

A background image showing a person's hands writing in a Bible with a pen. The Bible is open, and the word 'BIBLE' is visible on the cover. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt.

**A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
YEAR ONE, QUARTER FOUR**

Throne of David

**THE BOOKS OF
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL**

**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

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A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One

Year Two

First Quarter: "In The Beginning"

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. Sin (Genesis 3-4)
3. Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-10)
4. Promises to Abraham (Genesis 11-12, 15-18)
5. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13-14, 18-19)
6. Abraham, Sarah and Isaac (Genesis 20-24)
7. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28, 32-33, 36)
8. Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29-31, 34-35)
9. Joseph Sold Into Slavery (Genesis 37-38)
10. Joseph Imprisoned (Genesis 39)
11. Joseph Interprets Dreams (Genesis 40-41)
12. Providence (Genesis 42-45)
13. Reunited (Genesis 46-50)

Second Quarter: "From Egypt to Canaan"

1. Call of Moses (Exodus 1-5)
2. The Nine Plagues (Exodus 6-10)
3. The Passover (Exodus 11-13)
4. Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14-18)
5. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-31)
6. The Golden Calf (Exodus 32-40)
7. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 1-10)
8. Holy Living (Leviticus 11-27)
9. Leaving Sinai for Canaan (Numbers 1-10)
10. Loyalty and Disloyalty (Numbers 11-21)
11. Balaam and Balak (Numbers 22-36)
12. Moses's Review (Deuteronomy 1-4)
13. Moses's Final Charge (Deuteronomy 5-34)

Third Quarter: "Taming Canaan"

1. Entrance Into The Land (Joshua 1-4)
2. Jericho (Joshua 5-6)
3. Ai and Other Conquests (Joshua 7-21)
4. Covenant Matters (Joshua 22-24)
5. Failure to Drive Out Canaanites (Judges 1-2)
6. Deborah and Other Judges (Judges 3-5)
7. Gideon (Judges 6-9)
8. Jephthah (Judges 10-12)
9. Samson and Delilah (Judges 13-16)
10. Tribal Depravity (Judges 17-21)
11. The Courtship of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 1-4)
12. Samuel's Beginnings (First Samuel 1-3)
13. The Ark of the Covenant (First Samuel 4-6)

Fourth Quarter: "The Throne of David"

1. Institution of the Monarchy (First Samuel 7-12)
2. The Reign of Saul Begins (First Samuel 13-16)
3. David and Goliath (First Samuel 17)
4. Saul Persecutes David (First Samuel 18-20)
5. David's Flight and Fight (First Samuel 21-24)
6. Abigail and David (First Samuel 25)
7. Saul's Downfall (First Samuel 26-28)
8. David's Rise (First Samuel 29-31)
9. David Becomes King (Second Samuel 1-5)
10. David's Successes (Second Samuel 6-10)
11. David and Bathsheba (Second Samuel 11-12)
12. Absalom's Rebellion (Second Samuel 13-19)
13. David's Decline (Second Samuel 20-24)

First Quarter: "Israel and Judah"

1. David's Demise (First Kings 1-2)
2. Solomon's Splendor (First Kings 3-10)
3. Solomon's Demise (First Kings 11)
4. Rehoboam and Jeroboam (First Kings 12-16)
5. Elijah (First Kings 17-19)
6. Ahab and Jezebel (First Kings 20-22)
7. Elisha (Second Kings 1-4, 6)
8. Naaman the Leper (Second Kings 5)
9. Bloody Reigns (Second Kings 7-12)
10. Fall of Israel (Second Kings 13-17)
11. Hezekiah (Second Kings 18-21)
12. Josiah (Second Kings 22-23)
13. Fall of Judah (Second Kings 24-25)

Second Quarter: "The Major Prophets"

1. The Book of Isaiah (Part 1)
2. The Book of Isaiah (Part 2)
3. The Book of Isaiah (Part 3)
4. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 1)
5. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 2)
6. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 3)
7. The Book of Lamentations
8. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 1)
9. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 2)
10. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 3)
11. The Book of Daniel (Part 1)
12. The Book of Daniel (Part 2)
13. The Book of Daniel (Part 3)

Third Quarter: "The Minor Prophets"

1. The Book of Joel
2. The Book of Jonah
3. The Book of Amos
4. The Book of Hosea
5. The Book of Micah
6. The Book of Zephaniah
7. The Book of Nahum
8. The Book of Habakkuk
9. The Book of Obadiah
10. The Book of Haggai
11. The Book of Zechariah
12. The Book of Malachi
13. Review

Fourth Quarter: "Wisdom Literature & Post-Exile"

1. The Book of Psalms
2. The Book of Proverbs
3. The Book of Job (Part 1)
4. The Book of Job (Part 2)
5. The Book of Ecclesiastes
6. The Song of Solomon
7. The Book of Esther (Part 1)
8. The Book of Esther (Part 2)
9. The Book of Ezra (Part 1)
10. The Book of Ezra (Part 2)
11. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 1)
12. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 2)
13. Intertestamental Period

8. What was meant by “lest you quench the lamp of Israel” (21:15-22)?

9. Which psalm records the song in Second Samuel 22:1-51? What is its theme?

10. How does the historian refer to David (23:1-7)?

11. Why did David refuse to drink the water his men brought him (23:8-39)?

12. Some sin was involved in this census, though the text does not clarify what it was ((24:1-10; see also First Chronicles 21:1-17). Nonetheless, how did David react now when he found himself wanting before God?

13. What choices did Gad give David (24:11-16)? Which did he select?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

14. Why did David object to Araunah’s offer to give him what he wanted for nothing (24:17-25)?

15. What pending project seems to have consumed the rest of David’s life (First Chronicles 22:2-25:29)?

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One, Quarter Four

Throne of David

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT is designed to take a Bible class all the way through the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in two years’ time. Sacrifices were made to arrange this pace, especially in obscure passages such as some found in the Pentateuch, major prophets and wisdom literature. Topical class books can supplement the cursory study of these books at other times, however, so that no part of God’s writ is slighted.

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Lesson 13: David's Decline

Second Samuel 20-24 and First Chronicles 21-25

1. How was Israel divided again (Second Samuel 20:1-13)?
2. Why did David swear off his concubines?
3. Why did Joab kill Amasa? How did this become a stumbling block?
4. How was Sheba's rebellion ended (20:14-26)?
5. Why was Israel facing famine (21:1-14)?
6. What did the Gibeonites ask as recompense for this mistreatment? How was their request honored by David and by God?
7. How did David draw Saul's dynasty to a close?

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1. Download the booklet and open it in Adobe Reader.
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4. Print ONLY the EVEN pages.
5. Fold the pages in the middle and staple twice along the spine.

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10. What did David do when he heard about the conspiracy (15:13-23)?

11. Why was David weeping (15:24-37)?

12. How did Shimei treat David (16:1-14)? Why?

13. What advice did Ahithophel give Absalom (16:15-23)?

14. Whose advice was better—Hushai’s or Ahithophel’s (17:1-29)? Why?

15. How did Absalom die (18:1-33)? How did David react to his enemy’s demise?

16. In what way did Joab rebuke David (19:1-14)?

17. David now deals with a series of men (19:15-43). List them.

verses 15-23:

verses 31-39:

verses 24-30:

verses 40-41:

Lesson 1: Institution of the Monarchy

First Samuel 7-12 and First Chronicles 1-9

1. What was separating Israel from God (First Samuel 7:1-12)? How did Israel obey Samuel’s advice?

2. What was the significance of the Ebenezer?

3. What did Samuel have in common with Samson and Deborah (7:13-17)?

4. What was wrong with Joel and Abijah (8:1-9)? What did Israel ask as a remedy? How did God react to their request?

5. Briefly summarize what the king would do to the Hebrews (8:10-22). Why were the people unconcerned? What did they think the king would do for their benefit?

6. What is the reader’s first impression of Saul (9:1-2)? Does this make for a sound ruler? Explain.

7. Why was Saul surprised to hear Samuel speak to him with such respect (9:3-27)?

8. Three signs were to be given to Saul to verify his anointing as king. What were they (10:1-8)?

- verse 2:
- verse 4:
- verse 6:

9. How did Saul get a new heart (10:9-16)? What secret did Saul keep from his uncle?

10. What do you think of the rebels' attitude about Saul (10:17-27)?

11. How did Saul muster the people together to battle (11:1-15)?

12. How did Saul show a generosity that would leave him later in life?

13. What caused the people to renew their fear of both Samuel and God (12:1-25)?

14. What promise did Samuel make them if they left God?

Lesson 12: Absalom's Rebellion

Second Samuel 13-19

1. What was bothering Amnon (Second Samuel 13:1-6)? Whose idea was it to trick David and Tamar with a feigned illness?

2. What did he ask of his sister (13:7-14)? How did she respond? How did Amnon react then?

3. How did Amnon treat his beloved sister when the deed was done (13:15-20; see also Deuteronomy 22:28-29)?

4. What was Absalom's opinion of Amnon (13:21-27)?

5. Who comforted David when he was told that all his sons were dead (13:28-39)?

6. Joab tried to imitate Nathan by enlisting a woman of Tekoa to teach David a lesson (14:1-21). What was the aim of Joab's plan? Did it work?

7. What stipulation did David add to Absalom's return (14:22-24)?

8. Why was Absalom popular (14:25-33)? How did he get Joab's attention? What did he want from Joab?

9. How did Absalom subvert Israel (15:1-12)?

8. What had changed David since he fought Goliath and killed him by faith?
9. Who was Nathan (12:1-6)? What type of teaching method was he using in this passage: parable, analogy or illustration?
10. Did David immediately understand that this story was not real as told? How did he react to Nathan's tale?
11. How did Nathan respond to David's condemnation of the lamb killer (12:7-12)?
12. What prophecy about David's lineage did Nathan make?
13. Do people ever really get away with "secret sins"? Why, or why not (Numbers 32:23, Hebrews 4:11-13)?
14. Why was Bathsheba's child going to die (12:13-19)? Was the child being punished for the sins of his father?
15. How did David act while the child was ill (12:20-25)? How did he act after the child died?
16. Why did Joab call David to come when Rabbah was about to fall (12:26-31; see also First Chronicles 20:1-3)?

Lesson 2: The Reign of Saul Begins

First Samuel 13-16

1. How did Saul get Israel in dire straits (First Samuel 13:1-7)?
2. How late was Samuel in arriving at Gilgal (13:8-15)?
3. How did Saul disappoint Samuel? What did Saul offer as an excuse for his action? How did Samuel punish Saul's exercise in situation ethics?
4. What advantage did the Philistines have over the Hebrews (13:16-23)?
5. Who was Jonathan (14:1-14)? What was his plan?
6. Did Saul or Jonathan win the battle for Israel that day, as the people expected when they pleaded for a king (14:15-23)? Explain.
7. Why was Saul foolish in making Israel vow not to eat on this day (14:24-52)? Should Jonathan have been killed?

8. Why was God going to punish Amalek (15:1-9)?

9. What false claim did Saul make about his faithfulness in the Amalek battle (15:10-23)? How did Samuel respond? Whom did Saul blame for this “oversight”?

10. What did the tearing of Samuel’s robe symbolize (15:24-31)?

11. Agag thought time had saved him (15:32-35). How did Samuel punish Saul?

12. What caused Samuel to consider Eliab as the next king (16:1-13)? Why did God reject Samuel’s judgment?

13. Whom did Samuel anoint as king? How was he described?

14. What was Saul’s new problem(16:14-23) W? How did he seek relief?

Lesson 11: David and Bathsheba

Second Samuel 11-12 and First Chronicles 20

1. Why is it not a good sign that David stayed behind while his people were at war, when it was customary for kings to go out to battle (Second Samuel 11:1)? Of what was it a sign?

2. Was it sinful to walk on his roof (11:2-5)? What mistake did David make when he noticed Bathsheba bathing across the way?

3. What subsequent information should have terminated any interest David had in her?

4. Had she not gotten pregnant, would David’s adultery have been any less sinful (see also First Thessalonians 4:1-8)?

5. Why didn’t Uriah go to his house as David instructed (11:6-13)? How was Uriah putting David to shame, without realizing?

6. Explain whether David was guilty of murder (11:14-21)?

7. Why wasn’t God pleased that David had decided to take care of a poor pregnant widow (11:22-27)?

8. Why did God object to David's idea?

9. This prophecy in Second Samuel 7:12-28 has certain messianic overtones. What kingdom did God establish that would never be shaken?

10. Why was David such a successful warrior (8:1-18)?

11. Why did David call for Mephibosheth (9:1-13)? What disability did he have? How did he get this way (see 4:4)?

12. What kindness did David do for him?

13. Why did David send some representatives to Ammon (10:1-8)? What did Hanun's advisors tell him?

14. What did Hanun do with the emissaries?

15. How did Hanun's bad advice come back to haunt Ammon (10:9-14)?

Lesson 3: David and Goliath

First Samuel 17

1. What is a "champion" (First Samuel 17:1-11)? Who was the Philistines' champion? In your own words, describe how Goliath must have appeared to his enemies that day.

2. What were the terms of Goliath's challenge? How did Saul and his armies respond?

3. How long did Goliath continue challenging Israel (17:12-19)? Which of Jesse's sons were there and could have accepted it?

4. What was the reward to the man who could defeat Goliath (17:20-30)?

a.

b.

c.

5. Why was Eliab angry with David? What did David say in return?

6. What offer did David make King Saul (17:31-44)? Why did Saul argue with him?

7. What did David have that Goliath and most of Israel seemingly lacked?

8. What did the Philistine think of David?

9. What lesson did David plan to teach Israel that day (17:45-51)?

10. How did David succeed (Hebrews 11:1-2, 32-34)?

11. What did David's courage do for Israel (17:52-58)?

Lesson 10: David's Successes

Second Samuel 6-10 and First Chronicles 13-19

1. Who drove the cart on which the ark was transported (Second Samuel 6:1-8)?

2. Why was it permissible for Israel to use mechanical instruments of music in their worship?

3. Why did Uzzah reach out his hand to catch the ark? Why was God angry, when Uzzah was just trying to help?

4. How did David react to God's punishment of Uzzah after his anger (6:9-15)? Is this the way God intended people to react to this event? Explain.

5. How did David behave as the ark came up out of the house of Obed-Edom?

6. What did his wife, Michal, think of his behavior (6:16-23)? Why?

7. What was bothering King David (7:1-11)? What did Nathan tell him to do?

8. Whom did Abner anoint as king (2:8-11)? Why? How was Israel divided during this time?

9. How were Abner's men defeated by David's (2:12-17)?

10. How did Abner incite the Jews' anger further (2:18-32)?

11. How did Abner anger Ishbosheth (3:1-21)? How did Abner respond to the king's rebuke?

12. Why did Joab kill Abner (3:22-39)?

13. How did Ishbosheth respond to Abner's demise (4:1-8)? What became of Ishbosheth?

14. How did David reward the assassins (4:9-12)?

15. What divine prophecy did the people recall as they anointed David king (5:1-5)?

16. Why was David now so successful against the Philistines (5:6-25)?

Lesson 4: Saul Persecutes David

First Samuel 18-20

1. Describe the relationship between Jonathan and David (First Samuel 18:1-4).

2. What made Saul angry and jealous (18:5-11)?

3. What prophetic question did Saul ask himself about David?

4. How did Saul repay David who played music to calm his distressing spirit?

5. What made Israel love David and Saul hate him (18:12-16)?

6. What was Saul's hope regarding the marriage of David to Michal, his daughter (18:17-30)?

7. What was the dowry David had to provide for Michal?

8. How did Jonathan help David (19:1-10)?

9. How did Michal feel about David (19:11-17)?

10. To whom did David go to seek refuge from Saul (19:18-22)?

11. What caused the people to ask if Saul was also among the prophets (19:23-24)?

12. Why was Jonathan siding with David against his own father (20:1-23)?

13. Was Saul ignorant of Jonathan's attitude (20:24-42)? What was Jonathan risking by helping David?

Lesson 9: David Becomes King Second Samuel 1-5 and First Chronicles 11-12

1. What news did the young Amalekite bring David (Second Samuel 1:1-10)? What did he offer as proof it was true?

2. Was the Amalekite telling the whole truth? Why do you think he told this story?

3. Why did the people weep and mourn, understanding that it was a wicked and oppressive man who had died (1:11-16)?

4. How did David challenge the Amalekite's claim to have killed the Lord's anointed?

5. What became of the young Amalekite? Why did this happen to him ultimately?

6. Why didn't David declare a time of rejoicing in Israel over Saul's demise (1:17-27)? How did he instruct Israel to behave?

7. What did the house of Judah do for David (2:1-7)? What did he do for Jabesh Gilead?

7. How did some of David's wicked followers want to treat the weary men who had stayed behind in Brook Besor (30:21-31)?

8. What principle became a statute in Israel that day?

9. To whom did David send a gift?

10. Who had prophesied this event (31:1-3)?

11. What happened to Saul (31:4-6)? What did he ask his armor bearer? Did his armor bearer comply? How did Saul die?

12. What happened to Jonathan, David's friend?

13. What happened to Saul's body and his armor (31:7-13; see also First Samuel 11:1-11)? How did the Hebrew people react to his death?

Lesson 5: David's Flight and Fight

First Samuel 21-24

1. Was David being honest with the priest (First Samuel 21:1-9)? Was he right in the way he was doing things? Was it lawful for David and his men to eat this bread (Leviticus 24:5-9)?

2. Whose sword did he take?

3. What deception did David employ in Gath (21:10-15)?

4. Why did David gain such a following while he hid in the cave at Adullam (22:1-10)?

5. How did Saul try to get information out of his people? What did Doeg reveal to Saul?

6. Why did Saul have the priests murdered (22:11-23)?

7. Who escaped? How did David react to the news?

8. Why were David and his men concerned about going to fight the Philistines (23:1-12)?

9. Who was protecting David (23:13-18)?

10. Who decided to betray David's hiding place (23:19-23)?

11. How close was Saul to capturing David (23:24-29)? What news kept Saul from continuing his pursuit of David?

12. How close were Saul and David (24:1-7)?

13. What did David do instead of killing his pursuer? Why did he not take advantage of the situation to kill the king?

14. What false report was Saul heeding about David (24:8-15)? How did David try to prove the report was false?

15. What did Saul realize and confess (24:16-22)?

Lesson 8: David's Rise

First Samuel 29-31 and First Chronicles 10

1. How far did Achish trust David (First Samuel 29:1-11)? Why?

2. How did David escape the pain of fighting against Israel?

3. What had happened to their city since leaving for the battle (30:1-6)? Why should there have been no Amalekites around to do this anyway (see First Samuel 15:1-9)?

4. What service did the Amalekite's Egyptian servant provide (30:7-15)? What did he ask in return?

5. In what mood did David find the raiders (30:16-20)?

6. How did David end up profiting from the experience?

9. What demand did Achish make of David when the Philistines threatened Israel (28:1-6)? Did David agree?

10. Who had Saul expelled from Israel?

11. Why was Saul now afraid?

12. When God would not speak to him, to whom did Saul go (28:7-19)? Why did he disguise himself when going to her? What did he ask her to do?

13. Whom did Saul ask to see? How did the medium react when he appeared?

14. Why had God left Saul? What did Samuel prophesy concerning the battle with the Philistines and Saul's sons?

15. How did Saul react (28:20-25)?

Lesson 6: Abigail and David

First Samuel 25

1. Whose death occasions this lamentation and grief (First Samuel 25:1)?

2. Describe Nabal and Abigail (25:2-13).

3. What had David done for Nabal without the latter knowing? What did David now ask in return?

4. How did Nabal respond? How did David react to this?

5. What did one of Nabal's servants do (25:14-17)?

6. What did Abigail do (25:18-22)?

7. What sin did Abigail prevent David from committing (25:23-31)?

8. Few men of this day would have heeded a woman, especially in the heat of impulse and battle. How did David react to Abigail's brave entreaty (25:32-35)?

9. How did Nabal die (25:36-38)?

10. How did David repay Abigail's kindness once she was widowed (25:39-44)? Was this entirely right of him to do? Explain.

Lesson 7: Saul's Downfall

First Samuel 26-28

1. Who betrayed David's position (First Samuel 26:1-12)? How much had Saul's remorse meant when David showed him the corner of Saul's robe?

2. What advice did Abishai give David? Why did David refuse?

3. What did David do instead? Why?

4. How did Saul respond when David revealed that he could have killed him again (26:13-21)?

5. What did David ask in return for sparing Saul a second time (26:22-25)?

6. What did David plan to do (27:1-7)? Why?

7. How long did David dwell in Ziklag?

8. Explain David's dishonest deception to Achish (27:8-12).