

Pt 2: THE RISE OF A KINGDOM

Wednesday, August 17

Reading: 2 Samuel 7

2 Samuel 7:8 *"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over My people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth....16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.' "*

The Story continues with the establishment of the Israelite nation. In these books we see the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

JOSHUA tells the story of the conquest of Canaan. It is a thrilling account of victory as God's people trust in Him and faithfully follow His direction. The book ends with the allotment of the land to the twelve tribes and Joshua's charge to "choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

JUDGES were men and women whom God chose to deliver Israel from their enemies. Sadly this period was marked by sin and defeat as God's people turned from the Lord to worship idols. God allowed them to be defeated by their enemies until they cried out for help and He raised up a judge to deliver them. The book of RUTH occurs during this period.

1 SAMUEL begins with the prophet Samuel, the last judge of Israel and the man who would anoint Israel's first two kings. It then describes the reign of Saul, Israel's first king. Because of disobedience King Saul is rejected and God chooses the shepherd boy David to be his successor.

2 SAMUEL recounts the reign of King David. After years of running from his life from the jealousy of Saul, David unites the nation and Israel prospers. Though he is far from perfect, God calls him "a man after My own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). A large percentage of the Psalms were written by David.

1 KINGS 1-11 records the reign of David's son Solomon who builds the Temple for the worship of God. But though God gives him great wisdom, his foolish decisions and desires lead to his downfall and the eventual split of Israel into two separate kingdoms. Solomon is the author of Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God's covenant with David promises that David's "kingdom will endure forever" and his "throne will be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16). This was fulfilled by Jesus. As the angel told His mother Mary, "The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:32-33).

OTHER THEMES: [1] The importance of knowing and obeying God and His Word (see Joshua 1:1-9 & the life of Saul). [2] Victory through faith in God. [3] The consequences of sin. [4] The mercy and forgiveness of God.