

## Aim of lesson

To contrast the kingdom of David and Solomon with God's intentions for the future, noting the similarities and differences.

## Bible background

2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17, Luke 1:32

## Preparation required

Read through the notes and familiarise yourself with the passages.

## Suggested outline of lesson

The young people will know of Saul, David and Solomon as kings of Israel. Go over the story with them by asking questions and bring out the points mentioned here. Use the references to help the students to understand what you want to bring out.

God was Israel's king, and they were therefore his kingdom. However, they disliked being different and demanded a king they could see. God taught Israel a lesson by giving them what they wanted - a tall and handsome king. Saul may have looked good, but as a king he was a disaster. Next, God himself chose someone with the more important qualities of leadership (1 Samuel 16:7). David was not chosen because of how he looked, and neither was Jesus (Isaiah 53:2). David's leadership was based upon caring, learnt as a hill shepherd in Judaea; It was the same with Jesus (John 10:11).

God rewarded David with military success so that under his stewardship Israel achieved secure and extensive borders. He transferred the capital from Gibeah to Jerusalem which was more acceptable to Israel and Judah. Jerusalem is to be the capital from which king Jesus also will reign. The greater reward for David was God's promise about the future. When David had built himself a sumptuous palace, he felt guilty that God's service was carried out in a tent. He decided to build for God a proper temple which would reflect God's dignity and majesty. David sent for Nathan the prophet and told him about the plan. God's answer was unexpected 2 Samuel 7:5,11. In Hebrew idiom, to 'build a house' can refer either to building a literal house, or to starting a family (the house of David means the family of David) and it is used here in both its senses. The promise referred both to David's family and his kingdom, and connected the two. The kingdom would last for ever, ruled by David's son. David's son and immediate successor was Solomon whose name means 'peace'. His greater Son is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Early in his reign, Solomon built the temple his father had longed to build. Indeed, David provided many of the materials.

Jesus built a different sort of temple, using living stones provided by his Father (John 17:6). In this case, the living stones were (and are) the people who comprise the church and kingdom (1 Peter 2:5). The same passage tells that Jesus himself is the cornerstone. Paul makes the point that we are the temple of the living God (2 Corinthians 6:16). The angel who told Mary that she would have a baby indicated that he was to be the special and long awaited son of David (Luke 1:32-33).

Either get the students to complete the grid in the students' notes as you talk or get them to look up the references and assemble a list of differences and a list of similarities between the kingdom of God under David and Solomon and under Jesus in the future.. They may pick out points as follows:

## Similarities

The following points apply to both past and future kingdoms:

- Jerusalem as capital city.
- A shepherd (like David) rules as king.
- The king builds a house for God.
- God's word is law.

- David's son (like Solomon) is king.
- Kings and Queens come from near and far to pay homage.

### Differences

Under David and Solomon	Under Christ
It was maintained by military power and was subject to insurrection from within and without. David's exploits as a soldier are well known; Solomon's army included 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses (1 Kings 10:26) and was not idle.	It will be maintained solely by God's power. Jesus will bring real, lasting, peace.
It used slave labour (1 Kings 9:21).	Its people will be willing members.
It was exclusive to Israel.	It includes Abraham's spiritual descendants -Gentiles as well as Jews.
It relied upon political alliances with pagan powers (1 Kings 3:1).	It will encompass the whole world and have no need of allies.
It lasted only a few generations.	It will last forever.
David was not alive to see it after his son succeeded to the throne.	David will be raised to be part of the kingdom. In some translations of 2 Samuel 7:16, "before me" is incorrectly substituted for "before you". A footnote acknowledges that the Hebrew texts use the latter.
Its rulers and people were subject to sin.	The King and his people will be immortal.

### Relevance to our lives

Is the kingdom of God really the first priority in our lives?

### Prayer

We pray for the kingdom to come, not only solely as a selfish desire for personal comfort, but as the only way to end war, famine, disease, violence, death and unrighteousness, the only way for God's will to be done in earth as in heaven.

### Other suggestions for activities

- Can the students sort out how much of God's promises to David (2 Samuel 7) apply to both Solomon and Jesus, and what parts (if any) apply only to Solomon or to Jesus?
- A study of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and his discussion with Pilate (John 18:33-38; 19:19-22) show how Jesus knew he was to be King, but then was not the time.