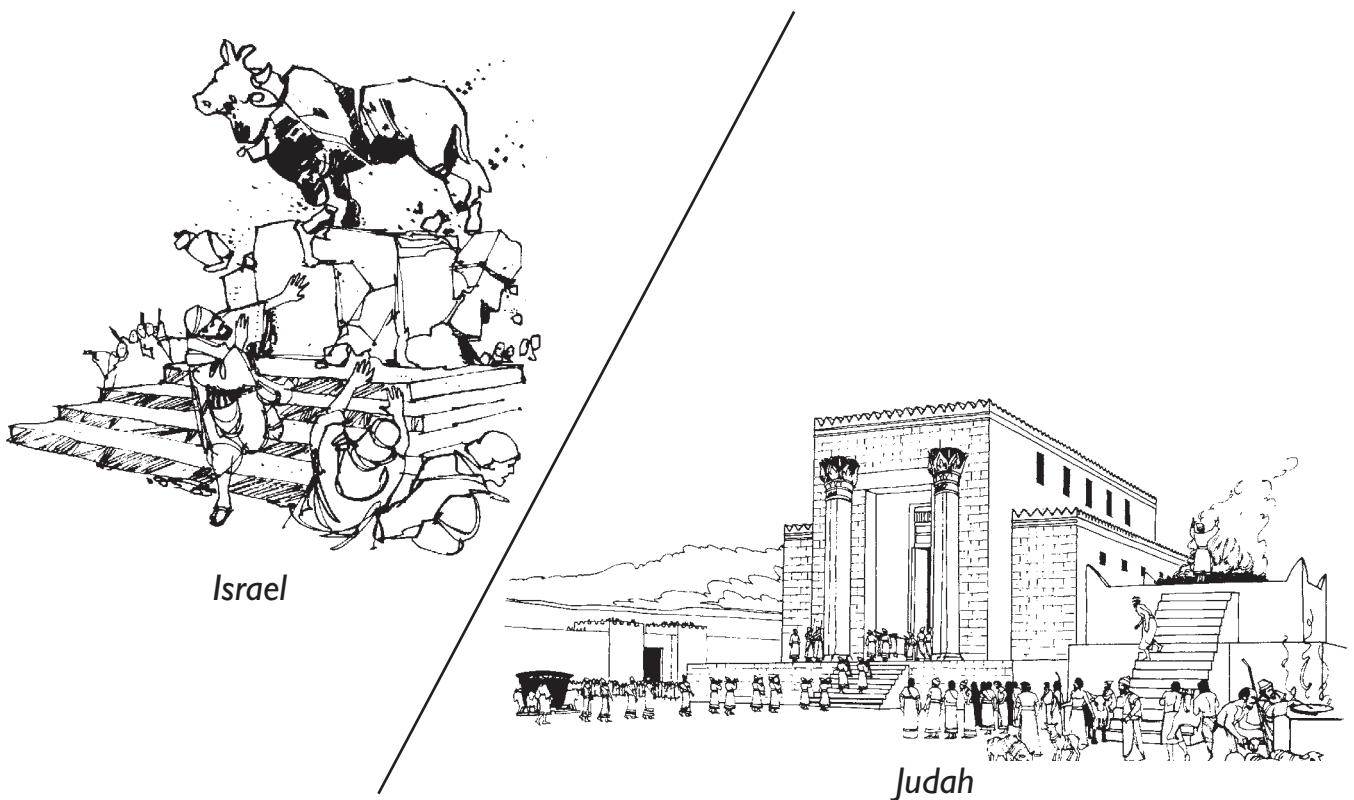


*An Outline and Study Guide of*

# **The Divided Kingdom**



**Revised Edition**

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## PREFACE

The Divided Kingdom and Kingdom of Judah Alone periods in the Bible are an essential but often neglected study. A basic knowledge of these periods of Jewish history is necessary to an understanding of the prophets of the Old Testament and their message.

When the children of Israel entered and occupied Canaan, the promised land, they were a loose confederation of tribes held together by their common ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Governed by tribal leaders or judges for a period of time, the tribes eventually united forming a monarchy. Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, was selected by God and anointed by Samuel, the prophet, priest and judge, to be king.

When Saul disobeyed God's instructions, God chose David, a shepherd youth from the tribe of Judah, to rule the kingdom after the death of Saul. David was an administrator and statesman who organized the religious worship and founded a political dynasty. He was a poet and musician—"the sweet psalmist of Israel" (II Sam. 23:1) and a skilled harpist. As a soldier and warrior, he expanded the borders of the kingdom and forged a simple agrarian society into a nation.

David's son and successor Solomon reigned over an industrial empire stretching from the River Euphrates in the north to the River of Egypt in the south (I Kings 4:21). The peace and prosperity he inherited from his father David enabled him to engage in extensive building projects, the most notable being the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon's fame and wisdom spread abroad, and his wealth and riches exceeded that of all the kings of the earth (II Chron. 9:22). However, in his old age Solomon became idolatrous due to the influence of his many foreign wives, and God determined to rend the kingdom from his son.

When Rehoboam, Solomon's son, became king, the ten northern tribes revolted establishing the northern kingdom of Israel and appointing Jeroboam, an Ephraimite, as their king. The two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, known as the kingdom of Judah, remained loyal to Rehoboam and the Davidic dynasty. The kingdom divided in 931/30 B. C. and lasted slightly more than two hundred years until 723/22 B. C. when the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians. The kingdom of Judah continued alone for another one hundred thirty-some years until they, too, were carried into captivity in 586 B. C. by the Babylonians. The account of the Divided Kingdom period begins in I Kings 11 and II Chronicles 10, ending with the conclusions of II Kings and II Chronicles.

The Divided Kingdom outline in Section I and the Kingdom of Judah Alone outline in Section II are designed as a study aid. All references in the books of Kings and Chronicles that pertain to these periods are included. The events as outlined are not necessarily in chronological order, but the books of Kings and Chronicles are harmonized.

As the outlines in Sections I and II were prepared from the King James Version, the spelling of that translation was used for the names of the kings and prophets. The names of the prophets are italicized in Sections I and II to readily distinguish their names from those of the kings. References to prophets, such as *man of God*, are also italicized.

The descendants of David reigned in Judah from the division of the kingdom until the Babylonian captivity with only a brief interruption during the civil unrest that occurred with the purge of the house of Ahab; thus, in Sections I and II each king of Judah is the son of the preceding king unless otherwise identified. In Israel the government was less stable and several dynasties ruled; therefore, in Section I the relationship between a king of Israel and the preceding king is specified.

Section III contains an accompanying outline of the various secular empires which were contemporary with Judah and Israel. References to these kingdoms and their kings occur in the Biblical text. The Ancient Empires outline lists these kingdoms and their corresponding kings with a brief description of events, particularly those events related to contacts with Judah and Israel.

Section IV includes twenty-six lessons with study questions. These lessons may be used for individual study or in the classroom. The questions follow the outlines in Sections I and II.

All dates of the reigns of the kings of Judah and Israel are from Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, new rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corp, 1983). Dual symbols, such as 931/30 B. C., designate the reigns of the various kings in many instances. Since our calendar year does not correspond to the Hebrew year, the regnal years of Judah and Israel overlap two of our years. Dual symbols are therefore used for greater accuracy.

Thiele has interpreted the confusing chronological data in Kings and Chronicles meticulously, noting the various methods used by the recorders of the events. Thus some brief notes regarding the chronology of the kings of Judah and Israel are included in the endnotes. There are many factors in determining the chronology set forth in the scriptures, and a comprehensive explanation is too intricate and involved to be included in this study. As noted above the Hebrew year does not correspond to our calendar year; ascension year and non-ascension year methods were used at different times in both kingdoms; in addition, the regnal years were calculated from Nisan-to-Nisan (springtime, March/April) in Israel, while the Tishri-to-Tishri year (fall, September/October) was used in Judah. Nevertheless, the records of the kings of Judah and Israel were kept with great accuracy and precision by those recorders of Hebrew history, and every reign in each kingdom is in the order of the sequence with which the rulers ascended the throne.

The challenge for us today in the study of the Divided Kingdom is to contemplate God's dealings with peoples and nations. God poured forth his blessings on the obedient and righteous, but He sent his judgments upon the disobedient and unrighteous. It is for us, therefore, to determine our course of action, whether we walk in compliance or rebellion to God's word.



## SECTION I DIVIDED KINGDOM

From the Division of the Kingdom to the Fall of Israel  
I Kings 12 – II Kings 17; II Chronicles 10 – 28  
931/30 B. C. to 723/22 B. C.

### JUDAH

- REHOBAM**—17 yrs.  
931/30 - 913 B. C.
- The ten northern tribes revolt.  
I Kings 12:1-20  
II Chron. 10
  - The word of God spoken by *Shemaiah* forbids Rehoboam to fight against Israel.  
I Kings 12:21-24  
II Chron. 11:1-4
  - Rehoboam fortifies the cities.  
II Chron. 11:5-12
  - The priests, Levites and righteous of Israel emigrate to Judah.  
II Chron. 11:13-16
  - For three years Judah walks in the way of David and Solomon.  
II Chron. 11:17
  - Rehoboam's wives and children.  
II Chron. 11:18-23
  - He forsakes the law of God; the people of Judah build high places and commit other sins.  
I Kings 14:22-24  
II Chron. 12:1, 14

### ISRAEL

- JEROBOAM**—22 yrs.  
931/30 - 910/9 B. C.
- Ahijah* prophesies the division of the kingdom.  
I Kings 11:26-40
  - Jeroboam corrupts the worship of Israel.  
I Kings 12:25-33
  - The *man of God* out of Judah prophesies of Josiah.  
I Kings 13:1-10
  - The *man of God* disobeys the instructions of God.  
I Kings 13:11-32
  - Jeroboam continues in his evil way.  
I Kings 13:33-34
  - Ahijah* foretells the death of Jeroboam's child, the destruction of the house of Jeroboam, and the captivity of Israel.  
I Kings 14:1-18
  - Jeroboam reigns 22 years; closing remarks.  
I Kings 14:19-20

## JUDAH

## ISRAEL

### REHOBOAM (cont.)

- h. In the fifth year of Rehoboam, Shishak, king of Egypt, invades Judah;<sup>1</sup> *Shemaiah* prophesies deliverance.
  - I Kings 14:25-28
  - II Chron. 12:2-12
- i. Rehoboam reigns 17 years.
  - I Kings 14:21
  - II Chron. 12:13
- j. Closing remarks.
  - I Kings 14:29-31; 15:6
  - II Chron. 12:15-16

### ABIJAM (ABIJAH)<sup>2</sup>—3 yrs.

- 913 - 911/10 B. C
- a. Abijam begins to reign in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Jeroboam and reigns 3 years.
  - I Kings 15:1-2
  - II Chron. 13:1-2
- b. His heart is not perfect with God.
  - I Kings 15:3-5
- c. He wars against Jeroboam and defeats him.
  - II Chron. 13:3-20
- d. He has fourteen wives and begets many children.
  - II Chron. 13:21
- e. Closing remarks.
  - I Kings 15:7-8
  - II Chron. 13:22

## JUDAH

### ASA—41 yrs.

911/10 - 870/69 B. C.

- a. Asa begins to reign in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Jeroboam and reigns 41 years.  
I Kings 15:9-10
- b. He has peace for ten years.  
II Chron. 14:1
- c. He introduces his first reformation; he removes the high places out of Judah.  
I Kings 15:11  
II Chron. 14:2-5
- d. He fortifies the cities and builds up the army.  
II Chron. 14:6-8
- e. He defeats Zerah, the Ethiopian.  
II Chron. 14:9-15
- f. *Azariah* counsels Asa and all Judah to be faithful to God.  
II Chron. 15:1-7
- g. In his fifteenth year Asa institutes his second reformation; Judah sacrifices the spoil of war and makes a covenant with God; the high places are not removed.  
I Kings 15:12-15  
II Chron. 15:8-19
- h. Asa wars with Baasha, king of Israel; he makes a league with Benhadad, king of Syria.<sup>3</sup>  
I Kings 15:16-22  
II Chron. 16:1-6
- i. *Hanani*, the seer, rebukes Asa for his league with Benhadad, king of Syria, and prophesies further warfare.  
II Chron. 16:7-10

## ISRAEL

### NADAB—2 yrs.

910/9 - 909/8 B. C.

- a. Nadab, son of Jeroboam, begins to reign in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Asa and reigns 2 years.  
I Kings 15:25
- b. He does evil.  
I Kings 15:26
- c. He is killed by Baasha at Gibbethon.  
I Kings 15:27-28
- d. Closing remarks.  
I Kings 15:31

### BAASHA—24 yrs.

909/8 - 886/85 B. C.

- a. Baasha smites all the house of Jeroboam, fulfilling the prophecy of *Ahijah*.  
I Kings 15:29-30
- b. He wars with Asa, king of Judah.  
I Kings 15:32
- c. He begins to reign in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Asa and reigns 24 years at Tirzah.  
I Kings 15:33
- d. He does evil.  
I Kings 15:34
- e. *Jehu* prophesies against the house of Baasha.  
I Kings 16:1-4, 7
- f. Closing remarks.  
I Kings 16:5-6



## JUDAH

### ASA (cont.)

- j. Asa becomes diseased in his feet in his thirty-ninth year; closing remarks.
  - I Kings 15:23-24
  - II Chron. 16:11-14

## ISRAEL

### ELAH—2 yrs.

- 886/85 - 885/84 B. C.
- a. Elah, son of Baasha, begins to reign in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Asa and reigns 2 years.
  - I Kings 16:8
- b. He is killed by Zimri, his servant.
  - I Kings 16:9-10
- c. Closing remarks.
  - I Kings 16:14

### ZIMRI—7 days

- 885/84 B. C.
- a. Zimri destroys all the house of Baasha, fulfilling the prophecy of *Jehu*.
  - I Kings 16:11-13
- b. He begins to reign in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Asa and reigns 7 days in Tirzah.
  - I Kings 16:15
- c. He burns the palace over him and dies when Omri, captain of the host of Israel, besieges Tirzah.
  - I Kings 16:16-18
- d. He does evil.
  - I Kings 16:19
- e. Closing remarks.
  - I Kings 16:20

### TIBNI Length of reign not specified

- 885/84 - 880 B. C.<sup>4</sup>
- a. Half of Israel follows Tibni and half follows Omri.
  - I Kings 16:21
- b. Omri and his followers prevail and Tibni dies.
  - I Kings 16:22

## JUDAH

- JEHOSHAPHAT**—25 yrs.  
872/71 - 870/69 B. C. (regent)  
870/69 - 848 B. C. (sole reign)
- Jehoshaphat begins to reign in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Ahab and reigns 25 years.<sup>7</sup>  
I Kings 22:41-42  
II Chron. 20:31
  - He walks in the way of Asa, his father; the high places for the burning of incense are not removed.  
I Kings 22:43  
II Chron. 20:32-33
  - He removes the sodomites from the land.  
I Kings 22:46
  - He seeks the Lord and the Lord establishes his kingdom; he removes the high places and groves.  
II Chron. 17:3-6

## ISRAEL

- OMRI**—12 yrs.  
885/84 - 880 B. C. (divided with Tibni)  
880 - 874/73 B. C. (sole reign)
- Omri reigns 12 years.<sup>4</sup>  
I Kings 16:23
  - He builds Samaria.  
I Kings 16:24
  - He does evil.  
I Kings 16:25-26
  - Closing remarks.  
I Kings 16:27-28
- AHAB**—22 yrs.  
874/73 - 853 B. C.
- Ahab, son of Omri, begins to reign in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of Asa and reigns in Samaria 22 years.  
I Kings 16:29
  - He does evil.  
I Kings 16:30
  - He marries Jezebel and worships Baal.  
I Kings 16:31-33
  - The prophecy spoken by Joshua is fulfilled in the rebuilding of Jericho.<sup>5</sup>  
I Kings 16:34
  - Elijah* prophesies a drought.  
I Kings 17:1
  - Elijah* is fed by ravens.  
I Kings 17:2-7
  - Elijah* is sustained by the widow of Zarephath.  
I Kings 17:8-16
  - Elijah* restores life to the widow's son.  
I Kings 17:17-24

## JUDAH

### JEHOSHAPHAT (cont.)

- e. In his third year he sends princes, Levites and priests throughout Judah to teach the law.  
II Chron. 17:7-9
- f. He has peace with the surrounding kingdoms.  
II Chron. 17:10-11
- g. He fortifies Judah and strengthens the army.  
II Chron. 17:1-2, 12-19
- h. He forms an alliance with Ahab.<sup>8</sup>  
I Kings 22:44  
II Chron. 18:1
- i. He is reproved by the prophet *Jehu* for his alliance with Ahab.  
II Chron. 19:1-3
- j. He introduces further reforms in worship and law.  
II Chron. 19:4-11
- k. He seeks the Lord when he is invaded by Moab, Ammon and other beside the Ammonites; *Jahaziel* prophesies deliverance; the enemy destroys one another.<sup>9</sup>  
II Chron. 20:1-30
- l. Edom has a deputy at this time, not a king.<sup>10</sup>  
II Kings 22:47
- m. Jehoshaphat joins with Ahaziah, king of Israel, to build ships at Ezion-geber; *Eliezer* prophesies against this alliance.  
I Kings 22:48-49  
II Chron. 20:35-37
- n. Closing remarks.  
I Kings 22:45, 50  
II Chron. 20:34; 21:1

## ISRAEL

### AHAB (cont.)

- i. *Elijah* challenges the prophets of Baal.  
I Kings 18:1-40
- j. The drought ends in the third year.<sup>6</sup>  
I Kings 18:41-46
- k. *Elijah* flees from the wrath of Jezebel to Mount Horeb.  
I Kings 19:1-14
- l. *Elijah* is instructed by God to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria, Jehu to be king over Israel, and *Elisha* to be prophet.  
I Kings 19:15-18
- m. *Elijah* casts his mantle on *Elisha*.  
I Kings 19:19-21
- n. Israel defeats Benhadad, king of Syria, two times; Ahab makes a covenant with Benhadad.  
I Kings 20:1-34
- o. Ahab is rebuked by a *prophet* for sparing Benhadad's life.  
I Kings 20:35-43
- p. He covets Naboth's vineyard; Jezebel conspires against Naboth.  
I Kings 21:1-16
- q. *Elijah* prophesies against the house of Ahab.  
I Kings 21:17-29
- r. Ahab forms an alliance with Jehoshaphat; *Micaiah* prophesies the defeat of Israel and the death of Ahab in the battle against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead.  
I Kings 22:1-38  
II Chron. 18:2-34
- s. Closing remarks.  
I Kings 22:39-40

## JUDAH

- JEHORAM (JORAM)**<sup>11</sup>—8 yrs.  
 853 - 848 B. C. (regent)  
 848 - 841 B. C. (sole reign)
- a. Jehoshaphat gives gifts to his sons, but the kingdom he gives to Jehoram, his first-born.  
 II Chron. 21:2-3
  - b. Jehoram kills his brothers.  
 II Chron. 21:4
  - c. He begins to reign in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Joram; he reigns 8 years.<sup>12</sup>  
 II Kings 8:16-17  
 II Chron. 21:5
  - d. He does evil; his wife is the daughter of Ahab;<sup>13</sup> he builds high places.  
 II Kings 8:18-19  
 II Chron. 21:6-7, 11
  - e. Edom and Libnah revolt.  
 II Kings 8:20-22  
 II Chron. 21:8-10
  - f. A writing from *Elijah* warns Jehoram of an impending plague upon his family and possessions and foretells his death.  
 II Chron. 21:12-15
  - g. The Arabians and Philistines invade Judah and carry away Jehoram's possessions, wives and sons except the youngest, Jehoahaz.<sup>14</sup>  
 II Chron. 21:16-17
  - h. Jehoram dies of an incurable disease of the bowels, fulfilling the prophecy of *Elijah*.  
 II Chron. 21:18-19
  - i. Closing remarks.  
 II Kings 8:23-24  
 II Chron. 21:20

## ISRAEL

- AHAZIAH**—2 yrs.  
 853 - 852 B. C.
- a. Ahaziah, son of Ahab, begins to reign in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoshaphat and reigns 2 years.  
 I Kings 22:51
  - b. He serves Baal.  
 I Kings 22:52-53
  - c. Moab rebels.  
 II Kings 1:1
  - d. Ahaziah becomes ill following an accident; *Elijah* prophesies the death of Ahaziah.  
 II Kings 1:2-16
  - e. Closing remarks.  
 II Kings 1:17-18
- JORAM (JEHORAM)**<sup>11</sup>—12 yrs.  
 852 - 841 B. C.
- a. *Elijah* ascends to heaven in a whirlwind; *Elisha* takes up the mantle of *Elijah*.  
 II Kings 2:1-18
  - b. *Elisha* heals the waters of Jericho.  
 II Kings 2:19-22
  - c. *Elisha* curses the children of Bethel who mock him.  
 II Kings 2:23-25
  - d. Joram, son of Ahab, begins to reign in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoshaphat and reigns 12 years.<sup>12</sup>  
 II Kings 3:1
  - e. He does evil; however, he puts away Baal.  
 II Kings 3:2-3

## JUDAH

### AHAZIAH (JEHOAHAZ,

**AZARIAH**)<sup>15</sup>—1 yr.  
841 B. C.

- a. Ahaziah begins to reign in the 12th (11th) year of Joram and reigns 1 year.<sup>16</sup>  
II Kings 8:25-26; 9:29  
II Chron. 22:1-2
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 8:27  
II Chron. 22:3-4
- c. He joins with Joram, son of Ahab, to war against Hazael, king of Syria, at Ramoth-gilead.  
II Kings 8:28-29  
II Chron. 22:5-6
- d. He is killed by Jehu.  
II Kings 9:27-28  
II Chron. 22:7, 9

## ISRAEL

### JORAM (cont.)

- f. He forms an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, and with the king of Edom against Moab; *Elisha* prophesies victory.  
II Kings 3:4-27
- g. *Elisha* performs various miracles: a widow's oil is increased; the Shunammite's son is restored to life; noxious pottage is healed; 100 people are fed with 20 loaves.  
II Kings 4
- h. *Elisha* heals Naaman, captain of the Syrian host.  
II Kings 5
- i. *Elisha* causes an ax head to swim.  
II Kings 6:1-7
- j. *Elisha* reveals the location of the Syrian camp.  
II Kings 6:8-12
- k. The Syrians sent to capture *Elisha* are smitten with blindness.  
II Kings 6:13-23
- l. Samaria is besieged by Benhadad, king of Syria.  
II Kings 6:24-33
- m. *Elisha* prophesies the end of the famine caused by the siege; the Syrian host flees, fulfilling the prophecy.  
II Kings 7
- n. *Elisha* foretells seven years of famine.  
II Kings 8:1-2
- o. The king restores the Shunammite woman's possessions.  
II Kings 8:3-6

## JUDAH

### ATHALIAH—7 yrs

841- 835 B. C.

- a. Athaliah, mother of Ahaziah, destroys the seed royal.  
II Kings 11:1  
II Chron. 22:10
- b. Joash, son of Ahaziah, is hidden from Athaliah by the sister of Ahaziah; Athaliah reigns.  
II Kings 11:2-3  
II Chron. 22:11-12
- c. Jehoiada, a priest, leads a conspiracy and anoints Joash as king.  
II Kings 11:4-12  
II Chron. 23:1-11
- d. Athaliah is killed.  
II Kings 11:13-16  
II Chron. 23:12-15
- e. Jehoiada makes a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people.  
II Kings 11:17  
II Chron. 23:16
- f. The people destroy the house of Baal.  
II Kings 11:18  
II Chron. 23:17

## ISRAEL

### JORAM (cont.)

- p. Hazael becomes king of Syria.  
II Kings 8:7-15
- q. Jehu is anointed king of Israel at the direction of *Elisha*.  
II Kings 9:1-13
- r. Joram is slain by Jehu.  
II Kings 9:14-26
- s. Jezebel is slain by Jehu.  
II Kings 9:30-37

### JEHU—28 yrs.

841- 814/13 B. C.

- a. Jehu orders the execution of the seventy sons of Ahab in Samaria and then slays all that remain of the house of Ahab in Jezreel.  
II Kings 10:1-11
- b. He kills the princes of Judah.  
II Kings 10:12-14  
II Chron. 22:8
- c. He slays all that remain unto Ahab in Samaria.  
II Kings 10:15-17
- d. He destroys the house of Baal.  
II Kings 10:18-28
- e. He does not remove Jeroboam's two golden calves and does not depart from Jeroboam's sins.  
II Kings 10:29, 31
- f. The Lord promises Jehu the continuation of his dynasty unto the fourth generation.  
II Kings 10:30
- g. Hazael, king of Syria, begins to smite Israel.  
II Kings 10:32-33

## JUDAH

### ATHALIAH (cont.)

- g. Jehoiada appoints officers of the house of the Lord as ordained by David.  
II Chron. 23:18-19
- h. Joash is placed upon the throne.  
II Kings 11:19-20  
II Chron. 23:20-21

### JOASH (JEHOASH)<sup>17</sup>—40 yrs. 835 - 796 B. C.

- a. Joash begins to reign in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Jehu and reigns 40 years.  
II Kings 11:21; 12:1  
II Chron. 24:1
- b. He does right all the days of Jehoiada, the priest; however, the high places are not removed.  
II Kings 12:2-3  
II Chron. 24:2
- c. He takes two wives and begets children.  
II Chron. 24:3
- d. He repairs the temple.  
II Kings 12:4-16  
II Chron. 24:4-14
- e. Jehoiada dies and Judah becomes idolatrous; *Zechariah*, son of Jehoiada, rebukes the people and is stoned at the commandment of Joash.  
II Chron. 24:15-22
- f. Hazael, king of Syria, invades Judah; Joash sends him tribute.  
II Kings 12:17-18  
II Chron. 24:23-24

## ISRAEL

### JEHU (cont.)

- h. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 10:34-35
- i. Jehu reigns 28 years.  
II Kings 10:36

### JEHOAHAZ—17 yrs.

- 814/13 - 798 B. C.
- a. Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, begins to reign in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of Joash and reigns 17 years.  
II Kings 13:1
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 13:2
- c. Hazael, king of Syria, and Benhadad, son of Hazael, oppress Israel.  
II Kings 13:3, 7, 22
- d. Jehoahaz seeks the Lord; Israel is delivered from the Syrians.  
II Kings 13:4-5
- e. Israel continues in sin.  
II Kings 13:6
- f. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 13:8-9

### JEHOASH (JOASH)<sup>17</sup>—16 yrs. 798 - 782/81 B. C.

- a. Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz, begins to reign in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of Joash and reigns 16 years.  
II Kings 13:10

## JUDAH

### JOASH (cont.)

- g. Joash is slain by his servants.  
II Kings 12:20-21  
II Chron. 24:25-26
- h. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 12:19  
II Chron. 24:27

### AMAZIAH—29 yrs.

796 - 767 B. C.

- a. Amaziah begins to reign in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Jehoash and reigns 29 years.  
II Kings 14:1-2  
II Chron. 25:1
- b. He does right but not as David; the high places are not removed.  
II Kings 14:3-4  
II Chron. 25:2
- c. He kills his father's murderers.  
II Kings 14:5-6  
II Chron. 25:3-4
- d. He strengthens the army in Judah; he hires an army from Israel but sends them home when warned by a *man of God*.  
II Chron. 25:5-10
- e. He defeats Edom.  
II Kings 14:7  
II Chron. 25:11-12
- f. The army of Israel spoils cities of Judah as they return to Israel.  
II Chron. 25:13
- g. Amaziah becomes idolatrous and is rebuked by a *prophet*.  
II Chron. 25:14-16

## ISRAEL

### JEHOASH (cont.)

- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 13:11
- c. *Elisha* prophesies deliverance from Syria.  
II Kings 13:14-19
- d. *Elisha* dies; the Moabites invade Israel.  
II Kings 13:20
- e. A man who is buried in the sepulchre of *Elisha* revives upon touching the bones of *Elisha*.  
II Kings 13:21
- f. Jehoash defeats Benhadad, king of Syria and son of Hazael, three times as prophesied by *Elisha*.  
II Kings 13:23-25
- g. Closing remarks.<sup>18</sup>  
II Kings 13:12-13; 14:15-16

### JEROBOAM II—41 yrs.

793/92 - 782/81 B. C. (regent)

782/81 - 753 B. C. (sole reign)

- a. Jeroboam II, son of Jehoash, begins to reign in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Amaziah and reigns 41 years.<sup>19</sup>  
II Kings 14:23
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 14:24
- c. He restores the boundaries of Israel as prophesied by *Jonah*.  
II Kings 14:25-27
- d. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 14:28-29



## JUDAH

### AMAZIAH (cont.)

- h. He is defeated by Jehoash, king of Israel.  
II Kings 14:8-14  
II Chron. 25:17-24
- i. He is killed at Lachish by a conspiracy.  
II Kings 14:19-20  
II Chron. 25:27-28
- j. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 14:17-18  
II Chron. 25:25-26

### UZZIAH (AZARIAH)<sup>20</sup>—52 yrs.

- 792/91 - 767 B. C. (regent)
- 767 - 740/39 B. C. (sole reign)
- a. Uzziah becomes king when he is sixteen years old.  
II Kings 14:21  
II Chron. 26:1
- b. He restores Elath to Judah.  
II Kings 14:22  
II Chron. 26:2
- c. He begins to reign in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Jeroboam II and reigns 52 years.<sup>19</sup>  
II Kings 15:1-2  
II Chron. 26:3
- d. He does right but the high places are not removed.  
II Kings 15:3-4  
II Chron. 26:4
- e. He seeks God in the days of *Zechariah*.  
II Chron. 26:5

## ISRAEL

### ZACHARIAH—6 mos.

- 753 - 752 B. C.
- a. Zachariah, son of Jeroboam II, begins to reign in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of Uzziah and reigns 6 months.  
II Kings 15:8
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 15:9
- c. He is slain by Shallum; the word of the Lord to Jehu that his sons will reign unto the fourth generation is fulfilled.  
II Kings 15:10, 12
- d. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:11

## JUDAH

### UZZIAH (AZARIAH) (cont.)

- f. He prospers in war, fortifies Jerusalem, promotes husbandry, strengthens the army, builds engines of war.  
II Chron. 26:6-15
- g. He enters the temple and burns incense upon the altar; he becomes a leper unto his death.  
II Kings 15:5  
II Chron. 26:16-21
- h. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:6-7  
II Chron. 26:22-23

## ISRAEL

### SHALLUM—1 mo.

- 752 B. C.
- a. Shallum begins to reign in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of Uzziah and reigns 1 month.  
II Kings 15:13
- b. He is slain by Menahem.  
II Kings 15:14
- c. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:15

### MENAHM—10 yrs.

- 752 - 742/41 B. C.
- a. Menahem secures the kingdom.  
II Kings 15:16
- b. He begins to reign in the 39<sup>th</sup> year of Uzziah and reigns 10 years.  
II Kings 15:17
- c. He does evil.  
II Kings 15:18
- d. Pul, king of Assyria, invades Israel; Menahem pays tribute.<sup>21</sup>  
II Kings 15:19-20
- e. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:21-22

### PEKAHIAH—2 yrs.

- 742/41- 740/39 B. C.
- a. Pekahiah, son of Menahem, begins to reign in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Uzziah and reigns 2 years.  
II Kings 15:23
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 15:24
- c. He is slain by Pekah, his captain.  
II Kings 15:25
- d. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:26

## JUDAH

### JOTHAM—16 yrs.

- 750 – 740/39 B. C. (regent)  
740/39 – 735 B. C. (sole reign)  
735 732/31 B. C. (overlap/Ahaz)
- Jotham begins to reign in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Pekah and reigns 16 years.<sup>24</sup>  
II Kings 15: 32-33  
II Chron. 27:1, 8
  - He does right but the high places are not removed; he builds fortifications.  
II Kings 15:34-35  
II Chron. 27:2-4
  - He defeats the Ammonites.  
II Chron. 27:5-6
  - Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, war against Judah.<sup>25</sup>  
II Kings 15:37
  - Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:36, 38  
II Chron. 27:7, 9

### AHAZ—16 yrs.

- 735 - 732/31 B. C. (overlap/Jotham)  
732/31 - 716/15 B. C. (official reign)
- Ahaz begins to reign in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Pekah and reigns 16 years.<sup>26</sup>  
II Kings 16:1-2  
II Chron. 28:1
  - He is idolatrous.  
II Kings 16:3-4  
II Chron. 28:2-4

## ISRAEL

### PEKAH—20 yrs.

- 752 - 740/39 B. C. (rival reign)  
740/39 - 732/31 B. C. (sole reign)
- Pekah begins to reign in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of Uzziah and reigns 20 years.<sup>22</sup>  
II Kings 15:27
  - He does evil.  
II Kings 15:28
  - Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, carries part of Israel captive to Assyria.<sup>23</sup>  
II Kings 15:29
  - Pekah is slain by Hoshea.  
II Kings 15:30
  - Closing remarks.  
II Kings 15:31

### HOSHEA—9 yrs.

- 732/31 - 723/22 B. C.
- Hoshea begins to reign in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of Ahaz and reigns 9 years.<sup>28</sup> II Kings 17:1
  - He does evil but not as the kings before him.  
II Kings 17:2

## JUDAH

### AHAZ (cont.)

- c. He is besieged by Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel;<sup>25</sup> the Jews are driven from Elath.  
II Kings 16:5-6  
II Chron. 28:5-8
- d. The captives taken to Samaria are sent home at the word of *Oded*.  
II Chron. 28:9-15
- e. Judah is invaded by the Edomites and the Philistines.  
II Chron. 28:17-19
- f. Ahaz sends tribute to Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria.  
II Kings 16:7-8  
II Chron. 28:16, 20-21
- g. The Assyrians capture Damascus and slay Rezin, king of Syria.<sup>27</sup>  
II Kings 16:9
- h. Ahaz commands Urijah, the priest, to make a strange altar for sacrifice; he desecrates the temple; he sacrifices to the gods of Damascus.  
II Kings 16:10-18  
II Chron. 28:22-25
- i. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 16:19-20  
II Chron. 28:26-27

## ISRAEL

### HOSHEA (cont.)

- c. He pays tribute to Shalmaneser, king of Assyria; he rebels and appeals to So, king of Egypt; he is imprisoned by Shalmaneser.<sup>29</sup>  
II Kings 17:3-4
- d. Samaria is besieged three years and is captured by the king of Assyria; Israel is taken in captivity to Assyria.<sup>30</sup>  
II Kings 17:5-6
- e. The fall of Samaria and the captivity of Israel are caused by the sins of Israel.  
II Kings 17:7-23
- f. Peoples from other countries are brought to Samaria to possess the land.  
II Kings 17:24-41

*Come, and let us return unto the Lord:  
for he hath torn, and he will heal us;  
he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.  
Hosea 6:1*

## DIVIDED KINGDOM ENDNOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Shishak (Sheshonk I), founder of Egypt's Twenty-second Dynasty, invaded Palestine in 925 B. C. Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, new rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corp., 1983), p. 80.
2. In Kings the name is Abijam; in Chronicles the name is Abijah.
3. Since Baasha died and was succeeded by his son Elah in the twenty-sixth year of Asa (I Kings 16:8), he could not have built Ramah in the thirty-sixth year of Asa (II Chron. 16:1). As the fifteenth and sixteenth years of Asa corresponded respectively to the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth years from the division of the kingdom (II Chron. 15:19; 16:1), the chronology should be correctly interpreted as the years from the division of the kingdom and not as the years of Asa's reign. In his fifteenth year Asa held a victory feast, probably to celebrate the defeat of the Ethiopians. At that time "strangers" (those, NKJV; them, ASV) of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon came from Israel to Jerusalem "when they saw that the Lord his God was with him [Asa]" (II Chron. 15:8-15). Following this, in the sixteenth year of Asa or the thirty-sixth year since the division of the kingdom, Baasha then built Ramah which lay on the border of the two kingdoms that "none go out or come in to Asa" (II Chron. 16:1). Thiele, p. 84.
4. When Zimri was overthrown in the twenty-seventh year of Asa, civil war erupted in Israel. Half of the people supported Omri and half followed Tibni. Omri's forces eventually prevailed and Tibni died. Omri reigned a total of twelve years, beginning in the twenty-seventh year of Asa when the people made him king at Zimri's rebellion. His sole reign, however, began in the thirty-first year of Asa when he successfully overcame Tibni and his followers (I Kings 16:15-23). Although the length of Tibni's rival reign is not stated, he apparently reigned from the twenty-seventh year of Asa unto the thirty-first year of Asa. Thiele, pp. 88-90.
5. Cf. Joshua 6:26.
6. Cf. I Kings 18:1; Luke 4:25-26; James 5:17.
7. Due to the illness of Asa in his thirty-ninth year (I Kings 15:23; II Chron. 16:12), his son Jehoshaphat began to reign jointly with him. Upon the death of Asa, Jehoshaphat commenced his sole reign in the fourth year of Ahab. Jehoshaphat reigned a total of twenty-five years which included the three years of coregency with his father (I Kings 22:41-42; II Chron. 20:31). Thiele, pp. 86, 96-98.
8. See "r" in the outline under Ahab for the joint campaign of Jeshoshaphat and Ahab against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead.

9. The “other” beside the Ammonites (“others,” NKJV; “some,” ASV) probably refers to the Meunim (Meunites), a minor desert tribe who occupied an area southeast of the Dead Sea (cf. II Chron. 26:7). Moab and Ammon were the descendants of the two sons of Lot by his incestuous relations with his two daughters (Gen. 19:30-38). Both tribes settled in the Trans-Jordan area, and both were conquered by David becoming vassal states of Israel (II Sam. 8:2; 12:26-31; I Chron. 18:2; 20:1-3). The joint invasion by Moab and Ammon with the Meunim against Judah and Jehoshaphat was a failure and disaster as the invaders destroyed one another (II Chron. 20:1-30). Further contacts involving Moab and Ammon with Judah and Israel occurred. **Moab.** Shortly after the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel (II Kings 1:1). Jehoshaphat joined Joram of Israel in an expedition against Moab, inflicting a series of defeats on Mesha, the Moabite king. The invading kings withdrew, however, when Mesha committed the abomination of offering his son as a sacrifice on the city wall (II Kings 3:4-27), and Mesha was able to regain independence for Moab. Bands of Moabites invaded Israel during the reign of Jehoash (II Kings 13:20), but Jeroboam II possibly subdued Moab again (II Kings 14:23-25). Moab became tributary to Assyria when Tiglath-pileser III subjugated Palestinian states during his expeditions in 734-732 B. C. Later the nation lost its identity when the Babylonians rose to power in the sixth century B. C. Eventually the land of Moab was overrun by the Nabateans (an Arabian tribe) about the fourth century B. C. and the Moabites were assimilated into other cultures. **Ammon.** Meanwhile, Ammon paid tribute to Uzziah and Jotham (II Chron. 26:8; 27:5) and then became subject to Assyria along with other Trans-Jordan states during the campaigns of Tiglath-pileser III in 734-732 B. C. During the reign of Jehoiakim, bands of Ammonites and Moabites joined with Syrians and Chaldeans to harass Judah (II Kings 24:1-2). After the fall of Jerusalem, Ishmael, one of the royal family, conspired with the Ammonite king and killed Gedaliah, the governor of Judah appointed by Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:22-26; cf. Jer. 40:13-41:3). Like Moab, Ammon lost autonomy as a nation in the Babylonian surge in the sixth century B. C. and later disappeared from history after local leaders were defeated by Judas Maccabeus in the second century B.C.
10. The descendants of Esau, known as Edom, dwelt in the land stretching from the Brook Zered at the south end of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqabah. They were conquered by David, becoming subject to Judah (II Sam. 8:13-14; I Chron. 18:12-13). During the reign of Jehoshaphat, the deputy who was perhaps appointed by Jehoshaphat, functioned as king (cf. II Kings 3:4-27). However, shortly afterward the Edomites revolted from Judah during the reign of Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, and although Jehoram defeated them in battle, he did not subjugate them (II Kings 8:20-22; II Chron. 21:8-10; cf. Gen. 27:30-40). Later Amaziah defeated Edom killing ten thousand and capturing Selah, the capital city (II Kings 14:7; II Chron. 25:11-12). Uzziah completed the conquest restoring the port city of Elath to Judah (II Kings 14:21-22; II Chron. 26:1-2). During the reign of Ahaz, the Edomites regained their freedom, invaded Judah, and carried away captives (II Chron. 28:16-17). In the KJV and ASV the word “Syrians” should be “Edomites” who came to Elath and dwelt there (II Kings 16:5-6). In 732 B. C. Edom became subject to Assyria and subsequently tributary to Nebuchadnezzar in 604 B. C. Sometime after Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians, the Nabateans overran the country of Edom. However, some of the Edomites migrated to the empty lands of southern Judah and

the country became known by its Greek name Idumaea. The Idumaeans were subdued by John Hyrcanus (one of the Maccabees) about 120 B. C. and forced to adopt Judaism and circumcision. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A. D. 70, the Idumaeans (formerly Edomites) disappeared from history.

11. Two kings with the same name reigned concurrently in Judah and Israel.  
*In Judah:* The names Jehoram and Joram are used interchangeably in Kings; in Chronicles the name Jehoram is used. The king of Judah is referred to as Jehoram in this outline.  
*In Israel:* The names Joram and Jehoram are used interchangeably in both Kings and Chronicles. The king of Israel is referred to as Joram in this outline.
12. The chronology here included two coregencies in Judah. Jehoshaphat and Jehoram both reigned with their respective fathers for a period of time. These coregencies are indicated by the two dates for the accession of Joram in Israel.  
*In Judah:*
  - Jehoshaphat reigned a total of twenty-five years (I Kings 22:42; II Chron. 20:31) which included three years with his father Asa and twenty-two years alone.
  - Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, reigned eight years which were the years of his sole reign. He reigned with his father Jehoshaphat for five years, but he commenced his sole reign in the fifth year of Joram, king of Israel (II Kings 8:16-17; II Chron. 21:5, 20).*In Israel:*
  - Ahaziah, son of Ahab, began his two year reign in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat (I Kings 22:51). This was the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat's sole reign, not of his total reign.
  - Joram, also the son of Ahab, began his reign in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat (II Kings 3:1). This was the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat's sole reign, not of his total reign, and also the second year of Jehoram's coregency with his father Jehoshaphat (II Kings 1:17). Thiele, pp. 96-101.
13. Athaliah (cf. II Kings 11:1; II Chron. 22:1-2, 10).
14. Ahaziah (cf. II Chron. 22:1).
15. Jehoahaz (II Chron. 21:17; 25:23); Azariah (II Chron. 22:6).
16. Two synchronisms for the reign of Ahaziah state that he began his reign in the twelfth year of Joram, king of Israel (II Kings 8:25), and in the eleventh year of Joram (II Kings 9:29). These two dates for his accession are not a conflict but due to the fact that Judah at this time was changing its system of reckoning. The new method of reckoning was used in the former instance, and the old system of reckoning was used in the latter case. Thiele p. 101.
17. Again two kings with the same name reigned in Judah and Israel although the king of Judah preceded the king of Israel.  
*In Judah:* The names Joash and Jehoash are used interchangeably in Kings. In Chronicles the name Joash is used. The king of Judah is referred to as Joash in this outline.  
*In Israel:* The names Jehoash and Joash are used interchangeably in Kings. In Chronicles the name Joash is used. The king of Israel is referred to as Jehoash in this outline.
18. See "h" in the outline under Amaziah for the battle between Jehoash and Amaziah.

19. During this period there were coregencies in both kingdoms making the chronology somewhat difficult.

*In Judah:*

- Amaziah began his reign in the second year of Jehoash, king of Israel, and reigned twenty-nine years (II Kings 14:1-2; II Chron. 25:1). He was defeated and captured by Jehoash, but was likely released from captivity later at the death of Jehoash. Amaziah then outlived Jehoash by fifteen years (II Kings 14:13, 17; II Chron. 25:23, 25).
- Uzziah began to reign when he was sixteen years old (II Kings 14:21; II Chron. 26:1). Perhaps the people of Judah placed him on the throne at that early age when his father Amaziah was defeated and imprisoned by Jehoash, king of Israel. Uzziah's long reign of fifty-two years (II Kings 15:2; II Chron. 26:3) included twenty-four years as coregent with Amaziah. His sole reign, however, began in the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam II, the year his father Amaziah died which was fifteen years after the death of Jehoash, king of Israel (II Kings 14:17; 15:1; II Chron. 25:25).

*In Israel:*

- Jehoash began to reign in the thirty-seventh year of Joash, the king of Judah and father of Amaziah. He reigned sixteen years in Israel and died in the fifteenth year of Amaziah (II Kings 13:10; 14:16, 23).
  - Jeroboam's long reign of forty-one years included twelve years that he reigned with his father Jehoash, but his sole reign began in the fifteenth year of Amaziah when his father died (II Kings 14:23). Thiele, pp. 111-120.
20. The names Uzziah and Azariah are used interchangeably in Kings. In Chronicles the name Uzziah is used, the name referred to in this outline.
21. Pul was the Babylonian name of Tiglath-pileser III who was king of Assyria from 745-727 B. C. It was probably in 743 B. C. that Tiglath-pileser III received tribute from Menahem. Thiele, pp. 125-126.
22. When Menahem seized the throne in Samaria after killing Shallum, Pekah set up a rival rule at the same time in Israel, probably in Gilead. At the death of Menahem, Pekah possibly made an alliance with Pekahiah, the son of Menahem, became his military commander, and then killed him at the first opportunity (II Kings 15:25). Pekah then became sole ruler of Israel in Samaria. His sole reign began in the fifty-second year of Uzziah, but his total reign was twenty years (II Kings 15:27) which included twelve years as rival to Menahem and Pekahiah and eight years alone. Thiele, pp. 129-130.
23. 734. B. C. (cf. I Chron. 5:26). Thiele, p. 198.
24. Jotham, king of Judah and son of Uzziah, began his reign in the second year of Pekah, king of Israel (II Kings 15:32). This was the second year of Pekah's total reign. Jotham reigned jointly with his father Uzziah for twelve years. Jotham probably began reigning with Uzziah when the latter was struck with leprosy (II Kings 15:5; II Chron. 26:21). In addition to the twelve year coregency with his father, Jotham reigned four years alone, a total of sixteen years, the official length of his reign (II Kings 15:33; II Chron. 27:1, 8). Thiele, pp. 131-132.



25. The attack on Jerusalem by Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel was directed against both Jotham and his son Ahaz (II Kings 15:37; 16:5-6), thus indicating an overlap in the reigns of Jotham and Ahaz (see note 26). "Against which ruler of Judah was this attack directed, Jotham or Ahaz? Concerning Jotham the record is that 'he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord' (2 Kings 15:34). But of Ahaz it is said that he 'did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord' but that 'he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel' (2 Kings 16:2-3). It was because of their evil that the Lord sent judgments upon 'Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers' (2 Kings 17:20). And it was because of the iniquities of Ahaz that 'the Lord his God handed him over to the king of Aram [Syria]' (2 Chron. 28:5)." Thiele, p. 132.
26. At the close of Jotham's official sixteen year reign, his son Ahaz began to reign in Judah in the seventeenth year of Pekah (II Kings 16:1). This was the seventeenth year of Pekah's total reign. Since Hoshea slew Pekah in the twentieth year of Jotham (II Kings 15:30), there was evidently a four year overlap in the reigns of Jotham and Ahaz, with Ahaz the actual ruler. At the close of the four year overlap, the sixteen year official reign of Ahaz commenced (II Kings 16:2; II Chron. 28:1). Thiele, pp. 132-133.
27. 732 B. C. Thiele, p. 130, 133.
28. Hoshea began to reign in the twentieth year of Jotham (II Kings 15:30) which was the beginning of the official sixteen years of Ahaz (see note 26). For a detailed discussion of the reigns of Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah and Hoshea of Israel and of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah, see Thiele, pp. 124-138, 174-176.
29. Shalmaneser V reigned in Assyria from 727-722 B. C. Thiele, p. 137. The identity of So, king of Egypt, is unknown. Three proposals by scholars for the identification have merit, but a precise conclusion has not been determined. Richard D. Patterson, "The Divided Monarchy," *Giving the Sense*, ed. David M. Howard, Jr., and Michael A. Grisanti (Grand Rapids: Kregal Publications, 2003), pp. 196-197.
30. The fall of Samaria occurred in 723/22. Thiele, pp. 163-172.



## SECTION II KINGDOM OF JUDAH ALONE

From the Fall of Israel to the Fall of Judah  
II Kings 18 – 25; II Chronicles 29 – 36  
723/22 B. C. to 586 B. C.

### HEZEKIAH 29 yrs.

716/15 - 687/86 B. C.

- a. Hezekiah begins to reign in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Hoshea and reigns 29 years.<sup>1</sup>  
II Kings 18:1-2  
II Chron. 29:1
- b. He does right according to all that David did.  
II Kings 18:3  
II Chron. 29:2
- c. The temple is repaired and cleansed.  
II Chron. 29:3-19
- d. The service of the house of the Lord is restored.  
II Chron. 29:20-36
- e. All Israel and Judah are invited to Jerusalem to keep the Passover.  
II Chron. 30:1-12
- f. The Passover feast is celebrated for fourteen days.  
II Chron. 30:13-27
- g. The high places are removed; the brazen serpent is destroyed.  
II Kings 18:4  
II Chron. 31:1
- h. Hezekiah's righteousness is manifested in further religious reformation.  
II Kings 18:5-6  
II Chron. 31:2-21
- i. Hezekiah rebels against the king of Assyria.  
II Kings 18:7
- j. He smites the Philistines.  
II Kings 18:8
- k. The fall of Samaria occurs in the sixth year of Hezekiah.<sup>1</sup>  
II Kings 18:9-12
- l. In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, invades Judah; Hezekiah pays tribute.<sup>2</sup>  
II Kings 18:13-16 (cf. Isa. 36:1)  
II Chron. 32:1

**HEZEKIAH** (cont.)

- m. Hezekiah strengthens the defenses of Jerusalem.  
II Chron. 32:2-8
- n. The Assyrians lay siege to Jerusalem; Rabshakeh, servant of Sennacherib, delivers a message of surrender to Hezekiah's representatives.  
II Kings 18:17-37 (cf. Isa. 36:2-22)  
II Chron. 32:9-16, 18-19
- o. Hezekiah appeals to *Isaiah* who prophesies against Assyria.  
II Kings 19:1-7 (cf. Isa. 37:1-7)
- p. Sennacherib sends his messengers to Hezekiah with a letter.<sup>3</sup>  
II Kings 19:8-13 (cf. Isa. 37:8-13)  
II Chron. 32:17
- q. Hezekiah prays to the Lord for deliverance.  
II Kings 19:14-19 (cf. Isa. 37:14-20)  
II Chron. 32:20
- r. God's reply to Hezekiah is delivered through *Isaiah*.  
II Kings 19:20-34 (cf. Isa. 37:21-35)
- s. The angel of the Lord smites the Assyrian army during the night; the two sons of Sennacherib slay him at Nineveh; Esarhaddon, another son, becomes king of Assyria.<sup>4</sup>  
II Kings 19:35-37 (cf. Isa. 37:36-38)  
II Chron. 32:21-22
- t. The Lord heals Hezekiah, promises to lengthen his life and to defend the city.  
II Kings 20:1-11 (cf. Isa. 38)  
II Chron. 32:24
- u. *Isaiah* foretells the Babylonian captivity of the house of David after the visit of the ambassadors from Berodach-Baladan, king of Babylon.<sup>5</sup>  
II Kings 20:12-19 (cf. Isa. 39)  
II Chron. 32:25-26, 31
- v. Hezekiah has riches and prosperity.  
II Chron. 32:23, 27-29
- w. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 20:20-21  
II Chron. 32:30, 32-33

**MANASSEH** 55 yrs.

697/96 - 687/86 B.C. (regent)

687/86 - 643/42 B. C. (sole reign)

- a. Manasseh reigns 55 years.<sup>6</sup>
  - II Kings 21:1
  - II Chron. 33:1
- b. He does evil; he rebuilds the high places, sets up altars for Baal, pollutes the temple, etc.
  - II Kings 21:2-9
  - II Chron. 33:2-9
- c. *Prophets* of the Lord foretell the captivity of Judah and destruction of Jerusalem because of the abominations of Manasseh.
  - II Kings 21:10-15
  - II Chron. 33:10
- d. Manasseh sheds much innocent blood.
  - II Kings 21:16
- e. The Assyrians bind Manasseh and carry him to Babylon; he repents, the Lord delivers him, and he returns to Jerusalem.<sup>7</sup>
  - II Chron. 33:11-13
- f. Manasseh fortifies Jerusalem, destroys idolatry, and restores the worship of God; however, the high places remain.
  - II Chron. 33:14-17
- g. Closing remarks.
  - II Kings 21:17-18
  - II Chron. 33:18-20

**AMON** 2 yrs.

643/42 - 641/40 B. C.

- a. Amon reigns 2 years.
  - II Kings 21:19
  - II Chron. 33:21
- b. He does evil.
  - II Kings 21:20-22
  - II Chron. 33:22-23
- c. He is slain by his servants.
  - II Kings 21:23-24
  - II Chron. 33:24-25
- d. Closing remarks.
  - II Kings 21:25-26

**JOSIAH** 31 yrs.

641/40 - 609 B. C.

- a. Josiah reigns 31 years.  
II Kings 22:1  
II Chron. 34:1
- b. He does right as David his father.  
II Kings 22:2  
II Chron. 34:2
- c. In the eighth year of his reign he seeks after God; in the twelfth year he purges the high places and the idols in Judah, Jerusalem, and parts of Israel.  
II Chron. 34:3-7
- d. The temple is repaired in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign.  
II Kings 22:3-7  
II Chron. 34:8-13
- e. The book of the law is found in the temple.  
II Kings 22:8-13  
II Chron. 34:14-21
- f. *Huldah* prophesies that evil will come upon the land and the inhabitants after the death of Josiah.  
II Kings 22:14-20  
II Chron. 34:22-28
- g. The book of the law is read to the people.  
II Kings 23:1-2  
II Chron. 34:29-30
- h. Josiah makes a covenant before the Lord.  
II Kings 23:3  
II Chron. 34:31-33
- i. He makes further reforms, destroys idolatry, and defiles the high places in Judah.  
II Kings 23:4-14
- j. He destroys the altar at Bethel, fulfilling the prophecy of the *man of God* to Jeroboam.  
II Kings 23:15-18
- k. He destroys idolatrous places of worship in Samaria and slays the priests.  
II Kings 23:19-20
- l. He commands the observance of the Passover in the eighteenth year of his reign.  
II Kings 23:21-23  
II Chron. 35:1-19
- m. He puts away all the abominations in Judah in order to perform the words of the law.  
II Kings 23:24

**JOSIAH** (cont.)

- n. Josiah's service to the Lord is unsurpassed by any king before him or after him.  
II Kings 23:25
- o. The righteousness of Josiah cannot turn the Lord from his wrath against Judah.  
II Kings 23:26-27
- p. Josiah is slain by Necho, king of Egypt, at Megiddo.<sup>8</sup>  
II Kings 23:29-30  
II Chron. 35:20-24
- q. *Jeremiah* laments for Josiah.  
II Chron. 35:25
- r. Closing remarks.  
II Kings 23:28  
II Chron. 35:26-27

**JEHOAHAZ** 3 mos.

609 B. C.

- a. Jehoahaz reigns 3 months.  
II Kings 23:31  
II Chron. 36:1-2
- b. He does evil.  
II Kings 23:32
- c. Necho, king of Egypt, exacts tribute from Judah and carries Jehoahaz to Egypt.<sup>9</sup>  
II Kings 23:33-34  
II Chron. 36:3-4

**JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)** 11 yrs.

609 - 598 B. C.

- a. Necho, king of Egypt, places Eliakim, son of Josiah and brother of Jehoahaz, on the throne and changes his name to Jehoiakim.  
II Kings 23:34  
II Chron. 36:4
- b. Jehoiakim obtains tribute for Pharaoh by taxation.  
II Kings 23:35
- c. He reigns 11 years; he does evil.  
II Kings 23:36-37  
II Chron. 36:5
- d. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invades Judah.<sup>10</sup>  
II Kings 24:1, 7  
II Chron. 36:6-7

**JEHOIAKIM (cont.)**

- e. Bands of Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites invade Judah.  
II Kings 24:2-4
- f. Closing remarks.<sup>11</sup>  
II Kings 24:5-6  
II Chron. 36:8

**JEHOICHIN (JECONIAH, CONIAH)<sup>12</sup> 3 mos.**

598 - 597 B. C.

- a. Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, reigns 3 months; he does evil.  
II Kings 24:8-9  
II Chron. 36:9
- b. The Babylonians besiege Jerusalem, spoil the temple, carry Jehoiachin and other captives to Babylon.<sup>13</sup>  
II Kings 24:10-16  
II Chron. 36:10

**ZEDEKIAH (MATTANIAH) 11 yrs.**

597 - 586 B. C.

- a. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, places Mattaniah, son of Josiah and brother of Jehoiakim, on the throne and changes his name to Zedekiah.  
II Kings 24:17  
II Chron. 36:10
- b. Zedekiah reigns 11 years.  
II Kings 24:18 (cf. Jer. 52:1)  
II Chron. 36:11
- c. He does evil.  
II Kings 24:19 (cf. Jer. 52:2)  
II Chron. 36:12
- d. He rebels against the king of Babylon; the priests and people transgress greatly and misuse the prophets of God.  
II Kings 24:20 (cf. Jer. 52:3)  
II Chron. 36:13-16
- e. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieges Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup>  
II Kings 25:1-3 (cf. Jer. 39:1; 52:4-6)  
II Chron. 36:17
- f. The Babylonians capture Zedekiah, slay his sons, put out his eyes, and carry him to Babylon.  
II Kings 25:4-7 (cf. Jer. 39:2-7; 52:7-11)

**ZEDEKIAH (cont.)**

- g. The Babylonians burn the temple, break down the walls of Jerusalem, and carry the remnant of the people to Babylon, fulfilling the prophecy of *Jeremiah*.<sup>15</sup>
  - II Kings 25:8-17 (cf. Jer. 39:8-10; 52:12-23)
  - II Chron. 36:18-21
- h. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, slays the priests and nobles.
  - II Kings 25:18-21 (cf. Jer. 52:24-27)
- i. Ishmael conspires against Gedaliah, the appointed governor of Judah; the remnant of Judah flees to Egypt.
  - II Kings 25:22-26 (cf. Jer. 39:11-44:30)
- j. Jehoiachin is released from prison by Evil-Merodach, king of Babylon in the thirty-seventh year of his captivity.<sup>16</sup>
  - II Kings 25:27-30 (cf. Jer. 52:31-34)
- k. Cyrus, king of Persia, issues a decree which allows the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of *Jeremiah*.<sup>15 17</sup>
  - II Chron. 36:22-23 (cf. Ezra 1:1-4)

*For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place...And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity...and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.*  
*Jer. 29:10-14*



## KINGDOM OF JUDAH ALONE ENDNOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Since Hezekiah began his reign in Judah after the fall of Samaria and the Northern Kingdom, he could not have been contemporary with Hoshea, king of Israel. For a detailed discussion of the difficulties in the Hebrew chronology of this period see Thiele, pp. 134-138, 168-171, 174-176.
2. Sennacherib, king of Assyria (705-681 B. C.), invaded Judah in 701 B. C. which was Hezekiah's fourteenth year. On a clay cylinder or "prism," Sennacherib claims he destroyed forty-six cities in Judah, exacting tribute from Hezekiah and making him a "prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage." Jack Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959), pp. 210-212; Eugene H. Merrill, "Archaeology and Biblical History," *Giving the Sense*, pp. 91-92; Thiele, pp. 124-125, 174-175.
3. "Some have suggested that Sennacherib actually launched two campaigns against Judah and Jerusalem, the first in 701 B. C. and the second assumedly occurring later. Different biblical schema have been put forward with some deciding that 2 Kings 18:14-16 relates to the first campaign and 2 Kings 18:17-19:37, the second, while others place the first campaign in 1 Kings [2 Kings] 18:13-19:7 and the second in 2 Kings 19:8-37. The Assyrian account, however, reports only one campaign against Judah and Jerusalem." Patterson, "The Divided Monarchy," *Giving the Sense*, pp. 194-195. The second invasion theory stems in part from the reference to Tirhakah, king of Ethiopia (II Kings 19:9; Isa. 37:9). Tirhakah (Taharqa) succeeded his brother becoming king of the 25<sup>th</sup> (Kushite, Ethiopian) Dynasty but not until 690 B. C., with his reign extending to 664 B. C. However, according to inscriptions at Kawa (located midway between the Third and Fourth cataracts of the Nile), as the crown prince he led Egyptian and Ethiopian forces into Palestine against Sennacherib in 701 B. C. Jack Finegan, *Archaeological History of the Ancient Middle East* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979), pp. 116, 334-336.
4. Esarhaddon, son of Sennacherib, reigned in Assyria 681-669 B. C. Thiele, p. 178.
5. In Isaiah and secular accounts the spelling is Merodach-Baladan.
6. Eighty-nine years elapsed from the death of Hezekiah in 686 B. C. to the siege of Jerusalem in 597 B. C. However, the reigns of the kings during that same period (Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Jehoiachin) totaled ninety-nine years and six months, an excess of ten years. A coregency for that period would account for the ten year discrepancy, and the long reign of Manasseh would qualify for that situation. Since he was only twelve years old when he began to reign (II Kings 21:1; II Chron. 33:1), it is possible that he reigned jointly with his father Hezekiah for a period of time. When Hezekiah was healed of his illness and his days were lengthened (II Kings 20:1-7), he probably placed his son on the throne with him as early as possible in order to train him for leadership during his remaining fifteen years. Thiele, pp. 173-174, 176-177.
7. The Assyrian king who captured Manasseh is unknown, but two Assyrian monarchs, Esarhaddon (681-669 B. C.) and Ashurbanipal (669-633 B. C.), claim Manasseh paid tribute to them. Thiele, p. 178.

8. In 609 B. C. the last Assyrian king, Ashur-uballit II (611-608 B. C.), attempted to reconquer Haran from the Babylonians. The king of Egypt, Necho II (609-595 B. C.), marched to assist the Assyrians. Josiah tried to prevent the Egyptians from joining forces with the Assyrians, but he was slain by Necho at Megiddo. The Assyrians and Egyptians were not successful in their expedition against Haran, but Necho possibly smote Gaza at that time (Jer. 47:1). In addition, the Egyptians evidently took all of Syria and held the city of Carchemish until 605 B. C. Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, rev. ed. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1998), p. 252; Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past*, pp. 129-130; Thiele, pp. 180-181.
9. When Necho returned from Megiddo, he took Jehoahaz to Egypt as a prisoner and placed Jehoiakim on the throne of Judah. Thiele, p. 182.
10. In 605 B. C. Nebuchadnezzar, son of the Babylonian king Nabopolassar (625-605 B. C.), defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish. After the battle of Carchemish, according to the Babylonian record, Nebuchadnezzar conquered all of "the Hatti-country," the area which included Syria and Palestine. An attack on Jerusalem apparently occurred during this campaign. According to Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in the third year of Jehoiakim (Dan. 1:1). The battle of Carchemish is dated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim in Jeremiah where a different system of reckoning was used (Jer. 46:2, 10, 25-26). The first deportation of Judah to Babylon occurred at this time (605 B. C.) with Daniel and his three friends among the captives (Dan. 1). The Babylonian text states that during this campaign Nebuchadnezzar received word of the death of his father and returned in haste to Babylon to claim the throne. He ascended the throne in 605 B. C., but according to the Babylonian system of reckoning, his official reign was 604-562 B. C. Nebuchadnezzar then went back to the Hatti-land in his first year (604/603 B. C.), marched unopposed throughout the territory and received heavy tribute from all its kings. Nebuchadnezzar returned again to the Hatti-land in his second and third years. The expedition to the west in his fourth year (601/600 B. C.) resulted in a battle with Egypt. Each side "inflicted great havoc on each other" and Nebuchadnezzar returned to Babylon. This Babylonian defeat might have prompted Jehoiakim to rebel after he had served Nebuchadnezzar for three years (II Kings 24:1). Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, pp. 252-255; Thiele, pp. 182-186, 206-207, 227.
11. Jeremiah prophesied a violent death for Jehoiakim (Jer. 22:18-19; 36:30). Josephus, the Jewish historian, states that Jehoiakim was killed by the Babylonian king who ordered him cast before the walls of the city and left unburied. Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, trans. William Whiston, X:VI:3.
12. Jehoiachin is called Jeconiah in I Chron. 3:16-17; Esth. 2:6; Jer. 24:1; 27:20; 28:4; 29:2. He is called Coniah in Jer. 22:24, 28; 37:1.

13. The Babylonian text states that Nebuchadnezzar stayed in his own land in his fifth year, but in his sixth and seventh years he went back to the Hatti-land. He besieged Jerusalem in his seventh year, or in his eighth year according to the method of reckoning used in Judah (II Kings 24:12). The siege began in December, 598 B. C., and continued to March 16, 597 B. C. On that date Nebuchadnezzar seized the city and captured the king (Jehoiachin). He then appointed a king of his own choice (Zedekiah) and received heavy tribute. The second deportation of Judah to Babylon took place in that year (597 B. C.). Among the 10,000 captives were the king Jehoiachin and Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:1-3; 40:1). Thiele, pp. 173, 186-190, 207-208.
14. The final siege of Jerusalem began on the tenth day of the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiah (II Kings 25:1; Jer. 39:1; 52:4), January 15, 588 B. C. Final destruction of the city began on the seventh day of the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah (II Kings 25:2, 8-10), and according to Jeremiah on the tenth day of the same month (Jer. 52:5, 12-14). These dates corresponded to August 14 and 17 in 586 B. C. This was also the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:8; Jer. 52:12). The third deportation of Judah to Babylon took place at this time (586 B. C.). Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, pp. 259-260; Thiele, pp. 190-191.
15. Jeremiah prophesied the Babylonian captivity of Judah and the return from captivity when seventy years were accomplished (Jer. 25:8-13; 29:10-14).
16. Evil-Merodach (Amel-Marduk), son and successor of Nebuchadnezzar, reigned in Babylon 561-560 B. C. Jehoiachin was released from prison on the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year of his captivity or April 2, 561 B. C. Since this date was just before the first celebration of the New Year's festivities by the new king Evil-Merodach, it was an appropriate time for the release of a political prisoner. Thiele, pp. 189-190, 227.
17. Cyrus the Great, a Persian, conquered Babylon in 539 B. C. As founder of the Persian Empire, his official world reign was 538-530 B. C. Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past*, p. 230.



## SECTION III ANCIENT EMPIRES<sup>1</sup>

### Secular empires and kings contemporary with Judah and Israel

#### SYRIA

**HADADEZER (HADAREZER)**—the king of Zobah in Syria. He was defeated by David and became tributary to Israel. II Sam. 8:3-13; 10; I Chron. 18:3-11; 19.

**REZON**—a usurper who established an independent rule in Damascus following David's capture of Zobah. He became an adversary to Israel during the reign of Solomon. I Kings 11:23-25. He was perhaps the same as Hezion, the father of Tabrimon and the grandfather of Benhadad I. I Kings 15:18.

**TABRIMON**—the son of Hezion (Rezon) and the father of Benhadad I. I Kings 15:18.

**BENHADAD I** (c. 900-860 B. C.)  
—the son of Tabrimon. He formed a league with Baasha, king of Israel, who was threatening Asa, king of Judah. Asa sent treasures of silver and gold from the house of the Lord to Benhadad with an appeal to break his league with Baasha. Benhadad then attacked northern Israel and captured many towns. I Kings 15:16-20; II Chron. 16:1-4.

#### ASSYRIA

**ASHURNASIRPAL II** (883-859 B.C.)—a monarch whose reign marked the beginning of Assyrian dominance of the world. He crossed the Orontes River in Syria and marched to the Mediterranean Sea, looting Tyre, Sidon, and Byblos during the reign of Omri, king of Israel. At that time Omri

## SYRIA

### **BENHADAD I (cont.)**

He continued his warfare against Israel during the reign of Omri, king of Israel, and forced that king to make “streets” in Samaria for Syrian residents. I Kings 20:34.

### **BENHADAD II (c. 860-843 B. C.) —**

probably the son of Benhadad I (referred to as Hadadezer on monuments and the annals of Shalmaneser III). The following events took place during his reign.

- The Syrians besieged Samaria but were defeated by Ahab and the princes of the provinces. I Kings 20:1-21.
- Israel again defeated the Syrians a year later at Aphek. Ahab spared Benhadad’s life and made a covenant with him. Three years of peace followed. I Kings 20:22-43; 22:1.
- The Syrians then fought against an alliance of Ahab, king of Israel, and of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, at Ramoth-gilead. Ahab was killed in the battle. I Kings 22:2-38; II Chron. 18.
- Naaman, captain of the Syrian host and a leper, was cured by Elisha. II Kings 5:1-19.
- Elisha revealed to the king of Israel the location of the Syrian camp. The Syrians sent to capture Elisha at Dothan were smitten with blindness. II Kings 6:8-23.

## ASSYRIA

### **ASHURNASIRPAL II (cont.)**

purchased the hill of Samaria and built a strongly fortified capital city. I Kings 16:23-24.

### **SHALMANESER III (858-824**

B. C.)—the son of Ashurnasirpal II. In the sixth year of his reign, 853 B. C., he defeated a coalition of twelve western kings at Qarqar (Karkar) on the Orontes River. Benhadad II (Hadadezer) of Syria and Ahab of Israel were among the allied kings.<sup>2</sup> In the eighteenth year of his reign, 841 B. C., he received tribute from Jehu, king of Israel.<sup>3</sup> He died amidst revolt, and the Assyrian power declined until 745 B. C. which allowed a period of relative peace for Judah and Israel.

## SYRIA

## ASSYRIA

### **BENHADAD II** (cont.)

- The Syrians again besieged Samaria which resulted in a severe famine in the city. The Syrians suddenly lifted the siege, however, and fled during the night. II Kings 6:24-33; 7.
- Benhadad II was murdered by Hazael who usurped the throne. II Kings 8:7-15.

**HAZAEI** (c. 843-798 B. C.)—a usurper who murdered Benhadad II and then reigned in his stead. II Kings 8:7-15. He brought Syria to its zenith with a long and successful reign. He was contemporary with Joram, Jehu, and Jehoahaz of Israel and with Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah and Joash of Judah. He chastised Israel as revealed by God to Elijah. I Kings 19:15-17. The following hostilities with Israel and Judah occurred during his reign.

- He fought against Joram, king of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of Judah, at Ramoth-gilead. Joram was wounded in the battle. Meanwhile Jehu was anointed and proclaimed king of Israel. II Kings 8:25, 28-29; 9:1-15; II Chron. 22:1, 5-6.
- He smote Israel east of the Jordan River during the reign of Jehu. II Kings 10:32-33.

## SYRIA

### HAZAEEL (cont.)

- During an expedition to Gath, he advanced to Jerusalem but withdrew when he was given tribute by Joash, king of Judah. II Kings 12:17-18; II Chron. 24:23-24.
- He oppressed Israel during the reign of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. II Kings 13:3-7, 22-24.

### BENHADAD III (c. 798-740 B. C.)

—son of Hazael. He was defeated three times by Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz, as prophesied by Elisha. II Kings 13:14-19, 24-25. During his reign Jeroboam II, son and successor of Jehoash, recovered territory once ruled by Solomon. II Kings 14:23-28; Jer. 49:23-27; Amos 1:1-5.

**REZIN** (c. 740-732 B. C.)—the last of the Syrian kings who reigned in Damascus. He formed an alliance with Pekah, king of Israel, and attacked Judah during the reigns of Jotham and Ahaz. Rezin and Pekah besieged Jerusalem unsuccessfully, but the Syrians captured Elath in the south. The beleaguered Ahaz sent tribute to the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser, appealing for aid. In 732 B. C. the Assyrians attacked Syria, captured Damascus, and killed Rezin. This ended the Syrian kingdom which was then absorbed by the Assyrian empire. II Kings 15:37; 16:5-9; II Chron. 28:5, 16, 20-21; Isa. 7:1-9.

## ASSYRIA

**SHAMSHI-ADAD V** (823-811 B.C.)—the son of Shalmaneser III.

**ADAD-NIRARI III** (810-783 B. C.) —the son of Shamshi-Adad V. He received tribute from Jehoash, king of Israel, and Benhadad III in 796 B. C.<sup>4</sup>

**SHALMANESER IV** (782-773 B. C.)

**ASHUR-DAN III** (772-755 B. C.)

**ASHUR-NIRARI V** (754-745 B. C.)

**TIGLATH-PILESER III (PUL)**<sup>5</sup> (744-727 B. C.)—whether a usurper or son of Ashur-nirari V is uncertain, but he was a warrior and statesman, and as king he assumed the name of one of his predecessors. With this monarch the empire entered its greatest period. According to Assyrian inscriptions he received tribute from Uzziah, king of Judah, and from Menahem, king of Israel in 743 B. C.<sup>6</sup> The tribute from Menahem is recorded in II Kings 15:19-20. In 734-732 B. C. Tiglath-pileser attacked Philistia, Israel, and Syria.<sup>7</sup> During these campaigns the following events occurred.

## ASSYRIA

### TIGLATH-PILESER III (cont.)

- He carried part of Israel captive to Assyria in the reign of Pekah, king of Israel. II Kings 15:29; I Chron. 5:26.
- He received tribute and an appeal for aid from Ahaz, king of Judah, who was threatened by an alliance of Pekah, king of Israel, and Rezin, king of Syria. II Kings 16:5-9; II Chron. 28:16-21.
- He captured Damascus and killed Rezin, king of Syria, in 732 B. C.<sup>8</sup> II Kings 16:9.
- He was visited by Ahaz in Damascus. II Kings 16:10.

**SHALMANESER V** (726-722 B.C.)—the son of Tiglath-pileser III. He besieged Samaria for three years during the reign of Hoshea, king of Israel. The siege ended with the fall of the city in the ninth year of Hoshea, 723/722 B. C., and Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity.<sup>9</sup> II Kings 17:3-6; 18:9-12.

**SARGON II** (721-705 B. C.)—the brother of Shalmaneser V as recorded in one text. Although he claims credit for the capture of Samaria, this is contrary to other data which indicate that the fall of Samaria occurred during the reign of Shalmaneser V. Sargon's name appears in reference to an attack on Ashdod. Isa. 20:1.

## BABYLONIA

**MERODACH-BALADAN** (721-710, 703 B. C.)—a Chaldean who seized Babylon after the death of Shalmaneser V and rebelled against Assyria during the reigns of Sargon II and Sennacherib. He sent ambassadors to Hezekiah. II Kings 20:12-19; II Chron. 32:31; Isa. 39. This event occurred shortly after 701 B. C.<sup>10</sup> At that time this



## ASSYRIA

**SENNACHERIB** (704-681 B. C.)— the son of Sargon II. In 701 B. C. he invaded Judah during the reign of Hezekiah and conquered many cities. Although Sennacherib claims that he made Hezekiah a prisoner in Jerusalem “like a caged bird,” his army departed from Judah suddenly and Jerusalem escaped destruction. He was murdered by his two sons.<sup>11</sup> II Kings 18:13-37; 19; II Chron. 32:1-22; Isa. 36; 37.

**ESARHADDON** (680-669 B. C.)— the son of Sennacherib. He rebuilt the city of Babylon which was destroyed by his father. Manasseh, king of Judah, was taken bound in fetters to that city, but Assyrian records do not identify the Assyrian king. II Chron. 33:11-13. However, Manasseh paid tribute to two Assyrian kings, Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal.<sup>12</sup> Long after the deportation of Israel by Assyria, Esarhaddon resettled Samaria with foreigners. Ezra 4:2.

**ASHURBANIPAL** (668-627 B. C.)— the son of Esarhaddon. He is called Asnapper (Osnapper) in Ezra 4:10. During his reign the empire reached its zenith. In 663 B. C. he conquered the capital of Upper Egypt, Thebes, probably the greatest triumph in Assyrian history.<sup>13</sup> Nah. 3:8-10.

## BABYLONIA

**MERODCH-BALADAN** (cont.) monarch had been deposed by the Assyrians and was in exile. Having heard of Hezekiah’s successful defense against Sennacherib, he probably sent his ambassadors to Judah in order to form an alliance with Hezekiah.

## ASSYRIA

**ADDENDUM**—After the death of Ashurbanipal, the Assyrian empire rapidly declined. Three rulers, Ashur-etililani, Sin-shumlishir, and Sin-sharishkun, reigned briefly. In 612 B. C. an alliance of Medes under Cyaxares and Babylonians under Nabopolassar destroyed the Assyrian capital of Nineveh after a violent battle. One more Assyrian ruler, Ashur-uballit II (611-609 B.C.), reigned in the city of Haran, but this city was soon captured also.<sup>14</sup>

## BABYLONIA

**NABOPOLASSAR (NABU-APAL-USUR)** (625-605)—a Chaldean and a descendant of Merodach-Baladan. He seized the throne in Babylon after the death of Ashurbanipal, king of Assyria, and founded the Neo-Babylonian Empire. He formed an alliance with Cyaxares, king of the Medes, to overthrow the Assyrians. After the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C., the Medes took the territories east and north of the Tigris River, and Babylon took the lands west and south. To strengthen the alliance between the Chaldeans and Medes, Amytis, the daughter of Cyaxares's son Astyages, was given in marriage to Nabopolassar's son, Nebuchadnezzar.

**NEBUCHADNEZZAR II (NABU-KUDURRI-USUR)**<sup>15</sup> (604-562 B. C.)—the son of Nabopolassar. He defeated Necho II, the Egyptian king, at Carchemish on the Euphrates River in 605 B. C. Jer. 46:2. After this battle he then marched throughout all Syria-Palestine. The first siege of Jerusalem probably occurred at this time with some temple treasures and a few captives of noble lineage, including Daniel and his three friends, deported to Babylon for training in the Chaldean language and customs. II Kings 24:1; II Chron. 36:5-7; Dan. 1. During this campaign Nebuchadnezzar II received word of the death of his father and hastened to Babylon to claim the throne. In his fourth year, 601/600 B. C., he marched against Egypt but returned to Babylon after each side "inflicted great havoc" on each other. Jehoiakim's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar probably occurred after this Babylonian defeat. II Kings 24:1. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem the second time during the reign of Jehoiachin, 598/597 B. C., and carried the king and many captives including Ezekiel to Babylon. II Kings 24:8-16; II Chron. 36:9-10; Ezek. 1:1-3; 40:1. He besieged Jerusalem again during the reign of Zedekiah, captured the city in 586 B. C., and deported the remnant of Judah to Babylon.<sup>16</sup> II Kings 25:1-21; II Chron. 36:17-21; Jer. 39:1-10; 52:1-27.

## BABYLONIA

**EVIL-MERODACH (AMEL-MARDUK)** (561-560 B. C.)—the son of Nebuchadnezzar II. He released Jehoiachin from prison in the thirty-seventh year of his captivity. II Kings 25:27-30; Jer. 52:31-34. He was assassinated by his brother-in-law Neriglissar.

**NERIGLISAR (NERGAL-SHAR-USUR)** (559-556 B. C.)—the son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar. He is perhaps the Nergal-sharezer, the Rabmag (a military title), named in reference to the final fall of Jerusalem.<sup>17</sup> Jer. 39:3, 13.

**LABOROSOARDOCH (LABASHI-MARDUK)** (556 B. C.) the son of Neriglissar. He came to the throne as a young boy and reigned for only a few months before he was murdered by conspirators.

**NABONIDUS (NABU-NA'ID)** (555-539 B. C.)—a Babylonian noble and one of the conspirators who deposed Laborosoardoch. In an expedition to the west, probably Arabia, he conquered Tema, established his residence there, and engaged in extensive construction projects. He entrusted the kingship to his son Belshazzar, the crown prince, who remained in Babylon as coregent. In the seventeenth year of Nabonidus on October 12, 539 B. C., the army of Cyrus II, the Persian, entered Babylon without a battle. Belshazzar who was engaged in a riotous banquet was slain the same night, while Nabonidus who had fled the Persian army two days earlier was later taken captive.<sup>18</sup> Dan. 5.

## PERSIA

**CYRUS II THE GREAT** (538-530 B. C.)—a descendant of Achaemenes, an early leader of the Persian tribe which settled near the Elamite land of Anshan. Cyrus inherited the throne of Anshan in 559 B. C. After defeating his maternal grandfather Astyages, king of the Medes, in 550 B. C., he united the Medes and the Persians becoming their supreme ruler. On October 12, 539 B. C., the army of Cyrus entered Babylon without a battle, and Cyrus himself entered the city on October 29, 539 B. C., marking the beginning of his world rule.<sup>19</sup> Cyrus practiced a humane policy both politically and religiously and is named by Isaiah as the shepherd and anointed of the Lord. Isa. 44:28; 45:1. He permitted deported peoples to return to their homelands and encouraged the conquered nations to restore their traditional worship. His decree which permitted the Jews to return to Palestine was made in his first official year, 538/537 B. C., with the actual return probably taking place shortly afterward.<sup>20</sup> II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4.

## PERSIA

- **DARIUS THE MEDE** the book of Daniel tells of another prominent ruler who apparently was contemporary with Cyrus. Dan. 6. Darius the Mede is called the “son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans.” Dan. 9:1. No ruler by this name has been found in secular history. The Nabonidus Chronicle and other Babylonian and Persian tablets, however, refer to a powerful “governor of Babylon and the Region beyond the River” by the name of Gubaru. These documents reveal that Gubaru was governor of Babylonia on the day that Cyrus entered the conquered city of Babylon, October 29, 529 B. C. He continued in that position at least until the fifth year of Cambyses, the son of Cyrus, a period of fourteen years. It is possible, therefore, to identify Gubaru, the governor of Babylon and the Region beyond the River, with Darius the Mede who ruled Babylon after the death of Belshazzar according to the book of Daniel.<sup>21</sup>

**CAMBYSES II** (529-522 B. C.)—the son of Cyrus. Shortly after his accession to the Persian throne, he suspected his brother Smerdis of disloyalty and had him secretly murdered. In 525 B. C. he extended Persian dominion of the world by conquering Egypt. Following the Egyptian campaign, Cambyses returned with his army to Persia to suppress the revolt of Gaumata, a usurper who had seized the throne and claimed to be Smerdis. On the way, however, he died as the result of a self-inflicted or accidental sword wound.

**DARIUS I THE GREAT** (521-486 B. C.)—the son of Hystaspes, also a descendant of Achaemenes and thus a kinsman of Cyrus. He assumed the throne when the usurper Gaumata was overthrown and slain. His administrative genius led to the reorganization of the empire into twenty satrapies. His extensive construction activities included digging a canal from the Nile River to the Red Sea and building a new capital at Persepolis. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah began their prophetic missions in the second year of Darius, 520 B. C. Hag. 1:1; Zech. 1:1. The temple which was rebuilt in Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel was dedicated in the sixth year of Darius, 515 B. C. Ezra 4:1-5, 24; 5; 6:1-15.

**XERXES I** (485-465 B. C.)—the son of Darius I. The Persian Khshayarsha, the Hebrew 'ahashwerosh, the Greek Xerxes, and the Latin Ahasuerus are the various forms of the name and are equivalent of one another.<sup>22</sup> The Ahasuerus of Esther is identified with this monarch. Xerxes is probably the Ahasuerus of Ezra 4:6 also.<sup>23</sup>

**ARTAXERXES I LONGIMANUS** (464-424 B. C.)—the son of Xerxes. He is identified with the Artaxerxes named in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra 7; 8:1; Neh. 2:1; 5:14; 13:6. Ezra the scribe came to Jerusalem from Babylon in the seventh year of Artaxerxes, 458 B. C. Ezra 7:7. Nehemiah's commission to return to Jerusalem was in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, 445 B. C. Neh. 2:1. This monarch is probably the Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:7-23 also.<sup>23</sup>

**DARIUS II** (423-405 B. C.)—the son of Artaxerxes I. Artaxerxes I was succeeded by his son Xerxes II who was murdered shortly after taking the throne by Sogdianus, his half brother. Sogdianus reigned briefly and was killed by another brother Ochus. The latter, a son of Artaxerxes I by a concubine, then took the throne and assumed the name of Darius. He was called Nothus (Bastard) by the Greeks. He is probably Darius the Persian mentioned in Neh. 12:22.

**ARTAXERXES II MNEMON** (404-359 B. C.)—the son of Darius II. His brother Cyrus the Younger attempted to seize the throne but was defeated and killed in the ensuing battle.

**ARTAXERXES III OCHUS** (358-338 B. C.)—the son of Artaxerxes II. He was murdered with all his sons except the youngest, Arses, by his general Bagoas.

**ARSES** (337-336 B. C.) the son of Artaxerxes III. He was placed on the throne by Bagoas, but after a short reign, he, too, was killed by Bagoas.

**DARIUS III CODOMANNUS** (335-330 B. C.)—a descendant of a brother of Artaxerxes II and the last of the Achaemenian house. He was defeated by Alexander the Great in 331 B. C. and shortly afterward was assassinated by one of his own officials. The Persian Empire was then succeeded by the Macedonian or Greek Empire, and the political power of the world shifted from the Middle East to the West—from the Fertile Crescent to Europe.

## ANCIENT EMPIRES ENDNOTES AND REFERENCES

1. The historical sketches for the Ancient Empires outline were compiled from the following sources: Finegan, *Archaeological History of the Ancient Middle East*; Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*; Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past; Giving the Sense*, ed. David M. Howard, Jr., Michael A. Grisanti; *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1939); Werner Keller, *The Bible as History*, trans. William Neil, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed. (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1981); *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, ed. Ronald F. Youngblood, rev. ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1995); Thiele, *Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*; John C. Whitcomb, Jr., *Darius the Mede*, (Philadelphia: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1963); *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, ed. Merrill C. Tenney (Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corporation, 1975).
2. The growth of the Assyrian power might have prompted Ahab to spare Benhadad's life and to form an alliance with him which resulted in the three years peace between Israel and Syria (I Kings 20:31-34; 22:1). According to Assyrian records, in 853 B. C. a coalition of western allies, including Ahab of Israel and Benhadad of Syria, fought against Shalmaneser III of Assyria at Qarqar on the Orontes River resulting in the defeat of the western allied kings. Shortly following the battle at Qarqar, however, the alliance between Ahab and Benhadad ended as well as the peace, for Ahab joined forces with Jehoshaphat of Judah and fought against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead (I Kings 22:2-38; II Chron. 18). Thiele, pp. 95-96, n. 13.
3. *Ibid.* pp. 103-104.
4. Was this monarch the saviour "the Lord gave Israel," or is the reference to Jehoash and Jeroboam II? Regardless of the meaning of the scriptural passage, according to Assyrian inscriptions this ruler subjugated all of Syria and its king, spoiling the royal city of Damascus. The defeated Syrian king was probably Benhadad III. The collapse of the Syrian power thus enabled Israel under Jehoash and Jeroboam II to recover former territories which had been captured by Hazael. Jehoash, grateful to the Assyrians for their subjugation of Syria, voluntarily sent a gift to Adad-nirari. (II Kings 13:5, 24-25; 14:23-28). Thiele, pp. 111-113; J. J. Edwards, "Benhadad III," *Zondervan*, 1, p. 520.
5. Pul was the Babylonian name of Tiglath-pileser. He is referred to as Pul in II Kings 15:19 and I Chron. 5:26. Thiele, pp. 124-125.
6. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, p. 111; Thiele, pp. 125-126, 159.
7. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 111-112; Thiele, pp. 151, 198.
8. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, p. 111; Thiele, p. 133.
9. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, p. 112; Thiele, p. 163.

10. Thiele, p. 176.
11. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 115-117; Eugene H. Merrill, "Archaeology and Biblical History," *Giving the Sense*, pp.91-92; Patterson, "The Divided Monarchy," *Giving the Sense*, pp. 194-196; Thiele, p. 174.
12. Thiele, p. 178.
13. Keller, p. 293. In Nahum 3:8-10 the prophet refers to the destruction of the city of No (No-Amon, ASV, NKJV), the Biblical name for Thebes. Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past*, p. 90, n. 4.
14. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 121-125.
15. The Babylonian name is Nabu-kudurri-usur. In II Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, and part of Jeremiah the name is Nebuchadnezzar which is the most familiar. In Ezekiel and part of Jeremiah the name is Nebuchadrezzar which is closer to the original. Finegan, *Light from the Ancient Past*, p. 220, n. 1.
16. Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, pp. 252-260; Thiele, 206-208.
17. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 130-131.
18. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 130-133; Whitcomb, p. 70.
19. Finegan, *Archaeological History*, pp. 133, 139-141.
20. Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, pp. 266-267; Whitcomb, pp. 70-71.
21. For evidence supporting this identification, see Whitcomb, *Darius the Mede*.
22. R. Dick Wilson, "Ahasuerus," *ISBE*, I, pp. 80-81.
23. Some have identified Ahasuerus of Ezra 4:6 with Cambyses, son of Cyrus, and Artaxerxes of Ezra 4:7 with Gaumata, the usurper and pseudo-Smerdis. There is no evidence, however, to support this view. It is more probable that Xerxes and Artaxerxes are the kings referred to respectively and that the passage in Ezra 4:6-23 is not in chronological order. K. L. Barker, "Artaxerxes," *Zondervan*, 1, pp. 340-341.



## SECTION IV

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### LESSON 1

The purpose of this lesson is to present an overview of the periods of the Divided Kingdom and the Kingdom of Judah Alone together with the return of the remnant to the promised land.

1. The division of the kingdom occurred in 931/30 B. C.
  - a. The Kingdom of Israel, also called the Northern Kingdom, included how many tribes? (I Kings 11:31)
  
  - b. The Kingdom of Judah, also called the Southern Kingdom, included which tribes? (I Kings 12:21; II Chron. 11:1)
  
2. Who was the first king of Israel? (I Kings 11:31; 12:20)
  
3. Who was the first king of Judah? He was the son of whom? (I Kings 14:21; II Chron. 12:13)
  
4. In Judah all the kings were the descendants of what king? (I Kings 11:31-32; cf. II Sam. 7:12-17)
  
5. The fall of the Kingdom of Israel occurred in 723/22 B. C. What nation carried Israel into captivity? (II Kings 17:6)
  
6. The Kingdom of Judah continued alone for a period of time, but then Judah fell also in 586 B. C. The king of what nation carried Judah into captivity? (Jer. 25:8-11)



Lesson 1 - 2

7. Three main deportations of Judah to Babylon occurred.
  - a. The first deportation of Judah occurred in 605 B. C. during the reign of what king of Judah? (Dan. 1:1)
  - b. What prophet was carried into captivity at this time? (Dan. 1:1-6)
  - c. The second deportation of Judah occurred in 597 B. C. during the reign of what king of Judah? (II Kings 24:8-12; II Chron. 36:9-10)
  - d. What prophet was carried into captivity at this time? (Ezek. 1:1-3; 40:1)
  - e. The third deportation of Judah occurred in 586 B. C. during the reign of what king of Judah? (II Kings 25:1-7)
8. Who placed Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, upon the throne? (II Kings 24:17; II Chron. 36:10; Jer. 37:1)
9. The last two kings of Judah were Jehoiachin (sometimes called Jeconiah or Coniah) and Zedekiah. The lineage of Christ is through which of these two kings? (Matt. 1:11-12)
10. How long did Judah remain in Babylonian captivity? (II Chron. 36:20-21; Jer. 25:8-13; 29:10-14)
11. Who issued a decree that allowed the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem? (II Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)
12. Some one hundred fifty years before the actual event occurred, the Lord through his prophet Isaiah named Cyrus as the deliverer of his people. What did the Lord call Cyrus? (Isa. 44:28; 45:1)
13. What would Cyrus do? (Isa. 44:28)
14. What would the Lord do for Cyrus? (Isa. 45:1-7)

Lesson 1 - 3

15. As there were three main deportations of Judah into Babylonian captivity, there were also three significant returns from Babylon to Judah and Jerusalem.
- a. The first return occurred about 537-536 B. C. and was led by whom?<sup>1</sup> (Ezra 1:5-2:2)
  
  - b. What was the main purpose of this return? (Ezra 1:5)
  
  - c. The second return occurred in 458 B. C. and was led by whom? (Ezra 7:1-10)
  
  - d. What was the purpose of this return? (Ezra 7:10)
  
  - e. The third return to Jerusalem was in 445 B. C. and was led by whom? (Neh. 1:1-3; 2:1-8)
  
  - f. What was the purpose of this return? (Neh. 2:1-8; 6:15)

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<sup>1</sup> It is not evident in the book of Ezra if chapters 1-6 tell of a single return or whether two returns are involved. Sheshbazzar, called prince of Judah and governor (Ezra 1:8; 5:14), was entrusted by the treasurer of Cyrus with the temple treasures carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, and he is credited with laying the foundation of the house of God (Ezra 1:7-11; 5:14-16). Zerubbabel, grandson of Jeconiah (I Chron. 3:17-19; Ezra 3:2) and named governor (Hag. 1:1; 2:2, 21), led a sizeable group to Jerusalem and successfully completed construction of the temple (Ezra 2-6). It is unclear whether these two leaders were part of the same group who returned to Jerusalem, if each led a separate return a few years apart, or if they were the same person. Byron G. Curtis, "After the Exile," *Giving the Sense*, pp. 304-306. For the purpose of this lesson, only one return in this time period is considered.

## LESSON 2

# THE RENDING OF THE KINGDOM

I Kings 11:26-40; 12:1-24; II Chron. 10; 11:1-4

Events in Judah and Israel are both covered in the books of Kings. In II Chronicles the focus is on Judah, although some interaction between the two kingdoms is documented.

### I. THE RENDING OF THE KINGDOM PROPHESED (I Kings 11:26-40)

1. Who was Jeroboam? (I Kings 11:26)
2. What position had Solomon given him? (I Kings 11:27-28)
3. The division of the kingdom prophesied by Ahijah. (I Kings 11:29-36)
  - a. How was the prophecy symbolized? (I Kings 11:29-30)
  - b. How many tribes was Jeroboam to receive? (I Kings 11:31, 35)
  - c. How many tribes would be left for Solomon? (I Kings 11:32)
  - d. Why was the kingdom to be divided? (I Kings 11:33; cf. 11:9-13)
  - e. When was the division to take place? (I Kings 11:34-35)
  - f. How many tribes was Solomon's son to receive? (I Kings 11:36; cf. 12:21; II Chron. 11:1)
  - g. Why were these tribes preserved for the son of Solomon? (I Kings 11:32, 36)
4. What promise was given to Jeroboam if he would keep the statutes and commandments of the Lord? (I Kings 11:37-39)
5. When Solomon sought to slay Jeroboam, where did he flee? (I Kings 11:40)

**II. THE RENDING OF THE KINGDOM** (I Kings 12:1-24; II Chron. 10; 11:1-4)

1. What request did Jeroboam and the congregation of Israel make unto Rehoboam? (I Kings 12:1-5; II Chron. 10:1-5)
2. What advice did the old men give to Rehoboam? (I Kings 12:6-7; II Chron. 10:6-7)
3. What advice did the young men give to Rehoboam? (I Kings 12:8-11; II Chron. 10:8-11)
4. What was Rehoboam's answer to Jeroboam and all the people? (I Kings 12:12-15; II Chron. 10:12-15)
5. What did Israel do when the king did not hearken unto them? (I Kings 12:16-19; II Chron. 10:16-19)
6. Who was made king over Israel? Who followed the house of David? (I Kings 12:20)
7. Whom did Rehoboam assemble to fight against the house of Israel? (I Kings 12:21; II Chron. 11:1)
8. What did the prophet Shemaiah tell Rehoboam? (I Kings 12:22-24; II Chron. 11:2-4)

## LESSON 3

### REHOBOAM – JEROBOAM

I Kings 12:25-33; 13; 14; 15:6; II Chron. 11:5-23; 12

#### I. IN JUDAH – REHOBOAM (I Kings 14:21-31; 15:6; II Chron. 11:5-23; 12)

1. How did Rehoboam strengthen his kingdom? (II Chron. 11:5-12)
2. Why did the Levites and those of other tribes migrate to Judah? (II Chron. 11:13-16)
3. How long did Judah walk in the way of David? (II Chron. 11:17)
4. What sins did Judah commit? Describe Rehoboam. (I Kings 14:21-24; II Chron. 12:1, 13-14)
5. What occurred in Judah because of transgressions? (I Kings 14:25-28; II Chron. 12:2-4, 9-11)
6. How was the wrath of the Lord turned from Judah and Rehoboam? (II Chron. 12:5-8, 12)
7. How long did Rehoboam and Jeroboam war against each other? (I Kings 14:30; 15:6; II Chron. 12:15)

#### II. IN ISRAEL – JEROBOAM (I Kings 12:25-33; 13; 14:1-20)

1. How did Jeroboam corrupt the worship of God? (I Kings 12:25-33)
2. What did the man of God who came out of Judah prophesy to Jeroboam? (I Kings 13:1-2)

## Lesson 3 - 7

3. What sign did he give? (I Kings 13:3)
4. What happened to Jeroboam's hand? (I Kings 13:4)
5. What happened to the altar? (I Kings 13:5)
6. What did Jeroboam ask the man of God? (I Kings 13:6)
7. What had God commanded the man of God? (I Kings 13:7-10)
8. How did the old prophet convince the man of God to come to his house?  
(I Kings 13:11-19)
9. What occurred as they were eating? (I Kings 13:20-22)
10. What happened to the man of God as he was returning to Judah? (I Kings  
13:23-25)
11. When the old prophet heard the report concerning the man of God and investigated, what did he find? (I Kings 13:26-28)
12. Where did the old prophet bury the man of God? (I Kings 13:29-32)
13. How did Jeroboam continue in his evil way and with what result? (I Kings  
13:33-34)

Lesson 3 - 8

14. Why did Jeroboam's wife seek the prophet Ahijah? (I Kings 14:1-5)
  
15. What was Ahijah's prophecy to Jeroboam's wife regarding the house of Jeroboam? (I Kings 14:6-14)
  
16. What did he prophesy concerning Israel? (I Kings 14:15-16)
  
17. What was the fate of Jeroboam's child? (I Kings 14:17-18)

**LESSON 4**  
**ABIJAM – JEROBOAM – ASA**  
I Kings 15:1-5, 7-15; II Chron. 13; 14; 15

**I. IN JUDAH – ABIJAM** (I Kings 15:1-5, 7-8; II Chron. 13:1-2)

1. What kind of king was Abijam? (I Kings 15:1-3)
2. Why did the Lord allow the kingdom of Abijam to continue? (I Kings 15:4-5)
3. What conflict did he have? (I Kings 15:7; II Chron. 13:1-2)

**II. WAR BETWEEN ABIJAM AND JEROBOAM** (II Chron. 13:3-22)

1. Abijam warns Jeroboam and Israel before the battle. (II Chron. 13:3-12)
  - a. To whom had God given the kingdom of Israel forever?
  - b. Jeroboam had rebelled against whom?
  - c. What gods had Jeroboam made for Israel?
  - d. Israel had driven out whom?
  - e. Judah had not forsaken the Lord God, and they had whom?
  - f. Israel should not fight against the Lord God for what reason?
2. In the ensuing battle why was Judah able to prevail over Israel? (II Chron. 13:13-20)



**III. IN JUDAH – ASA** (I Kings 15:9-15; II Chron. 14; 15)

1. How long did Asa have peace? (II Chron. 14:1)
2. To whom is Asa compared? What reforms did Asa make at the beginning of his reign? (I Kings 15:9-11; II Chron. 14:2-5)
3. How did Asa strengthen his kingdom? (II Chron. 14:6-8)
4. How was Asa able to defeat the Ethiopians? (II Chron. 14:9-15)
5. What was Azariah's message to Asa and all Judah and Benjamin? (II Chron. 15:1-7)
6. What was Asa's response? (II Chron. 15:8)
7. Who gathered in Jerusalem in the fifteenth year of Asa? What was the purpose of the gathering? (II Chron. 15:9-15)
8. What reforms did Asa make in his fifteenth year? What was not removed? (I Kings 15:12-15; II Chron. 15:16-18)

**LESSON 5**  
**ASA – NADAB – BAASHA – ELAH – ZIMRI**  
**TIBNI – OMRI**

I Kings 15:16-34; 16:1-28; II Chron. 16

**I. IN ISRAEL – NADAB** (I Kings 15:25-28, 31)

1. Nadab was the son of whom? In whose way did he walk? (I Kings 15:25-26)
  
2. Who conspired against him? (I Kings 15:27-28)

**II. IN ISRAEL – BAASHA** (I Kings 15:29-30, 32-34; 16:1-7)

1. How was Ahijah's prophecy against the house of Jeroboam fulfilled? (I Kings 15:29; cf. 14:5-16)
  
2. Why was the house of Jeroboam destroyed? (I Kings 15:30)
  
3. How long was there war between Baasha and Asa? (I Kings 15:32)
  
4. What kind of king was Baasha? (I Kings 15:33-34)
  
5. The prophecy spoken by Jehu against Baasha. (I Kings 16:1-4, 7)
  - a. How did Baasha provoke the Lord to anger? In whose way did he walk?
  
  - b. What would happen to the house of Baasha?

**III. ASA'S CONFLICT WITH BAASHA (I Kings 15:16-24; II Chron. 16)**

1. Why did Asa make a league with Benhadad, king of Syria? (I Kings 15:16-19; II Chron. 16:1-3)
2. How did Benhadad aid Asa? (I Kings 15:20-22; II Chron. 16:4-6)
3. What did Hanani prophesy to Asa? (II Chron. 16:7-9)
4. In what manner did Asa receive the words of the prophet? (II Chron. 16:10)
5. What affliction did Asa have in his old age? Whom did he seek? (I Kings 15:23; II Chron. 16:12)

**IV. IN ISRAEL – ELAH (I Kings 16:8-10, 14)**

1. Who reigned in Israel after Baasha? (I Kings 16:8)
2. Who conspired against him? (I Kings 16:9-10)

**V. IN ISRAEL – ZIMRI (I Kings 16:11-13, 15-20)**

1. How did Zimri fulfill the prophecy of Jehu? (I Kings 16:11-12)
2. Why was the house of Baasha destroyed? (I Kings 16:13)

3. What happened to Zimri? (I Kings 16:15-18)

4. In whose way did he walk? (I Kings 16:19)

**VI. IN ISRAEL – TIBNI AND OMRI (I Kings 16:21-28)**

1. What occurred in Israel following the death of Zimri? (I Kings 16:21)

2. Who prevailed in the conflict? (I Kings 16:22-23)

3. What city did Omri build? (I Kings 16:24)

4. What kind of king was Omri? In whose way did he walk? (I Kings 16:25-26)

## LESSON 6 AHAB AND ELIJAH

I Kings 16:29-34; 17; 18

### I. IN ISRAEL – AHAB (I Kings 16:29-34)

1. Ahab was the son of whom? Describe his character. (I Kings 16:29-30)
2. What sins did he commit, and how did he further corrupt the worship of Israel? (I Kings 16:31-33)
3. What prophecy spoken by Joshua was fulfilled in the days of Ahab? (I Kings 16:34; cf. Josh. 6:26)

### II. ELIJAH AND THE DROUGHT (I Kings 17)

1. What was Elijah's prophecy to Ahab? (I Kings 17:1)
2. What did the Lord instruct Elijah to do following his prophecy? How was he sustained during the drought? (I Kings 17:2-7)
3. Where did the Lord instruct Elijah to go when the brook dried up? How was he sustained then? (I Kings 17:8-9)
4. What did Elijah request of the widow? (I Kings 17:10-11)
5. When she complied, what was the result? (I Kings 17:12-16)
6. How did Elijah restore life to the widow's son? What did she then acknowledge? (I Kings 17:17-24)

**III. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL (I Kings 18)**

1. What word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year of the drought? (I Kings 18:1-2)
2. Who had slain the prophets of the Lord? Who had hidden one hundred prophets of the Lord? (I Kings 18:3-4)
3. Why did Obadiah fear to tell Ahab that Elijah was in Israel? (I Kings 18:5-16)
4. What did Elijah tell Ahab to do? There were how many prophets of Baal and how many prophets of the Asherah? (I Kings 18:17-19)
5. What contest did Elijah propose to the prophets of Baal? (I Kings 18:20-24)
6. Describe the sacrifice and efforts of the prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:25-29)
7. Describe Elijah's preparation for his sacrifice to the Lord. (I Kings 18:30-35)
8. Describe what occurred next. (I Kings 18:36-39)
9. What did Elijah command regarding the prophets of Baal? (I Kings 18:40)
10. Elijah told Ahab to prepare for rain. Describe the storm. (I Kings 18:41-45)
11. What miraculous event occurred? (I Kings 18:46)
12. How long had the drought lasted? (cf. I Kings 18:1; Luke 4:25-26; James 5:17)

**LESSON 7**  
**ELIJAH AT MOUNT HOREB**  
**AHAB AND THE KING OF SYRIA**  
I Kings 19; 20

**I. ELIJAH FLEES TO MOUNT HOREB (I Kings 19)**

1. Why did Elijah flee from Jezebel? (I Kings 19:1-2)
  
2. Where did he go? Describe his attitude. (I Kings 19:3-4)
  
3. Who attended him in the wilderness? For how long was he strengthened and where did he go? (I Kings 19:5-8)
  
4. When the Lord asked Elijah what he was doing in a cave, what was Elijah's response? (I Kings 19:9-10)
  
5. How did the Lord demonstrate his presence to Elijah? (I Kings 19:11-12)
  
6. When the Lord asked Elijah again what he was doing there, what was his lament to the Lord? (I Kings 19:13-14)
  
7. The Lord instructed Elijah to: (I Kings 19:15-16)
  - a. anoint whom as king of Syria?
  
  - b. anoint whom as king of Israel?
  
  - c. anoint whom as prophet in his stead?
  
8. What would these men do? (I Kings 19:17)
  
9. What was the Lord's answer to Elijah's lament? (I Kings 19:18)

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10. Upon whom did Elijah cast his mantle? What was the significance of this action? (I Kings 19:19-21)

**II. IN ISRAEL – AHAB AND BENHADAD (I Kings 20)**

1. Who besieged Samaria and warred against Ahab? (I Kings 20:1)
2. What message did he send to Ahab? (I Kings 20:2-3)
3. When Ahab acquiesced, what further demands did Benhadad make? (I Kings 20:4-6)
4. What was Ahab's response? (I Kings 20:7-9)
5. When Benhadad then boasted of victory, what was Ahab's answer? (I Kings 20:10-12)
6. What message did a prophet declare unto Ahab? (I Kings 20:13-14)
7. What was the outcome of the battle? (I Kings 20:15-21)
8. What warning did the prophet give to Ahab following his victory? (I Kings 20:22)
9. To what did the servants of Benhadad attribute their defeat, and what did they propose? (I Kings 20:23-25)
10. When Benhadad returned to Israel the next year, what prophecy did a man of God deliver unto Ahab? (I Kings 20:26-28)



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11. What was the outcome of this battle? (I Kings 20:29-30)
  
12. Describe how Benhadad humbled himself. (I Kings 20:31-33)
  
13. What covenant did Ahab make with Benhadad? (I Kings 20:34)
  
14. How did the man of God cause Ahab to pass sentence upon himself? (I Kings 20:35-41)
  
15. What admonition did the Lord through the prophet give to Ahab? (I Kings 20:42-43)

## LESSON 8

# JEHOSHAPHAT – AHAB AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD

I Kings 21; 22:41-43, 46; II Chron. 17; 20:31-33

### I. IN JUDAH – JEHOSHAPHAT (I Kings 22:41-43, 46; II Chron. 17; 20:31-33)

1. To whom is Jehoshaphat compared? Why did the Lord establish the kingdom of Jehoshaphat? (I Kings 22:41-43; II Chron. 17:3-5; 20:31-32)
2. Compare the references to the high places. What high places did Jehoshaphat remove? (I Kings 22:43; II Chron. 17:6; 20:33)

*Note.* There were two kinds of high places: those used for idolatrous worship and those used for worship of God after Shiloh was destroyed and before the temple was built (I Sam. 4; I Kings 8). After the ark of the covenant was brought into Solomon's temple, worship of God was restricted to the temple in Jerusalem (Deut. 12:5-14). In II Chron. 17:6 the reference seems to be the idolatrous places of worship which were removed. In I Kings 22:43 and the parallel passage in II Chron. 20:33, the meaning appears to be the places for the worship of God which were not removed.

3. What did Jehoshaphat remove from the land? (I Kings 22:46)
4. In his third year Jehoshaphat initiated what religious activity? (II Chron. 17:7-9)
5. What was the state of the surrounding kingdoms? (II Chron. 17:10-11)
6. What defenses did Jehoshaphat make? (II Chron. 17:1-2, 12-19)

**II. IN ISRAEL – AHAB COVETS THE VINEYARD OF NABOTH (I Kings 21)**

1. Where was Naboth's vineyard located? (I Kings 21:1)
2. What was Ahab's proposition to Naboth? (I Kings 21:2)
3. Why did Naboth refuse Ahab? (I Kings 21:3)
4. What did Ahab do, and what was Jezebel's advice? (I Kings 21:4-7)
5. What treachery did Jezebel propose to the elders and nobles of the city? Did the men of the city comply? (I Kings 21:8-14)
6. What did Ahab do when he heard Naboth was dead? (I Kings 21:15-16)
7. What did the Lord direct Elijah to do? (I Kings 21:17-18)
8. What prophecy did Elijah speak against Ahab? (I Kings 21:19-22, 24)
9. What did he prophesy against Jezebel? (I Kings 21:23)
10. Describe the wickedness of Ahab. (I Kings 21:25-26)
11. When Ahab humbled himself, what did the Lord grant to him? (I Kings 21:27-29)
12. What does this reveal about the nature of God? (Rom. 2:4; II Peter 3:9)

## LESSON 9

# JEHOSHAPHAT AND AHAB

I Kings 22:1-40, 44; II Chron. 18

### JEHOSHAPHAT JOINS AHAB IN THE BATTLE AT RAMOTH-GILEAD

1. How long was there peace between Israel and Syria? What two kings made an alliance? (I Kings 22:1, 44; II Chron. 18:1)
2. What request did Ahab make to Jehoshaphat? (I Kings 22:2-4; II Chron. 18:2-3)
3. What did Jehoshaphat require before agreeing to Ahab's request? (I Kings 22:5; II Chron. 18:4)
4. How many prophets did Ahab gather together? What advice did they give to Ahab? (I Kings 22:6; II Chron. 18:5)
5. What question did Jehoshaphat ask following the counsel of Ahab's prophets? (I Kings 22:7; II Chron. 18:6)
6. What prophet yet remained to be consulted? How did Ahab regard this prophet? (I Kings 22:8; II Chron. 18:7)
7. While the messenger went to fetch Micaiah, Ahab and Jehoshaphat were sitting on their thrones arrayed royally. What were Ahab's prophets doing? (I Kings 22:9-12; II Chron. 18:8-11)
8. What did the messenger tell Micaiah? What was Micaiah's answer? (I Kings 22:13-14; II Chron. 18:12-13)
9. What did Micaiah tell Ahab at first? (I Kings 22:15; II Chron. 18:14)
10. When Ahab told Micaiah to speak the truth, placing him under oath, what did he say next? (I Kings 22:16-17; II Chron. 18:15-16)
11. What did Ahab tell Jehoshaphat? (I Kings 22:18; II Chron. 18:17)

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12. Micaiah then delivered a prophecy of the Lord portraying a heavenly scene.
  - a. What did Micaiah see? (I Kings 22:19; II Chron. 18:18)
  
  - b. When the Lord asked who would entice Ahab to go to Ramoth-gilead, who responded? (I Kings 22:20-21; II Chron. 18:19-20)
  
  - c. The spirit said he would be what in the mouth of Ahab's prophets? (I Kings 22:22-23; II Chron. 18:21-22)
  
13. Ahab's prophet Zedekiah struck Micaiah on the cheek, mocked him and asked what question? (I Kings 22:24; II Chron. 18:23)
  
14. What was Micaiah's answer? (I Kings 22:25; II Chron. 18:24)
  
15. What did Ahab command? (I Kings 22:26-28; II Chron. 18:25-27)
  
16. What did Ahab do before going into battle? What did he advise Jehoshaphat to do? (I Kings 22:29-30; II Chron. 18:28-29)
  
17. What had the king of Syria commanded? (I Kings 22:31; II Chron. 18:30)
  
18. How was Ahab slain? (I Kings 22:32-34; II Chron. 18:31-33)
  
19. What prophecy was fulfilled in the death and burial of Ahab? (I Kings 22:35-38; II Chron. 18:34; cf. I Kings 21:17-20)

**LESSON 10**  
**JEHOSHAPHAT – AHAZIAH**  
I Kings 22:45, 47-53; II Chron. 19; 20:1-30, 34-37; 21:1

**I. IN JUDAH – JEHOSEPHAT (II Chron. 19; 20:1-30)**

1. Who reproved Jehoshaphat for his alliance with Ahab? (II Chron. 19:1-2)
  
2. What words of commendation did the prophet speak? (II Chron. 19:3)
  
3. What judicial reforms did Jehoshaphat make in Judah? What were his instructions to the judges? (II Chron. 19:4-7)
  
4. In addition to these local courts, he established two courts of appeal in Jerusalem, an ecclesiastical court and a civil court presided over by priests, Levites and leading nobles as judges. What did he charge these men? (II Chron. 19:8-11)
  
5. Who came against Jehoshaphat to battle? (II Chron. 20:1-2)
  
6. What proclamation did Jehoshaphat make and what was the purpose? (II Chron. 20:3-4)
  
7. Jehoshaphat's prayer before the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem.
  - a. He acknowledged God in what way? (II Chron. 20:5-6)
  
  - b. God had done what for Israel? (II Chron. 20:7-8)

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- c. When evil comes upon the people and they cry in their affliction, God does what? (II Chron. 20:9)
  
  - d. Of what did Jehoshaphat remind God concerning Ammon, Moab and the people of Mount Seir (in this instance probably an Arabian tribe, Meunim, living at the south end of the Dead Sea)? (II Chron. 20:10-11)
  
  - e. What did he ask God to do? (II Chron. 20:12-13)
8. Jahaziel in the Spirit of the Lord then prophesied deliverance.
- a. To whom did the battle belong? (II Chron. 20:14-15)
  
  - b. What did he instruct the people to do in the battle? (II Chron. 20:16-17)
9. What did Jehoshaphat and the people do? What did the Levites do? (II Chron. 20:18-19)
10. What words of admonition did Jehoshaphat speak to the people? What were his instructions to the singers? (II Chron. 20:20-21)
11. What occurred in the battle.? (II Chron. 20:22-24)
12. What spoil did the people of Judah carry away? (II Chron. 20:25)
13. Describe the return to Jerusalem by the people. (II Chron. 20:26-28)
14. What effect did the victory have for Jehoshaphat? (II Chron. 20:29-30)

**II. IN ISRAEL – AHAZIAH (I Kings 22:51-53)**

1. Ahaziah was the son of whom? (I Kings 22:51)
2. In whose way did he walk? Whom did he serve? (I Kings 22:52-53)

**III. JEHOSHAPHAT AND AHAZIAH (I Kings 22:45, 47-50; II Chron. 20:34-37; 21:1)**

1. What was the status of Edom at this time? (II Kings 22:47)

*Note.* Edom was conquered by David and remained subject to Judah at this time (II Sam. 8:13-14; I Chron. 18:12-13; cf. Gen. 27:30-40). The deputy, perhaps appointed by Jehoshaphat, functioned as king (cf. II Kings 3:4-27).

2. What alliance did Jehoshaphat make with Ahaziah, king of Israel? (I Kings 22:48; II Chron. 20:35-36)
3. Who prophesied against this alliance? What was the result? (I Kings 22:48; II Chron. 20:37)
4. What did Ahaziah request of Jehoshaphat? Did Jehoshaphat comply? (I Kings 22:49)



**LESSON 11**  
**AHAZIAH – ELIJAH AND ELISHA**  
II Kings 1; 2

**I. IN ISRAEL – AHAZIAH (II Kings 1)**

1. What nation rebelled against Israel following the death of Ahab? Who had conquered this nation? (II Kings. 1:1; cf. II Sam. 8:2; I Chron. 18:2)
2. What accident befell Ahaziah? To whom did he send messengers? (II Kings 1:2)
3. Who intercepted the messengers? What message did he send to the king? (II Kings 1:3-4)
4. How did the messengers describe the prophet to Ahaziah? (II Kings 1:5-8)
5. Describe Elijah's encounters with Ahaziah's first two captains of fifties. (II Kings 1:9-12)
6. What occurred when the third captain and his fifty met with Elijah? (II Kings 1:13-15)
7. What did the Lord through Elijah tell Ahaziah? Who reigned in Israel after Ahaziah? (II Kings 1:16-17)

**II. ELIJAH AND ELISHA (II Kings 2)**

1. Trace the journey of Elijah and Elisha. (II Kings 2:1-6)
2. What did the sons of the prophets at Bethel and Jericho say to Elisha? (II Kings 2:3, 5)
3. How did Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan River? Who witnessed the event? (II Kings 2:7-8)

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4. What did Elisha request of Elijah before Elijah was taken to heaven? (II Kings 2:9)
5. What was Elijah's response? (II Kings 2:10)
6. Describe Elijah's ascension to heaven and Elisha's reaction. (II Kings 2:11-12)
7. What did Elisha do with Elijah's mantle? (II Kings 2:13-14)
8. What did the sons of the prophets at Jericho say when Elisha parted the waters of the Jordan? (II Kings 2:15)
9. What request did they make of Elisha? What was the outcome of their search? (II Kings 2:16-18)
10. What miracle did Elisha perform at Jericho? (II Kings 2:19-22)
11. What occurred at Bethel? (II Kings 2:23-25)

**LESSON 12**  
**JORAM – JEHOSEPHAT – ELISHA**  
II Kings 3; 4

**I. IN ISRAEL – JORAM (II Kings 3:1-3)**

1. Joram was the son of whom? Who was his brother? (II Kings 3:1; cf. I Kings 22:51; II Kings 1:17-18)
  
2. Describe his religious policies. (II Kings 3:2-3)

**II. JEHOSEPHAT JOINS JORAM IN AN ALLIANCE (II Kings 3:4-27)**

1. Who rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab? (II Kings 3:4-5)
  
2. What two kings formed an alliance? Who also joined this alliance? (II Kings 3:6-9)
  
3. What problem confronted the armies of these three kings? What question did Jehoshaphat ask? (II Kings 3:9-12)
  
4. Why was Elisha willing to confer with the kings? (II Kings 3:13-15)
  
5. What instructions did Elisha give? (II Kings 3:16-17)
  
6. What did he prophesy concerning the battle? (II Kings 3:18-19)
  
7. How were the Moabites deceived in the early morning? Describe the battle. (II Kings 3:20-26)
  
8. What abomination did the king of Moab commit? (II Kings 3:27)

**III. THE BEGINNING OF ELISHA'S PROPHETIC MINISTRY (II Kings 4)**

1. What problem confronted a woman, the widow of one of the sons of the prophets? (II Kings 4:1)
2. What did Elisha instruct her to do? (II Kings 4:2-7)
3. What did the woman of Shunem do for Elisha? (II Kings 4:8-10)
4. How did Elisha repay her and her husband? (II Kings 4:11-17)
5. What happened to their son? (II Kings 4:18-20)
6. What did the woman do? (II Kings 4:21-28)
7. What did Elisha instruct his servant Gehazi to do? (II Kings 4:29-31)
8. How did Elisha restore life to the child? Compare this incident with Elijah's restoration of life to the son of the widow of Zarephath. (II Kings 4:32-37; cf. I Kings 17:17-24)
9. What miracle did Elisha perform at Gilgal? (II Kings 4:38-41)
10. Describe how Elisha miraculously fed one hundred people. Compare this miracle with the feeding of the multitudes by Jesus. (II Kings 4:42-44; cf. Matt. 14:13-21; 15:32-38; Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-9; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)

## **LESSON 13**

# **THE MINISTRY OF ELISHA**

II Kings 5; 6; 7

### **I. ELISHA AND NAAMAN THE LEPER (II Kings 5)**

1. Who was Naaman? What was his affliction? (II Kings 5:1)
  
2. Who informed Naaman's wife of the prophet in Israel who could cure Naaman? (II Kings 5:2-4)
  
3. Why was the king of Israel (probably Joram) distressed when Naaman brought him the letter from the king of Syria (probably Benhadad II)? (II Kings 5:5-7)
  
4. Elisha informed the king of Israel to send Naaman to him. When Naaman arrived at Elisha's door, what message did Elisha send to him? (II Kings 5:8-10)
  
5. What was Naaman's reaction? Who persuaded him to follow Elisha's instructions? (II Kings 5:11-14)
  
6. After he was healed, what acknowledgment did Naaman make? What did he offer to Elisha? Did Elisha accept? (II Kings 5:15-16)
  
7. What did Naaman request? (II Kings 5:17-19)
  
8. Who was Elisha's servant? What sin did he commit? What was his punishment? (II Kings 5:20-27)

**II. THE FLOATING AX HEAD AND DIVINE ESPIONAGE (II Kings 6:1-23)**

1. What miracle did Elisha perform at the Jordan River? (II Kings 6:1-7)
2. How did Elisha thwart the tactics of the king of Syria? (II Kings 6:8-12)
3. How did Elisha escape the host of Syrians that were sent to Dothan to capture him? (II Kings 6:13-19)
4. What did Elisha and the king of Israel do with the prisoners? (II Kings 6:20-23)

**III. THE SYRIAN SIEGE OF SAMARIA (II Kings 6:24-33; 7)**

1. Who besieged Samaria? (II Kings 6:24)
2. What affliction did the Samaritans suffer as a result of the siege? (II Kings 6:25)
3. What abomination did the king of Israel encounter as he was on the wall of the city? (II Kings 6:26-30)
4. Who had foretold this evil, and why would Israel suffer these afflictions? (Deut. 28:15, 47-57)

*Note.* Ezekiel also prophesied this evil in reference to the final siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezek. 5:5-12). In addition, the same abomination occurred during the siege of Jerusalem prior to its destruction by the Romans in A. D. 70 according to the Jewish historian Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, VI, iii, 4.

Lesson 13 - 32

5. Whom did the king of Israel blame for these calamities? (II Kings 6:31)
  
6. As Elisha was in his house speaking with the elders, the king's messenger arrived at his door (II Kings 6:32-33). What did Elisha prophesy regarding the famine that was caused by the siege? (II Kings 7:1)
  
7. What did he prophesy to the doubting servant? (II Kings 7:2)
  
8. What did four leprous men at the gate of Samaria reason among themselves? (II Kings 7:3-5)
  
9. What had the Lord done? (II Kings 7:6-7)
  
10. After partially plundering the Syrian camp, what did the four lepers do next? (II Kings 7:8-11)
  
11. What did the king of Israel order? (II Kings 7:12-15)
  
12. How was Elisha's prophecy regarding the king's servant fulfilled? (II Kings 7:16-20)

## LESSON 14

### JEHORAM – AHAZIAH – ELISHA

II Kings 8:1-27; II Chron. 21:2-20; 22:1-4

#### I. IN JUDAH – JEHORAM (II Kings 8:16-24; II Chron. 21:2-20)

1. What did Jehoshaphat give to his sons? To whom did he give the kingdom? Why? (II Chron. 21:2-3)
2. When Jehoram became king of Judah, he strengthened himself by committing what evil act? (II Chron. 21:4)
3. Describe Jehoram's sins. Who was his wife? How did he corrupt the worship? (II Kings 8:16-18; II Chron. 21:5-6, 11)
4. Why did the Lord not destroy Judah? (II Kings 8:19; II Chron. 21:7)
5. During Jehoram's reign revolt occurred in the dominion of Judah.
  - a. Who revolted? (II Kings 8:20-22; II Chron. 21:8-10)
  - b. Who had conquered Edom? (II Sam. 8:13-14; I Chron. 18:12-13)
  - c. What was the status of Edom during the reign of Jehoshaphat? (I Kings 22:47)
  - d. When Isaac gave his blessing to Esau, what did he tell him? (Gen. 27:38-40)
  - e. Who had conquered Libnah? (Josh. 10:29-30)
  - f. To whom had the city been given? (Josh. 21:13)
6. What message did Jehoram receive from Elijah? (II Chron. 21:12-15)



## Lesson 14 - 34

*Note.* It is uncertain whether this message came to Jehoram after Elijah was taken to heaven, or if he was still alive when Jehoram reigned and his ascension (II Kings 2) is out of chronological order. Regardless, it is noteworthy that Elijah, the prophet to Israel, was concerned about the idolatry of Judah also.

7. Who invaded Judah during the reign of Jehoram? What calamities did they afflict upon Jehoram? (II Chron. 21:16-17)
8. Describe the death of Jehoram. (II Chron. 21:18-20)

### **II. IN JUDAH – AHAZIAH (II Kings 8:25-27; II Chron. 22:1-4)**

1. Who was Ahaziah's mother? (II Kings 8:25-26; II Chron. 22:1-2)
2. Describe his character. Who were his counselors? (II Kings 8:27; II Chron. 22:3-4)

### **III. ELISHA AND THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN (II Kings 8:1-6)**

1. What was the duration of the famine that was prophesied by Elisha? How did this compare with the famine that occurred during the days of Elijah? (II Kings 8:1; cf. I Kings 18:1; Luke 4:25-26; James 5:17)
2. Where did the Shunammite woman go during the famine? (II Kings 8:2)
3. When the famine ended and she returned to Israel, what was her plea to the king? Why did the king restore her property? (II Kings 8:3-6)

**IV. ELISHA AND HAZAEL (II Kings 8:7-15)**

1. Where did Elisha go? Who was sick? (II Kings 8:7)
  
2. What message did Benhadad send to him? By whom was the message sent? (II Kings 8:8-9)
  
3. What was Elisha's reply? (II Kings 8:10)
  
4. What evil did Elisha prophesy that Hazael would do against Israel? (II Kings 8:11-12)
  
5. What had the Lord revealed to Elisha concerning Hazael? (II Kings 8:13)
  
6. Whom had the Lord instructed to anoint Hazael as king of Syria? (I Kings 19:15)
  
7. What treachery did Hazael commit against Benhadad? (II Kings 8:14-15)

**LESSON 15**  
**AHAZIAH – JORAM – JEHU**  
II Kings 8:28-29; 9; II Chron. 22:5-7, 9

**I. AHAZIAH JOINS JORAM IN AN ALLIANCE (II Kings 8:28-29; II Chron. 22:5-6)**

1. Ahaziah and Joram joined forces and went to war against whom at what place? (II Kings 8:28; II Chron. 22:5)
2. Who was wounded in the battle? To what city did he go to recover? Who came to visit him? (II Kings 8:28-29; II Chron. 22:5-6)

**II. IN ISRAEL – JEHU ANOINTED KING (II Kings 9:1-10)**

1. Elisha sent one of the children of the prophets to Ramoth-gilead upon what mission? (II Kings 9:1-3)
2. Who was Jehu? (II Kings 9:4-5)
3. The prophet told Jehu he was anointed as king of Israel by whom? (II Kings 9:6)
4. Who had been instructed by God previously to anoint Jehu as king? (I Kings 19:16)
5. What message did the prophet deliver to Jehu regarding the house of Ahab and Jezebel? (II Kings 9:7-10)

**III. IN ISRAEL – JEHU'S DIVINE COMMISSION** (II Kings 9:11-37; II Chron. 22:7, 9)

1. What conversation transpired between Jehu and his servants? What did his servants do? (II Kings 9:11-13)
2. Jehu, who had been left in charge at Ramoth-gilead by Joram, conspired against whom and went to what city? (II Kings 9:14-16)
3. Describe Jehu's approach to Jezreel in his chariot. (II Kings 9:17-20)
4. How was Joram, king of Israel, slain? (II Kings 9:21-24)
5. Where was his body cast? (II Kings 9:25-26)
6. Describe the death of Ahaziah, king of Judah. (II Kings 9:27-28; II Chron. 22:7, 9)
7. When Jehu entered into Jezreel, who spoke to him from an upper window? (II Kings 9:30-31)
8. What did Jehu command the servants to do? When they complied, what did he do? (II Kings 9:32-33)
9. Why did Jehu command his servants to bury Jezebel? What did they find when they went to bury her? (II Kings 9:34-35)
10. What prophecies did the death of Jezebel fulfill? (II Kings 9:36-37; cf. I Kings 21:23; II Kings 9:10)

## LESSON 16

### JEHU – ATHALIAH

II Kings 10; 11:1-20; II Chron. 22:8, 10-12; 23

- I. IN ISRAEL – JEHU’S PURGE OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB** (II Kings 10; II Chron. 22:8)
1. How were the seventy sons of Ahab slain? (II Kings 10:1-8)
  2. How did Jehu justify this deed? (II Kings 10:9-10)
  3. Whom did Jehu slay in Jezreel? (II Kings 10:11)
  4. Describe Jehu’s execution of the princes of Judah. How many did he kill? (II Kings 10:12-14; II Chron. 22:8)
  5. Whom did Jehu slay in Samaria? (II Kings 10:15-17)
  6. The destruction of the house of Ahab was a fulfillment of the prophecies of what prophet? (II Kings 10:17; cf. I Kings 21:21-24)
  7. Describe Jehu’s destruction of the Baal worshipers and the house of Baal. (II Kings 10:18-28)
  8. What sins did Jehu commit? (II Kings 10:29, 31)
  9. What promise did the Lord make to Jehu? (II Kings 10:30)
  10. Who began to afflict Israel during the reign of Jehu? (II Kings 10:32-33)

**II. IN JUDAH – ATHALIAH** (II Kings 11:1-20; II Chron. 22:10-12; 23)

1. What treachery did Athaliah commit after the death of her son Ahaziah?  
(II Kings 11:1; II Chron. 22:10)
2. One child was saved and raised in secret. (II Kings 11:2-3; II Chron. 22:11-12)
  - a. Who hid one of the sons of Ahaziah from Athaliah?
  - b. What was her relationship to Jehoram, king of Judah, and to Ahaziah, king of Judah?
  - c. To whom was she married?
  - d. Who was the child that was hidden? Where and how long was he hidden?
3. When and how did Jehoiada, the priest, arrange a conspiracy against Athaliah?  
(II Kings 11:4-8; II Chron. 23:1-7)
4. What was delivered to the captains? (II Kings 11:9-11; II Chron. 23:8-10)
5. What did Jehoiada give to the king's son? (II Kings 11:12; II Chron. 23:11; cf. Deut. 17:14-20; I Kings 2:1-4; Ps. 19:7)
6. Describe Athaliah's reaction. What did Jehoiada command? (II Kings 11:13-16; II Chron. 23:12-15)
7. What covenant did Jehoiada make between the Lord and the king and people?  
(II Kings 11:17; II Chron. 23:16)
8. What did the people destroy? How did Jehoiada reform the worship? (II Kings 11:18; II Chron. 23:17-19)
9. Who was placed on the throne? (II Kings 11:19-20; II Chron. 23:20-21)

## LESSON 17

# JOASH – JEHOAHAZ – JEHOASH AND ELISHA

II Kings 11:21; 12; 13; 14:15-16; II Chron. 24

### I. IN JUDAH – JOASH (II Kings 11:21; 12; II Chron. 24)

1. How old was Joash when he began to reign in Judah? How long did he remain faithful to the Lord? What was not removed? (II Kings 11:21; 12:1-3; II Chron. 24:1-2)
2. What did Joash order regarding the house of the Lord? (II Kings 12:4-5; II Chron. 24:4-5)
3. What had not been done as yet in the twenty-third year of Joash? Who apparently had been negligent in the matter? What had the sons of Athaliah done? (II Kings 12:6-8; II Chron. 24:6-7)
4. How did Jehoiada, the priest, then collect the funds for the repair of the temple? (II Kings 12:9-14; II Chron. 24:8-14)
5. Describe the workers. The money for trespass and sin offerings was not brought into the house of the Lord for it belonged to whom? (II Kings 12:15-16)
6. What occurred in Judah after the death of Jehoiada, the priest? Whom did the Lord send to Judah to bring the people back to him? (II Chron. 24:15-19)
7. Upon whom did the Spirit of God come? What message did he deliver to the people? What did Joash command? (II Chron. 24:20-22)
8. Who brought judgment against Joash? Who conspired against him? (II Kings 12:17-18, 20-21; II Chron. 24:23-26)

**II. IN ISRAEL – JEHOAHAZ (II Kings 13:1-9, 22)**

1. Jehoahaz was the son of whom? He followed the sins of what king of Israel? (II Kings 13:1-2)
2. Into whose hand did the Lord deliver Israel? (II Kings 13:3, 7, 22)
3. Whom did Jehoahaz seek? What mercy did God show upon Israel? How did Israel continue to sin? (II Kings 13:4-6)

*Note.* It is unclear if this “savior” was the Assyrian king Adad-nirari III who subjugated Syria, or whether the reference is to Jehoash and Jeroboam II. With Syria under Assyrian domination, the two following kings of Israel were able to regain their territories that Hazael had conquered (II Kings 13:24-25; 14:23-25).

**III. IN ISRAEL – JEHOASH AND ELISHA (II Kings 13:10-21, 23-25; 14:15-16)**

1. Jehoash was the son of whom? He walked in the way of what king? (II Kings 13:10-11)
2. How did Elisha symbolize to Jehoash the deliverance of Israel from Syria? (II Kings 13:14-19)
3. What occurred when a man was buried in Elisha’s sepulchre? (II Kings 13:20-21)
4. Why did the Lord have compassion on Israel? (II Kings 13:23)
5. What was Jehoash able to do when Hazael died? (II Kings 13:24-25; cf. 13:19)



**LESSON 18**  
**AMAZIAH – JEHOASH – JEROBOAM II – UZZIAH**  
II Kings 14:1-14, 17-29; 15:1-7; II Chron. 25; 26

**I. IN JUDAH – AMAZIAH** (II Kings 14:1-7; II Chron. 25:1-16)

1. To whom is Amaziah compared? What kind of heart did he have? What was not removed? (II Kings 14:1-4; II Chron. 25:1-2)
2. What did Amaziah do as soon as he had confirmed the kingdom? What law of Moses did he observe? (II Kings 14:5-6; II Chron. 25:3-4; cf. Deut. 24:16)
3. When Amaziah prepared for battle, he hired men of valor from Israel to go with him. What did the man of God tell him? (II Chron. 25:5-8)
4. When Amaziah dismissed the men of Israel, what was their attitude as they returned home? (II Chron. 25:9-10)
5. Describe Amaziah's victory over Edom. (II Kings 14:7; II Chron. 25:11-12)
6. What did the men of Israel do on their way home? (II Chron. 25:13)
7. How did the victory work to Amaziah's detriment? (II Chron. 25:14-16)

**II. AMAZIAH AND JEHOASH** (II Kings 14:8-14, 17-20; II Chron. 25:17-28)

1. What challenge did Amaziah send to Jehoash? What did Jehoash reply? (II Kings 14:8-10; II Chron. 25:17-19)
2. Describe the confrontation between Amaziah and Jehoash. What happened to Amaziah? (II Kings 14:11-14; II Chron. 25:20-24)
3. Why were Amaziah and Judah delivered into the hand of their enemies? (II Chron. 25:20)
4. How did Amaziah die? (II Kings 14:19-20; II Chron. 25:27-28)

**III. IN ISRAEL – JEROBOAM II (II Kings 14:23-29)**

1. Jeroboam II was the son of whom? He is compared to what other king of Israel? (II Kings 14:23-24)
2. What did Jeroboam II restore to Israel? This was according to the word of what prophet? (II Kings 14:25)
3. Describe the affliction of Israel. Who had afflicted Israel? (II Kings 14:26; cf. 8:7-13; 13:3, 7, 22)
4. By whose hand did the Lord save Israel? (II Kings 14:27; cf. 13:4-5)
5. Jeroboam II recovered what cities? (II Kings 14:28)

**IV. IN JUDAH – UZZIAH (II Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7; II Chron. 26)**

1. What kind of king was Uzziah? What was not removed? How long did he prosper? (II Kings 14:21; 15:1-4; II Chron. 26:1, 3-5)
2. What city did he restore to Judah? (II Kings 14:22; II Chron. 26:2)
3. Uzziah strengthened his kingdom in the following ways. (II Chron. 26:6-15)  
*Military campaigns and defenses:*
  - a. warred against the \_\_\_\_\_, breaking down walls of cities and building cities among them
  - b. received help from God against the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. received tribute from the \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. spread abroad his fame as far as \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. built towers in \_\_\_\_\_ and fortified them
  - f. built towers in the \_\_\_\_\_

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*Agriculture:*

- g. dug \_\_\_\_\_ in the lowlands and plains for livestock
- h. loved \_\_\_\_\_ having farmers and vinedressers in mountains and fields

*Army:*

- i. had an army of \_\_\_\_\_
- j. prepared for the \_\_\_\_\_ shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, stones for slinging
- k. made \_\_\_\_\_ of war

- 4. What sin did Uzziah commit when he was strong? (II Chron. 26:16-19)
- 5. The Lord smote him with what disease? (II Kings 15:5; II Chron. 26:20-21)

**LESSON 19**  
**ZACHARIAH – SHALLUM – MENAHEM – PEKAHIAH –**  
**PEKAH**  
**JOTHAM – AHAZ**

II Kings 15:8-38; 16; II Chron. 27; 28

**I. IN ISRAEL – ZACHARIAH (II Kings 15:8-12)**

1. Zachariah was the son of whom? He is compared to what king of Israel? (II Kings 15:8-9)
  
2. Who conspired against him? The slaying of Zachariah resulted in a change of dynasty in Israel fulfilling what prophecy? (II Kings 15:10-12; cf. 10:30)

**II. IN ISRAEL – SHALLUM (II Kings 15:13-15)**

1. Shallum reigned how long? (II Kings 15:13)
  
2. Who killed Shallum? (II Kings 15:14)

**III. IN ISRAEL – MENAHEM (II Kings 15:16-22)**

1. What brutality did Menahem commit? To whom is he compared? (II Kings 15:16-18)

*Note.* Tiphshah was located on the Euphrates River and was the northern extremity of Solomon's kingdom (I Kings 4:24). However, in this instance Tiphshah may be a place in Samaria where the inhabitants refused to recognize Menahem as king.

2. Who invaded Israel during the reign of Menahem? How were the invaders turned back? (II Kings 15:19-20)

*Note.* Pul is the Babylonian name for Tiglath-Pileser III (cf. I Chron. 5:26).

**IV. IN ISRAEL – PEKAHIAH (II Kings 15:23-26)**

1. Pekahiah was the son of whom? He is compared to what king of Israel? (II Kings 15:23-24)
2. Who conspired against Pekahiah? (II Kings 15:25)

**V. IN ISRAEL – PEKAH (II Kings 15:27-31)**

1. Pekah is compared to whom? (II Kings 15:27-28)
2. Who invaded Israel during the reign of Pekah and carried part of the people away into captivity? (II Kings 15:29)
3. Who conspired against Pekah? (II Kings 15:30)

**VI. IN JUDAH – JOTHAM (II Kings 15:32-38; II Chron. 27)**

1. Jotham is compared to whom? (II Kings 15:32-34; II Chron. 27:1-2)
2. What did Jotham not remove? What defenses did he build? (II Kings 15:35; II Chron. 27:3-4)
3. Why was Jotham able to prevail against the Ammonites? (II Chron. 27:5-6)
4. Whom did the Lord send against Judah? (II Kings 15:37)

**VII. IN JUDAH – AHAZ (II Kings 16; II Chron. 28)**

1. In whose way did Ahaz walk? What abominations did he commit? (II Kings 16:1-4; II Chron. 28:1-4)
2. Into whose hand were Ahaz and Judah delivered? Why? (II Kings 16:5; II Chron. 28:5-8)
3. Who recovered Elath and drove the Jews away? Who had conquered the city earlier? (II Kings 16:6; cf. 14:21-22; II Chron. 26:2)
4. Who spoke against the host of Israel who had taken captives of Judah, bringing them to Samaria? What did the princes of Israel do with the captives? (II Chron. 28:9-15)
5. What other nations invaded Judah? (II Chron. 28:17-19)
6. To whom did Ahaz send tribute in order to obtain aid? (II Kings 16:7-8; II Chron. 28:16, 20-21)
7. What nation did the king of Assyria conquer during the reign of Ahaz? (II Kings 16:9)
8. What did Ahaz do in the time of his distress? (II Chron. 28:22-23)
9. Describe the idolatry of Ahaz and his desecration of the temple. (II Kings 6:10-18; II Chron. 28:24-25)

**LESSON 20**  
**HOSHEA – THE FALL OF SAMARIA**  
II Kings 17

**HOSHEA THE LAST KING OF ISRAEL**

1. Describe Hoshea. (II Kings 17:1-2)
  
2. Who invaded Israel during the reign of Hoshea? What happened to Hoshea? (II Kings 17:3-4)
  
3. How long was Samaria besieged? Where was Israel carried into captivity? (II Kings 17:5-6)
  
4. The Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight, for they:
  - a. feared other \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:7)
  
  - b. walked in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations the Lord cast out (II Kings 17:8)
  
  - c. did secretly things not right and built \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:9)
  
  - d. set up \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on every high hill and under every green tree (II Kings 17:10)
  
  - e. burnt \_\_\_\_\_ in high places and did wicked things (II Kings 17:11)
  
  - f. served \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:12)
  
  - g. hardened their necks and rejected his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:13-15)
  
  - h. became \_\_\_\_\_ going after nations round about them (II Kings 17:15)
  
  - i. made molten images, two \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:16)
  
  - j. worshiped all the host of heaven and served \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:16)
  
  - k. caused their sons and daughters to \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:17)
  
  - l. practiced \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kings 17:17)

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5. Who alone was left? How did they walk? (II Kings 17:18-19)
6. What had Jeroboam done? (II Kings 17:20-23)
7. Whom did the king of Assyria bring to Samaria to dwell in the cities? (II Kings 17:24)
8. Why did the Lord send lions among these people? The people told the king of Assyria that the Lord had sent the lions for what reason? (II Kings 17:25-26)
9. Who was brought to Bethel to teach the people about God? (II Kings 17:27-28)
10. What did the people from the foreign nations make? Whom did they fear? Whom did they serve? (II Kings 17:29-33)
11. The remnant of Israelites left in the land and the foreign heathen settlers appear to be the subject of vv. 34-41. The covenant the Lord had made with Israel at Mount Sinai forbade them to fear other gods, bow to them, serve them or sacrifice to them, but this mixed populace combined the worship of God with the worship of idols.
  - a. They did not \_\_\_\_\_, but did after their \_\_\_\_\_ manner. (II Kings 17:40)
  - b. So these nations feared \_\_\_\_\_ and served their \_\_\_\_\_.  
(II Kings 17:41)

*Note.* The Samaritans of the New Testament evolved from these Israelites left in the land who intermarried with the heathen foreigners.



## LESSON 21

# JUDAH ALONE — HEZEKIAH

II Kings 18:1-8; II Chron. 29; 30; 31

### THE REFORMS OF HEZEKIAH

1. Hezekiah is compared to what king? (II Kings 18:1-3; II Chron. 29:1-2)
2. What did Hezekiah command the priests and Levites to do in the first year of his reign? (II Chron. 29:3-5)
3. Because the people had sinned and incurred God's wrath, what had happened? (II Chron. 29:6-9)
4. What was in Hezekiah's heart to do? (II Chron. 29:10-11)
5. When the temple had been cleansed (II Chron. 29:12-19), a sin offering was made for whom? (II Chron. 29:20-21)
6. The burnt offering and sin offering was also to make atonement for whom? (II Chron. 29:22-24)
7. After offering a burnt offering with musical instruments and singing (II Chron. 29:25-28), what did the king and all present do? (II Chron. 29:29-30)
8. When the people had consecrated themselves to the Lord, they brought their sacrifices into the house of the Lord (II Chron. 29:31-35). What did Hezekiah and the people do? (II Chron. 29:36)
9. Hezekiah sent letters throughout all Israel and Judah urging the people to come to Jerusalem for what event? (II Chron. 30:1-5)
10. The letters urged the people to turn again to the Lord for what reason? (II Chron. 30:6-9)
11. What was the reaction of the people? (II Chron. 30:10-12)

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12. Many assembled in Jerusalem to keep the feast of unleavened bread and did what? (II Chron. 30:13-14)
13. The priests and the Levites sanctified themselves for the Passover (II Chron. 30:15-16), but as some of the congregation were unclean, Hezekiah prayed for what? What did the Lord do? (II Chron. 30:17-20)
14. For seven days the people did what? (II Chron. 30:21-22)
15. The whole assembly took counsel to keep another seven days with gladness (II Chron. 30:23-25). There had not been such joy in Jerusalem since when? (II Chron. 30:26-27)

*Note.* This Passover was held in the second month rather than the first month as required by the law, but the Lord allowed for the substitution (cf. Num. 9:1-14).

16. When the feast was finished , where did the people go and what did they do? (II Chron. 31:1)
17. Hezekiah also destroyed what? Why? (II Kings 18:4)
18. Hezekiah instituted further religious reforms (II Chron. 31:2-19). How is he described? Why did he prosper? (II Kings 18:5-7; II Chron. 31:20-21)
19. Hezekiah rebelled against what king? What nation did he smite? (II Kings 18:7-8)

## LESSON 22

# HEZEKIAH – HIS WAR AND ILLNESS

II Kings 18:9-37; 19; 20; II Chron. 32

### I. HEZEKIAH AND SENNACHERIB (II Kings 18:9-37; 19; II Chron. 32:1-22)

1. A recap of the fall of Samaria occurs in this section of scripture dealing with Hezekiah. (II Kings 18:9-12)
  - a. Samaria was besieged by Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, for how long?
  
  - b. Israel was carried captive and scattered throughout the Assyrian Empire for what reason?
2. Who invaded Judah during the reign of Hezekiah? (II Kings 18:13; II Chron. 32:1)
3. What tribute did Hezekiah give to the king of Assyria? (II Kings 18:14-16)
4. What defenses did Hezekiah make? (II Chron. 32:2-6)
5. Why were the people not to be afraid? (II Chron. 32:7-8)
6. Whom did the king of Assyria send to Jerusalem? What message did Rabshakeh deliver to Hezekiah's servants? (II Kings 18:17-25; II Chron. 32:9-12)
7. What request did Hezekiah's servants make to Rabshakeh? (II Kings 18:26)
8. How did Rabshakeh respond to this request? (II Kings 18:27-35; II Chron. 32:13-16, 18-19)
9. How did the people respond? What did Hezekiah's servants do? (II Kings 18:36-37)
10. When Hezekiah received the message, to whom did he appeal? (II Kings 19:1-5)

11. What prophecy did Isaiah speak against the Assyrians? (II Kings 19:6-7)
12. When Hezekiah received a letter from Sennacherib, he went to the house of the Lord and prayed. Describe his prayer. (II Kings 19:8-19; II Chron. 32:17, 20)
13. God's reply to Hezekiah was delivered through Isaiah. (II Kings 19:20-34)
  - a. Why was Sennacherib despised and scorned by the "daughter of Zion"? (II Kings 19:21-22)
  - b. Describe Sennacherib's boasting. Why had he been successful militarily? (II Kings 19:23-26)
  - c. What would the Lord do to Sennacherib? (II Kings 19:27-28)
  - d. What sign did the Lord give to Hezekiah? (II Kings 19:29)
  - e. What did the Lord say concerning the remnant of Judah? (II Kings 19:30-31)
  - f. What did the Lord say concerning the King of Assyria? (II Kings 19:32-33)
  - g. Why would God defend the city of Jerusalem? (II Kings 19:34)
14. What happened to the army of Sennacherib? What happened to Sennacherib? (II Kings 19:35-37; II Chron. 32:21-22)

## **II. HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS (II Kings 20; II Chron. 32:23-33)**

1. When Hezekiah was told by Isaiah that he was going to die, what did he do? (II Kings 20:1-3)
2. What message from God did Isaiah deliver to Hezekiah? (II Kings 20:4-7)
3. What sign was given to Hezekiah? (II Kings 20:8-11; II Chron. 32:24)

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*Note.* Ahaz's sundial was some kind of device showing the time of day by the shadows, possibly a series of steps rather than a modern sundial. The Hebrew word *maalah*, which is translated dial or sundial, means elevation (such as a journey to a higher place), degree, stair, or step. The backward movement of the shadow, the sign of Hezekiah's choice, was contrary to natural law and a miracle.

4. What did Hezekiah do when he was visited by the ambassadors from the king of Babylon? (II Kings 20:12-15)
  
5. What was God's purpose in this incident? (II Chron. 32:25-26, 31)
  
6. What prophecy did Isaiah deliver to Hezekiah following the visit from the Babylonians? (II Kings 20:16-19)
  
7. Describe Hezekiah's prosperity. (II Chron. 32:23, 27-29)
  
8. What engineering feat did Hezekiah achieve? (II Kings 20:20; II Chron. 32:30; cf. 32:2-4)

*Note.* Excavation of a 1,750-foot tunnel under Jerusalem, known as Hezekiah's tunnel, diverted water from the Gihon Spring on the vulnerable eastern slope of the city to the Siloam Pool in the western part of the city within the walls. In 1880 an inscription was found near the Siloam entrance to the tunnel describing and commemorating the project.

**LESSON 23**  
**MANASSEH – AMON**  
II Kings 21; II Chron. 33

**I. MANASSEH** (II Kings 21:1-18; II Chron. 33:1-20)

1. What kind of king was Manasseh? (II Kings 21:1-2; II Chron. 33:1-2)
2. Describe his idolatry. (II Kings 21:3-5; II Chron. 33:3-5)
3. What abomination did Manasseh commit with regard to his sons? Where did these abominations take place? What other king of Judah was guilty of this sin? (II Kings 21:6; II Chron. 33:6; cf. 28:1-3)

*Note.* *Gehenna* in the New Testament, used to designate the place of eternal punishment, is a transliteration of the Hebrew name Hinnom (*Ge-Hinnom*). Sometime after Topheth in the valley of Hinnom was defiled by Josiah (II Kings 23:10), the site became the garbage dump of Jerusalem where the fires of burning refuse smoldered continually.

4. What prophecies did Jeremiah deliver against this place? (Jer. 7:30-34; 19)
5. What did the Law of Moses specify regarding this particular idolatrous worship? (Lev. 18:21; 20:1-5; Deut. 12:29-31)
6. Where did Manasseh place a graven image? (II Kings 21:7-8; II Chron. 33:7-8)
7. What did Manasseh seduce the people of Judah to do? (II Kings 21:9; II Chron. 33:9)
8. What was prophesied against Jerusalem and Judah because of the wickedness of Manasseh? (II Kings 21:10-15; II Chron. 33:10)

*Note.* The prophecy given to Hezekiah by Isaiah in the matter of the Babylonian ambassadors concerned the house of David, not the destiny of the whole nation (II Kings 20:16-19; cf. Isa. 39:5-8). However, because of Manasseh's influence, Judah became more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel (II Kings 21:9); therefore, the Babylonian captivity was declared for the whole nation.

9. What evil did Manasseh commit? (II Kings 21:16)
10. Who took Manasseh captive? To what city was he taken? (II Chron. 33:11)
11. What did Manasseh do while he was a captive? (II Chron. 33:12-13)
12. When Manasseh returned to Jerusalem, what defenses and reforms did he make? (II Chron. 33:14-16)
13. What form of corrupt worship did the people continue to practice? (II Chron. 33:17)

## **II. AMON (II Kings 21:19-26; II Chron. 33:21-25)**

1. What evils did Amon commit? (II Kings 21:19-22; II Chron. 33:21-23)
2. Who conspired against Amon? What happened to the conspirators? (II Kings 21:23-24; II Chron. 33:24-25)

## **LESSON 24**

### **JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF LAW**

II Kings 22; 23:1-3; II Chron. 34

#### **I. JOSIAH'S REFORMS (II Kings 22:1-2; II Chron. 34:1-7)**

1. To whom is Josiah compared? (II Kings 22:1-2; II Chron. 34:1-2)
  
2. What did Josiah do in the eighth year of his reign? What age was he at this time? (II Chron. 34:3)
  
3. What did he do in the twelfth year of his reign? Where did these reforms occur? What age was he at this time? (II Chron. 34:3-5)
  
4. Josiah carried his reforms to what places in Israel? (II Chron. 34:6-7)

#### **II. THE BOOK OF THE LAW (II Kings 22:3-20; 23:1-3; II Chron. 34:8-33)**

1. What did Josiah do in the eighteenth year of his reign? (II Kings 22:3-7; II Chron. 34:8)
  
2. The money that was brought into the house of God had been gathered from whom? (II Chron. 34:9-13)
  
3. What did Hilkiyah, the priest, find in the temple? To whom did he send the book? What did the scribe do? (II Kings 22:8-10; II Chron. 34:14-18)
  
4. What did Josiah do when the book was read to him? (II Kings 22:11; II Chron. 34:19)



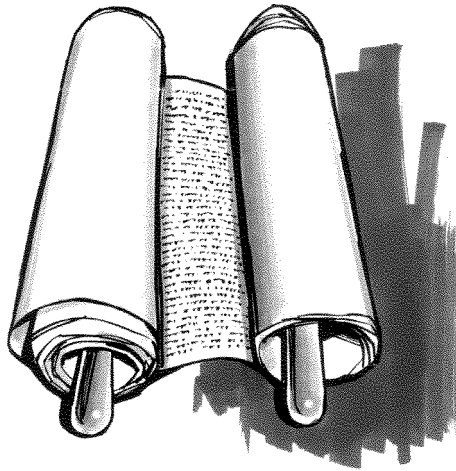
Lesson 24 - 58

5. What did he command the high priest, scribe and others to do? (II Kings 22:12-13; II Chron. 34:20-21)
6. What did Huldah prophesy regarding the land and the inhabitants? (II Kings 22:14-16; II Chron. 34:22-24)
7. Why was this evil to come upon the people? (II Kings 22:17; II Chron. 34:25)
8. What did Huldah prophesy regarding Josiah, the king? (II Kings 22:18-20; II Chron. 34:26-28)
9. Who were gathered together to hear the words of the book of the law? (II Kings 23:1-2; II Chron. 34:29-30)
10. What covenant did Josiah make before the Lord? Who were present? (II Kings 23:3; II Chron. 34:31-32)
11. Josiah also bound whom to this covenant? How long did the people serve the Lord? (II Chron. 34:33)
12. According to Jeremiah, what had Judah witnessed? (Jer. 3:6-7)
13. What had the Lord given to Israel? Nevertheless, what had Judah done? (Jer. 3:8-9)
14. In what manner did Judah serve the Lord in the days of Josiah? (Jer. 3:10)

Lesson 24 - 59

15. God's covenant with the children of Israel included blessings if they were obedient and cursings if they were disobedient (Deut. 27; 28). The ultimate curse and punishment for disobedience was what? (Deut. 28:49-52, 63-64)

*Note.* This prophecy of captivity is applicable not only to the Babylonian captivity, but also to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A. D. 70 and the subsequent scattering of the Jews among all nations.



**LESSON 25**  
**JOSIAH – JEHOAHAZ**  
II Kings 23:4-34; II Chron. 35; 36:1-4

**I. JOSIAH'S FURTHER REFORMS** (II Kings 23:4-30; II Chron. 35)

1. What reforms and purges did Josiah make with regard to the following?
  - a. The temple: (II Kings 23:4)
  - b. Idolatrous priests: (II Kings 23:5)
  - c. The grove (Asherah, wooden image): (II Kings 23:6)
  - d. The houses of the sodomites: (II Kings 23:7)
  - e. The high places for the burning of incense and their priests: (II Kings 23:8-9)
  - f. Topheth: (II Kings 23:10)
  - g. The horses at the entering of the house of the Lord and the chariots of the sun: (II Kings 23:11)
  - h. The altars of Ahaz and Manasseh: (II Kings 23:12)
  - i. The high places built by Solomon for idolatry: (II Kings 23:13)
  - j. The images and groves (pillars, Asherim): (II Kings 23:14)
2. What did Josiah do to the altar at Bethel? What prophecy did he fulfill in this incident? (II Kings 23:15; cf. I Kings 13:1-10)

Lesson 25 - 61

3. What did Josiah burn upon the altar? What was the purpose of this action? (II Kings 23:16; cf. Num. 19:16)
4. Whose sepulchre did Josiah leave intact? (II Kings 23:17-18)
5. What reforms did Josiah do in the cities of Samaria? (II Kings 23:19-20)
6. What did Josiah command the people to observe in the eighteenth year of his reign? (II Kings 23:21, 23; II Chron. 35:1-17, 19)
7. Describe the feast. (II Kings 23:22; II Chron. 35:18)
8. Josiah's reforms were in order that he might do what? (II Kings 23:24)
9. Describe Josiah's character. (II Kings 23:25)
10. Why was the Lord's anger kindled against Judah? (II Kings 23:26-27)
11. How did Josiah die? Who lamented for him? (II Kings 23:29-30; II Chron. 35:20-25)

*Note.* Pharaoh Necho went to assist the Assyrians to battle against the rising power of Babylon. Josiah attempted to prevent this alliance between Egypt and the Assyrians. The NKJV states correctly that Necho went to the aid of the Assyrians (see Judah Alone Endnotes, p. 9, n. 8).

**II. JEHOAHAZ** (II Kings 23:31-34; II Chron. 36:1-4)

1. What kind of king was Jehoahaz? (II Kings 23:31-32; II Chron. 36:1-2)
2. Who took Jehoahaz captive? What tribute did he demand? (II Kings 23:33; II Chron. 36:3)
3. Where did Jehoahaz die? (II Kings 23:34; II Chron. 36:4)



## LESSON 26

# JEHOIAKIM – JEHOIACHIN – ZEDEKIAH

II Kings 23:34-37; 24; 25; II Chron. 36:4-23

### I. JEHOIAKIM (II Kings 23:34-37; 24:1-7; II Chron. 36:4-8)

1. Whom did Pharaoh Necho place on the throne of Judah after he took Jehoahaz captive? What name did he give to the new king? What was his relationship to Josiah? What was his relationship to Jehoahaz? (II Kings 23:34; II Chron. 36:4)
2. How did Jehoiakim obtain the tribute for Pharaoh Necho? (II Kings 23:35)
3. Describe Jehoiakim's character. (II Kings 23:36-37; II Chron. 36:5)
4. What king of Babylon invaded Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim? What territory did he control? What did he do to Jehoiakim? What did he carry to Babylon? (II Kings 24:1, 7; II Chron. 36:6-7)
5. Who else invaded Judah? Why did God send these enemies against Judah? (II Kings 24:2-4)

### II. JEHOIACHIN (II Kings 24:8-16; II Chron. 36:9-10)

1. Jehoiachin is compared to whom? Describe his character. (II Kings 24:8-9; II Chron. 36:9)
2. Who besieged Jerusalem during the reign of Jehoiachin? What was the result? (II Kings 24:10-16; II Chron. 36:10)

**III. ZEDEKIAH** (II Kings 24:17-20; 25:1-26; II Chron. 36:10-21)

1. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar place upon the throne after he took Jehoiachin captive? What name did he give to the new king? What was his relationship to Jehoiakim? What was his relationship to Josiah? (II Kings 24:17; II Chron. 36:10; cf. Jer. 37:1)
  
2. Describe the character of Zedekiah. (II Kings 24:18-19; II Chron. 36:11-12)
  
3. Zedekiah rebelled against whom? (II Kings 24:20; II Chron. 36:13)
  
4. Describe the character of the priests and the people at this time. Why did the Lord send his messengers to the people? How did the people receive the messengers? (II Chron. 36:14-16)
  
5. The final siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar continued for how long? What affliction prevailed in the city during the final days of the siege? Whom did the Chaldeans kill? (II Kings 25:1-3; II Chron. 36:17)
  
6. What was the fate of Zedekiah? (II Kings 25:4-7)
  
7. Describe what happened to the following during the final siege of Jerusalem.
  - a. The temple, palaces and walls of the city: (II Kings 25:8-10; II Chron. 36:19)
  
  - b. The rest of the people left in the city, those who escaped the sword: (II Kings 25:11; II Chron. 36:20)
  
  - c. The poorest of the land: (II Kings 25:12)
  
  - d. The temple treasures: (II Kings 25:13-17; II Chron. 36:18)
  
  - e. The priests, nobles, officers: (II Kings 25:18-21)

## Lesson 26 - 65

8. How long was Judah to remain in Babylonian captivity? (II Chron. 36:21; cf. Jer. 25:8-13; 29:10-14)
  
9. Who was appointed governor over the remnant that was left in Judah? (II Kings 25:22-24)
  
10. Who conspired against him? Where did the remnant flee? (II Kings 25:25-26)
  
11. What prophet was forced to accompany this group? (Jer. 40-43)

### **IV. THE AFTERMATH** (II Kings 25:27-30; II Chron. 36:22-23)

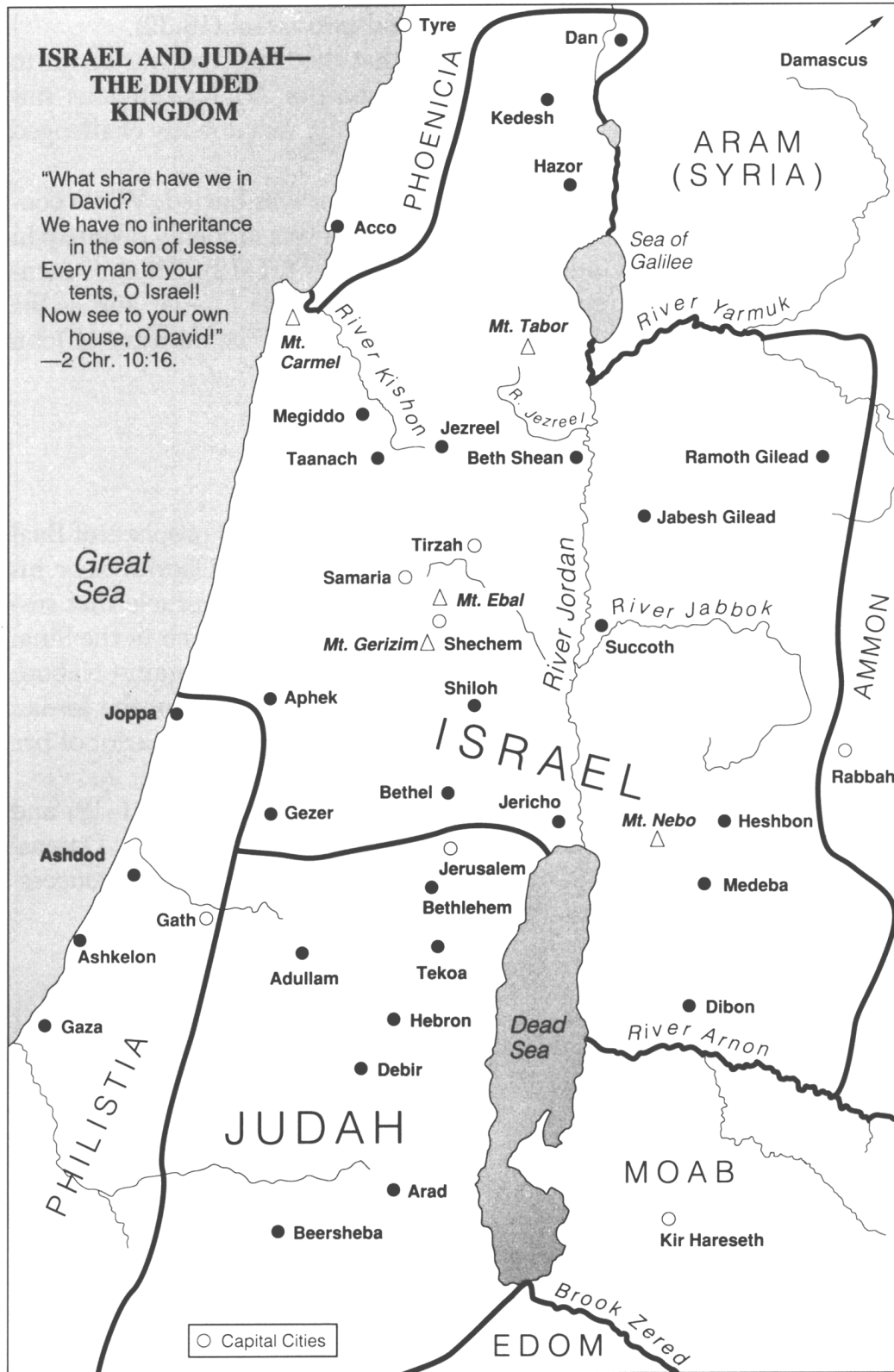
1. Who released Jehoiachin from prison? What honor did Jehoiachin receive after he was released? (II Kings 25:27-30)
  
2. What proclamation was made by Cyrus, king of Persia? When did this proclamation occur? (II Chron. 36:22-23; cf. Ezra 1:1-4)



# THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

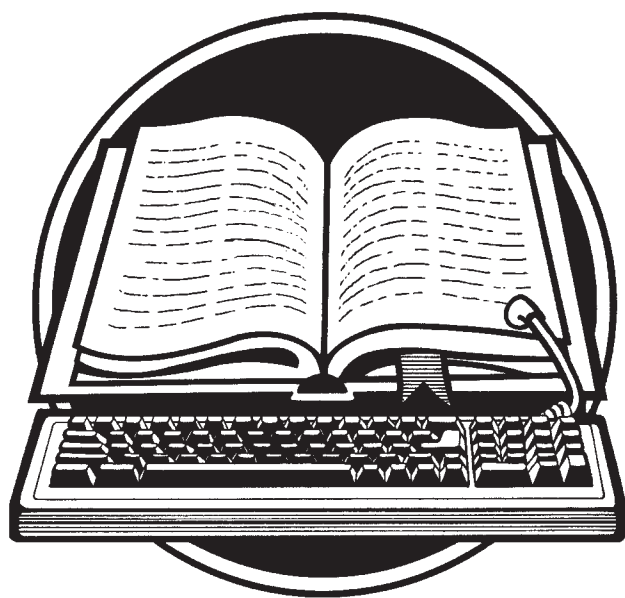
JUDAH			ISRAEL		
King	Coregency	Date	King	Overlapping Reigns	Date
Rehoboam		931/30 - 913	Jeroboam I		931/30 - 910/9
Abijah		913 - 911/10			
Asa		911/10 - 870/69	Nadab		910/9 - 909/8
			Baasha		909/8 - 886/85
			Elah		886/85 - 885/84
			Zimri		885/84
			Tibni		885/84 - 880
			Omri	885/84 - 880	880 - 874/73
Jehoshaphat	872/71 - 870/69	870/69 - 848	Ahab		874/73 - 853
Jehoram	853 - 848	848 - 841	Ahaziah		853 - 852
Ahaziah		841	Joram		852 - 841
Athaliah		841 - 835	Jehu		841 - 814/13
Joash		835 - 796	Jehoahaz		814/13 - 798
Amaziah		796 - 767	Jehoash		798 - 782/81
Uzziah	792/91 - 767	767 - 740/39	Jeroboam II	793/92 - 782/81	782/81 - 753
			Zachariah		753 - 752
			Shallum		752
Jotham	750 - 740/39	740/39 - 732/31	Menahem		752 - 742/41
			Pekahiah		742/41 - 740/39
Ahaz	735 - 732/31	732/31 - 716/15	Pekah	752 - 740/39	740/39 - 732/31
			Hoshea		732/31 - 723/22
Hezekiah		716/15 - 687/86			
Manasseh	697/96 - 687/86	687/86 - 643/42			
Amon		643/42 - 641/40			
Josiah		641/40 - 609			
Jehoahaz		609			
Jehoiakim		609 - 598			
Jehoiachin		598 - 597			
Zedekiah		597 - 586			

# The Divided Kingdom



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