

BANNED

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE



The Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg

Mondays, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm,

March 3 – April 21

Housekeeping

- Slides: frederickuu.org/about/FCC
- **Attendance** for FCC
- Add to **email** list?
- **Other?**

Covenant

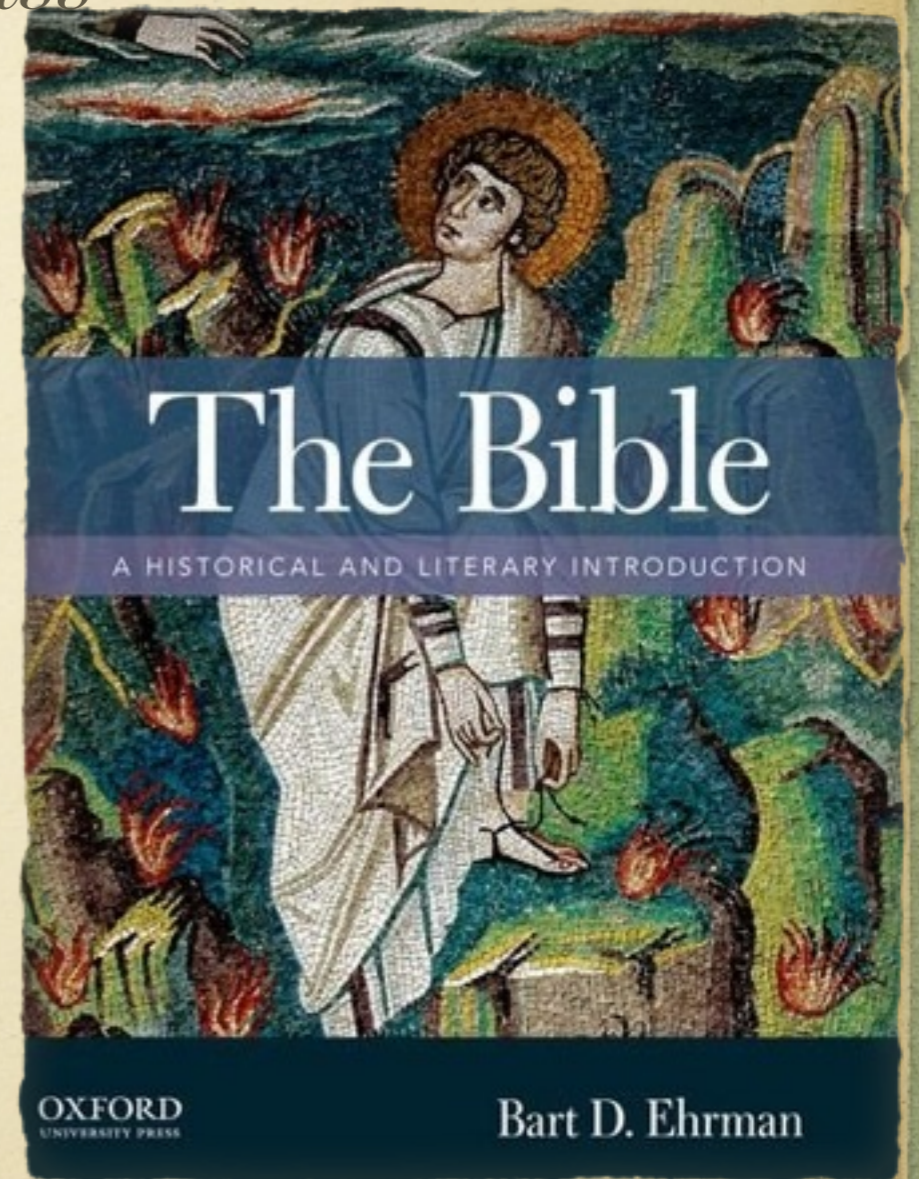
- Use **“I” statements**: *Speak from your own experience.*
- **Ask permission before sharing** other participants’ stories outside the group.
- **Step-up, step-back**: be conscious of the level of participation that you bring to the conversation. Allow everyone a chance to speak before you speak again.
- You always have **permission to “pass.”**



Upcoming Classes

- Session 6: Samuel and Kings
- Fall 2014: 6-week Class finishing Hebrew Bible, starting with the Prophets.

Alternately: Read primary text...*and* annotations
...*or just come to class*



➤ Chapter 4: The Deuteronomic History
Joshua to 2 Kings

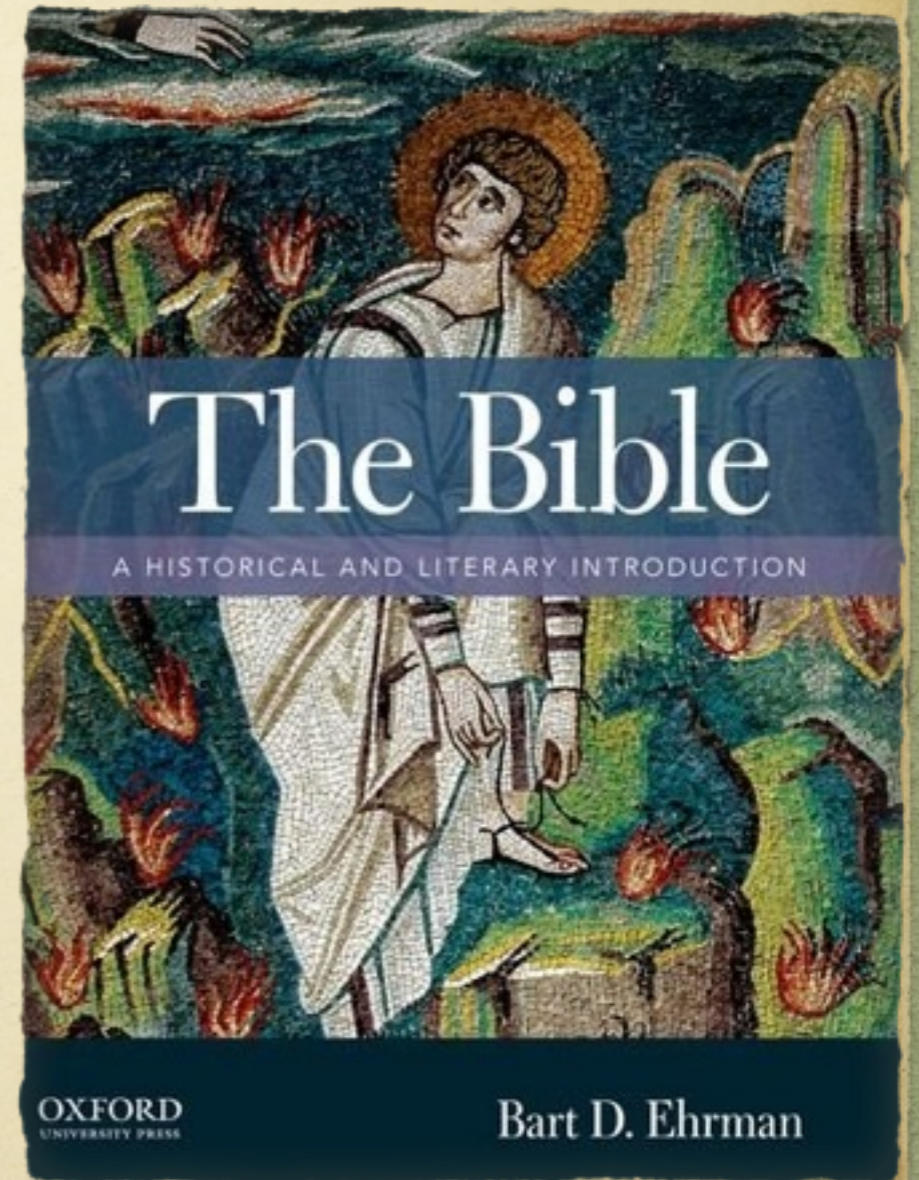
Alternately: Read primary text...*and* annotations
...*or just come to class*

➤ Chapter 5: The Early Israelite Prophets: Amos, Isaiah of Jerusalem, Jeremiah, Hosea, Micah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk

➤ Chapter 6: The Historians and Prophets of Exile and Return: Ezra and Nehemiah, Second Isaiah, Joel, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Third Isaiah, Malachi

➤ Chapter 7: Poets and Story Tellers of Ancient Israel: Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, Daniel, 1 and 2 Chronicles

➤ Chapter 8: Wisdom and Apocalyptic Literature: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Selections of AL



Fall 2014

Samuel: The Rise of the Monarchy

Transition from Judges

Judges 21:25, the last verse in the book, echoes again the refrain throughout the book: “In those days there was *no king* in Israel; all the people did what was right in their *own eyes*.”



Introduction to Samuel

- In Samuel and Kings, we will see the *rise of the monarchy*—
- *From* the freed slaves led by Moses, *to* the conquering army led by Joshua, *to* the tenuous network of tribes led by the judges, *to* the united kingdom under the monarchy.
- Problem: *theocracy* was mandated at Mount Sinai with YHWH as the king.



Title

- *Not written by Samuel, nor is Samuel the main or only character.*
- Other suggested titles have been “**Kingship in Israel,**” or “**The Rise of the Monarchy.**” (*In the Septuagint, Samuel and Kings are called “Kingdoms I, II, III, and IV.”*)
- Originally, Samuel was one book. Divided in two around 2nd century BCE when it was translated from Hebrew into **Greek.** (*Hebrew does not have vowels, and when the vowels were added in the Greek translation, it was much longer and required two scrolls instead of one.*)

Outline

- 1 Samuel 1:1 – 7:17 **Samuel**
- 1 Samuel 8:1 – 15:34 **Saul and advent of kingship**
- 1 Sam 15:35 – 2 Sam 5:10 **David's Rise to Power**
- 2 Samuel 5:11 – 12:31 **Reign of David**
- 2 Sam 13:1-20:22 **Unsuccessful revolt of Absalom**

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Samuel Hearing God's Call

(1 Samuel 3:1-14)

- If even Eli can facilitate the hearing of God's call, then anyone can.
- Recurring theme: God has used people who are far less eloquent, less intelligent, less honest, and less moral than you.

I Samuel 8

➤ 1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. 3 Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they **took bribes and perverted justice.** 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; **appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.**" 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, 7 and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected me from being king over them.** 8 Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. 9 Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

I Samuel 8

10 So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. 11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; 12 and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. 15 He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. 16 He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

Anointing of Saul

- 1 Sam 10:1, “Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, ‘The Lord has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you ruler over his heritage’”
- Hebrew: mashiach; English: messiah
- Greek: Christos; English: Christ
- Divinely designated leader.
- Christ is *not* Jesus’ last name...”Jesus, *the* Christ”

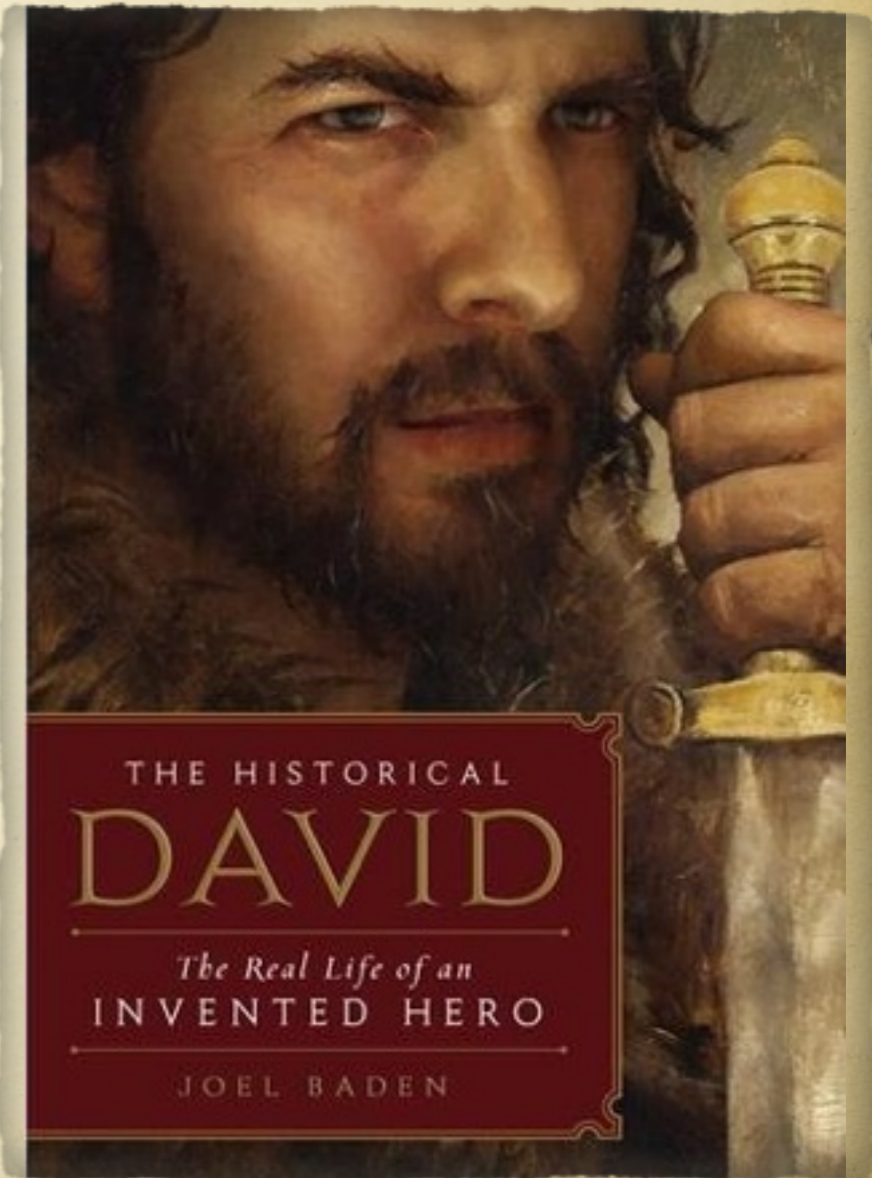
Philistines and War

➤ 1 Sam 4, “1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel, and Israel went out to battle against them; 2 ... Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle... 11 The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.... 18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years. 19 Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. When she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth; for her labor pains overwhelmed her. 20 As she was about to die, the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or give heed. 21 She named the child Ichabod, meaning, "The glory has departed from Israel," because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."”

➤ Naming of children as prophetic sign-acts

Demise of Saul and the Rise of David

➤ 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." He replied, "Speak." 17 Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. 18 And the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" 20 Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But from the spoil the people took sheep and cattle, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." 22 And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obedience to the voice of the Lord? Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is no less a sin than divination, and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king." 24 Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, I pray, pardon my sin, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord."



Demise of Saul and the Rise of David

26 Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." 27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. 28 And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 Moreover the Glory of Israel will not recant or change his mind; for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind." 30 Then Saul said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God." 31 So Samuel turned back after Saul; and Saul worshiped the Lord. 32 Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." And Agag came to him haltingly. Agag said, "Surely this is the bitterness of death." 33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Evil Spirit from the Lord

- 1 Sam 16, “14 Now the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 23 And whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him.”
- 18:10, “The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand”
- 19:9, “Then an evil spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand, while David was playing music.”
- Everything comes from God, even demonic attacks (*remember Exodus 4:24-26*)
- Modern interpretation: evil spirit = mental illness

1 Sam 18:6-16 Increase of tension between Saul and David

➤ 1 Sam 18, “6 As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they made merry, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 8 Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 So Saul eyed David from that day on. 10 The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; 11 and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. 12 Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. 13 So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. 14 David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. 15 When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

Escalation...including in the bathroom!

- 1 Sam 24, “3 He came to the sheepfolds beside the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 The men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, "I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.' " Then David went and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's cloak. 5 Afterward David was stricken to the heart because he had cut off a corner of Saul's cloak. 6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to raise my hand against him; for he is the Lord's anointed."
- Literally: “Saul went to cover his feet” (NRSV: “Saul went in to relieve himself.”)

Symbolism of Cutting the Cloak

- 1 Sam 15:27-28 “27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. 28 And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this very day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.”
- 1 Kings 11, “29 About that time, when Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Ahijah had clothed himself with a new garment. The two of them were alone in the open country 30 when Ahijah laid hold of the new garment he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 He then said to Jeroboam: Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "See, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes.”

Medium at Endor

➤ 1 Samuel 28, “3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. Saul had expelled the mediums and the wizards from the land. 4 The Philistines assembled, and came and encamped at Shunem. Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. 6 When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, not by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her." His servants said to him, "There is a medium at Endor." 8 So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes and went there, he and two men with him. They came to the woman by night. And he said, "Consult a spirit for me, and bring up for me the one whom I name to you." 9 The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the wizards from the land. Why then are you laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?" 10 But Saul swore to her by the Lord, "As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." 11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He answered, "Bring up Samuel for me." 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"

Medium at Endor

➤ 13 The king said to her, "Have no fear; what do you see?" The woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the ground." 14 He said to her, "What is his appearance?" She said, "An old man is coming up; he is wrapped in a robe." So Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance. 15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams; so I have summoned you to tell me what I should do." 16 Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy? 17 The Lord has done to you just as he spoke by me; for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbor, David. 18 Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord, and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you today. 19 Moreover the Lord will give Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me; the Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines."

Medium at Endor

20 Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. 21 The woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Your servant has listened to you; I have taken my life in my hand, and have listened to what you have said to me. 22 Now therefore, you also listen to your servant; let me set a morsel of bread before you. Eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." 23 He refused, and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he listened to their words. So he got up from the ground and sat on the bed. 24 Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house. She quickly slaughtered it, and she took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened cakes. 25 She put them before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night."

Sheol

- **Mosaic Covenant** makes no mention of life after death, *possibly a rejection of the highly developed Egyptian funerary cult*. In contrast to the sacred view of corpses in Egyptian, in Israel, the dead are considered unclean.
- Numbers: those who touch corpses must be purified.
- Leviticus: priests must avoid corpses.
- Isaiah 14:9, “Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.”
- Also translated as “pit.” Perhaps from the root sha’al, meaning “to ask,” because Sheol is never satisfied.
- Sheol viewed as *beneath* the earth or the sea. [3-tiered universe]

1 Samuel 31

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines, and many fell on Mount Gilboa. 2 The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchishua, the sons of Saul. 3 The battle pressed hard upon Saul; the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by them. 4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, so that these uncircumcised may not come and thrust me through, and make sport of me." But his armor-bearer was unwilling; for he was terrified. **So Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.** 5 When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. 6 So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together on the same day. 7 When the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their towns and fled; and the Philistines came and occupied them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 They cut off his head, stripped off his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to the houses of their idols and to the people. 10 They put his armor in the temple of Astarte; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. 11 But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men set out, traveled all night long, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan. They came to Jabesh and burned them there. 13 Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

Affair with Bathsheba

(2 Samuel 11-13)

- 2 Sam 11, “8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants.”
- Murder of Uriah
- 2 Sam 12: Nathan’s oracle against David
- 2 Sam 14, “because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die.”
- 12:24-25, “24 Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he named him Solomon. The Lord loved him, 25 and sent a message by the prophet Nathan; so he named him Jedidiah, because of the Lord.”



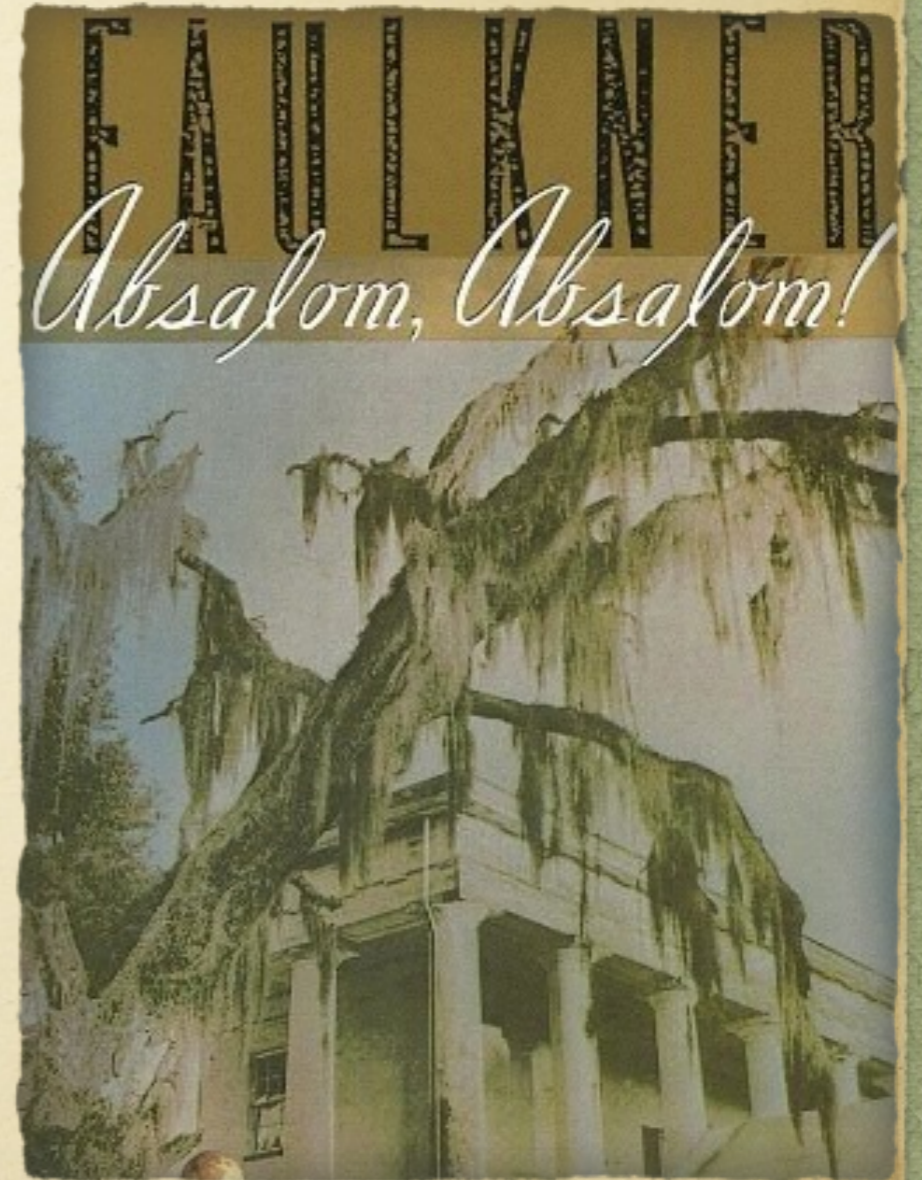
Rape of Tamar (2 Samuel 13)

- Read: biblestudytools.com/nrs/2-samuel/13.html
- 13:21, “21 When King David heard of all these things, he became very angry, but he would *not* punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, for he was his firstborn.” [*Adulterer supports the rapist*]
- Tribble, *Texts of Terror*: “In these days there is a king in Israel, and royalty does the right in its own eyes.”



Absalom Sleeps with David's Concubines

- 2 Samuel 16:22, "So they pitched a tent for Absalom upon the roof; and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel." [*public knowledge*]
- 2 Samuel 18:33, "The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"



Comparing Samuel and Kings

- Like 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings was originally one book. [Again, when Kings was translated into Greek, vowels were added, and two scrolls were required for the longer version.]
- “Artificiality” of the division between 1 and 2 Kings is obvious because it is not split during any major event.
- Greek: Basileiai/ Basileiai (“kingdoms” or “dynasties” or “reigns”), and Samuel and Kings together were Basileiai I, II, III, and IV.

Comparing Samuel and Kings

- In Samuel, there is a clear list of main characters (*Samuel, Saul, David, Absalom*), but Kings is a longer history of the line of kings from David to the exile.
- Kings is the continuous story of Israel's history:
 - *from* Death of David and ascension of Solomon (970 BCE)
 - *to* the Babylonian Exile
 - *and* eventual release of the exiled King Jehoiachin from prison in Babylon (561/60 BCE).

Concludes the “Deuteronomistic History”: Deut, Joshua, Judges, Sam, Kgs

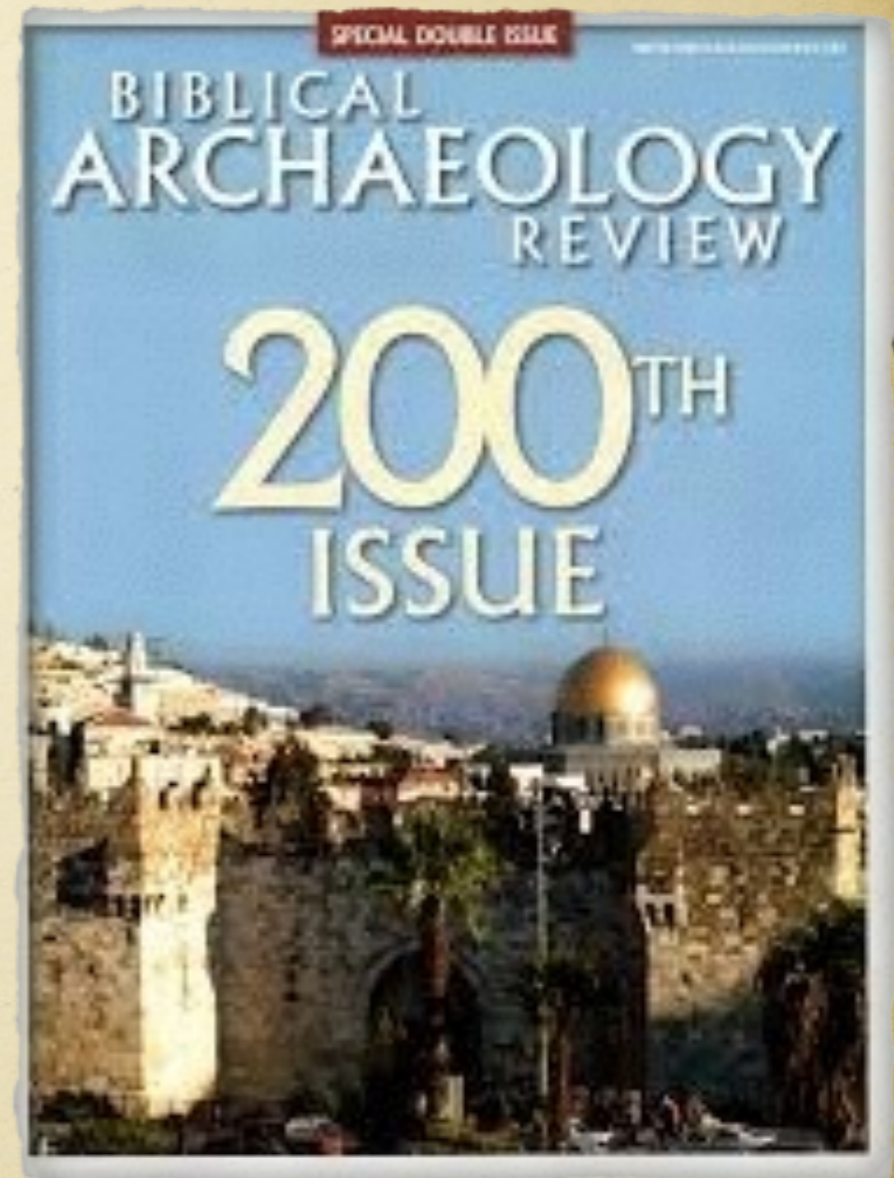
- Theme: If follow covenant, then blessed. If break covenant, then punished.
- Not about domestic and international politics, rather, evaluated as a religious leaders and model citizen in relation to the covenant with God.
- **Syncretism** was strongly discouraged (*synthesizing/combining beliefs and practices from multiple religions*).
- Extended theological essay written by someone convinced that the destruction of the Northern Kingdom and the fall of the southern kingdom were due to the misguided policies of their kings. (*Dissenting opinion in the wisdom literature.*)
- Strong bias *against* the Northern Kingdom of Israel, whose first king Jeroboam broke with the divinely authorized Davidic dynasty and Jerusalem Temple and created alternative worship centers.

Outline

- **1 Kings 1-11, Reign of Solomon:** David's death, the sources of Solomon's wisdom, his reign of a United Kingdom, the building and furnishing of the Temple.
- **1 Kings 12- 2 Kings 17, Divided Monarchy:** Northern tribes reject the authority of Solomon's son Rehoboam, and form their own kingdom (Israel); henceforth, what is left of the other former kingdom is called Judah. Overlapping history of Israel and Judah for two centuries until Israel destroyed by Assyrians in 722.
- **2 Kings 18-25 Kingdom of Judah:** Davidic dynasts in Judah until the Southern Kingdom is conquered by Babylon; Jerusalem is ruined, the Temple destroyed, and leading citizens are exiled in 586/7.
- **Divided Monarchy (922-722 BCE)** until destruction of Israel in 722 by the Assyrians.

Archaeology

- For the first time, archaeology provides independent support to the biblical story, due mainly to the records from rulers such as Sennacherib (Assyrian empire) and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian Empire).



Archaeology

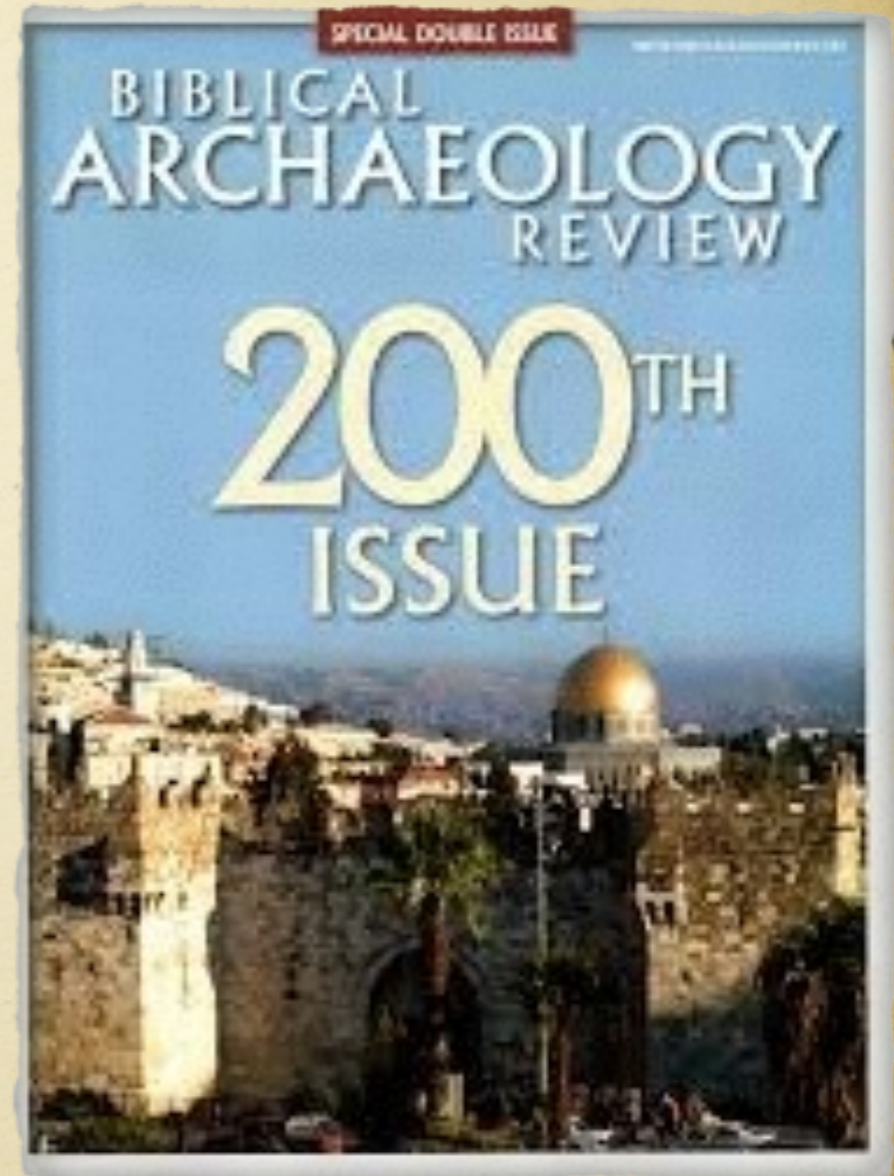
➤ For the first time, archaeology provides independent support to the biblical story, due mainly to the records from rulers such as Sennacherib (Assyrian empire) and Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian Empire).

➤ Not Extant:

➤ “Book of the Acts of Solomon,” (1 Kings 11:41),

➤ “Books of the Annals of the Kings of Israel” (mentioned 18 times) or the

➤ “Books of the Annals of the Kings of Judah” (mentioned 15 times).



“It’s good to be the king!” -Mel Brooks, “History of the World”

➤ 1 Kings 1:1-4, “1 King David was old and advanced in years; and although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. 2 So his servants said to him, "Let a young virgin be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king, and be his attendant; let her lie in your bosom, so that my lord the king may be warm." 3 So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 The girl was very beautiful. She became the king's attendant and served him, but the king did not know her sexually.”



- **1 Kings 1:5-35** David's eldest son *Adonijah* has his eyes on the throne, but *Nathan* and *Bathsheba* prod David to ensure *Solomon's* kingship.
- Biblical inversion motif: younger son supplanting older son: *Isaac* over *Ishmael*, *Jacob* over *Esau*, *Ephraim* over *Manasseh*, *David* over his older brothers.

Death of King David

➤ **1 Kings 2:10-12** “10 Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. 11 The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.”



Political Marriages, not just sexual appetite

- 1 Kings 3:1, “Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the Lord and the wall around Jerusalem.”
- Story of Solomon’s wisdom...cutting the baby in half!



Political Marriages, not just sexual appetite

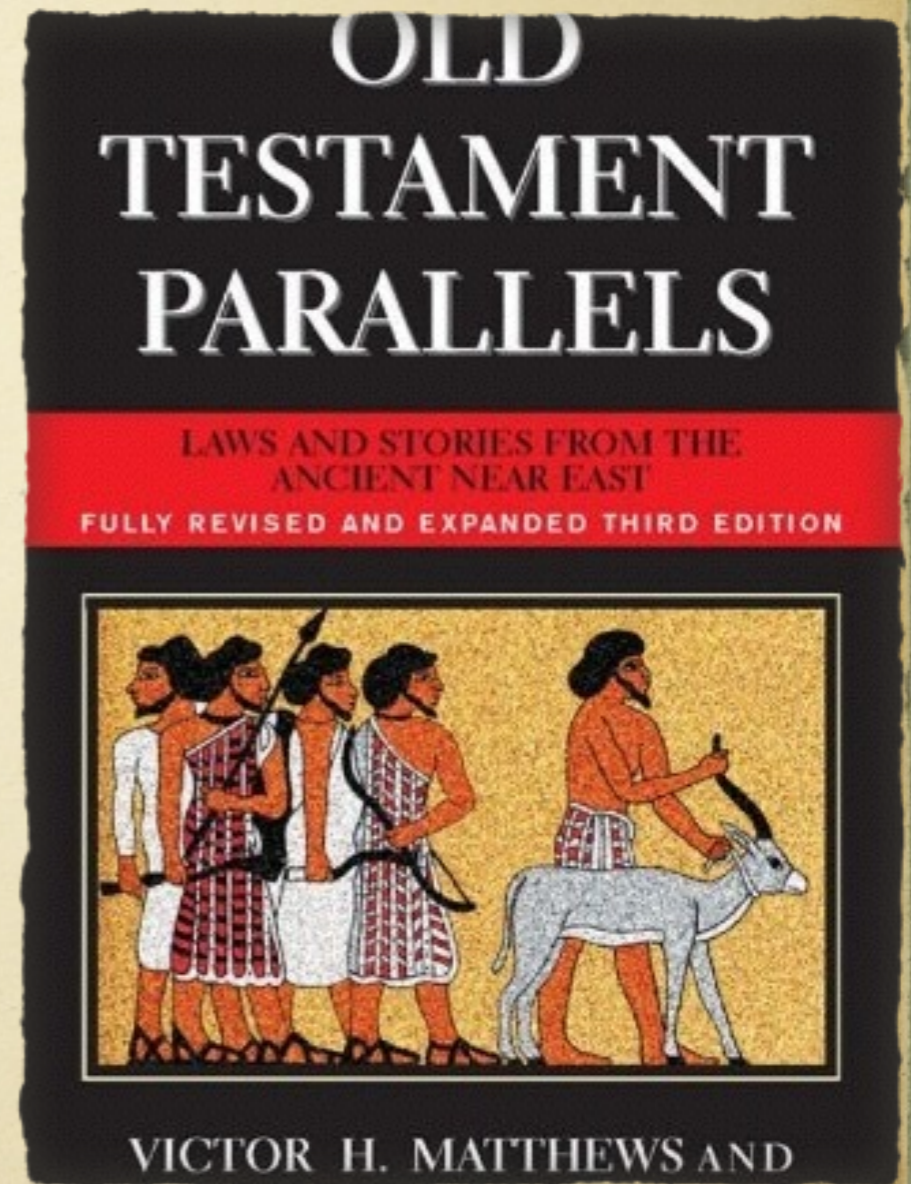
➤ **1 Kings 11:** “1 Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the Israelites, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you; for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods"; Solomon clung to these in love. 3 Among his wives were **seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines**; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not completely follow the Lord, as his father David had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who offered incense and sacrificed to their gods.

DH

1 Kings 11: “9 Then the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not follow other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. 12 Yet for the sake of your father David I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 I will not, however, tear away the entire kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

Proverbs, International interest in wisdom literature (doesn't mention Israel/land), OT Parallels

➤ 1 Kings 4, “29 God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. 32 He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. 33 He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. 34 People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.”



You were warned!

1 Kings 5, “1 Now **King Hiram of Tyre** sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. 2 Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 3 "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.' 6 Therefore command that **cedars from the Lebanon be cut for me**. My servants will join your servants, and I will give you whatever wages you set for your servants; for you know that there is **no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians**." 7 When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly, and said, "**Blessed be the Lord today, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people**." 8 Hiram sent word to Solomon, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me; I will fulfill all your needs in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. 9 My servants shall bring it down to the sea from the Lebanon; I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will have them broken up there for you to take away. And you shall meet my needs by providing food for my household." 10 So Hiram supplied Solomon's every need for timber of cedar and cypress. 11 Solomon in turn gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty cors of fine oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. 12 So the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. There was **peace between Hiram and Solomon; and the two of them made a treaty**. 13 **King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men**.

Queen of Sheba

- There are exceptions to misogyny and patriarchy.
- 1 Kings 10: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/nrs/1-kings/10.html>
- 2 Kings 11:1-2,20: *Athaliah, only ruling Queen of Israel or Judah:*
- “1 Now when Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she set about to destroy all the royal family. 2 But Jehosheba, King Joram's daughter, Ahaziah's sister, took Joash son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's children who were about to be killed; she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus she hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not killed; 3 he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the Lord, while Athaliah reigned over the land.... 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been killed with the sword at the king's house.”



➤ **1 Kings 11:** “41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did as well as his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? 42 The time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 Solomon slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam succeeded him.”

Conscription worsens, Rehoboam doesn't listen, so Jeroboam becomes king of Israel...leaving southern kingdom of Judah alone.

➤ **1 Kings 12:** “12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, "Come to me again the third day." 13 The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him 14 and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, "My father made your yoke heavy, but **I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.**" 15 So the king did not listen to the people, because it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord that he might fulfill his word.... 18 When King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam then hurriedly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. 20 When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was no one who followed the house of David, except the tribe of Judah alone.”

1 Kings 18: “38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God." 40 Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." Then they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon, and killed them there.”

➤ 2 Kings 2:

➤ “7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

➤ “8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.” [*Allusion to Moses...reaching back to Torah*]

➤ 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." 10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

➤ 2 Kings 2:

➤ “11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. 13 He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. 15 When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.” *[Assumption into heaven]*

➤ Miriam's cup at Feminist Seders, instead of just Elijah's chair.

➤ **2 Kings 2:** “23 [Elisha] went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!" 24 When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. 25 From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and then returned to Samaria.”

“Searching the Scriptures” after Jesus’ Death and
(Visions?!) of his Resurrection:

Elisha Stories, Part 1 of 3: Resurrection

➤ **2 King 4:** “32 When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. 33 So he went in and closed the door on the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. 34 Then he got up on the bed and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and while he lay bent over him, the flesh of the child became warm. 35 He got down, walked once to and fro in the room, then got up again and bent over him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite woman.” So he called her. When she came to him, he said, “Take your son.” 37 She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took her son and left.”

“Searching the Scriptures” after Jesus’ Death and
(Visions?!) of his Resurrection:

Elisha Stories, Part 2 of 3: Feeding of the 100

2 Kings 4: “42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” 43 But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, “**They shall eat and have some left.**” 44 He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.”

“Searching the Scriptures” after Jesus’ Death and (Visions?!) of his Resurrection:

Elisha Stories, Part 3 of 3: Curing Leprosy

➤ **2 Kings 5:1-19:** “10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." 11 But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.”

“Searching the Scriptures” after Jesus’ Death and
(Visions?!) of his Resurrection:
Elisha Stories

- Jesus not *sui generis* "of its own kind/genus."
- Part of the prophetic tradition

Horrific Description of Famine

➤ **2 Kings 6:** “26 Now as the king of Israel was walking on the city wall, a woman cried out to him, "Help, my lord king!" 27 He said, "No! Let the Lord help you. How can I help you? From the threshing floor or from the wine press?" 28 But then the king asked her, "What is your complaint?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son; we will eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' 29 So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give up your son and we will eat him.' But she has hidden her son." 30 When the king heard the words of the woman he tore his clothes—now since he was walking on the city wall, the people could see that he had sackcloth on his body underneath”

Destruction of Northern Kingdom of Israel.

➤ **2 Kings 17** “1 In the twelfth year of King Ahaz of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel; he reigned nine years. 2 He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him. 3 King Shalmaneser of Assyria came up against him; Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute. 4 But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to King So of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria confined him and imprisoned him. 5 Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria; for three years he besieged it. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria captured Samaria; he carried the Israelites away to Assyria. He placed them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 This occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They had worshiped other gods....”

King Manessah

➤ **2 Kings 21:1-20:** repetitions of kings doing “what is evil in the sight of the LORD.”

Changes with King Josiah

➤ 2 Kings 22: “1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. 2 He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.” *[reading an early version of Deuteronomy]*

Hearing the words of the law and Josiah's reforms

➤ **2 Kings 22:** “8 The high priest Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." ...Shaphan then read it aloud to the king. 11 When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. 12 Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah, saying, 13 "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Reforms not enough

➤ **2 Kings 23:** “25 Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. 26 Still the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. 27 The Lord said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel; and I will reject this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

Babylonian captivity

- **2 Kings 23, “36 Jehoiakim** was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.... **37 He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, just as all his ancestors had done.”**
- **“2 Kings 24: “6 So Jehoiakim** slept with his ancestors; then his son **Jehoiachin** succeeded him. **7 The king of Egypt** did not come again out of his land, for the king of Babylon had taken over all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Wadi of Egypt to the River Euphrates. **8 Jehoiachin** was eighteen years old when he began to reign; he reigned three months in Jerusalem.... **9 He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, just as his father had done. 10 At that time the servants of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon** came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. **13 He carried off all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the Lord, which King Solomon of Israel had made, all this as the Lord had foretold. 14 He carried away all Jerusalem, all the officials, all the warriors, ten thousand captives, all the artisans and the smiths; no one remained, except the poorest people of the land. 15 He carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon; the king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the elite of the land, he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 The king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, seven thousand, the artisans and the smiths, one thousand, all of them strong and fit for war. 17 The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.”**

Conclusion of the Kingdoms Saga

- **2 Kings 25: 27** “In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, King Evil-merodach of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, **released King Jehoiachin of Judah from prison**; 28 he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the other seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. 29 So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes. Every day of his life he dined regularly in the king's presence. 30 For his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, a portion every day, as long as he lived.”
- God's anointed/Messiah still alive in the person of the Judean king Jehoiachin, released from Babylonian captivity in 561/60 BCE. 37 year of exile.

Upcoming Classes

- Fall 2014: Finish Hebrew Bible, starting with the prophets.



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