

The Kingdom of God

Chapter 7

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 33



Objective: To introduce and understand the history books that describe the kingdom of God.



When they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

—1 Samuel 8:6-7

The next six books tell the history of Israel's kings and begin to describe what the kingdom of God is like. These books help us understand the concept of the kingdom of God in the New Testament, especially in the teachings of Jesus. These Kingdom Literature History Books can be confusing, but seven basic facts of Hebrew history will help you understand them:

1. The united kingdom (under Saul, David, and Solomon)
2. The divided kingdom
3. The Assyrian captivity of The Northern Kingdom: Israel
4. The extinction of The Northern Kingdom
5. The Babylonian captivity of The Southern Kingdom: Judah
6. The Persian conquest of Babylon
7. The return of the Jews from the Babylonian (Persian) Captivity

In the Old Testament, God's kingdom was literal. It was a historical and geographical realm over which God was sovereign, with God Himself wanting to be the only ruler over a specific people in a specific place at a specific time in history. The people, however, rejected God as their king and asked for human kings, which they got. The results were often tragic.



1. True or **false**? The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles are known as a collection of allegories and poetry.
2. True or **false**? In the Old Testament, the kingdom of God was only symbolic, not a real kingdom.
3. True or **false**? The past is not important, and the study of Hebrew history is boring and has no value for us today.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What does Jesus teach us to put first in our lives?
 - a. Our work
 - b. Our family
 - c. Our friends
 - d. The kingdom of God**
5. Read John 3:3. According to Jesus, who is able to see the kingdom of God?
 - a. Anyone who looks for it
 - b. Only those who are born again**
 - c. Only priests
 - d. Only Jesus Himself
6. What was God's desire for the government of Israel?
 - a. To rule Israel Himself through a prophet-priest**
 - b. To give them a king from the very beginning
 - c. To make them the world's first democracy
 - d. To make them the wealthiest nation in the world
7. Who was the last prophet-priest to govern the nation before Israel's first king?
 - a. Saul
 - b. Moses
 - c. Samuel**
 - d. David
8. When Israel rejected Samuel, who were they really rejecting?
 - a. All of the priests
 - b. All of the prophets
 - c. All of the judges
 - d. God Himself**
9. What was Saul, Israel's first king, like?
 - a. Good and faithful
 - b. Weak and fearful
 - c. Disobedient and unfaithful**
 - d. Wise and generous

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."
—John 3:3

10. What was David, Israel's second king, like?
- a. Angry and insane
 - b. Faithful and obedient**
 - c. Bitter and jealous
 - d. Weak and fearful
11. What happened to the kingdom of Israel after David and Solomon? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. It was divided.**
 - b. It grew and flourished.
 - c. It was conquered and taken into captivity.**
 - d. It stayed about the same.
 - e. It was taken captive and suffered greatly.**
12. How does someone become part of God's kingdom?
- a. By living a perfect life
 - b. By submitting to God as King on His terms**
 - c. By moving to Israel
 - d. By going to church as often as possible
13. How do the Old Testament history books relate to the New Testament?
- a. There is no relation between them.
 - b. The New Testament kingdom replaces the Old Testament kingdom.
 - c. The Old Testament teaches us about the kingdom of God.**
 - d. The kingdom is exactly the same in both testaments.

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

— Matthew 6:28-34



What are your priorities in life? What should your priorities be? What can you do to seek first God's kingdom today and each day?



Thank God for the opportunity to be part of His kingdom forever. Ask Him to remove any obstacle to His reign in your heart. Ask God to help you seek Him and His kingdom first.



Going Deeper

1. What was God's plan for the government and leadership of His people? _____

2. How did Samuel represent the kind of leader that God needed for the kind of government He wanted? _____

3. In what ways was David the kind of leader that God wanted to lead His people, and in what ways were Saul and Solomon not the kinds of leaders God wanted to lead His people? _____

4. Why does God give us six books in His inspired library that teach us about the Kingdom of God? _____

5. How does this teaching relate to the New Testament, especially the teaching of Jesus about the Kingdom of God? (consider Mark 1: 14-15; John 3: 3-5 and Matthew 6:28-34) _____

6. What value did Jesus place upon the Kingdom of God when He taught that seeing and entering into the Kingdom of God is the purpose of the new birth, and that we should seek first the Kingdom of God? _____

7. How does all of this teaching about the Kingdom of God relate to you personally? _____
