

# All about Jesus

## Small group questions

### *Kingship to exile: 1 Samuel – 2 Kings*

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact

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- 1. What is the passage about?** Read 1 Samuel 8
  - Briefly recap the story outlined here. Initial thoughts? Anything stand out for you?
  - Anything unclear – any questions?
- 2. What does it teach us about God?** – *review and discuss each point*
  - a. Given half a chance, we'll reject God as King
  - b. Given half a chance, we want to be like everyone else
  - c. Sometimes – God gives us what we want!
- 3. How does it point us to Jesus?** – *review and discuss*

Jesus is THE King. How does Jesus as King compare to the king Samuel warned Israel about?
4. Rejection of our Lord as King is sometimes through a sudden and blatant act of disobedience. At other times, it is a lot more subtle and sneaks up on people over time. Bill was a keen member of his local church for several years until his kids were teenagers. Then their music and other school activities seemed to be allowed to take over the family plans. Bill's attendance at church became less and less. His kids now rarely came. He pulled out of his small group. He avoided contact with his old church friends. How should the pastor and his friends respond?
5. We all tend to place a lot of importance on what people think of us, and therefore standing out as Christian is sometimes very hard because we are opening ourselves up to ridicule or rejection. Yet God has so clearly called us to be different – by our gentleness and kindness and patience; through our speech; by our generosity, our integrity, our trustworthiness etc. How can we arrive at that point in our lives, where we are so confident in what we believe, so secure in who we are as God's people that it really doesn't matter if we face ridicule or rejection for standing out as Christians?
6. Why *did* God grant Israel a King?
7. Sometimes – God gives us what we want. Sometimes what we want is just foolish. At other times, it is something blatantly sinful. Why does God do this?
8. Despite Samuel's warnings – which came from the Lord himself – Israel still pressed on in their demand for a king. How can we wake up to those situations where what we want will actually cost us a lot more than anything we might gain? In other words, how can we avoid a situation where it could be said of us: "Well, they got what they wanted, but they lost what they had"?
9. Helen was going out with a non-Christian guy she was crazy about. Against the advice of her family, her home group leader, her pastor and many friends, she planned to marry him. You have been her friend for years and watched her struggle with her singleness as other friends were married off. Her boyfriend is a lovely guy, but has no interest in the Lord Jesus. What would you say to her?
10. The history of Kingship in Israel as it then played out was a disaster. The kingdom divided into the northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom known as Judah. With all but a few exceptions, the kings led God's people away from him to other religions and practices. Eventually as Mark mentioned, both the northern and the southern kingdoms, were overrun by Assyria and Babylon and taken into captivity – just as Israel had been warned centuries earlier in Deuteronomy 29:16-29. If you're brave, have a read! What then, was the point of the kingship era?

*Pray together for grace to live as God's distinctive people and to keep our eyes on his perfect KING – the Lord Jesus Christ. (See over for the Kings of Israel.)*

## United Monarchy:

1. **Saul** - He was the first king of Israel, chosen by the prophet Samuel after the Israelites demanded a king to lead them like other nations. His reign began well, but eventually he fell out of favor with God and Samuel due to disobedience.

2. **David** - Following Saul, David was anointed by Samuel. David, initially a shepherd and later the famed slayer of Goliath, became one of Israel's greatest kings. His reign was marked by many military successes, as well as by his establishment of Jerusalem as the capital. He's also known for his moral failings, including the affair with Bathsheba, but is described in the Bible as "a man after God's own heart."

3. **Solomon** - The son of David and Bathsheba, Solomon is best known for his wisdom. Under his rule, the First Temple in Jerusalem was built. While his reign was prosperous, his later years were marked by idolatry and turning away from God, which ultimately led to the division of the kingdom after his death.

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam became king, but his harsh policies led to the division of the kingdom into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, leading to the lists you provided earlier.

### Northern Kingdom (Israel):

1. Jeroboam I
2. Nadab
3. Baasha
4. Elah
5. Zimri
6. Omri
7. Ahab
8. Ahaziah
9. Joram (or Jehoram)
10. Jehu
11. Jehoahaz
12. Jehoash (or Joash)
13. Jeroboam II
14. Zechariah
15. Shallum
16. Menahem
17. Pekahiah
18. Pekah
19. Hoshea

### Southern Kingdom (Judah):

The Southern Kingdom, known as Judah, had its capital in Jerusalem and maintained a lineage that was traced through the Davidic line.

1. Rehoboam
2. Abijah (or Abijam)
3. Asa
4. Jehoshaphat
5. Jehoram (or Joram)
6. Ahaziah
7. Athaliah
8. Joash (or Jehoash)
9. Amaziah
10. Uzziah (or Azariah)
11. Jotham
12. Ahaz
13. Hezekiah
14. Manasseh
15. Amon
16. Josiah
17. Jehoahaz (or Shallum)
18. Jehoiakim
19. Jehoiachin (or Jeconiah)
20. Zedekiah