

Study Guide for
DAVID & SOLOMON:
EXPANDING THE KINGDOM

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Based on the Ignatius Bible, RSV Catholic edition and
the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition

[Pages are formatted at 8" x 5" with a type font size of 9 points]

CHAPTER 1: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Joshua and the Israelites conquered most of the land of Canaan which God had promised to their father Abraham. God was their king and for over 325 years he worked through mediators—called judges. Wanting a human king like the other nations, the people rejected God as their king. Samuel the prophet anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. Saul was a mighty warrior but he had a hollow, disobedient heart toward God, so God chose another man to replace Saul—a young shepherd boy from Bethlehem named David. He had a whole heart for God and Samuel secretly anointed him as king. Goliath and the Philistines defied the God of Israel and David bravely killed the giant with a sling stone. David's life would never be the same.

Questions for further discussion and study:

1. What did God promise to give to Abraham and his descendants (Gen 15:7, 18-21; Acts 7:5)? How long did the descendants of Abraham suffer as slaves in Egypt and wander as nomads in the wilderness (Gen 15:13; Ex 12:40; Num 32:13; Acts 7:36)? Read how Joshua brought the Israelites into the Promised Land (Josh 1–4). What was the extent of the land (Judg 20:1)? After the Israelites arrived in the Promised Land, where did Joshua place the Ark of the Covenant (Josh 18:1)?

2. What do we know about Samuel's parents and his birth (1 Sam 1:1-28)? How did holy women like Hannah prepare for the mission of Mary (CCC 489)? What did Samuel learn from a young age (CCC 2578)? Hannah and Mary both rejoiced in response to their sons; compare the prayer of Hannah with the *Magnificat* of Mary (1 Sam 2:1-10; Lk 1:46-55). Do you think Mary had Hannah's prayer memorized? How did the boy Samuel first meet God (1 Sam 3:1-18, 21)?

John Paul II wrote: "The song of thanksgiving that sprang from the lips of this mother [Hannah] would be taken up again and rephrased by another mother, Mary, who, remaining a virgin, gave birth by the power of the Spirit of God. Indeed, in the *Magnificat* of Jesus' mother one perceives the canticle of Anna [Hannah] which, precisely because of this, is called "the Magnificat of the Old Testament" (General Audience, March 20, 2002).

3. What did everyone know about Samuel (1 Sam 3:19-20)? Of what was Samuel the last and the first (Acts 13:20, 3:24)? What does Scripture testify about Samuel (Ps 99:6; Sir 46:13-20; Heb 11:32)? After entering the Promised Land, where did Joshua place the Ark of the Covenant (Josh 18:1)?

4. Israel already had a king—who was he (1 Sam 8:7)? What did the Israelites want (1 Sam 8:4-6, 19-20)? How did God respond to their foolish demands (1 Sam 8:7-10, 21-22; Acts 13:21)? By god's command, who did Samuel chose to be the king (1 Sam 19:1–1 Sam 20:1)? When it came time to present the new king, where was he hiding (1 Sam 10:22)? What were Saul's physical characteristics (1 Sam 9:2)? What tribe was King Saul from

and what other man named Saul was from the same tribe (1 Sam 9:21; Rom 11:1; see Rom 1:1)?

5. As the first king of Israel, how did Saul start out (1 Sam 11:12-15; 13:4)? How did he end up and why did God reject him (1 Chron 10:13-14; 1 Sam 13:11-14; 15:11, 23)? What did Saul do and what did Samuel say (1 Sam 15:24-28)? Who did Saul visit and what was the result (1 Sam 28:3-25)? How did King Saul meet his end (1 Sam 31:1-13)? How did David respond to Saul's death (2 Sam 1:11-12)?

6. Long before Saul actually died, where did God send the Prophet Samuel to find a successor for King Saul (1 Sam 16:1)? How was young David discovered (1 Sam 16:4-11; 17:12)? Who were David's great grandparents and what biblical book tells their story (Mt 1:5-6; Ruth 4:16-22)? Many years earlier, who had been buried in Bethlehem (Gen 35:16-20; 48:7)? What was prophesied about Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-4; Mt 2:4-6; Jn 7:42)? Who was later born in Bethlehem (Mt 2:8-11; Lk 2:4-7)?

7. What was the Prophet Samuel to take with him to Bethlehem (1 Sam 16:1)? What was oil used for (1 Sam 10:1; 16:1, 13; 1 Kings 1:9; 2 Kings 9:3)? What did the oil represent (CCC 695)? How was it applied (1 Sam 10:1; Ps 23:5; 133:2)? How does the anointing of David as king prefigure the anointing of Jesus Christ as king (1 Sam 16:13; Acts 10:38; CCC 436)? What came mightily upon both of them at the time of anointing?

8. Read Psalm 23 which David probably wrote while tending his father's sheep. What other Old Testament heroes were shepherds (Gen 13:2, 5; Ex 3:1)? What was prophesied about Jesus Christ (Is 40:11; Ezek 34:23-24)? How does Jesus refer to himself (Jn 10:11, 14)? What was David's experience with lions and bears (1 Sam 7:34-36; Sirach 47:3)? Can you imagine how courageous young David was to alone in the fields night and day?

9. Who and what are bishops of the Catholic Church (1 Pet 5:1-4; CCC 754, 862, 1560)? What is the office and job of the bishop (CCC 893, 1575, 1586)? What does the bishop's *crozier* (shepherd's staff) represent (CCC 1574)? How should a shepherd care for each of his sheep (Matt 18:12)? What did St. Paul say to bishops about wolves and the flock of God (Acts 20:27-31; CCC 861)? What do we know about the devil, and how must we react (1 Pet 5:8-9; CCC 409)? How should bishops and pastors react?

10. After being secretly anointed as king, how was David occupied (1 Sam 17:12-19)? How did David serve King Saul (1 Sam 16:14-23)? Where were David's oldest brothers (1 Sam 17:1-3)? Who was the "heavyweight champion" of the Philistines who defied God and challenged the army of Israel (1 Sam 17:4-11)? What did David see when he visited his brothers in the Elah Valley (1 Sam 17:20-25)? Did the Israelites have swords and armor (1 Sam 13:11-22)? What did David say and how did his brothers react (1 Sam 17:26-30)?

11. How was King Saul convinced to let David fight the giant Goliath (1 Sam 17:31-40)? What did the giant say when the boy David came out to fight him—how did David respond (1 Sam 17:41-47)? What did David do and what happened to Goliath and the Philistines (1 Sam 17:48-54; Sir 47:4-5)? Were slings common weapons in Israel (Judg 20:16)?

St. Augustine remarked that David desired to go to battle in the lightest possible armor, strong in the Lord, not in himself; armed with faith, not with steel (*Sermon 32*).

Chapter 2: Claiming the Kingdom

God left Saul and came mightily upon David. David was brought to Saul's palace to play his lyre (harp), thereby soothing King Saul's recurring madness. Young David rose to fame as a great warrior. Saul felt threatened by God's blessing on David and in jealous rages tried to kill him. With the help of Jonathan, the heir to Saul's throne, David fled for his life living as a refugee in his own land for almost 15 years. He often lived in caves with his men, hiding in places such as Adullam, Engedi and the Wilderness of Ziph. Because of Saul's disobedience to God he was defeated by the Philistines and died at his own hand. David was anointed in Hebron as the king of Judah and seven years later anointed again as king of all Israel. He moved north and conquered Jebus for his capital, the city known today as Jerusalem.

Questions for further discussion and study:

1. Considering that *ruddy* means "red", what might David have looked like (1 Sam 16:12; 17:42)? Was *ruddiness* a desirable trait (Song 5:10; Lam 4:7)? What were other qualities David possessed (1 Sam 16:18; 2 Sam 23:1)? What did David write and sing (2 Sam 23:1; Lk 20:42; CCC 2579)? What happened to King Saul (1 Sam 16:14-15)? How did Saul relieve his condition (1 Sam 16:16-17, 23)? What position was given to David (1 Sam 16:19-21)?

2. Where did Saul live (1 Sam 10:26)? Where did David usually live and eat (1 Sam 20:24-27)? Who became best friends with David (1 Sam 18:1-4)? Why would it be unusual for the king's firstborn son to help David (1 Sam 20:30-31; 23:17)? What reputation did David earn for himself (1 Sam 18:5-7, 14, 16)? How did Saul respond to David's success (1 Sam 18:8-12, 15; 19:9, 11)? What did David do to save his life (1 Sam 19:10-12)?

3. For the next 10-15 years, David was on the run for his life. After hiding in various places, at which of his favorite hideouts did David finally end up (1 Sam 22:1; 2 Sam 23:13)? What was the "nickname" for the cave of Adullam (1 Chron 11:15-16)? Who joined David (1 Sam 22:2)? Read Psalm 57 which was likely written by David from the cave of Adullam. If you pray the *Liturgy of the Hours*, check for this Psalm on Thursdays of week one and week two.

4. David's life is full of types prefiguring Christ and the Church. What is typology and how does it help us understand the Bible, especially about Christ (CCC 128-130; 1094)? Where does the New Testament mention and utilize typology (Rom 5:14; Gal 4:24-28; Heb 9:8-9; 11:19)? David went in and out of the cave and later became king—how might this be a foreshadowing or picture of Christ?

In his commentary on Psalm 57—the Psalm from the Cave—St. Augustine sees this cave as a type representing the tomb where Christ was buried and from which he later emerged to become king” (Augustine: *Expositions on the Book of Psalms, Psalm 57*).

4. At this time, Samuel died (1 Sam 25:1). Where else did David hide from King Saul's army and for what was this location known (1 Sam 23:29; 24:1-2)? What did David do to Saul while in a cave in En-gedi (1 Sam 24:3-12)? What do we know about David's "Mighty Men" (1 Chron 11:20-25; 2 Sam 23:13-18)? Read the title for Psalm 142—where was it written? Imagine writing this Psalm while running for your life. John Paul II wrote:

Christian tradition has applied Psalm 142 to the suffering and persecuted Christ. In this perspective, the luminous goal of the Psalm's supplication is transfigured in a paschal sign, which is based on the glorious outcome of the life of Christ and of our destiny of resurrection with him (General Audience, Nov. 12, 2003).

5. On the run again, where next did David hide from King Saul? (1 Sam 23:14-15; 26:2; 2 Chron 11:8)? How many men now followed David (1 Sam 23:13-14)? What did David write at this time (see title for Psalm 54). Sneaking up on Saul at night, what did David do (1 Sam 26:1-13)? How did David chide Abner, Saul's commander-in-chief (1 Sam 26:14-16)? How did the king respond (1 Sam 26:17-25)? Why did David refuse to harm Saul (1 Sam 24:6-10; Ps 105:15)? Was David familiar with camels (1 Sam 27:9)?

6. At this time, what did Saul do (1 Sam 28:1-25)? What happened to Saul and his sons (1 Sam 31:1-13; 1 Chron 10:1-14)? How did David respond to Saul and Jonathan's death (2 Sam 1:17-27)? After Saul's death, what did the people of Hebron do (2 Sam 2:1-4)? What does *anointing* symbolize—what does it mean (CCC 436, 695)? Who had been buried in Hebron years earlier (Gen 23:2; 25:8-10; 35:27-29; 49:29-33; 50:13)?

7. After the civil war ended between the north and south, who *else* anointed David as their king (2 Sam 3:1; 5:1-3)? David did not conquer his brother Israelites in the north by war. How was this similar to the way Jesus "conquers the Daughter of Zion, a figure of the Church" (CCC 559)? How old was David when he became king (2 Sam 5:4)? How long was David king in Hebron and how long over all of Israel (2 Sam 5:5)?

8. By what names was Jerusalem known before it was called Jerusalem (Gen 14:18; 1 Chron 11:4)? Who lived there before David conquered it (2 Sam 5:6-7)? How did David and his men enter Jebus to capture it (2 Sam 5:8)? What happened after David conquered the city (2 Sam 5: 9-10)?

Chapter 3: After God's Own Heart

David and his men entered Jebus through a water shaft and conquered the city which he named Jerusalem. From his new capital, he expanded the kingdom of Israel. He brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem but was not allowed to build a house for God. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah. David confessed his sins and Nathan absolved him but pronounced God's judgment. The king married Bathsheba who bore him Solomon. David's son Absalom declared war against his father and brought grief to Israel until his untimely death. David recovered his kingdom, lived to a ripe old age full of God's favor and blessing. Even though he fell into sin at times, David had a whole heart for God and Scripture says he was a man after God's own heart. He died and was buried in the city of David.

Questions for further discussion and study:

1. From the first book of the Bible to the last, Jerusalem is very important (e.g., Gen 14:18, called "Salem"; Rev 21:10). What does *salem* mean, as in *Jeru-salem* (Heb 7:2)? Jerusalem is still important today, especially to the three major monotheistic religions—Jews, Christians and Muslims. These three religions make up well over half of the world's population, all claiming the faith of Abraham. When David conquered this city 3,000 years ago how did he impact world history?
2. How did David perceive his new position over the united kingdom (2 Sam 5:9-10, 12)? David conquered surrounding lands, formed alliances, and expanded the kingdom of Israel. Was Israel a kingdom or a democracy? Is the Church a democracy or a kingdom (Mt 16:17-19; Acts 8:12; Rev 1:5; CCC 541, 570, 763, 1546)? Notice the early Eucharistic history of Jerusalem (Gen 14:17-20; Heb 7:1-3; CCC 1333, 1544).
3. After the Ark of the Covenant had been taken from Shiloh, what happened to it (1 Sam 4:10-11; 6:1-28)? After its return, where was the Ark of the Covenant kept (1 Sam 6:29-7:2; *Note*: Kiriath-jearim is the modern city of Abu Ghosh)? What did David do with the ark (2 Sam 6:1-5; 1 Chron 13:3-8)? What happened to Uzzah when he touched the holy ark (2 Sam 6:6-11; 1 Chron 13:9-14)? Where did the Ark finally rest (2 Sam 6:12; 2 Chron 1:4)? How did this fulfill the words of God through Moses (Deut 12:5-11; *cp.* 2 Chron 7:12)?
4. What was contained within the Ark of the Covenant (Deut 10:3-5; Heb 9:4; CCC 2058)? What was contained within Mary's womb—the Ark of the New Covenant (Mt 1:23; Lk 1:35; Jn 1:1, 14; CCC 2676)?

4. Find the parallels between the Old Testament Ark and the New Testament Ark in 2 Samuel 6 and Luke 1. Compare 2 Sam 6:2-4 with Lk 1:39 (both in the hill country in Judea); 2 Sam 6:14 with Lk 1:41; 2 Sam 6:9 with Lk 1:43; and 2 Sam 6:11 with Lk 1:56. Discuss how Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant and how Christians should honor her. Did the Israelites worship the Ark of the Covenant or God's special presence above the Ark? Do Catholics worship Mary and images or God alone (Deut 6:13-15; CCC 149, 972, 2096, 2132)? Discuss the difference between *veneration* and *worship*.
6. What did David do in the presence of the ark (2 Sam 6:12:-23; 1 Chron 15:26-16:3)? The ephod was worn by what class of men (Ex 24:8; 1 Sam 2:18; 22:18)? What was David wearing (2 Sam 6:14)? What else did David do (2 Sam 6:17)? King David was also known as what (Acts 2:29-30; CCC 2579)? Who ultimately fulfilled the three Old Testament offices of prophet, priest and king (CCC 436, 783)? Who else partakes of these three offices (CCC 783-786, 1546)? Who represents Christ in these three offices in a special way (CCC 1547-1548, 1581)?
7. Into what lineage was Jesus born (Mt 1:1-17; Lk 2:4; CCC 437)? From where does the Catholic Church find its roots (Rom 11:1-24; CCC 60)?
8. One spring when David stayed back from battle, what did he see (2 Sam 11:1-2)? What evil did David do (2 Sam 11:3-4)? What resulted from David's sin (2 Sam 11:5)? What did David do to the woman's husband (2 Sam 11:6-26)? How many mortal sins was David now guilty of and who was responsible for his sins (CCC 1736)? What did David then do with Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:27)?
9. What did Nathan the Prophet say to David and how did the king respond (2 Sam 12:1-6; CCC 2538)? How did God respond to David's sin (2 Sam 12:7-12)? How did David confess his sins and how was he absolved from two mortal sins (2 Sam 12:13-14)? How can this be viewed as a prefiguring of the sacrament of reconciliation (CCC 1480-81)? What is the sacrament of reconciliation (CCC 1422-1424)? Where did Jesus give priests the authority to forgive and retain sins (Jn 20:23; Jas 5:14-15; CCC 1444)? Notice the title of Psalm 51. What was David's interior attitude concerning his sins (Ps 51)?
10. What happened to the child (2 Sam 12:15-23)? What happened next—who was born (2 Sam 12:24-25)? Because of David's sin, what came to David's house (2 Sam 12:10-12)? What happened to David's son Amnon after he raped David's daughter Tamar (2 Sam 13:1-39)? What happened to David because of the treachery of Absalom (2 Sam 15:6, 10-13)? What did David do in response (2 Sam 15:13-16)?
11. Where did David go and what did he do there (2 Sam 15:30)? Does this remind you of someone else weeping and in distress on the Mount of

Olives (Mt 26:30, 37-49; Lk 19:37-41)? What close friend ate bread with Jesus and then betrayed him (Jn 13:18, 21-30; 18:1-5)? Who betrayed David in a similar way (1 Chron 27:33; 2 Sam 15:12, 31)? Jesus quoted David's Psalm 41 which is believed to refer to this betrayal (Ps 41:9; Jn 13:18). After his betrayal, what did David's betrayer do (2 Sam 17:23)? What did Judas do (Mt 27:3-5)? Considering both situations, what are the parallels between them both? How did Absalom meet his end (2 Sam 18:9-17)?

12. What did David want to build for God (2 Sam 7:1-3; 1 Chron 28:2; Acts 7:46)? What did God say through Nathan (2 Sam 7:4-17; 1 Chron 17:3-15)? Why was David not allowed to build the temple (1 Chron 22:8; 28:2-3)? What did David do then (1 Chron 22:1-5)? Who would eventually build a house for God (1 Chron 28:4-6; Acts 7:47; CCC 2580)?

13. How many years had David ruled as king (1 Kings 2:11)? How old was King David when he died (2 Sam 5:4-5)? What does the Bible say about his death (1 Chron 29:28-30)? Where was King David buried (1 Kings 2:10)? Two thousand years later, what did Peter say about David's death (Acts 2:29)? As a prophet, what did David know in advance (Acts 2:30-36)? What were David's last words (1 Sam 23:1-7; 1 Kings 2:1-9)?

14. Even though he had sinned, David loved God with a humble and obedient heart. How is he remembered (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22; CCC 2579)? How does Scripture eulogize David (Sir 47:1-11)?

Chapter 4: Son of David

David appointed Solomon to succeed him. Solomon rode the king's mule to the Spring of Gihon where he was anointed as king. After assuming the throne Solomon killed those who threatened his reign and raised his mother to his right hand as Queen Mother. He then prayed for wisdom and God made him the wisest of all men. Dignitaries, including the Queen of Sheba, came from afar to admire his wisdom and understanding. After Solomon built a temple for God, God descended in fire and his presence remained over the Ark of the Covenant. Solomon expanded the empire and fortified its cities. But, unlike his father David, Solomon married hundreds of foreign wives and with their pagan gods they corrupted the true religion of Israel. Solomon played the fool and worshiped idols. His betrayal angered God who promised that the kingdom would be torn from the hands of his son. After reigning for forty years Solomon died and the northern ten tribes rebelled against his son Rehoboam and the kingdom was divided.

Questions for further discussion and study:

1. Who tried to grab the throne before David died (1 Kings 1:5, 22-27)? What did David do (1 Kings 1:28-35)? What three steps were quickly taken to establish Solomon as king (1 Kings 1:38-40, 44-46)? What happened to Adonijah (1 Kings 1:50-53; 2:23-25)?

2. On what did Solomon ride (1 Kings 1:33)? What did the people do and say (1 Kings 1:39-40)? What does this remind you of (Mt 21:7-10; Jn 12:12-15; CCC 559)? What had been prophesied about the coming Messiah (Zech 9:9)? When the Jews saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem, should they have thought of Solomon and realized Jesus was the Son of David—the Messiah?

3. Who assumed the throne of King David (2 Chron 1:1)? Who ultimately fulfilled the messianic title of “Son of David” (Mt 21:9; 22:41-46, Rom 1:3; CCC 439, 1831, 2579, 2616)?

4. After executing his nearest enemies, what did King Solomon do when his mother entered the throne room (1 Kings 2:19)? Who and what did he place at his right hand? Though he only had one mother, how many wives did Solomon amass (1 Kings 11:3)? Notice it was not wives but mothers that ruled with their royal sons (1 Kings 15:13; 2 Kings 10:13; Jer 13:18; 29:2).

5. Where did Jesus go after he ascended into the clouds (Acts 1:9-11), and what position was he given (Dan 7:13-14)? Whose throne did Jesus inherit (Isa 9:6-7; Lk 1:30-33)? As the ultimate Jewish king, who would you expect King Jesus to appoint as *his* queen (Rev 12:1)? Notice that what the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ (CCC 487). Based in part on Jewish custom and biblical history, what does the Church teach about Mary (CCC 966)?

6. Rabbinic tradition suggests that Solomon was only twelve years old (cp. 1 Kings 3:7) when he became king over millions of people and some of the most valuable real estate in the world. What did young Solomon ask of God (2 Chron 1:7-10; cp. 1 Kings 3:5-9)? What did God grant to Solomon in return (2 Chron 1:11-13; cp. 1 Kings 3:10-15)? What was the result of God’s blessing (1 Kings 4:29-34; Sir 47:14-18)? As a judge, how was Solomon’s wisdom once demonstrated (1 Kings 3:16-28)? To whom does real wisdom in its fullness belong (CCC 1831)?

Wisdom is a true knowledge of God *and* a proper understanding of all things in their relationship to him. Or as John Paul II said, “‘Wisdom’ is not simple intelligence or practical ability, but rather participation in the very mind of God who ‘in his wisdom has established man’. It is, therefore, the capacity to penetrate the profound meaning of being, of life and of history, going beyond the surface of things and events to discover the ultimate meaning, willed by the Lord” (John Paul II, *Address on Solomon’s Prayer in Wisdom 9*, Jan 29, 2003).

7. Who came to see the wisdom and riches of Solomon and what did she find (1 Kings 10:1-13; 2 Chron 9:1-12)? How did Jesus refer to this Queen’s visit (Mt 12:42)? What did Jesus mean (CCC 590)? David is a type of the suffering Christ—Solomon of the glorified Christ. How is Jesus greater than Solomon (Col 1:13-20; 2:9; CCC 241)?

8. Which books in the Bible were written by Solomon (Prov 1:1; 10:1; 25:1; Eccles 1:1, 12; Song 1:1; CCC 283)? Read the two Psalms written by Solomon (Ps 72, 127). What could Solomon recite (1 Kings 4:32)?

9. Where did Solomon build the temple and why was the site already well known (2 Chron 3:1; cp. Gen 22:1-4)? What did Abraham name the place that would someday be named Jerusalem (Gen 22:11-14)? Where was Jesus, the only begotten Son offered as the ultimate sacrifice (CCC 423)? At Mount Moriah, what did Abraham and God have in common and how were they different (Jn 3:16; CCC 2572)? The golden-topped Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem is standing today where Solomon's temple once stood.

10. Did God dwell in a tent or a temple (Ex 25:8-9; 40:34-38; 1 Chron 6:48; Acts 7:36-47)? Can the infinite God actually be confined to a man-made temple (1 Kings 8:27; 1 Chron 28:2; 2 Chron 2:6; Acts 7:48-50)? Explain how they can both be true.

11. Who drew up plans and gathered the material for the temple (2 Chron 28:11-20; 29:1-5)? When did Solomon begin construction (1 Kings 6:1)? What special wood was used for building the temple and where was it from (1 Kings 5:6-10; 7:2)? How many men worked on the temple (1 Kings 5:13-18)? Notice the unusual way the temple was built (1 Kings 6:7)? What did God promise to Solomon (1 Kings 6:11-13)?

12. What did Solomon do with the Ark of the Covenant (1 Kings 8:4-7)? What happened after the ark was placed in the Holy of Holies (1 Kings 8:10-11)? Remember when this had happened before (Ex 40:33-38)? What did the cloud represent (CCC 697)? Notice other occurrences when God's glory is represented by a cloud (Ex 13:21; 24:15-18; Num 16:42; Dan 7:13; Mt 17:5; Lk 21:27; Acts 1:9-12; Rev 14:14).

13. Read Solomon's address to his people (1 Kings 8:12-21). Read his beautiful prayer of dedication (1 Kings 8:22-61)? How does the Church explain the Temple and Solomon's prayer (CCC 2580)? Solomon's prayer resembles which prayer of Jesus (Jn 17:1-26)? What happened when Solomon concluded his prayer (2 Chron 7:1-3)? Notice how Solomon, like his father David, acted as prophet, priest and king, prefiguring the future Son of David—Jesus Christ. In God's second appearance to Solomon, what was his promise and his warning (1 Kings 9:1-9)?

14. Solomon's kingdom was united and expanding. Along with Jerusalem, what cities did Solomon fortify (1 Kings 9:15)? Gezer was strategically located along the Via Maris, the trade route between Mesopotamia and Egypt—its massive gate foundations can still be seen today. Solomon should have used this caravan route to spread the news of Israel's God, but instead he allowed Israel to become corrupted by foreign deities. We stand at the

crossroads of civilizations. What should be our task as baptized Christians (CCC 848,905)?

15. How did Solomon acquire the city of Gezer (1 Kings 9:16-17; cp. 1 Kings 3:1)? How many and what kind of women did Solomon marry (1 Kings 11:1-3)? What had God commanded about marrying foreign wives (Deut 7:4; 1 Kings 11:2; 17:17)? Though David did not exclusively marry Israelites, what was the nationality of most of his wives (2 Sam 5:13)? What brought about Solomon's eventual downfall (Sir 47:19-20)? How did Solomon turn away from God (1 Kings 11:4-8)? Where did Solomon perpetrate this great evil (1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:13)? What had God done for personally for Solomon that made Solomon's sin especially foolish (1 Kings 11:9)?

16. When sacrifices are offered to idols and false gods, to what are they actually offered (Ps 106:35-40; 1 Cor 10:20; Rev 9:20)? The wisest man in the world now played the fool. How did Solomon fail to live up to what he had written (Eccles 12:13)? How did God respond to Solomon's sin (1 Kings 11:9-13)? What would happen starting to Israel starting with Solomon's kingdom (CCC 709)? What adversaries rose up against Solomon (1 Kings 11:14, 23, 26)? How was the kingdom of Israel split during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son (1 Kings 12:1-19)? After many years the northern ten tribes would be conquered by Assyria and disappear.

17. What are we told of Solomon's death (1 Kings 11:41-43)? How does Scripture summarize Solomon's life (Sir 47:12-25)?

18. What covenant had God make with David (2 Sam 7:16)? How was this fulfilled in Solomon and ultimately in Jesus Christ? Now the prophets would come, one after another, from Elijah and Elisha, to Isaiah and Jeremiah and the rest—all the way up to John the Baptist. The prophets would be the conscience of the kingdom and speak God's word to the people, preparing them for the coming of the Messiah, the Son of David, the Lion from the tribe of Judah—Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Catholic Challenge

We have viewed *David and Solomon: Expanding the Kingdom*. And now, having gone through the study guide, you should be better equipped to understand the kings of Israel and their significance in salvation history—how they prefigured Christ and the Church from a Catholic, biblical, and historical perspective. You should also better understand why the Old Testament is so important for understanding the New Testament and our Christian life. Now, let's answer some questions about David and Solomon—who they were, what they did, and how their lives instruct us in our Christian faith, demonstrating how we should live obedient to King Jesus in the heart of his Church. Join us in *The Catholic Challenge*.

1. What does the word *theocracy* mean and what form of government does the Catholic Church have?
2. Why does the rod and staff comfort the sheep and how does that relate to the role of bishops and pastors in the Church?
3. Discuss how David's defeat of Goliath is like Our Lord's victory won for us. What might Goliath represent? Who is our savior and deliverer?
4. How do the engraved words "the house of David" on the newly discovered 9th century BC stone stele confirm the Bible and the historicity of David? Can we trust the Bible?
5. What can we learn from David's life as he was on the run from King Saul? Are there areas of our life that correspond to David's troubles? How can the Psalms help us?
6. More than any other city Jerusalem is important to the three major monotheistic religions—Judaism, Islam and Christianity which combined account for over half the world's population—all claiming the faith of Abraham. Discuss the impact of David's victory over Jerusalem 3,000 years ago.
7. What are the three Old Testament offices that David participated in and how was this a type of Jesus, David's future Son? How and by whom are these three offices expressed in the Church?
8. How are the Kingdom of David and the Church related? What is the difference between a kingdom and a democracy? What is the difference and how does it play out in our lives? What can we learn about the Church from David and his kingdom?
9. When David sinned it brought calamity on him and his nation. How should we view sin and what should we do when we have failed men and God through sin? What authority has the Church been given to forgive sins?
10. Why is it biblical and appropriate that Mary was assumed into heaven to rule with her Son as the Queen?
11. What are the idols in our modern culture that can take our hearts away from God? How can we resist the temptation to adore something more than God?
12. Seeing the broad sweep of God's hand throughout Old Testament history, what kind of confidence does it provide to trust God for the future? What are the problems you face that need to be put in perspective?

For Further Reading

Kreeft, Peter. *You Can Understand the Bible*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2005.

Ratzinger, Joseph. *One Covenant: Many Religions*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, ??.

