Lesson 3 · The United Kingdom

Main sentence
God's promise is greater than “every enemy”

Scope
- c. 1050 – 931 BC · 1–2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1–11, 1–2 Chronicles, Psalms Books 1–2, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- Saul · c. 1050–1010 BC
- David · c. 1010–970 BC
- Solomon · c. 970–931 BC

Before & after
- Previous: God's promise is greater than “Egypt”
- **This lesson: God's promise is greater than “every enemy”**
- Next: God's promise is greater than “northern Israel”

Discussion
- Both Saul and David sinned grievously. Why did their stories end so differently? (Compare 1 Sam 15:24–30 with 2 Sam 12:13 and Ps 51.)
- God would not let David build him a house, yet promised that he would “make you a house” (2 Sam 7:11). What does this reversal tell us?
- Solomon had wisdom beyond anyone, yet in his old age he forsook God. What is the relationship between wisdom and obedience?

Person
David

Key verse
2 Sam 7:16

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

Five key events

1 · Saul: The King the People Wanted
- Israel wanted a king so they could be “like all the nations.” Saul was tall and impressive, yet he disobeyed twice, and God rejected him
- A king of the people's choosing cannot be relied on

2 · David: The King God Chose
- God looks on the heart and anoints a young shepherd
- David kills Goliath, is hunted by Saul for more than ten years, twice spares Saul's life, and is at last made king over all Israel, with Jerusalem as his capital

3 · The Davidic Covenant
- David wants to build God a house
- Instead God promises to “make you a house” for David: his throne will be established forever
- This is a new stage in the promise of the Messiah, and from now on “son of David” is a title of the Messiah

4 · David's Sin and Repentance
- After Bathsheba, the sword never leaves David's house: Absalom's revolt, civil war, and a plague brought on by the census
- Ps 51 is his psalm of confession
- God's promise is not revoked because of David's sin

5 · Solomon: Glory and Fall
- Solomon asks for wisdom, builds the temple, and brings the kingdom to its height, writing Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon
- But he marries foreign women, follows other gods in his old age, and God declares that the kingdom will be divided