

Unit 3

God Works in the Old Testament

The Days of the Kings, the Exile and the Return

10. David: Ancestor of Christ

God promised David the King that his house and his kingdom would endure forever. His earthly kingdom disappeared quickly, but the kingdom of his descendant, Christ will have no end.

11. Jeremiah: God's Prophet

Idolatry and injustice surfaced in the divided kingdom. God raised up prophets to warn His people to repent. The northern kingdom falls to the Assyrians and the southern kingdom is destroyed by the Babylonians. God's People are driven into exile.

12. Esther: Instrument of God's Purpose

When Jews are allowed to return to the Holy Land, some remain and prosper in Persia. Esther becomes queen and is able to avert a massacre of the Jews in Persia. Jews outside the Holy Land make known among pagans their belief in one God.

<i>c. 1020-587 BC</i>	<i>587-538 BC</i>	<i>538 BC-AD 70</i>
<i>Days of the Kings</i>	<i>Days of the Exile</i>	<i>Days of the Return</i>
<i>Saul, David & Solomon Prophets</i>	<i>Prophets</i>	<i>Esther</i>

Lesson 10 - David: Ancestor of Christ

Objectives

By the end of this lesson the student should know that:

- Recount the main events in the life of David.
- Know that God promised David that his house and his kingdom would last forever.
- Understand that this promise is fulfilled in Christ, the son of David and eternal king
- Recognize that, although David sinned, he repented and God forgave him.

For the Catechist

In the eleventh century BC the Israelites experienced major changes in their social organization. For over three hundred years they had lived as distinct tribes united by their common ancestry and faith in God who had delivered them from Egypt. Their tribal leaders (judges) were often strong and wise, such as Samuel. Others, like Samuel's sons, were not: *"His sons did not follow his example but sought illicit gain and accepted bribes, perverting justice"* (1 Samuel 8:3).

The leaders of Israel thought that salvation lay in establishing a kingdom and asked Samuel to appoint for them a king like other nations had. Samuel resisted, reminding them that God was their king. They persisted, and with God's blessing Samuel relented.

Subsequent history shows that Samuel was right: nations under earthly kings rose and fell. The Kingdom of Israel was short lived. Each of its kings had strengths but also weaknesses: the Bible highlights the faults of its greatest kings, Saul, David and Solomon, as well as those of their weaker successors in the divided kingdom. It also insists that God promised David an eternal kingdom and that God is ever faithful to His promises.

David's earthly kingdom barely survived his son Solomon. His eternal kingdom would be realized in his descendant Jesus, both Son of David and Son of God. Christ was to be the only lasting King of Israel, in a kingdom not of this world.

Israel's story is reflected in the history of the modern world. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries small principalities unified under kings. Most of those kingdoms no longer exist and even the idea of a kingdom is foreign to us. This can help us stress the eternal truth that the earth has but one true king, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Materials Needed:

Opening Prayer: Icon corner, student texts

Introduction: Easel or wall pad, markers

Guided Reading: Bibles

Activity A: "The Psalms" Worksheet, pencils

Activity B: "The Wisdom of Solomon" Worksheet, pencils

Activity C: "Be a Son or Daughter of David" Worksheet, pencils

Activity D: Jesse Tree Worksheet, craft items

1. Opening Prayer

Pray Hannah's Song from page 47 in the student text. Remind the students that this was Hannah's thanksgiving when she gave birth to Samuel, who would be the last and greatest judge in the history of the Israelites.

2. Review

Review the main points of the previous lesson using the pages from your wall or easel pad.

3. Introduction

Ask the students what they know about the beginnings of American independence: how the thirteen colonies were first united in a loose federation in the Articles of Confederation; then they strengthened their unity under the Constitution as a single country. Note that in the older federation, people considered themselves New Yorkers or New Englanders rather than Americans.

Ask how long they think the United States existed after the Constitution was adopted (*71 years, until the South seceded and formed the Confederacy*). Our country split in two, but then was reunited.


Compare this to Israelite history: they were twelve tribes under the judges, then united under the kings. They soon split in two but were never reunited. This is the story of their kings.

Background Reading (Anointed Kings):

"As a result of these demands, the prophet Samuel chose Saul and anointed him as king (IKgs/ISam 10:1). Saul would eventually prove to be an unworthy king, and the reign would be given to David. He established the basic kingdom and even set up a fair sized empire over neighboring regions. David was a very complicated character, who did much wrong; still he was faithful to God's trust until the end of his life. The Scriptures would be able to call him "the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Kgs/2 Sam 23:1 RSV). Later kings were often not faithful, but God remained faithful to the promises He had made to David and to His people" (*LLI 37-38*).

4. Guided Reading, Pages 49-50

10 David: Ancestor of Christ



For over 300 years the Israelites grew as a people. Although they had settled in different parts of the Promised Land according to tribes, they felt themselves to be a single people. They came to fear that weak judges would not be able to rule them wisely or defend them from their enemies. Samuel was a respected judge at the time, known for his wisdom and also for being a prophet blessed by God, but there seemed to be no one who could take his place.

"Therefore all the elders of Israel came in a body to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, 'Now that you are old, and your sons do not follow your example, appoint a king over us, as other nations have, to judge us. . . . We too must be like other nations, with a king to rule us and to lead us in warfare and fight our battles'" (1 Samuel 8:4-7, 20-21).

At first Samuel was reluctant but came to feel that God would bless their having a strong king. God revealed to Samuel, "At this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin whom you are to anoint as commander of my people Israel. He shall save my people from the clutches of the Philistines, for I have witnessed their misery and accepted their cry for help." The man God sent was named Saul.

Saul served as King of Israel for many years. At first he was a strong and powerful ruler according to God's plan. After some time Saul did not follow the directions he had received from God through Samuel, and God told Samuel, "I regret having made Saul king, for he has turned from me and has not kept my command" (1 Samuel 15:11). So Samuel told Saul, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you" (1 Samuel 15:28). That neighbor was David, Jesse's son, from Bethlehem.

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Before the reading, **summarize the objectives of the lesson** on a wall pad or easel pad so that the page can be preserved and used for review next week.

Refer to the maps facing page 221 of the NAB and on page 171 of their text ("The Coming of the Israelites") to show the Israelites' tribal lands. Remind them that the twelve tribes were named after Jacob's sons (Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Dan, Naphthalin, Gad, Asher, Joseph and Benjamin). Joseph received a double share of honor with two tribes named after his sons Manasseh and Ephraim.

Ask: Which son besides Joseph is missing from the list? (*Levi*) Note that Levi's tribe was dedicated to serve God as priests and Levites. They had no land of their own because all the Israelites were expected to provide for them.

Have the students read the **first paragraph on page 49**. Refer the students to their copies of the New American Bible to find the Books of Samuel, named after this great judge. Ask if anyone remembers the name of Samuel's mother from the last lesson. (*Hannah*) Indicate that while Samuel was highly respected, his sons were not. People regarded them as unjust, so they did the following:

Have the students read the next three paragraphs in the lesson. Note that the story of Saul's disobedience is found in 1 Samuel 15. Point out that Saul knew God had turned from him but did not know who would be king in his place.

Background Reading (Longing for a King):

"Just as Israel often looked longingly at the metal and wooden idols of their pagan neighbors, so too, many people longed for a king: 'No! We will have a king over us that we also may be like all the nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles' (1 Kings/1 Samuel 8:19-20). Since one of the main purposes of the ritual commandments of the Torah was precisely to separate and distinguish Israel from other nations, the desire to imitate pagan kingdoms heralded a degeneration of Sinai's ideals. Interestingly, the rise of the monarchy in Israel coincided with the real beginnings of prophecy as an institution" (*OTB* 84-85).

David and Goliath

Although David was no young man by a warrior, he was not afraid to join in the fight against the Philistines. One day, his father sent David to bring food to his brothers who were camped at the battlefield. He heard Goliath, the Philistine's strongest fighter, challenge the Israelites. "There are 400 men and more than 4000 horses out there," he said. "I will be your warrior. If I have been called to fight, you shall be my warrior and serve me" (1 Samuel 17:16).

All the Israelite soldiers were afraid to accept Goliath's challenge when David stepped forward to fight the Philistine. All that King David would not allow if he were David's young warrior, David answered the King that he had killed many wild animals in defense of his father's flock, so he was not afraid. "David continued," (1 Sam. 17:34-42), who do you have the size of the lion and the bear - will you bring me back from the clutches

4. David Becomes King Page 51

David Becomes King

Because of his success in battle, David became more popular than the King himself. "David has done this for the Lord," people would say. "David has an anointed oil" (1 Samuel 16:7). Saul became jealous of David and tried to have him killed, but David escaped. Saul and David were no longer, but when the Philistines invaded again, Saul and some of his sons were killed in the fighting. The leading man of the lord then came and anointed David as the new King. He was then thirty years old.

David became a more powerful leader, leading many of the divisions among the Israelites. Choosing Jerusalem for the capital of his new kingdom, he sent for the Ark of the Covenant, according to the Law of Moses. This meant that Jerusalem would become the center of worship for all the Israelites.

David improved on the Law to bring God's presence to Jerusalem. "The new appointed capital of the kingdom was Jerusalem," he said. "The Ark of the Covenant, the throne of God, and the place of the Lord, the God of Israel, then, on that same day, David appointed Joseph and his brethren to sing for the first time"

The Israelite Kingdom

When God agreed to give the Israelites a unified kingdom, He chose the first King, Saul, who reigned from 1020 to 1000 BC. Saul was later succeeded by David, his descendant. The kingdom prospered until the time of King David, who was anointed by God's Spirit, who was named by David's daughter, Michal. David was King for over forty years (c. 1000-970 BC) and prepared Israel for the kingdom of the future. "Your power and your kingdom shall endure forever before your eyes like the sun" (2 Samuel 7:16).

When David died, his son Solomon took the throne and reigned for 40 years (970-930 BC). Solomon built the First Temple in Jerusalem, and the Israelites prospered. Solomon was known for being a wise man. His principles are reflected in what we call the "Golden Rule" of the Bible, such as Proverbs and the Wisdom of Solomon.

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam was named king but did not have the same wisdom, and the kingdom was divided. The northern tribes chose their own king, Jeroboam. The southern kingdom was ruled by Rehoboam and the southern kings.

Three Kingdoms were later conquered by foreign invaders: The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC, and the southern kingdom was ruled by the Babylonians in 587 BC, after being conquered by the Persians. The Israelites' God promises of an eternal kingdom would be fulfilled only by Jesus, son of David, whose kingdom is "not of this world" (John 18:36).

David's Great Sin

All the battles of David's youth and greatness, when he had everything and more than when he was a young man, David was still not called. He was a warrior of courage, faithfulness, and his name has been for his years through the ages. David's strength was his faithfulness to God, a warrior, present in a promise to his wife, whom he would be called. "The Lord says to David, and when he came to him, he said: 'I have chosen you to be king over Israel, and I will be with you' (1 Samuel 16:13)."

David gave holy anointing with the oil and said to Nathan: "Is the Lord doing this with me? Has the Lord really done this with me? Has the Lord really done this with me? Has the Lord really done this with me? Has the Lord really done this with me?" (2 Samuel 12:17).

He was in David's court in his youth. His court strength was not lost. With this experience David continued his reign, "I have turned against the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:17).

Our Worship Recalls the Old Testament

David, the ancestor of Christ, is remembered in the Holy Bible. When the Lord called him, he was only a young man. "The Lord said to David, 'I will be with you, and you shall prosper' (2 Samuel 7:16)."

David's strength was his faithfulness to God, a warrior, present in a promise to his wife, whom he would be called. "The Lord says to David, and when he came to him, he said: 'I have chosen you to be king over Israel, and I will be with you' (1 Samuel 16:13)."

Ask the students if they have ever heard the story of David and Goliath and tell what they know.

Read and discuss the section "**David and Goliath**" on page 50. Show that David's victory brought him into Saul's court where he became known and respected by the leaders of the Israelites. Explain that a lyre was a small harp a person could carry with them, the way people often carry guitars today.

Continue the reading with this section. Explain that kings were anointed with oil with the prayer that God's blessings would be poured out on them as well. Ask:

- What achievements of David are mentioned here? (*Established Jerusalem as his capital; wrote psalms, established choirs for worship*)

Note that David was not just a fighter; he was a builder and a man of God. But he was not perfect.

Read the section "**David's Great Sin**" (p. 52). Ask the students whether they think David was a good person or not. Ask which commandments he broke (*Against coveting, killing and committing adultery*).

Note that David was tempted to commit these sins because he was attracted to Bathsheba. Discuss the meaning of temptation: an impulse to do something wrong. Remind the students that we can either give into or reject temptation. Stress that a temptation itself is not a sin. It becomes a sin if we give into it.

When confronted by Nathan, David realized the greatness of his sin. Have the students read 2 Samuel 12:13 to find out what Nathan did. (*He assured David of God's forgiveness.*)

Remind them of what we say in our prayer for the dead, "There is no one who lives and does not sin." Even the best people can be tempted to do evil. David was tempted and he gave in to the temptation. Whatever our sin, if we repent we can be forgiven.

Refer to the sidebar on page 51 for a summary of what happened to David's kingdom. God had promised it would last forever but it only lasted until the death of David's son Solomon. Ask:

- Did God break His promise to David?
- What is "David's kingdom" now and who is its king?

Note the chronological table on pages 36 to 38 of the NAB, which lists the rulers of the divided kingdom and their subsequent history until their conquest by Babylon.

5. Activity A (The Psalms)

Distribute the Activity A Worksheet and have the students complete it in pairs, agreeing on their answers. Have the groups share their answers.

6. Activity B (The Wisdom of Solomon)

Distribute the Activity B Worksheet and have the students complete it individually, then share their answers with the group.

7. Activity C (Life of David)

Distribute the Activity C Worksheet and have the students complete it individually. Have the students all stand; then share the correct answers with the group. As any records an incorrect answer, have them sit. If more than one is left standing after reading all the correct answers, ask other questions on the lesson. Designate the last remaining as a son or daughter of David, perhaps with a paper crown.

Background Reading (Wisdom of Solomon):

"Jews and Christians have traditionally attributed Proverbs, the Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Wisdom to King Solomon, but it would be very simplistic to call Solomon the sole author of these in the same way that Mark Twain is called the author of Tom Sawyer. Wisdom literature contains much that is ancient and much that formed part of the common cultural heritage of all Israelites. On the other hand, the connections with Solomon suggest that wisdom literature was identified with the circle of wise men at the Israelite court and that at least some of its writings predate the Exile" (*OTB* 132).

- 8. Activity D (Jesse Tree)** Have the students complete the ornament on the Jesse Tree Worksheet (David).
- 9. Time Line** Refer to the time line poster. Have the students brainstorm the names of people mentioned in this lesson (*Samuel, Saul, David, Goliath, Jonathan, Michal, Bathsheba, Nathan, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam*) and indicate the period in which each lived. Write in the names and dates under each appropriate heading. Reemphasize the idea that the reign of Saul, David and Solomon marked the highpoint of Israelite political power.
- 10. Summary** End the lesson by summarizing the lesson from the aims on page 169, from the elements in the student text on which you focused and/or any other points raised in the lesson.
- 11. Closing Prayer** Conclude with the reading of the selection from Psalm 51 and/or the troparion of David from the Sunday after Christmas on pages 52 and 53 in the student text.

The Psalms

There are many kinds of prayers in the Book of Psalms. **Some are Psalms of Praise**, glorifying God. There are also **Psalms of Thanksgiving**, in gratitude to God for His blessings. There are even **Psalms of Complaint**, in which the writer tells God of the pain he or she is experiencing.

Read the Psalms indicated below and tell which of these three kinds of Psalms you think it is. Then write a line from the Psalm that you feel best expresses praise, thanks, or complaint.

Psalm 3

Psalm 8

Psalm 23

Psalm 24

Psalm 29

Psalm 32

The Psalms

Psalm 3 - Complaint

Psalm 8 - Praise

Psalm 23 - Praise

Psalm 24 - Praise

Psalm 29 - Praise

Psalm 32 - Thanksgiving

The Wisdom of Solomon

King Solomon was thought to be very wise. Many of his sayings are collected in the Wisdom Books of the Bible. Read the following proverbs of Solomon and explain them in your own words.

Proverbs 25:9

Proverbs 25:14

Proverbs 25:19

Proverbs 25:21-22

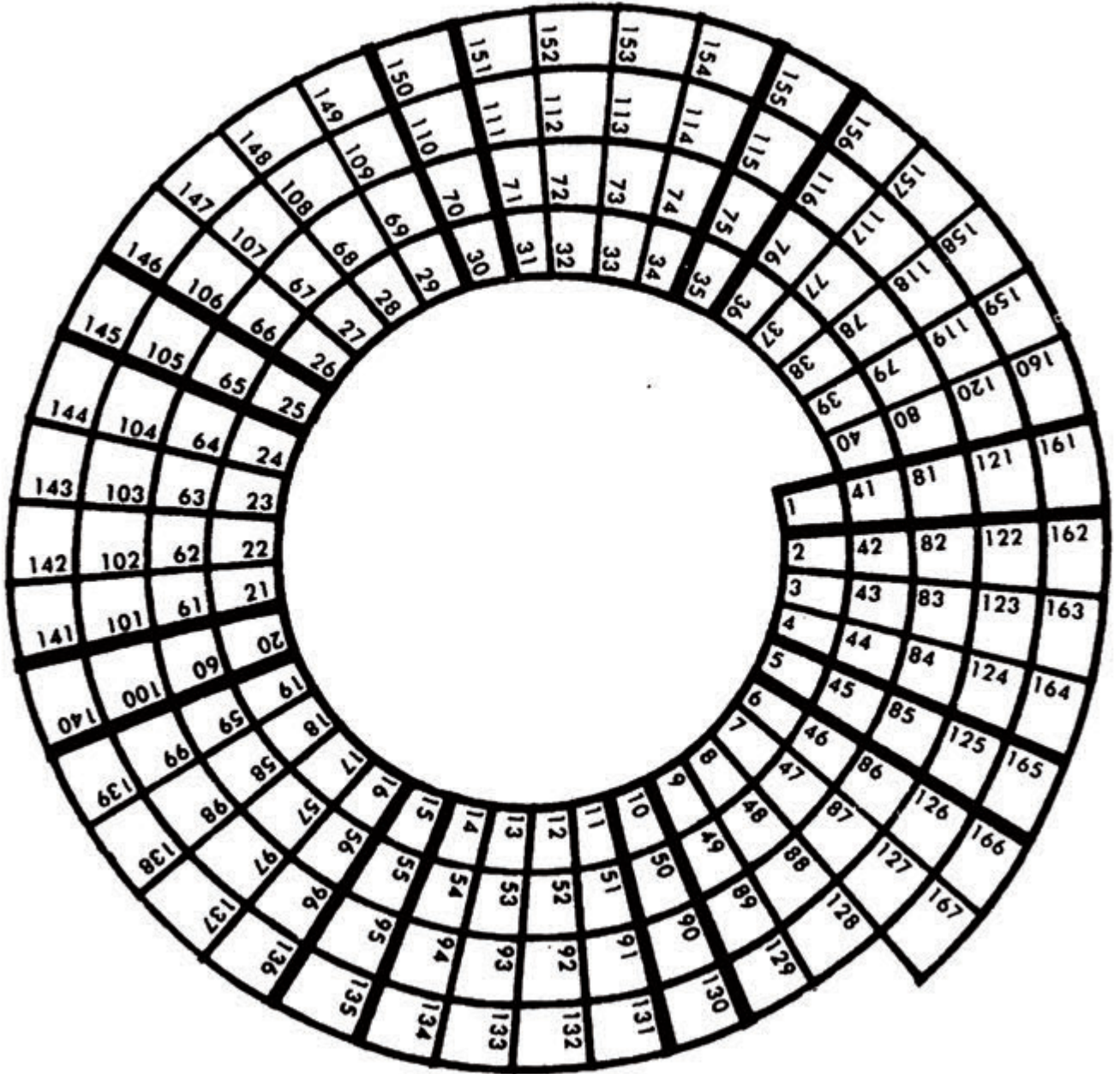
Which of these proverbs is quoted in Romans 12:20?

We read the Book of Proverbs in church during the Great Fast at vespers and at the Presanctified Liturgy.

Be a Son or Daughter of David

Answer the questions below to complete the puzzle. The correct answers will fit into the opposite page.

- 1-7 God spoke to the Israelites through many different _____.
- 7-10 The first king of Israel was _____.
- 10-13 The instrument David played: _____.
- 14-18 David's father was _____.
- 19-29 The Israelites were at war with the _____.
- 30-36 Israelites feared the Philistine warrior named _____.
- 37-40 David told King _____ that he would fight the Philistines.
- 41-45 Saul put his own _____ on David.
- 46-50 David's weapon against Goliath: _____.
- 51-55 Goliath's weapon: _____.
- 56-59 David fought in the _____ of the Lord.
- 60-64 David had _____ killed in battle (1 Samuel 11:3).
- 65-73 Uriah's wife: _____.
- 74-81 A very dear friend of David _____.
- 76-81 God's prophet who confronted David: _____.
- 82-89 David became a very _____ leader.
- 90-95 The last of the Judges: _____.
- 96-101 Through Nathan's parable David realized that he had _____.
- 102-109 David sinned out of _____.
- 110-118 David had sinned, but God was _____.
- 119-124 David's prayer-songs: _____.
- 125-134 Some of these prayer-songs show David's _____.
- 135-138 David became the great _____ of Israel.
- 138-146 David's later relationship with God was one of _____.
- 147-155 The center of all worship for the Israelites: _____.
- 156-167 The Ark of the Covenant contained the _____.



Be a Son or Daughter of David

Answer the questions below to complete the puzzle. The correct answers will fit into the opposite page.

- 1-7 God spoke to the Israelites through many different persons
- 7-10 The first king of Israel was Saul
- 10-13 The instrument David played: harp
- 14-18 David's father was Jesse
- 19-29 The Israelites were at war with the Philistines
- 30-36 Israelites feared the Philistine warrior named Goliath
- 37-40 David told King Saul that he would fight the Philistines.
- 41-45 Saul put his own armor on David.
- 46-50 David's weapon against Goliath: sling
- 51-55 Goliath's weapon: sword
- 56-59 David fought in the name of the Lord.
- 60-64 David had Uriah killed in battle (1 Samuel 11:3).
- 65-73 Uriah's wife: Bathsheba
- 74-81 A very dear friend of David Jonathan
- 76-81 God's prophet who confronted David: Nathan
- 82-89 David became a very powerful leader.
- 90-95 The last of the Judges: Samuel
- 96-101 Through Nathan's parable David realized that he had sinned.
- 102-109 David sinned out of jealousy.
- 110-118 David had sinned, but God was forgiving.
- 119-124 David's prayer-songs: psalms.
- 125-134 Some of these prayer-songs show David's repentance
- 135-138 David became the great king of Israel.
- 138-146 David's later relationship with God was one of gratitude.
- 147-155 The center of all worship for the Israelites: Jerusalem.
- 156-167 The Ark of the Covenant contained the commandments.

David, King and Prophet

