

History of Israel – 1000-537 BC Harmony of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles – Part 12

HISTORY OF ISRAEL – THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

From this point in the text on, we must always keep in mind that Israel is separated from Judah. Israel is the nation of the 10 tribes of the North. Judah is the nation of one tribe, Judah. However, Benjamin is also under Judah. The Levites also are scattered between both nations but come back to Judah and Jerusalem after being excluded by the king of Israel in 2 Chronicles 11:13-14.

Last week, we reviewed the kings of Israel. There are two kings in particular that are of the utmost importance. The first is Jeroboam and the second, Jehu. Both were given every opportunity to do what is right, but, in the end, they sinned against the Lord and did evil in His sight.

Jeroboam immediately set up golden calf worship and that was the sin of every king of Israel (Northern Tribes). Jehu, under the influence of Elisha, exterminated the worshippers of Baal but did not get rid of golden calf worship.

After 19 kings who did evil in the sight of the Lord and having sinned in the likeness of Jeroboam, YHWH judged Israel, and the Assyrians took all of Israel captive. This happened in the ninth year of the last king of Israel (Hoshea). The year was approximately 721 BC, and from this time on, they do not regain their identity as Israel. Instead, they exist as Samaritans, as the Assyrians nearly bread out the 10 tribes.

When looking at time in Kings, we see that the timing of Israel and Judah coincide. 1 Kings 15:1, 25

Last week we also covered the transition from Solomon to Rehoboam and his initial failure as a king.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam - His 17-year rule is found in 1 Kings 14:21-24 and 2 Chronicles 12:1, 14. During his time as king, he instated worship outside of the temple in the high places. There was also a male cult of prostitutes who did abominations. When he died, his son Abijah became king.

Abijah – He reigned three years. He made war against Jeroboam. 2 Chronicles 13:8-20 – Initially, Abijah honored and served God and YHWH gave him victory against Jeroboam. 1 Kings 15:3-5 – But he did not fully dedicate himself to YHWH and sinned with idols. He died and his son, Asa, became king.

*Asa – Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He reigned 41 years and undid many of the problems Rehoboam had established. He tore down the worship places of false gods and exterminated the male cult of prostitutes. He did not get rid of the high places, but his heart was completely devoted to the Lord. He defeated Ethiopia by the hand of the Lord. There was peace in the land for many years under Asa. In the end, Asa was diseased in his feet, but he did not consult with the Lord but relied upon the physicians. When he died, Jehoshaphat became king (1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14).

*Jehoshaphat – He reigned 25 years. He maintained the way of Asa and did right in the sight of the Lord. However, like Asa, he did not remove the high places, so the people were torn between YHWH and false gods. He sent out teachers to all of Judah to teach the people the Law of God. Jehoshaphat made peace with Ahab, king of Israel, and joined Israel in a war against Moab. This was refuted by a prophet and Jehoshaphat returned to Judah and established judges and Levites as priests of the Lord throughout the land. After another great victory by the hand of the Lord, there was peace in the land. His son, Jehoram (Ahab's son-in-law), becomes

History of Israel – 1000-537 BC Harmony of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles – Part 12

king of Israel and the war again against the Moabites. Jehoshaphat dies, and Jehoram reigned Judah and Israel. (1 Kings 22:41-22:50; 2 Chronicles 17:1-20:37)

Jehoram – He reigned Judah for 8 years. He did evil by walking in the way of the kings of Israel and worshipping idols. During his rule, Edom revolts and does not come under Judah's rule again. Edom eventually allies itself with foreign armies against Israel and for that, they are judged by the Lord. Jehoram got sick and eventually died and his son, Ahaziah, became king of Judah (2 Chronicles 21:1-20; 2 Kings 8:16-23).

Ahaziah – He reigned one year. His mother was Athaliah, granddaughter of Omri king of Israel. Ahaziah walked in the way of the kings of Israel and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He dies by the hand of Jehu (of Israel). His mother then usurped the throne and killed all of her son's children, but Joash, the son of Ahaziah, was preserved (2 Chronicles 22:1-12; 2 Kings 8:24-9:32).

Athaliah – She is the only recorded queen of Judah. She is not in the line of David and is a usurper of the throne. During her reign, Joash is the intended heir. She reigns for six years while Joash is hidden. Eventually, leaders in Judah take Joash and place him as king (read 2 Chronicles 23:12-15, 21).

*+Joash – He was seven years old when he became king and reigned 40 years over Judah. The priest Jehoiada trained Joash, and Judah decided that they would be the Lord's people and removed Baal worship again. However, Joash did evil after Jehoiada dies, even killing Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada. Joash is invaded by Arameans and, after the battle, Joash is badly wounded and then killed by his own servants. After his death, his son, Amaziah, rules in his place (2 Kings 11:1-12:20; 2 Chronicles 22:10-24:27).

*+Amaziah – He reigned 29 years and did right in the sight of the Lord, but not fully like David. Amaziah did well in defeating Edom. He also went to war with Israel while Jehoash (son of Jehu) was king. Amaziah was defeated and returned to Jerusalem. He eventually did evil in the sight of the Lord and did not have peace in his last days. He was killed by his servants. After his death, his son, Uzziah, was king (2 Kings 12:21-14:20; 2 Chronicles 25:1-28).

*+ Uzziah (Azariah) – He reigned 52 years doing right in the sight of the Lord (read 2 Kings 15:3-4). He fortified cities in Jerusalem and build inventions of war, and his fame spread. When he became strong, he became proud and was unfaithful to the Lord. He was stricken with leprosy and lived in a separate house, and his son, Jotham, ruled over the land (2 Kings 15:1-5; 2 Chronicles 26:1-21).

*Jotham – He reigned 16 years (plus the time ruling for his father). He did what was right but did not remove the high places and the people acted corruptly. He prevailed over the Amorites, but eventually, the Lord sent Aram and Pekah against Judah for the unfaithfulness of the people. Jotham died and his son, Ahaz, became king (2 Kings 15:23-38 2 Chronicles 27:1-9).

Ahaz – He reigned 16 years and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Kings 16:2-3; 2 Chronicles 28:2-3). Israel and Aram came and attacked Judah and captured 200,000 people. A prophet of the Lord procured their return, but wars were just beginning. Edom and the Philistines also attacked and won many battles. At that time, Ahaz seeks help from Assyria. But in the end, the king of Assyria afflicted Ahaz instead of helping him. During this time of distress, Ahaz began sacrificing to false gods, and this became the downfall of the nation. After his death, Hezekiah became king (2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28:1-27).

History of Israel – 1000-537 BC

Harmony of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles – Part 12

****Hezekiah** – He reigned 29 years in Judah and did what was right in the sight of the Lord according to all that David had done. He even took down the high places, the Asherah, and he is the one that destroyed the bronze serpent that Moses had made because it had become an object of worship. There was no king like him for he clung to the Lord, following the Covenant and the Law. He rebelled against Assyria and did not serve them. He repaired the temple and made the people serve the Lord. Hezekiah even accepted many people of Israel after the fall of Israel. Hezekiah reestablished the Passover and Sabbaths and established priests and Levites to teach the Law and reinstated the tithe for the Levites. When Hezekiah became ill, he prayed, and Isaiah told Hezekiah that 15 years would be added to his life. It was through Hezekiah's prayer and Isaiah's word that the Lord struck down the Assyrians (read 2 Kings 19:35-36). After Hezekiah died, Manasseh became king (2 Kings 18:1-20:21; 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33).

+*Manasseh – He reigned 55 years but did evil in the sight of the Lord. He enticed all of Judah to practice even more evil than the people whom the Lord destroyed. Prophets came and warned Manasseh to no avail, but when Assyria came and captured him, he intreated YHWH and was restored to Judah. Manasseh knew that YHWH was God (2 Chronicles 33:13). After he died, his son, Amon, became king (2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chronicles 33:1-20).

Amon – He reigned two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord following after the sins of his father. His own servants kill him in his house, and his son, Josiah, became king (2 Kings 21:18-26; 2 Chronicles 33:20-24).

****Josiah** – He was eight years old when he became king and reigned 31 years. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and restored the Law of God, removed the idol worship and the high places. He is the king that took free-will offerings to rebuild the temple. He reestablished the holidays and the Passover was performed as a national feast (read 2 Kings 23:22-23). Josiah, sadly, went out to war against Neco, the king of Egypt, and Josiah was killed at Megiddo. His son, Jehoahaz, was made king. (2 Kings 22:1-23:30; 2 Chronicles 34:1-35:25).

Jehoahaz – He reigned three months and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was disposed of by Neco, and his brother, Jehoiakim (Eliakim), was placed as king over Judah (2 Kings 23:30-34; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4).

Jehoiakim – He reigned 11 years and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He submitted to Pharaoh Neco. In his days, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, caused Jehoiakim to serve him for three years and then Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. Then bands of armies were sent to destroy Jerusalem (read 2 Kings 24:2-4). Jehoiakim dies and his son, Jehoiachin, became king. (2 Kings 23:34-24:6; 2 Chronicles 36:4-8).

Jehoiachin – Reigned three months and ten days and did evil in the sight of the Lord. During his reign, Jerusalem was captured along with Jehoiachin and this was the beginning of the Babylonian exile. When he is captured, Nebuchadnezzar sets up Mattaniah as king and changed his name to Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:8-12; 2 Chronicles 36:8-10)

Zedekiah – He was Jehoiachin's uncle and was placed as king regent by Nebuchadnezzar. It is debated if he is really a king in the line of David, but he is mentioned as ruler in Judah. He reigned eleven years in Judah and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He rebelled against Babylon and was besieged by Nebuchadnezzar and he is accounted as the last king in Judah (2 Chronicles 36:18-21). (2 Kings 24:17-25:30; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21).