

Lesson 3 | September 20, 2020

Dynasty of Kings Established



Study Text: 1 Samuel 8:4–22; 9:1 through 10:25; 16:1–13; 1 Chronicles 17:1–15; 2 Chronicles 1:1–6; 6:1–11; 9:1–8

Central Truth: The dynasty of the kings of Israel prefigured the eternal kingship of Jesus Christ.

Key Verse: Genesis 49:10

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be (KJV).

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his (NIV).

Learning Objectives

- Understand why the Israelites wanted a king, and what kind of leader God expected.
- Reflect on how we may seek godly remedies to our own spiritual deficiencies.
- Trust the Holy Spirit to help us become more like Christ.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: In lesson one, we briefly viewed God's magnificent creation of this life and the fall of man. Last week's lesson concluded with the speech from Joshua that called the Israelites to serve God. Joshua said as for him and his house, they would serve the Lord. However, the conclusion to the Book of Joshua indicates that the Israelites served God only until the death of Joshua and the others who had experienced God's miracles in conquering the land; the people struggled to serve God over time. Perhaps the Israelites were more focused on trusting their leaders than on their personal and national trust in God as their true Leader.

Opening Activity—When No One Is Looking

Ask: *The Israelites seemed to be serving God out of incorrect motives—perhaps to please Joshua and their other leaders. **Many of our children serve God to please us or because they are told to serve Him. [Jhn 15:5 KJV] 5 I am the vine, ye [are] the***

branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. The US Government (President, Congress, and all others) cannot provide what we need. What motives, good or bad, lead people to do the right things today? Why is it important that behavior is not different depending upon whether or not others are watching? Why do motives matter, rather than just visible actions?

Say: It seems as though every time we turn on the news we are bombarded with evidence that our world has lost its moral compass. Ancient Israel, in the time of the judges, was similar in a number of ways. They sought to solve their problems through political means by demanding a king to be “like the nations.” Although we think we are beyond that way of thinking, what are some of the ways we seek to change our nation through a political solution? How should we as Christians approach the spiritual problems of our nation? Discuss briefly. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Did God ever intend for Israel to have a king? Those familiar with the Old Testament may immediately answer “no” based on 1 Samuel 8. However, up to this point in Scripture there had never been a prohibition against having a king. Although God knew his people would one day ask for a king to rule over them. (It is noteworthy that if the covenant is indeed a kind of suzerainty treaty, as discussed in Lesson 2, then **the people should have recognized God as their king.**)

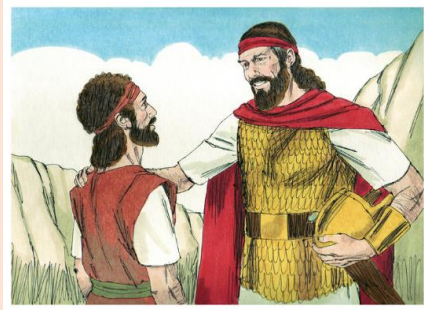
Part 1—Saul, the First King

The People Ask for a King

1 Samuel 8:4–9,19–22

[1Sa 8:4-9, 19-22 KJV] **4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. 6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. 7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. ... 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make**

them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.



Say: For years the Israelites suffered oppression from those around them, due to their own disobedience to God's Law. However, they thought the solution to their problems would be to have a king like other nations. In 1 Samuel 8, we learn that the root of the issue was that the people were rejecting God as their King. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Nevertheless, Deuteronomy 17:14–20 provided guidelines on how they were to choose a king. God's plan included a strong and capable leader similar to Moses, Joshua, and Samuel. But the underlying issue centered on the motive for their request: to lead them like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). Verse 8 underscores the fact that the Israelites had forsaken God from the beginning. The Book of Judges preceded the Books of Samuel, and it records a time after Joshua when there was no strong central leader and it seemed like their cycle of sin and oppression was spiraling out of control. Samuel came at the end of the judges, and it seems the people saw their problem as a political deficiency, not a spiritual deficiency. **They thought that if they had a king like the other nations, they could defeat the cycle of oppression.**

Israel's problem was a result of having forsaken their promise to follow the Lord and His covenant. They had forsaken God by participating in idolatry, and they had also forsaken Him as King, and Samuel as His appointed prophet. Samuel would ultimately anoint Saul (1 Samuel 9:17; 10:1), who would be the kind of king the people wanted. But David would be the ruler who sought God for direction.

Discuss

? Israel's problem was spiritual. They could not break the cycle of idolatry. What are some of the moral issues we face today in our society and in our churches in which we seek to find a political or other misguided answer?

? If the degradation of morality in our society is also a spiritual problem, what are some ways Christians can influence true change?

God Grants Israel's Request

1 Samuel 10:1,17–25

[1Sa 10:1, 17-25 KJV] 1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured [it] upon his head, and kissed him, and said, [Is it] not because the LORD hath anointed thee [to be] captain over his inheritance? ... 17 And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; 18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, [and] of them that

oppressed you: 19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, [Nay], but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands. 20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. 21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found. 22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff. 23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. 24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that [there is] none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. 25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote [it] in a book, and laid [it] up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.



Say: Did God grant the request because it was the right thing to do? God answered Israel's request and gave them what they wanted. The king He chose for them had the qualities they desired. The people were happy to see Saul's appointment. He looked like he would be a good king, and God had chosen him. However, Saul still had a choice as to how he conducted his life. He had to make decisions about how he would lead and whether or not he would obey God. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

In 1 Samuel 9 and 10, we see two different phases of Saul's selection as king. It has been humorously noted that the story in chapter 9 records how **"Saul went in search of his father's donkeys but found a kingdom."** Samuel had been foretold of Saul's arrival at Ramah, where Samuel anointed him as the future king and one who would deliver the people from the Philistines (verse 16).

However, 10:17 begins a later portion of the story, in which the choice of Saul was revealed by casting lots. First the tribe of Benjamin was chosen, then the choice was narrowed down to a particular clan, and ultimately down to Saul himself. A reluctant Saul was then found hiding from the acclaim awaiting him. The important point within this story is that it was God who chose Saul as leader.

Saul's physical stature as a notably tall man may have been the basis of Israel's exclamation, "Long live the king" (10:24, niv). [Saul seemed to fit the bill of someone who](#)

looked like “king material.” Later, David would be a contrast with regard to stature. Here, though, there is a sense of hopefulness that Saul would become a good king due to the fact that God had chosen him. However, Saul could not overcome his impulsive actions and lack of regard for the Word of God (e.g., 1 Samuel 13, 15). **He did not lead the people by seeking instruction from God. (I may look like I have it together in the Lord but I totally depend on the Lord for strength, success, and passion.)**

Resource Packet Item 1: King Saul: Before and After

Distribute the work sheet. To save time, assign each Scripture passage to a different small group, then have all of them report their answers. Discuss the application questions at the bottom of the sheet as a class.

Discuss

? ? **Appearances can be deceiving.** Saul appeared to be the perfect leader, based on his physical qualities and his ability to lead the military. In your experience, what are some reasons we might elevate Christian leaders other than the proper spiritual reasons? How can we better discern a true leader, anointed by God, regardless of talent, charisma, or appearance? **The opposite is also true. Branden has a boss**

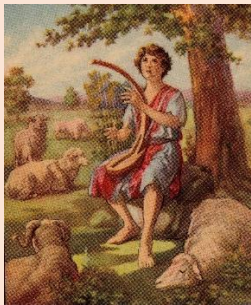
? The dilemma regarding Saul is that, on the one hand, God had chosen him. On the other hand, he refused to follow the direction of God through Samuel. What factors might have led to the undoing of a God-appointed leader like Saul? How can you guard yourself against the same types of temptations?

Part 2—David, the Shepherd King God Chooses the Unlikely

1 Samuel 16:1–13

[1Sa 16:1-13 KJV] 1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. 2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear [it], he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. 3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me [him] whom I name unto thee. 4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? 5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. 6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed [is] before him. 7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for [the LORD seeth] not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but

the LORD looketh on the heart. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. 11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all [thy] children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he [was] ruddy, [and] withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this [is] he. **13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.**



Say: Saul's choice to disobey God disappointed Samuel, but God had more for Samuel to do. **God let Israel have a king but we must never forget who is really in charge. Why did God choose a Benjamite when the eternal King was to come from Juda?** He was to anoint Israel's second king, from whom the Messiah would descend. Samuel anointed David some time before he came to the throne. This reminds us that **God's anointing is not subject to our understanding or expectations of timing.** (Add your highlights

from the following text.)

The decision by God to choose a different king was due to two separate actions of Saul. In

1 Samuel 13, **Saul impetuously offered a sacrifice after he was told to wait for Samuel for seven days.** In chapter 15, **Saul did not kill all the Amalekites, nor Agag, king of the Amalekites. He also allowed his soldiers to take livestock after God had instructed them to destroy everything.**

On both of these occasions, Samuel prophesied that God would take the kingdom from Saul and his heirs. In chapter 16, Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint the new dynasty of Israel from the descendants of Jesse. Initially, Samuel saw the first son, Eliab, and by his appearance thought that he was the Lord's anointed.

But in 1 Samuel 16:7, we clearly see that God was not concerned with what His anointed looked like; **God was concerned with the heart. Moses thought he could not speak, Gideon thought he was the opposite of a brave leader, and Saul of Tarsus thought he was a strict Pharisee.** The seven eldest of Jesse's sons appeared before Samuel, and God did not choose any of them. Ultimately, the least likely candidate, David, was chosen. He would have been deemed least likely because he was the youngest. (The Hebrew word here can also be

translated “smallest,” which might be a deliberate play on words to contrast David from Saul.)

Many translations describe David as “ruddy,” from the Hebrew word for “ground.” This word can also mean “red,” which has led some to suggest that he had red hair. Whatever the specifics, **Samuel anointed David with oil in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of God came upon him from that day forward.**

Discuss

? What characteristics make you think that a person might be a good leader? What characteristics should we look for in a good leader?

? Describe for the class a time when you were influenced by a man or woman of God who may have seemed unlikely to provide such influence based on talents or other limitations. (Use as general of terms as possible). **Bad Influence (Smoking behind the church). Good Influence (Singing during worship and a trip to Korea).**

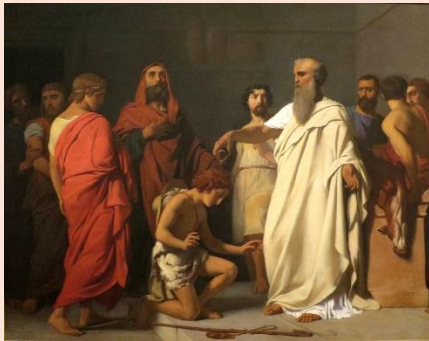
? Christ was a descendant of David (see Matthew 1:1–17). Lineage was extremely important in ancient times. Yet the Old Testament records a number of “unlikely” people taking on important roles within God’s plan. **Ruth, a Moabite, and Rahab, a Canaanite,** were both Gentile women. Yet **they are both a part of the lineage of Christ (see Ruth 4:18–22; Matthew 1:1–17).** Why might God have utilized these unlikely individuals in such a way? (Note, for example, that it speaks to the “all-the-world” nature of Christ’s sacrifice.)

God Blesses Those Who Follow Him

1 Chronicles 17:1–15

[1Ch 17:1-15 KJV] 1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD [remaineth] under curtains. 2 Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that [is] in thine heart; for God [is] with thee. 3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in: 5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from [one] tabernacle [to another]. 6 Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars? 7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, [even] from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel: 8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that [are] in the earth. 9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the

beginning, 10 And since the time that I commanded judges [to be] over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. **Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.** 11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go [to be] with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took [it] from [him] that was before thee: 14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. 15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.



Say: Throughout the New Testament, the people of Israel referred to Moses as the lawgiver and David as a great king. Yet **both of them failed to obey God at times.** As a result, Moses was prohibited from entering the Promised Land because he disobeyed God, and David was not allowed to build the temple. (Add your highlights from the following text.)

As the historical books of Scripture, there is much overlap between the Books of Samuel-Kings and Chronicles. **Yet it is important to note that Chronicles was written after the fall of Judah to Babylon in 586 BC.** The depiction of David in Chronicles focuses far more on the positives: It omits his sin with Bathsheba and the turmoil during the attempted coup of Absalom. David was flawed, but in the context of exile, Chronicles focuses on the traits that made him a man after God's own heart (see 1 Samuel 13:14). It is reiterated in 1 Chronicles 17:1–15 that **David was chosen when he was among the flocks because of what God saw in him, not what others saw in him. In this passage, David wanted to defer his own comfort until the temple had been built for God. God's response echoes the promise given to David in 2 Samuel 7. God promised to establish David's throne forever.**

In the time of Chronicles, the people of Judah in Babylonian exile were reeling, with many wondering if God had forsaken them and His promise. This promise would not be fulfilled until the time of Jesus. In the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew¹, the second section of fourteen generations are the kings of Judah after Solomon. Matthew emphasized the fact that the promise given to David had been fulfilled through Jesus' direct descent from David. **Jesus would be the ultimate fulfillment of 1 Chronicles 17:14: "His throne will be established forever"** (NIV).

Resource Packet Item 2: David, Ancestor of the Messiah

Distribute the work sheet. If you do not have time to look up the Scriptures and read them, you may want to summarize each point to help your students see the big picture connecting the Old Testament to the Messiah.

Discuss

? The Books of Chronicles do not focus on the negative events of David's life after his sin with Bathsheba. How can we discern the right time and place for discussing such issues in the Christian world? How can we become better at extending grace to fellow believers who commit sin?

? In David's lifetime, he experienced much success, yet he was able to maintain his gratitude toward God. How might we take David's example to remain humble in light of the successes that God brings about through us?

? **The promise made to Judah that their kingdom would endure forever seemed to be in jeopardy when they were taken into exile in Babylon. The people managed to maintain their faith in spite of this. What can we do to maintain our faith when tempted to feel that God's promises have failed in our lives?**

Part 3—Solomon, the Builder King

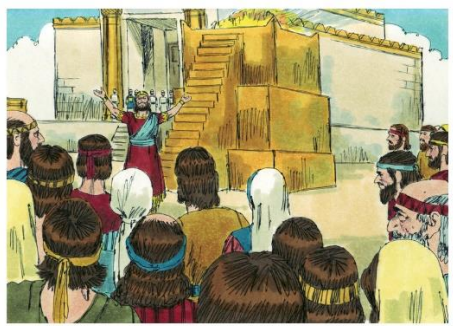
Solomon Builds a Place of Worship

2 Chronicles 1:1–6; 6:1–11

[2Ch 1:1-6 KJV] 1 And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God [was] with him, and magnified him exceedingly. 2 Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers. 3 So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that [was] at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. 4 But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to [the place which] David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. 5 Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it. 6 And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which [was] at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

[2Ch 6:1-11 KJV] 1 Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. 2 But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever. 3 And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole congregation of Israel: and all the congregation of Israel stood. 4 And he said, Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel, who hath with his hands fulfilled [that] which he spake with his mouth to my father David, saying, 5 Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: 6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that

my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel. 7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 8 But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart: 9 Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name. 10 The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 11 And in it have I put the ark, wherein [is] the covenant of the LORD, that he made with the children of Israel.



Say: God did not allow David to build the temple because David had been a man of war. The temple would instead be built by David's son Solomon, who reigned in peace (1 Chronicles 22:1–10). And although Solomon later disobeyed God, the temple he built was a long-standing symbol of God's presence among His people. **That temple was destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC.** Then it

was rebuilt in Ezra's time, enhanced under King Herod around the time of Jesus, and destroyed in ad 70 by the Romans. (Add your highlights from the following text.)

As stated above, the books of Chronicles were written after the fall of the kingdom of Judah and during their exile in Babylon (beginning approximately 586 BC). Although the books seem repetitive of the books of Samuel and Kings, there are subtle differences and emphases. David was not allowed to build the temple, but 1 Chronicles 28 notes that David did extensive planning for the temple that he would pass on to Solomon. Second Chronicles 1–8 recounts Solomon's building of the temple, emphasizing how Solomon began his reign well, asking for wisdom at the outset (2 Chronicles 1:1–6). He went to Gibeon, where the tabernacle stood, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on the brazen altar built during the time of Moses.

Second Chronicles 6:1–11 forms the beginning of a series of speeches by Solomon to dedicate the completed temple. The temple was filled with the glory of the Lord (see 5:13–14; see also Exodus 40:34–35 at the completion of the tabernacle). This reflected God's promise to dwell with His people, as He made His presence visible in their midst. The summary of God's activity from the Exodus, His promise to David, and the building of the temple underscore the foundational statement of 6:10: **"The Lord has kept the promise He made"** (NIV).

Discuss

? Why do you think David wanted to build a proper house for the Lord?

? Solomon followed covenant stipulations regarding sacrifices to impress upon Israel that he would follow the covenant. What are some concrete ways we can demonstrate our commitment to Christ?

? God was present in His tabernacle and His temple. Temple language is used in the New Testament to describe how the Holy Spirit dwells in the believer (1 Corinthians 6:19). What are some ways that you experience the presence of God, and how does His presence impact the way you live?

The Queen of Sheba Sees God's Love for Israel

2 Chronicles 9:1–8

[2Ch 9:1-8 KJV] 1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. 2 And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not. 3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, 4 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. 5 And she said to the king, [It was] a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom: 6 Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen [it]: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: [for] thou exceedest the fame that I heard. 7 Happy [are] thy men, and happy [are] these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom. 8 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, [to be] king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.



Say: People around us can see the hand of God in our lives in many ways. **In 2 Chronicles 9:1–8, the Queen of Sheba recognized God's blessings on Solomon both because of his wealth and his obedience to God in offering sacrifices. Likewise, people today should be able to see God in our lives, through our actions and attitudes, as well as our obedience to Him. (Add your highlights from the following text.)**

“Sheba” may refer either to the kingdom of Ethiopia or the southern Arabian kingdom of Saba near present-day Yemen, renowned for its frankincense and myrrh.

Frankincense and myrrh rivaled the value of gold and

silver in the ancient world. Regardless of her precise location of origin, the queen came to visit Solomon because she had been told great stories regarding his wealth and wisdom, and she was overwhelmed by both. **A key principle to glean from this story, then, is that a witness outside of God’s people attested to the fact that God should be praised for delighting in Solomon, and because “he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness”** (2 Chronicles 9:8, NIV).

Discuss

? **The Queen of Sheba was impressed by what God had done through Solomon. What are some things nonbelievers would recognize as God’s hand in our lives?**

? We can become distracted in our commitment to God by our culture’s emphasis on immediate gratification and selfishness. In small groups, find New Testament principles that help us recognize temptations and be a testimony to our world.

Resource Packet Item 3: A Testimony to Our World

Distribute the work sheet for the class to discuss in small groups. Encourage students to do the personal reflection portion of the sheet during the week.

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: We often seek leaders based on oratory, physical, and political gifts. Yet God was concerned with David’s heart. God wants us to evaluate leaders based on their hearts. We can be examples to our world by being Christlike amid the temptations of modern culture.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Pray that the Lord will keep you faithful as you become more like Christ.
- Pray that the Lord will help you overcome the temptations in the culture around you.
- Pray that the Lord will give you opportunities to share the joy and the freedom of a life devoted to Christ.
- Pray that the Lord will help you focus on those you encounter on a daily basis, to share the love and grace of Christ with them.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

The King Comes Through Judah.

Genesis 49:1,8–12

[Gen 49:1, 8-12 KJV] 1 And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you [that] which shall befall you in the last days. ... 8 Judah, thou [art he] whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand [shall be] in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah [is] a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped

down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be]. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12 His eyes [shall be] red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Tuesday:

The Eternal Kingdom Promised.

Daniel 7:9–14

[Dan 7:9-14 KJV] 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld [even] till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed.

Wednesday:

Jesus' Triumphal Entry Foretold.

Zechariah 9:9–10

[Zec 9:9-10 KJV] 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. 10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion [shall be] from sea [even] to sea, and from the river [even] to the ends of the earth.

Thursday:

Zechariah's Prophecy Fulfilled.

Mark 11:1–10

[Mar 11:1-10 KJV] 1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples, 2 And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring [him]. 3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither. 4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by

the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. 5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt? 6 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. 8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed [them] in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 Blessed [be] the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Friday:

Three Languages Declare Jesus' Kingship.
John 19:17–22

[Jhn 19:17-22 KJV] 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called [the place] of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put [it] on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, [and] Greek, [and] Latin. 21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

Saturday:

The Return of the King.
Revelation 1:4–8

[Rev 1:4-8 KJV] 4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.