

Harold Wilington's Guide to The Bible – the 9 stages of the Old Testament history

1 Creation (Genesis)

2 Patriarchal (Abraham to Jacob in Genesis)

3 Exodus (Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt to the border of the Promised Land)

4 Conquest (Here in the book of Joshua, Joshua is leading the Israel in taking possession of the land)

5 Judges (the book of Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7)

- In the book of Judges, Israel goes through these three phases:
 1. Seven apostasies
 2. Seven servitudes to seven heathen nations
 3. Seven deliverances

6 United Kingdom (Under Saul, David, and Solomon)

7 chaotic Kingdom (The kingdom is split Rehoboam because in 1 Kings chapter 12 he listens to the advice of the young men and not wise older men. The Lord the Lord sends prophets to admonish the wayward Israel to return to the Lord. We have prophetic books written during this time)

Important dates:

1043 - The first king appointed – Saul

1011 – David is king

971 – Solomon is king

931 - Division of the Kingdom (under Rohoboam)

721 - Fall of Samaria -- capital of Israel -- the Northern Kingdom

586 - Fall of Jerusalem -- capital of Judah-- the Southern Kingdom

The Southern KingdomThe Northern Kingdom

Began in 931

Had 20 kings

Capital – Jerusalem

Captured by Babylonians in 586

Had 7 separate returns from captivity

Lasted 345 years (931-586)

8 rulers were saved

Began in 931

Had 19 kings

Capital – Samaria

Captured by Assyrians in 721

Had no returns from captivity

Lasted 210 years (931-721)

No rulers were saved

8 Captivity (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Ezekiel are captives in this time. Daniel and Ezekiel write about it)

9 Return (3 separate returns under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah in the book of Ezra and Nehemiah)

The life of Samuel (1 Samuel 1-8):

1. Childhood Years (1-12 years) – Samuel grew and ministered to the Lord.
2. Silent Years (12-32 years) – Quietly being trained for public ministry.
3. Public Years (32-up) – Before we appear in public ministry, we have to go through a period of silent years, like Moses in the wilderness.

The life of Saul (1 Samuel 9-15):

1. Saul started out strong. In Chapter 11 he rallied the tribes together for victory.
2. He committed several major mistakes between Chapters 13-15 that led to his downfall.
3. Saul tried to kill David who served him as a servant.
4. Saul had no silent years where God worked in his life as the men like Moses, Joseph, Samuel, David, Jesus, and Paul had

Saul and David's life overlap from 1 Samuel chapters 16 through chapters 31

The life of David (1 Samuel 16-31):

1. Chapter 16 - Anointed King
 2. Chapter 17 - David defeats Goliath
 3. Chapter 18 - David's friendship with Jonathan
 4. David encourages himself in the Lord – 1 Samuel 30:6
- * David's years of running from Saul are used by God to prepare David for being king. The Lord uses all kind of adversity in our lives to mold us into his image, transform our character and prepare us for greater usefulness.

Saul – Man after man's heart

David – Man after God's heart

While Saul had a javelin in his hand (which he would throw at David) David had a harp to minister to Saul (1 Samuel 18:10,11)

- 1 Samuel 18:9-11 9. And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

Miscellaneous Thoughts

~ 1 Samuel starts where Judges ends in Judges 21:25. (that turbulent time in the history of Israel)

- Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

~ 1 Samuel is the transitional period from judges (theocracy) to that of 1 Samuel (monarchy)

~ 1 Samuel is book of callings:

- chapter 2 – Samuel
- chapter 16 – David

~ Hannah (Samuel's mother) plays a key role in the book of 1 Samuel. It was her pouring out of her soul to the Lord in 1 Samuel 1 that gives us the key figure of Samuel. This teaches us that our grief, pain and being provoked can be used by God to fulfill his will for our lives and for his kingdom.