

# 1 and 2 Samuel

*Factual study for GLEF 2025  
31 July 2025  
Peter Schweitzer*

Key verse: **1 Samuel 3:19**

**"The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground."**



# Introduction

**Author:** ? (same as Kings)

**Content:** History of Israel from Samuel to David

**Time:** 1050 - 965 BC

**Place:** Israel, Philistine country

**Length:** 31 + 24 chapters

**Theme:** Establishment of the first kingdom by Samuel, who anointed Saul and David

**Time**

**Saul: 1012 - 1004 BC**

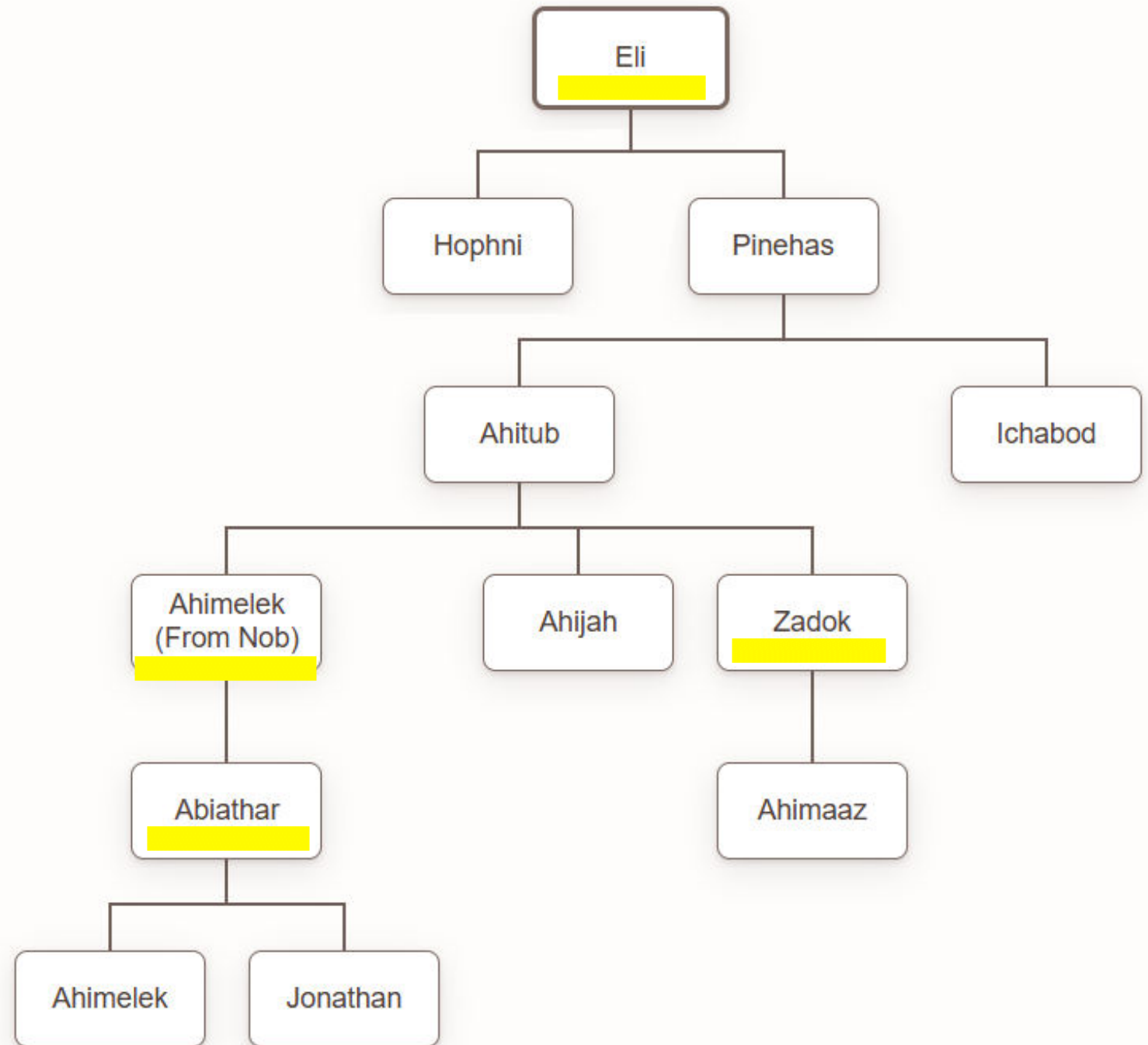
**David: 1004 - 965 BC**

**Before:       Book of Judges**

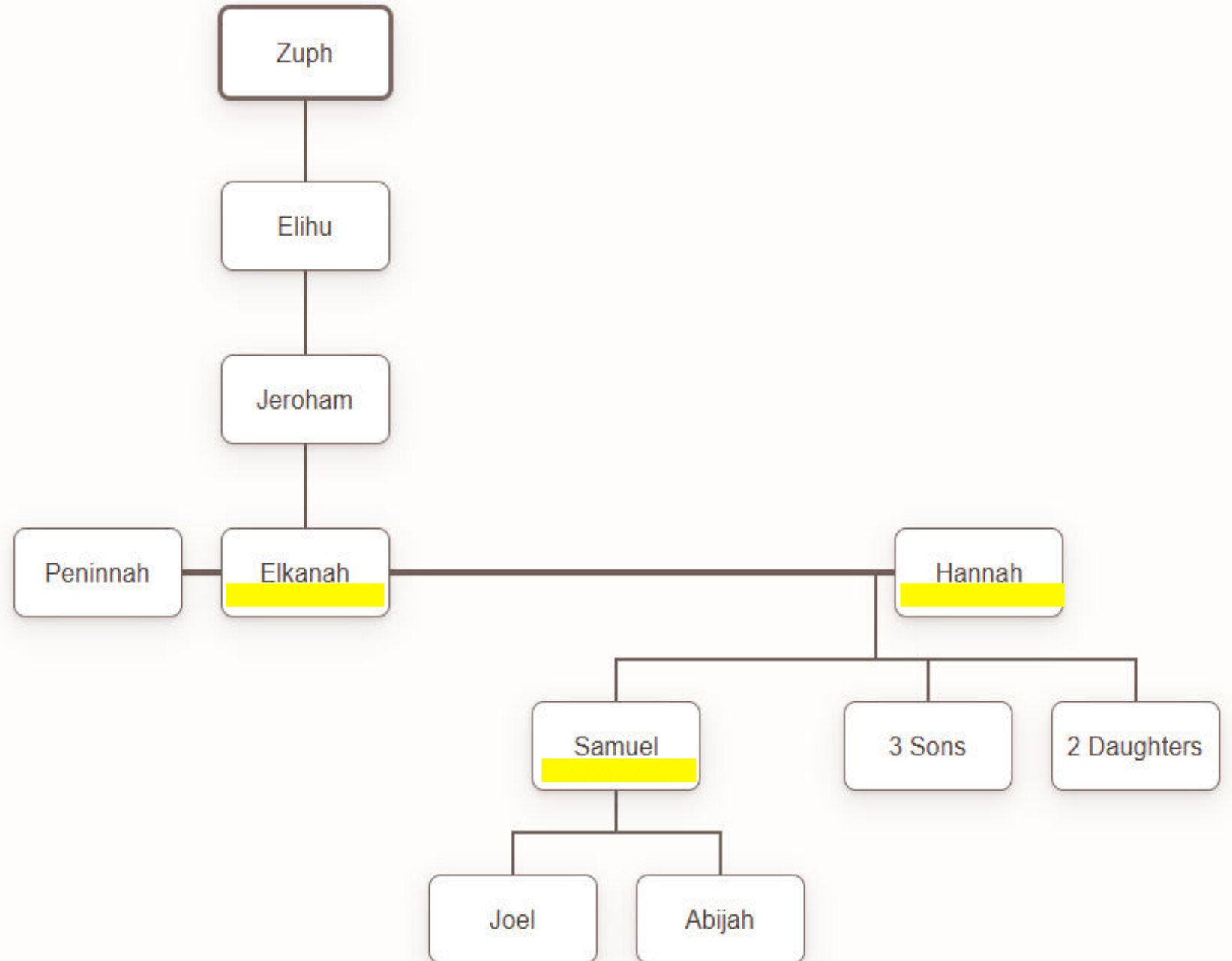
**Books of Samuel**

**After:         Books of Kings**

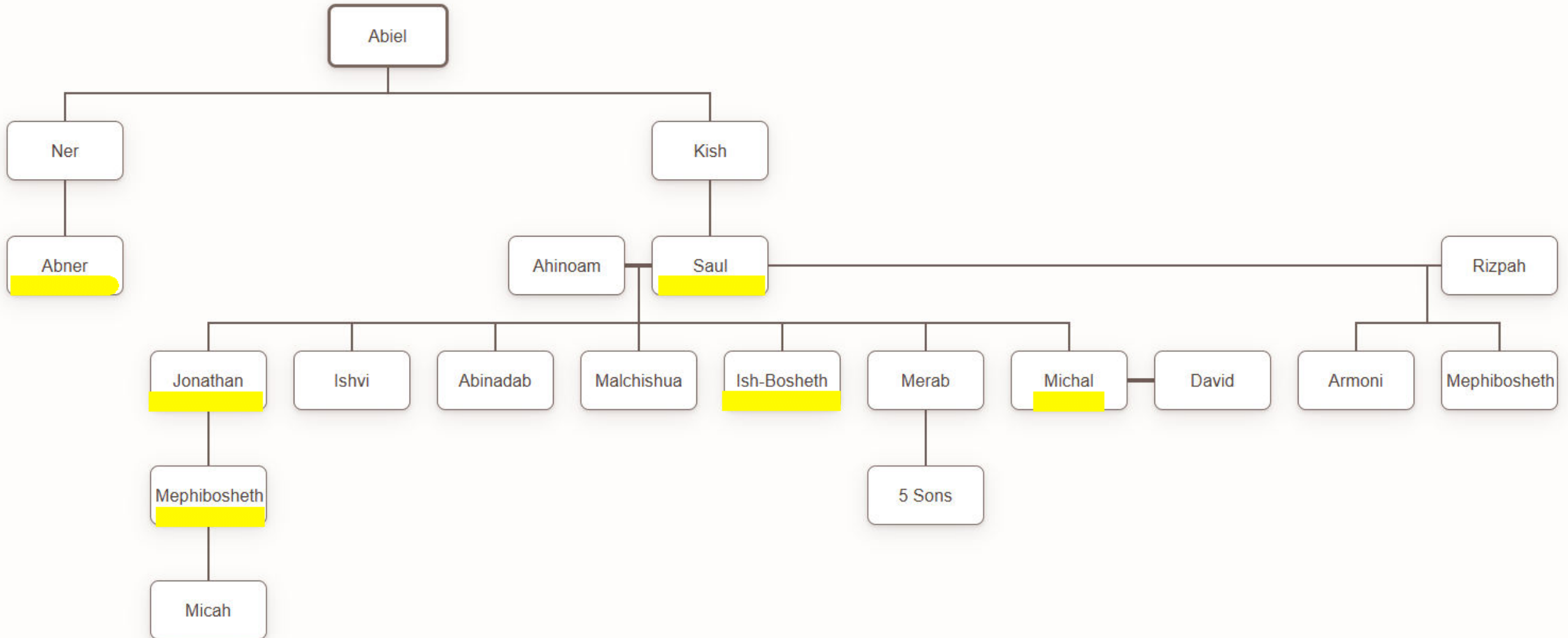
# Tribe Levi



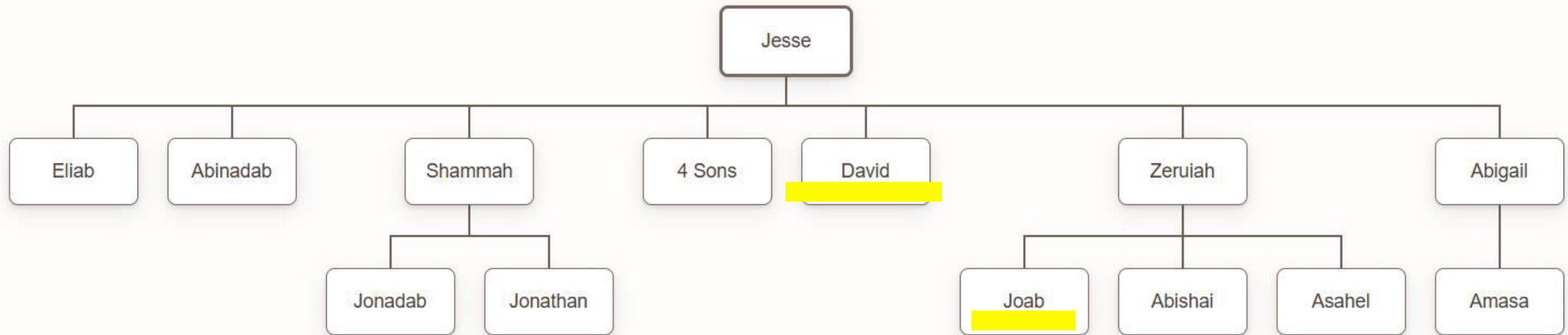
# Ephraim tribe



# Tribe Benjamin



# Tribe of Judah



# Sons of David

	<u>Wifes</u>	<u>Sons</u>	
David	Michal	-	
	Abigail (Widow of Nabal)	Kileab	} Born in Hebron
	Ahinoam (of Jezreel)	Amnon	
	Maakah (Daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur)	Absalom	
		Tamar	
	Haggith	Adonijah	
	Abital	Shephatiah	
	Eglah	Ithream	
		Shammua	} Born in Jerusalem
		Shobab	
		Nathan	
	Bathsheba (Uriah's widow)	Solomon	
		Ibhar	
		Elishua	
		Nepheg	
		Japhia	
		Elishama	
		Eliada	
		Eliphelet	

# Israel



## B6 Besiedlung Israels

Stämme erhalten Land nach Eroberung 1467 v.u.Z. Saul wird König 1117 v.u.Z.  
 4000 v.u.Z. 2000 v.u.Z. v.u.Z. / u.Z. 2000 u.Z.

### Richter

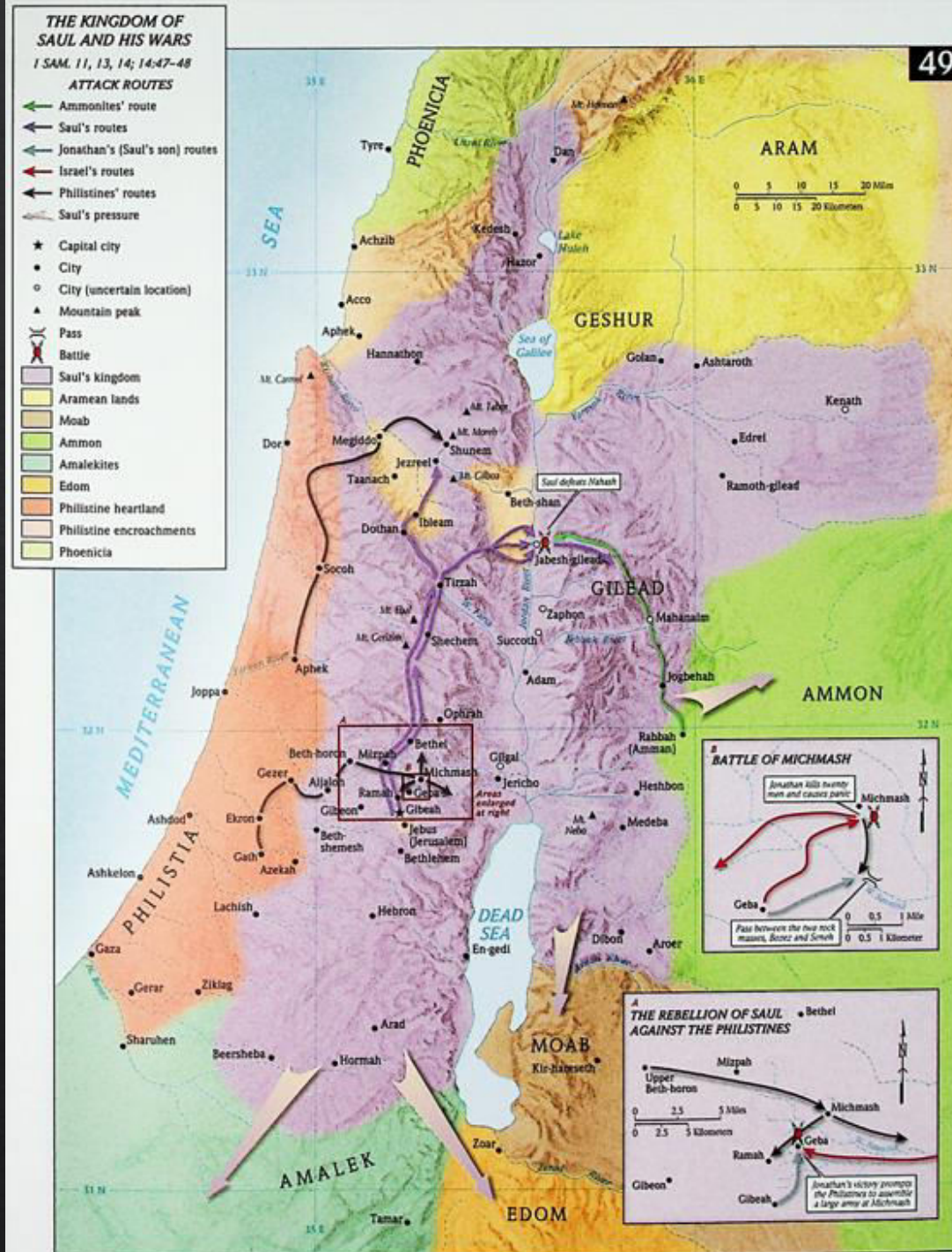
- 1 Othniel
- 2 Ehud
- 3 Schamgar
- 4 Barak
- 5 Gideon
- 6 Tola
- 7 Jair
- 8 Jephtha
- 9 Ibzan
- 10 Elon
- 11 Abdon
- 12 Simson

GROSSES MEER,  
WESTLICHES  
MEER

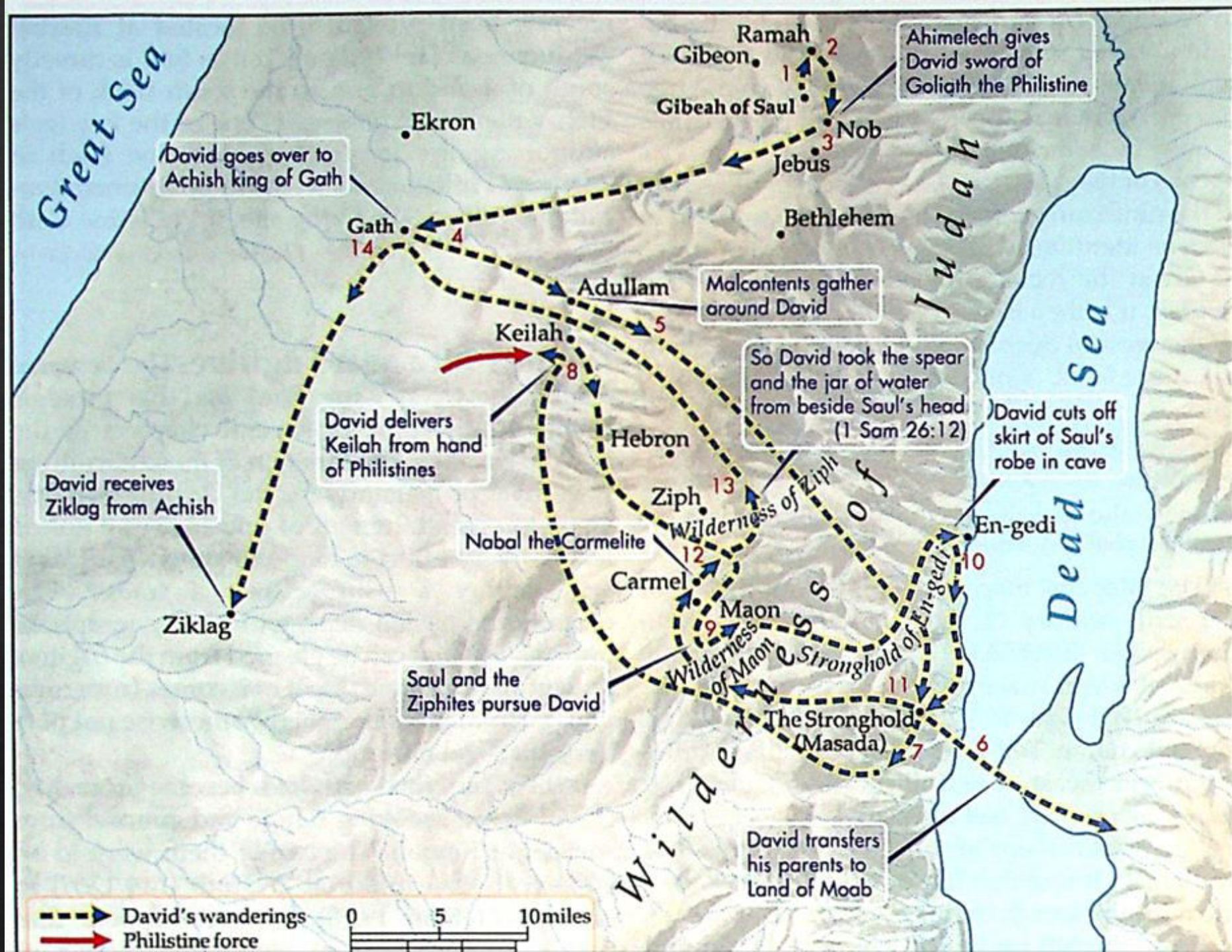


- Exklavenstädte von Simeon
- Exklavenstädte von Manasse
- Zufluchtsstädte

# Saul's kingdom



# David's Escape route



# Outline 1. Samuel

1-3	Hannah and Samuel
4-6	Journey of the Ark of the Covenant
7-11	Saul becomes king
12-15	Saul is rejected
16-20	David's rise
21-27	David on the run
28-31	Saul's last battle

## Outline 2. Samuel

1-4	Ish-Bosheth's kingship
5-7	David becomes king in Jerusalem
8-10	David's wars
11-12	David's adultery
13-18	Absalom's rebellion
19-21	Further wars
22-24	Final chapter

# Chapters 1-3: Hannah and Samuel



# 1. Hanna's vow that Samuel should serve the Lord

- 1-3 Elkanah's family, Hannah was childless, Penina had children
- 4-8 Conflict between Hannah and Penina regularly escalates at the annual sacrificial feast in Shiloh
- 9-11 Hannah prays in her sadness and makes a vow to give her son to the Lord
- 12-17 Eli initially thinks Hannah is drunk and rebukes her, but then blesses her prayer
- 18-20 Hannah returns happily, becomes pregnant and gives birth to Samuel
- 21-23 Hannah does not return to Shiloh until she has weaned Samuel
- 24-28 Hannah brings Samuel to Eli so that he may serve the Lord for the rest of his life

V.11: "And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

⇒ Prayer of a mother for a spiritual leader

## 2. Hannah's song of praise. Judgment on the house of Eli announced

- 1 Hannah's song of praise: Her joy in the Lord
- 2-3 God is holy and just
- 4-8 God changes the fate of people from the advantaged to the disadvantaged and vice versa: strength, hunger, fertility, life, wealth, power
- 9-10 God controls everything and appoints his anointed one
- 11 Samuel becomes the Lord's servant under Eli
- 12-17 Eli's sons were nefarious and took advantage of the Israelites' offerings
- 18-21 Hannah was blessed with 5 more children. She encourages Samuel to serve the Lord

V.1: "Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance."

⇒ Devotion to God gives us back great joy and blessing

## 2. Hannah's song of praise. Judgment on the house of Eli announced

- 22-26 Eli rebuked the sin of his sons, but they remained unrepentant, whereas Samuel found favor with the Lord and the people
- 27-29 A man of God rebuked the irreverence in Eli's family
- 30-34 Eli's family experiences the curse that many will die and the blessing will be taken from them
- 35-36 God wants to set up another anointed one as priest

V.29b: "Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?"

- ⇒ Repentance for a human-centered attitude (humanism)
- ⇒ Educating the next generation to fear God

### 3. Samuel's calling

1-3 Eli was already very old, but Samuel served the Lord

4-9 The Lord calls "Samuel", but he mistakenly thinks that Eli is calling him.

10-14 The Lord speaks to Samuel that he will judge the house of Eli

15-18 Samuel tells Eli what God has said to him

19-21 Samuel grows as a prophet who speaks God's word

V.10: "The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

⇒ Obedient attitude to the word of God

⇒ Accepting God's calling as a minister of the Word

# Chapters 1-3: Hannah and Samuel



## Interpretation:

- God blesses pleading prayer for the next generation
- The spiritual influence of parents is crucial
- God uses one person who accepts God's calling and has an absolute attitude towards the Word of God

## Application:

- We may give our children to the Lord and exert the good spiritual influence on them through our persistent prayer and living with the mission of God (Esra)
- I may accept God's Word with an absolute attitude and be used with the calling as a Bible teacher for spiritual revival (2 Tim 4:2)

3,10: "The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

# Chapters 4-6: Journey of the Ark of the Covenant



## 4. Loss of the Ark of the Covenant and Eli's death

- 1-2 A battle between the Philistines and Israelites. Philistines are superior.
- 3-5 The Israelites correctly recognize that God was not with them. They want to change this by taking the Ark of the Covenant and using it as a talisman.
- 6-11 The Philistines defeat Israel and steal the Ark of the Covenant
- 12-15 A messenger comes to Shiloh with the news of the defeat
- 16-18 Eli dies when he hears of the loss of the Ark of the Covenant
- 19-22 Pinha's wife gives birth to Ikkabod, but dies in childbirth

V.22: "She said, "The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

⇒ We should not misuse God for our own ends

# 5. The ark of the covenant brings a curse on the Philistines

- 1-5 The ark of the covenant is set up in the temple of Dagon like a trophy. But twice the idol falls down in front of the ark.
- 6-8 They want to take the ark of the covenant to Gath because of the boil.
- 9 When the disease breaks out here too, they want to take it to Ekron
- 10-12 The people are now afraid and want to bring back the ark of the covenant.

V.3: "When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.."

⇒ God is alive, idols are dead

⇒ Disregarding God causes plagues

## 6. The ark of the covenant returns to Israel

- 1-2 The Philistines want to return the ark of the covenant.
- 3-5 The priests tell them to give God an atonement offering (5 golden mice and 5 golden dents)
- 6 They rebuke their stubbornness with the example of Pharaoh
- 7-9 A chariot with suckling cows is to prove whether they were God's plagues
- 10-16 The cows go to Beth Shmesh on their own (=> proof that they were God's plagues)
- 17-18 The "great stone" is the witness to this day
- 19 The sons of Jechoniah did not rejoice and are punished
- 20-21 The people of Beth Shemesh are afraid and want to take away the ark of the covenant

V.15: "The Levites took down the ark of the Lord, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the Lord."

⇒ Disobeying God brings a curse

⇒ Have reverence for God

# Chapters 4-6: Journey of the Ark of the Covenant

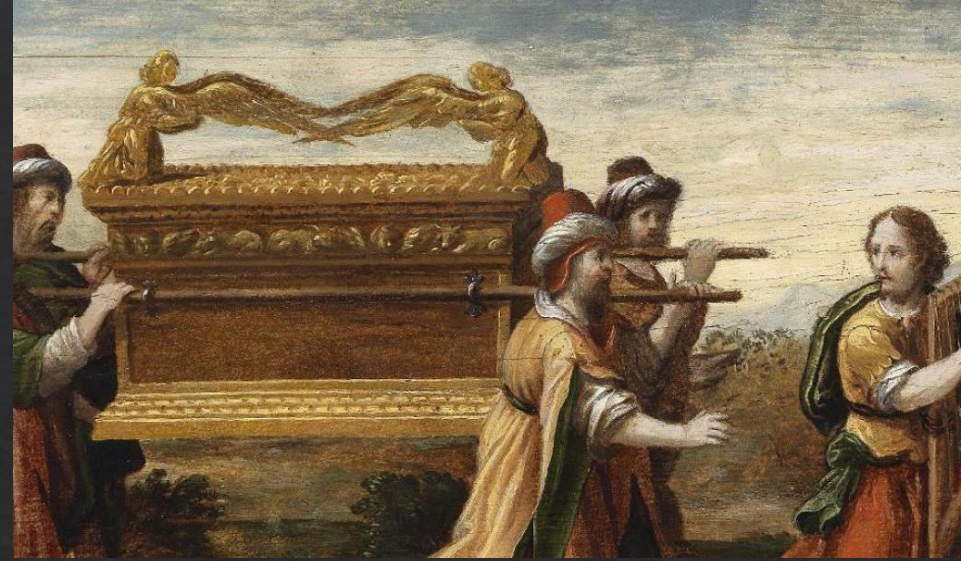
Interpretation:

- God is holy and alive
- Meeting God with holy reverence
- Do not misuse God's gifts
- God's presence brings blessing

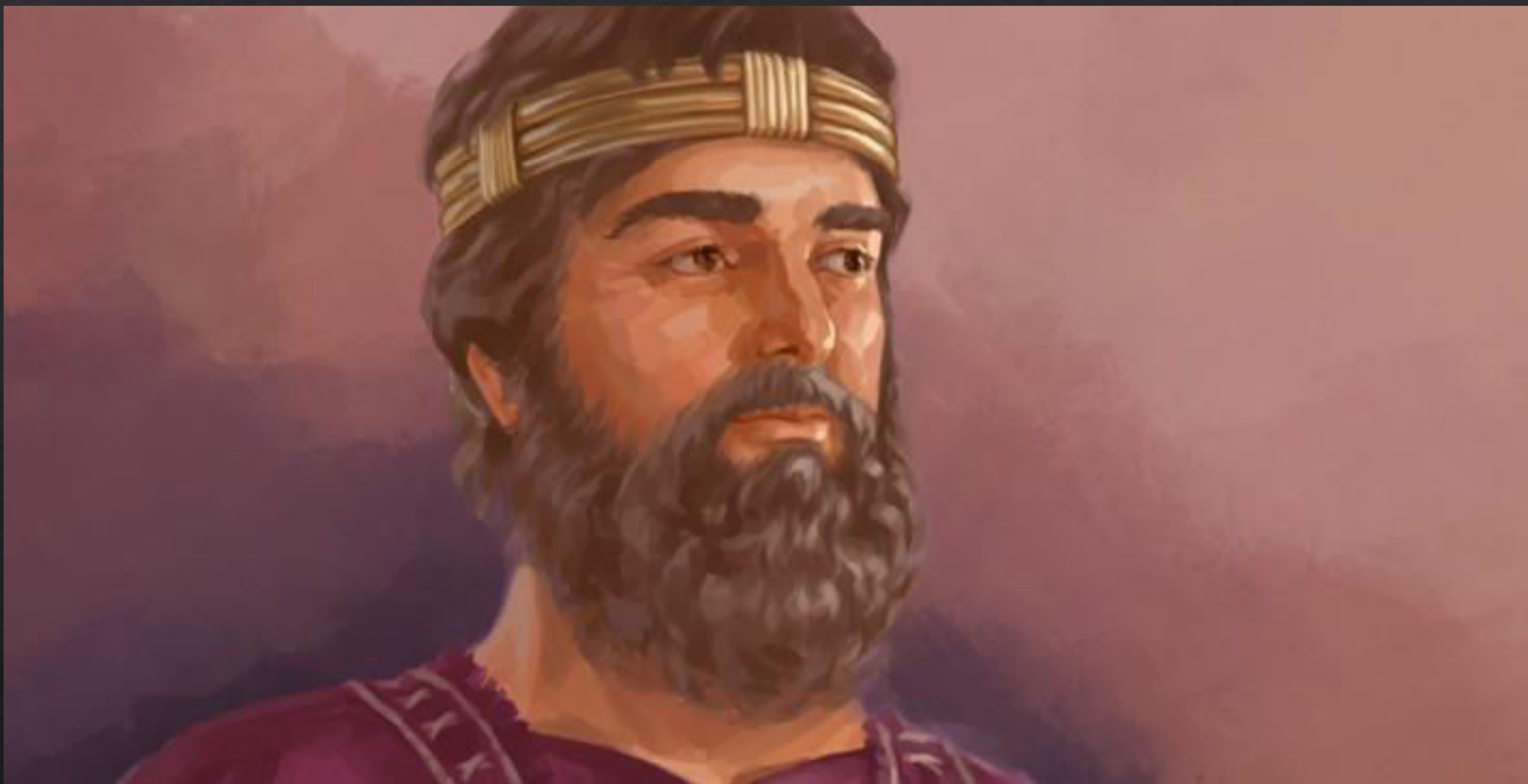
Application:

- We may do everything we do with the fear of God.
- Fulfill tasks in God's work with the fear of God.
- We may treat others with the fear of God.

5:3: "When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. "



# Chapters 7-11: Saul becomes king



## 7. Revival in Mizpah

- 1 The Ark of the Covenant is brought to Kiryat Jearim
- 2 After 20 years, the Israelites turn to God
- 3-4 Samuel persuades the Israelites to abolish all idols
- 5-6 Meeting of repentance in Mizpah
- 7 The Philistines decide to attack Israel
- 8-9 Samuel's intercession for Israel
- 10-11 The Philistine attack is stopped and repulsed by God
- 12 Samuel erects a memorial stone "Eben-Ezer"
- 13-14 Israel can now dominate the Philistines
- 15-17 Samuel's judgeship in Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah and Ramah

V.3: "So Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

⇒ Through Samuel's prayer, there was finally renewal

⇒ Repentance means putting everything away and worshipping God alone

## 8. Israel desires a king

- 1-3 Samuel's sons act corruptly
- 4-5 therefore the Israelites want a king
- 6-9 God instructs Samuel to set up a king. It is an expression of their rebellion against God.
- 10-18 Samuel reminds them of the expected tax and services for the king
- 19-20 Nevertheless, the people want a king at all costs
- 21-23 Samuel accepts their request

V.7: "And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

⇒ Recognize God as the only true king

# 9. God leads Saul to Samuel when he is looking for animals

- 1-2 Saul, son of Kish, is tall and handsome
- 3-5 Saul is looking for his father's donkeys that have run away
- 6-11 Saul seeks Samuel to ask him where the donkeys are
- 12-14 Samuel is in Kuf for a sacrificial feast
- 15-17 God reveals to Samuel that Saul is to be the future king
- 18-24 Samuel invites Saul to the sacrificial feast and puts him in front
- 25-27 The next day, Samuel accompanies Saul on his way home

V.17: "When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."

⇒ God's sovereign leadership, who sets up a leader

# 10. Saul is anointed king

- 1 Samuel anoints Saul as king
- 2 Samuel promises the 1st sign: Two men who tell of his father
- 3-4 2nd sign: Three men give him bread
- 5-6 3rd sign: Rapture in Gibeah
- 7-8 Saul is then to meet Samuel in Gilgal
- 9-10 Saul is changed and all three signs come true
- 11-12 The people mock Saul, who is raptured like a prophet.
- 13-16 Saul meets his uncle, but keeps the promise a secret
- 17-19 Samuel's speech about the meaning of kingship (= rejection of God)
- 20-21 Samuel again chooses Saul as king by lot
- 22-25 Samuel is sought by the troops and installed as king

V.1: "Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?"

⇒ A leader through God's sovereign guidance

⇒ Hiding is false humility. (True humility is obedience to God.)

# 11. Saul's victory over the Ammonites

- 1-3 The Ammonites threaten Jabesh with martial threats
- 4-8 Saul becomes angry and gathers the army of Israel against the Ammonites
- 9-11 Saul attacks and defeats the army of the Ammonites
- 12-13 Some wanted to punish Saul's critics, but Saul grants them mercy
- 14-15 Saul is appointed a second time in Gilgal

V.7: "He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out together as one."

⇒ Fulfilling God's task with the Spirit of God

# Chapters 7-11: Saul becomes king



## Interpretation:

- God is the true king of his people
- Leaders are set up by God and are to obey him

## Application:

- Do not have a false humility of hiding, but have the true humility of obedience to God.
- I may always find my own identity and task before God and be obedient to him.

11:7: "He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out together as one."

# Chapters 12-15: Saul is rejected



## 12. Samuel's farewell speech and warning to Israel

- 1-5 Samuel is exonerated by the people that he has not deceived anyone
- 6-11 Reminder of the history of the judges
- 12-15 They now have a king. Samuel prays that they will obey God.
- 16-18 Samuel gives them a sign of a storm
- 19 This makes the Israelites realize that it was a sin to demand a king
- 20-25 Samuel exhorts them to obey and fear God

V.23: "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right."

⇒ Samuel was a leader of prayer to the end

⇒ He clearly rebuked the Israelites' sin and fulfilled God's purpose

# 13. Threat from the Philistines. Saul's disobedience

- 1-2 Saul builds up a standing army of 3000 soldiers
- 3-4 Because of an incident in Gibeah, the army is mobilized against the Philistines
- 5-7 The Philistine army is technically superior and the Israelites are fearful
- 8-9 Saul waits a long time for Samuel and becomes impatient
- 10-12 Samuel arrives and Saul justifies his disobedience
- 13-14 Samuel announces the end of Saul's reign as king
- 15-18 Saul marches against the Philistines with 600 soldiers
- 19-23 Because of the iron sanctions, the Israelites only had two swords (Saul and Jonathan)

V.14: "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

⇒ Maintaining obedience to God's instruction

# 14. War against the Philistines. Jonathan's heroic deed

- 1-3 Jonathan goes secretly to the Philistines
- 4-10 Jonathan comes to the cliff and trusts in God's help
- 11-12 The Philistines call Jonathan. He accepts this as a sign from God.
- 13-14 Jonathan kills the 20 Philistines because they are frightened by God
- 15 This causes unrest and chaos among the Philistines
- 16-23 The battle continues chaotically and Israel is victorious
- 24-26 Saul makes the people swear to fast the whole day
- 27-31 Jonathan eats honey and is strengthened while everyone is weary
- 32-35 Because the people began to slaughter, Saul builds an emergency altar to eat without blood

V.6: "Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

⇒ Jonathan acts with prayer and faith. Saul acts at his own discretion.

# 14. War against the Philistines. Jonathan's heroic deed

- 36-39 God does not answer Saul; he recognizes that the people are to blame.
- 40-43 Saul determines by lot that Jonathan is to blame. He confesses that he has eaten honey.
- 44-46 The people pardon Jonathan because he had started the battle
- 47-48 Saul's wars against the neighbors
- 49-51 Saul's family
- 52 Saul fights a lot with the Philistines and needs many soldiers.

V.45: "But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the Lord lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death."

⇒ Living according to the word of God instead of making up his own rules

# 15. God's judgment on Amalek. Saul is rejected

- 1-3 Samuel instructs Saul to execute the ban on Amalek
- 4-6 Saul lets the Kenites go free
- 7-9 Saul defeats Amalek. But he does not kill Agag and takes animals as booty.
- 10-11 God is angry with Saul, but Samuel prays for him
- 12 Samuel meets Saul in Gilgal
- 13-15 The Israelites have not fully executed the ban
- 16-19 Samuel rebukes Saul's disobedience
- 20-23 Saul defends himself. But Samuel rebukes the disobedience and announces the end of his kingship.

V.22: "But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

⇒ Obedience is crucial

# 15. God's judgment on Amalek. Saul is rejected

- 24-26 Saul confesses his sin of obeying the people instead of obeying God. He asks Samuel for his support.
- 27-29 Saul tries to hold Samuel, but the corner of his skirt just comes off.
- 30-31 Finally Samuel fulfills Saul's request to accompany him.
- 32-33 Saul kills King Agag
- 34-35 Samuel leaves Saul for good, even though it was painful for him

V.28: "Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you."

⇒ Obedience is crucial

⇒ Saul was rejected because he did not obey God but followed his own rules

# Chapters 12-15: Saul is rejected

Interpretation:

- Disobedience is sin like sorcery
- Good human will is not enough, but obedience to the Word of God and the will of God

Application:

- I may repent of my humanism, namely that I am very dependent on human opinion, and rather obey the word of God and fulfill his mission

15,22: "But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."



# Chapters 16-20: David's rise



# 16. David is anointed

- 1-3 God sends Samuel to the sacrificial feast with Jesse
- 4-5 Samuel goes to Bethlehem and invites Jesse and his sons
- 6-7 Eliab is great and strong, but his heart does not please God
- 8-9 7 sons of Jesse are not chosen
- 10-13 Samuel sends for David and anoints him
- 14-15 Saul is plagued by an evil spirit
- 16-18 His men suggest hiring a side player
- 19-21 David is brought to Saul's court
- 22-23 David serves Saul by playing the harp when the evil spirit comes upon him

V.7: "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

⇒ God does not look at external qualities, but at our heart

# 17. David defeats Goliath

- 1-3 The armies of Israel and the Philistines face each other
- 4-7 Goliath is a giant and a heavily armed fighter
- 8-10 Goliath challenges a soldier to a duel and mocks the Israelites
- 11 Saul and his army are afraid
- 12-15 David was not in the army, but only his three eldest brothers
- 16 Goliath mocks the Israelites for 40 days
- 17-19 Jesse sends David to the camp to check on the brothers.
- 20-25 David comes to the camp and hears about the challenge and the prize.
- 26-30 David inquires about the battle against Goliath, but Eliab is angry with him.

V.10: "Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

⇒ Not looking at the great threat, but trusting in God

# 17. David defeats Goliath

- 31-33 David offers to fight Goliath, but Saul refuses because of his inexperience
- 34-37 David testifies to his faith, how God has saved him from lions and bears
- 39-40 David refuses the heavy armor and enters the battlefield with a stone and a sling
- 41-44 Goliath does not take David seriously and laughs at him
- 45-47 David testifies to his faith in God and God's victory
- 48-49 David hits Goliath on the forehead with a stone, knocking him unconscious
- 50-51 David cuts off his head with his own sword
- 52-54 The Philistines are pursued and defeated
- 55-58 David comes before Saul after the battle

V.45: "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

⇒ Fighting with absolute trust in God

# 18. David with Saul. Friendship with Jonathan. Marriage to Michal

- 1-4 David stays with Saul. Jonathan and David become best friends.
- 5 David becomes a successful military leader
- 6-7 At the triumphal procession, the women praise David more than Saul.
- 8-9 This arouses Saul's jealousy
- 10-11 When David plays harp for Saul, he tries to kill him twice.
- 12-16 Saul makes David a commander. He is successful and popular. That is why Saul dreads David.
- 17-19 Saul promises David his daughter Marab, but then gives her to someone else.
- 20-23 Saul promises David Michal in the hope that he will be killed by the Philistines.
- 24-27 Saul demands 200 foreskins from Philistines as bride price. David brings them and marries Michal.
- 28-30 Saul's enmity against David grows because he is so successful

V.3: "And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself."

⇒ The value of true friendship

# 19. David must flee from Saul

- 1-3 Saul seeks to kill David
- 4-7 Jonathan intervenes on David's behalf so that Saul accepts him again
- 8-10 Saul tries to kill David again with the spear at the harp
- 11-13 Saul has David watched. Michal helps David to escape.
- 14-17 Saul wants to send for David to kill him. Michal lies that David threatened her.
- 18-19 David flees to Samuel
- 20-21 The messengers who are supposed to take David captive become enraptured.
- 22-24 Saul goes himself and also falls into a rapture and becomes helpless.

V.5: "He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"

⇒ God's people experience persecution, but it is God who protects us

## 20. Covenant of David and Jonathan. David's farewell.

- 1-3 David tells Jonathan of Saul's murderous plans
- 4-11 David asks Jonathan to apologize to Saul and thus check whether he is planning evil.
- 12-17 Jonathan promises to inform David. David swears to protect Jonathan and his family
- 18-23 Jonathan arranges a secret sign to inform David.
- 24-29 David does not appear at the new moon festival and Jonathan excuses him.
- 30-31 Saul reacts indignantly and reveals his intention to kill David.
- 32-34 Saul insults Jonathan and threatens him with the spear
- 35-40 Jonathan shoots the arrow and gives the agreed signal
- 41-42 Jonathan and David say goodbye with tears

V.42: "Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town."

⇒ True friendship between Jonathan and David

# Chapters 16-20: David's rise



## Interpretation:

- Humility before God, that we consider ourselves lowly, makes us great before God
- Through faith we can dare and challenge something great
- Spiritual friendship among brothers

## Application:

- Always remembering that I am a cold-hearted and hurtful egoist, and giving thanks for his grace in calling me
- By faith I may challenge the spiritual revival that looks like a giant and give glory to God

17:45: "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

# Chapters 21-27: David on the run



## 21. David's flight to the priest of Nob and to Gath

- 1-4 David comes to the priest Ahimelech at Nob and asks for provisions
- 5-7 The priest gives him the sacred shewbread
- 8-10 Doeg, a minister of Sau, is there. David takes Goliath's sword with him
- 11-12 David comes to Gath to King Achish. But many are suspicious.
- 13-16 David pretends to be mad, so the king sends him away.

V.12: "David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath."

## 22. David becomes an outlaw. Saul kills the priests of Nob

- 1-2 David flees to the cave of Adullam, where many come to him. He lives as an "outlaw"
- 3-5 David takes his parents into exile in Moab. David flees to Jaar-Heret.
- 6-8 Saul rebukes his great men for not supporting him against David.
- 9-10 Doeg denounces the priest of Nob for helping David
- 11-13 Saul accuses the priest Ahimelech.
- 14-15 Ahimelech's oath that he had helped David with a clear conscience
- 16-19 Doeg carries out the death sentence on Ahimelech's family
- 20-23 Only Abiathar is able to escape. David takes him in

V.2: "All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him."

⇒ Despite his own situation, David has a shepherd's heart for others in despair

## 23. David pursued by Saul in Keilah and Siph

- 1-5 David hears about the Philistine raids on Keilah. He consults God, then rescues the people of Keilah
- 6-8 Saul thinks that David is trapped in Keilah and wants to kill him there
- 9-13 David consults God and learns that the people of Keilah will betray him. So he flees the city and Saul is unable to catch him
- 14-15 David hides in the Sif desert and Saul cannot find him.
- 16-18 Jonathan visits David and strengthens his faith in God's help and victory
- 19-23 The people of Sif betray David to Saul
- 24-26 Saul surrounds David's people in the wilderness of Maon.
- 27-28 Saul has to abort the operation because of an attack by the Philistines

V.4: "Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand."

⇒ David always asks God

⇒ In a helpless situation, we can pray to God

## 24. David spares Saul in the cave

- 1-3 David stays in En-Gedi and Saul looks for him there
- 4-8 David has the opportunity to kill Saul in the cave, but does not do so
- 9-16 David tells Saul that he will not pursue him. He calls on God as judge.
- 17-23 Saul recognizes David's righteousness.  
He asks him to spare his family when he becomes king and departs.

V.13: "As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you."

⇒ Do not avenge yourself, but trust in God

# 25. Abigail prevents David from becoming a murderer

- 1 Samuel dies in Ramah
- 2-3 David stays in Maon. Nabal shears the sheep in Carmel.
- 4-8 David asks for support because he has also always protected his shepherds
- 9-11 Nabal refuses to give anything because he is an outlaw.
- 12-13 David is angry about his ingratitude and wants to punish Nabal.
- 14-17 Abigail hears about Nabal's stupid behavior.
- 18-22 She immediately packs a donkey full of food and goes to meet David
- 23-31 Abigail asks David for forgiveness and gives him the gifts.
- 32-35 David accepts Abigail's request and praises her wisdom, which has saved him from murder.
- 36-39 When Nabal hears the story, he is shocked and dies 10 days later
- 40-42 David takes the widow Abigail as his wife.

V.33: "May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands."

⇒ Trusting in God instead of acting out of anger

⇒ Protect others from foolishness

## 26. David spares Saul during the invasion

- 1-2 The people of Sif betray David. Saul pursues him again.
- 3-5 David learns of this and finds Saul's camp for the night.
- 6-12 David and Abishai sneak into the camp, but they spare Saul.
- 13-16 David calls out to Saul from the mountain. He rebukes the sleeping guards.
- 17-20 David complains that he has been expelled from Israel in order to persecute him.
- 21-25 Saul recognizes his sin. David, however, does not trust in his promise, but in the Lord.

V.10: "As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish."

⇒ Not taking revenge himself, but trusting in God.

## 27. David goes as a guerrilla group to the king of Gath

- 1-4 David flees with his people to the king of Gath
- 5-7 The king of Gath gives David the place Cyclagus
- 8-12 David lives as a privateer. He pretends to make raids on Israel, which he actually carries out in other regions.

V.2: "So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath."

# Chapters 21-27: David on the run

## Interpretation:

- Do not avenge yourself, for vengeance is the Lord's
- Respect the Lord's anointed one
- Trust in God's guidance and pray

## Application:

- Instead of taking revenge, I may trust absolutely in the righteous God
- In the difficult situation, I may also take care of God's flock

24:13: "As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you."



# Chapters 28-31: Saul's last battle



## 28. Saul goes to the necromancer

- 1-2 Achish obliges David to take part in the campaign against Israel
- 3-8 Saul is in great fear and visits a necromancer.
- 9-14 Saul persuades the woman to consult the prophet Samuel.
- 15-19 Samuel's spirit says that God fulfills all his predictions and Saul dies in battle
- 20-25 Saul is scared to death and has to be forced to eat something.

V.6: "He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets."

⇒ Conjuring spirits does not help to overcome fear

## 29. David is expelled from the Philistine army

- 1-2 David goes to war with the Philistine army
- 3-5 The Philistine princes become suspicious and do not want David to go with them
- 6-11 David is sent back by Achish.

V.4a: "But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back!"

⇒ God protects his people in this hopeless situation

## 30. David frees the Amalekite captives

- 1-5 Cyclops has been attacked and destroyed by the Amalekites, all the inhabitants taken captive.
- 6 Everyone is very sad. Their anger is directed against David.
- 7-10 David consults God and takes up the pursuit of the Amalekites
- 11-14 They find a slave who was involved in the raid
- 15-16 The Egyptian leads them to the Amalekite camp
- 17-20 David's men raid the camp and bring back all the captives and booty.
- 21-22 Some of the fighters did not want to share with those who stayed behind.
- 23-25 David orders everything to be divided equally because God has given them victory
- 26-30 David sends gifts from the spoils to all his friends in Israel.

V.6: "David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God."

⇒ In every defeat, we can come to God and strengthen ourselves in him

⇒ Through faith in God, we can fight to victory

# 31. The death of Saul and his sons

- 1-3 In battle the Philistines are superior and kill three of Saul's sons.
- 4-6 Saul is badly wounded and kills himself.
- 7 The Israelites flee from the Philistines
- 8-10 Saul's body is displayed on the wall of Beth-shean.
- 11-13 The men of Jabesh take Saul's body and bury it

V.6: "So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day."

⇒ God's judgment is certain

⇒ Loyalty and gratitude of the men of Jabesh

# Chapters 28-31: Saul's last battle

Interpretation:

- Fear cannot be defeated by spirits or other methods, but they make you even more fearful.
- Faith conquers fear

Application:

- Do not give up in a difficult situation, but strengthen yourself in the Lord.

30:6: "David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God."

## LEARNING POINTS

- Hannah: Prayer for her son to be a spiritual leader
- Samuel: absolute attitude to the word of God
- Saul: curse of disobedience
- David: blessing of faith and trust in God

1 Samuel 3:19: "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground."

# CONCLUSION

Who can God use as a leader?

- Have respect for God's Word
- Obey God's Word
- Trust in God's guidance
- Seek God's direction in prayer

1 Samuel 3:19: "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground."