

## LESSON 10: THE KINGS

From 1 Kingdoms 8:1 to 4 Kingdoms 25:30

Samuel the Prophet choose his two sons to be the next judges. These two sons were bad; they did not obey God. The people of God, the Israelites, did not like his two sons and did not want them to be in charge.

The people said to Samuel, “We don’t want judges anymore. We want a king, just like all the other countries have.” Samuel did not think having a king was a good idea, but the people kept asking. Samuel prayed to God.

God said, “I want to be their King. The people don’t want to follow me anymore. Give them a king, but warn them about how a king will treat them.”

Samuel told the people that a king would take their land, their sons and daughters, and their crops. He warned them that they would become like slaves of the king. The people insisted that they wanted a king. “We want to be like all the other countries.”

Saul was the first king. Samuel told him and the people, “Obey the Lord and serve him with all your heart.”

Saul did not obey God, so God chose David as the new king. Before he was king, David was a young man who took care of sheep and played music on his harp. As king, David loved God and tried to lead the people in obeying Him. When he did something wrong, he asked God to forgive him.

David “was a man after God’s own heart.” God promised that one of David’s descendants would always a king.

After David died, his son Solomon became the next king. Solomon started out as a good king. He had many wives and he tried to make them happy instead of obeying God. He ended up worshiping his wives’ idols.

After Solomon, God’s people were split into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. All the kings of Israel disobeyed God and led the people to sin. Some of the kings of Judah obeyed God and led the people to do what was right.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Why did the people say wanted a king to lead them?
  - A. All the other countries had kings.
  - B. The people did not like the new judges.
  - C. The new judges were bad.
  - D. They wanted God to be their king.
  
2. Samuel warned the people that having a king might not be a good idea. Which of these were reasons he gave?
  - A. A king would take land, children, and crops from the people.
  - B. A king would make the people serve him like slaves.
  - C. A king might have a mean queen.
  - D. A king would take the people back to Egypt.
  
3. Which of these statements about David are true?
  - A. He was a “man after God’s own heart.”
  - B. He was the first king of Israel.
  - C. He became king of the whole world.
  - D. He was a shepherd and played the harp before he was king.

Fill in the blanks.

4. Who was David’s son who became the next king?

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5. Was David’s son a good king or a bad king? Explain your answer.

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6. What happened to the kingdom after King Solomon?

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## EXTRA QUESTIONS (Lesson 11)

7. David wrote many of the psalms in the Bible. Read Psalm 50 in the Orthodox Study Bible (it may be Psalm 51 in some other Bibles), especially the last couple of verses that may be more familiar to you. Where have you heard this psalm before?

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8. God promised that one of David's descendant would always be king. As we will learn in the next lesson, the kings only ruled for several hundred years. Read Matthew 1:1 to see how God kept his promise. Who is David's descendant who is King forever?

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9. The people begged God for a king. The kings did make the people like slaves, and took their land, sons and daughters, and crops. Having a king wasn't a good idea. Have you ever begged your parents for something that didn't turn out to be as good of an idea as you thought? If so, what happened?

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Read these words of St. Evagrius of Pontus. "I have often prayed and asked God for what seemed good in my own estimation (opinion). Like a fool, I kept on at God to grant me this; I would not leave it to Him to arrange as He knows best for me. Then, having obtained the thing I had prayed for so stubbornly, I have often been sorry that I did not leave it to the will of God, for the reality often turned out very different from the way I had imagined it."

10. You can find a chart of the kings of Judah and Israel at <http://www.vtaide.com/gleanings/Kings-of-Israel/kings.html>.