

# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A MINISTRY OF AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH

AS A COURTESY TO OUR SPEAKERS, PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES.

## Weekly Announcements

- **WELCOME!** If you are new to WBS today, please stop by the registration table so we can place you in a small group.
- **PLEASE PICK UP A POSTCARD OF OUR STUDY:** Take it with you, keep it in your Bible, and read each week's passage. Feel free to grab an extra to give to a friend who might be interested in attending or following along too. You'll also find the website information on it if you miss a week or need to access materials.
- **THIS WEEK PRAY FOR:**
  - ~ small group cohesiveness
  - ~ wisdom and insight for the teachers
  - ~ Evidence of grace in our lives as Christ followers
- **WE ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE:** during our administrative transition period. We trust it will be seamless but if we missed something please just graciously let us know and we will meet your needs as quickly as we are able. You can also email us at [wbs@autumnridgechurch.org](mailto:wbs@autumnridgechurch.org). We are privileged to serve you.
- **WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY:** If schools are closed due to poor weather conditions, WBS is also cancelled for both morning and evening. Please check the ARC website or with your small group leaders for confirmation of cancellations.
- **DEVOTED HEARTS CONCERENCE 2012:** Registration for this year's event for women on April 20-21 is now open. Our keynote speaker is Alicia Williams Garcia and she will be joined by Angie Smith and the worship group Selah. Tickets are \$40 until March 19 with additional box lunch for \$7 and are available at Christos or online at [www.devotedheartsrochester.com](http://www.devotedheartsrochester.com).

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be back with you for our spring series *Kings and Kingdoms: God's Sovereign Hand in Israel's History*. However, I know that some of you detested history in school and you can't think of anything worse to study, so let me give you some reasons why I believe you'll enjoy this series.

First, history is only boring if you consider it to be an incomprehensible list of facts and figures. And maybe you had a lousy history teacher. But history taught by someone who loves it comes alive, because it's really just a series of true stories, full of excitement, betrayal, romance, suspense and everything that we look for in a movie or a book. And yes, all those things are in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings.

Second, history is God's story. You may not have been taught that way in school, but God's hand lies behind every event of history. Romans 13:1 tells us that "there is no authority except that which God has established." This leads to some really interesting questions. Why would God allow a ruler like Hitler, or Saddam Hussein, to be established? We can't always see the reasons in the short term, but with biblical history, enough time has passed for us to be able to trace God's hand. What we do know with certainty is that God sovereignly accomplishes his purposes with those he permits to lead.

Third, history teaches us. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," as George Santayana famously said. So when we ponder God's dealings with his people we will see ourselves, and, I hope, avoid some of the consequences of disobedience experienced by the Israelites.

Fourth, this particular stretch of history is part of God's word. And while it might not be the first place we gravitate to when we're looking for inspiration or comfort, we are responsible to know what all of God's word says. So it's worth looking at for that reason alone.

Finally, it's being taught by a team that knows how to apply these lessons to modern life. Jann Wright, Jacqui Stahl, and Juli Fischer will join me in this series to make 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Kings come alive. One more note – we're concentrating on the kings themselves and so the prophets like Elijah and Elisha will be more or less passed over, leaving us something to study on our own.

Welcome back...I hope that these weeks will bless you, encourage you and help you draw closer to God.

Your friend,  
Gretchen Steer

*PS I also want to mention that Michelle Johnson, our beloved Bible study administrator, stepped down in December. We are currently seeking someone to fill that role and Jacqui Stahl has graciously agreed to fill in with the help of our small group leaders until someone is hired. Please pray for your Bible study team during the changeover, and thank you to the many folks who are volunteering to fill the gaps.*

Weekly material can be downloaded from the Autumn Ridge Church Website:

<http://autumnridgechurch.org/adult/women/wbs.html>

If you have questions, please contact us at [wbs@autumnridgechurch.org](mailto:wbs@autumnridgechurch.org)

# Kings & Kingdoms:

God's Sovereign Hand in Israel's History



**Today's speaker:**  
Gretchen Steer

**Our Passage:**  
1 Samuel 9:1-13:15

**Our Topic:**  
The People's King Saul

## I. Introduction to Kings: The People vs. God

A. What do the people want?

B. What does God want?

## II. The Story of Saul

A. Donkey Wrangler

B. Reluctant King

C. Strong Rescuer

D. Rash Leader

## III. Four Questions

1. Why did God give the people what they wanted instead of what they needed?

2. How can we tell when God is leading us?

3. Can we reject God's leading and equipping?

4. What is God calling us to do?

**Timeline of Kings:**  
Note that these are not all of the kings from this time period but only the ones we will be studying.

