

**Lesson 1 – Introduction**

We often want people to fall into nice, neat categories of good and evil, hero or villain. Although absolute good and evil certainly exist, we are another matter. In this study we will be looking at the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah and learning much from the examples they give us, positive, negative, and everything in between.

**The Big Picture**

To understand the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, it can be helpful to see where they fit in the big picture of Scripture.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Outlines for us God’s creation of the world, the fall into sin, and beginning of God’s rescue plan starting with a nation he creates and then delivers.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Details the rocky early days of this nation as it settles into its new homeland and struggles with cycle after cycle of sin and rebellion.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Kingdom** – The early days of Israel. This is a short period that lasted only through the first three kings – Saul, David, and Solomon.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Kingdom** – A civil war rocked the land, and for the next 300ish years these two nations would fight with each other and the nations around them.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Kingdom** – The Northern Kingdom (Israel) fell to Assyria, leaving only the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Finally, even Judah must be punished, and so Babylon takes the nation captive.

**What Does a King Do?**

In order to better understand the narratives of the kings’ lives that we find in Scripture, it’s helpful to step back and ask what would have been expected of an ancient king.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Leader –** Kings were the generals of the day, main ones leading the charge into battle. They were looked to as fierce warriors who would defend the people.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Leader –** The chief judge in the land was always the king. He was expected to uphold justice and punish.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Leader –** God expected his kings to hold his people to be faithful to the covenant. They were to trust God, not military might, and to know and apply God’s law.

**Kings and the King**

All of the Old Testament, including kings, points to Jesus in at least four different ways.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **–** The Old Testament shows how badly people need Christ. The failures of the kings point us to the King of Kings who will never let us down.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **–** The Old Testament will often give us pictures of what Jesus will look like, such as a powerful ruler like David or a wise judge like Solomon.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **–** God makes promises to people, like an everlasting dynasty to David, that are fulfilled by Jesus.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **–** God gives kings specific predictions of what the Messiah will look like when he comes.