to each story and say, "I can see that your claim is good, but there is no one in my father's court who will do you justice. If I were a judge, I would give you justice." If any man bowed down to Absalom, he would take the man's hand and raise him up and kiss him. In this way Absalom made himself loved by all the men of Israel.

After about four years, Absalom asked David for permission to go to Hebron to keep a vow. In Hebron, Absalom sent out spies to all the cities. These spies were to tell the people, "When you hear the trumpet sound, you will all shout, 'Absalom is king of Israel!'" Absalom had worked hard for four years making the people love him, and now his power over the people was very great. He was ready to take over the kingdom.

A messenger told David that the men of Israel had turned their hearts to Absalom. David took all his faithful men and his household, and they left Jerusalem. David knew that Absalom would be coming into Jerusalem (the capital city), and he did not want his people killed. Zadok (the priest) and the Levites took the Ark of the Covenant out of Jerusalem, but David sent them back into the city saying, "If God is with me, then I will return to Jerusalem." Zadok and the Levites returned the Ark to Jerusalem, and David went to the Mount of Olives to pray. While he was there, his faithful servant Hushai came out to him. David told Hushai to go into Jerusalem and join forces with Absalom and his men. He told Hushai to tell Absalom that he would be a servant to him as he had been a servant to David. By joining Absalom's men, Hushai could help overthrow Absalom. So Hushai went back into Jerusalem to join Absalom's forces.

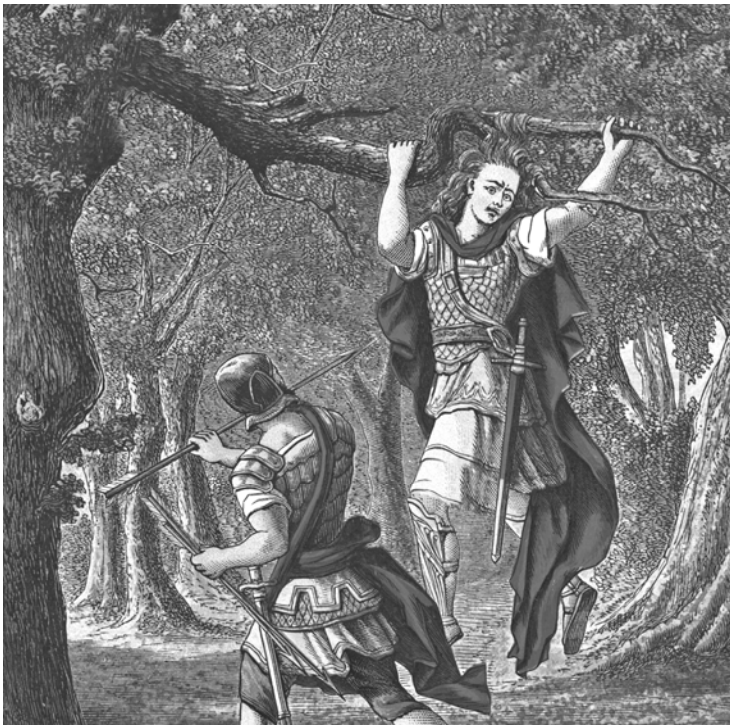
Absalom and his men entered Jerusalem and took over the king's palace. Hushai, David's friend,



Level 13D

joined Absalom's men. Absalom's chief adviser asked Absalom to allow the army to go after David's army. He said, "If we catch them while they are with David, they will be tired from the journey, and we will be able to defeat them, and David will be killed." Absalom liked the plan, but he wanted to ask Hushai's advice also. Hushai said, "This is not a good plan! Everyone knows that David and his men are very strong and very brave. You will not find David with his men, for David is too smart to travel with his men." Hushai suggested another plan. He said that Absalom should lead the army himself, and go out in open battle against David and his men. Absalom liked Hushai's plan, because it was God's will that Absalom fail in his efforts to take over the kingdom of David.

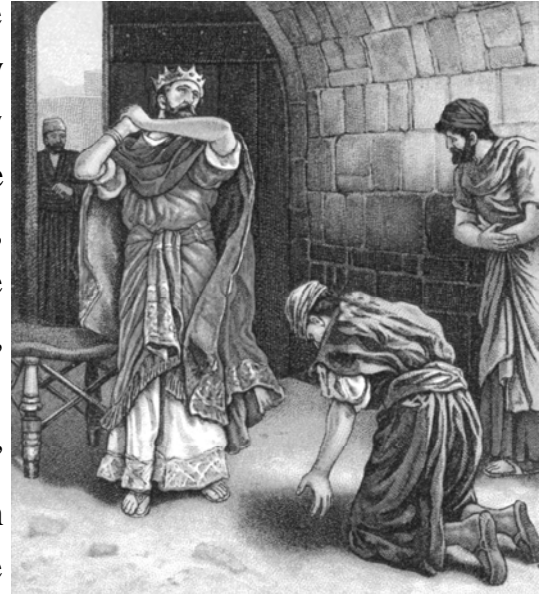
Hushai sent word to David saying, "Cross the brook and go into the desert." David and his men crossed the brook and went to Mahanaim where David divided his men into three companies. He would have led the army but his people would not allow it. David's



men defeated the army of Absalom, killing about twenty thousand men. As Absalom was escaping on his donkey, he rode under a low branch of an oak tree. His head was caught in the branch, and he was left hanging by his head from the tree. One of Joab's men saw Absalom there and told Joab. Joab said, "You saw him and didn't kill him? I would have paid you ten pieces of silver if you had killed him!" The man told Joab that he would not harm the king's son, even for one thousand pieces of silver. He said, "You heard the king! His very last words to us was, 'Do not harm my son, Absalom.'" Joab went to the tree where Absalom was hanging, and he put three spears into Absalom's heart. The men with Joab put their spears into Absalom also. So Absalom, son of King David, died, and they buried him in the forest.

Joab sent a Cushite runner back to tell David the news of the battle. Ahimaaz, son

of Zadok the priest, wanted to run back with the news also, so Joab let him go. David was waiting by the gates in Mahanaim for news. The watchman saw the first runner and told David that it looked like the son of Zadok. David said, "Is he alone? If he is alone, he is bringing good news." Then they spotted the second runner. Ahimaaz reached David first and said, "We have won the battle! The enemy is defeated."



David said, "What about my son, Absalom?" Ahimaaz said, "Everything was in great confusion when I left. I do not know about your son." The Cushite runner came in, and David said, "What about Absalom?" The Cushite said, "I wish all your enemies were as dead Absalom is right now!" David was very upset and said, "Oh Absalom, Absalom. My son, my son. I wish that I could have died instead of you!"

When Joab returned to Mahanaim, he found David and all the people mourning instead of celebrating the victory. Joab was very angry, and he said to David, "Today you have turned our victory into mourning! You have made your servants ashamed because you love the one who hates you and hate the ones who love you. Your men have saved the lives of all your family, but you would be happier if your men were dead and your precious Absalom living! Now, get up. Go speak to your people, or they will all leave you and you will lose everything!"



David listened to Joab, and he went out to speak with his people. Later David and his family returned to Jerusalem, and most of Absalom's men returned to serve David.

During the next few years David's men battled their enemies, and Israel won many battles because God was with them. David's men killed Goliath's four sons.

God promised to set up David's kingdom forever, but Absalom was not the son

Level 13D

God wanted as a king over His people. God worked for David, and Absalom was defeated. The kingdom was saved from the evil Absalom. In our next lesson we will begin our study of Solomon, the third king over Israel.

STORY QUIZ

1. Who killed his half brother because of their sister, Tamar?
2. Who refused to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem because he was guilty of murder?
3. Who persuaded David to let Absalom come home?
4. Where did Absalom sit each day to talk to the people?
5. Who stole the hearts of the men of Israel away from King David?
6. What did David and his family do when they heard about Absalom's rebellion?
7. Who was told to remain in Jerusalem with the Ark of the Covenant?
8. What faithful friend of David joined Absalom's army as a spy?
9. Where did Joab find Absalom?
10. What did David do when he heard that Absalom was dead?

Memory Verse Level Thirteen

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7

Memory Goal Thirteen

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100

ANSWERS: 1. Absalom 2. David 3. Joab 4. Gates of the city
5. Absalom 6. They left Jerusalem 7. Zadok 8. Hushai
9. Hanging in an oak tree 10. He wept and mourned.

KING SOLOMON

I Kings 1-4

David, King of Israel, was old and sick, and he had to stay in bed most of the time. A beautiful young woman named Abishag was brought to the palace to nurse the old king.

Adonijah, son of David, prepared himself to be the next king. He had never been told by his father that he would not be the king, so he believed he would take over the kingdom when his father died. Joab and his men followed Adonijah, but Zadok (the priest), Nathan (the prophet), Benaiah, and David's closest servants and body guard stayed with David and refused to follow Adonijah.

Adonijah planned a great feast to offer sacrifices and declare himself as the new king. He did not invite Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, David's guard, and Solomon (son of David) to the feast. Nathan went to Bathsheba (mother of Solomon) and asked if she knew that Adonijah was about to declare himself king. Nathan told Bathsheba to go to King David and ask him to keep his promise and make Solomon the new king of Israel. Bathsheba went to David and said, "My king, you promised that my son Solomon would sit on your throne, but Adonijah has made himself king! All of Israel looks to you to tell them who will take your place. If you die before making Solomon the king, I am afraid that I and my son will be killed by Adonijah."



While Bathsheba was speaking, Nathan came into the room. Nathan said, "My king, did you know that your son Adonijah is having a feast and plans to declare himself as king over Israel? He is having a feast but has not invited me, Zadok, Benaiah, and Solomon. Did you know that Adonijah will be the new king? Why did you

Level 14A

not tell your faithful servants whom you have appointed?”

David said to Bathsheba, “As surely as the Lord lives, I have promised to make your son the king, and I will name him as king this very day.” David sent for Zadok and Benaiah. He instructed these faithful men to take Solomon to Gihon and make him the new king of Israel. He said, “Solomon is to ride on my donkey to Gihon. Declare him as king, and bring him back here to sit on my throne, for he shall rule over the Lord's people.”

David's faithful servants did as the king commanded and anointed Solomon as king in Gihon. The people with them shouted, “Long live the King!!” and blew on their trumpets. Adonijah was having his feast at the same time, and they wondered what the noise of shouting was about. A messenger came to Adonijah saying that David had proclaimed Solomon as the king of Israel. All the men with Adonijah were afraid and went home.



Adonijah was also afraid of what Solomon might do, so he went to the Tabernacle and placed his hands on the horns of the altar. (This was a custom signifying an appeal to God against the violence of men. It was believed to be sinful to harm a man who had taken hold of the horns of the altar.) Adonijah refused to leave the Tabernacle until Solomon promised not to kill him. When Solomon was told of this he said, “If Adonijah is a good man he will not be harmed, but if any evil is found in him, he will die.” Some men brought Adonijah to Solomon, and the new king sent his brother home.

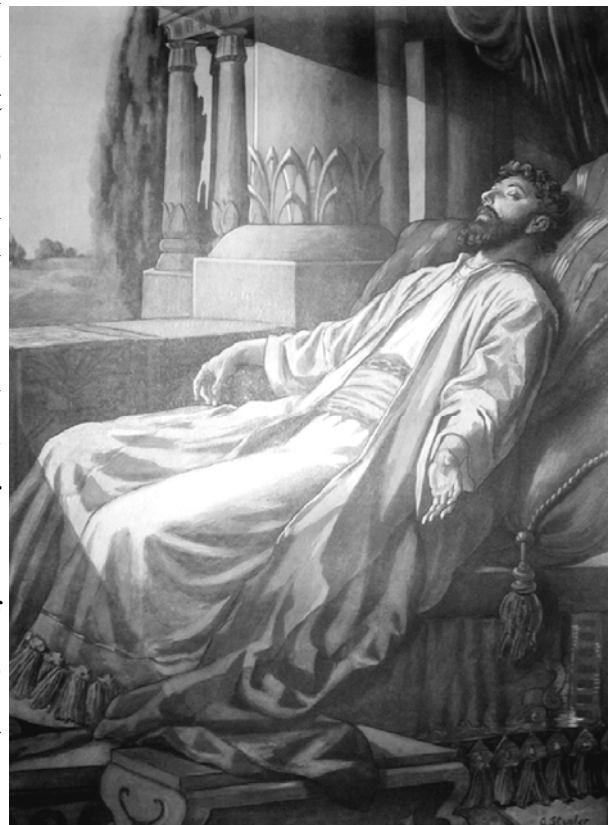
The time of David's death was near. He spoke to Solomon saying, “Be strong and act like a man! Keep the laws of God, and walk in His ways, and you will be successful

in everything you do.” He told Solomon about certain promises he had made to men in his court, and he asked Solomon to make sure the promises were kept. David told Solomon that Joab should be punished because he murdered Abner after David had made a covenant with him. Then David, King of Israel, died in Jerusalem. He had ruled over God's people for forty years.

Adonijah wanted Solomon to give him Abishag (David's nurse) for a wife. This was not pleasing to Solomon, for the girl had belonged to David, and it was sinful for a man to marry a woman who had belonged to his own father. Solomon sent Benaiah to kill Adonijah. When Joab heard that Adonijah was dead, he was afraid because he had followed Adonijah. So Joab went to the Tabernacle (just as Adonijah had done). Solomon sent Benaiah to kill Joab. King Solomon then appointed Benaiah to take Joab's place as commander of the army of Israel.

King Solomon made a marriage agreement with the Pharaoh of Egypt, and he married the Pharaoh's daughter and brought her to live in the palace in Jerusalem.

Solomon loved God and walked in the ways of his father, David. Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, and God spoke to him there in a dream. God said, ***“Ask Me for whatever you wish and I will give it to you.”***



Solomon said, “Lord, You have shown great kindness to me and my father. You have made me king over Your people, but I am like a child. I do not know what is best for these people. Please give me an understanding heart, so I can rule over Your people with justice.”

Solomon's request pleased God very much. God said, ***“You could have asked for power and riches, and I would have given them to you, but you have asked for wisdom to judge the people. Since you have asked for the sake of the people and not asked***



selfishly, I will also give you great riches and fame. If you will always walk in My ways, I will give you a long life.” Then Solomon awoke from his dream and went into Jerusalem to make sacrifices of thanksgiving.

One day two women came to Solomon seeking a judgment. One woman said, “This woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a baby son and three days later she gave birth to a son. During the night her son died, and she secretly put the dead child in my bed and took the living child into her bed! When I looked closely at the dead child, I knew that he was not mine, but this woman says the living child is hers.” The second woman said, “This living child is mine!” Solomon said to his servants, “Bring me a sword! Since they can not agree whose child

this is, we will cut the child in half and give one half to each woman.” The first woman cried, “No! Do not kill the child. Give him to her, but don't kill him!” The other woman said, “Yes! Divide the child between us!”

The wise king said, “Give the child to the first woman. It is her child!” When the people of Israel heard of this great judgment, they feared the king, because they saw the wisdom of God in his judgment.

Solomon ruled over the kingdom of Israel, and the land was in peace all the rest of the days of Solomon. God gave Solomon great wisdom, and people came from all nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon. He spoke three thousand proverbs and one thousand five songs. The book of Proverbs contains many wise sayings of King

Solomon. The books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon were also written by Solomon. Solomon please God with his unselfish request for wisdom, so God blessed him with great riches and fame. God wants us to be unselfish too.

STORY QUIZ

1. Which of David's sons thought he should be king?
2. Nathan, the prophet, told who to ask the king to keep his promise?
3. Which of his sons did David appoint to be king?
4. Who anointed King Solomon?
5. For how long did David rule as king?
6. Who killed Adonijah?
7. Who became the commander of Solomon's army?
8. What did Solomon ask God to give him?
9. What did God give Solomon?
10. How many proverbs did Solomon speak?

Memory Verse Level Fourteen

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7

Memory Goal Fourteen

Kings of Israel

Saul, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zachariah, Shallum, Menaham, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea.

ANSWERS: 1. Adonijah 2. Bathsheba 3. Solomon
 4. Zadok and Nathan 5. 40 years 6. Benaiiah 7. Benaiiah
 8. An understanding heart. 9. Riches, fame, and wisdom
 10. 3000

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

I Kings 5-8 & II Chronicles 3-7

Hiram, King of Tyre, heard that Solomon was now king over Israel, so he sent some of his officials to visit Solomon. Solomon sent a message to Hiram telling him of the plans to build a temple or house of worship for the Lord God in Jerusalem. Solomon asked Hiram to furnish cedar wood from Lebanon for the building. Hiram told Solomon that he would provide the cedar in exchange for the workmen's wages.

Solomon took a counting of the foreigners living in Israel, and he put them to work building the Temple. He made seventy thousand men carry loads of wood and stone. He sent thirty thousand men to Lebanon to help cut the wood. He made eighty thousand men work as miners in the mountains, cutting stone from the hills. Then Solomon appointed three thousand three hundred overseers over the workers. The men began their work during the fourth year of Solomon's reign.

The Temple was built on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. (This is the same mountain



Abraham went to when he offered Isaac to God.) The Temple work began four hundred eighty years after the children of Israel came out of Egypt.

The Temple was a most beautiful place, with much gold, jewels, and art work. The main building, which held the two holy rooms, was one hundred eight feet long, thirty-six feet wide, and fifty-four feet tall. In addition to the main building, there was an enclosed area for offering sacrifices, many outbuildings for storage, and living areas for the priests. The Temple building was completely covered with gold, and two huge cherubim of gold were made for the Holy of Holies. Solomon had his men build a huge altar for sacrificing and ten wash basins for cleaning the sacrifices. The Brazen Laver was placed outside the main Temple for

the washing of the priests. They built ten golden lampstands like the one which had been in the Tabernacle, an altar of incense, and tables of showbread for the Holy Place.

It took the workmen seven years to complete the building of the Temple. Huge stones were cut from the mountains, shaped, and taken to Mount Moriah. These stones were overlaid with cedar wood, then the whole thing was covered with gold. All wood and stone for the Temple was cut and shaped before it was brought to Mount Moriah. No noise of cutting, sawing, or hammering was heard at the place where the Temple was built.

When all was completed, Solomon called together all the elders and leaders of Israel. The Levites brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to the Temple and placed it inside the Holy of Holies, and God's cloud filled the room. Solomon and the Israelites offered many, many sacrifices in worship that day. Solomon stood before the people and prayed to God, dedicating the Temple to Him. In his prayer Solomon said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or in earth. You have always kept Your covenant faithfully and

have shown loving kindness to Your people." Solomon thanked God for all the wonderful things He had done for the Israelites, and he asked God to be with them and bless them. Solomon blessed the people saying, "May the Lord God of Israel be with us and bless us as He did our fathers." He begged the people to remain faithful to God and serve Him only. Solomon said, "Let your heart be wholly devoted to God, walk in His ways and keep His commandments."



When his prayer was finished, fire came down out of heaven and burned up the sacrifices! When the people saw this they fell down and worshiped God saying, "Truly God is good and His loving kindness is everlasting."

Level 14B

So the Temple was finished and dedicated after seven long years of hard work.



God's Presence entered the Temple, as He had entered the Tabernacle. God had promised David that his son would build a permanent dwelling place or Temple. God always keeps His promises.

After the temple was built, Solomon had the workmen build his palace in Jerusalem. It took the workmen 13 years to build Solomon's marvelous palace.

STORY QUIZ

1. What did Solomon want to buy from Hiram, king of Tyre?
2. When was work on the Temple started?
3. Where was the Temple built?
4. Where in Jerusalem was the Temple built?
5. What materials were used in the building of the Temple?
6. What was the model of the Temple?
7. How long did it take Solomon's workers to build the Temple?
8. What could not be heard at the site of the Temple?
9. Who prayed and dedicated the Temple to God?
10. What happened to the sacrifices Solomon offered at the Temple dedication?

Memory Verse Level Fourteen

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7

Memory Goal Fourteen

Kings of Israel

Saul, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zachariah, Shallum, Menaham, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea.

- ANSWERS: 1. Cedars 2. Solomon's fourth year 3. Jerusalem 4. Mount Moriah 5. Stone, Cedar, and Gold 6. Tabernacle 7. Seven years 8. Noise of work 9. Solomon 10. Fire from heaven burned them.

THE GREAT KING SOLOMON

I Kings 10-11

During the days of King Solomon, the nation of Israel became very powerful and rich. Solomon was famous throughout all the world because of his wealth and his wisdom. The Queen of Sheba, a powerful nation south of Israel, heard of Solomon and



came to visit him, bringing gifts of spices, gold, and jewels. She asked him many difficult questions to test him, and Solomon answered every question with great wisdom. The queen saw Solomon's beautiful palace and all his riches, and she said, "When they told me of your wisdom and riches I did not believe it could be possible. I have now seen with my own eyes, and everything they told me is true. Your wisdom and riches are even greater than they have said! Blessed be the God of Israel who has made you king." Solomon accepted the gifts from the queen of Sheba, and he gave her everything she asked for.

Solomon continued to get richer and richer. He received over 25 tons of gold bullion every year, plus much gold and riches from taxes, visitors, etc. He had a spectacular throne made of ivory and overlaid with gold. Six steps led up to the throne, with six lion statues on each side of the steps. Every dish and vessel in Solomon's house was made of pure gold (silver was not even valuable at that time). Solomon ships came from India every three years, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. He brought chariots and horses from Egypt, and he built mighty forts at

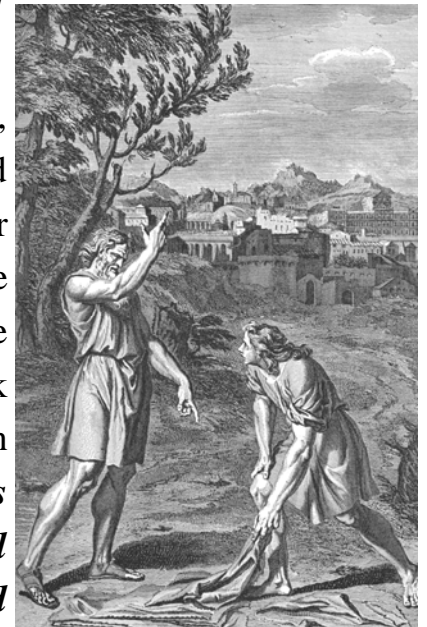
Millo, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. God kept His promise to Solomon, for Solomon was truly a most wise, rich, and famous man.

But King Solomon displeased God when he married many foreign women. Remember God had told the Israelites not to marry foreigners, because they would be led away from God into idol worship. Solomon married the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt, but he also married many other women. In all he had seven hundred wives and



three hundred concubines (slave girls who lived in his palace, but did not have the same rights as wives). God spoke to Solomon saying, ***“You have not obeyed My commandments. You have married foreign women and have turned to worshiping idols. I promised your father, David, that I would not take the Kingdom from you, but I will take it from your son! Because of My promise to David, I will not take all of the kingdom, but I will take ten tribes and give them to one of your servants, and he will rule over them.”***

God brought enemies against Solomon to punish him, and God selected Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, to lead the rebellion against Solomon. Jeroboam was a brave soldier in Solomon's army, and Solomon put him in charge of all the slaves. One day when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, he met the prophet Ahijah in a field. Ahijah took off his cloak and tore it into twelve pieces. He said to Jeroboam, ***“I will take away ten tribes from Solomon and give them to Jeroboam. Two tribes will remain with Solomon’s family because I promised David***



that his family would rule forever.”

Solomon heard that Ahijah had appointed Jeroboam to be a ruler over ten tribes, and he tried to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam escaped into Egypt and lived there until King Solomon died.

King Solomon, son of David, ruled over Israel for forty years. These were good, peaceful years for Israel. The kingdom was strong and very rich. Solomon was given wisdom greater than that of any man, and he was very famous. But Solomon allowed his



foreign wives to lead him away from God. Some of the wise teachings of Solomon are written in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. When he was an old man, near death, Solomon realized his great sin, and he said, “This is the answer to all things in life: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” King Solomon died, and his son, Rehoboam, became king over Israel.

God promised David that his descendants would rule forever. God kept that promise! Jesus is our King. His kingdom is the church. Jesus is a direct descendant of King David!

STORY QUIZ

1. What things about Solomon were known throughout the world?
2. Who came from the south country to see Solomon?
3. What did Solomon do that displeased God very much?
4. How many women were part of Solomon's harem?
5. What sin did Solomon's wives lead him to commit?
6. What did God promise to take from Solomon?
7. Why did God not take the entire kingdom?
8. How long would the family of David rule over God's people?
9. To whom did God give 10 tribes of Israel?
10. How long did Solomon reign as king?

Memory Verse Level Fourteen

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7

Memory Goal Fourteen

Kings of Israel

Saul, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zachariah, Shallum, Menaham, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea.

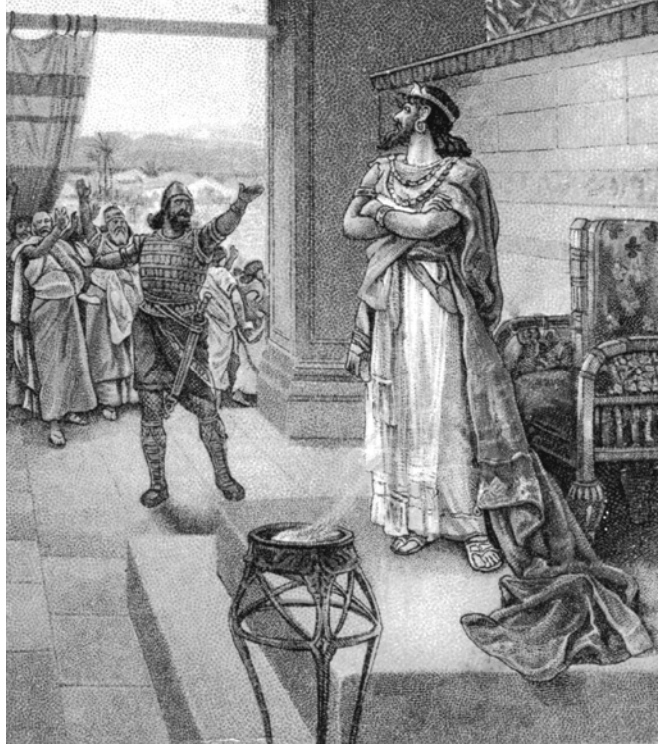
ANSWERS: 1. His riches and wisdom. 2. The queen of Sheba 3. Married foreign women 4. One thousand 5. Idol worship 6. Ten tribes 7. Because of His promise to David. 8. Forever 9. Jeroboam 10. Forty

REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM

I Kings 12-14 & II Chronicles 10-12

Solomon, the third king of Israel, sinned against God, so God promised to take ten tribes of the kingdom from him and *give* them to Jeroboam, a man of Ephraim.

Rehoboam, son of Solomon, went to Shechem and all the people of Israel came to make him the king. A messenger told Jeroboam, who was living in Egypt, that Solomon was dead, so Jeroboam returned to Israel. He and some other men went to *see* King Rehoboam and said, “Your father was a hard man. He made us work hard for him. Now we are asking you to be kind to us and make our work easier. If you will do this, we will serve you.” Rehoboam told them to return in three days, and he would give them an answer.



Rehoboam spoke to his older advisers, and they told him to listen to the people and be kind so they would serve him. Rehoboam asked advice from the young men in his court, and they said, “Tell the people this: 'You think my father was hard on you and made you work hard! You think I should make your work easier. I am stronger than my father, and I will not make your work easy. I will make it much harder than Solomon did!’”

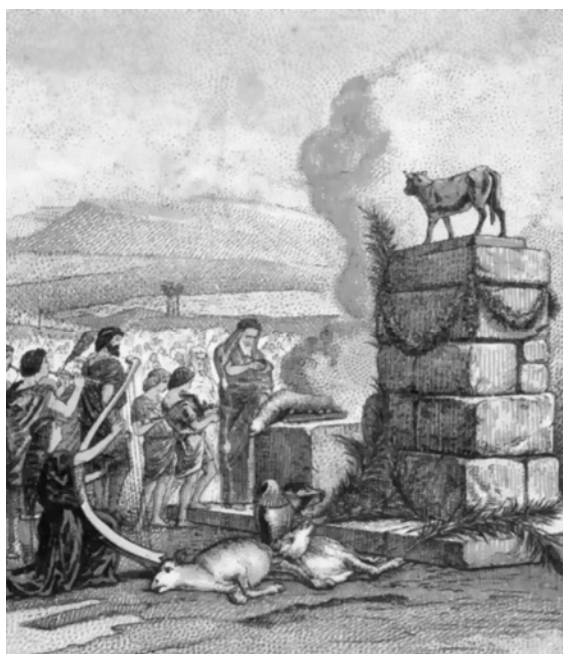
Rehoboam listened to the advice of the young men and did not follow the good advice of the elders. It was God's will that Rehoboam do this, because God intended to take the ten tribes from Rehoboam. When Jeroboam and the other men came back to see the king, Rehoboam was very harsh, and he promised to make their lives harder than ever before. When the people saw that the king would not listen to them, they returned to their own lands and appointed Jeroboam to be their king.

Ten tribes of Israel followed Jeroboam, and they became the nation of Israel. Jeroboam was of the tribe of Ephraim. This tribe considered themselves to be of greater importance than the other tribes (except possibly Judah) because they were descendants of Joseph. Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained with Rehoboam, and they became the nation of Judah. It was God's will that the nation of Israel be divided, because of Solomon's sins. God allowed David's descendants to keep part of the kingdom because of his promise to David.



Rehoboam gathered an army of one hundred eighty thousand men of Judah to fight against Jeroboam and the men of Israel. God sent a prophet to tell Rehoboam not to go to war against the Israelites. Rehoboam and his men listened to the prophet, and they did not go to battle against their kinsmen.

Jeroboam was king of Israel, and he thought, "If the people go into Jerusalem to worship, they will turn back to Rehoboam, and I will lose my kingdom." So Jeroboam made two golden calves, and he set one in Bethel and the other in Dan. He called the people together and said, "It is too far for you to travel to Jerusalem to worship. Look!



These are your gods which have brought you out of the land of Egypt." Jeroboam appointed men (not Levites) to be priests, and he led the people of Israel into sin against God by worshiping idols.

God was angry because of the idols and sent a prophet from Judah to Bethel to talk to Jeroboam. The prophet found Jeroboam burning incense to the gold calf. He said, "Jeroboam, God sent me to say to you, You have sinned! Now God will raise up a king in Judah by the name Josiah, and he will destroy your altars of idol worship and

Level 14D

kill your priests!” (We will be studying about King Josiah in a future lesson.) The prophet said, “This is a sign to you that God has sent me: This altar will split apart, and the ashes will spill on the ground.”

When Jeroboam heard the prophet speak, he was very angry. He reached out to take hold of the prophet, but God caused his hand to become stiff so he could not move



it. Then the altar split apart and ashes spilled out. Jeroboam asked the prophet to pray asking God to heal his stiff arm. The prophet prayed, and Jeroboam was healed. Jeroboam wanted the prophet to go home with him and eat, but the prophet refused saying, “I will not eat or drink in this land. God told me not to eat or drink here. He told me to return home by a road different from the one I came on.” Then the prophet left Bethel to go home to Judah.

An old prophet lived in Bethel, and his sons told him about the prophet from Judah and all the things that happened at the altar. The old man went out and found the young prophet as he sat under a tree resting. The old man asked the young prophet to come to his house to eat before going on the journey. The young man said, “No! The Lord told me not to eat or drink in this land.” The old man said, “I am a prophet, too. An angel spoke to me and told me to invite you to eat at my house.” (But the old man was lying!)

The young prophet believed the old man and went home with him. As they were eating, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet and he said, “You have disobeyed the commandment of the Lord and have come to eat in this place. Now you will die!” After they ate, the young prophet left Bethel to return to Judah. A lion attacked him on the road and killed him, but it did not eat his body nor did it harm the donkey. Some men saw the body with the lion and donkey standing by it, and they reported it to the old prophet in Bethel. The old man said, “He died because he disobeyed the commandments of the Lord.” The old man buried the young prophet in his own grave in Bethel and instructed his sons to bury him in the grave with the young prophet. He said, “All the



things this young man said will happen, and the idols will fall!”

Jeroboam did not turn from his evil ways, and he continued to lead the people away from God. Jeroboam's son became very sick, and he sent his wife to Shiloh to see Ahijah, the prophet. Jeroboam's wife disguised herself and went to Judah. Ahijah was old and blind, but God told him the woman was coming to see him. When he heard the woman coming, Ahijah said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam.

Why are you pretending to be someone else? I have a message from God for Jeroboam, and it is not good!” Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife that God was angry because Jeroboam had led the people to serve idols. He said, “God will kill all the sons of Jeroboam's family, and his kingdom will be destroyed. Go home, and give the message to Jeroboam. When you enter your house, your son will die!” The woman went home, and as she entered the house her son died.

Jeroboam ruled over ten tribes of Israel for twenty-two years, but he sinned against God. Rehoboam ruled over Judah for seventeen years, and Judah also did evil by serving idols. God sent the king of Egypt against Judah to punish them, and the Egyptians carried away all the treasures of Jerusalem. A struggle for power went on between Jeroboam and Rehoboam all the days of their lives. Rehoboam died in Jerusalem at fifty-nine years of age and his son, Ahijah, became king over Judah.



God gave Jeroboam a wonderful gift. He gave him a nation to rule over, but Jeroboam did not appreciate what God did for him. God has given us many wonder gifts, too. When we sin against God, He will punish us just as surely as He punished the people of Israel.

STORY QUIZ

1. What son of Solomon became king of Judah?
2. What man led the Israelites in seeking lighter burdens from King Rehoboam?
3. Which of his advisers did Rehoboam listen to?
4. How many tribes followed Jeroboam?
5. Which two tribes remained with Rehoboam?
6. What was the northern nation called?
7. What was the southern nation called?
8. In what two cities did Jeroboam set up golden calves?
9. Who did God send to warn Jeroboam against idol worship?
10. What happened to the young prophet when he disobeyed God?

Memory Verse Level Fourteen

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7

Memory Goal Fourteen Kings of Israel

Saul, David, Solomon, Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zachariah, Shallum, Menaham, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea

ANSWERS: 1. Rehoboam 2. Jeroboam 3. Younger 4. Ten
5. Benjamin and Judah 6. Israel 7. Judah 8. Dan and Bethel
9. A young prophet of Judah 10. A lion killed him.