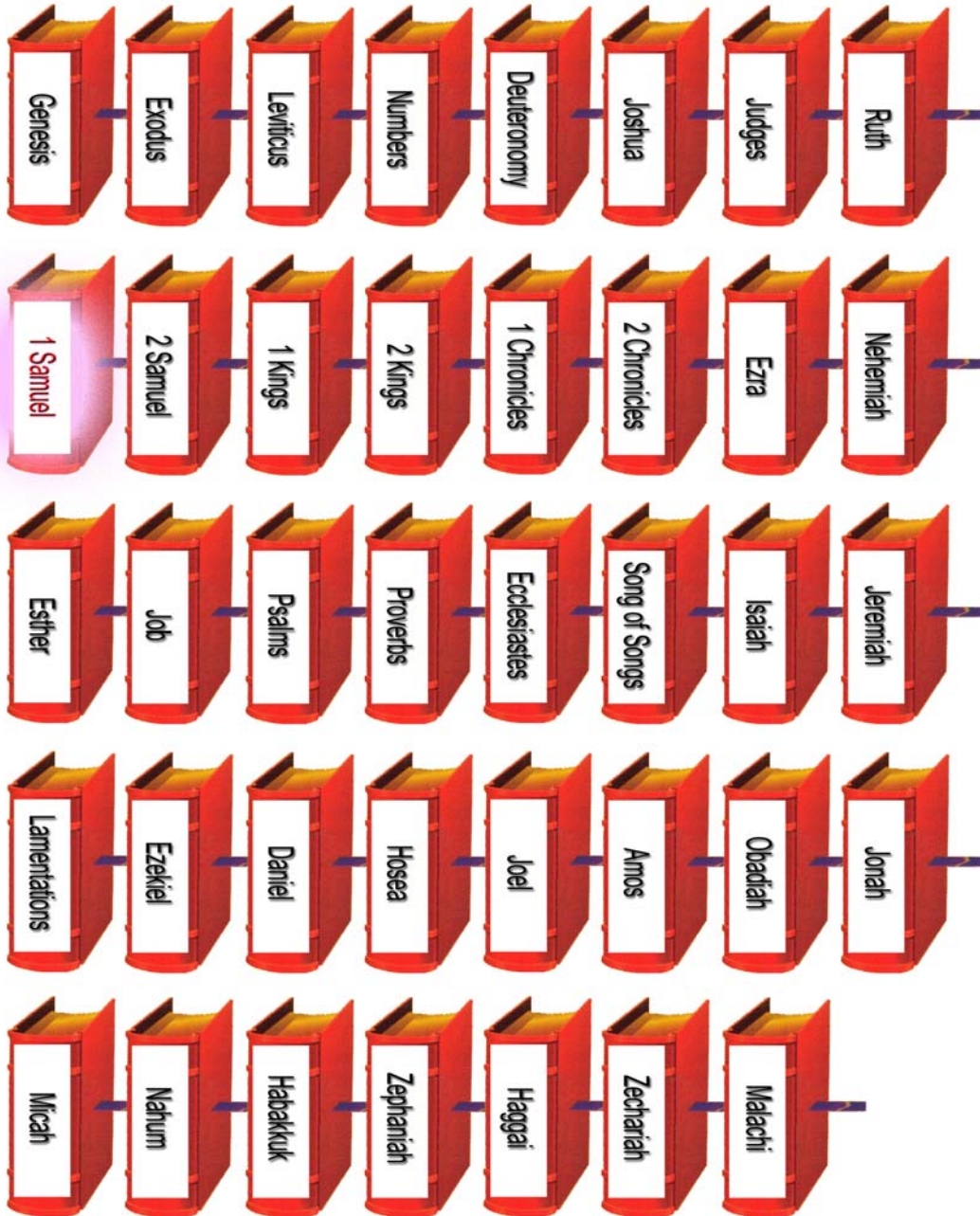


# Old Testament Books



## Chapter 25

## 1 Samuel

### The Story so Far

When Israel reached the Promised Land they refused to enter it because they were scared of the people. God punished Israel for 40 years in the desert, yet He remained faithful and eventually brought their children to enter the land, along with Joshua and Caleb. Just before they entered the land Moses warned them: “If you obey you will be blessed. If you disobey, God will punish you by removing you from the land”. Through Joshua’s victories Israel inherited the land God promised to Abraham. During the first 350 years in the land judges ruled Israel. But the system was not working – Israel needed a king. God’s Kingdom could not come until Israel had a king.

### Objectives

- To introduce the concept of kings and their qualifications
- To show how Saul was not the king Israel needed

### Connections

- Like Adam in the garden, God’s King is always to live under His rule in obedience to Him
- God’s Kingdom can now come through a king

### Summary

**God’s King is always to live in obedience to Him; otherwise God’s judgements come to Him and the people. Saul is not the king Israel needs, and is replaced by David.**

# The Kings of Israel

## But Israel has a King...

The problem appears to be that Israel has no king to rule over them. Yet we know God, the Lord, is Israel's King. He is the powerful Maker that rules over His creation, over Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham. He is the great King that rescues Israel from the enemies in Egypt and gives Israel His rules to obey on Mount Sinai.



## Appointing a king (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

God always knew that Israel, because of their disobedience, would need a king. So through Moses, many years earlier, God gives instructions for appointing a king. He outlines the qualifications needed:

1. God must choose the king.
2. He must be an Israelite.
3. He must be morally upright.
4. He must write out a copy of the Law for himself, read and obey it all the days of his life.

*In one sense, the king is to be as much like God, Israel's true King, as possible.*

## “We want a king!” (1 Samuel 8:1-5)

The final judge in Israel's history is a man called Samuel. He is an excellent judge over God's people but when he is old the future for Israel becomes uncertain. It is at this time Israel declares that they want a king.

## Rejection of the true King (1 Samuel 8:7; 12:12)

The reason that the people want a king is because the sons of Samuel (those who will succeed Samuel as judges) are not good men or good leaders. So Israel asks for a king. But God exposes the underlying sin behind their request - Israel wants a visible human king, not an invisible divine King. Their sin is that they want to escape God's rule over them and they also do not trust God's protection of them as their King.

## **God gives Israel a king (1 Samuel 12:14-15, 24-25)**

God in his grace gives Israel a king. The human king of Israel is to obey God's rules, and act as God's representative to the people. God now rules the people through a human king instead of judges, but He is still their true King. They are still under obligation to obey God's commands, and under threat if they disobey His commands.

**God's King is always to live in obedience to Him;  
otherwise God's judgements come to Him and the people**

## **Saul – the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 11:1-11; 15:1-26)**

God gives Samuel the task of setting up the monarchy in Israel. God organises events in such a way that Samuel meets a man called Saul. God tells him that Saul is the one He has chosen to be ruler over the people. The people are full of hope; they have a king to rule over them.

## **A new hope, a new disappointment (1 Samuel 11:1-11; 15:1-26)**

Saul starts well as king by leading the army of Israel to a great victory over the Ammonite nation. Saul, however, is not the great king that Israel has hoped for as he starts to disobey God and ignores the Lord's commands. The Lord tells Saul to punish the Amalek people but Saul fails to obey, sparing the king and the best animals. God's response is severe; Saul cannot be Israel's king any longer; the Lord is going to choose another.

## **David (2 Samuel 7:24, 29b)**

A man called David from the tribe of Judah becomes king of Israel after the death of Saul. King David reigns for many years in Israel from his capital, Jerusalem (Jerusalem is on Mount Moriah, where Abraham had to sacrifice Isaac). The City of David remains to this day and parts of the old buildings can be seen.

This powerful king wisely governs the tribes of Israel forming them into a united nation. He extends Israel's lands, triumphing over Israel's enemies the Canaanites and the Philistines. Prosperity follows and God blesses the nation.



## Think it through & discuss

1. Who is Israel's real King?
2. Why do we know their request for a king is wrong?
3. What are the qualifications for God's King? What does this mean?