

## VI. **Time of the Kings** - Book of I – II Samuel / Chronicles of the Kings

The history of the kings established the structured period of the Hebrews following the abstract leadership era of the Judges. The period comes to an end with the twelve tribes taken into custody by their distinct adversaries. I Samuel chapters 8 -16,25,31; I Chronicles chapters 1-17, 28-29; II Chronicles chapters 1-12, 29-36.

The history of the kings of Israel begins with the transition from God's voice as the sovereign ruler of His people in the proxy of Samuel, the prophet God chose to represent Him, to allow for a selection of a human king because of demands made by the Hebrew people. Select chapters in the book of I Samuel to trace the end of Samuel's life, the selection of Saul of the House of Benjamin as the first King of Israel, and the events leading to his death.

God instructed Samuel to select David, the third major patriarch of the Hebrews, during the tenure of King Saul. David's advance to the throne would be delayed until Saul's demise, but he would become the successor to the throne of Israel.

The throne of Israel would be inherited by Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, the daughter of the King of Sheba (Cush-Ethiopia). Solomon would be the first and only Ethiopian descendant to serve as King of Israel. God selected Solomon as the king to build the first formal temple that replaced the Tabernacle of Moses, and he is noted as the wisest and wealthiest king in Jewish history. The twelve tribes were divided during Solomon's tenure because he compromised his allegiance to God, allowing the practice of idol worship.

The history of the kings is captured in three sets of historical records: I-II Samuel, I-II Chronicles, and I-II Kings. The history records in Samuel and Chronicles is focused on details relative to Hebrew-Jewish history and the Davidic lineage of kingship and its influence upon the righteous kings. The captivity of the Southern Tribes of Israel is also captured, resulting from their sin of idolatry and failure to see the fate of the northern tribes as a deterrent to their behavior.

\*The Book of Kings highlights the great sin of idolatry, which infiltrated every king among the Northern Tribes of Israel, leading to their annihilation and their history largely lost.

