

Book of Books

Lesson 4

God's Hand on Israel

Is the Old Testament a history book? Why did God include large lists of name (genealogies), in His Holy Book? Why did God permit Israel to have kings? Were the kings good for Israel? Who was the true king of Israel? Study closely and you will find surprising answers to these questions.

You must not expect the Old Testament to be arranged like a history book. In a history book the oldest happenings are at the beginning and the latest happenings are at the end. However, the Old Testament is arranged by types of writing: Law, History, Poetry, and Prophets. After the five books of the Law comes the 12 books of history (Joshua through Esther).

Moses led Israel to the borders of the Promised Land. Then he died. Now we shall see how God brought Israel into the Promised Land. The historical books show how God worked with His people for many years. God was always faithful. He never forsook His people even though they failed Him many times.

Search the Scriptures: Joshua 5:13, 14; Judges 13:25; 2 Samuel 23:1-3; 1 Chronicles 4:9, 10; Nehemiah 1:8-10; Esther 8:6, 16, 17. God carries forward His plan through men and women who yield to His Spirit.

Lesson 4:

1.

C. God's Rule Through Kings and Prophets

2 Samuel 23:3. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

Samuel was just a boy when God called him. He listened to God's voice. God made him a great judge, prophet, priest, and teacher. God used him to unite all 12 tribes for the first time since the death of Joshua (1 Samuel 7:2-12).

The great theme of 1 and 2 Samuel is the establishment of the kingdom. Who was Israel's true King? Read Judges 8:22, 23. When Samuel was old the people wanted a man to be king like other nations. Samuel warned the people that a self-willed king could bring them sorrow.

When God gave the people a king, He gave them a humble man. Saul looked like a king. However, as time passed, the self-will of the people infected Saul. He became proud, impatient, and disobedient. Saul tried to establish the 12 tribes into one kingdom, but he failed. Why? Saul failed because he forgot that it was God who was still the true King of His people. Saul did not obey God's leading. He did not submit to the will of God.