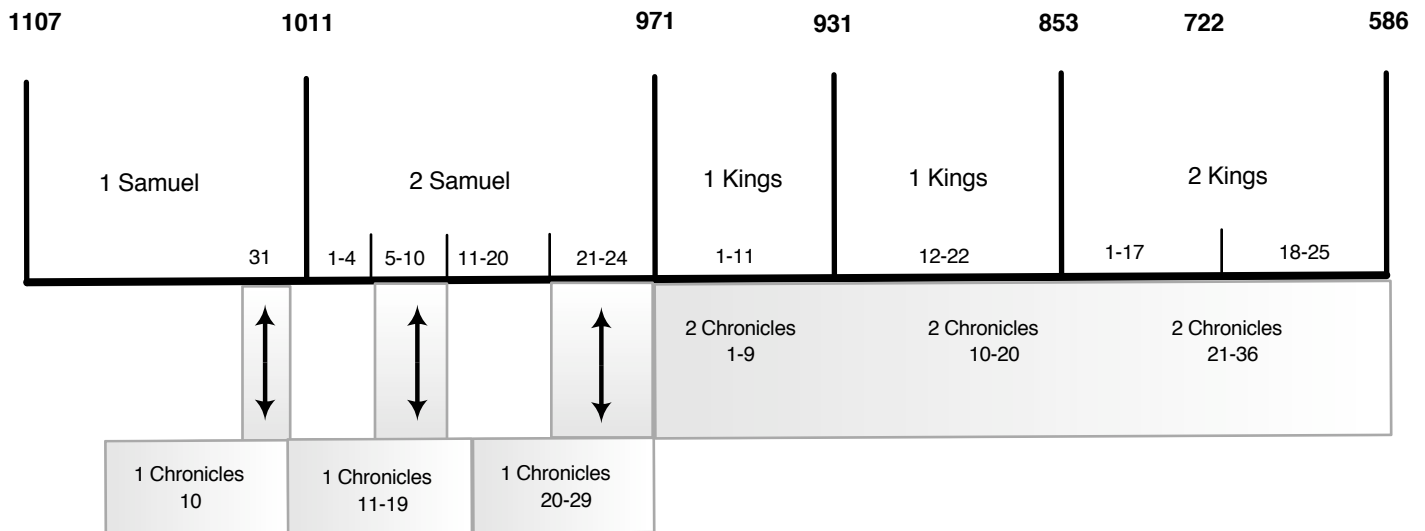


# 1&II Samuel

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# HISTORICAL PARALLEL OF SAMUEL, KINGS, AND CHRONICLES



## INTRODUCTION

The books of first and second Samuel contain the stories of God's work in the lives of real people. From the fervent prayer of barren Hannah, to the anguished confession of King David, they record human longings, failures and frailties in ways that sometimes uncomfortably mirror our own lives. They also show God's amazing grace at work in the lives of His people, transforming them and using even their failures to rebuild their lives and achieve His ultimate purpose.

The books chronicle the transition of a group of tribal people led by "judges" to a nation ruled by a human king under God. Along the way their journey is marred by battles and defeats, disloyalty and despair. However, they are sustained by a gracious God who rules in true wisdom and power.

God has not changed. The message of the books, as well as the call to be under the kingship of God, is as relevant today as it was then.

## **LESSON ONE: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-20**

OPENING QUESTION: *Where were you born, and what three words describe your family of birth?*

### **READ 1 SAMUEL 1:1-20 and PSALM 13**

Note: Polygamy, while not designed by God, was a common practice in Old Testament times. A man whose first wife was childless would often take a second wife for the purpose of continuing the family line.

Note: Shiloh, located 15 miles from Elkanah's home, was the location of the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

1. Read Judges 21:25. What was happening in Israel as this story began?

2. Why were Israelites to travel to Shiloh?

Deuteronomy 12:4-7

Joshua 18:1

3. How did Elkanah display his devotion to God?

How did he display his devotion to his family?

4. What were the reasons for Hannah's deep sorrow?

5. What did Hannah do in her sorrow?

6. What do you do in your sorrow?
7. How did Eli respond to Hannah's sorrow? What do you learn from him about responding to others in the midst of sorrow?

**READ PSALM 13**

8. What model does this psalm provide for praying in times of sorrow?

Psalm 13:1-2, 4

Psalm 13:3

Psalm 13:5-6

9. Take a current sorrow in your life and pray about it using the example of Hannah and the psalm.
10. How was Hannah changed after her prayer? Why do you think this was so?
11. How have you been changed by prayer or how would you like to be changed?

Memory Verse: "But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."  
*Psalm 13:5*

Prayer Guide: Lord, look on me and answer me.

**LESSON TWO: 1 SAMUEL 1:21-2:11**

OPENING QUESTION: *Do you remember an experience that taught you about generosity or the lack of it?*

1. What allows you to give most freely?
2. What prevented Hannah from going up with her family for the annual worship and sacrifice? How do you imagine Hannah spent this time?
3. What was Hannah's desire for her child's life?
4. If you are a parent, how is your life shaped by the desires you have for your children?
5. Why did the family leave Samuel with Eli?
6. What would make it difficult for Hannah to release her child to Eli and the Lord's service?
7. What makes it difficult today to release children into the Lord's care and service? What do you think makes it possible?

Note: Psalms, such as this song of Hannah, reflect on God's involvement in the circumstances of life. It is believed that Mary used this in her *Magnificat*, which praised God for selecting her to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah.

8. Why do you think Hannah sang a song of praise to God, and what might have prevented her from doing so? (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
  
9. As Hannah praised God, who did she see Him to be?
  
10. How did Hannah's song reveal God's mercy to the humble and powerless?
  
11. How did the ending of Hannah's psalm anticipate God's future work?  
(see also Luke 1:68-69)
  
12. Read Luke 1:46-55. How is Mary's song similar to Hannah's?
  
13. How do the songs and the faith of Hannah and Mary enlarge your picture of God?  
What are the implications in your life?

Memory Verse: "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:2

Prayer Guide: Lord, set me free to be generous.

**LESSON THREE: 1 SAMUEL 2:12-3:21**

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when you received a totally unexpected message.*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 2:12-3:21 and PSALM 1**

1. What does it mean to give honor to another? Why do you think God asks that He be honored above all others and how do you do that?

2. How did Eli and his sons dishonor God? (see also Leviticus 7:22-25)

1 Samuel 2:12-17

1 Samuel 2:22-29

1 Samuel 3:12-13

3. What judgment was Eli's family to receive?  
(1 Samuel 2:27-36, 1 Samuel 3:12-14)

Why do you think the words of judgment were delivered to Eli and not his sons?

4. What were Eli's failures as a parent and what do you learn from him?  
(see also 1 Samuel 3:13, Proverbs 13:24, 22:6, 23:13)

5. How did Samuel honor God?

1 Samuel 2:18

1 Samuel 2:26

1 Samuel 3:1-21

6. How did Hannah care for her son and how did God care for her?



READ PSALM 1

7. What leads to God's blessing and have you experienced this to be true?
8. How does the story of Eli's family illustrate the message of Psalm 1?

Note: The promise of the "faithful priest" was initially fulfilled in Zadok, a priest during King David's period. The ultimate fulfillment came with the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ who stands between God and His people.

Note: The Lamp of God was the golden lampstand that stood in the Holy Place and was to remain lighted during the night. (Leviticus 24:1-4)

9. Why did Samuel fail to recognize God's voice?

1 Samuel 3:1, Amos 8:11-12

1 Samuel 3:7

10. Why do people fail to recognize God's voice today?

11. What was Eli's role in helping Samuel hear God's voice?

Have there been people in your life who have helped you to hear God's voice?

12. How did God reveal Himself to Israel? (1 Samuel 3:19-4:1)

13. How does God reveal Himself to people today?

Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:1-18

John 14:26

Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16

Memory Verse: "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up and He let none of His words fall to the ground." 1 Samuel 3:19

Prayer Guide: Speak Lord and help me to listen.

**LESSON FOUR: 1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:1**

OPENING QUESTION: *Is there any object that helps to comfort you in times of trouble?*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:1 and PSALM 44**

Note: The Philistines, a non-Semitic people, were a formidable enemy of the Israelites from the period of Judges through King David's reign.

1. Describe the ark and its purpose.

Exodus 25:10-22

Numbers 10:33-36

2. How was the ark viewed by  
Israelites? (1 Samuel 4:3-5, 1 Samuel 6:13-7:1)

Philistines? (1 Samuel 4:6-11, 1 Samuel 5-6)

Eli? (1 Samuel 4:13, 17-18)

Wife of Phineas? (1 Samuel 4:19-22)

3. How had God intended the ark to be viewed and how had His people fallen short?

4. What do you think God considers sacred today? How does He intend for people to deal with sacred things?
5. What is the difference between faith and superstition? As you reflect on these chapters, do you find any areas of personal challenge?

**READ PSALM 44**

6. According to the Psalmist, how were past victories achieved?
7. What did he say about the present defeats? How were they similar to those of Samuel's time?
8. What were the Psalmist's cries for help and how did they differ from those in Samuel?
9. What do these passages teach you about living wisely in times of defeat?

Memory Verse: "You give us victory over our enemies; You put our adversaries to shame." *Psalm 44:7*

Prayer Guide: Almighty God, be my strength.

## LESSON FIVE: 1 SAMUEL 7:1-17

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time someone's help enabled you to do what would have been impossible alone.*

### READ 1 SAMUEL 7 and PSALM 107

Note: *Mizpah* was a common place of assembly for Israel during the time of judges and became the site of Saul's presentation to Israel as king.

Note: Samuel, as Israel's judge, provided spiritual, domestic and military leadership.

1. What was the spiritual condition of the people of Israel? (1 Samuel 7:2)

2. What steps did Samuel guide the people through to return to God?  
List them.

3. What steps can you take to stay connected with God today?

1 John 1:9

Acts 3:19

Romans 12:1-2

Psalms 107

4. What personal experience have you had in taking these steps to stay connected with God or to reconnect with Him?

5. Why did the people want Samuel to cry out to God for them?

6. Read Mark 4:35-41.  
Why did the disciples, like the Israelites, cry out for help?

What were Christ's questions and how do they challenge you?

7. How did God meet the needs of the people?

Mark 4:39

1 Samuel 7

Psalms 107

Note: Baal, the chief deity of the Canaanites, was god over thunder and rain, while Ashtoreth was goddess over love and war.

8. Why do you think God used “thunder” in the battle against the Philistines?  
(see also 1 Samuel 2:10)

9. How did Samuel commemorate God’s help? (1 Samuel 7:12)

10. How can “stones of remembrance” help you?  
(see also Joshua 4:4-7)

Are there “stones of remembrance” in your life? Explain.

11. In what other ways are you to commemorate God’s help?  
(see also Psalms 107:1-3, 31-32, 42-43)

12. Why did Samuel return to Ramah? (see also 1 Samuel 2:11)  
Is there such a place in your life?

13. How does Samuel’s example as a leader inspire you to lead in your family, church or community?

Memory Verse: “Thus far has the LORD helped us.” 1 Samuel 7:12

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, make me wise.

## LESSON SIX: 1 SAMUEL 8:1-10:27

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when peer pressure led you to do something you now laugh over or regret.*

### READ 1 SAMUEL 8-10 and PSALM 47

1. Read Psalm 47. According to the psalmist, why is God such a worthy king?

How is God to be honored?

Note: Following Israel's victory over the Philistines outside of Mizpah, Samuel led the people for thirty years.

2. What was the intended role of judges in Israel? (see also Judges 2:6-19)
3. How had Samuel's sons failed as judges? Why do you think this was so?
4. What would a king *give* to the people that they wanted?
5. What were the people warned that a king would *take* from them?
6. How were these warnings fulfilled?

1 Samuel 14:52

2 Samuel 15:1

1 Kings 21:5-16

1 Kings 9:10-15

1 Kings 12:1-16

7. Why do you think the Lord gave the people what they wanted?  
Is there any lesson in this for you?
8. Reflect on times you've substituted "kings" for God's reign in your life. At what cost have you crowned them?
9. What were the regulations of kingship?  
(1 Samuel 10:25, Deuteronomy 17:14-20)
10. Examine carefully Saul's encounters with people and write a profile of him.
11. Who chose Saul as king and how do you know that?
12. What signs were given to authenticate his kingship?  
  
1 Samuel 10:2  
  
1 Samuel 10:3-4  
  
1 Samuel 10:5-7
- Note: In the Old Testament, God's Spirit came upon believers as well as unbelievers temporarily to equip them for a task.  
  
Note: In the Old Testament, anointing with oil symbolized the setting apart of a person for divine service and was often accompanied by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
13. How would you evaluate Saul's fitness for kingship and his chances for success?

Memory Verse: "God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to Him a psalm of praise." *Psalms 47:7*

Prayer Guide: Sovereign Lord, reign over me.

## **LESSON SEVEN: 1 SAMUEL 11:1-13:22**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever been rescued?*

### **READ 1 SAMUEL 11:1 – 13:22 and PSALM 121**

Note: The Ammonites lived east of Israel. They were descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot through his incestuous union with his younger daughter.  
(Genesis 19:30-38)

Note: Infantrymen of the time typically fought with shields in their left hands, obscuring their left eyes. With right eyes gouged out, these men would be worthless as soldiers.

1. What kind of threat did the Ammonites pose, and what would it cost Israel to make peace with this enemy?
2. Are there any current situations where you're entering into damaging "treaties?"
3. How did Saul respond to the Ammonite threat?
4. What did Saul do after his victory? What do you do after yours?
5. Why do you think Samuel defended his integrity? (1 Samuel 12:1-5)
6. What choices were the people to make in order to enjoy God's blessings with their new king? What warnings were given?
7. Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20. What choices lead to blessing in your life? Have you experienced this to be true?



8. What was the significance of the rain and what does it reveal of God?  
(see also Joshua 4:24)
  
9. How did Samuel express his commitment for the people?  
(1 Samuel 12:23, see also Colossians 4:12, Ephesians 3:14-21)

How does his example challenge you personally?

10. Why do you think fear is such a dangerous enemy?
  
11. How did Israel reveal their fear of the Philistines?
  
12. How did Saul reveal his fear and with what lasting results?
  
13. Have you suffered from consequences of action or inaction resulting from fear? If so, how?
  
14. Read Psalm 121. What comfort does it provide in the midst of a fearful situation?

Memory Verse:            “Be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart;  
                                     consider what great things He has done for you.”  
                                     *1 Samuel 12:24*

Prayer Guide:            Lord, keep my foot from slipping.

## LESSON EIGHT: 1 SAMUEL 14:1-15:35

OPENING QUESTION: *Has there been a time in your life when God nudged you to take initiative in making a change?*

### READ 1 SAMUEL 14:1 – 15:35 and PSALM 40:1-8

Note: Saul's retinue included Ahijah of the priestly line of Eli, which had been rejected by God.

1. Why do you think Jonathan came up with his plan and took only his armor bearer?
2. What role did the armor bearer play in Jonathan's life? Do you have such a person or are you such a person for another? Explain.
3. Why do you think Saul was not informed?
4. List evidences of God's work with Jonathan.

Note: Old Testament Law prohibited eating meat with blood in it because blood was reserved for atoning sacrifices. The "life" of the creature was said to be in the blood. In Jesus' atoning sacrifice, by shedding His *blood*, He gave His *life*.

5. What evidences of estrangement do you find in 1 Samuel 14 between  
Saul and God?  
  
Saul and his men?  
  
Saul and Jonathan?
6. How did Saul diminish the effectiveness of his troops? Are you ever tempted to put demands on others that weaken their effectiveness?

7. What had the Amalekites done to Israel?

Exodus 17:8-15

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

8. What command from the Lord did Samuel give to Saul about the Amalekites?  
(1 Samuel 15:2-3)

What question does this command raise for you?

9. Why were the Kenites to be spared? (See Genesis 12:3)

10. What perspective does Jesus provide?

John 3:16-21

John 5:24-30

11. Why did Saul spare King Agag and the best of the cattle?

12. What was at the heart of Saul's actions following his disobedience?  
How do these remain dangers for us today?

1 Samuel 15:12

1 Samuel 15:13

1 Samuel 15:15

1 Samuel 15:20-21

1 Samuel 15:24-25

13. Read Psalm 40:1-8. What encourages you to a life of obedience rather than religious activities and rituals?

Memory Verse: "To obey is better than sacrifice." *1 Samuel 15:22*

Prayer Guide: My God, I desire to do Your will.

**LESSON NINE: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-17:58**

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when someone's appearance blinded you to the truth of that person's character.*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-17:58 and PSALM 144**

1. How important are appearances to you in evaluating people?
2. How does God see and evaluate people?

1 Samuel 16:7

Luke 16:15

John 2:24-25

In what ways can God grow you to see and evaluate others as He does?

3. Why were the people and Samuel hesitant to anoint a new king?
4. Describe David as fully as you can from the evidence of 1 Samuel 16-17.
5. What do you see in David that would make him a good king?
6. What difficulties do you think David might have encountered with his family as he moved into his new role? (1 Samuel 17:28, Genesis 37:2-5)

7. What was Saul's spiritual condition and why? (see also 1 Samuel 15:24-26)  
How did Saul's servants deal with the problem?

8. What immobilized the Israelites and held them captive for forty days?  
(1 Samuel 17:1-16)

Note: The author of Samuel emphasizes theological truth and not the chronological order of events.

Note: It is likely that David's stones were slightly larger than baseballs.  
A slingshot could send a stone traveling at close to 100 miles per hour.

9. Contrast the weapons used by David and Goliath:

Previous experience

Physical weapons

Spiritual weapons

10. What weapons do you have to fight your battles?

Psalms 144:1-8

Psalms 33:12-22

Ephesians 6:10-18

11. What weapons do you most need to fight a current battle?

12. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What important reminder are you given as you use your weapons? What hope does this provide?

Memory Verse: "Human beings look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Prayer Guide: Almighty God, help me find refuge in You.

**LESSON TEN: 1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42**

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when a friend's loyalty made a great difference in your life.*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42 and PSALM 59**

Note: Prophesying in some situations was praise and worship of God under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In other situations it was authoritative proclamation of God's word. In this situation it was ecstatic behavior, which prevented the accomplishment of evil intent.

1. What were David's successes and what made them possible?

2. How did David's success erode his relationship with Saul?

1 Samuel 16:21

1 Samuel 18:7-9

1 Samuel 18:12

1 Samuel 18:28-29

1 Samuel 19:10-11

1 Samuel 20:30-34

3. How does success in others impact you?

4. Why is jealousy dangerous?

Proverbs 14:30

James 3:14-16

5. Is there a relationship in your life where jealousy is present? What warning do you gain from Saul's example?

Note: The covenant between David and Jonathan involved a pledge of mutual loyalty and friendship.

6. Why did Jonathan make a covenant with David? (1 Samuel 18:3-4, 20:17)
7. What did the covenant promise? (1 Samuel 20:12-17)
8. What did it reveal of Jonathan's understanding about David's future?  
(see also 1 Samuel 23:15-18)
9. What do you see as the challenges of Michal's life because of her family?
10. Read Psalm 59. What does this Psalm reveal about:  
  
David's enemies?  
  
David?  
  
God?
11. Why did David flee to Ramah? (1 Samuel 19:18)
12. How did Jonathan display friendship and at what price?
13. What do you learn from Jonathan about being a friend?  
(see also Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 2 Timothy 1:16-18, John 15:12-13)

Memory Verse: "I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble." *Psalm 59:16*

Prayer Guide: Lord, help me to love others as You love me.

**LESSON ELEVEN: 1 SAMUEL 21:1-24:22**

OPENING QUESTION: *Where do you go if you want to feel safe?*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 21:1-24:22 and PSALM 52**

1. Why is it tempting to lie when you are afraid?
2. What were David's lies?
3. What were the consequences of those lies? (1 Samuel 22:9-19)
4. In what situation might you ask God to protect you from lies and their consequences?

Note: The consecrated bread was placed each week in the Tabernacle as a thank offering to God. When the week-old loaves were replaced with fresh ones, only priests could eat them. Leviticus 24:5-9

Note: In David's time, insanity was looked upon as "an affliction of the gods." It was the custom not to harm the mentally ill.

5. Where did David flee and what danger was present in each place?

1 Samuel 21:1-7

1 Samuel 21:10-15

1 Samuel 22:1-2

1 Samuel 22:3-4

1 Samuel 23:1-12

1 Samuel 23:14

1 Samuel 24



6. What evidences of God's protection do you see in the midst of David's flight?
7. What do you think it meant to David to have Jonathan's encouragement during his difficulty?
8. How do you help others in difficulty to "find strength in the Lord?" Give specifics. (1 Samuel 23:16-18)
9. Who did David lead? What challenges do you imagine he encountered with such a group? (1 Samuel 22:2)
10. How do you see God's hand in training David for leadership? (1 Samuel 23)
11. What do you know of Doeg? (1 Samuel 21:7, 22:6-19)  
Why do you think he obeyed Saul when others refused?

Read Psalm 52. This psalm was written by David when Doeg the Edomite betrayed him by reporting back to Saul on Ahimelech's help.

12. In this psalm, how did David describe the man who betrayed him?
13. How did his betrayer grow strong? How would he end?
14. What sustained David that can also sustain you?

Memory Verse: "And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God." *1 Samuel 23:16*

Prayer Guide: God of Truth, release me from fear and deceit.

**LESSON TWELVE: 1 SAMUEL 25:1-44**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever used food to win someone's heart?*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 25:1-44 and PSALM 14**

1. What legacy had Samuel left that caused the people to mourn his death?

1 Samuel 7:3

1 Samuel 7:5

1 Samuel 12:7

1 Samuel 12:23

Psalms 99:6

Hebrews 11:32-34

2. Describe Nabal as fully as you can, including the comments about him made by others.

Note: The name "Nabal" means fool. The word for fool in Psalm 14 is "nabal" and means that one has lost wisdom, honesty and godliness.

READ PSALM 14, PROVERBS 1 and LUKE 12:14-21

3. Who are the fools?
4. What consequences do fools reap?
5. What prevents people from becoming fools and how are you building this into your life?

6. Why is vengeance so tempting?

7. What does God say about vengeance?

1 Samuel 25

Deuteronomy 32:35-36

Romans 12:17-21

8. Are there safety valves in your life to protect you from acting in vengeance and anger?

9. How did Abigail deal with her husband and what challenges did she face?

10. What were Abigail's appeals to David?

1 Samuel 25:24

1 Samuel 25:28

1 Samuel 25:29

1 Samuel 25:30

11. Why was it important for her to ask forgiveness and why is it important for you? (see also Matthew 5:23-24, Luke 15:17-20)

12. Why did David bless Abigail?

13. What lessons do you learn from Abigail about *peacemaking*?  
(see also Matthew 5:9, James 3:17-18)

In what current situation might you apply these lessons?

Memory Verse: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." *Psalms 14:1*

Prayer Guide: Gracious Lord, make me rich toward You.

**LESSON THIRTEEN: 1 SAMUEL 26:1-28:25**

OPENING QUESTION: *What are you waiting for?*

**READ 1 SAMUEL 26:1-28:25 and PSALM 119:81-88**

Note: David spent 10 years in the wilderness between the time of his anointing and his kingship over Judah.

1. Describe Saul's pursuit of David. Why would it cause David to be discouraged?

READ PSALM 119:81-88.

2. What led the psalmist, to cry out "How long?"
3. What did the psalmist request of the Lord?
4. What purposes can be achieved by faithful waiting?  
(see also Romans 5:3-4, James 1:4)
5. Who did Abishai believe had delivered Saul into their hands and why?  
(1 Samuel 26:8)
6. What kept David from killing Saul?
7. Why do you think David chose to speak to Saul at this point? What was gained through their final conversation?

8. What had occurred on David's previous visit to Gath? (1 Samuel 21:10)  
Why did he return to enemy territory again? (1 Samuel 27:1-4)
9. Why do you return to enemy territory?
10. How did David deceive the king of Gath and with what result?
11. Why was Saul in distress? List the reasons. (1 Samuel 28:1-6)
12. Why was the Lord silent? (see also Proverbs 1:28-31)
13. Where did Saul seek guidance and why was this unwise?  
  
Deuteronomy 18:9-14  
  
Isaiah 8:19  
  
Galatians 5:19-21
14. What insights do you gain about seeking guidance when you seem to have no options?
15. How did the Lord reveal himself unexpectedly and what do you think caused Saul the greatest fear?

Memory Verse: "The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness."  
*1 Samuel 26:23*

Prayer Guide: Wise Counselor, teach me the way I should go.

**LESSON FOURTEEN: 1 SAMUEL 29:1-31:13**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever returned home to a disaster?*

1. Why did Achish trust David and the Philistine lords distrust him?
2. How did God work through the counsel of Achish's men to protect David?
3. How has wise counsel provided protection in your life?  
(see also Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 24:6)
4. How long did it take to reach Ziklag and what awaited David and his men on their return?  
(1 Samuel 30:1-6)
5. List the responses of David and his men to the trouble.
6. What steps were taken to move out of distress?  
1 Samuel 30:6b  
1 Samuel 30:7-8  
1 Samuel 30:10b  
1 Samuel 30:11-16  
1 Samuel 30:17-19  
1 Samuel 30:20

Are there any lessons from their example to help you move out of distress?

7. How did David reveal wise leadership in dealing with the rebellion and greed of his troops?
8. What kindness was shown to the Egyptian and how did God use him?
9. What generosity led David to renew contact with Israel? (1 Samuel 30:26-30)
10. What difference do you think this generosity might have made, even in preparing for his kingship?
11. What difference have you seen generosity make and what difference would you like to see your generosity make? (see also 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Note: The Philistines were notorious for humiliating and abusing victims, especially officers and kings.

READ 1 SAMUEL 31 and 1 CHRONICLES 10

12. How was Saul, the Lord's anointed, killed and why? (1 Chronicles 10:13-14)
13. How had Saul helped the people of Jabesh Gilead? (1 Samuel 11:1-11)
14. How did the people of Jabesh Gilead honor Saul and his sons? How were they in turn honored? (2 Samuel 2:4-7)
15. What insights about life do you gain from Saul's death?

Memory Verse: "...But David found strength in the Lord, his God." *1 Samuel 30:6b*

Prayer Guide: Lord Almighty, bless me as I trust in You.

## **LESSON FIFTEEN: 2 SAMUEL 1:1-4:12**

OPENING QUESTION: *What would you like people to say about you after your death?*

Note: David received the news of Saul's death after defeating the Amalekites and while still living in Philistine territory.

1. Compare the story of the Amalekite to the account given in 1 Samuel 31:1-6. How do you think the Amalekite expected to be treated by David and why?
2. Why do you think David mourned Saul publicly as a friend?
3. What personal challenge does David provide in responding to the death of those who have wronged you? (see also Proverbs 24:17-20)
4. What did David say in his lament for Jonathan?

5. Whom did David lose in Jonathan?

2 Samuel 1:26

1 Samuel 23:16

1 Samuel 23:17

1 Samuel 20:16-17,42; 23:18

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 Samuel 19:1-5

1 Samuel 20:4

6. As you reflect back over Jonathan's friendship with David, why would David speak of his love for his friend as "more wonderful than the love of a woman?"

Note: Hebron was an important city in the southern part of Judah where David officially began his kingship at age thirty, reigning for seven and a half years.

Note: Mahanaim was a Levitical city of refuge where Abner took Ish-Bosheth and made him king.



7. How was Israel divided after Saul's death? (2 Samuel 2:3-4, 2 Samuel 2:8-11)
8. What increased the division between the people and weakened the divided nation?
  - 2 Samuel 2:12-17
  - 2 Samuel 2:18-23
  - 2 Samuel 3:1
  - 2 Samuel 3:6-11
9. Why are divided nations and divided families so vulnerable?  
(2 Samuel 2:26, Matthew 12:25)
10. Where are you struggling with dangerous divisions?
11. Who was Abner?
  - 1 Samuel 14:50
  - 1 Samuel 17:55-58
  - 1 Samuel 26:5, 13-16
  - 2 Samuel 2
  - 2 Samuel 3
12. What do you think Abner really valued in life? What damage resulted from his choice of values?
13. Why was Abner killed and why was it important for David to respond as he did to his death?
14. How had Ishbosheth failed as a king and how did David honor him in death?

Memory Verse: "Do not gloat when your enemies fall; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice." *Proverbs 24:17*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, by Your Spirit, strengthen the bonds of peace.

**LESSON SIXTEEN: 2 SAMUEL 5:1-6:23**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you done anything recently to transform your home?*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 5:1-6:23 and PSALM 132**

1. Read Psalm 132. How was David celebrated as God's choice for king in the psalm?
2. What reasons did the people give for anointing David as king over Israel?  
(2 Samuel 5:1-3)
3. Read 1 Chronicles 12:23-40. Create a news release, complete with caption, that might have appeared following David's coronation.
4. Why did David's power increase?

Note: *Jerusalem*, often called in the Bible the *City of David* or *Zion*, was on a rise and surrounded by deep valleys on three sides. It became the center not only of human kingship but of God's kingship over his people.

5. Why was Jerusalem a good choice for a capital city?  
(see also Psalm 132:13-16)
6. What did David do to transform Jerusalem into a political and spiritual capital?  
2 Samuel 5:6-7  
2 Samuel 5:9,11  
2 Samuel 5:13  
2 Samuel 6:17-18, Exodus 40:34-36

7. How did David's reign in Jerusalem anticipate the reign of the Messiah in Jerusalem?

Isaiah 62

Zechariah 9:9-10

Luke 19:35-42

Revelation 21:1-4

Note: The two battles against the Philistines, not in chronological order, are among the last recorded in Samuel.

8. How did David prepare for battle against the Philistines?  
(2 Samuel 5:19,23)
9. What was God's role in defeating the Philistines? How has God helped you recently to defeat your enemies?
10. Why was God angered as the ark was transported to Jerusalem?  
(see also Numbers 4:15-20)
11. Trace David's responses to God's anger. What do you learn from his example?  
2 Samuel 6:8  
2 Samuel 6:9  
1 Chronicles 15:1-15
12. How did Michal show herself to be the daughter of Saul in her response to David and with what result?
13. Why do expressions of worship even today sometimes alienate people from one another?

How would you evaluate David's response?

Memory Verse: "The Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling."  
*Psalms 132:13*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom come and Your will be done.

**LESSON SEVENTEEN: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-10:19**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever had a great idea for helping someone who turned you down?*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1-10:19 and PSALM 89:1-3**

1. Why did David desire to build a house for God?

2. How did God respond to David's desire?

1 Chronicles 22:6-10

1 Kings 8:18

3. How did David respond to God's "No"?  
How do you respond when God closes the door on your dreams?

4. What motivates your desire to serve God?

5. How did God establish the house of David?

Genesis 12:1-3, 2 Samuel 7:23-24

2 Samuel 7:8-9

Psalms 89:19-37

6. What future blessings were promised to David? (2 Samuel 7)

7. How did God ultimately fulfill those promises?

Luke 1:30-33

Acts 2:29-36, 13:22-23

Romans 1:2-6

8. Read Psalm 89:1-18. What is the psalmist's understanding of God?  
How does it strengthen your faith?
9. Over the course of time, what enemies did David defeat to obtain peace for Israel?  
(2 Samuel 8, 10)
10. What steps did David take to strengthen Israel?  
2 Samuel 8:7-12  
2 Samuel 8:6, 14  
2 Samuel 8:15  
2 Samuel 8:16-18  
2 Samuel 10:19
11. Who was Mephibosheth? (2 Samuel 4:4, 9:6-13)
12. What might have prevented David from showing kindness to Mephibosheth?
13. Why did David extend kindness?  
1 Samuel 20:14-15, 42  
1 Samuel 24:21-22
14. How does David mirror God's kindness in his dealing with Mephibosheth? (see also Titus 3:4-7, Ephesians 2:1-9)
15. How are you like Mephibosheth? How has God's kindness touched your life? (see also 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 1:5)

Verse to memorize: "I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will  
make Your faithfulness known through all generations."  
*Psalm 89:1*

Prayer Guide: Lord, help me show Your kindness.

**LESSON EIGHTEEN: 2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:31**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever gotten into trouble because you were bored?*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:31 and PSALM 51**

1. What was a king's usual task in the spring and what was David doing? (vv. 1-2)
2. Why do you think it is easy for people with power to misuse it?
3. How did David misuse his power as king?
4. Read James 1:13-15 and Genesis 3:1-7. What is the danger of temptation?

What was the danger for Adam and Eve?

What was the danger for David?

5. How can temptation be overcome?

Romans 6:11-14

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Mark 14:38

How do these verses help you personally?

6. Why is it that one sin so often opens the door for another?
7. What sins followed David's first one? Trace the progression of sin.

8. What was the cost of sin for David and others?

2 Samuel 12:5-12

2 Samuel 12:15-18

Psalms 32:3-4

Romans 1:18-24

9. Who was Nathan and how was he used by God? (see also 2 Samuel 7:1-5)

10. What was David's response to Nathan's rebuke and why was this so important? (2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 51:3-5, 17, 1 John 1:9)

11. How do you respond when confronted with your sin?

12. Read Psalm 51. How does God restore a repentant sinner?

Pray for personal restoration in an area of need.

13. How did God pour out grace on a forgiven David? (2 Samuel 12:24-31)

14. Why do you think the account of David's sin is included in the Bible?

1 Kings 15:5

1 Corinthians 10:11-13

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Verse to memorize: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." *Psalm 51:17*

Prayer Guide: Create in me a pure heart, O God.

**LESSON NINETEEN: 2 SAMUEL 13:1-15:12**

OPENING QUESTION: *What kind of people do you find yourself most influenced by?*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 13:1-15:12 and PSALM 73**

1. Who was Amnon? (see also 2 Samuel 3:2) What character traits and behaviors led to his evil deed?
2. How did Jonadab influence his friend? How can you protect yourself from such friends?
3. What strength did Tamar display? What advice would you have given her? (see also Matthew 10:16, Ephesians 5:15)
4. What Jewish laws had Amnon broken with his actions?  
Leviticus 18:9-11  
Leviticus 20:17  
Deuteronomy 22:28-29
5. What were the responses to Tamar's rape?  
Amnon  
Tamar  
Absalom  
David
6. What was the result of not dealing with the rape? (2 Samuel 13:32)

What is the result of not dealing with sin in life today?

Note: It was customary in Israel to arrange great feasts at sheep-shearing time to which family members and friends were invited.



READ PSALM 73

7. Why did the psalmist envy the wicked?
8. What changed his mind about the wicked?
9. What did the psalmist cling to? What can you cling to for help?
10. Where did Absalom flee and why did he go there? (see also 2 Samuel 13:37, 2 Samuel 3:3)
11. What was David's heart for Absalom? (see also 2 Samuel 18:12)
12. Who helped bring Absalom back to Jerusalem and why?
13. What were Absalom's natural assets?
14. How did Absalom gain and cultivate power?  
List specific techniques he used to do this.
15. What warning does Absalom's example provide?

Verse to memorize: "You guide me with Your counsel, and afterwards you will take me into glory." *Psalms 73:24*

Prayer Guide: Lord, show me the way I should go.

**LESSON TWENTY: 2 SAMUEL 15:13 – 16:14**

OPENING QUESTION: *When has a friend's loyalty made a difference in your life?*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 15:13 – 16:14 and PSALM 55**

1. What was David's response to Absalom's overthrow and why?  
(see also 2 Samuel 15:14, Psalm 78:70-72)
2. Describe the scene as David left Jerusalem?
3. Who did David leave behind and why?
4. How were Nathan's prophecies fulfilled? (2 Samuel 12:11-12)

**READ PSALM 55**

5. How did David, the psalmist, describe the pain of his betrayal?
6. What was his prayer?
7. How was David sustained by God?

8. What evidence of David's spiritual strength was seen in his flight from Jerusalem? How did it help him to act?

2 Samuel 15:25-26

2 Samuel 16:5-14

9. Why is loyalty such an important trait and sometimes so difficult to live out?

As you reflect on your own life, what causes disloyalty?

10. How did David respond to Ahithophel's disloyalty and why?  
(2 Samuel 15:31, 2 Samuel 15:34, Psalm 41:9-12, Psalm 55:12-14)

11. Who remained loyal to David and how did they show their loyalty?

2 Samuel 15:15

2 Samuel 15:18

2 Samuel 15:19-22

2 Samuel 15:24-29

2 Samuel 15:32-37

2 Samuel 16:1

12. How can you grow wiser as a loyal friend?

Verse to memorize: "Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." *Psalm 55:22*

Prayer Guide: Lord, help me to be a faithful friend.

**LESSON TWENTY-ONE: 2 SAMUEL 16:15-19:8**

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when taking someone's advice changed the course of your life.*

**READ 2 SAMUEL 16:15-19:8 and PSALM 23**

1. Why is wise counsel so important?
2. How did Hushai gain Absalom's confidence?

Note: It was customary for a new king to inherit his predecessor's wives and concubines. By taking his father's concubines, Absalom permanently broke ties with David and declared himself king.

3. Contrast the counsel of Hushai and Ahithophel. (2 Samuel 17:1-13)  
Which one might have assured Absalom's victory?
4. Why was Hushai's counsel followed? What do you personally learn from this?

2 Samuel 15:31,17:14

Psalms 33:10-11

Proverbs 19:21

5. Why do you think Ahithophel took his life?

Note: Mahanaim was the place where Jacob saw the army of God's protective angels when he was in great distress. (Genesis 32:1-2)

6. How did God provide for David at Mahanaim?

READ PSALM 23

7. How did David, the psalmist, describe the God who provided for him?
8. How can God provide for you?

Which of God's provisions do you most need to seek Him for today?

9. What do you think lay behind David's plea to his troops about Absalom and how did it put them at risk? (2 Samuel 18:5)
10. What decisive acts did Joab perform? (2 Samuel 18:11-23)  
How did they contrast with his previous acts? (2 Samuel 14:1, 23)
11. How did David express his grief over Absalom's death?
12. What was Joab's rebuke and why was it necessary?  
(2 Samuel 19:5-7)
13. How are you personally challenged by David's response to Joab's rebuke? (Proverbs 27:6, Proverbs 15:31-32)

Verse to memorize: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." *Psalms 23:4*

Prayer Guide: Good Shepherd, guide me in paths of righteousness.

**LESSON TWENTY-TWO: 2 SAMUEL 19:9-22:51**

OPENING QUESTION: *What lessons have you learned as a result of a conflict?*

1. How did David restore the affection and loyalty of Judah?  
(2 Samuel 19:11-14)
2. Which men greeted David on his return to Jerusalem? What motivated the welcome each gave David?

Note: The unity of the nation was threatened by constant tensions between the tribes of Judah and Israel.

3. What reignited the conflict between Judah and Israel?
4. Why do you think nations and families are especially vulnerable following times of conflict?
5. Who was Sheba and how did he take advantage of the chaos and disunity in Israel?
6. What role had David given Amasa? Why do you think Joab killed him?  
(2 Samuel 19:13, 20:4-5)
7. Why was the woman at Abel called “wise” and what revealed her wisdom?
8. Read Joshua 9:1-27. What does the incident with the Gibeonites reveal about the gravity of covenants?

9. How did Rizpah honor her sons and what influence did she have on David?
10. Read 2 Samuel 22. What assurances of God's provision did David make in this passage?  
How do these encourage you?
11. How did David describe his own character and work and how does Scripture affirm his evaluation?  
  
2 Samuel 22:1-7  
  
Psalm 78:71-72  
  
1 Kings 15:5
12. In light of his sinfulness what allowed David to view himself as righteous?  
  
Psalm 32:1-2  
  
Psalm 103:8-13
13. What allows you to view yourself as righteous?  
  
Acts 3:19-20  
  
Colossians 1:13-14  
  
Romans 3:21-24
14. How has your understanding of God grown through your study in this lesson?

Verse to memorize: "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."  
*2 Samuel 22:33*

Prayer Guide: Lord, turn my darkness into light.

### LESSON TWENTY-THREE: 2 SAMUEL 23:1-24:25

OPENING QUESTION: *What is a lesson you have learned from an older friend or relative?*

Note: Chapters 21 through 24 are regarded as “appendices” and are presented without chronological order.

Note: *Last words* were prepared statements made prior to death to be read at one’s funeral.

1. What legacy do you want to leave?
2. How did David describe himself? (2 Samuel 23:1)
3. How had the *last words* come to David? (2 Samuel 23:2-3)
4. What was God’s covenant with David? (2 Samuel 7:7-8, 23:5)

5. How was Jesus the fulfillment of this covenant?

Matthew 1:1-7

Luke 1:26-33

Luke 1:67-79

Luke 2:10-11

Luke 2:29-32

6. How would you describe David’s mighty men and why were they successful?
7. Why do you think taking the census was displeasing to God?  
(2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 21)

What are the dangers of focusing on “numbers”? (see also 1 Samuel 14:6)



8. What was David's response to his sin and how did he experience God's grace? (2 Samuel 24:10-25, 1 Chronicles 21:8-17)

Note: David built his altar on Mount Moriah, the place where Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son. On this same site the temple was later constructed.  
(2 Chronicles 3:1-2)

9. What did David believe was important to leave as a legacy?

2 Samuel 7:1-7

1 Chronicles 28:2-3

10. What preparations did he make in order to leave a legacy?

1 Chronicles 22:2-4, 14-16, 29:2-5

1 Chronicles 22:17-19, 28:1

1 Chronicles 29:5b-9

1 Chronicles 22:11-13, 28:11-21

1 Chronicles 29:10-20

11. How do David's preparations inspire yours as you seek to leave a legacy?

12. How has David deepened your understanding of God?  
(1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

Verse to memorize: "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours."  
*1 Chronicles 29:11*

Prayer Guide: Lord, be exalted in my life.

## REVIEW LESSON I

1. What verses have spoken most deeply to you?
2. Who have you seen God to be?
3. What character from our study has taught you an important lesson and what is that lesson?
4. What have you learned about prayer?
5. Have you gained any insights about parenting?
6. Has God challenged you to any change of attitude or behavior?
7. What thanksgiving can you offer to God?

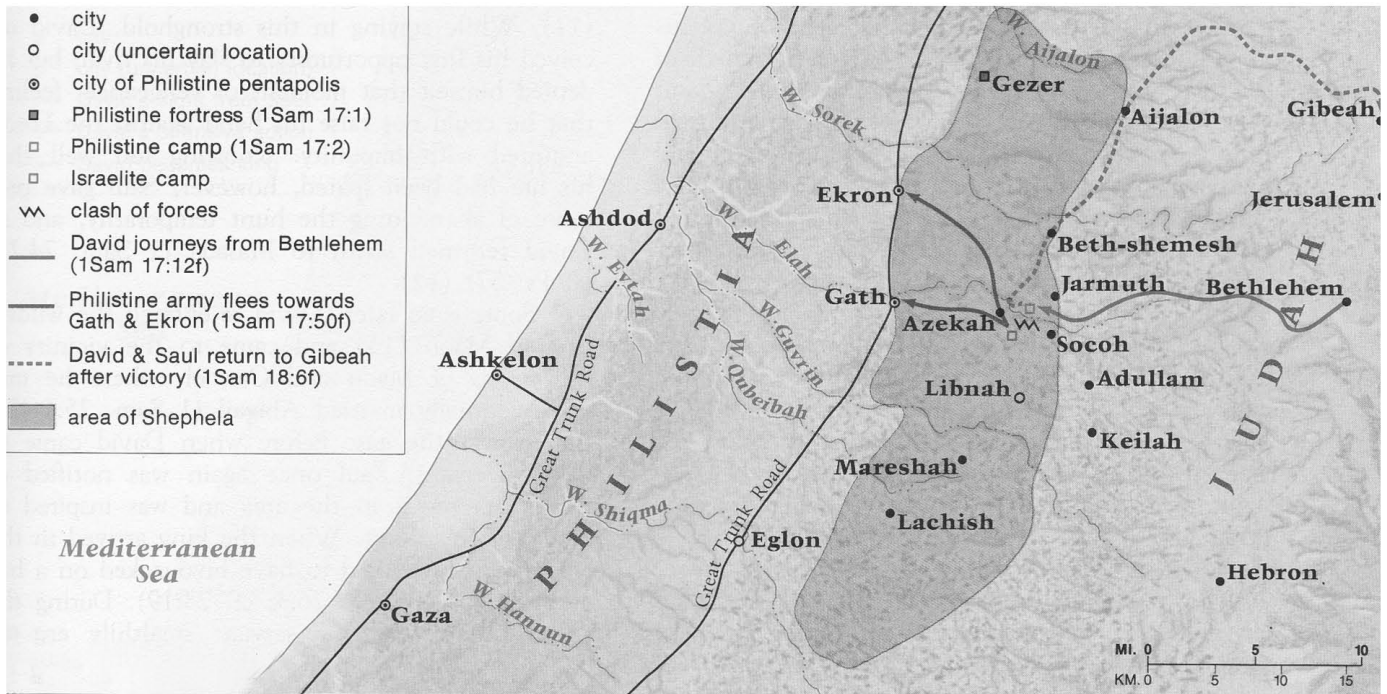
## **REVIEW LESSON II**

1. What verses have been most significant this year?
2. How have you seen God at work in answer to prayer?
3. What have you learned about sin and repentance?
4. What have you learned about friendship?
5. What insights about power and its abuse have you gained from the study?
6. Who were the women in Samuel and how has their wisdom challenged you personally?
7. Why do you think David was called a “man after God’s own heart”?
8. What have you learned from David to strengthen your faith?
9. What do you most want to hold onto and not to forget as you leave this study?

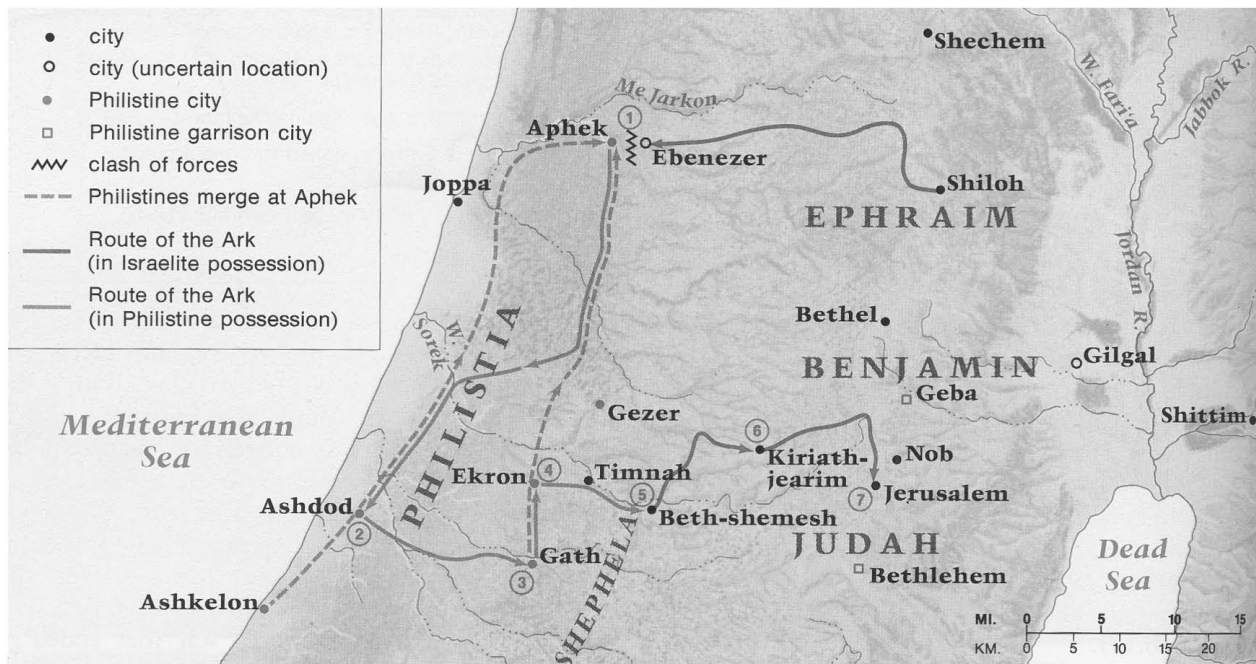
# BATTLES DURING SAUL'S REIGN



# DAVID & GOLIATH



# JOURNEYS OF THE ARK



# DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

