

The Old Testament

The world was created by God. He created humans to do His work on earth. Over time the world grew and became one big nation that was overcome by anger and violence.

So, God started over with 1 family and 2 of each animal. After that God made a covenant with a man named Abraham. God said "The land around you is now yours, your family will be a blessing to the entire world". Over time they became a large nation called Israel.

The Egyptians became worried that the growing nation of Israel would come and invade their country so they invaded Israel and enslaved them. Through a great leader named Moses, God led the Israelites in an exodus. Throughout the journey God gave the Israelites laws and commands to guide them on how to live up to God's ways.

After a long time the Israelites finally came back to Israel. In celebration the Israelites worshipped God but soon after they turned against him and started living their own uncontrollable lives. Believing in God and not believing God became a pattern for many many years.

Israel's greatest judge was Samuel. He followed God in all of his ways and spoke as a prophet. He told the Israelites that God was the only King they ever needed, but they did not listen as they wanted to be like the evil and bad nations around them.

They said, "We want a human king who we can see and we want a ruler who can rule over like all the other nations". Eventually Samuel searched the land and found a man named Saul who he thought was worthy of being the new and first one King of Israel.

Saul's reign began well but, eventually he stopped believing in God and made many bad decisions. Samuel said because you have stopped following God, he has rejected you as the king.

Samuel searched for another King and found a young Shepherd named David. When he grew up God blessed him and his kingdom, but David was not perfect. He had an affair with a married woman and committed murder to cover it up. Deep down inside David always loved God and would return to living in His ways.

Known as the poet Warrior, David wrote songs to God called psalms - heartfelt expressions of prayer, struggle and thankfulness. After years of being King, David gave his kingdom to his son Solomon. God also told David one of his descendants will rule a kingdom that never ends.

Solomon has succeeded his father by becoming the richest King in Israel history. Full of God's wisdom he wrote books like proverbs and built a magnificent temple with a permanent tabernacle to show God's continual presence.