

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 1

Introduction

We being a new series of Sunday School lessons that will takes us on a tour through some of the Bible's greatest heroes, vilest scoundrels, and most memorable stories. We will journey ruler by ruler and event by event through the books of I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles.

- I. An Overview of Israel's History Before the Kings
 - 1920 B.C. - Abraham was called by God in Genesis 12:1-4
 - 1700 B.C. - Jacob and his family move into Egypt - Genesis 47:27-28
 - 1490 B.C. - Moses leads the Jewish people out of Egypt -
 - 1450 B.C. - Joshua leads the nation into the Promised Land - Joshua 3:14-17
 - 1350-1020 B.C. - The twelve tribes are a loose federation - Judges, Ruth
 - 1100 B.C. - Saul is crowned the first king of Israel - I Samuel 10:1,24

- II. An Overview of the Kingdom Period
 - 1100-980 B.C. - The United Kingdom, as all all twelve tribes are together
 - 980-586 B.C. - The Divided Kingdom, with the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah
 - 722 B.C. - The Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria
 - 586 B.C. - The Southern Kingdom falls to Babylon and the Temple is destroyed
 - Around 44 different kings ruled (depending on if you count some usurpers)

- III. Our Method of Study
 - A. We will attempt to cover every event and ruler covered in the in the books of I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles.
 - B. We will attempt to cover these chronologically, beginning with the ministry of Samuel and ending with the exile in Babylon
 1. We will attempt to follow a similar structure as that of the Life of Christ series we went through during 2013-2014 (yes, its been that long ago!)
 - C. When possible we will highlight important customs/practices or archaeological finds.

- IV. A Few Introductory Comments
 - A. I am deciding to begin with the ministry of Samuel instead of the reign of Saul. Samuel is very important as he anoints the first two kings of Israel and is a transitional figure from the roles of the Judges to the Prophets.
 - B. We've got six books and around 600 years of history to cover. This may take a while, but I think it will be worth it.
 - C. Next week, we will look briefly at the society of Israel at the end of the Judges period and how it led to the establishment of the kingdom. Then we get to baby Samuel!