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Toward a Theology of Leadership:
Lessons from Kingship in the Old Testament
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Historical Background

1450 BC Exodus from Egypt
40 years in wilderness
1410 Conquest of promised landd
Judges 350 years
1050 BC monarchy established

Monarchy = 1050 till 587/586 BC

3 Kings of united kingdom

- Saul
- David
- Solomon

3 united kings of 120 years of leadership to 931 BC

Israel and Judea kingdoms

Fall of Samaria in 722 BC
End of Northern kingdom (210 years)
Then, Assyrian captivity

Fall of Jerusalem 605, 597, 587/586
After 350 years end the kingdom of Judah
Then, Babylonian captivity

Israel – 9 ruling dynasties
Families were fighting
But in Judea, just the DAVIDIC dynasty (2 Sam7)

43 king all together

3 united kings

20 kings in the north, from Jeroboam to Hoshea
20 kings in the south, from Rehoboah to Zedekiah

How many kings were God-fearing rulers?

In the north?

According to the author of book of kings—none in Israel. All did evil in sight of Lord.

Only 8 good kings in south

Asa
Jehosophat
Jehoash
Amaziah
Azariah
Jotham
Hezekiah
Jo

Israel

20 kings
9 dynasties
7 assassinations
1 suicide
1 stricken by God
All judged evil by king's historian

Judea
20 kings
9 dynasties
7 assassinations
3 exiled to foreign lands
2 stricken by God
8 judged good by king's historian

First Five Lessons

1. God's forbearance with leaders!
Our god is loving, gracious, and extremely God.
2. When leaders of God's people were faithful to the Lord, prosperity followed.
3. When leaders were wicked, great complications of life occurred and tragedies happened.
4. Happiness/prosperity of people depends on leaders. As church leaders as church members.
5. When they were appointed by God, things went better than when appointed by themselves.

King David (1 Sa 16 – 1 Kgs 2)

Very broad topic about leadership and Israel kingship

Necessity to narrow it; to study especially leadership style of David

1 Sam 13:14 But now your kingdom will not endure, the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.

Man according to the heart of God

1 Samuel 16:7 ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't be impressed by his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. God does not view things the way men do. People look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Kings 11:4 ⁴ When Solomon became old, his wives shifted his allegiance to other gods; he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David had been.

Right inclination of the heart—right direction of life, even though mistakes.

1 Samuel 17:34-37 ³⁴ David replied to Saul, "Your servant has been a shepherd for his father's flock. Whenever a lion or bear would come and carry off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I would go out after it, strike it down, and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If it rose up against me, I would grab it by its jaw, strike it, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them. For he has defied the armies of the living God!" ³⁷ David went on to say, "The LORD who delivered me from the lion and the bear will also deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!" Then Saul said to David, "Go! The LORD will be with you."

David—a man of vision, trust, and courage

Courage to stand against the giant.
Courageous leadership

1 Kings 8:17 David will build a temple for the Lord

Leadership is not about making a mistake, but having a vision to build.

Definition of Leadership

Leadership = capacity to lead

Leadership is the ability to influence a group toward the achievement of a vision or set of goals.

Crucial: the source of this vision, the goals, and influence: God! His Word!

Was it God's intention that a king be leader?
It seems like the prophets provided a more spiritual leadership.

When kings were going astray...God's corrective came with the prophets.

It was not ideal that kingship would be in Israel.

The book of Judges seems to be proclaiming the need for a judge due to the chaos.

But in the middle of the book, you have the story of the king Abimelech—king is not the solution, but repentance was critical.

Example: David as Leader

David was willing to be corrected by God!

For instance: the Prophet Nathan (You will not build the House of the Lord)

King David was a man who trusted the Lord.

David = Man of the Spirit of God

1 Sam. 16:13 from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

David was always willing to be corrected by God.

Shaping of the Vision

David was willing to be corrected and the Spirit of the Lord was with him.

The Spirit of God was here in the very beginning.

When Spirit and Word comes together, life appears!

Regeneration of heart occurs when Word of God and Spirit comes together.

2 Sam 23:2 the last words of David

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”

David inspired others by the Word

Communication is an integral part of leadership.

True revival and reformation is the result of the faithful preaching of the Word of God (Neh 8:8-12; Rom 10:17).

Also, David was very humble in attitude

Ps 139:23, 24 Search me O God and know my heart, see if there be any offensive way in me and...

A talented leader

1 Sam 16:18 One of the servants said about David, “I have seen the son of Jesse who knows how to play the harp, he is a brave man and warrior, speaks well, and the Lord is with him!”

David was a first-rate musician

A brave man

A warrior

Dynamic speaker

1 Sam 16:21 King Saul liked him very much...

Saul was a real grouch, so David must have been very likeable
Saul's jealousy ruined this relationship

He was also a spiritual leader (see his prayer life in psalms)

Spirit filled (1 Sam 16:13)

People sensed God's presence in his life (1 Sam 16:18)

Intimate with God (1 Sam 23:1-6)

Fully devoted to God (1 Kgs 11:4,6; 14:8; 15:3)

⁸ I tore the kingdom away from the Davidic dynasty and gave it to you. But you are not like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me wholeheartedly by doing only what I approve. 1 Kings 14:8

David always repented

An emotional dwarf in his family

He killed Goliath, but there was a giant he could not conquer; his relationship with his family.

Wow, the challenge of his family life.

Very competent.

He killed Goliath, but could not deal with his own family.

Examples of his unhealthy behavior

- Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Sam 11)
- Bathsheba's baby (2 Sam 12:15-23)
- Ammon and Tamar (2 Sam 13:21)
- Break off communication in family conflict:
2 Sam 14:23, 24, 28 (Absalom 2 years in Jerusalem)
2 Sam 15:1-14 (Absalom's assessment of his father; he is not listening and acting)
2 Sam 18:33 (Absalom, my son, my son!)

Because David was not leading, someone else tries to lead: Absalom

Great Lesson for us:

1. God is extremely merciful and patient
2. Great leaders may have family problems, marriage difficulties... We all struggle...
3. God wants the change! He is able to forgive, heal, and restore...

Great spiritual leaders of today have to be people-oriented and also family oriented

SDA Leaders = strong in family life

Mal 4:4-6 (God's last commission to us)

⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, to whom at Horeb I gave rules and regulations for all Israel to obey. ⁵ Look, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the

LORD arrives. ⁶ He will encourage fathers and their children to return to me, so that I will not come and strike the earth with judgment." **Mal 4:4-6**

It is not enough to be SDA, or superficially spiritual

Law is important, but cannot save or heal.

Emotional life need to be restored

God's promise is faithful

A promise for healing of families among God's people in the last days.

New Leaders

New spiritual leaders before the 2nd coming of Christ – new Elijah – will be:

God's people

Spiritual persons

Emotional giants

People who accomplish...

²⁰ Now to him who by the power that is working within us u to do far beyond all that we ask or think, ²¹ to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21