REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

The United Monarchy

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-2

Themes of each book

- 1 Samuel: The rise and fall of Saul, Israel's first king.
- 2 Samuel: The reign of King David, the Lord’s chosen king.

Themes

- Flipping expectations: Saul (who is tall and handsome) is the one who seems like the best king at first glance, but it is actually David, who is the youngest son and is forgotten by his family.

Characters

- Hannah: The mother of Samuel. She was barren and prayed to the Lord to ask for a child. The Lord responded by opening her womb to bear Samuel as a son.
- Eli: He heard Hannah’s prayers and trained her son to be a prophet. His own sons were wicked, so he treated Samuel as a son.
- **Samuel**: The last judge of Israel. He is the son of Hannah and he appointed Saul and David to be kings.
- **Saul**: The first king of Israel. He was handsome and tall (the obvious choice to be king.) He disobeyed the Lord often.
- **Jonathan**: A military hero and the son of Saul. He was David’s best friend.
- **David**: The second king of Israel. He is the father of Solomon. He was a shepherd, musician, and armor-bearer before becoming king.
- **Solomon**: The third king of Israel. Son of David. He is revered for his wisdom.
- **Bathsheba**: Originally the wife of Uriah, she was forced to become the wife of David after she became pregnant with his child.
- **Uriah**: A soldier in David’s army, husband of Uriah, David had him killed to cover up the affair he had with Bathsheba.
- **Nathan**: The prophet who ministered to David when he was king.

**Summaries**

**Transition from judges to a monarchy**

- Before the book of 1 Samuel, Israel was a loose group of tribes in the book of Judges.
- **Hannah** was a barren woman who asked the Lord to open her womb so that she may have a child. The Lord gave her a child that she named Samuel. She dedicated Samuel to the Lord and Eli, a high priest, took him in and trained him to be a prophet.
- **Samuel** was the very last judge in Israel.
- 1 Samuel 3: Samuel recognized the voice of the Lord, hinting at his future role as a prophet.
- 1 Samuel 5: The Ark of the Covenant caused the Philistine god Dagon to fall on its face, proving that the Lord is more powerful than Dagon.
- 1 Samuel 8: The people of Israel demanded a king because they wanted to be like the rest of the people groups around them. This contradicted their covenant with the Lord because they agreed to be a different and holy people. Through Samuel, the Lord spoke that a king would be bad for the country and take things from the people instead of give.

**Reign of Saul (1020-1000 BCE)**

- 1 Samuel 14-15: Saul disobeys the Lord and acts foolishly.
- 1 Samuel 16: David is anointed to be the new king – a king that the Lord has chosen, not the people of Israel.
- 1 Samuel 17: David kills an enemy giant named Goliath.
- Over the course of Saul’s reign, David had the favor of the Lord and gained the favor of the Israelite people.
- Saul began to see David as a threat instead of a friend and began trying to kill him.
- Saul died in battle and David took over as Israel’s king.

**Reign of David (100-961 BCE)**
- 1 Samuel 16: The Lord sends Samuel to anoint David as king, even while Saul is still king. David is the youngest of his siblings and is even forgotten by his family when Samuel visits to pick a king.
- 2 Samuel 2: David officially becomes king of Israel after Saul and his son Jonathan’s deaths.
- 2 Samuel 7: David wanted to build a temple for the Lord to live in, but the Lord said no. Instead, the Lord told him that his son would build a temple instead. The Lord told David that his descendants would always reign over Israel, hinting at the Messiah who would later come.
- 2 Samuel 8: The Lord permitted David to be a great warrior king and gave him victory everywhere he went.
- 2 Samuel 15-18: David’s son Absolom attempted to take his father’s crown. He was killed in battle by the soldier Joab.

David’s Great Sin: Incident with Bathsheba

- 2 Samuel 11:
  o David shows a lack of responsibility by not going out to fight with his army.
  o David went on his roof and watched Bathsheba bathe in her house. He wanted to sleep with her, so he used his position as a king to force himself upon her.
  o Bathsheba became pregnant because of this incident, so David invited her husband, Uriah, away from battle to spend the night with his wife and sleep with her to cover it up. Uriah refused to go home while his fellow soldiers fought and slept at David’s palace.
  o The next day, David got Uriah drunk, hoping that he would once again go home and sleep with his wife. He slept at the palace again.
  o As a last-ditch effort, David sent Uriah back to battle with a letter that he would give to his commander. This letter said that Uriah needed to be moved to the front of the battle lines so that he will be killed.
  o Uriah was killed and, after, Bathsheba gave birth to David’s son.
- 2 Samuel 12:
  o Nathan confronted David and told him a story of a wealthy man in his kingdom who had stolen a lamb from a poor man to feed to his guests. David said the rich man should be killed, but Nathan revealed that David did the very same thing the man in the story did.
  o Nathan told David that the sword would never depart from his family.
  o The child who was born as a result of the affair died.
  o The Lord provided Solomon to be the heir of David’s throne.

Characteristics of David’s Reign

- Uniting the kingdom of Israel
- Establishing Jerusalem as the kingdom’s capital
- Defeating competing armies
- Establishing a ruling cabinet
- Beginning worship in Jerusalem
Establishing a future line that will lead to the Messiah

Transition from David to Solomon

- 1 Kings 1-2
  - David had Solomon anointed to be king, but his younger son Adonijah wanted to take the throne himself.
  - David died and Solomon executed Adonijah.

Reign of Solomon (061-922 BCE)

- Marked by:
  - Military expansion
  - Building the Jerusalem temple
  - Economic expert
  - Government expansion
  - Wisdom & wisdom literature (books of Proverbs & Ecclesiastes)
  - Wealth
  - Multiple wives who led him and the rest of Israel into idol worship.

Test your knowledge!

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

1) Why did the Israelites want a king?
   a. They wanted a strong figure to be the face of their country so that they could scare away enemy attacks.
   b. Their economy wasn’t regulated well enough, and they needed someone to ensure that their finances were being handled.
   c. They thought it was what God wanted.
   d. They wanted to be like the rest of the people groups around them, who all had kings.

2) In what ways are Saul and David different?
   a. Saul is scrawny and weak while David is strong and brave.
   b. God’s presence left David, but it never left Saul.
   c. Saul was the firstborn son while David was a forgotten youngest son.
   d. The Lord liked Saul more than He liked David.

3) Why did Uriah never find out that David slept with his wife, Bathsheba?
   a. David had Uriah killed.
   b. Uriah returned home to sleep with his wife, so he thought the child was his.
c. David told Uriah while he was drunk so he didn’t think anything of it.
d. Uriah was killed before he was ever able to return to Jerusalem.

4) Which of David’s sons rebelled against him, wanting to take his place as king?
   a. Absalom
   b. Solomon
   c. Adonijah
   d. Nathan (not Nathan the prophet)

5) Overall, how is King Saul portrayed in the Bible?
   a. A horrible failure from beginning to end
   b. An overall great king with a few bad moments
   c. He was initially a good king, but eventually through his disobedience, he led Israel into a dark place.

6) Overall, how is King David portrayed in the Bible?
   a. A horrible failure from beginning to end
   b. An overall great king with a few bad moments
   c. He was initially a good king, but eventually through his disobedience, he led Israel into a dark place.

7) What led to King Solomon’s decline?
   a. His marriage to multiple wives who led him and Israel into idol worship
   b. Becoming too obsessed with wisdom
   c. His declining military strength
   d. Making too many financial promises to other countries

Answers: 1) d. 2) c. 3) a. Explanation: David invited Uriah back to Jerusalem and later sent him back to battle with his death order. 4) a. 5) c. 6) b. 7) a.