



Lesson Plan

United Monarchy

[Link to video](#)

Materials Needed

- Pens
- Paper notebook
- Device (phone or laptop)
Colored pencils and ledger/tabloid paper (A3) for drawing
- Bluetooth speaker and phone to play a song
- Access to YouTube

Set Induction / Hook

This lesson begins with the leadership of the prophet Shmuel (Samuel), the last of the pre-monarchic rulers of Israel, and continues with the narratives of King Shaul (Saul) and King David. It tells the story of a significant period in Israelite history—the transition from charismatic leadership, with leaders appointed at times of need, to an established, dynastic monarchy, politically uniting the Israelites.

Rabbi Yehuda in Sanhedrin 20b tells us that after their 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Hebrews coming into the Land of Israel were required to fulfill three commandments sequentially, each one contingent on the performance of the previous one. They were to anoint a King, annihilate the nation of Amalek and build a Holy Temple. This lesson explores the dramatic story of how each of these commands was fulfilled and the legacy each has had on the Jewish nation to this day.

Lesson Objective

- **Know and understand** the events that led to the creation of a United Monarchy
- Develop critical thinking skills by **analyzing** the moral implications of this biblical story through activities that promote personal development and growth
- **Reflect** on what it means for Jews to have political power and the moral choices this forces us to make



- **Evaluate** the impact of having a human rather than God as King
- **Create** a campaign inspired by the text

This UED Guide is only for the Educator

Lesson Activity - 60 minutes

- 1. Watch** the video on unpacked.education. Let the learner know beforehand that it is close to 11 minutes in length and make them aware of where it fits into the biblical timeline. **If you are teaching in a flipped classroom or on zoom, it's best they do this on the day before your class. (15 minutes)**
- 2. Review** - Did the students understand the material? (5 minutes)

Name the two tribes that settled the south of the Promised Land?

- a. **Yehudah and Binyamin (Judah and Benjamin)**
- b. Reuven and Gad
- c. Ephraim and Menashe
- d. Naftali and Bennett

For how long did the United Monarchy remain intact?

- a. 60 years
- b. 70 years
- c. **80 years**
- d. 90 years

Which of the following are true about David?

- a. Warrior
- b. Romantic
- c. Shepherd
- d. Poet and Musician
- e. **All of the above**

With what weapon did David defeat Goliath?

- a. Hands
- b. Knife



- c. Spear
- d. Rock

David could perform wonders playing this instrument

- a. Timbrel
- b. Lute
- c. Harp
- d. Mandolin

Discussion Questions (10 Minutes)

1. Shaul does not fulfill Shmuel's instruction to exact a penalty on Amalek for what they did to the Children of Israel when they left Egypt. Do you view Shaul as a weak leader for having shown mercy to King Agag, who was an enemy to the Jewish people?

2. As punishment for the sin with Batsheva, God said to David that the rest of his days would be filled with [warfare](#). He also forbade him from building the Temple as he had too much blood on his hands. The privilege of building the First Temple went to David's son Shlomo (Solomon).

In order to build the first Temple, Shlomo entered into an alliance with Hiram, King of Tyre, who provided him with cedar wood from Lebanon for building the Temple. In exchange, King Solomon transferred 20 cities in the land of the Galilee to Hiram King of Tyre ([1 Kings 9:11-13](#)), apparently in order to erase the debt he owed Hiram for his assistance in building the Temple. These 20 cities, with their land and their inhabitants, became the property of the Phoenicians. We are also taught that the Temple was constructed far away from the sacred ground on which it eventually stood. What does the builder and manner in which the Temple was built teach us about how God views His house on earth and its purpose for both the Jewish people and humanity as a whole?



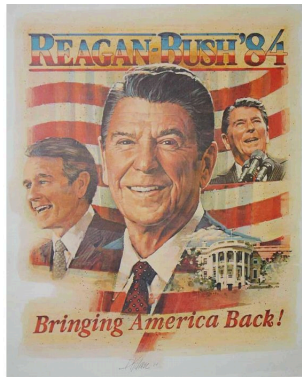


Learning Activities (10 Minutes)

1. On the Campaign Trail: A Human or God as King?

- A. List the attributes of a good leader for the people of Israel.
- B. In his farewell address to his people, Moshe warns that having a human king comes with certain risks (See Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:14-19)
Do you agree with the description of Moses as to the attributes of a king? Are they similar to yours?
- C. [Read Shmuel 8:7-22](#). What was God's response to the people's request for a king? How did Shmuel describe the future king? Why do the people still want a king despite Shmuel's warning?
- D. Create two campaign posters: one calling for a human king and another calling for only having God as King. Create slogans, songs and a stump speech for each campaign.
- E. This article may be helpful for background reading for this task.

Michael Wyschogrod, [A King in Israel](#)





Reflection Question (10 Minutes)

1. David chose Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) to be the capital of his kingdom after he secured the crown through winning a civil war. To consolidate his gains, heal the wounds of the conflict and unite the tribes he chose an extraterritorial location for his administrative center. Yerushalayim, then outside the tribal territories, was a neutral site (somewhat analogous to the choice of Washington D.C. as the U.S. capital, a compromise between the northern and southern states). Despite David's attempts at harmony, 3000 years later, Yerushalayim remains one of the most contested cities on earth, with many of her residents having enormously different dreams about the religious, political and social future of this city. After watching this video "[One Wish Jerusalem](#)," make your own short video message sharing your vision for Yerushalayim.





Assessment / Check for Understanding

- **Knowledge Question:** What are the circumstances that led to the creation of a United Monarchy in ancient Israel?
- **Comprehension question:** Why did the Jews desire the construction of a temple?
- **Synthesis question:** How do you think Judaism would be different if a temple stood in Yerushalayim today?
- **Evaluation question:** If you ask King David one question, what would it be?