

1. **Intro:** Faith is obedience motivated by love. Works is belief motivated by fear. This is the main point of the story of the Kings of Israel & Judah
2. Series Overview
  1. An Eternal Rescue Plan - Faith expressed by Moses
  2. History's Delivery Cycle - Faith expressed by Joshua, Rahab & Ruth
  3. Monarchy Over Theocracy - Faith Expressed by David, the prophets, & Josiah - 1085-586 B.C.
3. **Act 1** - Saul, First King of Israel
  1. **Scene 1** Israel demands a king at Ramah, Samuel's Hometown because Samuel's Sons were ineffective Judges
    1. - "Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. "Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."" (1 Samuel 8:9 NAS95)
    2. Samuel quotes from Deut. 17:14-20 and warns them that a king will be oppressive. They refused to listen and demanded a king.
  2. **Scene 2** - Saul is rejected as King for disobedience
    1. "Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night." (1 Samuel 15:10–11 NAS95)
2. **Samuel's Judgment on Saul** - "But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."" (1 Samuel 15:26–29 NAS95)
3. **Concept the role of the prophet** - "Prophets and messengers were sent to urge His claim upon the husbandmen; but, instead of being welcomed, these men of discernment and spiritual power were treated as enemies. The husbandmen persecuted and killed them. God sent still other messengers, but they received the same treatment as the first, only that the husbandmen showed still more determined hatred." - Prophets & Kings Introduction
4. **Scene 3** - A Cave at Engedi where David is hiding from Saul
  1. "The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing

to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed.'" (1 Samuel 24:4-6 NAS95)

2. **Quote** - "Conscience is a safe guide only if illuminated by the light from above. Saul's conscience was darkened, even seared with the hot iron of jealousy and envy (see 1 Tim. 4:2). David's conscience had been under divine training, and, like Paul's, was to a large degree void of offense (Acts 24:16). Having been given the divine unction of spiritual discernment, he had proved himself a true leader. He was not dependent on the customs and traditions of his day, but possessed a knowledge of that which was divinely and intrinsically correct." - SDABC
5. Scene 4 - A Cave in Endor - Saul's death is prophesied by a demon.
  1. 1 Sam. 28:16-20
6. Scene 5 - The Battle of Mount Gilboa where Saul and his sons are slain.
  1. "It came about on the next day when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. They cut off his head and stripped off his weapons, and sent them throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. They put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroath, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan." (1 Samuel 31:8-10 NAS95)
7. **Epilogue on Saul** - "Kingship in Israel had had a poor beginning. Saul had begun his reign as a magnanimous ruler, but his independent spirit drove him into repeated acts of disobedience, which removed him farther and farther from God, and finally brought him to a sad and shameful end." - SDA Bible Dictionary
4. **Act 2** - The Divided Kingdom
  1. **Scene 1** - Ahijah the prophet calls on Jeroboam to lead the Northern tribes -
    1. "but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, even ten tribes. 'But to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name. 'I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. 'Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. 'Thus I will afflict the descendants of David for this, but not always.'" Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon." (1 Kings 11:35-40 NAS95)
  2. **Scene 2** - Solomon Dies & Rehoboam is coronated
  3. **Scene 3** - War Footing between Israel & Judah - God halts the war:
    1. "Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "You must not go up and fight against your relatives the sons of Israel; return every man to his house, for this thing has come from Me.'" So they listened to the word of the LORD, and returned and went their way according

- to the word of the LORD.” (1 Kings 12:21–24 NAS95)
4. **Scene 4** - Jeroboam I is coronated at Shechem and sets up 1 Kings 12:28-33 Idolatry from Dan to Bethel
  5. **Quote** - “It was God’s purpose through the nation of Israel to give a demonstration of the absolute superiority of the God of Israel that would eventually lead all nations to seek after the God of the Hebrews.” - SDABC
  6. **Scene 5** - A man of God prophesies against the altars and foretells of a reformer named Josiah
    1. “He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.’” Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, ‘Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’”” (1 Kings 13:2–3 NAS95)
    2. Fulfilled by Josiah in 2 Kings 22-23
  7. **Scene 6** - The Last King of Israel is defeated and taken captive by the Assyrians
    1. “In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.” (2 Kings 17:6 NAS95)
    2. “Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.” However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.” (2 Kings 17:13–14 NAS95)
  8. **Act 3** - A Prophet Habakkuk announces that Babylon will judge Judah
    1. **Scene 1** - Habakkuk hears from the Lord
      1. ““For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.” (Habakkuk 1:6 NAS95)
    2. **Scene 2** Habakkuk questions God
      1. “Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they? Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?”(Habakkuk 1:13–14 NAS95)
    3. **Scene 3** - The Lord Responds to Habakkuk
      1. “Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.
      2. “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.” (Habakkuk 2:2–4 NAS95)
  9. **Summary** - The period of the Kings of Israel & Judah show us the tragic story of what happens when we let our works are motivated by fear.
    1. Faith is obedience motivated by love. Works is belief motivated by fear. This is the main point of the story of the Kings of Israel & Judah
    2. **Appeal Prayer** - “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not

take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

3. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.” (Psalms 51:10–14 NAS95)