

Introduction and Overview

Historical Books II
Lecture #2

Israel's History Before the Kingdom

- In 1922 B.C., God called Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) to leave his father's house and to follow God's guidance to a promised land of blessing. God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great nation, which will be known as Israel.

Israel's History Before the Kingdom

- In 1706 B.C., Abraham's grandson Jacob brought his family to dwell in Egypt while Joseph held power there (Genesis 47:27-28). Eventually his descendants became enslaved and began to cry out for freedom (Exodus 1:8-14, 2:23-25).

Israel's History Before the Kingdom

- In 1491 B.C., Moses leads the people of Israel out of Egypt and bondage (Exodus 12:41-42). They are miraculously delivered and provided for. God gives them His Law, calling them to be a holy people dedicated to His service.

Israel's History Before the Kingdom

- In 1451 B.C., Joshua leads the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land (Joshua 3:14-17). The land is conquered, and the children of Israel settle there.

Israel's History Before the Kingdom

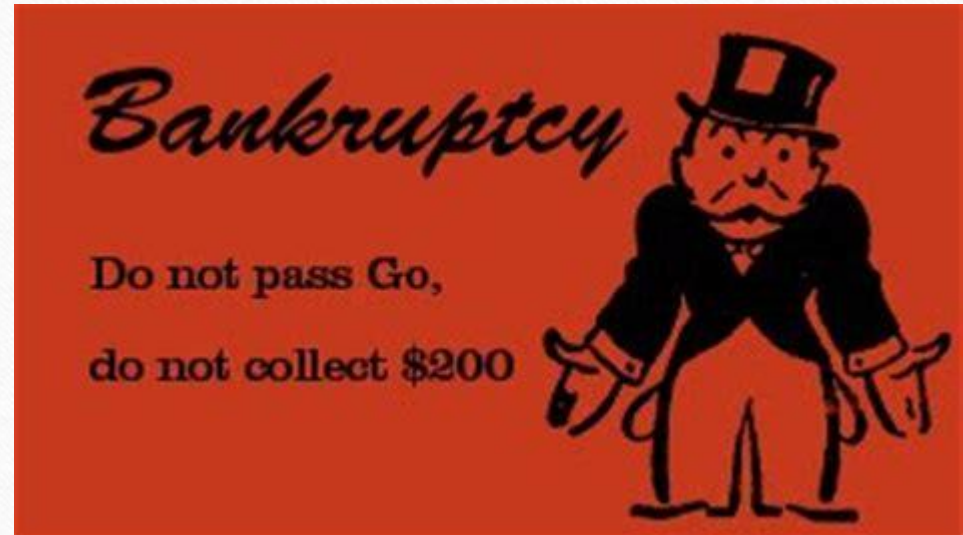
- After the death of Joshua and the passing of those he influenced (Joshua 24:29-31), Israel fell into its hardest times. This time, the period of the Judges, is one of spiritual decay and darkness. Judges 21:25 sums up the situation from 1420-1000 B.C.: “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

State of Nation According to Carroll

- “The purpose of the book [Judges] is to show their general failure as a preparation for the messianic kingdom: (1) In turning from the central place of worship, as in the case of Gideon and Abimelech. (2) The failure of their priesthood, as in the case of the grandson of Moses setting up an image worship for the migration part of Dan at Laish, and still later in the case of Eli. (3) Their consequent loss of national unity, as in the case of a number of the tribes from selfish considerations refusing to help Deborah and Barak.”

Bankruptcy

- The nation of Israel was in a state of spiritual and moral bankruptcy.



The Broader World



- No great world powers.
- The United Kingdom Era was free from major international entanglements.

Anticipating the Kingdom

- The Messiah is seen as early as Genesis 3:15.
- God told Abraham: “...I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee” (Genesis 17:6)



Deuteronomy 17

- Maybe the most important passage anticipating the monarchy is Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
- These words were written by Moses in 1451 B.C., some 350 years before Saul would be crowned.
- The exact excuse of the people of the people is even recorded: to be “like all the nations” (I Samuel 8:5, compare to Deuteronomy 17:14).



Restriction #1

- Cannot be a foreign ruler – vs. 15



Restriction #2

- “he shall not multiply horses to himself” – vs. 16
- This involved the military



Restriction #3

- “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away” - vs. 17
- This is both against unnatural lust and against foreign alliances.



Restriction #4

- “neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold” - vs. 17
- Wealth.



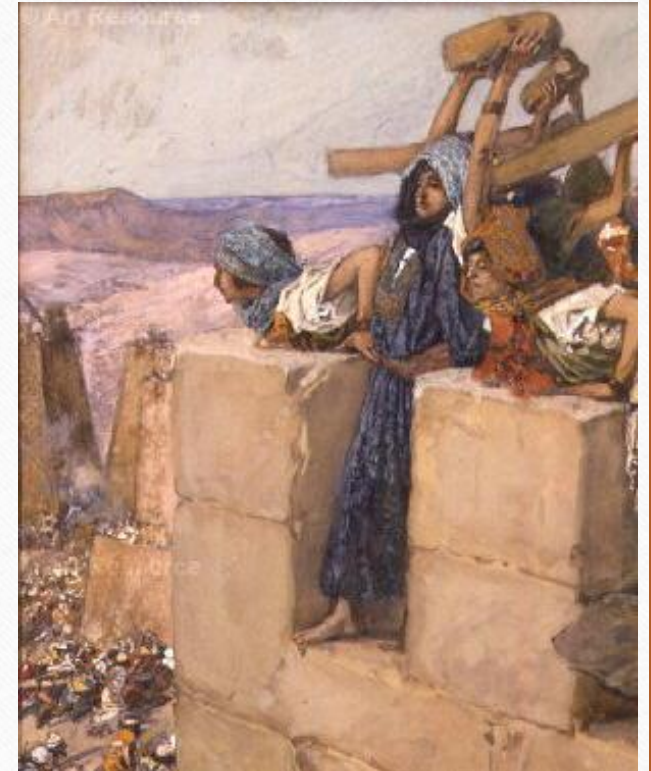
Commandment #1

- Have their own copy of the Law – vs. 18



“The Man Who Would Be King”

- Abimelech, son of Gideon
 - “my father the king”
 - Killed 70 of his brothers (Judges 9:1-5).
 - Crowned king of Shechem
 - Reigned 3 years.
 - Died unheroically.



The Four Offices



PROPHET



PRIEST



KING



POET

Prophet

- There is a difference between the gift and office of prophet.
 - Example – David had the gift of prophecy (see Psalms) but not the office.
- Carroll:
 - A prophet is one who, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaks or writes for God. In this inspiration he is God's mouth or pen, speaking or writing not his own words, but God's words. This inspiration guides and superintends his speech and his silence; what is recorded and what is omitted from the record.

Kirkpatrick on Prophets

- “Samuel was the Founder of the Prophetic Order.”
- “The Schools of the Prophets”
- “The value of the Prophetic Order to the Jewish nation was immense.”
 - Counselors, historians, instructors, etc.

Priest

- The Tribe of Levi was set apart by God to be priests in His service.
- Aaron and his descendants were chosen to be the High Priests (Exodus 28:4).
- Role of mediator.
- The prophet was God's mouthpiece of proclamation, but the priest was God's hands of service.

King

- The role of the king was primarily concerned with the government and the military.
- He also had a spiritual role.
 - He was anointed by a priest (I Samuel 10:1)
 - He offered sacrifices (I Kings 8:62-64)
 - His actions (both holy and unholy) affected the entire nation (II Samuel 21:1).

Poet

- The Kingdom Era of Israel is also the golden age for Jewish poetry.
- David is responsible for the expansion of poetry and music in this age.
 - He wrote at least 75 of the Psalms and organized the musicians of the Temple (I Chronicles 23:5; 25:1,6-7).
- Solomon wrote in poetic form (see Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon)
- The beauty and variety of poetical works of the period is astounding.