

Servants of God

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How to use this book in group work

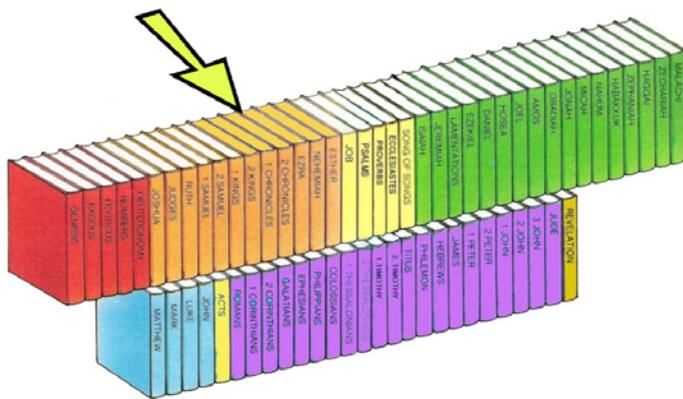
1. Identify the group (find 1-5 friends).
2. Make a clear commitment to one another to meet regularly (this may be 2 times a week at a certain location for 2 hours).
3. Select the place where you will be meeting.
4. When you meet:
 - a. Pray for God's guidance to learn to know his word.
 - b. If you have the mp3-player: Listen to the sound file while you follow the text in the green column of the book.
 - c. Otherwise just read the Zulu text aloud.
 - d. Read the same story in English (yellow column).
 - e. Discuss the questions in the book and also your own questions.
 - f. Write down your answers and comments, and share them with a leader or supervisor.

Discover the Bible: Towards a kingdom

The Bible is like a whole library: 66 small books combined in one big book. In the illustration the top row is all the 39 Old Testament books, and the bottom row is the 27 New Testament books. [The colours illustrate the different categories](#), such as “Law”, “History”, “Prophecy”, etc.

It is a fantastic advantage to know all the Bible stories.

In this study we will let you discover what happened when Israel was about to become a kingdom: **Kings succeeded when they obeyed God.**



The purpose of this book is:

1. to let you discover the Bible events and meet the key characters,
2. to let you see how God was faithful to those who obeyed Him,
3. to train you to find Scripture passages and understand what you read.

All Bible stories are printed in **English (yellow column) and Zulu (green column)**.

The historical books continued

As you learned in the previous study, the Jews were very proud of their history. But our reason to study it is more than just knowing about historical events. It is far more to see how God continued to speak to his people and discipline them again and again, when they went wrong. The last study ended at the time when Israel was repeatedly captured by the Philistines and other enemies. This always happened as a result of sin. And God again and again sent deliverers to rescue his people.

In this study we will first learn about a lady who trusted God in a special way, and next we will hear about the last judge, Samuel, and the first three kings of Israel.

David was the one that was remembered through history with reverence. Solomon was the richest and wisest king who ever lived.

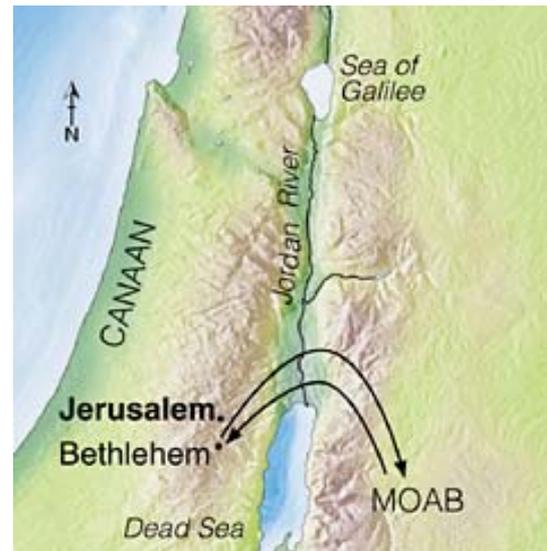
But even he failed ...

Ruth

The book of Ruth is the story of a family that goes through great difficulties like hunger, fleeing to another land and losing family members.

The people of Moab were some of the enemies of Israel.

Ruth was from Moab and did not belong to the people of the Jews, but anyway she came to play a very important role in their history!



A family flees from famine

Ruth 1:1-5

God created all people but they turned against Him. Then God chose the people of Israel to know and worship Him. But sometimes Israel rebelled against God too. Then they worshipped idols and false gods like the other people. God sent war and famine to the people of Israel to try and bring them back to Himself. One family decided to flee to the land of Moab to find food. For ten years they lived in that foreign land. The father died there. The two sons married women from Moab. Then the sons died too. The mother was left with only her daughters-in-law in that foreign land.

1 Imindeni ibalekela isomiso

(Ruth 1:1-5)

UNKulunkulu wadala umuntu, kodwa banke banfulathela.

UNKulunkulu wakhetha abantu bakwa iSraeli ukuba bamazi futhi bamkonze. Ngisho nabantwana bakwa- iSraeli ngalesosikhahi bamfulathela. Babekhonzwa izithixo baqambe amanga kuNkulunkulu njengezinye izizwe. UNkulunkulu waletha impi nendlala kubantwana bakwa iSraeli ngoba wayezama ukuba babuyele kuye.

Ngesikhathi senhlupheko omunye wemindeni wakhetha ukuya kwelinye lamazwe aseMowabi ukyofuna ukudla. Iminyaka eysihumi behlala kwamanye amazwe. Ubaba wafela lapho. Amanye amadodana ashada athola amakhosikazi akwaMowabi. Nawo ashona umama wahiyeka namadodakazi womabili kumazwe angaphandle.



What was the reason for the family to move from Bethlehem to Moab?

How many of the members of the family died during the ten years they stayed in the land of Moab?

There have been many famines in Africa in recent years, especially in Ethiopia and Sudan. Have you ever experienced that there was too little food due to lack of rain?

For the following 8 stories we will use memory verses from Psalm 121:

Memory verse – Psalm 121:1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?



Naomi and Ruth return to Israel

Ruth 1:6-22

The mother of that family was called Naomi. Her Moabite daughters-in-law were Ruth and Orpah. Naomi decided to return to the land of Israel. Ruth and Orpah went on the journey with her. Then Naomi said to them, “Return home my daughters. Why do you come with me? I am not going to have more sons who could become your husbands. God has turned against me.” Orpah kissed Naomi and went back to her parents’ home. But Ruth clung to Naomi and said, “Don’t make me leave you. Where you go I will go. Your people shall be my people, and your God will be my God.” So Ruth went with Naomi to Bethlehem in the land of Israel.

2 Uawomi Noruth babuyela wa-Israeli (Ruth 1:6-22)

Umama wayebizwa ngokuthi nguNawomi. Amadodakazi akhe akwaMowabi ayebizwa ngokuthi nguRuthe no-Orpah. UNawomi wakhetha ukubuyela ezweni lakwaJuda nomolokazane bakhe. URuthe no-Orpah baluthanda uhambo olubuyela kwaJuda. UNawomi wathi kubo: yini ningahambi nami? Ngizoba namye amadodana azokuba abayeni benu. Buyani ekhaya bantabami ngimdala ukuba ngibe nenye indoda. UNkulunkulu ungifulathele. U-Orpah wanga uNawomi waphindela emuva kubazali bakhe. URuthe wabamba uNawomi wathi kuye: Ngicela ukungahlukani nawe. Lapho uyakhona ngoya nawe uNkulunkulu wakho unguNkulunkulu wami. URuthe wahamba noNawomi baya eBethlehem ezweni lakwa iSraeli.



What did Naomi suggest her daughters in law to do?

How did each of them respond?

Memory verse – Psalm 121:2

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.



Do you still remember verse 1 from Psalm 121?



Ruth in the harvest field

Ruth 2:1-23

Naomi and Ruth were very poor. Ruth said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the left-over grain.” She went to a field where the workers were harvesting the barley. The owner of that field was a man named Boaz. He asked his workers about the foreign woman in his field. They said, “She is the Moabitess who came with Naomi.” Boaz heard how she had been good to her mother-in-law. He saw that she was a good worker. So he said to Ruth, “Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting my grain.” He told his workers not to harm her, but to leave grain for her to gather. That evening Ruth told Naomi about the kindness of Boaz. Naomi said, “May God bless him! He is our close relative.”

3 URuth ukhothoza emasimini (Ruth 2:1-23)

Emva kokuba sebebuyile ezweni laseBethlehem uRuthe wathi kuNawomi: Wothi ngihambe ngiye ensimini ukuyokhotoza emva kwabavuni. (uNawomi noRuthe babehlupheka). Wahamba waya ensimini lapho abanye babevuna khona ukolweni. Umnikazi wensimu kwakungu Bowazi. Wabuza izisebenzi zakhe ngenkosikazi angayazi ensimini. Omunye wazo wathi indodakazi kaNawomi ebuye naye ezweni lakwaMowabi. UBowazi wathola ukuthi ubewusizo kangakanani kuninazala wakhe. Wabona futhi ukuthi ubeyisibenzi eshile. Wathi kuRuthe: Wathi kuye hlala lapha nezisebenzi zami zamantombazane, ubheke amasimi lapho amadoda evuna, ulandele amantombazane ngasemuva. Watshela amadoda ukuba angamlimazi wabashiyela uklweni ukuba badle ndawonye. Kwathi uNawomi watshela uRuthe ngobulele bukaBowazi. UNawomi wathi uNkulunkulu umbusisile ungumhlobo wethu omkhulu.



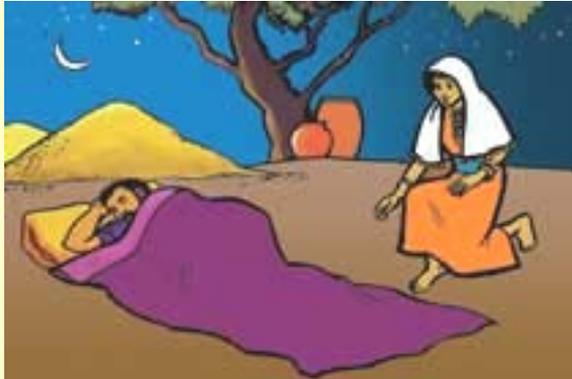
Who owned the field?

What did this man say to Ruth?

How did Naomi respond when she heard about it?

Memory verse – Psalm 121:3.

He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber.



Ruth and Boaz at the threshing floor *Ruth 3:1-18*

When a man died in Israel, his nearest relative could marry the dead man's wife. One day Naomi said to Ruth, "I must find a husband for you so that you will have a home of your own. Boaz is our relative. This evening he will be threshing barley. So wash and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go where he is threshing. Notice where he lies down, and after he falls asleep, lie down at his feet." Ruth did just as Naomi had told her. When Boaz awoke he found Ruth at his feet. He knew that she wanted to marry him. So he said to her, "Ruth, I will do everything you ask, for everyone knows that you are a good woman."

4 URuth Nobowazi esivunweni (Ruth 3:1-18)

Uma indoda ifa kwaJuda isihlobo esiseduze kumele singene inkosikazi yakhe (umfelokazi). Ngelinye ilanga uNawomi wathi kuRuthe:

Ngingezame ukukutholela ikhaya lapho uzohlala ukhona.

(namvuzibheke khona). UBowazi uyishlobo sethu kulobusuku

bananhlanje ngakho geza ugqoke enye yezingubo zakho zikanokusho. Bese

uya lapho ezobe ebonakaliswa. Isaziso uma elele phansi esezumekile ungene

ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe. URuthe wenza njengoba emtshelile uNawoni.

UBowazi wathi evuka wabona uRuthe ezinyaweni zakhe, wayazi ukuba kwakufanela ashade naye.

Wathi kuye "ungesabi" ngizokwenza

konke okufanayo. Wonke amadoda edolobha ayazi ukuba ungunkosikazi

othembekile.



Why was it important for a widow without children to marry again?

How did Ruth indicate to Boaz that she wanted to marry him?

Memory verse – Psalm 121:4: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.



Can you repeat the first 4 verses from Psalm 121?

Boaz makes a deal in the traditional way



Boaz and the elders of Bethlehem Ruth 4:1-22

Boaz called ten elders together at the gate of Bethlehem. Another relative had the right to marry Ruth first, but they all agreed that Boaz should have her. To seal the agreement, the relative gave Boaz his shoe. This was the custom in Israel. So Boaz took Ruth as his wife. They had a son called Obed. Then the women said to Naomi, “Praise God! He has given you a grandson to take care of you. Your daughter-in-law loves you. She is better to you than seven sons.” Friends, Ruth found great joy when she served God and his people. And Obed became the grandfather of David, the great king of Israel.

5 UBowazi nabaholi base Bethlehemema (Ruth 4:1-22)

UBowazi wabiza abaholi abayishumi esangweni laseBethlehem. Omunye wezihlobo wayenelungelo okushada uRuthe kuqala, kodwa bonke bavumelana ukuba ashade noBowazi. Ukuqinisekisa omunye wezihlobo wanikela ngezimbhadada zakhe kuBowazi. Kwakuyindlela yokutshengisa kwa-iSraeli. UBowazi wathatha uRuthe njegonkosikazi wakhe, bathola indodana igama layo lingu Obedi. Enye yamakhosikazi yathi kuNawomi: mbonge uNkulunkulu okunikeze indodana ukuba ikugcine. Iyokwaziwa kwaJuda ivuselele impilo yakho futhi ikunakekele ebudaleni. Indodakazi yakho iyobe ingcono kuwe enye yamadodana ayisikhombisa iyokumzalisa. Zihlobo, uRuthe uthole ikujabula lapho edumisa uNkulunkulu kanye nabantu bakhe. U-Obed wayengumzukululu kaDavide, inkosi enkulu yakwaJuda, uyakuba yinkosi yawo wonke umuntu. Sizofunda ngaye esifundweni esilandelayo.

Memory verse – Psalm 121:5

The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand.



Can you still remember verse 1-4 of Psalm 121?

What was the traditional way to confirm an agreement publicly?

What did the women of Bethlehem say to Naomi?

Just a brief look into the New Testament: Mary and the angel



Mary and the angel of God

Luke 1:26-38

Many generations after Ruth, God chose another woman to serve Him. Her name was Mary. She was descended from Ruth. Mary was a virgin. She was promised to a man named Joseph. But before they were married, an angel of God appeared to Mary. He said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favour with God. You will give birth to a son and you will call Him Jesus. He will be the Son of the most high God.” Mary said to the angel, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” Then the Holy Spirit of God came to Mary, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a Son. So Mary became the mother of Jesus, the Son of God!

Umariya nengelosi Kankulunkulu

(Luka 1:26-38); (Luka 2:1-7)

Kuleyo minyaka eminigini emva kukaRuthe, uNkulunkulu wakhetha omunye wabesifazane ukuba amkonze. Igama lakhe kwakungu Mariya. Wayethembekile njengo Ruthe. Wathembiswa ukushada nendoda ogama layo linguJosefa. Ngaphambi kokuba bashade, ingelosi kaJehova yafika kuMariya yathi: “ungesabi, Mariya.” Uthole usizo phambi kwaNkulunkulu. Uyozala indodana uyiqambe igama lokuthi uJesu. Iyakuba yindodana kaNkulunkulu. Umbuso wasezulwini nase mhlabeni awuyikuphela. UMariya wathi engelosini: ngiyisisebenzi sikaNkulunkulu, makube kimi njengoba ushilo. Umoya kaNkulunkulu wehlela phezu kuka Mariya, wakhulelwa wazala indadana yaqanjwa igama lokuthi nguJesu. UMariya waba ngunina kaJesu, indoodana kaNkulunkulu. Ngokuba uMariya wayewuthobela umthetho kaNkulunkulu umsindisi uJesu wazlwa nguye. Uma sithobela umthetho kaNkulunkulu uyosenzela izinto ezinkulu.

Memory verse – Psalm 121:6

The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.



Explain how Mary could be a descendant of Ruth.

Let us continue the exciting story from the Old Testament.

Samuel: A young woman who asked God for a child



Hannah prays to God

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Just after the time of Ruth, in the land of Israel there was a woman called Hannah. Her husband loved her, but Hannah was very unhappy because she did not have any children. Every year they went to the house of God at Shiloh. They took offerings and made sacrifices to God. Hannah went into the house of God and said, “O God, if you will remember me and give me a son, then I will give him to you all the days of his life.” Her lips moved as she spoke to God, but she made no noise with her voice. Eli, the chief priest, saw her. He thought she was drunk. But God heard the prayer of Hannah, and sometime later she gave birth to a son. She called him Samuel.

7 Uhanna uthandaza

Kukulunkulu (1 Sam 1:1-20)

Emva kwesikhathi sikaRuth, ezweni lakwaJuda, kwakunomuntu wesifazane igama lakhe kwakunguHanna. Wayekhonzisa uNkulunkulu futhi emthobela. Umyeni wakhe wayemthanda kodwa uHanna wengabatholi abantwana. Njalo babeya endlini kaJehova ukuyokhuleka, wathatha umnikelo wanikela kuJehova. Uhanna waya endlini kaNkulunkulu wathi: uma ungangikhumbula unginike indodana, ngiyakuyinikezela kuwe ezinsukwini zonke zokuphila kwayo. Izindebe zazinyakaza ekhuluma noNkulunkulu, kodwa wawungezwakali umsindo wezwi lakhe. U-Eli isikhonzi esikhulu, wambona. Wayecabanga ukuthi uphuzile. Kodwa uJehova wawuzwa umkhuleko kaHanna, emva kwesikhathi wamnika indodana. Yaybizwa ngokuthi nguSamuweli. Zihlobo uNkulunkulu ungubaba wathu osezulwini. Uma simthanda siyocela yonke into esiyifunayo. UNkulunkulu uyazi into efunwa ngumtwana wakhe futhi uyakukunika uma egameni likaJesu, lesispho esihle.

Memory verse – Psalm 121:7

The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life.



Why was Hannah so unhappy?

Why did the old priest think she was drunk?

What was the name of Hannah's baby son?

Samuel as a boy

Samuel was the last of the judges. He was also a prophet and a historian. He became the link between the era of the judges and the era of the kings. His own story started under unique circumstances:



Write down the main points of the story of Hannah (1 Samuel 1 – 2) – and the calling of Samuel (1 Samuel 3)



The child Samuel in the house of God

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 2:12-17; 3:1-21

While Samuel was still a little boy, Hannah gave him to God. She took him to live with Eli in Shiloh. Eli taught Samuel how to serve God. Eli had two sons. They were priests, but they were wicked men. So God stopped speaking to the people through his priests. One night Samuel was lying down in the house of God. Suddenly God called his name. Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call you, go and lie down.” This happened three times. Then Eli realised that it must be God calling Samuel. So he told Samuel to answer God and say, “Speak, Lord, your servant hears.” God spoke to Samuel many times and he became a great prophet and leader in Israel.

8 Umntwana USamuweli endlini Kankulunkulu (1 Sam 1:24-28); (1 Sam 2:12-21); (1 Sam 3:1-21)

Ngesikhathi uSamuweli engufanayana omncane, uHanna wanikela ngaye kuNkulunkulu. Wamthatha ukuba ahlale no-Eli ethempeleni eShilohi. U-Eli wayefundisa uSamuweli ukukhonza uJehova. U-Eli wayenamadodana amabili, ayeyizikhonzi zikaJehova kodwa benezono kuJehova. Ngakho uJehova wayeka ukukhuluma bakhe ngenxa yabo. Ngenye imini uSamuweli wayelele endlini kaJehova kuthe kusenjalo wezwa into imbiza. Wagijima wayaku Eli wathi ngilapha, ubungibiza. Kepha u-Eli wathi cha angizange ngikubize, hamba uyolala. Lokhu kwenzeka izinkathi ezintathu. U-Eli wakhumbula ukuba uNkulunkulu. Wabiza uSamuweli wamtshela ukuthi uma ehinda embiza aphenjule athi nglapha Nkosi, yimi isisebenzi sakho ngilalele. Unkulunkulu wakhuluma noSamuweli izinkathi eziningi waba isikhonzi esikhulu, wabangumprofethi wakwaJuda. Uma uJehova esababiza abantu bakhe mabasabele bamkonze njengoba wabiza uSamuweli. Msimplalele uJehova sikhonze izwi lakhe.

Memory verse – Psalm 121:8

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.



Why did the boy Samuel live in with the old priest Eli at the Tabernacle?

Why did he run to Eli in the night?

Samuel became a great leader in Israel



Samuel prays for Israel

1 Samuel 4:10-11; 7:2-14

God punished the wicked sons of Eli. They were killed in battle and Israel was defeated by the Philistines. For over 20 years the Philistines ruled over Israel. Then Samuel said to the people, “If you return to the Lord, get rid of your foreign gods, and serve God only, He will deliver you from the Philistines.” The Israelites obeyed Samuel. They came together at one place. Then Samuel offered a sacrifice to God and prayed for Israel. The Philistines gathered together to attack Israel, but God sent a great thunderstorm upon them. The Philistines fled in fear, and Israel was able to defeat them all.

9 USamuweli uthandazela U-Israyeli (1 Sam 7:2-14); (Exodus 20:2, 5)

UNkulunkulu wajezisa amadodana ka-Eli. Ayebulewe empini namaiSrayeli egqilazwe ngamaFilisti. Eminyakeni engamashumi amabili amaFilisti aphatha abantwana bakwa-iSrayeli. Wathi uSamuweli kubantu: “uma niphindela kuJehova ngezinhliziyu zenu, khiphani oNkulunkulu bamanga nizihlaganise noNkulunkulu weqiniso nimkonze yena yedwa, uyakunikhapha ezweni lobugqila ezandleni zamaFilisti.” Ama iSrayeli amkholwa uSamuweli. Baya endawni eyodwa bonke. USamuweli wenza umhlatsheho kuJehova wathandazela ama-ISrayeli. AmaFilisti ahlangani ukuhlasela u-iSrayeli. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wathumela isiphapho esikhulu. AmaFilisti abanokwesaba okukhulu, no-iSrayeli wanamandla okuba nqoba. Unkulunkulu uliphethe lonke izwe: NgiNkulunkulu uJehova wenu. Ningalaleli abanye oNkulunkulu ngaphandle kwami ningabakhonzi.



What did Samuel say to his people, the Israelites?

Give us a king

Samuel was a great leader in Israel. His sons were not like him; they did not take this responsibility in a proper manner. As Samuel got older the people worried about the future. They were influenced by the neighbouring people who had kings. Samuel took it as a personal defeat when the Israelites wanted a king.



Read 1 Samuel 8



What does Samuel see as the reason for the demand to have a king? How does God comfort him, and instruct him to proceed?



Samuel anoints Saul with oil

Samuel 8:1-9; 9:15 – 10:1

God was the real King of Israel and Samuel led the people for Him. But the people wanted a man to be their king, because the other tribes had kings of their own. Samuel was not pleased when he heard this. But God said to him, “It is not you they have rejected as king, but it is Me. Listen to the people and give them a king.” There was a young man named Saul. He was tall and good looking. One day Saul went to visit Samuel. When Samuel saw him coming, God said to Samuel, “This is the man. He will rule over my people.” So Samuel took a flask of oil. He poured the oil on the head of Saul. This was the sign that he was

10 USamuweli igcoba Usawule ngamafutha (1 Sam 8:1 – 10:1) UNkulunkulu wayeng uNkulunkulu weqiniso wama-iSrayeli noSamuweli, ngaphansi koNkulunkulu, wahola abantu. Ngoba ezinye izizwe zinamakhosi azo, Ama-iSrayeli ayefina umuntu ozoba iNkosi yabo. USamuweli akuzange kumthokozise uma ezwa lokho. Kodwa uJehova wathi kuye: “Lalela konke abantu abakushoyo.” Akuwena abakukhethe njenge Nkosi yabo, Kodwa mina. “Kwakukhona indoda eyayibizwa ngokuthi uSawule. Wayemude ebukeya kahle. Ngelinye ilanga uSawule wavakashela uSamuweli. Ngenkathi uSawule ezakuye uNkulunkulu wathi: Lona indoda. Uzophatha abantu bami. Ngako USamuweli wathatha indishi yamafutha. Wathela indishi yamafutha ekhanda lika Sawule. Lolu uphawu akhonjwa ngalo ukuba abe yi Nkosi. Eminyakeni engamashumi amane uSawule waphatha njengeNkosi yakwa Israyeli.

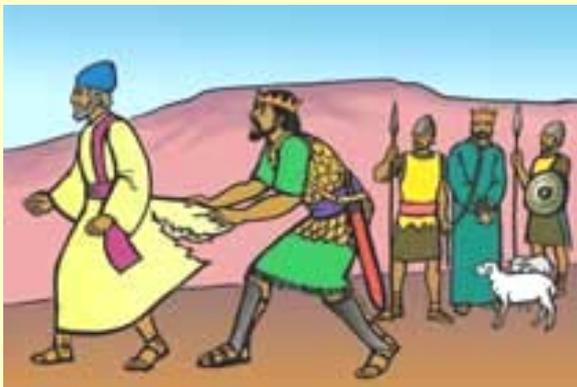
chosen to be king. For 40 years Saul ruled as king over Israel.



What was the name of the man Samuel anointed to become the king?

For how many years did he rule in Israel?

The story of Saul, one of the saddest in the Old Testament, is one of good beginnings but concludes in miserable failure. God sent his prophet Samuel to anoint Saul. This was God's response to Israel's request for a king. At first Saul enjoyed success in his wars, but a victory over the Philistines was darkened by his disobedience.



Saul tears Samuel's robe

1 Samuel 15:1-29

The Amalekites were very wicked people who had harmed Israel. So Samuel said to king Saul, "Listen to the message from God. Kill all the Amalekites and destroy everything that belongs to them." God helped Saul and his army to defeat the Amalekites, but they disobeyed God. They saved the Amalekites' animals to sacrifice to God and they did not kill the Amalekite king. Then Samuel said to Saul, "Because you have rejected the command of God, He has rejected you as king." Samuel turned to leave and Saul grasped Samuel's robe. It tore in his

11 USawule usika intambo ka Samuweli (1 Sam 15:1-29)

Ama-aMaleki kwangabantu ababenezinhliziy e zimbi begqilaza abantwana bakwa- iSrayeli.

USamuweli wathi eNkosini uSawuli: Lalela izwi likaNkulunkulu. Hlasela aMalika niwabulale nayoyonke into yawo. Ungabahawukeli.

UNkulunkulu wasiza uSawli ukuba akwazi ukuba anqobe ama-aMaleki.

Kodwa abazange bamthobela uJehova. Bangqoba yonke into yama-aMaleki` izilwane neminikelo kodwa abazange bayibulale iNkosi.

USamuweli wathi kuSawuli.

"Ngokuba ulinqabile izwi likaNkulunkulu naye ukunwabela ukuba ube yiNkosi."

USamuweli waphenduka washiya uSawli wathatha indophi esandeleni sakhe. Ngakho uSamuweli wathi:

uNkulunkulu ukunikile umbuso wakwa-iSrayeli manje usuwunikezela kumuntu ongcono. Bongani uSawuli wazinikela kuNkulunkulu,

hand. So Samuel said, “God has torn the kingdom of Israel from you, and has given it to a better man.” Friends, Saul offered sacrifices to God but he did not obey Him. Samuel obeyed and served God all the days of his life. Obedience pleases God, more than offerings please Him.

wayengamthobeli. USamuweli wayemkhonza futhi emthobela impila yakhe yonke. UNkulunkulu uthi umuntu oyomkhonza futhi amthobele naye uyakumthobela.



*What was Saul told to do?
And what did he do?*

God had given clear orders to destroy what was captured. But Saul kept the best of it. And when the prophet confronted him, he just explained that his intention was to make it an offering to God (13:8-14). For this sin (disobedient attitude), Samuel warned Saul that his kingdom would not continue. Saul’s failure to destroy all of Amalek (15:9), in direct disobedience of God’s command, resulted in God sending Samuel to anoint the shepherd boy David as Saul’s successor (16:1-13).

A quick look into the New Testament before we continue



Jesus in the house of God

Luke 2:41-50

Many years after Samuel, Jesus was a child in Israel. Mary was his mother, but God is his Father. When Jesus was 12 years old, He went to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph. Jesus became lost. Mary and Joseph searched for Him. After three days they found Jesus in the house of God. He was talking with the Jewish teachers about God. Mary said to Him, “We have been so worried trying to find you.” But

UJesu endlini Kankulunkulu (Luke 2:41-50; 1:35)

Emva kweminyaka emingi emuva kuka Samuweli, kwakunomfana ogamalakhe liJesu. Unina kwakunguMariya, kodwa uyise kwakungu Nkulunkulu. UJesu eneminyaka eysihumi nambili, uMariya noJosefa baya eJerusalemi noJesu. Sebebuyela ekhaya, uJesu wasala ngemuva basala befuna. Emuva kwezinsuku ezintathu, bamthola endlini kaNkulunkulu, ethempeleni. Wayhleli nabanye othisha bamaJuda bemfundisa izwi likaJehova. UMariya wathi kuye: ndodana, yini ndaba usiphathe kanje? Besikhatahazekile ngawe. Kepha uJesu wathi: “Benginigazi ukuthi bengisendlini kababa?” Ngesikhathi uJesu esangumfanyana wayazi ukuthi uyokhonza uJehova.

Jesus said, “I had to be in my Father’s house.” When Jesus was just a boy like Samuel, He knew that He had come to serve God. Jesus came to lead all people back to God, for God is the true King and Leader of everyone.

UJesu nguye oyophantha abantwana bakaJehova. Ngoba uNkulunkulu uyinkosi yeqiniso yawo wonke umuntu.



Why did Jesus call the temple “my father’s house”?

Back to the story of Saul and David

God chose David to become the king of Israel while he was still a boy, and while Saul was still reigning for several years. God brought him from looking after the sheep into the palace little by little.



David, the brave shepherd

1 Samuel 16:1-13, 17:34-35

Saul was the first king of Israel, but he disobeyed God. So God left Saul and did not help him any more. There was a young boy named David. He looked after his father’s sheep. He trusted in the living God. He was not afraid of danger. One day a lion took one of the sheep. David killed the lion and saved the sheep. He made beautiful music and sang praises to God. David became the kind of man God wants all men to be, so God chose David to be king after Saul.

13 UDavide umalusi ondesibindi

(1 Sam 16:1-13)

USawuli wayeyiNkosi yokuqala kwa-iSrayeli, kodwa waqubeka engayithobeli imithetho kaJehova. UJehova wamyeka uSawuli futhi akaphinda wamsiza. Kwakunomfana omncane igama lakhe linguDavide. Wayelusa izimvu zikayise. Wayekholwa kuJehova futhi wyengasabi lutho olubi. Ngelinye ilanga ibhubesi lathatha imvu eyedwa kodwa walibulala wayisisndisa imvu. Wazakhela umculo efuna ukudunisa uNkulunkulu. Inculo libizwa ngokuthi amahubo futhi liyatholakala ebhayibhelini incwadi engcwele. UDavide wabayinkosi njengamanye amadoda. USawuli wahlala njalo eyinkosiyakwa-iSrayeli, kodwa uNkulunkulu wamktha uDavide ukuba abe yinkosi endaweni kaSawli.



What was David doing as a boy?

Which weapon was he able to use when lions attacked?

What else could he do?

David stood face to face with Goliath



David and the giant

1 Samuel 17:1-54

There was war between the Philistines and Israel. The Philistines had a giant called Goliath. He called to Israel and said, “Choose a man ... if he is able to kill me, then we will be your slaves but if I kill him, you shall be our slaves.” The men of Israel were afraid of Goliath. No one would fight him. Then young David said, “Who is this Philistine who does not know God? He should not threaten the army of the living God!” David was not afraid of him. God could help him kill the giant. So David took his sling and cast a stone right at the giant’s head. Goliath fell to the ground and David ran to him. He took Goliath’s own sword and cut off his head. So the army of Israel was able to defeat the Philistines.

14 UDavide NoGoliyathi (1 Sam 17:1-54); (1 Sam 2:30)

Kwakunempi phakathi kwaFilisti nabakwa-iSrayeli. AmaFilisti ayenendoda igama layo kwakungu Goliyathi. Wathela ama-iSrayeli ukuthi: abakhethe enye yamdoda ezo kwazi ukulwa naye imbulale, thina (siyoba) yizisebenzi zenukodwa uma ngimbulele niyakubayozigqila zethu. Amadoda akwa-iSrayeli ayemsaba uGoliyathi. Akekho owayengalwa naye. Umfana omncane uDavide wathi:

ngubani lomFilisti (ongamazi uNkulunkulu). Ngeke ahlukumeze isizwe sakwa-iSrayeli? UDavide wayengamsabi. Wayazi ukuthi uJehova uzomsiza ukuba akwazi kumqoba isiqhwaga. UDavide wathatha isihlilingi sakhe netshe wakujikijela ekhanda likaGoliyathi. UGoliyathi wawela phansi, uDavide wagijima wayakuye, wathatha inkemba yakhe wamqaamula ikhanda. Ama-iSrayeli amqoba kanjalo uGoliyathi. Uyakubathobela abamthobelayo.



What did David say to Goliath when he came against him?

What weapon did he use?

Saul's sad situation

Rejected by God, tormented by evil spirits, and frightened by the success of David, Saul slowly descended into madness as he repeatedly sought to kill David.



Saul tries to kill David

1 Samuel 18:6 – 23:29

At first Saul was pleased with David because he saved Israel. The people of Israel loved David. He became a great soldier and leader. Then Saul became jealous of David. He wanted to kill David. One day David was making music for Saul on his harp. An evil spirit entered Saul. He picked up his spear and threw it at David, but it missed him and stuck in the wall. After that Saul tried to kill David many times. Saul's son Jonathan and many Israelites helped David, but he still had to flee to the desert to escape from Saul.

15 USawuli uzama ukubulala UDavide (1 Sam 18:1-19; 10)

Okokuqula wajabula uSawuli uDavide esindise abantwana bakwaiSrayeli. Waba yiqhawe elikhulu lakwa-iSrayeli. USawuli wayenomona futhi esaba uDavide. Ngelinye ilanga uDavide wakha iculo ngoSawuli, uSawli wafuna ukumbulala. USawuli wathatha umkonto wawujikiljela kuDavide, kodwa wangeja washaya odongeni. Emva kwalokho uSawuli wazama ngezindlela eziningi ukuba abulale uDavide. Kodwa uJehova wamvikela ngokuthumela indodana yakhe uJonathani nanye ama-iSrayeli okosiza uDavide ezintheni zakhe. UDavide wabalekela, ebalekela uSawuli.



Why was David in King Saul's palace?

Why did Saul try to kill him?

Who was David's good friend?

First David was serving Saul as a harp-player. David's music eased the pain for Saul when he was depressed and tormented by evil spirits. David was also the one who killed Goliath in a very important battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. Several times David had to flee from Saul, and several times David had the chance to kill Saul. But he never harmed him, because after all Saul

was anointed by God. Therefore God had to decide when it was the right time for David to take over this responsibility.



David spares Saul's life

1 Samuel 26:1-25

Saul and his army went to capture David in the desert. At night, when Saul and his men were asleep, David and his friend, Abishai, crept into Saul's camp. Abishai wanted to kill the sleeping king, but David stopped him. He said, "God will punish whoever harms his chosen king." David took the spear and the water jug from beside Saul's head. When they had gone out of the camp, David cried out to awaken the men. He said, "You have not protected your master. Look! Here is the king's spear!" David said to Saul, "Just as I have spared your life today, may God spare my life too." So after that, Saul stopped trying to kill David.

16 UDavide ucabangela impilo Kasawuli (1 Sam 26:1-25) (Abase Roma 12:19)

USawuli wahamba wayohlasela uDavide ehlane. Ngobunye ubusuku uSawuli elele, uDavide ngbangani bakhe bamaShayi, bafika lapho uSawuli wayehlala khona, abaShayi bafuna ukumbulala.

Kepha uDavide wanqaba. UDavide waya ngasekhanda likaSawuli wathatha umkonto wakhe nesigubhu samanzi wahamba nako. Kwathi esephumile ehlane wamemeza uSawuli efuna ukubavusa. Walizwa uSawuli izwi likaDavide wavuka, wabuza umkonto wakhe nesigubhu samanzi kuABinari. Kepha naye wayelele engayigadile iNkosi. Emva kwalokhu wathi uDavide kuSawule njengoba ungzuzanga lutho empini kepha uJehova uwuzuzile umphefumulo wakho.

UDavide waqubeka nendlela ngokunjalo noSawuli waphindela emuva. Zihlobo ningaphindiseli okubi ngokubi, uNkulunkulu uyakubajezisa abangawuthobeli umthetho wakhe.



Why would David not kill Saul?

Saul's military situation worsened, and in desperation Saul even sought to consult the spirit of Samuel through a medium.

The tragic end came as Saul the following day went out to do battle with the Philistines. He got severely wounded, and then took his own life.

Finally king of Israel



David is made king

1 Samuel 31:1-6, 2 Samuel 5:1-25; 8:1-15

The Philistines came to fight Israel again. King Saul and Jonathan were killed in the battle. Then the people made David the king of Israel. He built his palace in the city of Jerusalem. God said to David, "I took you from looking after the sheep, and I made you king over my people Israel. I will make you great like the greatest men of the earth." So God made David great and gave him power to defeat all the enemies of Israel.

17 UDavide uba inkosi

(1 Sam 31:1-6; 2 Sam 5:1-7, 16)

Abuya futhi amaFilisti azolwa nama-iSrayeli. Inkosi uSawuli nendana yakhe uJonathani nabafowabo bafa empini. Benza uDavide waba inkosi yakwa-iSrayeli. Wakha ithempeli lakhe iJerusalema entsha.

UNkulunkulu wathi kuDavide ngikuthathe ulusa izimvu ngakwenza inkosi yakwa-iSrayeli.

Ngizokwenza inkosi enkulu, njengendoda enkulu emhlabeni. UNkulunkulu wamenza uDavide wabamkhulu namandla okuhlula izitha zakhe.



[Read 1 Samuel 31:1-4](#)



[How did Saul die?](#)

[What happened to Jonathan?](#)

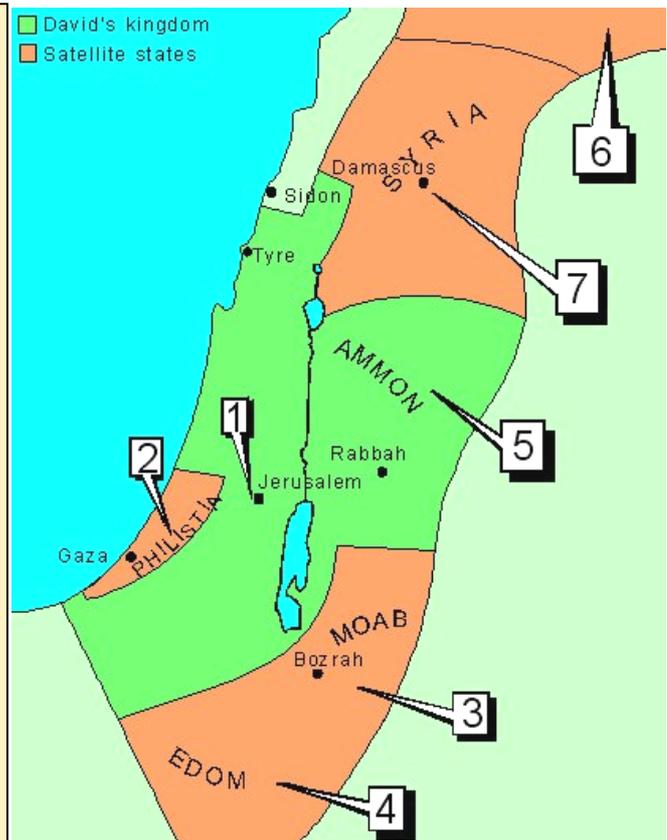
The capture of Jerusalem

David had been king for over 7 years, ruling from Hebron. But he needed a new capital. Jerusalem was still in foreign hands, occupied by the Jebusites. It held a good defensive position, surrounded on four sides by valleys, and had a good source of water.

David captured the Jebusite stronghold on Mt. Zion and renamed it the City of David.

Second Samuel records the expansion of David's kingdom from the territory of Judah, to all of Israel, and finally to the areas of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Zobah and Syria, all the way to the river Euphrates in the north.

1. David captures Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6-10).
2. Philistine power decisively crushed (2 Samuel 5:17-25; 8:1).
3. Moabites are made David's subjects, paying taxes (2 Samuel 8:2).
4. Edom defeated, controlled by troops and taxed (2 Samuel 8:13-14).
5. Ammon's power destroyed. Ammonite people used for forced labour (2 Samuel 12:26-31).
6. Defeat of King Hadadezer the Aramean. His slave states (as far as the Euphrates) became David's (2 Samuel 10:15-19).
7. Damascus is conquered, controlled by troops and taxed (2 Samuel 8:5).



A great king can also commit an awful sin



David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:20

One day David was walking on the roof of his palace. He saw a beautiful woman having a bath. David wanted her for himself. The woman's name was Bathsheba. She was the wife of Uriah who was a soldier in David's army. Uriah had gone away to fight the enemies of Israel. So David sent a message to

18 UDavid NoBati-Sheba (2 Sam 11:1 – 12:20) (Exodusi 20:4)

Ngelinye ilanga uDavid ezihambela ophahleni lwendlu yenkosi, wabona owesifazane, omuhle egeza.

Wayemuhle kakhulu, igama lakhe kwakungu Bati- Sheba.

Wayengunkosikazi ka-uRayi.

URayi wayeye empini nabantwana bakwa- iSrayeli. UDavid wathumela umbiko ukuthi angabuyi baebe neqiniso lokuthi ufile. UDavid wathatha uBati-Sheba ukuba abe ngumkakhe, kodwa isenzo sakhe asizange sibe sihle kuNkulunkulu.

Indodana yabo yokuqala yashona.

UDavid wacela uxolo evuma akwenzile. Umthetho kaNkulunkulu uthi: "NINGABULAL."

the captain of his army. He told the captain to make sure that Uriah was killed in the war. Then David took Bathsheba to be his own wife. But the thing that David had done did not please God. The first son of David and Bathsheba died. David asked God to forgive him for the terrible thing he had done.



Who was Batsheba?

What did David do?

Which two crimes did he make himself guilty of?

How did he respond when he realised how terribly he had acted?

Solomon

Solomon becomes a very famous king in Israel. His wisdom and wealth surpasses everything known.

He is also the one to build the first temple for the Lord. This big project had been prepared by his father David.



A house for God

2 Samuel 7:1-29; 1 Chronicles 22:1-19

David sinned against God. However, he loved God and wanted to serve Him. He wanted to build a great house to worship God. But God said, “You are not to build a house for Me, because you have killed many people. You will have a son. His name will be Solomon. He is the one who will build a house for Me. I will establish his kingdom forever.” David prepared many things for the house of God before he died, but it was Solomon who

19 Indlu Kankulunkulu (1 Izikronike 22:1-19)

Udavide wenza isono phambi kukaNkulunkulu, yebo wayemthanda uJehova futhi emkonza.

Wayefuna ukwakha indlu enkulu (ithempeli likaJehova), lapho abantu beyohlanganyela khona badumise inkosi. Kepha uNkulunkulu wathi kuye: Uno ayakhi indlu ngegama lami, ubulale abantu abaningi. Uyoba nendodana eyokuba yinndodane yokuthula noxolo. Igama layo kuyakuba nguSolomoni.

Nguye oyokwakha indlu yami. UDavide walungisa izinto ezingi ngaphambi kokuba afe, kodwanguSolomoni owakha indlu kaNkulunkulu. Indlu yayiyinhle kakhulu yathatha iminyaka eyisikhombisa ukuyakha. Abantu bakwa-iSrayeli bamkhonza kuleyondlu Unkulunkulu eJerusalem, abazange bakholwe ukuthi uDavide

built it. That house of God was very beautiful. It took seven years to build. The people of Israel worshipped God at the house in Jerusalem for hundreds of years. They never forgot that David was their greatest king.

kwakunguye inkosi.



Why did God not want David to be the one that built the temple?

Solomon started his kingdom in a very humble way as he realised that this huge responsibility could only be successful if blessed by God.



Read 1 Kings 3:7-14 and 2 Chronicles 1:7-12

His wisdom in judgment made him famous.

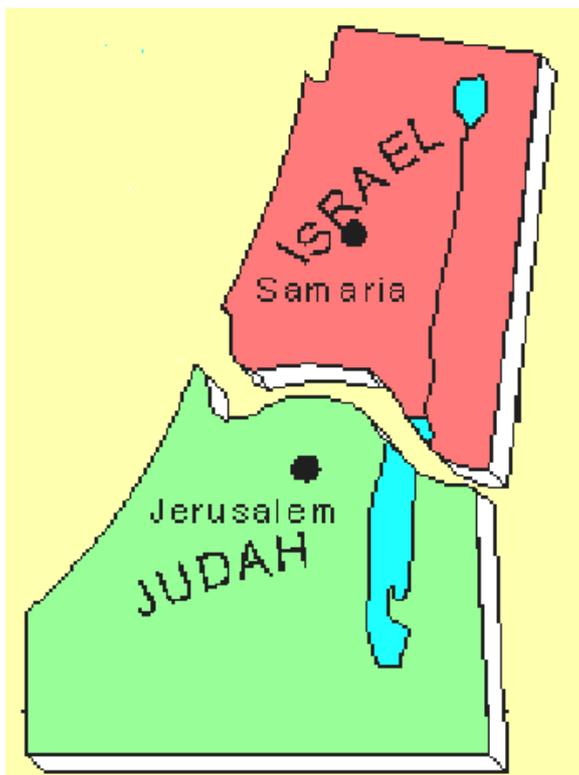


Read 1 Kings 3:16-28

His building projects and wealth were also soon known all over the world. That brought the Queen of Sheba to Jerusalem.



Read 1 Kings 10:1-7



The kingdom is divided

Solomon's kingdom is broken in two.

The Southern Kingdom was called Judah. The people living there were mostly from the tribe of Judah and it had Jerusalem as its capital. The temple of the Lord was here, and therefore access to the temple was quite difficult for the people of the Northern Kingdom.

The Northern Kingdom was called Israel. It was populated by 10 tribes and Samaria became its capital.

The prophet Elijah and King Ahab

Elijah is in the forefront against idolatry and corruption. He becomes the enemy of King Ahab, who allows himself to be led by Queen Jezebel's family and their ways as worshippers of Baal. Elijah several times quarrels with king Ahab. Once he predicts three years of drought, another time he blames the king for his greed. He is also the one who faces all the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.



The birds feed Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 – 17:6

After David and Solomon, other kings ruled in Israel. One was a man called Ahab. He had an evil wife called Jezebel. She killed many of the followers of God, and she forced the people to worship the idols of Baal. Elijah was a great prophet of God. He went to Ahab and said, "In the Name (by the power) of the living God of Israel, there will be no rain for the next three years." So God sent a great famine upon the land of Israel. However, God cared for his servant Elijah. He sent Elijah to a place called Cherith, where he could drink from a stream. And every day the birds brought food for Elijah to eat.

21 Izinyoni zezulu zifunza U-Eliza (Amakhosi 16:29 – 17:6)

Emva kukaDavide noSolomon amanye amakhosi abusa kwa-iSrayeli. Enye eyazalwawakungu AHabi. Wayenenkosikazi eyayinenhliziyo embi igama layo kwakunguJezebeli. Wayensebulele abalandeli abaningi babaNkulunkulu, waphoqa abantu ukuba bakhonze izithixo zika Bhali (uNkulunkulu wamanga noma isithixo).

U-Eliza wayengumprofethi (umfundisi) kaNkulunkulu. Waya ku-Ahabi wathi: "NjengoJehova uNkulunkulu wakwa-iSrayeli, kuyokuba nendlala nesomiso eminyakeni ezayo ngaphandle kwalabo abathobela izwi."

Wathumela u-Eliza endaweni ebizwa ngokuthi iCherithi, lapho wayozophuza amanzi avela esiphethwini, njalo ekuseni nasebusuku izinyoni zezulu zaziletha inyama nesinkwa ukuba adle. UNkulunkulu uhlezi enakekela izisebenzi zakhe (abafundisi) ngakho asimkonze simthembe naye uyakusinakekela njalo.



In this map you can see Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom) at the time of the prophet Elijah.

Elijah lived in the north. All the kings that ruled in the north were evil kings who did not obey God.

Elijah lived at the time of king Ahab who was married to an even worse queen by the name Jezebel.

Jezebel introduced worship of the idol Baal.

The Israelites were confused. Some believed in God, and some in Baal.

That was what the big event at Mount Carmel was about. Carmel is at the coast, north.



Look at the map and find the boundary between Israel and Judah.

What is the capital of the southern kingdom (Judah)?

What is the capital of the northern kingdom (Israel)?

Elijah was in the northern kingdom. Find Mount Carmel, where the big test took place.

A God who answers with fire!



Elijah and the fire of God

22 U-Elija nomlilo Kankulunkulu
(1 Amakhosi 18:16-46)

Onyakeni wesithathu wesomiso, u-Elija watshela u-Ahabi ukuba abize bonke abantwana bakwa-iSrayeli, nabaprofethi ababekhonza uNkulunkulu bamanga, entabeni ebizwa ngokuthi i-Carmel. Wathi kubo: “Uma uNkulunkulu eyinkosi

1 Kings 18:16-39

In the third year of famine, Elijah called Ahab and all the people to Mount Carmel. He said to them, “If the Lord is God, then follow Him; but if Baal is god, then follow him.” The people killed a bull as a sacrifice to Baal. Then Elijah said to the priests of Baal, “Call on your god, and I will call on the Lord God. The one who answers by fire, He is God.” All day the priests of Baal called to their god. They danced around their sacrifice and cut themselves with knives. But there was no fire. At evening, Elijah prepared his sacrifice. He even soaked it with water. Then he prayed to God. Immediately fire fell from heaven. It burned up the sacrifice and the water as well. And all the people cried out, “The Lord – He is God!”



What was the reason for the test on mount Carmel?

How would people know who was the real God?

What did Elijah say to Baal's priests as there was no response from Baal?

khonzani yena,” kodwa uma kunguBhali khonzani yena. Kepha akukho noyedwa owaphendula. Wasethi kubo bonke u-Elija: lethani izinkabi ezimbili bese abaprofethi baka Bali bekhetha eyodwa ezoba ngumhlatshelo. Ningawubasi umlilo, ngizolungisa enye inkunzi, nayo ngingayibaseli. Besenimemeza uNkulunkulu wenu nami ngizomemeza uNkulunkulu wami ophilayo, ogcina izethembiso zakhe. U-Elija wathi: “UNkulunkulu ophendula ngomlilo, unguNkulunkulu weqiniso.” Abantu bavumelana naye. Usukulonke abapristi bakaBhali balibiza igama lakhe. Badansa eduzenomhlasthelo, bezisika ngemibese. Kodwa kwakungekho mlilo. Ebusuku U-Elija walungiselela umhlatshelo wakhe. Wacela abantu ukuba bathele amanzi phezu kwezinkuni naphezu komhlatshelo. Wayensethandaza kuNkulunkulu, ngokushesha umlilo wehla ezulwini wehlelaphezu komhlatshelo kaElija. Washisa umhlatshelo kaElija ngokunjalo nezinkuni ezimanzi, bonke abantu bakha bathi: “UNkulunkulu uyinkosi.”



Read 1 Kings 18:21



Read 1 Kings 18:24



Read 1 Kings 18:27



Read 1 Kings 19:19-21



Who became the next prophet after Elijah?

What is a prophet?

The word prophet is used for people who were sent with a direct message from God to individuals or nations. They sometimes dramatised their message with symbolic actions. For example: Jeremiah hurled a clay pot to the ground to signify how Judah would be broken in pieces as a nation.

The true prophets in the Old Testament were loyal servants of God and strong enemies of the worship of idols. They often risked their lives when confronting wicked kings and leaders with the Word of God, and they poured their souls into their calls that sinners repent and turn back to God.

Moses is referred to as one of the biggest prophets. Samuel, Elijah and Elisha certainly were also very significant characters and important prophets of the Lord.

Removed by a chariot of fire



Elijah goes to heaven

1 Kings 19:1-21; 2 Kings 2:1-14

Elijah killed those priests of Baal because they were so wicked. Then Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah. He was afraid, so he fled to a desert place. There God met Elijah. Then Elijah was afraid no longer. He continued to teach the people to worship the one true God. Elijah chose Elisha to help him. One day as they walked along together, a chariot of fire rushed between them. God lifted Elijah up to

23 U-Elija uya ezulwini (1 Amakhosi 19:1-21) (2 Amakhozi 2:1-14)

U-Elija wababulala bonke abaprofethibakaBali, ngobababengabamanga. Ngakoke inkosikazi yeNkosi u-Ahabi uJezebhelu yazama ukubulala uElija. Wayesaba, wabalekela endaweni ethize lapho uNkulunkulu wahlangabezana no-Elija. Emvakwaloko uNkulunkulu wakhuluma no-Elija, ngalesosikhathi wayengasesabi. Waqhubeka nokufundisa abantu ngoNkulunkulu (weqiniso).

Ngokuthanda kukaNkulunkulu u-Elisha waphenduka umsizi ka-Elija. Ngalolosuku bahamba ndawonye, isiwengi somlilo sangena phakathi kwabo. Ngokunjalo uNkulunkulu, wahlwitha u- Elija wenyukela ezulwini ngalesosiwengu. U-Elisha

heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw him no more.

akaphindange wambona uElija.



Read 2 Kings 2:5, 9



What did Elisha say when the other prophets told him that Elijah would be taken away?

What was the only thing Elisha wanted to inherit from Elijah?

In the New Testament we also meet prophets, but we will come back to that later when we learn about the early church.

The New Testament also mentions Moses and Elijah



Elijah with Jesus and Moses

Luke 9:28-36

In the time of Jesus (700 years later), Elijah returned to earth. One day he appeared on a mountain with Jesus. Moses, the great prophet who lived before Elijah, appeared with them too. Three men saw them all shining with the glory of God. Then God Himself spoke from heaven. He said, “This is my Son ... listen to Him.” Friends, God and all the great men of Israel point us to Jesus. Jesus came to serve all men. He died as a sacrifice to pay for our sins, and He rose from death to give life to our spirits forever. So listen to Him and find everlasting life.

U-Elija Nomosi Nojesu (Luka 9:28-36)

Emakhulwini ayisikhombisa emvakwa-Elija, ngekathi uJesu ehamba emhlabeni, uJesu wathatha abafundi bakhe abatathu, baya entabeni ukuyothandaza. Ngenkathi uJesu eyotandaza uMosi noElija bavela (uJesu, uMose no-Elija) bakhazimula, umusa kaNkulunkulu. Ngokunjalo uNukulunkulu, ngezwi livela ezulwini. Wathi: “Lona indodana yami engiyikhethileyo, lalelani yona.” Bangani, uNkulunkulu nabobonke abaprofethi bakwa-iSrayeli usikhombisa kuJesu. UJesu weza lapha emhlabeni ukuzosifela njengomhlatsshelo wezono zethu, nezono zabobonke abantu, ngasonke isikhathi, ngoba uNkulunkulu ukusisiza sonke njengendodana yakhe uJesu. U-Jesu ungumelusi wethu amvusa kwabafuleyo. Kodwa abezwayo izwilakhe, abamthembayo bemkhonza futhi. Ngako lalela yena, umthembe futhi. Ngaloko uyothola ukuphila kwaphakade.



Read Matthew 17:5, 8



What did the voice in the cloud say?

When the cloud lifted, what did the disciples see?

Conclusion

The historical books tell the story of the Jewish people from the moment they enter the Promised Land through all the joyful and shocking experiences of victory and defeat, until they return from captivity in Babylon and rebuild the land.

Joshua stands out as a true leader – only failing on one point: At his death there was no one to take over as the next leader.

Deborah is a unique example of a woman used by the Lord as well as a prophet, a judge and even an army leader.

Gideon experienced how the Lord chooses his servants based on the willingness of their heart, not based on their position in the clan. He is a great example of faith and obedience; however he is also an example of how easily one can fall back to idolatry.

Samuel shows us that even a child can hear from God, and that one can remain faithful for one's whole lifetime.

David was a man of tremendous boldness and worship. He also made terrible mistakes. He stands out as an example of God's faithfulness towards those who have the right heart, and truly repent when they fall in sin.

Elijah shows us an example of powerful Old Testament prophetic ministry. Through him God manifested his power in a way like all the New Testament spiritual gifts like prophecy, healing, wisdom, knowledge, miracles and faith.