

## 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](http://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



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#### 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 Absalom 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
  - o **David** had **Solomon** anointed to be king, but his younger son Adonijah wanted to take the throne himself.
  - o **David** died and **Solomon** executed Adonijah.

### Reign of **Solomon** (061-922 BCE)

- Marked by:
  - o Military expansion
  - o Building the Jerusalem temple
  - o Economic expert
  - o Government expansion
  - o Wisdom & wisdom literature (books of Proverbs & Ecclesiastes)
  - o Wealth
  - o 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.