

# **Toward a Theology of Leadership: Lessons from Kingship in the Old Testament**

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# Historical Background

- 1450 BC - Exodus from Egypt (Moses)
- For 40 years – Wilderness Experience
- 1410 – Conquest of the Promised Land  
Joshua
- Period of Judges (350 years)
- **1050 BC – Beginning of Monarchy**

# Kingship – an overview

- Monarchy in Israel from ca. 1050 till 587/6 BC.  
(almost a half of millennium - 465 years).
- Three kings of the **united kingdom**:
  - Saul (40 years)
  - David (40 years)
  - Solomon (40 years)

Three united kings (120 years of rulership – till ca. 931/0 B.C.).

# Divided Kingdom – from 931/0 BC

- Israel (North) – capital city: Samaria.
- Judea (South) – capital city: Jerusalem.
  
- Fall of Samaria – 722 BC
  - End of the Northern Kingdom, Israel (931-722; ca. 210 years)
  - Assyrian Captivity
  
- Fall of Jerusalem – 605, 597, 587/6 BC
  - End of Southern Kingdom, Judea (931-587/6; ca. 350 years)
  - Babylonian Captivity

- Israel: 9 ruling dynasties.
- Judea: only one dynasty – DAVIDIC (2 Sam 7).
  - Queen Athaliah's reign of terror (841-835 BC) was the only interruption to Davidic succession.
- 43 kings altogether:
  - 3 united kings
  - 20 kings in the North (Samaria):
    - from Jeroboam to Hoshea
  - 20 kings in the South (Jerusalem):
    - from Rehoboam to Zedekiah

How many kings were God-fearing  
rulers?

- According to the author of the book of Kings:
  - **None in Israel!!!** Not one king characterized as “good.” All were doing “evil” in the eyes of the Lord!

How many “good” kings were in Judea?

- According to the author of the book of Kings:
  - Only eight “good” kings in Judea:
    - Asa (910-869)
    - Jehoshaphat (872-848)
    - Joas (Jehoash) (835-796)
    - Amaziah (796-767)
    - Azariah (Uzziah) (792-740)
    - Jotham (750-732)
    - Hezekiah (715-686)
    - Josiah (640-609)

# Overview

- **Israel:**

- 20 kings
- 9 dynasties
- 7 assassinations
- 1 suicide
- 1 “stricken by God”

All judged “evil” by the King’s historian.

# Overview

- **Judea:**
  - 20 kings (among them 1 queen)
  - 1 dynasty
  - 5 assassinations
  - 3 exiled to foreign lands
  - 2 “stricken by God”
  - 8 judged “good” by the King’s historian

# First Five Lessons

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- 5. When they were appointed by God, things went better than when appointed themselves!

# Kingship and Authority

- It was not God's will to have kings in Israel.
  - God condescends to their situation.
  - Majority of kings misused their position, power and authority.
- 
- God wanted to rule over His people.
  - Ideal form of government – theocracy.
  - Unfortunately it did not work because people were not faithful to God.
  - Corrective: prophetic voice!

# **King David** (1 Sa 16 - 1 Kings 2)

- Very broad topic about leadership and Israel kingship.
- Necessity to narrow it: to study especially leadership style of **David and his kingship** and draw important lessons for us today.

# David = God's Appointed Leader

- **Man according to the heart of God** (man's inner disposition and character).

## 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.”

# David's heart

1 Sam 16:7

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart.**”

1 Kings 11:4

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his **heart** after other gods, and his **heart** was not **fully devoted to the LORD** his **God**, as the **heart of David** his father had been.”

# David = man of VISION, TRUST and COURAGE

- David and Goliath (1 Sam 17:34-37)

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

- **1 Kings 8:17**

"My father David had it in his **heart** to build a temple for the Name **of** the LORD, the **God of Israel.**"

- Leadership is not about not making a mistake - It's about the right direction of life, about proper orientation and leading others to the high goal.

# Definition of Leadership

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# Shaping of the VISION

- **Leadership is the ability to influence a group toward the achievement of a vision or a set of goals.**
- Crucial issue: **the source** of this vision, those goals, and influence.
- The source for the Christians: **God! His Word!**
- **Behind is the SOLA/PRIMA SCRIPTURA principle. The Scripture is casting the vision for us!**

# Vision and Methodology

- Do not confuse VISION with different methods on how to accomplish the vision or goals.

# David as Leader

- **David was willing to be corrected by God!**
  - Prophet Nathan: “You will not build the House of the Lord” (2 Sam 7:5; 1 Chron 17:4).
  - “You are the man!” (2 Sam 13).
- King David was a man who trusted in the Lord.

# Man of the Spirit of God

**1 Sam 16:13**

“So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and **from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.**”

# Man of the Spirit of God

**2 Sam 23:2** (the last words of David)

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue."

Inspired author of many **Psalms** and speeches.

# The Word of God and the Spirit belong together!

- Creation account (the first biblical equation):  
**Spirit + Word = Life** (Gen 1:1-3)

True for physical as well as spiritual life!

The Word of God and the Spirit of God must work together in personal life and also in the lives of the community of the believers.

Only in this way will a balance be kept, people will avoid extremes, and will be full of life!

# **Leader Uses Words to Shape Meaning and Inspire Others**

- David = Man of 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).

# David was humble

- He was always asking God for help and leadership!

## Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and **lead me** in the way everlasting.”

# A Talented Leader

- 1 Sam 16:18

One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

# David was

- First-rate musician (he inspired many other composers).
- A brave and courageous man.
- A warrior (became a general under Saul).
- Dynamic speaker.
- Handsome young man.
- Man of action.
- Man of good reputation.

# 1 Sam 16:21

“David came to Saul and entered his service.  
**Saul liked him very much**, and David  
became one of his armor-bearers.”

Saul was really rough, so David must have  
been very likeable.

Saul’s jealousy later ruined everything!

# A Spiritual Leader

- Honest, authentic prayer life (Psalms).
  - Had no troubles expressing emotions to God, expressing his needs.
- Spirit filled (1 Sam 16:13).
- Trusted the Lord (Psalm 121).
- Fully devoted to God (1 Kings 11:4, 6; 14:8; 15:3).
- Intimate with God (1 Sam 23:1-6).
- People sensed God's presence in his life (1 Sam 16:18c).

# 1 Kings 14:8

[God speaks against Jeroboam:]

“I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but **you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.**” (David is already dead for more than 40 years.)

# **An Emotional Dwarf in his Marriage and Family Life**

- Incompetent in his family relationships
- He killed Goliath, but there was a giant he could not conquer: his relationship with his family.

# Examples of unhealthy behavior

- 1. **Bathsheba and Uriah** – cover up (2 Sa 11).
- 2. **Bathsheba's baby** – 2 Sa 12:15-23
  - Trying to manipulate God?
  - It's over, let's not think more about it. Big boys don't cry!
- 3. **Ammon and Tamar** – 2 Sam 13:21
- 4. **Absalom - Break of communication in family conflict**
  - 2 Sam 14:23-24, 28 (2 years in Jerusalem)
  - 2 Sam 15:1-4 (Absalom's assessment of his father: he is not listening and acting)
  - 2 Sam 18:33 "Absalom, my son, my son"
    - The pain of decades pours out.
    - If only he had told Absalom when he was alive!

# Great Lesson for Us

- 1. God is extremely merciful and patient!
- 2. Great Leaders may have family problems, marriage difficulties ... We all struggles ...
- 3. **God wants to change His leaders! He is able to forgive, heal, restore ...**
  
- Great Spiritual Leaders of today have to be **people-oriented** and **family-oriented! They need to be led by the Word of God and the Spirit of God!**

SDA Leaders = strong in family life

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

**Remember the law** of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. "See, **I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers;** or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

# Leaders = strong in family life

It is not enough to be SDA, or superficially “spiritual”.

**BE CONSISTENT!**

- Law is important, but cannot save or heal.
- Emotional life need to be restored.
- God’s Promise is faithful! He can and wants to do it for us and in us!
  
- A promise for healing of families among God’s people in the last days!!!

# New Leaders

- New Spiritual Leaders before the Second Coming of Christ – **new Elijahs!** – will be:
  - Led by the Word of God and His Spirit
  - God's people
  - Spiritual persons
  - Emotional giants
  - People who accomplish God's given mission
  - Strong in family life
    - Crucial characteristics of SDA Leaders today!

# God is able to create new generation of leaders

- **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to him **who is able to do immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.