

Chapter 8

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *How is David, the least likely son of Jesse, chosen to be the next king?*

God guides Samuel to not judge based on appearance or stature, but rather to see as the Lord sees by looking into heart of the person for the answer.

2. *Why does Saul become jealous of David?*

After he defeats Goliath, David gains more popularity from the people and admiration from Saul's son, Jonathan.

3. *Why is Jerusalem a significant city?*

Jerusalem, also known as the City of David, is the place where David establishes his capital. It is set on a mountain, so it is easy to defend. It is also the eventual location of the Temple.

4. *What is the high point of the Israelite monarchy?*

The high point of the Israelite monarchy is when they are unified as a single nation under King David. They have conquered most of their enemies and are living peacefully in the land that God promised to Abraham.

5. *Explain how the Bible presents a balanced portrayal of King David's positive and negative characteristics.*

King David is not idealized in the Bible. He is presented as a human being who has both strengths and weaknesses. He is portrayed as someone who is passionate in his relationship with God, dancing before the ark and asking forgiveness for his sins. And he is also portrayed as a terrible sinner who lies and has committed adultery and murder.

6. *What are some of King David's flaws?*

King David's flaws include lust, a lack of respect for the sacredness of life, and a blindness to the faults of his children.

7. *Offer an example of Solomon's wisdom.*

Answers can include Solomon's request to God for a listening heart to distinguish between good and evil, or possibly his response to the two women claiming to be the mother of the surviving child.

8. *What are some signs that God is approving of Solomon's reign?*

Solomon had a great deal of land over which he ruled and great wealth, he was at peace with the nations around him, his wisdom and knowledge were admired, and the Temple was being built.

9. *What triggers Solomon's downfall, and what splits the kingdom of Israel?*

Solomon's downfall is blamed on his marriage to foreign wives and the worship of false gods. The split of the kingdom of Israel is blamed on the heavy taxation and forced labor under Solomon's reign.

