

# BIBLE SURVEY



## SECTION 5: THE UNITED KINGDOM

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CLASS SCHEDULE FOR BIBLE SURVEY: SECTION 5: THE UNITED KINGDOM

#	Title	Text	Date
1	Eli & Samuel	1 Sam. 1-4	October 5
2	The Last Judges	1 Sam. 5-8	October 12
3	Israel Gets Its King	1 Sam. 9-12	October 19
4	Decline of Saul, Rise of David	1 Sam. 13-20	October 26
5	David on the Run	1 Sam. 21-27	November 2
6	The Death of Saul	1 Sam. 28-31; 2 Sam. 1	November 9
7	The Reign of David	2 Sam. 2-7	November 16
8	David: Victory & Sin	2 Sam. 8-12	November 23
9	Absalom	2 Sam. 13-19	November 30
10	David's Latter Days	2 Sam. 20-24; 1 Kings 1	December 7
11	Solomon's Reign is Established	1 Kings 1-4	December 14
12	Solomon Builds the Temple & Sins	1 Kings 5-11	December 21
13	Section 5 Review		December 28



## **Summary of the United Kingdom Period**

After Israel conquered the core part of the promised land, it failed to complete the mission. Israel adopted the idolatry and other sins of the Canaanite nations. God used those nations to punish Israel. For over three centuries, Israel experienced cycles of oppression and deliverance. Throughout this period, the nation was fragmented.

After the judgeship of Samuel and his sons, Israel demanded a king. They believed a king would solve all their problems. They envisioned a glorious leader uniting them, defeating their enemies, and providing lasting peace. God had mentioned kings in his promises to Abraham and Jacob (Gen. 17:6, 16; 35:11). God had also foretold Israel's desire for a king through Moses (Deut. 17:14-20). Though Israel's motive was wrong, it was God's will to make Israel into a monarchy.

The period we refer to as the "United Kingdom" lasted 120 years (1050-930 BC). Saul reigned first. His rule started fairly well. He led successful military campaigns against some of Israel's long-time enemies, and the nation was finally unified. But a series of sins resulted in Saul's death and the end of his dynasty. He was replaced by David, a godly man, prolific psalmist, and mighty warrior who decisively defeated Israel's enemies. He moved the capital to Jerusalem and prepared for his son, Solomon, to build the temple.

Solomon's reign was the peak of Israel's prosperity and power. Solomon's influence extended far, finally fulfilling the realm promised to Abraham (Gen. 15:18; 1 Kings 4:21). Solomon also built a magnificent temple. God granted Solomon's request for wisdom and added great wealth and power. Solomon penned much inspired literature: Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, a few psalms, and most of Proverbs (included in our next section). He wrote many other songs which have not been preserved. Solomon did not always use his wisdom, though. He made alliances with other nations by marrying their princesses, and they led him into idolatry. As a result, the kingdom was divided after Solomon's death. The tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Simeon became the kingdom of Judah, ruled by Solomon's son, Rehoboam.

The historical narratives do not detail Solomon's later years. Did he ever repent? Many believe he did. The book of Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon, seems to reflect on his life from the vantage point of his later years. It's difficult to speak with certainty about Solomon's later life, but his sins had an irreversible impact on Israel. After Israel divided, it never reunited. The glory days God had promised to Israel were short-lived.

## **Kings of the United Kingdom**

1050 - 1010 BC – Saul

1010 - 970 BC – David

970 - 930 BC – Solomon

Solomon built the temple from 967 to 960 BC. It was destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians and rebuilt in 516 BC, though this “Second Temple” was less magnificent than Solomon’s. It was renovated and expanded by Herod the Great in the first century BC.

## **Inspired Authors of Biblical Books (United Kingdom Era)**

Jewish and Greek traditions attribute the books or portions to these authors:

Samuel – Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-24

Gad & Nathan – 1 Samuel 25-31, 2 Samuel

Ezra – 1 & 2 Chronicles

David – Psalms 3-41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138-145

Solomon – Psalms 72, 127, Proverbs 1-29, Ecclesiastes, Songs of Solomon

Jeremiah – 1 & 2 Kings

Note: These attributions are not inspired but reflect traditions from ancient times. Some writings are attributed to specific authors elsewhere in the Scriptures. For example, Psalms 2 and 95 are attributed to David in Acts 4:25-26 and Hebrews 4:7, respectively.

## **Supplemental Texts**

Chronicles was written for the Jews returning from exile in the sixth century BC. They needed to rebuild their home and restore temple worship. Chronicles focuses on Judah’s history, paralleling Samuel and Kings. Details not included in Samuel and Kings may be added to this section from Chronicles when noted.

As you can see by the authors of many Biblical books listed above, the United Kingdom was a time of prolific writing, especially Hebrew poetry. While we will focus on the narratives, you may find it interesting to read the books of poetry and wisdom written by David and Solomon. A Chronological Study Bible should place the other books and psalms about where they fall historically. The next section of our survey will be devoted to these books of wisdom and poetry.



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