

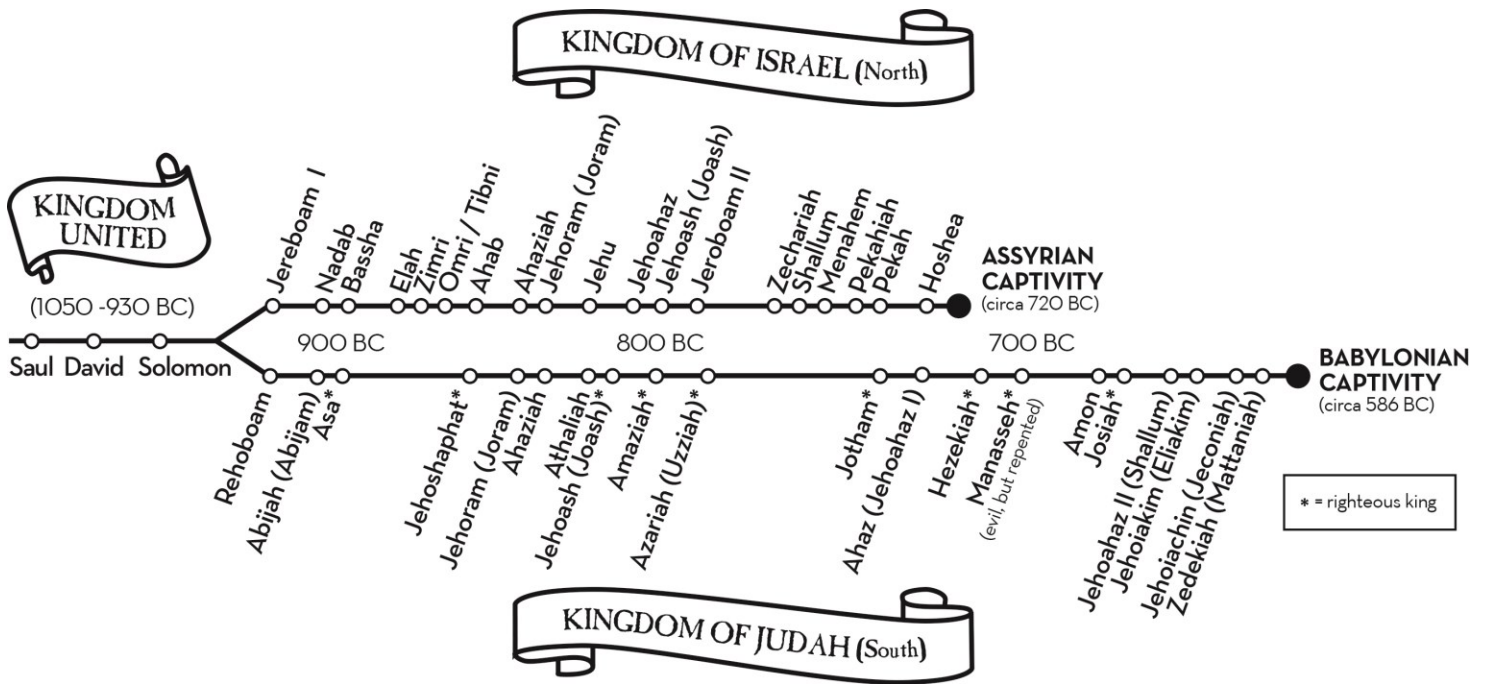
Choose the Right King 1 Samuel 8

Three reasons we are vulnerable to choosing the wrong “king”:

- **A failure to effectively pass on God’s timeless truth and faithful living to the next generation.** 1 Samuel 8:1-3
“And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel.... His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.”
- **When I align my life with the cultural values of this world.** 1 Samuel 8:4-5
“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, ‘Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.’”
- **When I forget all the good things God has done for me.** 1 Samuel 8:7-8
“...Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.”

We Must Turn to Christ as Our King

- **Confess any failure to live under the rule of Christ and commit to serve Him fully.** 1 Samuel 12:19-25
“...Samuel said to the people, ‘Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. You must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which cannot profit or deliver, because they are futile. For the LORD will not abandon His people...”
 - God is gracious and will not abandon you when you turn to Him
 - Identify the “futile things which cannot profit” you.
Hebrews 12:1-3 - “futile things”: sins that entangle... encumbrances that weigh you down
 - Gadgets (entertainment, electronics)
 - Status (job, promotion, success)
 - Possessions (cars, houses, family, kids)
 - Hobbies (sports, fitness, dancing, movies)
 - Vanity (appearance, clothes, makeup, fashion)
 - Food (could also include drinking, consumption of any kind)
- **Recognize the cost for either the right or wrong “king.” Which king and price do you choose?**
 - The price we may pay for the wrong king out of forced obedience. 1 Samuel 8:10-18
 - The price we invest when Christ is king out of love. Luke 12:27-33; 14:26-27, 33
- **Be warned: God may give us what we want but not what is best so we learn the hard way to trust in Him.**
1 Samuel 8:19-22
Deuteronomy 17:14-20 - Look for compromised convictions



Digging Deeper:

Today we begin a new series, The Chronicles of the Kings. We will learn from many of the kings that ruled over Israel and Judah. God is so gracious and long suffering when His people keep turning from Him. But, there is a limit to His grace which we will see as foreign powers like Assyria (722 B.C.) and Babylon (586 B.C.) eventually wipe out Israel and Judah. Today, it is important that we choose the right king. God has served as Israel's king since Abraham. But now the people are rejecting God and seeking a king like all the other nations. God will allow a human king to rule over them but they will have to pay a price for that decision.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Christ seeks to rule over our lives as Lord. We are tempted to be like the Israelites and seek other things and people to serve. So it is important that we are reminded of the Lordship of Christ over all our lives. Below are some scriptures that emphasize the rule of Christ. Read these scriptures and discuss how you should then live in light of those verses:

- Luke 12:15-21 - What should be our priority in life?
- Luke 12:27-34 - What promise does Jesus make to us? Rather than seeking possessions, what should we seek? What should we do with the things we have gained according to vs. 33?
- Luke 14:25-33 - This is very challenging. What do you see as Jesus' point or priority in vs. 26, 27? Why is it important to count the cost when becoming a disciple of Christ? How sold out does Jesus call us to be in vs. 33?
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Who owns you and therefore, how should you live for Christ?
- Philippians 2:9-11 - Consider how the rule of Christ is reflected in your life?
- Romans 14:8-9 - As you live each day, what should be your priority?
- Romans 12:1-2 - What does it mean to live sacrificially for Christ?
- Philippians 1:21 - How would you apply this verse in your life?

Next Steps:

1. **Attend the 'Emotionally Healthy Spirituality' course on Wednesday nights in January and February at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.** This course offers pathways to transformation that will help you mature into a faith that is filled with authenticity and a profound love for God, the King. Learn more at calvarylife.org
2. **Attend the 'Alpha Course' on Wednesday nights in January and February at 6:30pm in the Worship Center Lobby.** Alpha is for anyone with questions about how, where, and if God fits into this life. Join honest conversations about the things you've wanted to ask but never thought you could and explore life's big questions over a relaxed dinner. calvarylife.org/alpha
3. **Join a LifeGroup in 2017.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups