

What does the fact that David had to capture Jerusalem reveal about the failure of Israel that we saw in the study on Judges?

## David's Rebellion

*As with all the worthies of the Old Testament no attempt is made to disguise David's sins.*

### Read at least 2 Samuel 11.1-5, 14-15 & 12.9-10

In what ways did David sin? How did he try to cover up his sin?

From what you can remember how was the judgement of God (v10) unfolded in the lifetime of David and subsequently?

Despite David's sin the Lord did not forsake him. As far as we can tell Saul was forsaken by God and Solomon turned away from the Lord. But when confronted with his sin David repented. This should be an example to us, and many still find Psalm 51 a great help. Nevertheless, like David, we often have to live with the consequences of our sin and God's judgement.

## A Greater King

David had wanted to build a Temple in Jerusalem (2 Sam 7.1-11). God would not let him, but gave David a promise.

### Read 2 Samuel 7.12-17

What are the different elements of the promise? How were they fulfilled in Solomon's time?

Despite David's son Solomon becoming king, these promises came to be seen as referring to some future King, the seed of David, an anointed one (messiah). Why do you think this was?

Give thanks to God that this promise was fulfilled in Jesus (Hebrews 1:5, Acts 2:25-32, Acts 13:23, Luke 1:30-33, Rev 22.16 & many more.)

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# Search the Scriptures

## Study 6 : Three Kings



*The reigns of Saul, David and particularly Solomon mark the high point of the nation of Israel. The Israelites briefly managed to take possession of all the land that God had promised them. But once again the Bible shows us the sad reality of our human condition and sin marred all of their reigns. David's sin meant that after Solomon the kingdom was torn in two.*

*Each of the three reigned for roughly 40 years (though David was King of Judah alone for his first 7 years) covering the period from 1095BC to 975BC. Their history is recorded mostly in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1-11. 2 Chronicles 1-9 repeats much of the history, but focussing mostly on the positives.*

*David was a musician and writer; 73 of the Psalms are attributed to him and one tradition says that he wrote over 3,000 songs in total. Solomon also wrote songs, 1,005 in fact (1 Kings 4.32) including two of the Psalms and the Song of Songs. But he is better known for his wisdom partly recorded in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.*

## Who will rule over us?

The history of most nations, including our own, reveals a struggle of who should rule. Which countries today have been in the news recently because of such conflict?

C S Lewis (amongst others) said that people believe in democracy either because they think all people are so wise that a nation needs their advice, or because all people are so wicked that none of them can be trusted with unchecked power. Discuss!

### Read 1 Samuel 8.3-22

What was Samuel's initial reaction to the request of the people and how did he follow this up? In what situations might this be a good example for us?

Why did the people say they wanted a king? What were they told would be the consequences of this?

The Lord had already made provision for the rule of kings (Deut 17.14-end). Do you think He did this to accommodate human weakness, or was the problem in 1 Samuel about the reason the people asked (v7) rather than what they asked for?

Do you think this has any parallels with our own requests to God in prayer?

### Read Romans 13.1-4

Do you think Paul's words here give a more positive assessment of human authority? (Remember that the Roman authorities were ruthless at times in their treatment of Christians, including Paul.)

### Good King, Bad King

See if your group can add at least one item to each box in the chart below from your knowledge of the Bible.

	Good King	Bad King
Saul		
David		
Solomon		

*Although the reign of Solomon marked the golden age of Israel it is his father David who stands out in the Old Testament.*

### David chosen

Some of the incidents in David's life are amongst the best known in the Old Testament. Why do you think this is?

Either read 1 Sam 16.1-13 or just the verses as mentioned below.

Why did God choose David? (v7)

How do you think our process for choosing political leaders today compares to v7? To what extent does the process encourage us to look at the externals or at the heart? Would changing the process help, or is the problem with us?

What relevance does v7 have in appointing people to various roles in a church like St. James?

What part would the Holy Spirit play in the life of David? (v13)

It seems that in the Old Testament the Spirit was only given to certain individuals for particular tasks. But the Spirit is given to all in Christ (1 Cor 3.16 etc) - this is something to thank God for.

### David's Rule

*David saw little peace in his time, but the success given him laid the foundations for the prosperity of Solomon's rule.*

### Read 1 Samuel 5.4-10

How old was David when he became King of Judah? It was at least 15 years between when he was anointed by Samuel and when he actually became King. How do you think he would have felt during all those years?

David had at least two opportunities when he could have easily killed Saul, but he refused to act against the Lord's anointed. What does this show about David's character?

If you have time you may wish to ponder the question, which is still very much alive today, when is it right to act to depose those in authority?