

KINGDOM TORN IN TWO

Week 18: Divided Kingdom & God's Messengers (1) (1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 8)

When Solomon died, his throne was passed to his son Rehoboam. The people then approached him saying they needed relief from the high taxes his father had imposed during his reign. He told them to come back in three days. So the people gave him time to think.

Week Eighteen Reading Plan

1 Kings 11:1-13, 26-43	The Kingdom Divided into Israel (North) and Judah (South)
1 Kings 12:1-33	First King of the South and of the North
1 Kings 15:1-16:28	Some of the Kings of Israel and Judah
1 Kings 16:29-17:24	King Ahab and the Prophet Elijah
1 Kings 18:1-19:21	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
2 Kings 2:1-25	Elisha Follows in Elijah's Footsteps
2 Kings 4:1-5:27	Some Miracles of Elisha

First Rehoboam went to his father's sage advisors. They told him to listen to the people. "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants." Rehoboam then went to his young inexperienced friends...and asks for their advice.

Without much thought to the repercussions, they advise Rehoboam "Tell these people, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'" When the people came back three days later that's what he told them—he listened to advice from 'fools.'

As a result he lost nearly everything he'd inherited from his father. He lost more than half his kingdom and none of his descendants would ever get it back again. From that day forward, the 10 tribes of the North (Israel) and the 2 tribes of the South (Judah) were never to be reunited again.

The once united and powerful kingdom of Israel was greatly weakened by this division. Both the northern and the southern kingdoms became more vulnerable to foreign powers. Both were tempted to make alliances with Gentile nations. Both were exposed to the idolatry of other religions. The division of the kingdom was, in one sense, the beginning of the end for both the northern and the southern kingdoms. The northern kingdom of Israel was ruled by various dynasties—all evil. The southern kingdom of Judah had a somewhat checkered history, though ruled by the singular Davidic dynasty which produced some good kings but more wicked kings. The northern kingdom of Israel eventually is defeated and scattered abroad by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom of Judah lasted a little while longer only to be carried off to captivity by the Babylonians. The division of the two kingdoms will only intensify. The animosity of the Jews of Jesus' day for the Samaritans is the fruit of the divided kingdom. It will take a spectacular intervention on the part of God to put this nation back together.

During this time of the divided kingdom the prophets start to emerge. This is the time in history (200-300 year period) that most of those books at the end of the Old Testament occur. Though we are reading the narrative in Kings and Chronicles, the books with the prophets' names are like the commentaries from heaven to both kingdoms during this time of civil war and unrest. These prophets serve as the voice of God to hearken the rulers and leaders back to the covenantal ways of Yahweh.

Though unable to spend as much time as this period full of intrigue and drama deserves, we will be spending the next five weeks exploring this time of civil wars and alliances, chaos and peace, plunges into murderous idolatry and periods of hopeful revivals. I think we will all be amazed at how often we see ourselves in this 3,000 year old narrative!

The book of First Kings covers about 130 years

The Messianic Line, the Son of David

The United Kingdom (chs. 1-11)			
DAVID'S LAST DAYS (1:1 - 2:11)			
SOLOMON'S REIGN (2:12 - 11:43)			
Chapters 1-2 <i>HIS ESTABLISHMENT AND HIS ENEMIES</i>	Chapters 3-4 <i>HIS WISDOM AND HIS WEALTH</i>	Chapters 5-10 <i>HIS BUILDING AND HIS BLESSINGS</i>	Chapter 11 <i>HIS CORRUPTION AND HIS COLLAPSE</i>

The Divided Kingdom (chs. 12-22)					
<i>The SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Judah)</i> 2 tribes with capital in Jerusalem			<i>The NORTHERN KINGDOM (Israel)</i> 10 tribes with capital in Shechem, later in Samaria		
<i>19 kings of Davidic dynasty reigned for 345 years</i>			<i>19 kings of six dynasties reigned for 210 years</i>		
REHOBOAM	17 years	(1 Kings 12-14)	JEROBOAM I	22 years	(1 Kings 12-14)
ABIJAH (-JAM)	3 years	(1 Kings 15)	NADAB	2 years	(1 Kings 15)
ASA	41 years	(1 Kings 15)	BAASHA	24 years	(1 Kings 15)
JEHOSHAPHAT	25 years	(1 Kings 22)	ELAH	2 years	(1 Kings 16)
			ZIMRI	7 days	(1 Kings 16)
			OMRI	12 years	(1 Kings 16)
			AHAB	22 years	(1 Kings 16-22)
<i>The Ministry of Elijah</i> (1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 2)			Elijah raises an altar of 12 stones for the 12 tribes of the one people of God at Mt. Carmel. God did not recognize the man-made division of the kingdom.		
			AHAZIAH	2 years	(1 Kings 22)

See Week 20 for the remaining 260 years of Kings

KINGS & PROPHETS

Kings of Judah

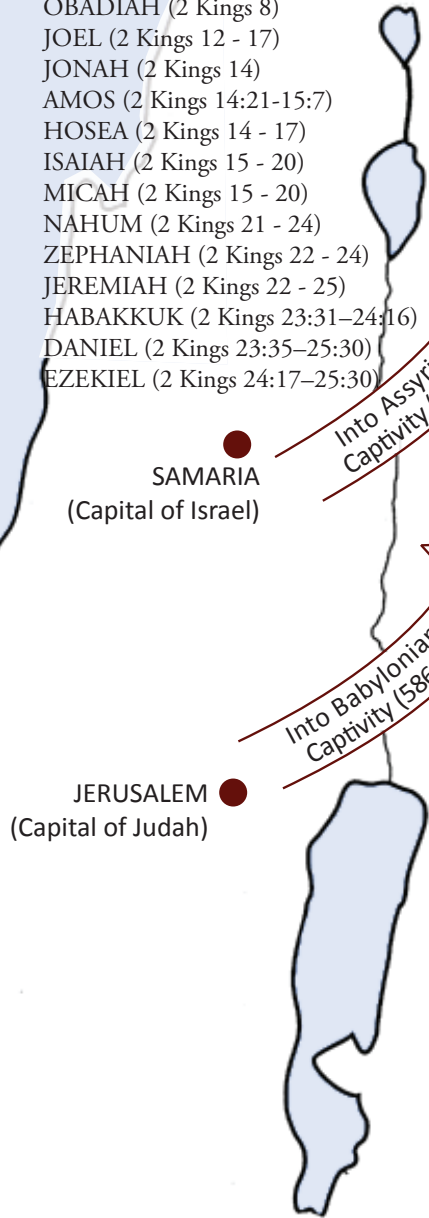
REHOBOAM: 17 years – bad
 (1 Kings 12 - 14)
 ABIJAM: 3 years – bad
 (1 Kings 15)
 ASA: 41 years – good
 (1 Kings 15)
 JEHOSHAPHAT: 25 years – good
 (1 Kings 22)
 JEHORAM: 8 years – bad
 (2 Kings 8:16-24)
 AHAZIAH: 1 year – bad
 (2 Kings 8:25-29)
 (ATHALIAH): 6 years – bad
 (2 Kings 11)
 JEHOASH: 40 years – good
 (2 Kings 12)
 AMAZIAH: 29 years – good
 (2 Kings 14:1-20)
 AZARIAH: 52 years – good
 (2 Kings 14:21-15:7)
 JOTHAM: 16 years – good
 (2 Kings 15:32-38)
 AHAZ: 16 years – bad
 (2 Kings 16)
 HEZEKIAH: 29 years – good
 (2 Kings 18 - 20)
 MANASSEH: 55 years – bad
 (2 Kings 21:1-18)
 AMON: 2 years – bad
 (2 Kings 21:19-26)
 JOSIAH: 31 years – good
 (2 Kings 22:23-30)
 JEHOAHAZ: 3 months – bad
 (2 Kings 23:31-34)
 JEHOIAKIM: 11 years – bad
 (2 Kings 23:35-24:7)
 JEHOIACHIN: 3 months – bad
 (2 Kings 24:8-16)
 ZEDEKIAH: 111 years – bad
 (2 Kings 24:17-25:21)

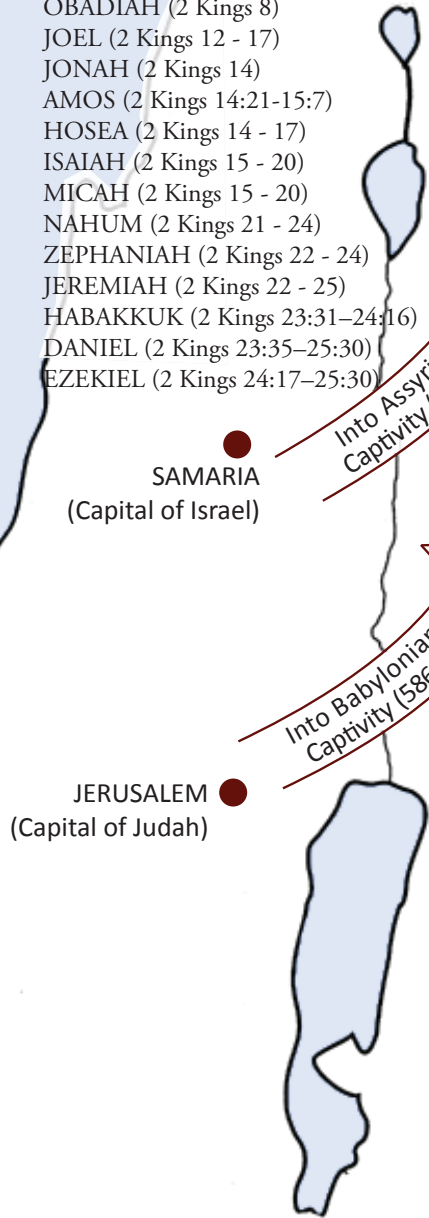
Prophets of God

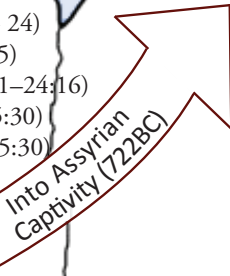
ELIJAH (2 Kings 1, 2)
 ELISHA (2 Kings 2 - 13)
 OBADIAH (2 Kings 8)
 JOEL (2 Kings 12 - 17)
 JONAH (2 Kings 14)
 AMOS (2 Kings 14:21-15:7)
 HOSEA (2 Kings 14 - 17)
 ISAIAH (2 Kings 15 - 20)
 MICAH (2 Kings 15 - 20)
 NAHUM (2 Kings 21 - 24)
 ZEPHANIAH (2 Kings 22 - 24)
 JEREMIAH (2 Kings 22 - 25)
 HABAKKUK (2 Kings 23:31-24:16)
 DANIEL (2 Kings 23:35-25:30)
 EZEKIEL (2 Kings 24:17-25:30)

Kings of Israel

(not a good apple in the bunch)
 JEROBOAM I: 22 years
 (1 Kings 12 - 14)
 NADAB: 2 years
 (1 Kings 15)
 BAASHA: 24 years
 (1 Kings 15)
 ELAH: 2 years
 (1 Kings 16)
 ZIMRI: 7 days
 (1 Kings 16)
 OMRI: 12 years
 (1 Kings 16)
 AHAB: 22 years
 (1 Kings 16 - 22)
 AHAZIAH: 2 years
 (2 Kings 1:1-18)
 JORAM: 12 years
 (2 Kings 2:1-9:26)
 JEHU: 28 years
 (2 Kings 9:1-10:36)
 JEHOAHAZ: 17 years
 (2 Kings 13:1-9)
 JOASH: 16 years
 (2 Kings 13:10-25)
 JEROBOAM II: 41 years
 (2 Kings 14:23-29)
 ZECHARIAH: 6 months
 (2 Kings 15:8-12)
 SHALLUM: 1 month
 (2 Kings 15:13-16)
 MENAHEM: 10 years
 (2 Kings 15:17-22)
 PEKAHIAH: 2 years
 (2 Kings 15:23-26)
 PEKAH: 20 years
 (2 Kings 15:27-31)
 HOSHEA: 9 years
 (2 Kings 17)


 SAMARIA
 (Capital of Israel)


 JERUSALEM
 (Capital of Judah)


 Into Assyrian
 Captivity (722BC)


 Into Babylonian
 Captivity (586BC)