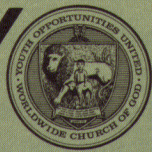


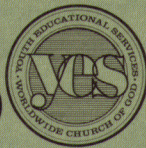
YOUTH



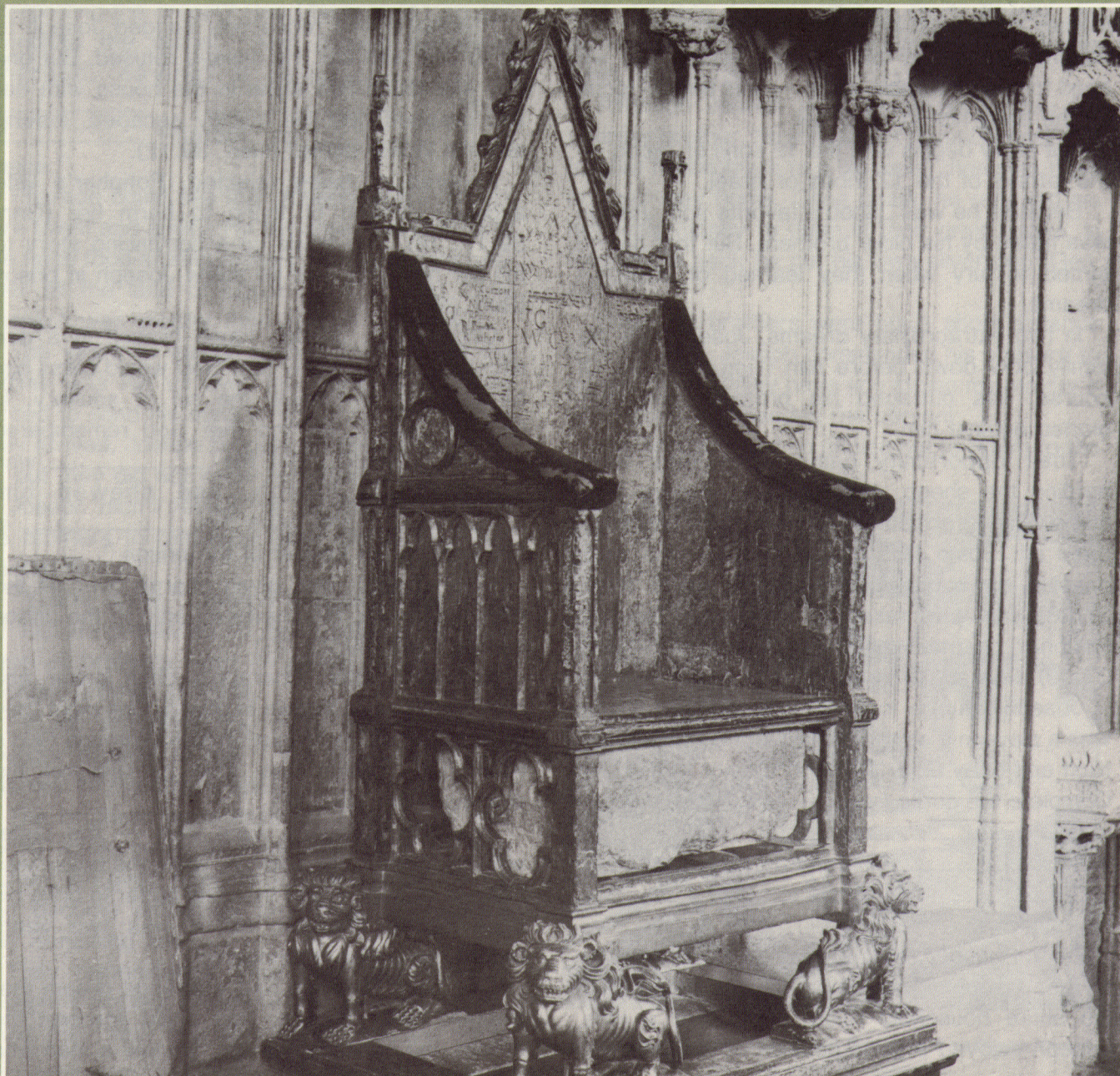
LEVEL 7

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 2



The Nation of Israel



# THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Last month you discovered your Bible as a means to travel through time and space. Your journey ended just before the appearance of the nation of Israel. In this month's lesson you will need to use your Bible again — this time to focus on the early history of Israel.

Our story begins with the 12 sons of Jacob — the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Because he was Jacob's favorite son, Joseph was hated by his older brothers. But that hatred turned to fury when they learned of Joseph's dreams.

In two extraordinary dreams, Joseph saw his family bow down before him (Gen. 37:5-9). Of course, this outraged his brothers and they plotted against him.

Their opportunity came when they were herding the sheep, several days' journey from home. They grabbed Joseph and threw him into a deep pit. Some Midianite merchants who were passing by bought Joseph as a slave (Gen. 37:28). He was taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard (Gen. 37:36). Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt.

Joseph's future looked bleak. At age 17 he was a slave in a strange land. But he continued to trust and obey God. And God did not forget him. Complete the quote from Genesis 39:3: "And his master \_\_\_\_\_ that the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ him, and that the Lord made \_\_\_\_\_ that he did to \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand."

Soon Potiphar realized that God was blessing all that Joseph did. So he put Joseph in charge of his entire household (Gen. 39:4). For a time, Joseph enjoyed a good position of responsibility

and relative freedom. But Potiphar's wife was about to make things difficult for him.

Potiphar's wife repeatedly begged Joseph to go to bed with her. He always refused. But one day she found him alone in the house with her and grabbed him! He quickly escaped, leaving only his jacket behind (Gen. 39:12).

Angered at being rejected, Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of trying to harm her (Gen. 39:17, 18). She made up a convincing story to tell her husband, and he threw Joseph in prison (Gen. 39:20).

Once again, Joseph found himself in a dire situation. But he knew that God would bless him for refusing to commit the sin of adultery. In Genesis 39:21, we find that God remembered Joseph in prison. "But the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph, and shewed him \_\_\_\_\_ and gave him \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

Soon Joseph was given charge over all the other prisoners. He answered only to the prison keeper (Gen. 39:22, 23).

Sometime later, Pharaoh's chief baker and chief butler were thrown in prison. One night they each dreamed an unusual dream. Through God's inspiration Joseph was able to interpret the dreams (Gen. 40:1-19).

The interpretations were true — the butler was restored to his position, while the baker was hanged. Joseph urged the chief butler to bring his case before Pharaoh, but it was two years before the butler remembered.

One night Pharaoh had a strange dream that troubled him. When no one could interpret the dream, the butler spoke up. "I know a man who

can tell you the meaning of your dream” (Gen. 41:9-13).

So Joseph was given an audience with the great Pharaoh of Egypt! After hearing the dream, he began to explain the meaning: Egypt could look forward to seven years of plenty, but after that, seven years of famine.

Joseph advised Pharaoh to store up one fifth of the crops during the first seven years. Then there would be plenty of food during the seven years of famine.

Pharaoh was quite impressed with Joseph’s wisdom. But to whom did Joseph give credit for interpreting the dream? Read Genesis 41:16 and complete the quote: “And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh an \_\_\_\_\_ of peace.”

Pharaoh could see that Joseph was a man of rare talent and ability. He put Joseph in charge of the huge food-storing project and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:43). Only Pharaoh was greater than Joseph (verse 40).

The years of plenty passed quickly and the famine was felt all over the world. Jacob was forced to send his sons to Egypt for food. When they arrived, Joseph recognized them immediately, but they did not know him (Gen. 42:8).

Joseph didn’t reveal his identity. He wanted his brothers to remember how cruelly they had treated him.

“You’re spies,” Joseph accused them (Gen. 42:14). He pretended he didn’t believe that they were all brothers, with an elderly father and a younger brother at home.

“If you are telling the truth, then bring your younger brother to me. I will hold one of you prisoner till the others return.”

The brothers were stunned. They knew that Jacob would never let Benjamin make the long journey to Egypt. After the loss of Joseph, Jacob had become extremely protective of Rachel’s only remaining son.

They remembered what they had done to Joseph. Complete the quote from Genesis 42:21: “And they said one to another, we are verily \_\_\_\_\_ concerning our \_\_\_\_\_, in

that we \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of his soul when he \_\_\_\_\_ us, and we would not \_\_\_\_\_; therefore is this thing come upon us.”

To make matters worse, Joseph sold grain to his brothers but returned their money to them secretly, hiding it in their grain sacks (Gen. 42:25). When they discovered the money, they were certain they would be accused of stealing. So it was a frightened and worried group of men who returned home to Jacob.

Jacob did not want to let Benjamin go to Egypt. But the famine continued to grow worse, and Jacob’s family needed food. Finally, he allowed his sons to return to Egypt with Benjamin (Gen. 43:11-13).

Although Joseph was overjoyed to see his younger brother, he still did not reveal himself. He treated his brothers to a big meal, then sent them on their way home. Once again, he returned his brothers’ money to them in their grain sacks. In Benjamin’s sack he put his own silver cup (Gen. 44:1, 2).

When his brothers were but a short distance from the city, Joseph commanded his steward to pursue them. “Why have you stolen my master’s silver cup?” demanded the servant.

The brothers had no choice but to return to the



Joseph’s servants looked into Benjamin’s sack, and there was the missing silver cup.

city and bow before Joseph when the cup was found with Benjamin. They knew they could never face Jacob if anything happened to Benjamin.

Finally, Joseph could hold them in suspense no longer. "I am Joseph, your brother!" he cried.

None of Joseph's brothers could believe their ears, but it was true. Their brother, whom they had sold into slavery, was ruler of all Egypt!

After a tearful reunion, Joseph sent his brothers to bring Jacob and all his family to Egypt (Gen. 45:17, 18). What a celebration there must have been when Jacob and Joseph were reunited after so many years!

### Jacob in Egypt

Jacob went to live in the part of Egypt called Goshen which Pharaoh gave him and his sons to live in. The land was good, and the children of Israel (Jacob) prospered and multiplied.

Several hundred years passed, and the Egyptians forgot about Joseph and the help he had given them. The new Pharaoh of Egypt noticed that the Israelites were great in number and that they were becoming stronger than the Egyptians.

"We need to deal harshly with these people," Pharaoh said to his advisers, "so that they don't take over the country" (Ex. 1:9, 10).

They made slaves of the Israelites, forcing them to make bricks and build cities. Their lives became bitter and hard with toil and labor.

But the more cruel the Egyptians were to them, the more the Israelites multiplied (Ex. 1:20).

So Pharaoh decreed that all the Israelites' baby boys be killed (Ex. 1:22). It was during this time that Moses was born.

Moses' mother realized that she would have to hide him or he would be killed (Ex. 1:20). But after three months it became impossible to hide him any longer. She placed him in a small basket made of papyrus reed and put it in the Nile River (Ex. 2:2, 3).

Moses' sister, Miriam, watched as the basket drifted to the place where the daughter of Pharaoh was bathing.

Pharaoh's daughter saw that it was an Israelite baby in the basket and took pity on Moses. Miriam ran to her and asked "Shall I find



Pharaoh's daughter sent one of her servants out into the river to get the floating basket.

an Israelite nurse to take care of this child for you?" (Ex. 2:7).

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, so Miriam ran to tell her mother. Pharaoh's daughter told Moses' mother, "Take care of this child for me, and I will pay you well." She had no idea she was talking to the baby's own mother.

When Moses was no longer an infant, his mother had to return him to Pharaoh's daughter. He became her adopted son and was reared in Pharaoh's house.

Growing up in Pharaoh's household gave Moses special training that he would not have received otherwise. He was educated by Egypt's finest teachers and, according to Josephus, he was a general in the Egyptian army. Notice what Acts 7:22 says about him: "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." God was preparing Moses for the job of leading the Israelites out of slavery.

One day, when Moses was about 40 years old, he saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating an Israelite. Moses became so angry that he killed the Egyptian. Then he hid the body in the sand (Ex. 2:12, 13).

But someone had seen what happened, and the news of Moses' action spread all the way to Pharaoh. He ordered Moses to be killed, but Moses escaped to the land of Midian. He became a shepherd and lived there for about 40 years.

Toward the end of that 40 years, the Pharaoh died. But the Israelites were even more oppressed and burdened under the rule of the new Pharaoh. The people of Israel cried out to God for release from their bondage.

God heard their cry. Read Exodus 2:24-25 and complete the quote: "And God \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_, and God \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."

One day, while Moses was with his flock, he saw a bush that looked like it was on fire. But it was not being burned up (Ex. 3:2, 3)! He went closer for a better look. He was startled by a loud voice calling his name.

"Moses, do not come near without taking off your shoes; this is holy ground. I am the God of your father, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Moses was afraid to even look and covered his face.

"I have heard the cries of my people, the Israelites, and I know of their suffering. I will deliver them from the Egyptians and take them to a land that flows with milk and honey. I want you, Moses, to lead my people out of Egypt."

Moses was astounded. "Why me, God? Who am I, that I should be given this job?" he asked (Ex. 3:11).

"I will be with you and give you the strength that you will need," God reassured him.

But Moses was still unsure of himself. "When I go to the Israelites and tell them that the God of their fathers has sent me, what shall I say your name is?"

Then God said, "Tell them that I am that I am. You shall say that I am has sent you. This is my name and I shall be remembered by it forever."

As a sign, God gave Moses the power to perform certain miracles (Ex. 4:2-9). He also appointed Aaron, Moses' brother, to be his spokesman (Ex. 4:14-16).

When Moses and Aaron arrived in Egypt, they went to the elders of Israel first. They delivered God's message: the Israelites were going to leave Egypt. The elders bowed their heads and thanked God for hearing and answering their prayers (Ex. 4:31).

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They told him that God wanted His people to be allowed to travel three days into the desert to worship Him.

"Who is this God of yours, and why should I let these people go?" answered Pharaoh (Ex. 5:2).

Pharaoh had never heard such talk. It made him angry, and he ordered the taskmasters to give the Israelites even more work.

Moses was discouraged, because the Israelites' lives were more miserable than ever and they blamed him.

"Why are you doing this to me and your people?" Moses asked God. "Since I gave Pharaoh your message, he has treated your people more brutally than ever."

Let's see what God's answer was (Exodus 6:1): "Then the Lord said unto Moses, now shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_ what I will \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_: for with a \_\_\_\_\_ shall he \_\_\_\_\_, and with a \_\_\_\_\_ shall he \_\_\_\_\_ them out of his land."

God was going to cause Pharaoh to literally beg the Israelites to leave. How did God accomplish this? The story is found in Exodus, chapters 7-12. List the 10 plagues, in order, on the lines below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Which plague do you think was the most unpleasant? Why? Use the lines below to describe what you think it would be like to experience that plague. Include in your description why you think this plague was the worst.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Roaring like a gigantic waterfall, the water began to roll back before Moses' outstretched arms!

---



---



---



---



---



---

The final plague was too much for Pharaoh. Complete the quote in Exodus 12:31: "And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ you forth \_\_\_\_\_ my people, both \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said."

God caused the Egyptians to give the Israelites gold and silver jewelry and fine clothes (Ex. 11:2, 3). They were finally being paid for their many years of work. How many years were the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 12:40)? \_\_\_\_\_.

So the people left Egypt, rejoicing and praising God for delivering them.

God led them by a cloud, which moved in front of them in the daytime. At night, the cloud became a pillar of fire (Ex. 13:21). The Israelites traveled through the desertlike surroundings toward the Red Sea.

Meanwhile, Pharaoh became angry and changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. He gathered his army and began to pursue them.

Pharaoh's army caught sight of them near the edge of the Red Sea.

The defenseless Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea in front and the Egyptian army behind. They cried out to Moses in terror, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?" But Moses had learned to trust in God. Moses' reply is found in Exodus 14:13: "And Moses said unto the people, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord."

As night approached and the Egyptian army drew closer, the cloud moved to separate them from the Israelites. It was a dense fog to the Egyptians, but a light to Israel (Ex. 14:19, 20).

Then God caused a strange thing to happen. He told Moses to stretch out his hand and the water of the Red Sea began to divide! A strong wind dried the sea floor so that a path was formed. The Israelites walked through the middle of the Red Sea on dry ground (Ex. 14:22)!

All the Israelites were safe on the other side by the time Pharaoh's men reached the middle of the Red Sea. Moses raised his arms over the sea and the waters came crashing down, drowning Pharaoh and his entire army (Ex. 14:27, 28).

Throughout the journey to the Promised Land, the same pattern was repeated. The people never remembered how powerful God is. During a time of crisis they would say, "Moses, why did you bring us out here to die?"

God did not allow any of that generation to enter the Promised Land. Because of their unbelief, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. When they had all died, their children, now grown, went into the Promised Land (Numbers 14:31-34).

When the Israelites were obedient to God, they were blessed. But when they were disobedient, God allowed their enemies to oppress them.

Then Israel would turn to God for help. He would choose a leader to free His people, and for a time Israel would follow God and be blessed.

Eventually, the Israelites became more and more like the people around them. As our story

continues, they are about to demand that a king be set up to rule them, like the other nations.

### **ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING!**

The high priest for Israel at this time was Eli. He was an old man and had trained his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to take his place. However, Hophni and Phinehas were evil (I Sam. 2:12). They took advantage of their position for personal gain.

This caused God to be angry with Eli and his two sons. He told Eli that his family would no longer be priests. (Eli was a descendant of Aaron, the high priest during the time of Moses.)

God was going to choose a priest who would be faithful and obedient.

Samuel was just a boy when he began to serve Eli. He did many of the routine jobs that Eli didn't have time to do for himself.

One evening, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel was awakened by a loud voice.

"Samuel!"

Thinking Eli had called him, Samuel went to see what he wanted. But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

Again Samuel heard the voice.

"Samuel!"

But once again, it was not Eli who had called. Puzzled, Samuel went back to bed.

When Samuel heard the voice the third time and went again to Eli's bedroom, Eli realized that Samuel was being called by God.

"Samuel, God wants to speak to you," he said; "go back to bed, and when He calls your name, say, 'Yes, Lord, I am listening.' "

So Samuel went back to bed. When God spoke to him again, he responded just as Eli had instructed. "Samuel, I am going to punish Eli and his sons for their evil ways," God said. "Eli must also bear responsibility for his sons' conduct because he did not restrain them" (I Sam. 3:11-14).

Samuel lay awake all night. In the morning, he was afraid to tell Eli what God had said. But Eli forced him to tell. "Let God do what seems just to Him, for He is wise and good," Eli said.

As Samuel grew, God was with him and made

him wise. All Israel knew that Samuel was a servant of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, God kept His promise about Eli and his sons. Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and the Ark of the Covenant was captured (I Sam. 4:11).

When the news reached Eli, he was so shocked that he fell backwards from his elevated throne, killing himself in the fall (I Sam. 4:18).

So Samuel became the new ruler and judge of Israel. His rule was a good one and lasted many years. The nation prospered, because he was a faithful servant of God.

When Samuel grew old, he made his sons judges. But they did not follow Samuel's good example. They took bribes and did not judge fairly.

The people of Israel did not want Samuel's sons to rule over them. "We know that you are a just judge, but your sons are evil," they said. "We want a king to rule over us, just like the other nations" (I Sam. 8:5).

Samuel was upset that the people wanted a king. He knew that this meant they did not trust God.

"These people aren't rejecting you, Samuel; they are rejecting me and my rule," God said (I Sam. 8:7). "Make sure the people know what a king will be like."

So Samuel took God's message to the leaders of the tribes of Israel. "God wants you to know what it will be like to have a king. A king will take your sons to fight in his army. He will take your daughters to be his servants and cooks. He will take your finest fields and vineyards and olive trees and give them to other people. He will even take the best of your horses and cattle for his own use. You will be his slaves. When you finally see all that a king will take from you, you will cry out to God. But He won't hear you, because you have rejected Him" (I Sam. 8:18).

Samuel told all of these things to the leaders of Israel. But they insisted that they still wanted a king. So God decided to give them what they wanted.

Saul, the man chosen to be the new king, was tall, handsome and strong. These are the qualities that people admire — the outward



Samuel prayed to God about the peoples' demand for a king.

appearance. But what qualities does God notice? Look up I Samuel 16:7 and complete the quote: “. . . for the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ not as \_\_\_\_\_; for man \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, but the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.”

So Samuel anointed Saul as the king of Israel. He told the people what God had said. “You have rejected God and His government. You have rejected the God who delivered you from the Egyptians and who has protected you from all of the people who attacked you. You will get what you want and what you deserve” (I Sam. 10:18, 19).

God told Samuel to give a message to Saul: “I have considered the evil doings of Amalek, and I have chosen an appropriate punishment. Gather your army and destroy the nation of Amalek. Destroy all that they have, and don’t leave anyone alive. That means kill all men, women and children of that nation. Kill all of their horses, sheep and cattle” (I Sam. 15:2, 3).

Amalek was a nation that had refused to allow Israel to cross its territory when Israel was

leaving Egypt.

So Saul gathered an enormous army of Israelites to attack Amalek. The army numbered 210,000 men. Saul and his army swept through the nation of Amalek, destroying all of the cities and all of the people. However, when they got to the capital city, they spared the life of Agag, the Amalekite king. They also kept alive the best of the sheep, oxen and cattle (I Sam. 15:9).

God saw what was happening and spoke to Samuel. “I’m sorry that I made Saul king, because he has turned his back on me and my laws” (I Sam. 15:11).

When Samuel went to meet Saul on the battlefield, Saul cheerfully greeted him, saying, “We have done what the Lord has ordered.”

Samuel said, “If you have done what God has commanded you, then what is all of that animal noise that I hear outside of this tent?”

Saul was embarrassed. “Well, it’s true that we spared the best of the animals, but the men wouldn’t let me kill all of them. We were going to use them as sacrifices to God.”

“That may be so,” Samuel said, “but God ordered you to completely destroy Amalek. He



would much rather have you obey His commands than offer sacrifices. You have been stubborn and rebellious. Rebellion is just as evil as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols. Because you have rejected the commands of God, He has rejected you from being king over Israel" (I Sam. 15:22, 23).

Saul was shocked by Samuel's words. As he turned to go, Saul grabbed his coat and tore the material. Samuel said, "Just as my coat is torn, God has torn this kingdom from you, and He will give it to a man who is better than you."

Then Samuel ordered Agag brought before him. "As your sword has killed the sons of many mothers," Samuel said to him, "so shall your mother be childless!" Then Samuel took his sword and killed Agag.

### New King Chosen

God sent Samuel to secretly anoint a king that He had chosen. The new king was the youngest son of a man named Jesse. David was not as tall or impressive looking as his older brothers, but God looks on the heart or *attitude* (I Sam. 16:7).

David did not yet take office, but he was given God's Spirit.

Now God had taken His Spirit from Saul, and an evil spirit plagued him, causing fits of anger and depression (I Sam. 16:14). The only thing that could help was music. David was a skillful musician, and God caused him to be chosen to play for Saul. David played so well that the evil spirit left Saul and gave him peace for a while.

One of Israel's enemies, the Philistines, gathered their army together and prepared to fight Israel (I Sam. 17:1). There was a giant among the Philistines, an enormous man named Goliath. In the mornings he would come to the space between the two armies and challenge the Israelite soldiers to come out and fight. None of the Israelites would take up the challenge, because they were all afraid of this giant.

David, however, was not afraid. He believed that God would give him the strength to conquer Goliath. He persuaded Saul to let him fight.

David came out with only his slingshot. He didn't even have any armor on. Goliath laughed.

"Is this the best that the Israelites can come up with? You are just a boy! I'll kill you and feed your flesh to the buzzards!"

Notice David's reply in I Samuel 17:45: "Thou comest to me with a \_\_\_\_\_, and with a \_\_\_\_\_, and with a \_\_\_\_\_: but I come to thee in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

Goliath came toward David, who reached into his bag and got out a stone. He fitted the stone to his slingshot and sent it flying straight toward the middle of Goliath's forehead. The giant fell, and David ran to cut off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword (I Sam. 17:51)!

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran, but the Israelite army pursued them and killed many of them.

After this feat, David was a very popular man in the nation of Israel. Wherever he went, women sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, but David is



Day after day the Philistine giant tramped across the valley with his shield-bearer to challenge anyone to battle and to shout insulting remarks at Saul and the Israelites.

better — he has slain his tens of thousands!” This made Saul very angry, and he was jealous and fearful of David from that day forward.

In fact, the next day Saul tried to kill him. David was playing his harp when Saul picked up a spear and threw it directly at him. But David dodged the spear and escaped (I Sam. 18:11).

Saul was afraid because he knew that God had chosen David. Saul told all of his men that they must search out and kill David. David and his men spent many years in the wilderness, eluding Saul’s army.

On two occasions David was close enough to Saul to kill him while he was sleeping. Once he cut off a piece of Saul’s robe (I Sam. 24:4). Another time he took Saul’s spear and his water canteen (I Sam. 26:12).

David’s men urged him to kill Saul, or to allow them to kill Saul when they had the chance. But David would not allow it. Read David’s answer in I Samuel 24:6: “The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ this thing unto my master, the \_\_\_\_\_, to stretch forth mine hand \_\_\_\_\_ him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.”

David knew that God would take care of Saul in His own way.

### **David As King**

Saul and his sons eventually all died in a battle with the Philistines. David and all his men mourned and wept for them.

There was a long war between the people who had supported Saul and the people who supported David, but David’s men grew stronger and prevailed over them. He assumed the position of king of Israel, as God had chosen.

David’s reign was a long and prosperous one. Because he obeyed God, David was able to subdue both the Philistines and Moab. But later in David’s reign, something occurred that he was to regret for a long time.

One evening when David was walking on the roof of his home, he saw a beautiful woman bathing on another roof below him (II Sam. 11:2). Her name was Bathsheba. Her husband, Uriah, was a great warrior in David’s army.

David allowed himself to be tempted by Bathsheba, and he committed adultery with her.

When she became pregnant, David tried to cover up his sin. He sent for Uriah, to get a report on how the war was going. But David’s real motive was the hope that Uriah would sleep with his wife so that everyone would think the baby was his when it was born.

But Uriah refused. He slept outside, because he knew that the other soldiers weren’t able to go home and visit their families.

Unable to persuade Uriah to sleep with his wife, David sent him back to the battle. In a letter to Joab, the general, David ordered Uriah put into the part of the battle where the fighting was the most ferocious. Uriah was killed, along with many of his men.

David then married Bathsheba. He did not realize what a great sin he had committed. So God sent Nathan the priest to David.

Nathan told David this story: “There were two men in a city, one rich and the other one poor. The rich man had many herds of sheep. But the poor man had only a single lamb, which he cared for himself and treated like part of the family. Once, a visitor came to the rich man’s home, and the rich host served lamb for dinner. But instead of killing one of his own sheep, he killed the poor man’s lamb” (II Sam. 12:1-4).

“That man deserves to die!” David exclaimed.

“That man is you!” Nathan replied. “You had Uriah killed so you could have his wife permanently.”

When David saw what he had done, he repented deeply. He wrote the 51st Psalm, which shows how he sought God’s forgiveness.

Although God forgave him, David still had to pay a penalty for his sin. God told David, “Because you have committed adultery and have killed Uriah, the sword will never depart from your house; I will raise evil out of your own house, and I will take your wives from you” (II Sam. 12:9-11).

Throughout the remainder of his rule, David saw these prophecies come true. But the story of that part of David’s reign will have to wait until the next lesson.





EDITOR IN CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**

Produced in cooperation with Imperial Schools.  
© 1981 Worldwide Church of God for the entire  
contents of this publication.

**BIBLE MEMORY**

The Ten  
Commandments

You shall have no other gods before God.  
You shall not make any graven image of God.  
You shall not take His name in vain.  
Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.  
You shall honor your father and mother.  
You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not lie.  
You shall not covet what is your neighbor's.

## NAMES AND PLACES

Circle the words in the puzzle as you find them and check them off the word list. Some words are forward, some backward, some upside down, some diagonal, but all are in a straight line.



### WORD SEARCH

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| AARON      | JOAB        |
| ABRAHAM    | JOSEPH      |
| AGAG       | MIRIAM      |
| AMALEK     | MOAB        |
| BATHSHEBA  | MOSES       |
| BENJAMIN   | NATHAN      |
| DAVID      | PHARAOH     |
| EGYPT      | PHILISTINES |
| ELI        | PHINEHAS    |
| EXODUS     | POTIPHAR    |
| GOLIATH    | RED SEA     |
| HOPHNI     | SAMUEL      |
| ISAAC      | SAUL        |
| ISRAELITES | URIAH       |
| JACOB      |             |