
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership
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THE MAJOR THEME OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IFCL 10 (Advanced Lecture 1)

INTRODUCTION:

The Old Testament is a series of stories, but it really is only one story. It is the story of God creating His kingdom on earth. After beginning with Adam and Eve, then starting again with Noah's family, God picked Abraham to be the one through whom He would create His kingdom on earth.

I. GENESIS

- A. Creation (Chapters 1-2) and the instructions to Adam and Eve (1:27-28)
- B. The sin of Adam and Eve disrupts God's plan (Chapter 3)
- C. God's judgment of sin (the flood, chapters 7-9), and God's covenant with Noah (9:1-10)
- D. God's judgment at the tower of Babel (Chapter 11)
- E. (2000 BC) God's Covenant with Abraham (12:1-3; 15:17)

NOTE: God promised Abraham three things, some land, descendants (seed), and that he would be a blessing.

- F. The birth of Ishmael (Chapter 16)
- G. God reaffirms the covenant with Abraham and affirms that Isaac and Jacob will inherit the blessings of the covenant. (17:19)
- H. The birth of Isaac (Chapter 21)
- I. Abraham offers Isaac to God (Chapter 22)
- J. The birth of Jacob and Esau (Chapter 25)
- K. The covenant is passed on to Isaac (26:2-5)
- L. Isaac passes on the promise to Jacob (28:1-5)
- M. The sons of Jacob (Chapter 30)
- N. Joseph's dream and the plot against him (Chapter 37)
- O. Joseph's success in Egypt (Chapter 39)
- P. Joseph is made ruler over the land. (Chapter 42)
- Q. A famine brings Joseph's family to Egypt for food. (Chapter 43)
- R. Jacob moves to Egypt with his family. (Chapter 46)
- S. Jacob (renamed Israel) dies. (Chapter 50)

NOTE: A key verse is Genesis 50:20. When Joseph talked about his brothers selling him into slavery, he said, "God meant it for good."

II. EXODUS

- A. Israel is in Egypt 400 years after the end of Genesis. Israel is subjected to slavery. (Chapter 1)
- B. The birth of Moses (Chapter 2)
- C. God speaks from a burning bush and calls Moses to lead Israel. (Chapter 3)

- D. Aaron is appointed to be Moses' spokesman. (Chapter 4)
- E. Israel's labor is increased (Chapter 5)
- F. The plagues begin. (Chapter 7)
- G. The last plague (Chapter 11)
- H. The first Passover (Chapter 12)
- I. 1440 BC: Israel is told to leave Egypt. (Chapter 12)
- J. Pharaoh's army pursues Israel. (Chapter 14)
- K. The dividing of the Red Sea (Chapter 14)
- L. The Ten Commandments (Chapter 20)
- M. The ordinances, laws, and feasts are given by God (Chapters 21-23)
- N. Instructions regarding offerings, the arc of the Covenant, and the tabernacle (Chapters 25-32)
- O. The creation of the Golden Calf (Chapter 32)
- P. Israel resumes its journey. (Chapter 33)
- Q. Tabernacle built (Chapters 36-40)

III. NUMBERS

- A. The census of Israel's warriors (Chapter 1)
- B. The arrangement of the camps in regard to the tabernacle (Chapter 2)
- C. More instructions for Israel while they are camped in the wilderness of Sinai (Chapters 3-10)
- D. Israel departs from Sinai (Chapter 10)
- E. Israel and Moses complain to God and God provides (Chapter 11)
- F. Israel sets up its camp in Kadesh-barnea. (Chapter 12)
- G. Twelve spies are sent into the land and report back. (Chapter 13)

NOTE: Ten give a negative report and two, Joshua and Caleb, give a positive report.

- H. The people rebel; God rebukes them; they repent, but it's too late. (Chapter 14)
- I. Israel tries to enter the land anyway and they are defeated. (Chapter 14)
- J. Forty years of Israel wandering in the wilderness begins. (Chapter 15)
- K. After 40 years, the older generation dies, and a new census of the next generation of warriors is taken. (Chapter 26)
- L. Joshua is chosen to succeed Moses. (Chapter 27)
- M. There is a review of the journey from Egypt to Jordan. (Chapter 33)
- N. God tells Israel they will inherit the land. (Chapter 33)
- O. God instructs Moses about how to divide Canaan once it is conquered. (Chapters 34-35)

IV. JOSHUA

- A. Joshua takes command. (Chapter 1)
- B. Two spies are sent into Jericho. (Chapter 2)
- C. Israel crosses the Jordan. (Chapter 3)
- D. 1400 BC: The defeat of Jericho (Chapter 6)
- E. Canaan is taken by Israel after a defeat at Ai. (Chapters 7-12)
- F. Canaan is divided among the tribes as God had instructed Moses. (Chapters 13-22)
- G. Joshua's farewell speech (Chapter 23-24)

V. JUDGES

- A. Jerusalem and other cities are captured. (Chapter 1)
- B. Not all of the places were conquered completely. (Chapter 1:27-33)
- C. Joshua dies (Chapter 2)
- D. Israel's idolatry led to their bondage and slavery. (Chapter 3)
- E. Cycles of sin, judgment, repentance, deliverance (Chapters 3-17)
- F. The story of Gideon (Chapters 6-8)
- G. The story of Samson (Chapters 13-16)
- H. There was no king in Israel and everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (21:25)

VI. 1 SAMUEL

- A. The birth of Samuel (Chapter 1)
- B. The call of Samuel to lead Israel (Chapter 3)
- C. Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant. (Chapter 4)
- D. The Ark is returned to Israel. (Chapter 6)
- E. The other nations had kings, so Israel wanted a king also. (Chapter 8)
- F. 1050 BC: Saul is chosen to be king. (Chapter 9)

NOTE: This is the beginning of the United Kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon. Each of them served approximately 40 years as Israel's king.

- G. Saul's disobedience (Chapter 15)
- H. David was anointed to become Israel's future king while Saul was still the current king. (Chapter 16)
- I. Goliath's challenge and David's victory (Chapter 17)
- J. Saul turned against David (Chapter 18)
- K. David had a chance to kill Saul, but spared his life. (Chapter 24)
- L. The death of Samuel (Chapter 25)
- M. David had a second chance to kill Saul, but spared his life again. (Chapter 26)
- N. Saul and his sons were killed. (Chapter 31)

VII. 2 SAMUEL

- A. 1000 BC: David was made king over Judah, the Southern territory. (Chapter 2)
- B. David became king over all of Israel: The Kingdom of Israel in the north, and the Kingdom of Judah in the south. (Chapter 3)
- C. David plans to build God a temple (Chapter 7)
- D. God denies David the opportunity to build the temple, but makes a covenant with him. (7:12-16) God promises that David's descendants would sit on his throne forever.
 - 1. David's descendant will build God's temple. (7:13a)
 - 2. God will establish David's descendant's throne forever. (7:13b)
 - 3. God promises that David's kingdom and throne will endure forever. (7:16)
- E. David sins with Bathsheba. (Chapter 11)
- F. Nathan rebukes David. (Chapter 12)
- G. Solomon is born. (Chapter 12)

- H. Absalom, David's son, tries to take the throne. (Chapter 15)
- J. Absalom is killed. (Chapter 18)

VIII. 1 KINGS

- A. 950 BC: Solomon is anointed king. (Chapter 1)
- B. The death of David (Chapter 2)
- C. Solomon has his opposition killed. (Chapter 2)
- D. Solomon chooses wisdom over riches, and God gives him both. (Chapter 3)
- E. Solomon's power, wealth, and wisdom (Chapter 4)
- F. Solomon builds God's temple. (Chapter 6)
- G. Solomon builds himself a palace. (Chapter 7)
- H. The Ark of the Covenant is brought into the temple. (Chapter 8)
- I. God promises to bless Solomon if he lived obediently. (Chapter 9)
- J. The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon. (Chapter 10)
- K. Solomon turned from God and falls in love with many foreign women. (Chapter 11)
- L. God raises up enemies to fight against Solomon. (Chapter 11)
- M. The death of Solomon (Chapter 11)
- N. Rehoboam becomes king (11:43)
- O. 931 BC: The kingdom is divided. Jeroboam becomes the king in the north, and Rehoboam remains king in the south (Chapter 12)

NOTE: This begins the period of the divided kingdom. Israel is the northern kingdom. Judah is the southern kingdom.

- P. Various kings begin to rule in the north and the south. (Chapter 13)
- Q. A period of war begins. (Chapter 15:32)
- R. The story of King Ahab and Jezebel begins. (Chapter 16)
- S. The prophet Elijah begins his ministry. (Chapter 17)
- T. God or Baal on Mt. Carmel (Chapter 18)
- U. The death of Ahab (Chapter 19)

IX. 2 KINGS

- A. Elijah is taken to heaven. (Chapter 2)
- B. Elisha replaces Elijah (Chapter 2)
- C. The succession of kings in the north and the south continues. (Chapter 8)

NOTE: All of the kings in Israel, the northern kingdom, were wicked. A few of the kings in Judah, the southern kingdom, were good so the southern kingdom lasted longer than the northern kingdom.

- D. The death of Elisha (Chapter 13)
- E. 722 BC: The northern kingdom, Israel, falls to Assyria. (Chapter 17)
- F. Sennacherib invades Judah. (Chapter 18)
- G. Josiah brings reforms to Judah. (Chapter 23)

- H. 586 BC: Jerusalem was captured by Babylon and all of Jerusalem was taken captive to Babylon. (Chapter 24)
 - 1. In Jeremiah 29:10-14 God told Israel that they would be in Babylon for 70 years and after that time they would begin to seek God, and then He would restore them back in their land. That is what happened.
 - 2. In Jeremiah 31:31-34 we have another important covenant that God made with Israel. He promised that one day they would truly be His people.

X. EZRA (457 BC)

- A. 538 BC: Persia had defeated Babylon and Israel remained captive. King Cyrus declares that the Israelites could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. (Chapter 1)
- B. 520 BC: The restoration of the temple begins. (Chapter 3)

XI. NEHEMIAH (445 BC)

- A. The rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem begins. (Chapter 2:18)
- B. The wall was finished in less than two months. (Chapter 6)
- C. The first group of exiles returned to Jerusalem. (Chapter 7)
- D. Ezra reads the law to the people and explains the meaning. (Chapter 8)
- E. The wall is dedicated. (Chapter 12)

XII. MALACHI (435 BC)

- A. Malachi is the last prophet before approximately 400 years of no prophets.
- B. Then as the New Testament opens, a new prophet rises up. He is John the Baptist, and his message is “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.” (Matthew 3:1-2). So, the theme of the kingdom continued and will continue until Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on earth.

CONCLUSION AND REVIEW:

God’s plan for a kingdom began with Adam and Eve. When they sinned, He chose Noah’s family as the ones to establish His kingdom. When Noah sinned, God took full responsibility for the creation of His kingdom, and He chose Abraham, then David as the two men through which he would establish His eternal kingdom.