

General Church Education



# The Lord Leads Israel

Genesis-1 Kings

## Lesson 1

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

### Level 6: The Lord Is the Prophet and Preserver

For ages 11-12 years

# The Lord Leads Israel

A Review of Genesis to 1 Kings

## Teacher Background

This lesson reviews the history of Israel from its beginnings in the book of Genesis to the reign of King David. It reminds students of the leaders that the Lord raised up to help people follow Him during this period. First, Moses led the people out of Egypt. Then, when Israel entered the land of Canaan, the Lord raised up judges. This led to much unrest and the people demanded a king. So, the Lord raised up Saul. Upon Saul's death, David was anointed king. The stories in the Old Testament provide a powerful picture of the Lord's infinite love for the human race. At times, the Word portrays the Lord as angry and vengeful. This occurred as people turned away from the Lord.

The books of the Kings are filled with stories in which young people might see the Lord in a negative light. However, teachers can help students see how often the Lord warned people about the consequences of their actions. He continued to work with people despite their choices. Moreover, he always provided a leader for Israel through which He could help them follow Him. He provides the same kind of leadership for us today through His Word.

## Focus Points

- The Lord raised up leaders to help people follow Him.
- The Lord led people through Moses and the judges before raising up kings.
- The Prophets became the spokespersons for the Lord and constantly led people to Him.

## Readings from the Writings

“In the Word there are many places referring to the Jews and Israelites in which their fathers are spoken of in a praiseworthy manner. People who confine themselves to the sense of the letter do not take 'fathers' in those places to mean anybody other than Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and also the sons of Jacob. But in the internal sense 'fathers', in a good sense, is used to mean not them but those who belonged to the Most Ancient Church which existed before the Flood and those who belonged to the Ancient Church which existed after the Flood. Members of both were called 'fathers' because the Church came down from them and things of the Church were derived from them.” *Arcana Coelestia* 6075

“The Lord leads everyone who receives Him. People who receive Him live in accordance with the laws of Divine order, or the precepts of love and of faith. Every person is born for heaven, and he that is received receives heaven in himself in the world. He that does not receive it is shut out.” *Heaven and Hell* 420

## Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

### Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.” (1 Kings 2:3)

### Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Review Questions

Answer each question by writing a sentence.

Review Activity: Leaders of Israel

Cut out the names of people who led Israel and sort them into Governors, Priests and Prophets.

### Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. The lines for Saul and David are completed for you as an example. Many of the attributes of kings that are noted concern whether a king is righteous or not. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

The Ten Commandments

This activity reminds students of the importance of the Ten Commandments as the basis for all truths of the Lord’s Word. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-the-ten-commandments-exodus-20.pdf>

Covenants

Learn more about the meaning and purpose of covenants by answering questions and completing a chart. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-covenants-genesis-17-22-joshua-1-1-samuel-12.pdf>

# The Lord Leads Israel

## A review lesson: Genesis to 2 Samuel

### Vocabulary

**bondage**—slavery, captivity

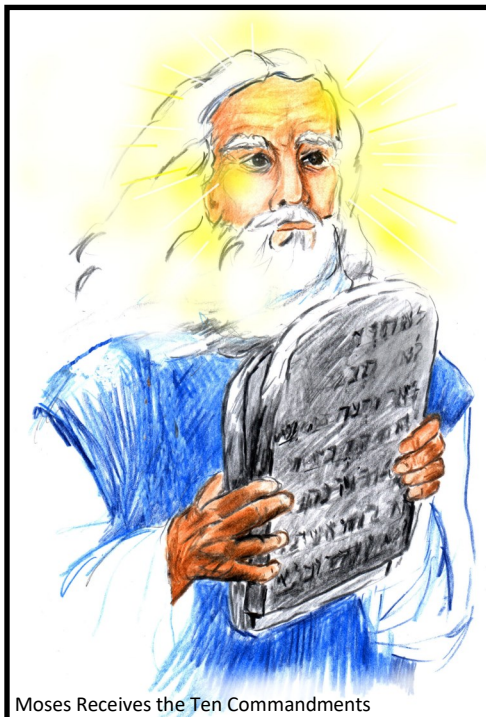
**misuse**—to use something for the wrong purpose

Throughout history the Lord has provided ways for people to know and follow Him. The most important ways have been His revelations. These include the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church, or the Writings. The Lord has also given people leaders who listen to Him and who teach others to keep His ways.

### Good Leaders Help People Follow the Lord

To begin with, the Lord taught people Himself and gave them a quality called perception. This allowed them to know whether or not something was good and true. He also taught people through angel messengers, dreams and visions. So people knew what the Lord wanted them to do and did not know about evil. Fathers led their families and helped them follow the Lord.

Later, people lived in family tribes. The tribes were led by patriarchs, such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Lord made covenants with Abraham and his descendants and promised that their family would become a great nation if they led their people in the way of the Lord. Although it took a long time for this promise to be fulfilled, the Lord achieved this through His revelations and through leaders of His choice. The great nation was called Israel. Israel consisted of the twelve tribes of Jacob. The Old Testament tells the story of this nation.



Moses Receives the Ten Commandments

### Moses Leads the Children of Israel

When Israel was enslaved in Egypt, it looked as though the covenant could not be kept. However, the Lord called Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage to the promised land. Although Moses did not think he could do such a difficult thing, the Lord helped him to become one of the greatest leaders in the Word. Moses led the people as a priest—a religious leader, as a prophet—a spokesperson for the Lord, and as governor—a ruler of the people. Under Moses' leadership, the children of Israel were led through the wilderness to a land of plenty and a life of potential prosperity. During this journey the Lord gave the Ten Commandments, the most important document in the history of the world.

### **The Lord Raises up Judges to Lead the Israelites**

After moving into the land of Canaan, the people of Israel did not always remember to walk in the Lord's way and follow His Ten Commandments. So the Lord raised up judges to lead Israel back to Him.

When the judges were no longer effective leaders the Lord raised up a faithful prophet named Samuel. Samuel lived with Eli the high priest as a young boy and became a priest. Yet, since Eli's sons disobeyed the commandments, the Lord chose Samuel as the next priest. However, Samuel not only became a priest but also governed Israel as a prophet and a judge.

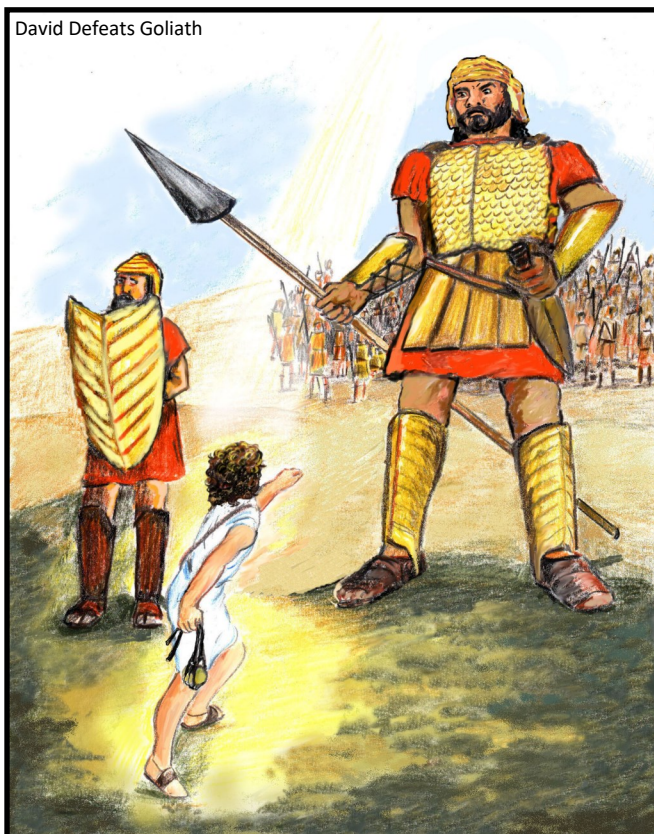
### **The Lord Gives Israel a King**

Samuel's sons disobeyed the commandments and misused their priestly roles. Therefore, the people demanded a king. Samuel warned the people of the power a king might have, and of the ways this power might be abused, but the people insisted on having a king. So the Lord said to Samuel,

“Heed their voice, and make them a king.” (1 Samuel 8:22)

The Lord told Samuel to anoint Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, as the first king. The people were happy, but Samuel knew that by choosing a king the children of Israel had rejected the Lord. The Lord was supposed to be their King. The people were supposed to trust a priest to lead them. Samuel warned the people not to turn aside from the Lord. He said,

“If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord. However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you as it was against your fathers.” (1 Samuel 12:14, 15)



Saul had the potential to be a good king, but he did not listen to Samuel. He made an unlawful sacrifice and took spoils from battle he had been told to destroy. Although Saul apologized, the Lord made Samuel aware that Saul was no longer able to lead the people to the Lord. Samuel warned Saul once more, then left him.

### **David Is Chosen to Be the Next King**

While Samuel was mourning Saul's choices, the Lord told him to anoint a new king. The Lord chose David, the son of Jesse. However, David could not become king until Saul had

been removed. The Philistines had troubled Israel for several years. David challenged and then killed Goliath, a Philistine warrior, using a sling-shot. Whereas David was a youth without armor or a sword, Goliath was an experienced fighter, with armor and weapons. After this, David lived with Saul. David was a successful and popular warrior. People began to compare David and Saul. Eventually, Saul saw David as a rival and threatened him. So Saul's son Jonathan helped David flee for his life.

For some years David and his followers hid from Saul. David did everything he could not to harm Saul. David knew that the Lord had chosen him to be the next king, but he did not want to gain the throne by killing Saul, the Lord's anointed.

### **Saul Dies and David Becomes King**

Saul continued to fight the Philistines but became wounded in battle. He did not want a Philistine to kill him, so he fell on his sword. You might imagine that David would be overjoyed to know his enemy was finally dead, but David grieved for Saul.

David soon became king over Judah, but Saul's followers in the rest of Israel fought against him. However, when the captain of Israel's army and one of Saul's sons were killed, the elders anointed David king over all Israel. For much of his reign, David followed the Lord. Consequently, Israel prospered. David wanted to build a temple to house the Ark, but the Lord told him He did not need a house to dwell in and that He would establish David's house forever.

### **Prophets**

When David began to turn from the Lord, the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to help him see his errors. Sadly, most kings in the Word did not choose a righteous path. So, when they could no longer lead people in the Lord's path, the Lord raised up more prophets to speak for Him. To this point, the Lord was continually giving the leaders and the people chances to choose well.

The role of the prophets was very important. They taught people what the Lord wanted of them and warned people what would happen if they did not obey. They also anticipated a time when people would forget the lessons of revelation so completely that only the presence of the Lord on earth would restore people's freedom to know about Him and to follow Him.

The message of the prophets remains true today. As long as we listen to the Lord and follow His leadership, we will be truly happy. Though we may not find worldly wealth or great earthly fame and power, we will find ourselves ready to live in the promised land—heaven—forever.



The Prophet Elijah

## Activity Overview

### Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.” (1 Kings 2:3)

### Projects and Activities (answers at back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Review Questions

Answer each question by writing a sentence.

Review Activity: Leaders of Israel

Cut out the names of people who led Israel and sort them into Governors, Priests and Prophets.

## Review Questions

Genesis to 1 Kings

1. How did people in the Most Ancient Church learn about the Lord and how to follow Him?
2. What was the Lord's covenant did with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
3. When was the Lord's covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob realized?
4. In what capacity did Moses lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness?
5. At what time in the history of Israel did the Lord raise up judges as leaders?
6. Why did the Lord appoint kings instead of judges?
7. What leaders did the Lord raise up when the kings were no longer helping people to follow the Lord?
8. What were the main messages of the leaders who were raised up after the kings?
9. What qualities should a person look for in a leader to help them follow the Lord?



## Leaders of Israel

A review activity: Genesis to 2 Samuel

Many different leaders of Israel are mentioned throughout this lesson. The first people mentioned are the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—whose name was changed to Israel. The nation of Israel was formed from the descendants of Jacob’s twelve sons. As the nation of Israel grew and changed, the type of leader that the Lord put over Israel also changed.

At the bottom of this page are the names of some of those leaders. Please cut them out along the dotted lines and put them into historical order. Finally, using the chart below, put each name into the category of leader in which they belong. Moses, the first leader of Israel, would go into all three categories.

| <b>Governor</b><br><small>Judge/Military leader/King</small> | <b>Priest</b> | <b>Prophet</b> |
|--|---------------|----------------|
|  |               |                |

|               |                |               |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Moses</b>  | <b>Solomon</b> | <b>Joshua</b> |
| <b>Samson</b> | <b>David</b>   | <b>Gideon</b> |
| <b>Aaron</b>  | <b>Samuel</b>  | <b>Nathan</b> |
|               | <b>Saul</b>    |               |

# Answers

## Lesson 1

### Questions

1. The Lord spoke to hem face to face.
2. They learned from the Lord and the angels.
3. They would become a great nation.
4. When the nation of Israel was established.
5. Moses led the people as a priest and prophet.
6. The Lord raised up prophets when Israel occupied the land of Canaan.
7. Samuel's sons were corrupt, and the people asked for a king.
8. Prophets.
9. The prophets led the kings back to the Lord.
10. We should listen to the Lord.

### Leaders of Israel

Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Samuel, Saul, David, Nathan, Solomon.