



The Story of God | Kings & Prophets

Kings & Prophets | Story

Story from... Joshua; 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 & 2 Kings; Isaiah 53; The Prophets

After wandering the desert for forty years, God led the people of Israel to recapture the Promised Land from their enemies. God gave them many victories in battle, and completely honored his promises to them - but the people rejected him and worshipped false gods. This false worship led them into many other sins.

Because of their sin and disobedience, God removed his protection and allowed them to be overpowered and punished by foreign nations. When the people suffered they would come back to God and beg for his help and forgiveness. Then God graciously forgave them and sent judges that led them to defeat their enemies. After their victories, the people once again worshipped God.

Unfortunately, this became a pattern and new generations forgot about God's goodness and blessing. They returned to worshipping false gods. This was a time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Since kings ruled other nations, the people of Israel complained to God saying, "We want a human king that we can see to rule over us." God gave the people what they wanted and appointed a king, named Saul to rule Israel. However, because of his disobedience, God eventually removed his blessing from Saul and replaced him as king. God chose a king "after his own heart."

The new king God chose was anointed while he was still just a boy. He was the youngest of seven brothers. But he was courageous and passionate for God. David grew up and the kingdom became his. He defeated the enemies of Israel on all borders. God loved David and told him that one of his descendants would always rule over Israel - his kingdom would never end.

Solomon succeeded his father David. He was the wisest and richest king Israel had ever known. He wrote books of the Bible like Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. Dignitaries came from far and wide to see the brilliance of Solomon and to hear his wisdom. But Solomon married many foreign wives, and they led him astray, and eventually he was not fully devoted to God.

His failure brought many serious consequences. When he died the kingdom did not remain united. Instead Israel divided into 10 tribes in the north, called Israel, and two tribes in the south, called Judah. The kings of these kingdoms, for the most part, forgot about the one true God. They followed false gods and even built altars and shrines to them. Because of their pattern of rebellion, God removed his protection from them. Other nations came and conquered Israel, taking the people away to be slaves or forcing them out of their Promised Land.

During the time of these kings, God sent prophets to be his messengers. God spoke through the prophets, calling people to return to his ways and follow his commandments. The prophets warned Israel of what would happen if they continued to rebel against God. Prophets also pointed people to a coming Messiah, an eternal king who would save them and rule forever. God gave the prophets visions of what the Messiah would be like when he came. They foretold that...

- ... A virgin would give birth to him in Bethlehem.*
- ... He would be from the line of King David, who was a descendent of Abraham.*
- ... He will do no wrong, living a life without sin.*
- ... He would be beaten, killed like a criminal.*
- ... He would establish a kingdom like no other Israel had ever known.*
- ... He would fulfill every promise God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*
- ... God will lay the punishment and guilt for all of our sins on him.*
- ... His life would be made an offering for our sin.*
- ... Because of Him, many will be made right with God.*

Despite the warnings of the prophets, the people of Israel stopped listening to God. And God did not speak to humans again for 400 hundred years ...

I've told you a lot so far. Let me ask a few questions...

Kings & Prophets | Dialogue

Remember this is a dialog, not a quiz. The “answers” below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.

What are the most striking characteristics of this history?

They forgot God. They followed other gods after all He had done for them.

God promised David a descendant to sit on his throne forever and the prophets spoke of one who would come to establish the kingdom.

What is the pattern that the people of Israel got into?

The people forgot about God when things were going well for them. Then when things got bad for them they would cry out to God to save them and He would. Then they would forget about Him again and live life for themselves.

What is the pattern that the Israelites got into?

The people forgot about God when things were going well for them. Then when things got bad for them they would cry out to God to save them and He would. Then they would forget about Him again and live life for themselves.

What was the role of the prophets?

What did the prophets prophesy about the Messiah?

... A virgin would give birth to him in Bethlehem.

... He would be from the line of King David, who was a descendent of Abraham.

... He will do no wrong, living a life without sin.

... He would be beaten, killed and buried like a criminal.

... His life would be made an offering for our sin.

... He would establish a kingdom like no other Israel had ever known.

... He would fulfill every promise God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

FROM ALL OF THE STORIES SO FAR...

What common themes run through all of the stories?

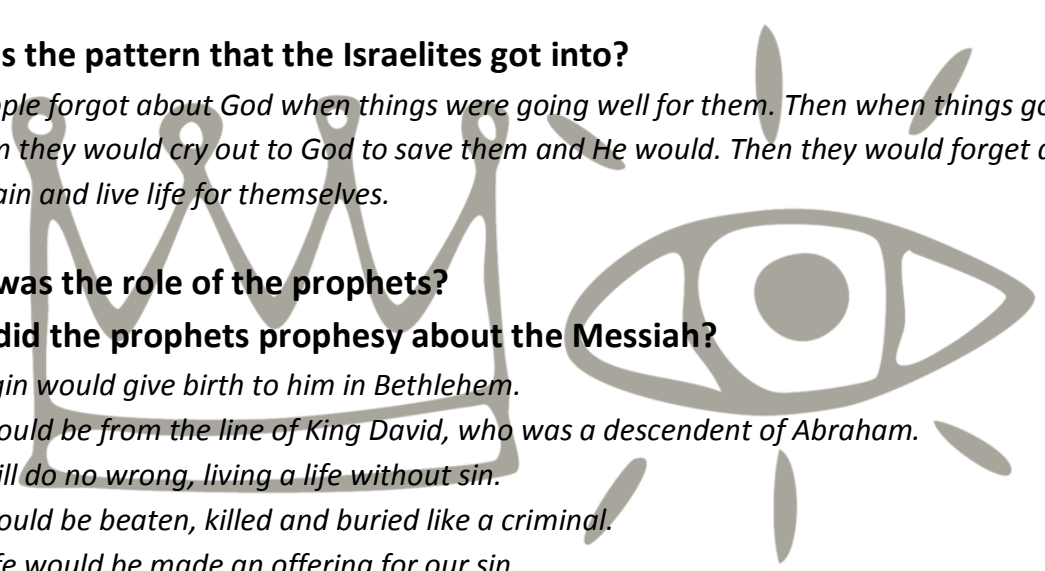
God wants us to live closely with him—listening and obeying.

He provides the best possible way of life for us to live.

God desires to rescue his creation and bring them back to himself.

He will go to amazing lengths to accomplish this.

Our sins require sacrifice—a life for a life.



What have we learned about what humans are like?

Where in the Story have we seen that?

Why are the sacrifices and the blood important?

Sin must be paid for. The payment for sin is death.

Payment for sin is life. Life for life. Blood is the only way to pay for sin.

God does not forgive sin without payment.

In fact, He cannot and still be just and holy.

What have we learned about what God is like? Where have we seen that?

He does what is good, right, and perfect—he is holy.

He is powerful, creative, knows all things, has control over the elements,

He punishes rebellion, keeps his promises,

He does not allow evil to remain in his presence,

He provides a way of forgiveness,

He loves his creation, provides us with the best way to live,

He wants to protect us and bless us, wants us to continue his blessings, and much more!

What have you seen for the first time in these stories?

(meaning, you've heard these stories before, but what have you noticed that you hadn't noticed before?)

What do you believe now that you may not have believed before you heard these stories?

Deliverance | Additional Dialogue

What can you apply to your own life from this story?

How did the story challenge or encourage you?

From all of the stories so far which person do you relate to the most? Why?

What does it mean for you to live in God's ways right now?