

GOD'S KINGS AND PROPHETS

Scripture: I Samuel-Malachi

Materials Needed:
Visuals for Story/PP

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When the Israelites rejected God as their King in order to be like the other nations, God did not reject them, but gave them David as their king (a man who loved God, trusted God to do what only he could do, and wanted God's name known among the nations).

When David wanted to build a house for God, God instead promised to build an enduring house for David. When David acted like the other nations' kings by committing adultery and counting the people, God did not reject him, but rebuked him through the prophets and used David's repentance as part of His plan.

When the country rejected David's family as king, and went further into idolatry, God did not reject them, but sent prophets and the nations of Assyria, Babylon and Persia, promising to do what only He could do (tell the future), removing idols from them, and bringing salvation to the nations.

To Realize—God is not committed to one's personal plans of accomplishment, effectiveness, or self-greatness, but to demonstrating His glory, to removing idols from His people so that they will love him with an undivided heart, and to bringing His salvation to the world.

To Respond by—repenting of motives and plans for personal accomplishment and self-greatness and instead trusting God to demonstrate His glory, letting go of idols that hinder love, and joining God in bringing His salvation to the world.

Setting up the Story:

Show progress we've made so far by holding up pages from Bible that we've covered from week to week. First week, Gen.1-3. Second week, Gen.4-11. Third week, Gen.12-50. Fourth week, Exodus-Ruth. Today we are going to cover this much—Samuel through Malachi! But in order to do that, we have to understand one important piece of information: the Tower of Babel (quickly review purpose of the Tower of Babel). It's really pretty common to all of us to want to be "successful"; to "leave an impact"; to "have our name known." There is something in each of us that, simply put, wants to be GREAT! That is the Babel plan. It is in the heart of man naturally. But remember that God had something different in Genesis 12: HE was going to make Abraham's name great, and make him into a great nation. And sure enough, Abraham had many descendants, and last week we saw how God gave them his righteous law, and for hundreds of years they struggled in and out of idolatry. Finally, they came to a conclusion about how they were being led.

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Israel Rejects God as King
 - A. After years of failure

 - B. Reject God

 - C. Want a king like the other nations
- II. God Gives them David
 - A. Saul not a man after his own heart

 - B. David loves God
 1. Shepherd

 2. "I delight to do your will."

 3. Goliath
 - a. Trusts God to do it

 - b. Wants God's glory; not personal fame

As you tell the story:

Storytell about Samuel

I Samuel 8:5, 7
What were the other nations like? (show pic of Tower of Babel)
What was at the heart? "We want our name to be great." Even if we don't have plans to be "the greatest" we at least want to feel important. The Israelites wanted to have a chance to have their name be great like the other nations and have those nations respect them.

Mention Saul.
Picture of David: does this look like a king like the other nations? Even though Israel had rejected God, God was still committed to His plan for them. What was that? "Let them go so they can...." (worship me). He wanted them to love Him with an undivided heart, so He gives them a Shepherd who will demonstrate how that looks.

Psalm 23
Psalm 40:8

In fact, David's first opportunity to make a great name for himself came when he was fighting this huge warrior that no one else, not even King Saul, would fight. Certainly if he kills that man, he will be great. But that is NOT David's concern. Why is David willing to go against a warrior like that?

I Sam. 17:37—so that God could do what only God could do. He

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Wants nations to hear 	<p>wants it to be obvious that God had done this; he wants God to get the credit.</p>
<p>I Sam. 17:46—that all the earth may know there is a God in Israel.</p>	<p>I Sam. 17:46—that all the earth may know there is a God in Israel.</p>
<p>He wants God's name to be GREAT.</p>	<p>He wants God's name to be GREAT.</p>
<p>C. Wants to build a House for God</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David in rich house 	<p>When David becomes king, he starts thinking of all his blessings he's enjoying.</p> <p>II Sam. 7:9 Wants to make a house for God. Is this a good desire? Yes!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. God promises David a great name 	<p>But God says "No." Instead—</p> <p>II Samuel 7:9 "I will make your name great." Who does this sound like? (Abraham!)</p> <p>God is committed to do what only HE can do—because He will not share His credit with another.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. God promises an enduring house 	<p>II Sam. 7:16 "Kingdom will endure."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. David accepts with humility 	<p>What is the only thing David can do? Same thing Abraham did: "yes, I accept what you will do for me."</p>
<p>D. Repents of Self-Greatness</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adultery with Bathsheba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophet rebukes b. David cries out c. Solomon is born 	<p>Even though David had a great love for God, there were two times when he was acting like the kings of the other nations. "I'm great. I'm king. I can take whomever I want."</p> <p>God was committed to David loving Him with a pure and undivided heart.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Counting the people 	<p>Why would David want to know</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prophet rebukes b. David cries out c. Place for altar is chosen 	<p>how many people are in his kingdom and how many soldiers he has? He is too old to lead them into battle. "I want to know how great I am." God was committed to David loving Him with an undivided heart; He was not committed to David's plans for self-greatness. God sends the plague. Angel stops with sacrifice. I Chronicles 21:26-22:1 Where was this? Mt.Moriah!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. Israel Rejects David's Family and Goes into Idolatry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. North sets up Golden Calves B. God sends Prophets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foretells the future 2. Promise of a Savior 3. Removes idols C. God Sends other Nations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assyria 722BC Annihilate 2. Babylon 586 BC Assimilate 	<p>God started sending prophets to call His people back to loving Him. But at this same time there were many false prophets who were saying the exact opposite. But God was committed to doing something only HE could do! Isaiah 48:5 (declared them in advance) Isaiah 48:11 God will not share his credit (glory) with another. Isaiah 49:6 (light to the nations) God is committed to bring his Savior to the nations. Jeremiah 31:33 God is committed to his people loving Him with an undivided heart. Briefly storytell. 150 years later— What had the Israelites wanted when they first asked for a king? They wanted a king like the other nations. What do they have? God was not committed to their plan of self-greatness, but what was He committed to? Their undivided love to Him. They</p>

3. Cyrus (Persia)
Accommodate

would not let go of their idols, so God took them to the place of idols, and finally the Israelites let go of making images and bowing to them.

God was also committed to doing what only HE would get the credit for. He brought them back to the land 70 years later. There was no way they could have accomplished that on their own. They were totally out of control; out of power.

D. Malachi= "He is coming!"

After they were back in the land, He sent another prophet to tell what was on His heart.

God was committed to bringing His Savior to the world. 3:1

Concluding the Story:

To want to be successful and have an impact around us is a very natural desire. But God is not committed to our plan to be successful. What is God committed to do?

1. God is committed to doing things that only He can get the credit for doing.
2. God is committed to removing us from the idols of our heart. Those things that keep us from loving Him completely.
3. God is committed to bringing His Savior to the world.

I don't know what frustrations and difficulties you have experienced in your life or have been experiencing lately and you don't know what has been going on in my life. But we can have confidence that the things we are going through is connected to one of or all three of these purposes. God is using the trials and frustrations in our lives in order to do something that he will get the credit for in us or through us. God is refining our love for Him. God will bring His Savior to the nations of the world.

Will you say "yes" to what He is doing in us?

Close in prayer.