

## Lesson 8 – United Kingdom

Texts: 1 Samuel 10 – 1 Kings 12; 1 Chronicles 1 – 2 Chronicles 11

Main Characters: God, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam

### Key Verses

- 1 Samuel 10:17-19 – In demanding for a physical king to rule over them, Israel had rebelled and rejected God as their king.
- 2 Samuel 7:12-13 – God promises David that his kingdom would be established forever. God is talking about the spiritual kingdom that would be established through Jesus, the church.
- 1 Kings 12:15-20 – God hardens the heart of Rehoboam and causes him to push the people to rebellion (fulfilling His promise to Solomon). All the tribes but Judah rebel against Rehoboam.

### List

#### The Kings of the United Kingdom of Israel

Saul  
David  
Solomon  
Rehoboam

Song: *The First Three Kings of Israel*

### Transition from the Judges

After years of disobedience, the people fully rejected God as king by asking for a physical king. They did this mostly because they wanted to be like the nations around them. God, through Samuel, warned the people against this decision, but eventually He decided to grant their request. God instructed Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king over all the tribes of Israel.

### Main Storyline

The first king, Saul, started out well, but later became disobedient and ignored God's commands. As a result, God promised to take away the kingdom and give it to "a man after His own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14), referring to David. After Saul died, David became king and reigned over Israel. He was a good king, but made a big mistake when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband, Uriah (2 Samuel 11). His life became very hard from that time on because of his sin.

After David died, his son, Solomon, became king. Solomon was given special wisdom by God and reigned well over Israel until he, like his father, made a big mistake. He married women that did not believe in God, and they persuaded him to worship idols and forget about God. Because of Solomon's sin, God promised that He would take away a large part of the kingdom from his son when he became king. In addition, the rest of Solomon's reign over Israel was very difficult and full of hardships.

### Transition to The Divided Kingdom

After Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became king over Israel. The people asked Rehoboam to lighten their loads (referring to slavery and/or taxes that had been imposed by Solomon). Rehoboam consulted with his advisors, and, instead of listening to the older men who told him to listen to the people, he listened to his friends and told the people that he would make their work more difficult. Ten of the tribes (the northern tribes) rebelled against Rehoboam and made Jeroboam their king. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin stayed loyal to Rehoboam. Thus, the kingdom of Israel became divided.