

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## From Failure To Promise

Isaiah 9:6-7

Sunday, October 12, 2025

During the times that the judges ruled in Israel's history, Samson is a clear picture of someone who had strength that no man could match. He had the favor of God from birth and a calling as judge. Yet he relied on his own power, his charm, and his impulses. When Delilah betrayed him, his strength failed, his eyes were put out, and his future seemed over. At his lowest, Samson cried out to God, and only then did victory come.

As with him, every nation has turning points in its history. Some are victories, while others are tragic failures. For Israel, their failures were not only military or political. They were spiritual. Again and again, they turned from the covenant God made with them and chased after the gods of surrounding nations. The results were ruin and judgment. Yet the story did not end in despair. God had already planned a permanent solution. He promised a faithful Judge and King who would never fail, who would bring lasting peace, and who would reign forever.

Our focus today will be on Israel's unfaithfulness, their desire for human kingship, and the promise of God's true King. As we look at these passages, let us prepare our hearts to see how Jesus Christ fulfills every promise and calls us to faithful devotion.

### TURNING AWAY FROM GOD

Deuteronomy 29:24-26

**24 And all the surrounding nations will ask, 'Why has the Lord done this to this land? Why was he so angry?' 25 And the answer will be, 'This happened because the people of the land abandoned the covenant that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. 26 Instead, they turned away to serve and worship gods they had not known before, gods that were not from the Lord. NLT**

Israel's downfall was rooted in unfaithfulness. They had entered a covenant, like a marriage bond, but they broke it by serving other gods. In Canaan, it was common to place idols at gates or on high places, believing they controlled rain, crops, and fertility. Israel joined them.

Imagine a faithful spouse who gives everything to the marriage, only to see their partner chase after someone else. The pain is deep, not because of ignorance, but because of betrayal. This is how God describes His people's turning away from Him.

Where are you and I tempted to turn from God and trust in modern idols?

## TRUSTING HUMAN POWER

1 Samuel 8:5–8

**“Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.” 6 Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. 7 ‘Do everything they say to you,’ the Lord replied, ‘for they are rejecting me, not you. They do not want me to be their king any longer. 8 Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment.’” (NLT)**

Israel wanted to be “like the nations.” They thought a king would guarantee safety, wealth, and military strength. But God revealed that their request was not about government. It was about trust. To ask for a human king was to reject God as King.

The Hebrew word for “reject” shows repeated action. Israel’s rejection of God was not a single slip but a constant attitude. They kept pushing God aside.

Think of a child who says, “I want new parents because mine are not good enough.” That insult dishonors the ones who gave life and love. In the same way, Israel dishonored the Lord who had rescued them.

Do we sometimes try to copy the world around us instead of trusting God’s way of leading His people?

## EXPECTING A NEW KING

Isaiah 9:6–7

**For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!” NLT**

Though Israel failed, God promised a new King. Unlike Israel’s kings, this ruler would be both human and divine. He would bring justice and peace that would never end. His throne would not be built on human power but on God’s eternal plan.

In the Roman Empire, emperors called themselves “sons of the gods” and promised peace through armies. Yet their peace was temporary and built on fear. Jesus, the true Son of God, brought lasting peace through His cross and resurrection.

Have we truly placed every part of our lives under the reign of Jesus Christ, or are we still clinging to our own small thrones?

## Conclusion

Israel’s story teaches us that God’s people often fail. They abandoned the covenant, desired to be like the nations, and rejected God as King. Yet the Lord never gave up. He promised a faithful King, and that promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The lesson for us is clear. We must not fall into mixing our faith in Jesus with the idols of culture. We are called to faithfulness. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NLT): “For I am

jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ."

Let us remain loyal to the King who reigns forever. Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. And through Him, we are called to share in His eternal kingdom.