

A Brief Introduction to 1 & 2 Samuel

1. Title: The two books of Samuel were originally one in the Hebrew text, but were divided when they were translated into Greek. This arrangement has been continued in some form in most translations of the Bible until today.
2. Author: The books of Samuel do not identify a specific author, but Jewish tradition states that Samuel was the author with the prophets Gad and Nathan completing the books following Samuel's death (1 Samuel 25:1). Although the book does not specifically name an author, biblical texts do indicate that Samuel wrote a book (1 Samuel 10:25) and that Samuel Nathan and Gad chronicled the acts of David (1 Chron 29:29).
3. Date: Because of references that presuppose the division of the divided kingdom (1 Samuel 27:6) it is likely the books of Samuel were completed early in the divided kingdom sometime after 930 b.c..
4. Theme: Samuel records for us the transition from a theocracy under the judges to the monarchy under the kings. In 1st Samuel three figures are prominent, Samuel the last judge (chs. 1-7), Saul the first king (chs. 8-31), and David the first king to sit upon an everlasting throne (chs. 16-31). In 2nd Samuel we see the triumphs of David (chs 1-10), the transgressions of David (ch. 11), and the troubles of David (chs 12-24). In both books the key theme seems to be the consequences of obedience (blessings from God) and disobedience (troubles and judgment from God).

In introducing the kingship, 1 Samuel also introduces Israel's greatest king, David, who is chosen by God to replace Saul. Though by no means perfect, David proves to be a man after God's "own heart" (13:14), and 2 Samuel 7:4-17 records the institution of the Davidic Covenant, in which God promises David that the throne of his kingdom will be established forever, a promise fulfilled in the eternal reign of David's descendant Jesus.

David is one of the primary Old Testament types of the person of Christ. He was born in Bethlehem, works as a shepherd, and rules as king of Israel. He becomes the forerunner of the messianic King; the New Testament specifically calls Christ the "seed of David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3) and "the Root and the Offspring of David" (Rev. 22:16).

Samuel also highlights the consequences of sin. First Samuel 15 records the tragic transition of kingship from Saul to David. As in all three leadership changes recorded in 1 Samuel, God removes His blessing from one and gives it to another because of sin. "Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king" (15:23).¹

¹*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments.* electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.

A Brief Introduction to 1 & 2 Kings

1. Title: Like the books of Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings was originally one book. The division was first made in the Greek translation (LXX) and has continued in almost every translation since.
2. Author: The author is not named in the text. However Jewish tradition attributes Kings to the prophet Jeremiah. He was contemporary to Josiah and the remaining kings down to the fall of Jerusalem. However since Jeremiah was taken to Egypt after the fall of Jerusalem (Jer 43:6-7) and because of the grammar style (chaldean) and final accounts of Jehoiachin in Babylon some scholars believe it was completed by an unnamed prophet while in Babylon.
3. Date: Written sometime after the date of the last recorded event in Kings (2 Kings 25:27-30) dated about 561 b.c.. But, since there is no mention of Cyrus and his liberating edict of 539 b.c. it was probably completed prior to this date.
4. Themes: 1st and 2nd Kings provide for us a spiritual history of the monarchy's of Israel and Judah until their fall because of continued sin among the leaders and people of the nations.

Samuel

Samuel's story begins late in the turbulent time of the judges when Eli is the judge-priest of Israel. The birth of Samuel and his early call by God are found in chapters 1–3. Because of his responsiveness to God (3:19), he was confirmed as a prophet at a time when the “word of the Lord was rare” (3:1).

Corruption at the Shiloh tabernacle site by Eli's notoriously wicked sons led to Israel's defeat in the crucial battle with the Philistines (4:1–11). The sacred ark of the covenant was lost to the enemy; the priesthood was disrupted by the deaths of Eli and his sons; and the glory of God departed from the tabernacle (4:21). Samuel began to function as the last of the judges and the first in the order of the prophets (Acts 3:24). His prophetic ministry (7:3–17) led to a revival in Israel, the return of the ark, and the defeat of the Philistines.

When Samuel was old and his sons had proved to be unjust judges, the people requested a king “like all the nations” (8:5). Samuel warned the people of the dangers of a monarchy but he followed God's command and anointed Saul as king (10:1). When God rejected Saul because of his disobedience, God commissioned Samuel to anoint David as Israel's next king (16:1–13).

After this, the elderly Samuel returned to his home in Ramah where he died during the latter portion of Saul's reign (25:1).

Samuel is a type of Christ in that he was a prophet, priest, and judge. Highly revered by the people, he was the instrument used by God to usher in a new period in the history of Israel.

2

Saul

The story of Saul, one of the saddest in the Old Testament, is one of good beginnings but concludes in abject failure. Anointed by the prophet Samuel as God's response to Israel's request for a king (10:1), Saul enjoyed initial success in his military efforts (11:1–11) but a victory over the Philistines was darkened by his presuming to offer a sacrifice to God in Samuel's absence (13:8–14). For this transgression, Samuel warned Saul that his kingdom would not continue. Saul's failure to destroy all of Amalek (15:9), in direct disobedience of God's command, resulted in God sending Samuel to anoint the shepherd boy David as Saul's successor (16:1–13).

Rejected by God, tormented by evil spirits, and frightened by the success of David, Saul slowly descended into madness as he repeatedly sought to kill David. Saul's military situation worsened, and in desperation Saul even sought to consult the spirit of Samuel through a medium (28:7–25). The next day Saul went out to do battle with the Philistines and, having been severely wounded, took his own life (31:1–6).

3

The Expansion of David's Kingdom

Second Samuel records the expansion of David's kingdom from the territory of Judah, to all of Israel, and finally to the areas of Edom, Moab, Ammon, and Zobah and Syria as well.

The period of David's kingship over Judah was a time of conflict with Saul's son Ishbosheth and his general Abner (chs. 3–4). With the deaths of Ishbosheth and Abner, however, Israel acknowledged David as king (5:1–5), and David sought to establish a centrally located capital. David then captured the Jebusite stronghold on Mt. Zion and renamed it the City of David (5:6–10), thus beginning the long association of the Jewish people and the worship of God with the city of Jerusalem.

Following the capture of Jerusalem, David won crucial victories over Philistia (8:1; 21:15–22), Moab (8:2), Zobah and Syria (8:3–8), Ammon (10:6–14), and Syria (10:15–19).

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⁴*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments.* electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.

Jerusalem Under Solomon

The city of Jerusalem underwent considerable expansion during the reign of Solomon. According to 1 Kings 3:1, Solomon finished building “the wall all around Jerusalem.” Archaeological evidence indicates that Solomon increased the size of the city from eleven to thirty-two acres; its total population increased several times over as well. Some of the population increase was due to Solomon’s family alone. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines (11:3). The number of Solomon’s children is not given but must have been very large as well.

5

The Prophet Elijah

Elijah the prophet was from Tishbe in Gilead, but the precise location of this town is uncertain. There is no mention of his birth and parentage and his family background may even have been non-Israelite. Elijah’s name, which means “Yahweh is my God,” may be regarded as the motto of his life. His prophetic objective was to awaken Israel to the conviction that Yahweh alone is God. Elijah is pictured as a lonely figure “wearing a leather belt around his waist” (2 Kin. 1:8). Elijah lived during the period of Ahab’s reign, when the pagan worship of Baal was formally introduced into Israel (16:32).

Elijah’s first act was to announce to Ahab that the true God was about to send a dreaded famine upon the country because of Ahab’s religious sins (17:1). Baal, the Canaanite god of storm and fertility, was directly challenged by this prediction of drought.

When Elijah’s career was over, he neither died nor was buried. While conversing with his successor, the prophet Elisha, Elijah was suddenly taken up in a chariot of fire and whirlwind into heaven (2 Kin. 2:1–12). Elijah is mentioned in Malachi 4:5 as the harbinger of the “day of the LORD” and as the herald of the Messiah, and this prophecy was fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist (Matt. 11:7–14; Luke 1:17).

6

Elijah and Elisha

Elijah’s victory on Mt. Carmel ended with the slaying of 450 prophets of Baal (18:20–40). His ministry spanned Canaan from the brook Cherith near his birthplace (17:1–7) to Zarephath where he performed the miracle that sustained the widow and her son, and as far south as Mt. Horeb in the Sinai Peninsula. In Samaria Elijah denounced King Ahab’s injustice against Naboth of Jezreel (21:17–29). Near Jericho Elijah separated the waters of the Jordan River to cross over and subsequently was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kin. 2:1–12).

⁵*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments*. electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.

⁶*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments*. electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.

Elisha healed Naaman of leprosy in the Jordan River (2 Kin. 5:1–19) and led the blinded Syrians to their defeat at Samaria (2 Kin. 6:8–23). In Damascus, Elisha prophesied the death of King Ben-Hadad of Syria and the succession of Hazael as king of Syria.

7

The Prophet Elisha

Coming from an apparently wealthy family, Elisha was anointed by Elijah as his successor and served as his assistant (1 Kin. 19:19–21). Elisha's own lengthy ministry began when Elijah was taken to heaven by a fiery chariot and a whirlwind (2 Kin. 2:11). Realizing his own need of divine assistance, Elisha requested a double portion of Elijah's prophetic spirit (2:9).

Like his predecessor Elijah, Elisha was intimately involved in the political affairs of Israel. In addition to calling the kings of Israel to repentance, Elisha was involved in the anointing of kings, and he often prophesied regarding military matters. Elisha was able to repeatedly reveal enemy plans to the king of Israel (6:12). The king of Israel even termed Elisha "the chariots of Israel and their horsemen" (13:14), a recognition of Elisha's great importance in Israel's success.

Elisha was known as a great worker of miracles and for helping those in need. Whether in causing a lost ax head to float (6:1–7), in feeding the hungry (4:42–44), in healing the Syrian general Naaman of leprosy (5:1–19), or in raising the son of the Shunammite woman from the dead (4:8–37), Elisha showed himself to be a compassionate friend of the people.

While Elijah was known for his ministry of forceful prophetic denunciations and is a type of John the Baptist (Matt. 11:14; 17:10–12; Luke 1:17), Elisha's ministry reminds us of Christ. Elijah generally lived apart from the people and stressed law, judgment, and repentance. Elisha lived among the people and emphasized grace, life, and hope.

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A Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Samuel

1st Samuel

- I. 1:1-7:17 Samuel: The Last Judge
 1:1-3:21 Samuel and Eli
 4:1-7:14 War with the Philistines
- II. 8:1-15:35 Samuel and Saul
 8:1-12:25 Saul becomes King
 13:1-15:35 The Reign of King Saul
- III. 16:1-31:13 Saul and David
 16:1-20:42 Transition From Saul to David
 21:1-30:31 David in Exile
 31:1-13 The Death of Saul and His Sons

2nd Samuel

- I. 1:1-10:19 The Triumphs of David
 1:1-5:25 Political Triumphs of David
 6:1-7:29 Spiritual Triumphs of David
 8:1-10:19 Military Triumphs of David
- II. 11:1-27 The Transgressions of David
 11:1-5 The Sin of Adultery
 11:6-27 The Sin of Murder
- III. 12:1-24:25 The Troubles of David
 12:1-13:39 Troubles in David's House
 14:1-24:25 Troubles in David's Kingdom

A Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

1 & 2 Kings

- I. 1 Kings 1:1-11:43 The United Kingdom
 1 Kings 1:1-2:46 The Death of David & Solomon Becomes King
 1 Kings 3:1-11:43 The Reign of Solomon
- II. 1 Kings 12:1- 2 Kings 17:41 The Divided Kingdom
 1 Kings 12:1-14:31 The Division of The Kingdom
 1 Kings 15:1-16:28 Kings of Judah & Israel
 1 Kings 16:29-2 Kings 2:11 Ahab & Elijah
 2 Kings 2:12-13:21 Elisha & Kings
 2 Kings 13:22-17:41 Kings of Israel & Judah until Captivity of Israel
- III. 2 Kings 18:1- 25:30 The Surviving Kingdom of Judah
 2 Kings 18:1- 25:30 Kings of Judah until Babylonian Captivity

Class Schedule For Samuel & Kings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Oct 1	1	Introduction	Introduction of Samuel and Kings
Oct 8	2	<u>1 Samuel</u> Chaps. 1-3	Samuel & Eli
Oct 15	3	Chapters 4-7	Samuel the Judge
Oct 22	4	Chapters 8-12	Saul becomes King
Oct 29	5	Chapters 13-15	The Reign of King Saul
Nov 5	6	Chapters 16-20	From Saul to David
Nov 12	7	Chapters 21-27	David in Exile
Nov 19	8	Chapters 28-31	The Final Days of Saul
Nov 26	9	<u>2 Samuel</u> Chaps. 1-4	Triumphs of David
Dec 3	10	Chapters 5-7	Triumphs of David
Dec 10	11	Chapters 8-11	Triumphs and Fall of David
Dec 17	12	Chapters 12-14	Troubles in David's House
Dec 24	13	Chapters 15-18	Troubles in David's Kingdom
Dec 31	14	Chapters 19-24	Troubles in David's Kingdom
Jan 7	15	<u>1 Kings</u> Chaps. 1-4	Solomon Becomes King
Jan 14	16	Chapters 5-8	The Reign of Solomon
Jan 21	17	Chapters 9-11	The Reign of Solomon
Jan 28	18	Chapters 12-16	The Kingdom Divides
Feb 4	19	Chapters 17-19	Ahab & Elijah
Feb 11	20	Chapters 20-22	The End of Ahab's Reign
Feb 18	21	<u>2 Kings</u> Chap 1-2	Elijah to Elisha
Feb 25	22	Chapters 3-5	Elisha
Mar 3	23	Chapters 6-8	Elisha
Mar 10	24	Chapters 9-13	Various Kings of Israel & Judah
Mar 17	25	Chapters 14-17	Various Kings of Israel & Judah
Mar 24	26	Chapters 18-21	Hezekiah & Manasseh
Mar 31	27	Chapters 22-25	Josiah can't stop the fall

The Divided Kingdom

Southern Kingdom (931–586 B.C.)				Northern Kingdom (931–722 B.C.)			
King	Date	Biblical References	Prophets	King	Date	Biblical References	Prophets
(1) Rehoboam Son of Solomon 17 years	931–913 B.C.	1 Kin. 14:21–31; 2 Chr. 9:31–12:16	Shemaiah—2 Chr. 11:2–4; 12:5–7, 15 Iddo the Seer—2 Chr. 12:15	(1) Jeroboam I Son of Nebat 22 years	931–910 B.C.	1 Kin. 11:26–40; 12:1–14:20; 2 Chr. 10:1–11:4; 11:13–16; 13:2–20	Ahijah the Shilonite—1 Kin. 11:29–39; 14:1–18 Man of God from Judah—1 Kin. 13:1–32; 2 Kin. 23:15–18 Old Prophet at Bethel—1 Kin. 13:11–32; 2 Kin. 23:18 Iddo the Seer—2 Chr. 9:29
(2) Abijam (Abijah) Son of Rhoboam 3 years	913–911 B.C.	1 Kin. 15:1–8; 2 Chr. 13:1–14:1	Iddo the Seer—2 Chr. 13:22	(2) Nedab Son of Jeroboam 2 years	910–909 B.C.	1 Kin. 15:25–31	
(3) Asa Son of Abijam 41 years	911–870 B.C.	1 Kin. 15:9–24; 2 Chr. 14:1–16:14	Azariah, the son of Oded—2 Chr. 15:1, 8 (see note in center column) Hanani—2 Chr. 16:7–10	(3) Baasha Son of Ahijah 24 years	909–886 B.C.	1 Kin. 15:16–22, 27–29, 32–34; 16:1–7	Jehu, the son of Hanani—1 Kin. 16:1–7
				(4) Elah Son of Baasha 2 years	886–885 B.C.	1 Kin. 16:8–14	
				(5) Zimri Chariot Commander under Elah—7 days	885 B.C.	1 Kin. 16:9–12, 15–20	
				(6) Omri Army Commander under Elah 12 years	885–874 B.C.	1 Kin. 16:16–18, 21–28	
(4) Jehoshaphat	870(873)–848 B.C.	1 Kin. 22:41–50;	Jehu, the son of Hanani—2	(7) Ahab	874–853 B.C.	1 Kin. 16:29–22:40;	Elijah—1 Kin. 17–21; 2 Kin. 1; 2

Son of Asa 25 years		2 Chr. 17:1-21:1	Chr. 19:2, 3 Jahaziel—2 Chr. 20:14-17 Eliezer—2 Chr. 20:37	Son of Omri 22 years		2 Chr. 18:1-34	Elisha (servant of Elijah)—1 Kin. 19:19-21 Micaiah the son of Imlah—1 Kin. 22:8-28; 2 Chr. 18:7-27
(5) Jehoram (Joram) Son of Jehoshaphat 8 years	848(853)–841 B.C.	2 Kin. 8:16–24; 2 Chr. 21:1-20	Obadiah Elijah—2 Chr. 21:12–15	(8) Ahaziah Son of Ahab 2 years	853–852 B.C.	1 Kin. 22:51-2 Kin. 1:18; 2 Chr. 20:35–37	Unnamed Prophets—1 Kin. 18:4, 13; 20:28, 35-43 Elijah's Translation—2 Kin. 2:1–18 Elisha
(6) Ahaziah (Jehoahaz) Son of Jehoram 1 year	841 B.C.	2 Kin. 8:25–9:29; 2 Chr. 22:1-9		(9) Joram (Jehoram) Son of Ahab 12 years	852–841 B.C.	2 Kin. 3:1-9:26	Elisha
Queen Athaliah Daughter of Ahab; mother of Ahaziah 6 years	841–835 B.C.	2 Kin. 11:1-20; 2 Chr. 22:10–23:21		(10) Jehu Son (or grandson) of Nimshi; an army officer under Ahab 28 years	841–814 B.C.	2 Kin. 9:1–10:36	Elisha
(7) Joash (Jehoash) 40 years	835–796 B.C.	2 Kin. 11:21-12:21; 2 Chr. 24:1–27	Joel	(11) Jehoahaz Son of Jehu 17 years	814–798 B.C.	2 Kin. 13:1-9	Elisha
(8) Amaziah Son of Joash 29 years	796–767 B.C.	2 Kin. 14:1–20; 2 Chr. 25:1-28	Unnamed Prophets—2 Chr. 25:7–9, 15, 16	(12) Jehoash (Joash) Son of Jehoahaz 16 years	798-782 B.C.	2 Kin. 13:10–13, 25; 14:8-16; 2 Chr. 25:17–24	Death of Elisha
(9) Uzziah (Azariah) Son of Amaziah 52 years	767(792)–740 B.C.	2 Kin. 15:1-7; 2 Chr. 26:1–23	Isaiah —called the year that Uzziah died Zechariah—2 Chr. 26:5	(13) Jeroboam II Son of Jehoash 41 years	782(793)-753 B.C.	2 Kin. 14:23–29	Jonah Amos Hosea
				(14) Zechariah	753–752 B.C.	2 Kin. 15:8-12	Hosea

3 months		Jer. 22:1-12		
(17) Jehoiakim	609-598 B.C.	2 Kin. 23:34-24:7;	Jeremiah	NOTES: * Names in parentheses denote alternate names of the same king ** Dates in parentheses denote coregencies, a period of rule in which the son occupied the throne with his father. *** Prophets whose names appear in boldface letters are canonical prophets.
(Eliakim)		2 Chr. 36:4-8;	Habakkuk	
Son of Josiah		Jer. 22:13-23; 26; 36	Daniel	
11 years			Urijah the son of Shemaiah Jer. 26:20	
(18) Jehoiachin	598-597 B.C.	2 Kin. 24:8-17;	Jeremiah	
(Coniah)		2 Chr. 36:9, 10;	Daniel	
Son of Jehoiakim		Jer. 22:24-30; 52:31-34		
3 months		2 Kin. 24:17-25:7;	Jeremiah	
(19) Zedekiah	597-586 B.C.	2 Chr. 36:11-21;	Daniel	
(Mattaniah)		Jer. 39:1-10; 52:1-11	Ezekiel	
Son of Josiah				
11 years				
586 B.C.—Fall of Jerusalem				
(Southern Kingdom Goes into Captivity—Babylon)				

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Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 1-3

1. Why was Hannah sorrowful?
2. What was Hannah's request?
3. What was her vow?
4. What lessons can we learn from Hannah when we suffer grief?
5. When did Hannah dedicate Samuel to the Lord?
6. How did Hannah feel about giving Samuel away?
7. Who took care of Samuel for the Lord?
8. What were Eli's sons like?
9. What was Samuel like?
10. If Eli raised his sons and Samuel why were they so different?
11. To whom did God send a prophet? Why?
12. What did God do with Samuel?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 4-7

1. Why were the Israelites defeated by the Philistines?
2. How did the Israelites try to defeat the Philistines?
3. What was the reaction of the Philistines to the Ark?
4. What happened to Eli and his sons Hophni and Phinehas?
5. Why did the Israelites lose the Ark? What might we lose in battle against the world?
6. Where did the Philistines bring the Ark first?
7. What happened there?
8. What happened when the Ark was taken to Gath?
9. How did the Ark return to Israelite land? With what did it return?
10. From what family were the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh?
11. What happened to the people of Beth Shemesh? Whom did they call to take the Ark?
12. Who defeated the Philistines? Why were they defeated?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 8-12

1. Why did the Israelites want a king?
2. Who were the Israelites rejecting?
3. What does God tell Samuel to do about the Israelites request for a king?
4. What did Samuel say a king would do to them?
5. What kind of family was Saul from? What kind of man was Saul?
6. Who chose Saul to be king?
7. How does Samuel meet Saul?
8. What does Samuel tell Saul? What does he do to Saul?
9. How did the people respond to Saul becoming their king?
10. How did Saul respond to the Ammonites threat against Jabesh Gilead?
11. What was the peoples' response to the victory? What was Saul's?
12. Why did Samuel pray for rain and thunder to come upon the Israelites?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 13-15

1. How long was Saul been reigning over Israel when he chose 3,000 men?
2. What did Saul do at Michmash and Gibeah?
3. What did Jonathan do to the Philistines?
4. What did Saul do then?
5. Why was Saul waiting in Gilgal?
6. What happened at Gilgal before?
7. What did Saul do when the Israelites were scattering from him?
8. What were the consequences of Saul's actions?
9. What did Jonathan and his armorbearer do to the Philistines?
10. What oath did Saul make? Who violated the oath?
11. How long did Saul war with the Philistines?
12. What did God tell Saul to do? What did Saul do? What were the consequences?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 16-20

1. What was Samuel doing before the Lord called him to anoint another king?
2. Why was Samuel afraid to go to Bethlehem?
3. What happened when David was anointed?
4. What's odd about how Saul's servant describes David to him?
5. How tall was Goliath? How much do you suppose he would weigh?
6. Why was Eliab angry at David?
7. Why is David so courageous when facing Goliath on the battlefield?
8. Why did Saul distrust David?
9. Why did Jonathon love David as his own soul?
10. Why was Saul trying to give one of his daughters as wife to David?
11. Who helped David escape from being killed by Saul?
12. What covenant did Jonathan and David make together?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 21-27

1. On what condition would Ahimelech give David the Showbread?
2. Why did the servants of Gath think David was king?
3. Who joined with David? Why?
4. Why did Saul destroy Ahitub's household?
5. How did David inquire of the Lord about the city of Keilah?
6. What happened between David and Jonathan in the wilderness of Ziph?
7. What happened between David and Saul in the wilderness of En Gedi?
8. How did David and his men treat Nabal's servants?
9. How did Nabal treat David's servants?
10. Was Abigail's response upon hearing of Nabal's actions appropriate?
11. What happened in David's second encounter with Saul?
12. Why did David go to the Philistines to dwell?

Worksheet Questions

1 Samuel Chapters 28-31

1. Why does Saul seek a medium?
2. What did Samuel tell Saul?
3. Who wants David to fight against the Israelites? Why?
4. Who insists that David not fight against the Israelites? Why?
5. What did David return to find at Ziklag?
6. What did David do when he found everyone had been taken captive?
7. What did David's men want to do to others who stayed behind?
8. What did David do after recovering all that the Amalekites had taken?
9. What happened to Saul's sons?
10. What happened to Saul?
11. What did the Philistines do with the bodies of Saul and his sons?
12. Who buried the bodies of Saul and his Sons?

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 1-4

1. Who bought a report of Saul's death to David?
2. Was the report accurate?
3. Why do you think this man brought this report and Saul's crown to David?
4. Why did David execute the young man?
5. What did David do after hearing of the death of Saul and Jonathan?
6. Where did David go? What happens there? How long does David live there?
7. Who reigns over Israel? What happens between Israel and Judah?
8. Who aids David in becoming king over all Israel?
9. What happens to Abner? Why? Was it just?
10. What is David's response to the killing of Abner?
11. What happens to Ishbosheth?
12. Who brings the news of Ishbosheth to David? What happens to them?

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 5-7

1. How did David begin reigning over Israel?
2. How old was David when He began to reign over all Israel?
3. Where did David reign over Judah from?
4. Where did David reign over all Israel from?
5. Where was the Ark of God?
6. What did David do about the Ark of God?
7. Why did Uzzah die? Did the Philistines handle the Ark properly?
8. Why did Michal confront David after he returned from sacrificing to the Lord?
9. What does David desire to do for the Ark of God?
10. Why does the Lord send Nathan the prophet to David?
11. How does David respond to the Lord's message? See Psalm 59 also.

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 8-11

1. What happened between the Israelites and the surrounding nations?
2. What did David setup in Syria and Damascus?
3. Why does David show kindness to Mephibosheth?
4. What does David do after the king of Ammon dies?
5. What is the Ammonites reaction to David's actions?
6. How does David respond to the Ammonites actions?
7. How does David happen to see Bathsheba? What does he do then?
8. Who is at fault, if anyone, for David seeing Bathsheba bathing?
9. What does David do after he knows Bathsheba is pregnant?
10. What does David do when Uriah refuses to go home to his wife?
11. How does David respond to the news of Uriah's death?
12. What did David do after Bathsheba mourned for Uriah?

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 12-14

1. Why does the Lord send Nathan to David?
2. Why does Nathan tell David a story of another rather than confront him?
3. What is David's response to Nathan's story? See Psalm 51 also.
4. What results from David's sin with Uriah's wife?
5. How does Amnon feel about his sister Tamar?
6. What does Amnon do to Tamar?
7. What is David's and Absalom's reaction to these events?
8. What does David do about what happened?
9. What does Absalom do about what happened to his sister?
10. Where does Absalom go? How long is he there?
11. How does Joab get David to bring back Absalom?
12. How does David finally see Absalom again?

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 15-18

1. Why does Absalom plot to take his father's kingdom?
2. How did the people of Israel respond to Absalom?
3. What does David do when Absalom begins to take control of the kingdom?
4. Who curses David as he flees from Jerusalem?
5. Why does David not attack Shimei?
6. What is the counsel of Ahithophel to Absalom?
7. What is the counsel of Hushai to Absalom?
8. Whose counsel does Absalom listen to? Why?
9. Who does David put in charge of his army to fight against Absalom?
10. What does David command his army to do with Absalom?
11. What happens to Absalom?
12. How does David respond to Absalom's death?

Worksheet Questions

2 Samuel Chapters 19-24

1. How does Joab respond to David's reaction to Absalom's death?
2. Who comes out to meet King David? What happens?
3. Who rebels from David being king?
4. What happens to Sheba and Amasa? Why?
5. Why is there a famine in the land?
6. What does David do about the famine?
7. What last enemy of David is defeated?
8. What psalm of David's is recorded for us here?
9. What is the main theme of this psalm?
10. Who are the three mighty men of Israel? Why?
11. Are there any names among the mighty men that are surprising?
12. Why did the LORD strike Israel with pestilence?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 1-4

1. When David was old what did his servants do for him?
2. Who began to rebel against King David?
3. Who was part of the rebellion? Who was not?
4. How does David find out about the attempt to take his kingdom?
5. What is done to stop the attempt to take his kingdom?
6. Near the end of David's life what does he instruct Solomon to do?
7. What request does Adonijah ask from Bathsheba?
8. How does Solomon respond to Adonijah's request through Bathsheba?
9. Solomon walked like his father David except in what way?
10. Where does the LORD appear to Solomon? What does Solomon ask of God?
11. Who heard of the wisdom of Solomon? Why?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 5-8

1. Who helped Solomon build the Temple of God?
2. How many workers did Solomon have to build the Temple?
3. Create a brief timeline of Israel from the exodus to the building of the Temple.
4. How long did it take to build the temple?
5. What was the temple built with?
6. What other buildings did Solomon build?
7. Who did all the bronze work for Solomon?
8. What was done once all the articles were finished and placed in the temple?
9. What happened after the Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place?
10. Read Solomon's prayer carefully. Do we learn anything from his prayer?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 9-11

1. What did God say to Solomon when He appeared to him a second time?
2. When did God speak to Solomon the second time?
3. Was Hiram pleased with Solomon's gift?
4. Why did Hiram send Solomon 120 talents of gold?
5. Why did Solomon's ships bring back 420 talents of gold?
6. How much gold came to Solomon each year?
7. What is the value of Solomon's yearly take of gold in today's market?
8. What did Solomon do to anger the Lord?
9. What were the consequences of what Solomon did?
10. Why did Jeroboam rebel against Solomon?
11. Is there any indication in these or other scriptures that Solomon repented from his idolatry?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 12-16

1. Who became King over Israel after Solomon's death?
2. What did Jeroboam request from Rehoboam?
3. What was Rehoboam's response to this request?
4. Whose advice did Rehoboam seek?
5. Whom did Rehoboam listen to? Why?
6. What did the people of Israel do after they heard Rehoboam answer?
7. What does Jeroboam do fearing Israel may return to Rehoboam?
8. What prophecy is made to Jeroboam? How does he respond to the prophet?
9. What happens to Jeroboam? Why did the prophet die?
10. Why does Jeroboam's son become sick and die?
11. What did Ahijah prophecy to Jeroboam's wife?
12. How long did Rehoboam reign? Did he do what was right in the eyes of God?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 17-19

1. Who did Elijah go to? What does he say?
2. Where does God tell Elijah to go? Why?
3. Where does God tell Elijah to go next?
4. What does God do for the widow, her son and Elijah?
5. What happens to the widow's son?
6. After how long did God send Elijah back to Ahab?
7. What does Elijah command Ahab to do?
8. What does Elijah do on Mount Carmel?
9. Where does Elijah flee to? Why?
10. What does God tell Elijah to do?

Worksheet Questions

1 Kings Chapters 20-22

1. Why does God give victory to Ahab over the Syrians?
2. Why does God condemn Ahab?
3. Why is Naboth killed?
4. Who does the LORD condemn for Naboth's murder?
5. What influence did Jezebel have on Naboth?
6. How did Ahab respond to the LORD's condemnation?
7. How many prophets of the LORD were left in Israel?
8. What did Micaiah tell Ahab?
9. What significant things did Jehoshaphat do in his reign over Judah?
10. Whom did Ahaziah worship?

Worksheet Questions

Chapters: 2 Kings 1-2

1. Why does God send Elijah to Ahaziah?
2. What does Ahaziah do when hearing Elijah's prophecy?
3. Why did God kill the fifty troops and their captain, twice?
4. What significant thing does the third captain of fifty say?
5. Who are the sons of the prophets?
6. What does Elisha ask of Elijah before he is taken away?
7. How does Elisha know his request is granted?
8. What did Elisha do when he was mocked by some youths?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 3 - 5

1. Why do Jehoram and Jehoshaphat inquire of Elisha?
2. What did the king of Moab do just before he lost the battle?
3. What does a widow ask of Elisha?
4. Who sets up a place to stay for Elisha?
5. What does Elisa do for the Shunammite woman?
6. Why does the Shunammite woman go to Elisha at Mount Carmel?
7. What does Elisha do in Gilgal?
8. Why does Naaman go to the king of Israel?
9. Why does Gehazi get leprosy?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 6 - 8

1. Why are we told of Elisha rescuing someone's borrowed ax?
2. How did Elisha stop the Syrian bands?
3. Why were the Syrians let go?
4. How does a famine come upon Samaria?
5. Why do the Syrian soldiers flee from Samaria?
6. Why does the Shunammite woman sojourn in Philistia?
7. Did Elisha lie to Ben-Hadad?
8. How did Ben-Hadad die?
9. Who follows Jehoshaphat as king of Judah? Did they walk like David?
10. What connection do the kings of Judah, Jehoram and Ahaziah, have with Ahab?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 9 - 13

1. Who anointed Jehu king over Israel?
2. What two kings did Jehu kill?
3. How is Jezebel killed?
4. How is the house of Ahab cut off?
5. Why does God say Jehu's sons shall sit on the throne to the fourth generation?
6. Who reigns in Judah? How?
7. What son of David became king after Ahaziah? How?
8. Were Jehu and his sons faithful to the Lord?
9. What miracle came through Elisha after his death?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 14 - 17

1. Name the next four kings of Judah. Did they walk like David?
2. Name the last five kings of Israel after Jehu's sons?
3. Why was Israel carried away to Assyria?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 18 - 21

1. Did Hezekiah walk like David or his father Ahaz?
2. What notable things did Hezekiah accomplish?
3. How did Hezekiah compare with the kings before and after him?
4. In what year of Hezekiah's reign was Samaria taken?
5. When did Assyria come against Judah?
6. Did Assyria take Judah?
7. When Sennacherib came against Jerusalem whose advice did Hezekiah seek?
8. What sign does God give to Hezekiah that he would grant him 15 years of life?
9. Who reigned after Hezekiah? Was he good or bad? Why?
10. Who reigns after Manasseh? Was he good or bad?

Worksheet Questions

2 Kings 22-25

1. Who reigns after Amon? Was he good or bad?
2. What notable accomplishment is Josiah responsible for?
3. Why did God's wrath not turn away from Judah after Josiah purged the nation of its idols and high places?
4. Why did Josiah die in battle?
5. Who reigns immediately after Josiah?
6. Did he walk like his fathers? Which ones?
7. Give the approximate year when Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.
8. Who is the last Son of David to reign in Jerusalem?
9. What year was the wall of Jerusalem finally broken down?