

BSF 2018-19

Summary

I. What did you learn about God? What difference has it made in your life?

A. Introduction

1. Israel would soon enter a civilized, productive, but spiritually dark land

B. Joshua (1-5)

1. His leadership skills. Honored Moses. Instant obedience. Explained the vision, plan and timeline to the people * How Rahab had faith and expressed it * Crossing the Jordan. The ark ahead of the people * Circumcision party * Passover * God makes a new way for them (and me)
2. Meets Jesus * Encourages him Jericho will fall. Unthinkable strategy. Everything must be destroyed * Defeat at Ai. Pray! Achan. "I wanted them so much I took them." Sins consequences * Reading God's words to the people
3. King of Jerusalem (southern) attacks Gibeon. Joshua defends them. God fights for His people * The northern kings unite and come out against Israel. They are defeated and completely destroyed. Even Anak was defeated. The same giants that scared them from entering the first time * Joshua defeats the kings east and west of the Jordan * What does God need to conquer in my life?
4. Allotment of the land. Fairly * Caleb asks for the hill country * Long list of boundaries. Fairness to Caleb's daughter and Zelo with no sons * Assites did not drive Canites out of the land * Cities of Refuge * The Levites * I need to completely drive out anything not of the Lord in my life. He is my refuge. I am a Levite.
5. The separation of the tribes by the Jordan river * The warning to remain devoted to the LORD. Remind ourselves of His faithfulness. Know the consequences of turning away from Him * Joshua's final words. The whole history of what God has done for them! I need to do the same, especially with my family. Choose this day whom you will serve.

C. Ruth (6)

1. Situation. Mixed marriage. All the men die. Famine. Return to Judah * Ruth. What she gave up. What she did to save herself and Naomi. Her character * Boaz. What he did. His character. Kinsman redeemer * Naomi's plan. Boaz > Ruth = Jesus > me * The meaning of redemption. Results of Ruth's faithfulness- Alive. Husband. Food. A home. Children. David. Jesus.

D. The Last Judge and the first King (7-15)

1. Hannah. Barren. Taunted by other wife. Dejected. Tears. Would not eat * Elkanah. A good man. Honored Hannah * Hannah's act of faith. Dedicating her only son to the LORD should He have mercy. Eli's response * Samuel is born. Hannah's prayer in response! * Eli's sons. Evil. Contrasted with Samuel. They are killed. What behaviors in my family, or elsewhere, do I confront or ignore?! * Samuel. A great, godly man. Imitate him! Hannah. A great, godly woman. Imitate her! -7-
2. 8. The Ark of the Covenant. Effects of its movement. Among the Philistines. 70 men of Israel killed for looking inside. Lessons for today * Samuel's godly leadership. The people respond and return to the LORD * Israel defeated. Do not examine themselves. Instead, use the AOC as a magic charm * Israel victorious. Examined themselves and got rid of their foreign gods and images * Israel asks for a king. Because the other nations have one. Greatly displeases the LORD! -8-
3. Saul. Initial look at his character. Samuel lays out God's requirements for a king * First battle. Ammonites. Victory * Samuel's final address. Retells the history of God and Israel. Godly man * Next battle. Samuel delays and Saul disobeys. Saul's reign ends. God appoints a man after his own heart * Jonathan. Brave. Godly. Victory over the Philistines. Saul's foolish oath results in a death sentence for Jonathan. The people protest and Jonathan is spared * Saul disobeys God again/ They destroyed only what worthless.or of poor quality. The LORD- I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me. Saul- excuse #1, #2, #3, #4... reveals everything about who he really is. 'Almost' obedient. -9-
4. David. Samuel grieves over Saul. A shepherd. Samuel does not see David as kingly. Starts out serving Saul. Goliath. Fear among all, except David. Defend's the honor of God and His people. Taunted by Goliath and his own brothers. Leverages prior victories from the LORD to defeat G. -10-

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5. The Psalms of David. God's omni's. His longing for God and purity. His hatred for wickedness and the enemies of God. Ps 139. The attributes of God needed by a believer. The hope of the afflicted vs consequences of the wicked. Our one hope. God's glory in His attributes. God's Word. Deliverance. Prophetic anticipation of Jesus. -11-
6. David- Saul, Jonathan, Michal. Saul obsessed with killing David. Jono loyal to the core to David. Michal falls in love with David but then mocks him for dancing before the LORD. The blessing and the cost of following God * Obedience. Risk. Jono is great. Learn from his words and actions. Perfect friendship. David's faith in Ps 59 * Jesus as David's good shepherd. -12-
7. David running scared. Escapes. Hides. Desperate but trusting in God * Priests. Help David. They are killed for it. David consistently inquires of God * God encourages and protects him. David testifies about God * David spares Saul's life. Contrary to the advice of his men. The right thing can most often be the hardest thing. David's ultimate prayer. -13-
8. David's encounters. Evil Nabal. His character. David's reaction. Godly Abigail. Her character. How God used her to spare David from hurting himself. His mercy. Ps 37 * David spares Saul's life again. David's speech to Saul * David flees to Gath. The Philistines. The enemy. In his mind, the safest place from Saul * Assurances to those who put their faith in God -14-
9. Saul goes completely off the rails. Consults a medium. Understand why God is silent with me. Respond correctly, not like Saul. God intervenes to keep David from the terrible consequence of pretending an alliance with Achish * The tragedy at Ziklag. Kill David! David strengthens himself in the Lord his God. Exemplary leadership. Saves the day * Saul's death. The sad summation of his life. -15-

E. David (16-22)

1. Saul and Jonathan are killed. David weeps. David gives a eulogy of honor instead of bitterness. Sees him through God's eyes * The battle for the kingdom- those loyal to Saul vs David. David inquires of the LORD. Shifting loyalties. David forgives Abner. Joab kills him * Ishbo killed to seek Davids favor. They are killed instead. -16-
2. Established as king. His history, his reputation. Instantly shows his leadership ability. Stood on God's promises. Gave glory to God. Philistines hear of it and plan to capture him. David inquires of the LORD. Hid. Victory.

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Writes Ps 68 and again praises Him for His attributes that he lists * David disobeys God's instructions for moving the ark. God has very clear instructions about how to move and handle 'His Presence.' David moves the ark again but God's away. Great rejoicing and celebration among all. David dances in praise to God. Michal mocks him. -17-

3. God rejects David's request. Affirms his intention. Explains why * God's unconditional promise to David. A dynasty * David's great song of praise and appreciation to God. David's prayer for continued blessing. Ps 89. -18-
4. David's many victories. The LORD made David victorious. Dedicated the valuable plunder to the LORD * Mephibosheth. Jonathan's son. Crippled. David's grace to him is a beautiful picture of Jesus' grace to me. -19-
5. David biggest failure. How it happened. Why it happened. He let his guard down. Followed the initial bait. Where is God in this? Where is His word? * His coverup is even worse! Trying to deceive and manipulate Uriah. Unsuccessful. Killed him * David marries Bathsheba. Tremendous ripples of consequences to him, those in his charge and especially his family * David confronted. David repents! Ps 51 * Baby dies. Solomon is born * Ammonites defeated. -20-
6. David's family reaps the consequences. Amnon rapes Tamar. Absalom kills him for it. Devastation. Safeguards? * David's failure as a father. Did not properly put Amnon to death. Swept it under the rug * Return of Absalom. Absalom's conspiracy to take kingdom from his father * David abandons Jerusalem. Endures betrayal and ridicule. Remains strong in his trust in the LORD * Absalom tries to kill David. He dies instead. David grieves (too much!) - 21-
7. David returns to rule in Judah. Insults the people by continuing to grieve for Absalom. Many friends and foes to sort through. Once again, forgiving to those who betrayed him. Holds onto God's promise that he should be king * David's song of praise. He seeks God's wisdom. Battles his enemies. Celebrates God's kindness * David's last words. David's mighty men * David disobeys God again. Takes a census. Results in deadly plague. Throws himself on God's mercy. -22-

F. Solomon (23-29)

1. Adonijah attempts to be king. Nathan and Bathsheba expose him. David pulls it together and announces Solomon as king * Solomon shows mercy to

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Adonijah * David's charge to his son and his huge preparations for the Temple. He gave ALL of his own private treasure. His wonderful prayer for his son * Solo receives and acts on all of David's instructions. -23-

2. Solomon starts well. Sacrifices on the high places? Disobeys all of Deut 17:16-20 * Solo asks for and applies God's wisdom. Establishes Israel's government. Rules in peace and prosperity. Israel benefits. All have their own home and garden * Wisdom should be our greatest desire. God promises wisdom to all who ask and seek it. What a waste if not accompanied by Obedience! -24-
3. Prov 1-9. Advice from godly parents and mentors. The fear of the LORD. Benefits of wisdom * Prov 14,16. Growth in wisdom. Costs of foolishness. God's word. Our speech * Prov 28, 29. Good citizenship for community and family life. Qualities of a good leader. Wealth and poverty * Prov 30-31. Wisdom in action. Wisdom = the wife of noble character. -25-
4. Solo begins construction on the Temple. God (and David's) advance preparations for the work. His wisdom comes to his aid as he pulls everything together and lays out his plan * God's promises to Solo while he builds the Temple. "If you keep my decrees..." * Solo completes the Temple. 7 years to build. Quite ornate and opulent. Honors the name of the LORD. Set apart for continual incense, sacrificial bread and burnt offerings. Finally a home for the Ark. -26-
5. Solo secures the Temple Furnishings. Solo builds his palace. 13 years to build. Hiram uses his gifts for the LORD * The Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place. We are the Most Holy Place today! The dark cloud (the LORD) fills the Temple. How is the LORD's glory seen today? Holy Spirit. Am I reflecting His character? His glory? How? * Solomon prays and dedicates the Temple. It is a good prayer. -27-
6. The LORD appears to Solo again. Serious warnings and promises to him. Walk faithfully with integrity of heart * All Solo had accomplished building his kingdom is listed. Queen of Sheba. How happy your people must be! Praise the Lord your God who delights in you * King Solo vs King Jesus. Ps 72. David's great prayer for his son. Where is my Ps 72 for my children? -28-
7. Solomon loves forbidden women? Who doesn't? He worships false gods. He disobeys ALL of God's commands in Ex 34 and Deut 17). Shows why God places boundaries around women and marriage. Which is greater? Our

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desire to obey God or our fleshly desires? * God's promise to divide the kingdom because of Solo's disobedience. Why God wants/commands our undivided worship. Present-day idolatry. What are examples where I try to worship both God and idols? * God raises up adversaries against Solo. What are the opposing forces against me? How do I handle them? How do I handle the hard times? * Jeroboam * Solomons lament of a life not well-lived. All of his efforts to get to the top of a ladder that was leaning against the wrong wall. Don't let God's blessings in my life be used as a trap to keep me from Him!

G. The Kings after Solomon (*coming soon*)