

BIBLE  
IN A  
YEAR

*The Pursuit*

# KINGDOM

**LISTENING TO COURAGEOUS VOICES,  
TAKING COURAGEOUS STEPS**

## AN OVERVIEW



In a world marked by cycles of brokenness, God has always raised courageous voices. Raising people willing to surrender, repent, and pursue His way of flourishing.

When God brought Israel into the land of Canaan, it was meant to be a place where He could dwell with His people and reign as their true King. They were to be a nation that showed the world what it meant to live fully surrendered to God.

### **BUT THE PEOPLE WEREN'T SATISFIED.**

They wanted to be like every other nation around them. They demanded a human king, even though God warned them of the cost: forced labour, children in armies, seized resources, heavy taxes and loss of freedom.

Although they repeatedly rejected God's way, in His mercy, He gave them what they asked for.

First came the Judges, leaders raised by God to rescue and guide His people in times of crisis. Then came the Kings, like David, anointed rulers who would lead the nation. Though each one was flawed, God worked through their courageous steps to fulfill His

greater purpose. Through their victories and failures, He revealed the people's deep need for a greater, eternal King and continued to unfold His promise of redemption.

Though the kingdom experienced a season of flourishing, over time, things began to unravel.

Division grew, and the kingdom eventually split into two. The people turned away from God's ways, aligning themselves with other gods and forsaking justice. They exploited the poor and ignored the vulnerable. Their trust in worldly power and false gods led to devastation. And after centuries of resisting God's pursuit, exile came.

### **EVEN IN THEIR REBELLION, GOD KEPT PURSUING HIS PEOPLE.**

He raised courageous voices, called prophets, who called the people to return, to surrender, to trust. He honoured those who trusted Him and people who acted in faith and integrity despite the risks. He used powerful miracles to remind Israel who He was. And long before exile, God had made a promise to David: a King would come from David's line, one who would reign forever and bring a new, restored Kingdom.



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

# Saul

**C. 1050-1010 BC**

The Beginning of the Kingdom

The first king was everything the people desired: tall, courageous and strong. Saul looked the part, a warrior chosen by the people and anointed by God.

But while he had the appearances, he lacked the fortitude of heart. His reign brought military victories, but his failure to align with God's heart ultimately brought problems to him and the nation.

### **COURAGEOUS STEPS SAUL TOOK**

- Defeated the Ammonites.
- Faced stronger, better-equipped armies.
- Trusted David to fight Goliath and save Israel.
- Urged the people to follow God early in his reign.

## FOUNDATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

# David

**C. 1010-970 BC**

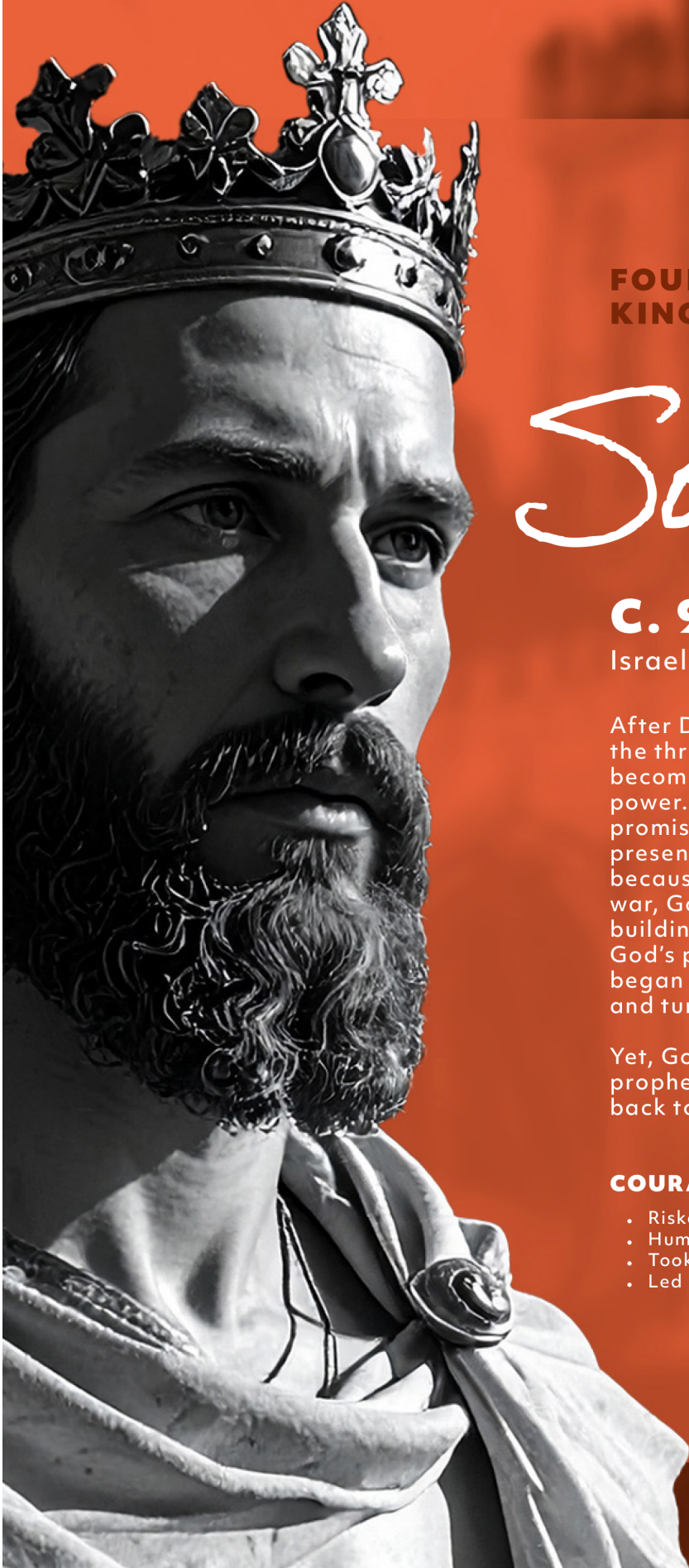
The Ideal King

David was a king after God's own heart. Anointed as a young shepherd boy, David courageously pursued God and was anchored in His love. His reign was the high point of Israel's history as the nation's borders expanded, the economy thrived, and the worship of God stood at the center.

David's reign also had problems, including his sin with Bathsheba, the murder of Uriah, and the brokenness of his family. However, through God's pursuit, David experienced grace and forgiveness.

### COURAGEOUS STEPS DAVID TOOK

- Faced Goliath with only a slingshot and faith.
- Trusted God to fight his battles.
- Honoured Saul at great personal risk.
- Turned back to God through repentance.



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

# Solomon

**C. 970-931 BC**

Israel's Glory Continues

After David's death, his son Solomon took the throne. Under his rule, Israel rose to become a dominant economic and military power. God remained faithful to His promise; as long as they sought Him, His presence would dwell among them. And because Solomon had not been a man of war, God gave him the privilege of building a permanent temple to symbolize God's presence. However, Solomon's heart began to drift amid wealth and splendour and turned to foreign gods.

Yet, God continued to pursue by sending prophets who would bravely call people back to Himself.

### **COURAGEOUS STEPS SOLOMON TOOK**

- Risked civil war to reclaim the throne.
- Humbly asked God for wisdom.
- Took on the massive task of building the temple.
- Led Israel in a powerful prayer of dedication.

# DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

After Solomon's death, his son **Rehoboam** became king. When the people asked him to lighten the heavy burden of taxes, **he refused to listen**. In response, the ten northern tribes broke away and made Jeroboam, another of Solomon's sons, their king.

This division marked a turning point in Israel's history.

The **Northern Kingdom** kept the name **Israel**, while the tribes of **Judah and Benjamin** formed the **Southern Kingdom of Judah**.

## ISRAEL NORTHERN KINGDOM



## JUDAH SOUTHERN KINGDOM





# ISRAEL: THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

**C. 931-722 BC**

The Northern Kingdom quickly turned to idol worship, setting up false gods in places like Bethel and Dan.

They struggled with **instability, spiritual decline, constant power struggles, and assassinations.** Notable kings Ahab and Jezebel promoted the worship of Baal.

**HOWEVER,  
GOD DID NOT  
REMAIN SILENT.**

**HE SENT COURAGEOUS  
PROPHETS LIKE  
ELIJAH, ELISHA, JONAH,  
AMOS, AND HOSEA  
TO CALL THE PEOPLE  
BACK TO HIM.**

Their messages echoed the warnings of Deuteronomy 28: return to God and receive His blessing, or continue in rebellion and face refining judgment.

Despite these calls to repentance, the Northern Kingdom refused to turn back, and in 722 BC, the nation fell to Assyria. The people were deported, and the kingdom was no more.

## ISRAEL NORTHERN KINGDOM



# JUDAH: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM

**C. 931-586 BC**

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had moments of **spiritual renewal and blessings**, but often turned away from God.

Kings like Hezekiah and Josiah led bold reforms, calling the nation back to worship. But other kings, like Manasseh, reversed this course and reintroduced idol worship, leading the people further from God.

**IN RESPONSE, GOD RAISED UP POWERFUL PROPHETS SUCH AS ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, JOEL, MICAH, HABAKKUK, AND OTHERS.**

They urged the people to return to pure worship at the temple and warned that if they did not repent, Babylon would come to refine them.

Despite these prophetic warnings, the people did not fully return. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and carried many into exile, including Daniel, who would become a faithful witness in a foreign land.

## JUDAH SOUTHERN KINGDOM



## COURAGEOUS VOICES OF PROPHETS

In the midst of rebellion and brokenness, God relentlessly pursued his people by sending prophets to bravely speak his word, guide his people, and reveal his will for the present and future.  
Prophets spoke in three key ways:



They **reminded** the people of God's faithfulness and the covenant made at Mount Sinai, a commitment to pursue Him with all their hearts.



They boldly **confronted** disloyalty, exposing disobedience and injustice among the people.



They **warned** of God's response, either blessing or discipline, and pointed to a time of restoration when God would renew the earth as it was in Eden.

## AMIDST THIS, GOD PROMISED:

1. A New Covenant written on hearts, not tablets of stone.
2. A New King who would be righteous and holy.
3. A New Oneness for humanity, uniting all people.

All of these promises were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, who established the new covenant, brought righteousness, and united humanity in His kingdom.