

Handout: 1 Samuel Lesson 3

List of God's requirements for a limited monarchy found in Deuteronomy 17:14-20:

1. The candidate for king must be chosen by Yahweh.
2. He must be an Israelite and not a foreigner.
3. He must not acquire many horses.
4. He must not send representatives back to Egypt to secure more horses for a cavalry unit.
5. He must not acquire many wives.
6. He must not acquire vast quantities of silver and gold.
7. He must write a copy of these laws as dictated by a priest and read it every day.
8. He must view himself as a servant of his people and not superior to them.
9. He must fear offending Yahweh and observe these laws every day of his life.

God commands Samuel to give the people warnings of the abuses of a monarchy (8:10-22):

1. Their sons will be forced to serve in the king's army as soldiers and officers.
2. Their sons and daughters will be forced to serve the king's many needs.
3. He will confiscate the best of the land and give it to his courtiers and officials.
4. The people will be forced to pay taxes to support his government.
5. All the people will become the king's slaves in one way or another.
6. The people will cry out against the abuses of the monarchy they demanded, but God will not listen.

The three political reasons the elders of Israel want a king (8:5, 20):

1. To be like other nations in the influence and status of having a king.
2. A king to rule/judge and lead them as a central authority establishing order throughout the kingdom.
3. A king to lead the Israelites into battle against their enemies.

God quietly works behind the scenes as He guides by His providence the destiny of men and women and the events in salvation history.

- Moses was herding sheep when he saw the burning bush (Ex 3:1-6).
- The angel approached Gideon as he was threshing grain (Judg 6:11-12).
- The angel came to Samson's mother as she was working in the field (Judg 13:2, 9).
- Saul was looking for donkeys (1 Sam 9:3).
- Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Him as they were going about their daily work as fishermen (Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11).

God's providence is at work in what only appears to be happenstance:

- Kish of Benjamin loses his donkeys.
- He sends his son and a servant to find them.
- They find the prophet Samuel at a village communal feast.
- Saul discovers that he is the guest of honor.
- Samuel tells Saul that he is the man God has selected to be Israel's king and anoints Saul.
- Saul receives several prophetic signs and is seized by the spirit of Yahweh.
- Saul is elected king by a National Assembly of Israel.

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THE KINGS OF ISRAEL IN THE UNITED MONARCHY AND THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DIVIDED MONARCHY

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Saul 1030-1010 BC	Ishbaal (son of Saul) 1010-1011	David 1010-970 BC 7 years king of Judah, 33 years king of Israel	Solomon (son of David) 970-930 BC
THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH (Tribes of Judah and Benjamin) 930 – 587/6 BC 1 ruling family: the House of David		THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL (10 Northern Tribes) 930 – 722 BC 9 ruling families	
Rehoboam 930 – 913		Jeroboam I 930 – 910	
Abijam (Abijah) 913 – 911		Nadab 910 – 909	
Asa 911 – 870		Baasha 909 – 884	
		Elah 886 – 885	
		Zimri 885	
		Omri 885 – 874	
Jehoshaphat 870 – 848		Ahab 874 – 853	
		Ahaziah 853 – 852	
Jehoram 848 – 841		Jehoram (Joram) 852 – 841	
Ahaziah 841		Jehu 841 – 814	
Queen Athaliah (mother of Ahaziah, dau. of Ahab and not a Davidic heir) 841 – 835			
Jehoash 835 – 796		Jehoahaz 814 – 798	
Amaziah 796-781		Jehoash 798 -783	
Uzziah (Azariah) 781 – 740		Jeroboam II 783 – 743	
		Zechariah 743	
		Shallum 743	
Jotham 750 – 736		Menahem 743 – 738	
		Pekahiah 738 – 737	
Ahaz 736 – 716		Pekah 737 – 732	
		Assyrians conquer Galilee and Gilead 732 BC	
Hezekiah 716 – 687		Hoshea 732 – 724	
Manasseh 687 – 642		Assyrians conquer Northern Kingdom; tribes taken into exile 722 BC	
Amon 642 – 640		5 foreign tribes from the east are moved into the territory of the Northern Kingdom. They become the Samaritans (2 Kings 17:24)	
Josiah 640 – 609			
Jehoahaz 609 (first deportation of exiles to Babylon)			
Jehoiakim 609 – 598			
Jehoiachin 598 – 597 (second deportation of exiles to Babylon 597)			
Zedekiah 598 – 587/6 (third deportation of exiles to Babylon 587/6)			
Babylonian exile 70 years			

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Archaeological Evidence that Supports the Biblical Record of the Kings of Israel

1. The discovery of Pharaoh Siamun's relief: Pharaoh Siamun, a contemporary of Israel's King Solomon, ordered a triumphal relief commemorating his campaign against the Philistines c. 970-960. The Bible records that a pharaoh conquered the Philistine city of Gezer and gave it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife in 1 Kings 9:16.
2. The discovery of Pharaoh Shoshenq's triumphal relief at Karnak and stela at Silisila: These artifacts commemorate the pharaoh's campaign in Israel 925 and in Judah 924BC during King Rehoboam's reign recorded in 1 Kings 14:25-26; 2 Chronicles 12:1-9.
3. Annals of Shalmaneser III (853/52): The Assyrian annals mention King Ahab of Israel by name.
4. Annals of Shalmaneser III (841/40): The Assyrian annals mention King Jehu of Israel by name.

Solving an apparent discrepancy in the Biblical record:

The Assyrian annals put 12 years between King Ahab of Israel and King Jehu. However, the Biblical record records 14 years between the reigns of these two kings with two kings between them: Ahaziah who ruled for two years and Jehoram who ruled 12 years (1 Kings 22:51; 2 Kings 3:1). What at first glance appears to be a discrepancy can be easily explained by historians. Ancient kingdoms had different ways of recording reignal years. The Assyrians and Babylonians credited the entire year when a king died to his reign, even if he died in the beginning of the year and his successor ruled 11 months of that year. That first year for the new king was designated his "ascension year" and the new king's "Year #1" did not begin until the first day of the following year. Historians call this method the "accession year" system or the "post-dating" system.

Additional resource: see the document "Dating the Reigns of the Kings of Judah and the Kings of Israel":

<http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/Dating%20the%20Reigns%20of%20the%20Kings%20of%20Judah%20and%20Kings%20of%20Israel.htm>

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Resources and suggested reading:

1. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, ed., James Pritchard, Princeton University Press, 1950.
2. *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, E.R. Thiele, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.
3. *The Chronology of the Kings of Israel and Judah*, Gershon Galil, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1996.
4. "How We Know When Solomon Ruled," Kenneth A. Kitchen, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, September/October 2001.