

Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

Session 12: The Last Judge of Israel

Remember Acts 17:11

Outline of the Historical Books (Pre-Exile):

Joshua: The Conquest of the Land
Judges: The Generation After Joshua
Ruth: A Story of Love & Grace
I Samuel: The Rise of the Monarchy
II Samuel: The Reign of David
I Kings:
II Kings:
I Chronicles:
II Chronicles:

Recap From Judges & Ruth:

- Israel was a Theocratic Confederation of 12 Tribes
 - o God Was Their King
- The People Acted in Their Own Wisdom
 - o Cyclical Depravity & Rebellion Against God
 - o God Judged Them through Neighboring Kingdoms
 - o The People Cried Out for a Deliverer
- Prophetic Regents (Judges) Were Called to Provide Unity, Justice, & Deliverance
- With Each Passing Generation the Depravity Grows
 - o The People Behave as their Neighbors
 - o The Judges Become Corrupt
 - o God Loses His Exclusivity in Israel's Eyes
 - o Human Life Becomes Valueless
- Ruth
 - o Prophetic Insight of Israel, the Church, & Christ
 - o The Guidance of God Overcoming Legalism
 - o Grace Fulfilling the Law's Condemnation
 - o The Role of the Goel Explained
 - o The Origins of the House of David

The Book of I Samuel:

- Originally a Single Work with II Samuel (115 Years)
 - o Divided Due to Size During the LXX Translation
- Written by Samuel, Nathan, & Gad (1 Chr. 29:29)
 - o Completed During Solomon's Reign (Circa 950)
- Biography/History Written Through a Sacred Lens

The Book of I Samuel (Cont.):

- 3 Sections
 - The Twilight of the Judges (Ch. 1-8)
 - The Story of Hannah
 - Samuel’s Dedication & Youth
 - Call & Purification of Israel’s Worship
 - Career as Judge
 - Israel’s Demand for a King
 - The Early Career of King Saul (Ch. 9-14)
 - Election & Anointing as King
 - Early Devotion & Successes
 - Descent into Pride & Arrogance
 - The Downfall of King Saul (Ch. 15-31)
 - Saul’s Judgement & David’s Anointing
 - David’s Military Service Under Saul
 - Saul’s Jealousy & David’s Fugitive Years
 - Samuel’s Death & the Witch of Endor
 - The Death of Saul & His Sons

The Song of Hannah (1-2):

- Unable to Have Children
- Tormented by Peninnah (Elkanah’s Other Wife)
- Went to Shiloh to Present Offerings to God
- Cried Out to God in Prayer & Dedication
- God Grants Her a Son
- Samuel: “His Name is El”/ “Heard of God”
Ref. I Sam. 1:20
- Dedicates Him to God’s Service as a Life-Long Nazarite
- Praises God in Poetry/Themes of the Books (2:1-10)
 - The God of Israel is God Alone (2:2)
 - God Humbles the Proud (2:3-4)
 - God is Merciful to the Humble (2:4-8)
 - God Rewards the Faithful & Judges the Sinful (2:9)
 - God Will Provide a King Under Himself (2:10)

The Family of Eli the Priest (2:12-35):

- Presided Worship at the Tabernacle in Shiloh
- Sons Were Guilty of Promiscuity & Extorting Worshippers
- Eli Confronted His Sons with No Consequences
- Eli Confronted by a Prophet
 - Family was Cursed to Die Young

Samuel:

- Last Judge of Israel
- Founds & Leads the First School of the Prophets
- Leads Israel Against the Philistines
- Rededicated Israel to God
- Anointed Both King Saul & David

Philistines:

- Attributed to the “Sea Peoples” of Ancient Egypt
- Likely Origin: Crete
- Settled in Southern Canaan Coastal Regions
- Oppressed Israel for 40 Years
- Captured the Ark of the Covenant
 - o (Judged with Plagues)
- Defeated by Samuel
- Returned & Fought King Saul (Subdued by David)

The Career of Samuel:

- Became Judge and Priest of Israel After the Death of Eli & His Sons
- Embraced Faithfulness to God
- Called Israel to Repentance at Mizpah
- Won Military Victories Against the Philistines
- Judged Israel from Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, & Ramah*
- Appointed His Sons as Judges in Beersheba
 - o Earned Reputation for Corruption
 - o The Elders of Israel Demanded a King

Self-Determination Vs. God-Led:

- Decided in a Political Setting Without Prayer
- Rationale (Cf. 8:20)
 - o Like All the Other Nations
 - o To Fight Our Battles for Us
 - o Who Have They Rejected? (Cf. 8:7)
- Kingship in Israel Predetermined by God
 - o Promised to Abraham: Gen. 17:6, 16
 - o Prophesied by Israel: Gen. 35:11
 - o Law for Kings Established: Deut. 17:14-20
- Continuing Theme: “Whatever is Right in Their Own Eyes...”
- Samuel Prophecies a Warning (I Sam. 8:11-21)

Saul:

- “A King After the Heart of Man.”
 - o Benjamite from Gibeah (Ref. Judges 19-21)
 - o Establishes Royal Capitol There
 - o Physically Imposing & (Later) Charismatic
 - o Grows to Be Self-Assured, Impatient, & Unrepentant
- Promising Beginning
 - o Trusts Samuel as an Advisor
 - o Begins Reign Faithful to the Law of God
 - o Personality: Modest, Direct, Generous
- Sin at Gilgal
 - o Preparation to Strike the Philistine Army
 - o Ordered to Wait Until Samuel Arrived to Perform a Sacrifice for Israel
 - o Violated the Priesthood (Office)
 - o Offered a Sacrifice Himself
 - o Judged to Lose Position & Family
- Decline
 - o Becomes Proud & Self-Reliant
 - o Irreverent Presumption (Acts as Priest)
 - o Willful Impatience
 - o Disobedient in Sparing the Amalekites
 - o Trusts in His Own Brilliance Over God’s Will
 - o Judged & Tormented (Paranoid/Insane)
 - o The Witch of Endor (Ref. Ch. 28)
 - o Saul & Jonathan Die in Battle (Ch. 31)

David:

- “A King After God’s Own Heart.”
 - o Tribe of Judah (Bethlehem. Cf. Ruth)
 - o Least Son of Jesse
 - o Lowly, Humble, Self-Sacrificing, & Faithful
 - o Accepted God’s Judgements
 - o Obedient & Loyal (Even in Persecution)
 - o Repentant when Confronted with Sin
 - o Author & Compiler of Many of the Psalms
- In Relation to Saul
 - o Evidenced His Faith & Courage Early in Life
 - o Anointed King During Saul’s Reign
 - o Did Not Seek to Overthrow Saul (Reconcile)
 - o General of Saul’s Men of War
 - o Devoted Friend of Jonathan (Prince Under Saul)
 - o Married Michael (Daughter of Saul)

Goliath:

- Chosen as Philistine Champion
 - o Professional Soldier
 - o Approx. 9 Ft. Tall
 - o From a Family of 5 (II Sam. 21:18-21)
 - o Descendent from the Zamzummim (Deut. 2:20-21) Linked to the Anakim & Nephilim
 - o Challenges Israel to Single Combat
 - o Verbally Abuses the Kingdom & God
- David is Only Israelite to Accept Challenge
 - o Picks Up 5 Stones
 - o Defeats Goliath & is Rewarded

II Samuel Outline:

- The Rise of David as King (Ch. 1-5)
- Early Triumphs (Ch. 6-10)
- Sin, Judgement, & Decline (Ch. 11-24)

Ascension:

- Declared King of Judah in Hebron (7 Years)
- Civil War with Ish-Bosheth Son of Saul
 - o Early Divisions Between North & South
 - o Ish-Bosheth Assassinated at Home (2 Yr. Reign)
 - o David Proclaimed King
- Moved Capital to Jerusalem (33 Year Reign Over Israel)
 - o Conquered from the Jebusites
 - o Defeated the Fortress of Zion

Davidic Covenant (Ch. 7):

- Unconditional Covenant
 - Blessings for Obedience, Correction for Disobedience
 - Divine Confirmation of the Rule of Israel
 - Promise of a Perpetual Dynasty
 - Promised Ancestry of the Messiah
- Cf. Psalms 89:29; 35-37; Acts 2:30

David's Triumphs:

- Early Strategic & Tactical Achievements
 - o Subdues the Philistines (West)
 - o Defeats the Syrians (North)
 - o Drives out the Ammonites and Moabites (East)
 - o Defeats the Edomites & Amalekites (South)
- Organizes the Priesthood into 24 Courses (I Chron. 24)

