

# THE BIBLE

FROM BEGINNING TO END

SESSION THREE

CONFLICT

1K	2K	1C	2C	
Is	Je	Ho	Am	O
Jo	Mi	Na	Hb	Zp

# 1. RECAP

At the end of Solomon's reign:

- fruitful, prosperous nation
- peace within its borders and with its neighbours
- blessing other nations

BUT the big warning sign:

- Solomon's foreign wives
- Solomon worshipping foreign gods

## 2. KINGDOM DIVIDED

Consequences for disobedience

1 Kings 11:9-13

The king's actions affect the whole nation

Rehoboam vs. Jeroboam (931 BC)



Southern kingdom: Judah and Benjamin

Northern kingdom: Ephraim and Manasseh, Reuben, Dan, Gad, Naphtali, Simeon, Asher, Zebulun, Issachar.

The Levites did not have their own land, and lived throughout the nation.

### **3. THE NORTHERN KINGDOM: ISRAEL**

Also known as Samaria. Also known as Ephraim (because Jeroboam, the first king, was from tribe of Ephraim).

***The problem with the northern kingdom:***

**i. Worship without the temple**

**ii. Doing evil in the eyes of the Lord**

***Prophets sent to warn the northern kingdom:***

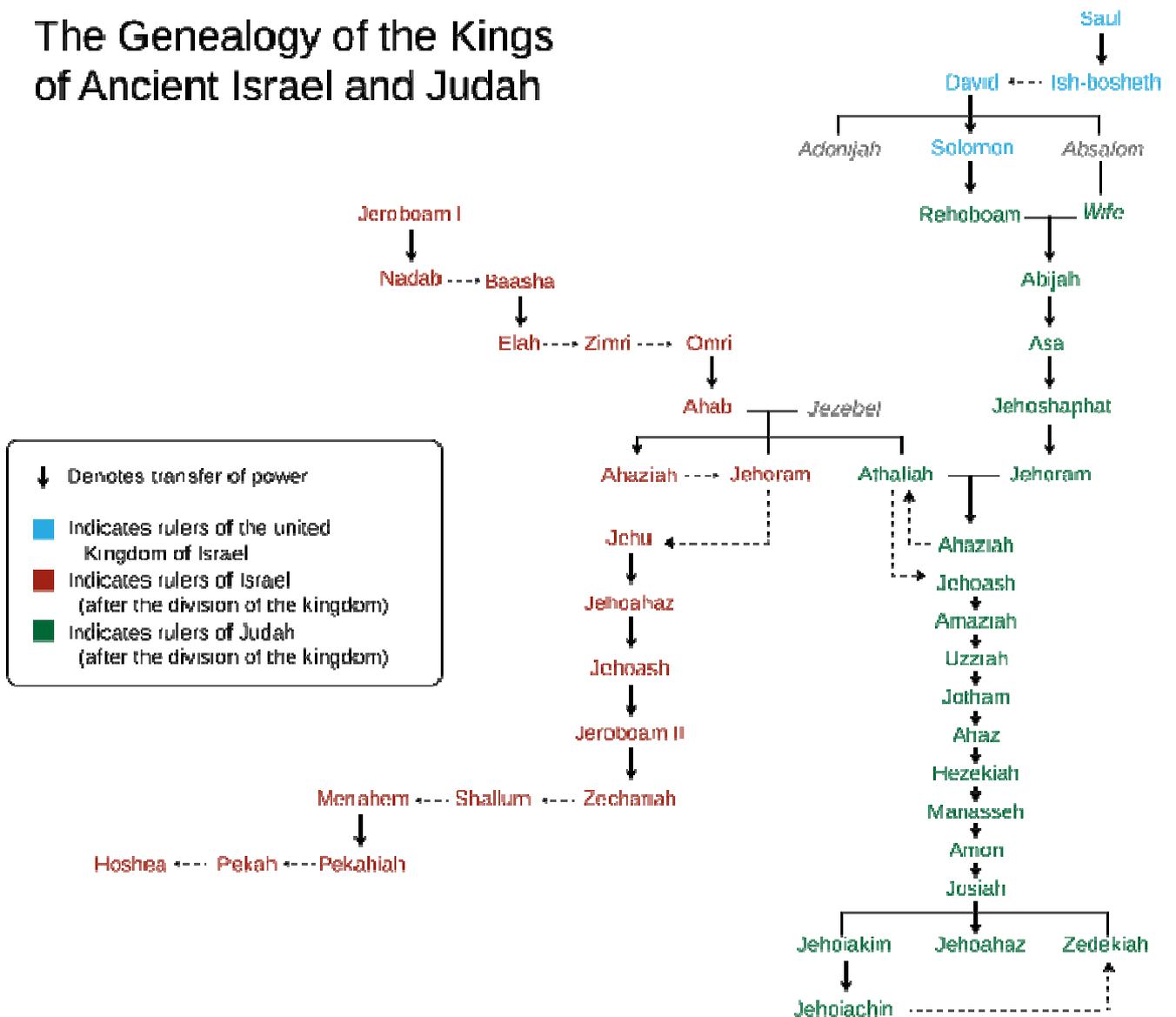
**iii. Elijah and Elisha**

***The end of the northern kingdom:***

**iv. Invasions and exile.**

The northern kingdom lasted for just over 200 years. During that time it had 19 different kings, all of whom 'did evil in the eyes of the Lord'. When the Israelites were taken into exile in Assyria, a few remained in the land and married women from other tribes. They continued to worship in the high places and at Samaria. They never reunited with the tribes of the southern kingdom. By the time of the New Testament, these Samaritans were looked down on by the Judeans as hypocrites and false worshippers. Jews wanted nothing to do with Samaritans.

# The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



## 4. PROPHETS IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

### i. Elijah and Elisha

*Elijah: Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram*

*Elisha: Jhu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash*

- Obadiah?

## **ii. Hosea**

*Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea*

## **iii. Amos**

*Jeroboam II, Zechariah*

## **iv. Jonah**

*Jeroboam II*

- from the northern kingdom but sent to prophesy to Nineveh

# **5. THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM: JUDAH**

Also known as Jerusalem and much later as Judea.

## **i. The division of the kingdoms:**

### **i. Rehoboam**

### **ii. Bad kings**

### **iii. And some better kings**

### **iv. The end of the southern kingdom**

Capture

Invasion

Siege

Exile

## **6. PROPHETS IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

### **i. Isaiah**

*Azariah (aka. Uzziah), Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh*

### **ii. Jeremiah**

*Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoachin, Zedekiah*

### **iii. Micah**

*Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah*

**iv. Nahum**

*Jehoahaz*

- from Jerusalem but prophesied against Nineveh

**v. Habakkuk**

*Josiah*

**vi. Zephaniah**

*Josiah*

**vii. Obadiah?**

*Josiah*

- prophesied against Edom

**viii. Joel**

*Joash*

## **7. READING BIBLICAL PROPHECY**

**i. The purpose of prophecy**

- to warn

- to promise

- to strengthen faith

## **ii. The prophetic marriage metaphor**

- betrothal
- marriage covenant
- honeymoon
- infidelity
- restoration and remarriage

## **iii. Questions to ask**

- Who is the prophecy about and who is it spoken to?
- What is the warning, the promise or the encouragement for the original hearers?
- Was there an immediate level of fulfilment for the original hearers?
- How is this prophecy fulfilled ultimately in Christ?
- What is the warning, the promise or the encouragement for Christian readers?

## **8. SUMMARIES OF EACH BOOK**

### **1 KINGS**

Continues telling Israel's history through David and Solomon's reigns and then the divided kingdom, recounting the key features of each king's time in both Israel (north) and Judah (south). Focuses on the prophet Elijah and his role in warning the kings in Israel.

### **2 KINGS**

Completes the history of the northern kingdom who are taken into exile by the Assyrians, and then the southern kingdom who are later taken into exile by the Babylonians. Other than a few faithful kings in Judah, the majority do evil in the eyes of the Lord.

### **1 CHRONICLES**

Begins with a genealogy tracing back to Adam. Retells the story of David's reign, omitting the negative incidents of Bathsheba and Tamar.

### **2 CHRONICLES**

Presents Solomon as the ideal king and the ideal Israelite, who builds the temple and worships God. Omits reference to his foreign wives and worship of foreign gods. Tells the rest of the history of Judah, with only occasional mentions of the northern kingdom.

### **ISAIAH**

Prophecy against the southern kingdom. Also includes warnings against other nations, visions of the future glorious reign of God. Isaiah was a prophet to King Hezekiah and through him, they were saved from an Assyrian invasion. Promises a saviour who will be a servant to the people, who will bear their sins and take their punishment, to restore their relationship to God.

### **JEREMIAH**

Prophecy to Jerusalem in the last years before they are taken captive and go into exile. Jeremiah calls the people to repent, criticises the leaders of Judah, and warns them what will happen if they don't turn back to God. He also

promises that God will make a new covenant in the future, which will be written on the people's hearts.

## **HOSEA**

Prophet in the northern kingdom who God instructs to marry a prostitute, Gomer. God uses their marriage as an illustration of Israel's relationship to him – Gomer is unfaithful to Hosea, but Hosea is told to go after her and bring her back and keep loving her.

## **AMOS**

Sent to prophesy in Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, to warn them of God's coming judgment. He tells them God will use other nations to bring his judgment on the Israelites.

## **OBADIAH**

Prophesy concerning the fall of Edom - the descendants of Esau and Israel's enemies.

## **JONAH**

Prophet sent to the city of Nineveh in Babylon to warn them about God's coming judgment. Despite Jonah's reluctance, God ensures that he does go to Nineveh, and the people there do repent and escape judgment.

## **MICAH**

Based in the southern kingdom, Micah prophesied God's judgment on the northern kingdom and a warning to the southern kingdom. He also promises hope for the future and a saviour to be born in Bethlehem.

## **NAHUM**

Prophesies the destruction of Nineveh, the capital city of Babylon. For the Judahites who heard the prophesy this was an encouragement as they faced Babylonian attacks.

## **HABAKKUK**

Presented as a conversation between God and Habakkuk, it asks how long God's people will suffer under attack. God explains that he is using the Chaldean army to bring justice on Judah, but that he will later execute justice on the Chaldeans.

## **ZEPHANIAH**

Prophecy of God's coming judgment, in which Judah will be judged along with all nations. Promises that a remnant will be saved and restored to Jerusalem, rescued and gathered back from exile.

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