

Lesson #12

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read 1 Samuel 1, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

BACKGROUND of 1 and 2 Samuel (originally they were 1 book)

Author - Date: Events were recorded by Samuel and other Levite **historians** c. 1125 to 970 BC, some 155 years.
Events just of 1 Samuel were recorded c. 1125-1010 BC, over some 115 years.
Levite **scribes** compiled the book from the historical records c. 960 BC in the days of Solomon.

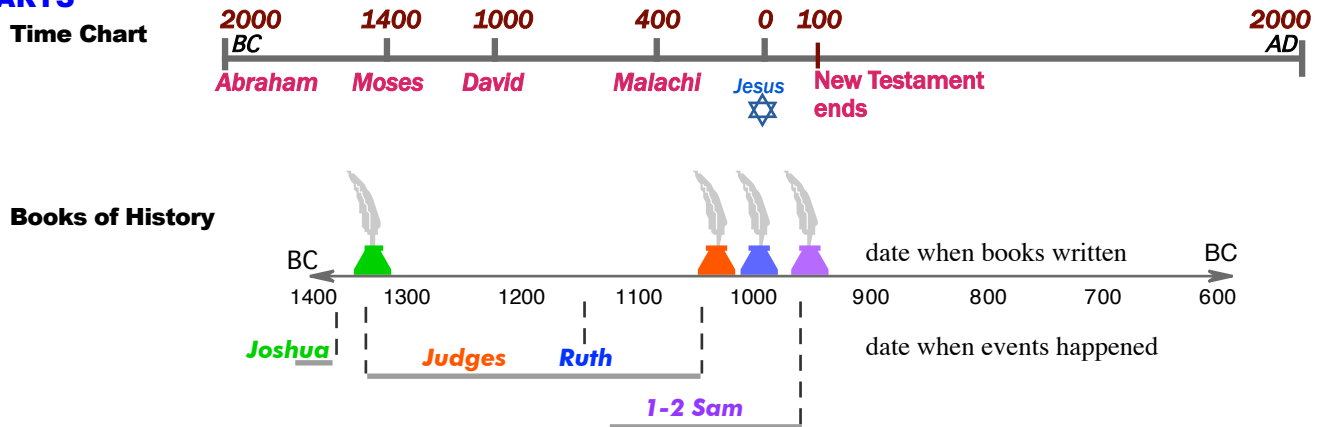
Theme - Purpose: To show the history of Israel from the last years of the judges to the leadership of the kings.

Main Persons: Eli, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan and David

OUTLINE

- I. Samuel, the last judge 1 – 8 (local leadership)
- II. Saul, the first king 9 - 15 (national leadership)
- III. David, before he became king 16 - 31

CHARTS



EXPLANATIONS

The Tabernacle became known as the house of the Lord or the Lord's temple.

It was placed in Shiloh, 25 miles NW of the Dead Sea, when the Jews settled in the land.

It had been changed by the time of Eli (he was judge and high priest c. 1120-1080 BC)

It was now a fixed building with a door.

Rooms had been attached for the priests and Levites who served there.

The courtyard has been enlarged so the Levites could eat meals with their families.

People

Samuel is judge, prophet and seminary leader

He develops the ministry of prophets and begins a seminary to train them 1 Sam. 19:20

Their responsibilities: To represent God to the people; explain God's laws; explain how to apply them.

The requirements: Called by God, spiritually gifted, had to be trained.

They needed to know God's laws and how to apply them first in their own life.

They could be either men or women.

Saul had assets: tall and handsome; had charisma; had God-given humility; was spiritually prepared by God.

had failures: he became unworthy to be king because he:

- lacked trust in God; did not depend on God chpt. 13
- spoke without thinking; endangered the life of others chpt. 14
- disobeyed God's command; was blind to his disobedience chpt. 15

David, when facing Goliath

Took 5 stones because Goliath had 4 brothers who were also giants 2 Sam. 21:22

Each stone was the size of a baseball; when leaving the sling it was traveling over 100 mph.



EXPLANATIONS (continued)

Problems

1 Samuel 15 The Amalekites: who they were and why all of them had to be killed

They were descendants of Esau's grandson.

Over the centuries, they became a nation.

Agag was the king's royal title; it was not his name.

They tried to kill the women/children when the Jews came out of Egypt.

God spared the Amalekites so they could learn about Him and believe.

After 300 years of opportunity, they had made their choices.

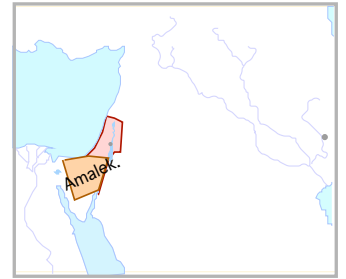
They had become more ruthless, cruel and immoral.

They forced older children into incest and child prostitution.

Their children had sexually transmitted diseases and genetic damage.

When a nation or people become destructive to the extreme, God has to intervene and destroy them.

But first He will give them a vast amount of time and opportunity to change.



16:14 The Holy Spirit departed

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was **over** people for ministry or special responsibility.

He would give them the spiritual wisdom and power they needed.

If they disobeyed, the Holy Spirit left them; He was taken from them.

Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enters our life when we accept the payment of Jesus.

He lives **within** us forever; He will never leave us; we will never lose Him. (John 14:16)

When we obey, the Spirit is inside of us and *active*.

When we disobey, the Holy Spirit is inside of us and *inactive* until we admit our wrong.

16:14 An evil spirit from the Lord Because the Holy Spirit left Saul, he had no protection against the influence of an evil spirit. God allowed it as the consequence of his disobedience, to show him how much he needed God. But instead of responding and turning to God, Saul turned further away.

APPLICATIONS: This book has many lessons for us

It is foolish not to be satisfied with God and with God's direction. Do I really think I could do better?

Obedience is better than sacrifice. God cannot accept worship that comes from a disobedient life.

Our worship has no meaning or value to God until first there is obedience.

When Saul was trying to kill David, David had to live in hiding for 2 years. He experienced fear, depression and doubt.

David had obeyed so where was God and why was He letting this happen? Was God still in control?

Did God still love him? Where were God's blessings?

The more he had questions, the more David turned to God.

This is when he experienced God's presence and comfort as never before.

As believers, we will have problems, fears, doubts, uncertainties and failures. Will they drive us **from** God or **to** God?

If we go to Him, then even in the midst of continued problems, we will find God's presence and comfort as never before.

