

November 19 | Sunday

God's Grand Story: Trusting in God's Promises

Read [Joshua 1:1-9](#)



20 | Mon – Samuel, the last judge | Read [1 Samuel 8:1-9](#) and [verses 19-22](#)

The promise land was conquered. Joshua died and a series of judges led Israel for 450 years. The last one, Samuel, grew old and named his two sons as judges. But they were corrupt and so were rejected. Instead the people demanded that Samuel give them a king, as other nations had. Sad words to Samuel are recorded in verse 7. God's people did not trust God's promises and it changed everything. Has this ever happened to you?

21 | Tue – Saul - no heart for God | Read [1 Samuel 10:1-7](#) and [15:10-34](#)

The first king anointed by Samuel began humbly. Then Saul started to believe his own press. An impatient man, he began to cut corners when called to obedience. Interestingly, Saul said to Samuel on several occasions "...the Lord *your* God." What does that indicate? How do you cultivate your own heart connection with God?

22 | Wed – David - whole heart | Read [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#) and [Acts 13:20-22](#)

Saul tried to kill David after he was chosen by God as the next king. When Saul died in battle, most of the nation rejected David. It would be seven more years before the whole nation accepted him as their king. Many psalms were written during this time. Would those songs/prayers have been written if the road to God's place for David had have been smooth? He was an imperfect person but David was also called a man after God's heart. Was it because he believed in God's goodness and promises even in the face of defeat?

23 | Thu – Solomon - half heart | Read [1 Kings 3:5-14](#) and [4:29-34](#) and [11:1-4](#)

Solomon's humility and love for God resulted in his becoming one of the most famous kings in history, known for his great wisdom and great wealth. Solomon wrote the Proverbs but near the end of his life, he also wrote Ecclesiastes, stating that life apart from God is meaningless. He loved God but loving other things equally sent him into a downward spiral. What might cause your heart to be led away from wholeheartedly living God's way?

24 | Fri – Rehoboam - peer pressure | Read [1 Kings 12:1-20](#)

Solomon's son, Rehoboam, apparently did not take his father's proverbs to heart. When faced with his first significant leadership decision, he defaulted to what his peers thought, instead of older wiser advisors. The result was a divided kingdom. Ten tribes seceded and chose their own king and Rehoboam's kingdom was reduced to two loyal tribes. It was the beginning of the end of Israel as a nation. Even adults are affected by what others think. What decisions face you today?

25 | Sat – Split | Read [1 Kings 12:25-33](#)

The nation of Israel split in two but the spiritual divide was the worst. The southern kingdom (Judah) worshipped in Jerusalem but to keep the northern kingdom (Israel) together, Jeroboam set up new worship places with different gods, different feasts, different rituals. The divided nation began to live separately, sometimes at war with each other, other times as allies, mostly just co-existing. How is Jeroboam's "choose your own religion" style seen in our culture today? Ask God to show you any signs that you might be drifting away from trusting Him.