

In the Beginning

19-25 SEP 2017

Genesis 1 – 24

Week 1 --- 49 Weeks to Go

Genesis tells the story of God's purpose and plan for his creation and demonstrates God's sovereignty and the Love God has for His creation. Everything begins with God, who elects a people of his own. Genesis is the origin of major themes of Scripture: God's creation of the universe, humanity's origin and mission, mankind's fall and predicament, God's authority, human responsibility and divine sovereignty, God's judgement, God's justice and mercy, God's plan for redemption, the covenant of grace, transformation of the sinner, and the obedience and faith of man -- all told through the stories of the pioneers of the faith.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: GE 1:1—4:26
Day 2: GE 5:1– 6:22
Day 3: GE 7:1 – 8:22
Day 4: GE 9:1 – 11:32
Day 5: GE 12:1 – 15:21
Day 6: GE 16:1—20:18
Day 7: GE 21:1 – 24:67

Outline

The creation (Day 1)
Man's Rebellion: sin, death and judgement
 The Fall (Day 1)
 The Judgement of the Flood (Days 2-4)
 The Judgement on the Tower of Babel (Day 4)
The Life of Abraham (Days 4-7)
 The Birth of Ishmael (Day 6)
 The Birth of Isaac (Day 7)

Key Characters

Adam	Eve
Cain	Abel
Noah	Japheth
Shem	Ham
Abraham	Sarah
Terah	Nahor
Hagar	Ishmael
Isaac	Rebekah
Lot	

Key Locations

Garden of Eden
Mesopotamia
Babylon/Babel
Ur
Haran
Egypt
Sodom and Gomorrah
Canaan
Mt. Moriah

Key Terms

Covenant, promise, swear
Blessing
Descendants
Land (Canaan)
Sin, evil, wickedness
Sacrifice

Key Verses

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth [GE 1:1]

So God created man in his own image [GE 1:27]

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing [GE 12:2]

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. [GE 17:7]

EPOCH 1
(Creation – 2000 BC)

EPOCH 2
(2000-1500 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE1: God created the heavens, the earth and everything that lives. He made humankind in his image, and gave them charge over the earth.

GE2: God formed a man and gave him the garden in Eden, except the tree of good and evil. Adam was alone so God made a woman as his partner.

GE3: The serpent deceived the woman. She and Adam ate from the tree. The ground was cursed, and God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.

GE4: Eve's sons made offerings to the LORD. Only Abel's was acceptable, so Cain killed him. Abel's blood cried out and God sent Cain away.

GE5: Adam's line was: Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

GE6: Humankind corrupted the earth with evil. God decided to destroy them. He told Noah to build an ark to be saved from the flood.

GE7: Noah and his family went into the ark with two of each creature. It rained for forty days and forty nights and the earth was covered.

GE8: The flood abated. Noah sent out a raven and two doves. When the earth was dry God called them all out of the ark. Noah built an altar.

GE9: God blessed Noah and set the rainbow as a sign that he would never flood the earth again. Noah got drunk and cursed Ham's son Canaan.

GE10: Japheth's line lived in the coastlands; Ham's included Nimrod and the Canaanites; Shem's lived in the East. These formed the nations.

GE11: They began building a great tower for themselves, but the Lord confused their language. Shem's line included Abram who married Sarai.

GE12: God told Abram, "Go, I will make you a great nation. You will be a blessing." In Egypt Abram lied about Sarai and Pharaoh was cursed.

GE13: Abram journeyed with his nephew Lot. Their servants argued, so Lot went to Sodom, Abram to Canaan. The LORD promised Abram the land.

GE14: The kings went to war and took Lot captive. Abram rescued Lot. Melchizedek blessed Abram and Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE15: The Lord promised Abram an heir and many descendants. Abram believed. He was told that they would be enslaved but would then return.

GE16: Sarai told Abram to have children with Hagar. Hagar conceived, then ran away, but an angel sent her back. Hagar's son was Ishmael.

GE17: God made a covenant with Abram and renamed him Abraham. He renamed Sarai Sarah and promised them a son. The men were circumcised.

GE18: Three visitors came and said that Sarah would have a son next year. Sodom was very evil; Abraham pleaded with the LORD for the city.

GE19: Angels took Lot out of Sodom. The city was destroyed by fire and Lot's wife was turned to salt. His daughters had children for him.

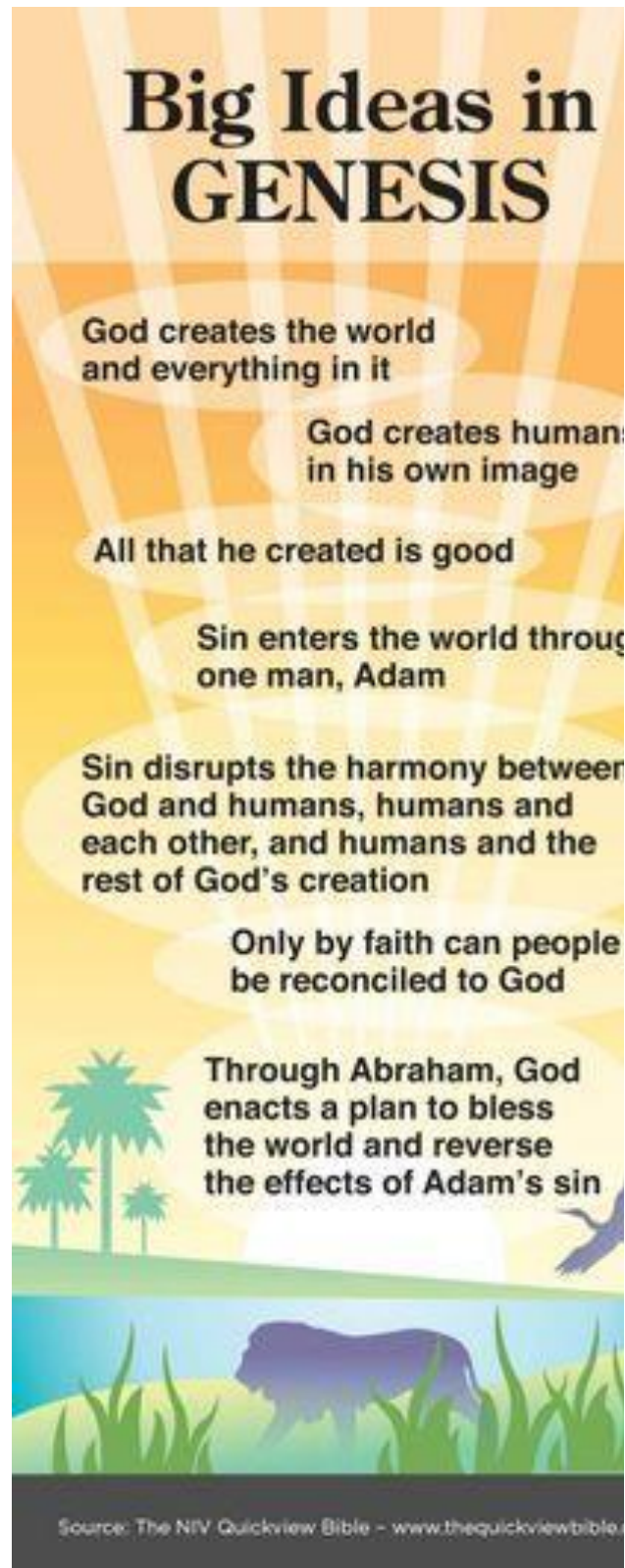
GE20: In Gerar Abraham said, "Sarah is my sister." King Abimelech took her but God warned him in a dream. He restored Sarah to Abraham.

GE21: As promised, Sarah had a son: Isaac. She had Hagar and Ishmael sent away but God preserved them. Abraham and Abimelech made a treaty.

GE22: God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. As Abraham obeyed, an angel stopped him. The LORD provided a ram instead and blessed Abraham.

GE23: Sarah died in Kiriath-arba. Abraham asked the Hittites for a burial site. He bought a cave from Ephron and buried Sarah there.

GE24: Abraham's servant went to Nahor to find a wife for Isaac. He met Rebekah by the well. She went back with him and married Isaac.





created by the Bible Project

Names for God

<i>Hebrew Name</i>	<i>English Meaning</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
El-Elyon	God Most High	Gen. 14:18,22
El-Kanna	Jealous	Exod. 34:14
El-Olam	Eternal God	Gen. 21:33
El-Shaddai	God Almighty	Gen. 17:1
Jehovah (YHWH)	The LORD	Exod. 6:2–3
Jehovah-Adon Kal Ha'arets	Lord of All the Earth	Josh. 3:13
Jehovah-Bara	Creator	Isa. 40:28
Jehovah-Chereb	Glorious Sword	Deut. 33:29
Jehovah-Eli	My God	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Elohenu	Our God	Exod. 8:10
Jehovah-Gibbor Milchamah	Mighty in Battle	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Go'el	Redeemer	Isa. 49:26; 60:16
Jehovah-Hamelech	The King	Ps. 98:6
Jehovah-Hashopet	The Judge	Judg. 11:27
Jehovah-Hoshe'ah	The LORD Who Saves	Ps. 20:9
Jehovah-'Izuz 'Gibbor	Strong and Mighty	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Jireh	The LORD Will Provide	Gen. 22:14
Jehovah-Kabodhi	My Glory	Ps. 3:3
Jehovah-Keren-Yish'i	Horn of My Salvation	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Machsi	My Refuge	Ps. 91:9
Jehovah-Magen	The Shield	Deut. 33:29
Jehovah-Makeh	The LORD Who Strikes You	Ezek. 7:9
Jehovah-Ma'oz	My Fortress	Jer. 16:19
Jehovah-Mekoddishkem	The LORD Who Makes You Holy	Exod. 31:13
Jehovah-Melech 'Olam	King Forever	Ps. 10:16
Jehovah-Mephalti	My Deliverer	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Moshi'ech	Your Savior	Isa. 49:26; 60:16
Jehovah-Nissi	My Banner	Exod. 17:15
Jehovah-'Ori	My Light	Ps. 27:1
Jehovah-Rohi	My Shepherd	Ps. 23:1
Jehovah-Rophe	The LORD Who Heals You	Exod. 15:26
Jehovah-Sabaoth	The LORD of Hosts	1 Sam. 1:3
Jehovah-Sel'i	My Rock	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	Our Righteousness	Jer. 32:6
Jehovah-Uzi	My Strength	Ps. 28:7



Three Tiered Universe and The Creation

Modern people think of the earth as a globe spinning around the sun in the vastness of space, but in the ancient world, the Israelites included, people saw things much differently. All throughout the Bible, we find the common ancient view that the cosmos was a three-tiered order, consisting of three distinct realms stacked on top of each other: the skies, or heavens above; the land, surrounded by water; and the waters below.

The earth was a flat, disc-shaped piece of land floating on deep cosmic waters, which is why if you dig deep enough, you eventually hit water (this is “the deep” in [Genesis 1:2](#)), so they believed the land must be suspended, or “floating” above the deep by pillars (you’ve maybe heard the biblical phrase, “pillars of the earth”). The land, surrounded by waters, is where humans and land animals lived, and the waters around the land was “the sea,” where all the sea creatures lived. Ancient Israelites also observed that the sky was a dome shape and that the sun, moon, and stars were embedded into the dome. Above the sky, was more water, which the dome typically held back, but not always, which explained why sometimes it rained.

[The Bible Project. Retrieved from <https://thebibleproject.com/blog/genesis-ancient-cosmic-geography/>]

Messianic Prophecies in the Bible

The Messiah Would Be	Old Testament Prophecy	Fulfilled in Jesus Christ
A descendant of Abraham	GE 17:7	GAL 3:16
From David's Family	2 SA 7:12-13	AC 13:32
Preceded by a Messenger	MAL 3:1	LK 1:17
Born of a Virgin	ISA 7:14	MT 1:18
Born in Bethlehem	MIC 5:2	MT 2:1
The Shepherd	ISA 40:11	JN 10:11-16
The Prophet	DT 18:15	AC 3:20-22
The Priest	PS 110:4	HEB 5:5-6
The King	ZEC 9:9	John 18:33,37
The Redeemer	ISA 59:20	LK 2:1
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	ZEC 11:12	MT 26:15
Mocked	PS 22:7-8	MT 27:39-44
Spat on	ISA 50:6	MK 14:65
Crucified	PS 22:16	JN 19:18
Resurrected	PS 16:10	LK 24:6, 31, 34

GOD Always Existed

Long before there were planets or stars God was living, for God always existed. God was not created.

God has always existed as one God in three persons:

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

The oneness of God and the distinctness of each person of the Trinity is a divine mystery.



Creation [Genesis 1:1-2:3]

Long, long ago (the Bible doesn't address the details of how or when), God created everything out of nothing. God created the entire physical universe, all living things, and finally humans.

People were lovingly created in God's own image for the purpose of having a relationship with God.



The Fall [Genesis 2:15-3:24]

Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him.

They used 3 time-honored excuses:

- Someone told me it would be okay
- It sounded like something fun to do
- A friend did it first

Adam and Eve (and all sinners since) have experienced more pain and more hard work as a consequence of this first sin.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Flood [Genesis 5:28—10:32]

Many, many generations after Adam and Eve, there came a time when everyone alive was wicked except Noah and his family. God told Noah to build an enormous ark that would rescue his family and all animal species from destruction by a flood.

Noah and his wife and their 3 sons (Japheth, Shem and Ham) and their wives spent 120 years building the ark and 375 days in the ark.

When the flood waters receded, the ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat. God then established His first covenant with humans.

The nations that have descended from Noah's sons:

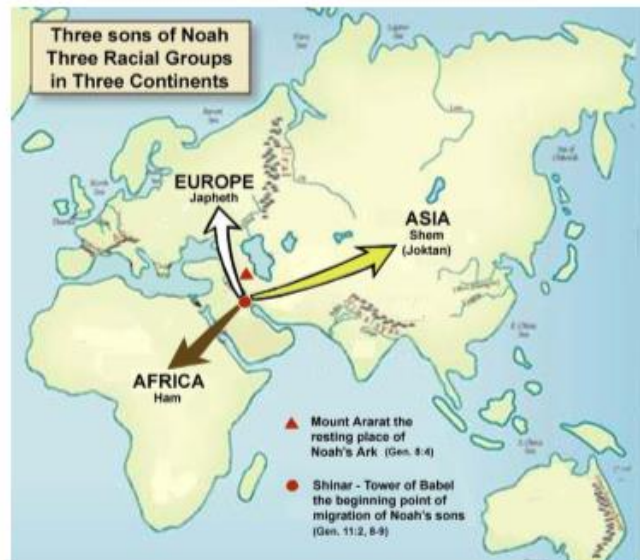
Japheth: Indo-European peoples

Shem: Semetic and Asian peoples

Ham: African peoples

Covenant #1: The Noahic Covenant

God will never again deal with wickedness by sending a flood to cover the earth. The rainbow is an everlasting sign of this covenant that God made with all generations.



The Tower of Babel [Genesis 11:1-9]

Many generations after Noah, when the world had just one language, the city of Babel (Babylon) was the summit of human accomplishment. The people of Babel confused their great advancements with a lack of a need for God.

In their rebellion against God, the people of that time conspired to build a temple-tower (a monument of human pride) that would reach to the heavens and make them god-like.

God confounded their efforts by confusing their language. This had the effect of ending the building program and scattering the people abroad.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Abraham travels to Canaan

[Genesis 12:1—22:13]

Abram and Sarai (along with Terah, Lot, Nahor and family and a host of servants and animals) left the idol worshipping city of Ur in the kingdom of Chaldea and traveled to Haran.

Terah (Abraham's father) died in Haran.

Nahor (Abraham's brother) and his family chose to stay and live in Haran.

Abraham, Sarah and Lot (Abraham's dead brother's son) traveled on from Haran to Canaan.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah and promised Abraham a land, a son, a people, and a blessing to all nations through one of his descendants.

Abraham slept with Sarah's servant (Hagar) and a son named Ishmael was born (the father of all Arab peoples).

Sarah (over 90 years old) gave birth to Isaac (the promised son).

Abraham offered up Isaac on Mt. Moriah.

Covenant #2: The Abrahamic Covenant

God promised Abraham a land (the Promised Land), a son (Isaac), many descendants, and a blessing to all people through one of Abraham's descendants (Jesus).



Isaac seeks a wife from Haran

[Genesis 24:1-67]

Abraham did not want Isaac to choose a wife from among the idol worshippers in Canaan so he sent a servant to the home of his brother Nahor in Haran to find a suitable wife for Isaac.

Nahor's granddaughter, Rebekkah, agreed to leave Haran and travel to Canaan to marry her cousin Isaac.

Isaac and Rebekkah had twin sons: Esau (Edom) and Jacob

Ishmael was sent away from Canaan to live in the desert of Arabia. Ishmael's descendants are the Arab people of today.

Mohammed (the founder of Islam) was a descendant of Ishmael and Abraham.



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Genesis 1 – 24

Week 1 --- 49 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 1 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- How does God being the creator of all in the universe and the world help define who God is? What characteristics of God are shown through the creation?
- What is God's Image? What characteristics of God was man expected to follow to be "in his image"?
- What character traits are displayed in God's decision to "Bless" all nations through Abraham? How does God continue to bless us today?
- What does God's openness to Abraham's requests to save Sodom tell you about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him. Why would God create us and give us the freedom to turn away from Him? What are the temptations today that cause people to turn from God? When do people tend to turn toward God?
- How did humans (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Lot and his family, Rebecca and Isaac) make decisions that threatened or supported God's plan? How does this challenge/comfort us?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you respond when you see all the things God created? How does having a Sabbath allow you to appreciate God and all He created?
- How does being made in the image of God impact your view of yourself? When do you see the image of God reflected in others? In yourself?
- If you were asked by God to create an ark (like Noah) or leave family and friends and start a new life in a strange land (Abraham) what would the reaction be? By you? By your family? By friends? By society? How do you generally react when you feel God is leading you to do something? Have you ever felt you were in this situation?
- How do you react when God scatters your projects and plans (like the Tower of Babel or Sarah and Haggai)?
- How do you think you would have reacted to God's instruction to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice?
- When you talk to God, what do you expect God to do?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How does the view of the earth during ancient times impact the way we understand the story of the creation? [See Week 1 handout]
- How does the story of creation in the Bible differ from the creation stories of other cultures (narratives on pages 4 and 5 of study Bible)
- How does the story of the flood differ from flood stories in other ancient traditions? (narrative page 10, 11 and 12)
- Discuss how the culture led Sarah to try to "take things into her own hands" with getting an heir for Abraham (narrative pg 33)

God's Promise of Blessing and Life

26 SEP – 2 OCT 2017

GE 25–50

Week 2 --- 48 Weeks to Go

God blesses by bringing life. In Abraham and Sarah's old age, they are blessed with a son, Isaac. Through the experience of Abraham's offspring (the Israelites), God shows great love and His faithfulness to humanity. But God also demands that humanity live in accordance with God's expectations – to restore the image of God in their lives. The relationship between God and God's chosen people is described. We see examples of obedience, peace and prosperity, but also see times of disobedience, punishment and suffering. People are called to repent (turn back to God). The importance of obedience and repentance are overarching themes of these readings, as well as themes of the entire Bible.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: GE 25:1—27:46
Day 2: GE 28:1—30:43
Day 3: GE 31:1—32:32
Day 4: GE 33:1—36:43
Day 5: GE 37:1-41:56
Day 6: GE 42:1-46:34
Day 7: GE 47:1-50:26

Outline

The Close of Abraham's Life (Days 1-4)
The Life of Isaac (Day 1)
The Life of Jacob (Days 1-4)
The Life of Joseph (Days 5-6)
Jacob Enters Egypt (Day 7)

Key Characters

Abraham	Ishmael
Isaac	Rebekah
Jacob (Israel)	Esau
Abimelek	Laban
Leah	Rachel
Zilpah	Dinah
Judah	Tamar
Jacob's Sons	Joseph

Key Locations

Canaan
Land of the Philistines
Beersheba
Harran
Moriah
Hebron
Bethel
Edom
Upper Mesopotamia
Egypt

Key Terms

Covenant, promise, swear
Blessing
Descendants, offspring
Land (Canaan)
Sacrifice
Birthright

Key Verses

Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation [GE 21:18]

And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me [GE 22:18]

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed [GE 26:4]

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance [GE 45:7]

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. [GE 50:20]

EPOCH 2
(2000-1500 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE25: Abraham died and was buried with Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal.

GE26: In Gerar Isaac lied about Rebekah. He grew so rich that Abimelech sent him away. He dug wells, and at Beersheba the LORD blessed him.

GE27: Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob his blessing. Esau vowed revenge so Rebekah told Jacob to go to her brother Laban.

GE28: Isaac sent Jacob to marry one of Laban's daughters. On the way Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven and the LORD blessed him.

GE29: Jacob worked for Laban seven years to marry Rachel, but Laban gave him Leah and made him work seven more for Rachel. Leah had sons.

GE30: Rachel's maid had sons for Jacob, then Leah's maid, then Leah. Finally Rachel had a son. Laban allowed Jacob flocks as wages to stay.

GE31: The Lord told Jacob to return home. Jacob left in secret and Rachel took Laban's idols. Laban chased Jacob but they made a treaty.

GE32: Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him. He was afraid and sent gifts. That night he wrestled with a man who renamed him Israel.

GE33: Esau and his men arrived. Jacob bowed down but Esau ran to embrace him. Jacob settled near Shechem and built an altar.

GE34: Shechem raped Jacob's daughter and asked to marry her. Jacob's sons told him to circumcise his men, then Simeon and Levi killed them.

GE35: Jacob went to Bethel and God renamed him Israel. They journeyed on. Rachel died having Israel's twelfth son. Isaac died in Hebron.

GE36: Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah. Esau and his family moved away to Seir. They became the Edomites.

GE37: Joseph was Israel's favorite son. He had dreams and his brothers were jealous so they sold him. He was bought by Potiphar in Egypt.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE38: Judah's sons Er and Onan died, leaving Tamar a widow. Judah sent her away but she put on a veil and he slept with her. She had twins.

GE39: Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his house. His wife tried to seduce Joseph, then lied about it, so Potiphar put Joseph in prison.

GE40: Pharaoh put his cupbearer and baker in prison. Joseph interpreted their dreams. The cupbearer was restored but the baker was hanged.

GE41: Pharaoh had a dream and called for Joseph to interpret it. The dream predicted a famine. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

GE42: Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain but didn't recognize him. He kept Simeon in prison and sent the rest to fetch Benjamin.

GE43: When the grain ran out, Joseph's brothers went back to Egypt with Benjamin. Joseph invited them to his house and gave them a feast.

GE44: Joseph hid his cup in Benjamin's sack, then sent a steward after his brothers. Judah offered himself as a slave instead of Benjamin.

GE45: Joseph told his brothers who he was. They were afraid, but he told them, "God sent me here." His brothers went to fetch their father.

GE46: So Israel set out with all his household. God told him not to be afraid. Israel and all his family came to Egypt and Joseph met him.

GE47: Pharaoh allowed Joseph's family to settle in Goshen. The famine continued and the Egyptians sold all they had to Pharaoh for food.

GE48: Jacob became ill, so Joseph took his sons to see him. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons as his own, putting Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

GE49: Jacob gathered his sons and blessed each of them. He charged them to bury him with Abraham in the cave in Canaan, and then he died.

GE50: Pharaoh allowed Joseph to go and bury Jacob. Before Joseph died, he said that God would lead his people back to the Promised Land.

Jacob flees Esau and goes to Haran

[Genesis 25:21-33:18]

Jacob took advantage of Esau's hunger and bought Esau's "birthright" in exchange for a bowl of food and he tricked his father (Isaac) into giving him the blessing that should have belonged to Esau. Jacob, fearing Esau's anger, fled to Haran (to the home of his relatives there) for safety.

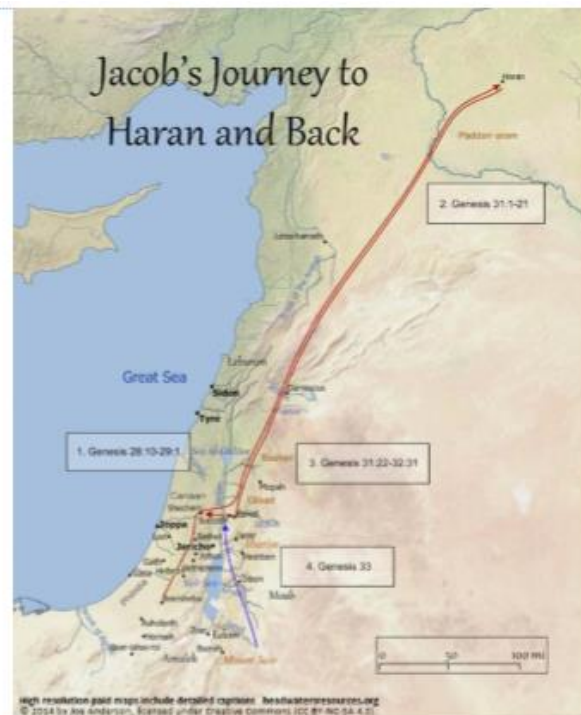
In Haran, Jacob married Leah then Rachel. Jacob stayed in Haran for 20 years and fathered 11 sons by his 2 wives and their 2 servants.

Jacob and his wives and children left Haran and returned to Canaan in time to see Isaac before he died.

On the way back to Canaan Jacob wrestled with God one night and God changed his name to Israel.

Esau left Canaan and settled in the land southeast of the Dead Sea (Edom). His descendants became the Edomites.

Esau's grandson was Amalek who settled in the land southwest of the Dead Sea (Amalek). His descendants became the Amalekites.



Joseph is taken to Egypt

[Genesis 35:16-45:24]

Israel favored his 11th son, Joseph, because he was the first son born to his favorite wife (Rachel)

Israel's 10 other sons became jealous of their much younger brother and sold him to traders who were traveling through Canaan on their way to Egypt.

Joseph was taken to Egypt and, as a result of wisdom given to him by God, became a powerful official in the Pharaoh's court

Joseph warned the Pharaoh that a major famine was coming and that for 7 years Egypt should store up reserves of food.

Joseph married an Egyptian woman and had 2 sons: Ephraim and Manasseh

Back in Canaan, Rachel gave birth to Israel's 12th son (Benjamin) but died in childbirth.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Israel's family moves to Egypt

[Genesis 45:25—50:26]

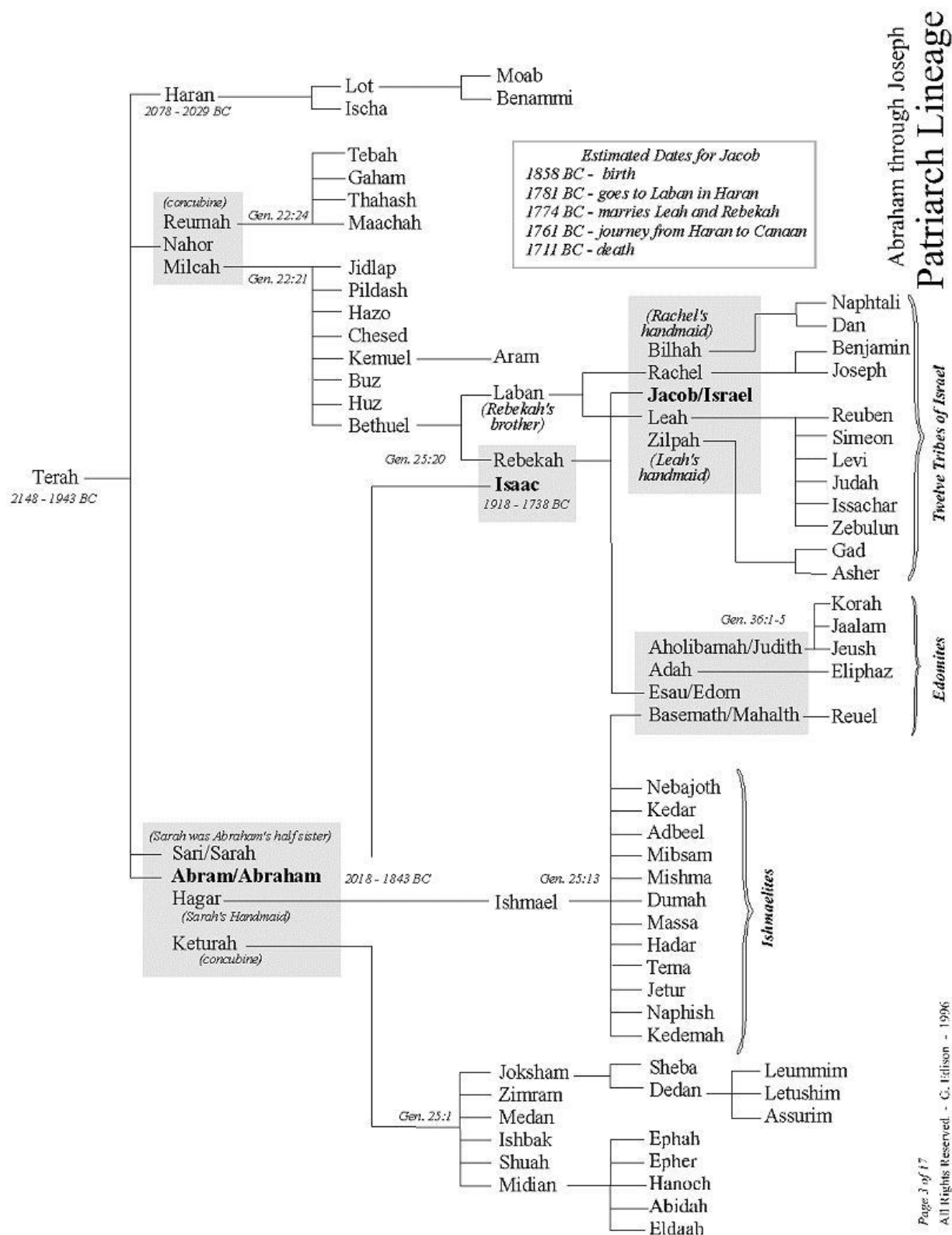
Israel and the 11 sons who were with him in Canaan (and their wives and children) eventually experienced the famine that Joseph had warned the Pharaoh of Egypt about.

After several rough years, Israel and his sons and their families traveled to Egypt to be with Joseph and to receive some of the food that had been stored up there.

For several generations Israel and his descendants (the Israelites) were welcomed guests of the Pharaohs of Egypt. They settled in the fertile Goshen region of Egypt and became quite numerous.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



WEEK 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- Through the experiences of Abraham and his family, what do we learn about the way God treats us when we are obedient? When we are fearful? When we are wayward?
- God changed a deceiver into one favored; he chose a younger son over the older. What does this say about God and God's purpose? Who does God bless?
- Why do you think God chose to wrestle with Jacob? Why did God wrench Jacob's hip?
- What ways do you see God taking things intended for harm and turning them to good?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Esau made several terrible choices. He traded his birthright for a bowl of stew, chose wives from the pagan peoples of the world and he moved away from his family. . Can our desire for something be so strong that we give up a blessing for the rest of our life to fulfill an immediate desire? Where do we see people today who are seeking immediate pleasure/satisfaction instead of seeking longer term blessing?
- Jacob was a schemer (steals Esau's birthright and blessing, increases his flocks at Laban's expense). What do his deceptive actions reveal about his true character and his trust in (or his relationship with) God?
- There are many broken relationships in this week's reading (Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Laban, Joseph and his brothers). What caused these problems? What do these examples tell us about how to deal with relationship issues?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Can you be patient and wait for God's timing in delivering His promises and blessings? In what ways do we try to take control to "help" God fulfill his promises?
- Abraham found the meaning of his life to be serving God – he sought to make God his love, his life's focus and to bring God pleasure. What tends to distract us from God?
- When you meet with success, are you more likely to soak it in and be proud, deflect it with ungratefulness, or reflect it to its true source (God)? Do you react differently in different kinds of situations (work, with family, with friends, in competitions)?
- How have you best gained insight into who you are and what purpose you have? Through struggles? pain? blessings? disappointment?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- In antiquity, both the birthright and the blessing were of vital importance. What does Jacob mean to achieve through his trickery? How did God use Jacob to fulfill His purpose?
- Abraham and his family lived amidst cultures that had many gods and idols. Joseph lived in Egypt who had their own gods. How did Abraham's family maintain their faithfulness. How is this similar to coping in the secular world we live in today?

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

From Slavery to Deliverance

3 – 9 OCT 2017

EX 1 –18

Week 3 --- 47 Weeks to Go

The end of Genesis marks the move of the Israelite people from Canaan (the promised land) to Egypt (the land of slavery). During the 400 years in Egypt Jacob's family grew from 70 to 2-3 million people. The book of Exodus is the story of how God rescued these people, through his mediator Moses, from the strongest empire of the day, Egypt. God reveals his attributes of justice, truthfulness, faithfulness, mercy and holiness. God's message of salvation and redemption is clearly seen, particularly in the Passover narrative. Ultimately the story of Exodus is the story of a relationship with a God who never stops working through his people.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: EX 1:1-2:15
Day 2: EX 2:16 - 6:30
Day 3: EX 7:1-10:29
Day 4: EX 11:1-12:36
Day 5: EX 12:37- 14:31
Day 6: EX 15:1-16:36
Day 7: EX 17:1-18:27

Outline

Preparation for Israel's deliverance from bondage
The Israelites as slaves (Day 1)
Moses' birth and call to leadership (Days 1-2)
God saves his people from Egypt (Days 2-7)
Pharaoh's resistance/the Lord's reassurance (Day 2)
Plagues on Egypt (Days 3-4)
Exodus from Egypt Begins (Days 5-7)

Key Characters

Moses
Pharaoh
Zipporah
Aaron
Jethro
Joshua

Key Locations

Egypt
Goshen
Beersheba
Midian
Horeb
Red Sea
Mt. Sinai
The desert

Key Terms

Deliverance
Hardening
Passover (Pesach)
Redemption
Exodus
Complaining
Manna
Yahweh

Key Verses

But God has sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance [GE 45:7]

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." (EX 3:14)

I am the Lord and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement [EX 6:6]

In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling (EX 15:13)

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex1: The Israelites prospered in Egypt, but a new king arose and forced them into hard labour. He commanded that their baby boys be killed.

Ex2: Pharaoh's daughter found a Hebrew baby by the river. She named him Moses. When he grew up, Moses killed an Egyptian and fled to Midian.

Ex3: Moses saw a burning bush. God told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses asked God his name and God said, "I am who I am."

Ex4: The LORD gave Moses signs so that the people would listen. Moses was afraid, so the LORD sent his brother Aaron to speak for him.

Ex5: Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh to let the Israelites go into the desert to worship. Pharaoh refused and increased their workload instead.

Ex6: The LORD told Moses that he would lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land. Aaron and Moses were from the tribe of Levi.

Ex7: Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. Aaron's staff became a snake, then the LORD turned the Nile to blood, but Pharaoh wouldn't listen.

Ex8: The LORD sent a plague of frogs on Egypt. Pharaoh begged for relief but then hardened his heart. The LORD sent gnats and then flies.

Ex9: The LORD sent a plague on the livestock of Egypt, then boils and then hail. Pharaoh begged for relief but then his heart was hardened.

Ex10: The LORD sent a plague of locusts. Pharaoh begged for relief but then his heart was hardened. The LORD sent darkness for three days.

Ex11: The LORD said that he would send one more plague, and then Pharaoh would let the Israelites go: all the firstborn Egyptians would die.

Ex12: The LORD told the Israelites to take Passover. That night all the firstborn Egyptians were killed. Pharaoh told the Israelites to go.

Ex13: The LORD told the Israelites to consecrate their firstborns to him. He guided them as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

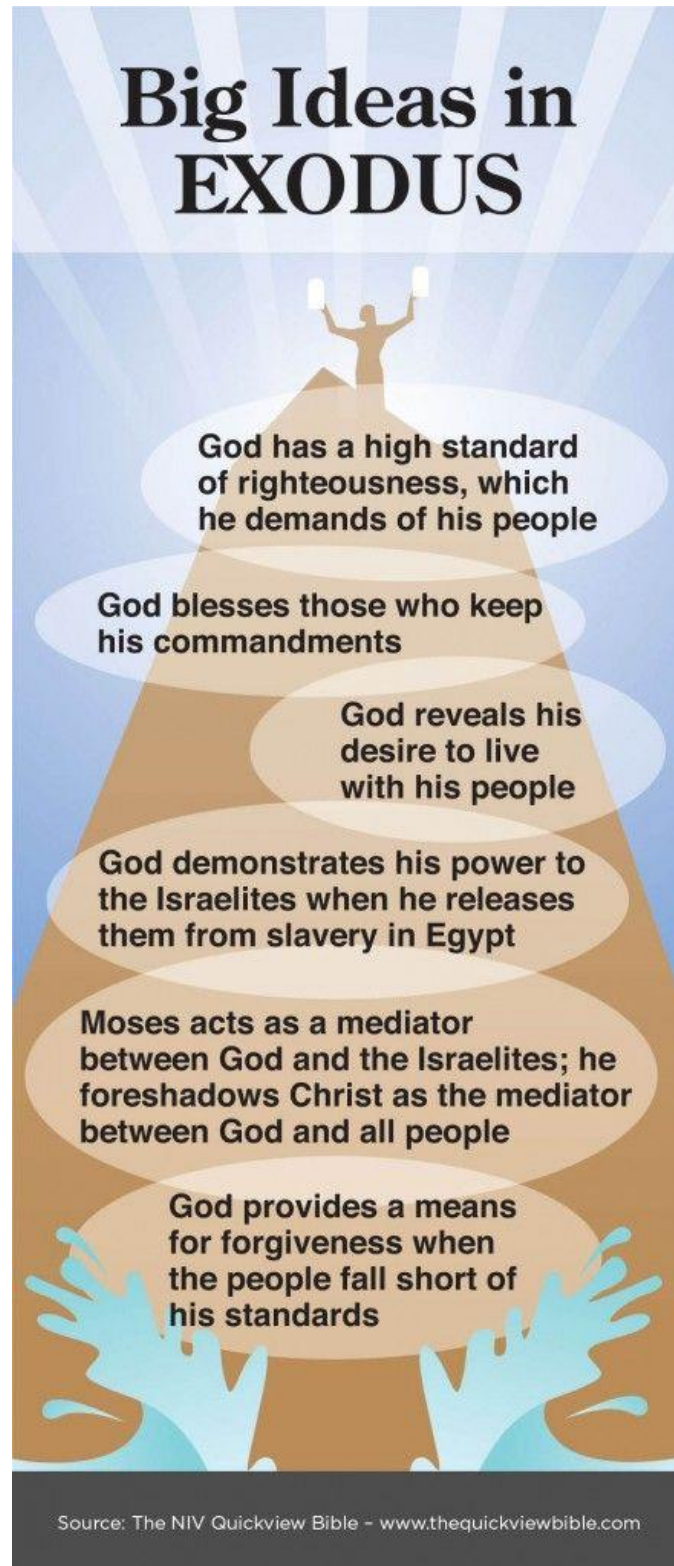
Ex14: Pharaoh's army caught the Israelites by the sea. The LORD parted the waters and the Israelites crossed. The Egyptian army was drowned.

Ex15: The Israelites sang: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." They camped at Elim.

Ex16: The Israelites grumbled to Moses that they had no food, so each day the LORD provided quails and manna. They rested on the Sabbath.

Ex17: The LORD told Moses to strike a rock to provide water. Amalek attacked Israel, but as Moses held up his arms Joshua's army prevailed.

Ex18: Moses' father-in-law Jethro came and offered sacrifices to God. He suggested that Moses appoint leaders to help him judge the people.



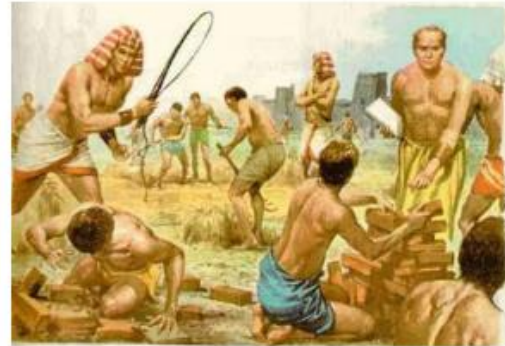


The Israelites become slaves in Egypt [Exodus 1:1-22]

After 100 years “there arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.” This pharaoh resented and feared the numerous Israelites (also called the Hebrews) and forced them all into slavery. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 300 years.

During that time they were forced to build the storage cities called Rameses and Pithom.

Despite the horrible conditions of slavery the Israelites experienced a population explosion during their stay in Egypt.



Moses is called by God [Exodus 2:1-4:31]

Out of fear of the expanding Israelite population, the Pharaoh of Egypt gave an order that all male babies born to Israelites were to be killed at birth.

One mother put her infant son in a basket and floated him on the Nile River toward Pharaoh's palace. The Pharaoh's daughter rescued the infant from the river, named him Moses, and raised him as her son (even though she knew that he was an Israelite baby).

When Moses was 40 years old, he killed an Egyptian who was being cruel to an Israelite slave. Moses immediately fled to Midian where he married a Midianite woman named Zipporah and stayed there working as a shepherd for 40 years.

One day when Moses was 80 years old and shepherding his sheep near Mt. Sinai, he saw a bush that burned without being consumed. When he got closer to the bush God spoke to Moses and called him to return to Egypt and to lead the Israelites out of slavery. Moses tried to talk God out of choosing him but it didn't work.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The 10 Plagues and the Passover

[Exodus 7:10—13:22]

Moses and his brother Aaron traveled to the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt and asked him to let the Israelites go free. Each time that the Pharaoh refused to grant freedom to the Israelites, God sent a plague on the Egyptians. Each of the 10 plagues was designed to mock one of the false gods of the Egyptians.

The 10 plagues:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Nile turned to blood | 6. Boils |
| 2. Frogs | 7. Hail |
| 3. Lice | 8. Locusts |
| 4. Flies | 9. 3 days of darkness |
| 5. Livestock sickness | 10. Death to 1st born Egyptian sons |

The 10th plague was the angel of death passing through Egypt to kill all firstborn sons. The Israelites were told to kill a lamb and paint lamb's blood on the sides and tops of their doorways. When the angel of death saw the blood of the lamb it passed over the painted houses and the Israelites in those houses were left unharmed. This miracle is called The Passover. People of the Jewish faith (and many Christians as well) still commemorate these events every Spring with a ceremonial dinner called a Passover seder.



The Israelites leave Egypt

[Exodus 14:1—40:38]

The 10th plague was the plague that convinced the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Moses led all 2 million of the Israelites out of Egypt and toward the Sinai Peninsula.

God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites and provided food and water for them as they traveled in the dry and barren desert toward Mt. Sinai.

At Mt. Sinai God formally established the Israelites as His own distinct nation of people complete with a set of moral and legal laws and a portable temple (The Tabernacle).

Covenant #3: The Old Covenant

God established the Israelites as His own people for the purpose of blessing the whole world through Him. He promised them that if they obeyed His commandments (and laws) that they would have right-standing before God and that He would be their God and that they would be His people. The obedience of the Israelites was extremely important to God.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- God rescues Moses from death as an infant and rescues the Hebrews from Egypt. For what purpose does God rescue His people?
- In the Ancient Near East, redemption meant that the redeemed was indebted to the redeemer. What does it mean to be redeemed by God [EX 6:6]? What does redemption mean to us today?
- Why did God initiate the plagues? Do we see God's mercy in the plagues? How can the story of the plagues help us understand where God is when natural disasters or war occur?
- In EX 17:6, rock and water is used as a metaphor for God. What images from today's world might mean as much to us as water and rock meant to those who lived in the desert?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Have you ever experienced a "hardened heart"? Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? What causes stubbornness?
- In EX 14:13-14 Moses tells the Israelites to "stand firm" and "be still". The Israelites were even ready to return to slavery rather than face uncertainty. How can we overcome fear through faith in God's mighty powers during difficult periods in life?
- In what ways are we like the Israelites who complained even though God provided them with all they needed? What lesson was God teaching Israel through the manna?
- Think about the most efficient and effective organization you have worked for? What type of leadership and management philosophy was used? Was it similar to the structure Moses put in place in EX 18:22-23?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- The Egyptian midwives took a risk by defying the direct order of Pharaoh to kill all the male Hebrew babies. Would you have taken a risk to disobey an order that you knew to be immoral? Have you taken a stand in the past based on your values or faith?
- In rescuing Moses and the Hebrews, God uses other people to complete his mission. How are people used? How can we overcome our inadequacies to be used by God?
- Think about a time when you felt God answered your prayer. What did it feel like to know that the God of the universe cared about you? What does it mean to belong to God?
- Think of a time when you left the familiar for the unfamiliar. How did you feel during the time after you left what you knew but before you settled into your new situation? How does this memory help you empathize with the Israelites as they leave Egypt?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- The Egyptian magicians competed with God in overcoming many of the plagues (commentary pg. 81). Some scholars believe the plagues represented various Egyptian gods, holding special significance to the Pharaoh and the Egyptians. How does God use miraculous signs? Are there still miracles today?
- Discuss the importance of the Passover Meal (commentary pg. 86) in terms of its symbolism and its tradition. How do rituals help you remember what God has done for you?

Moses Meets God on the Mountain

10 – 16 OCT 2017

EX 19 - 40

Week 4 --- 46 Weeks to Go

God reveals, through Moses, his law and how he is to be worshipped. The Mosaic covenant (the 10 commandments and the Book of the Covenant) reveal God's justice and righteousness, basic principles of ethics and morality, people's choice and responsibility, and God's concern for the poor, helpless and oppressed. God's desire to be present among his people is revealed in the construction and regulations regarding the tabernacle and worship. Exodus emphasizes God's holiness.. The central character of this book, Moses, is the mediator between God and his people, pointing ahead to Christ our own great mediator.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: EX 19:1 – 21:36
Day 2: EX 22:1 – 24:18
Day 3: EX 25:1 – 27:21
Day 4: EX 28:1 – 29:46
Day 5: EX 30:1 – 32:35
Day 6: EX 33:1 – 35:35
Day 7: EX 36:1 – 40:38

Outline

The Covenant at Sinai (Days 1-7)
Divine Worship (Days 2-7)
God's Glory (Day 7)

Key Characters

Moses
Aaron
Joshua
The Israelites
Bezalel
Oholiab

Key Locations

Mt. Sinai
The desert
The Tabernacle

Key Terms

Covenant
Ten Commandments
Tabernacle
Priests
The Law
Sabbath
Holy, Holiness
Offerings
Book of the Covenant
Ark of the Covenant
Cloud of glory

Key Verses

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now the, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine. (EX 19:4-5)

I am the Lord you God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery (EX 20:2)

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness and truth (EX 34:6)

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex19: The Israelites camped near the mountain in Sinai. The LORD spoke to Moses on the mountain and made his covenant with Israel.

Ex20: I am the LORD your God. Honor the LORD above everything. Keep the Sabbath. Honor your parents. Don't do wrong to your neighbors.

Ex21: If you buy a Hebrew slave he shall go free in the seventh year. Whoever kills shall be put to death. Whoever injures shall compensate.

Ex22: Whoever steals shall make restitution. If a man sleeps with a virgin he shall marry her. You shall not oppress strangers or the poor.

Ex23: You shall not pervert justice. Each year you shall hold feasts. My angel will lead you and I will drive your enemies from the land.

Ex24: The people said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do", and they offered sacrifices. The LORD told Moses to stay on the mountain.

Ex25: Tell the Israelites to make a sanctuary for me. Make an ark with a mercy seat and two cherubim. Make a table. Then make a lampstand.

Ex26: Make a tabernacle of fine linen. Make curtains of goats' hair to cover the tabernacle. Make boards of acacia wood and a linen veil.

Ex27: Make an altar of acacia wood with bronze utensils. Make a court for the tabernacle of fine linen hangings and bronze pillars.

Ex28: Set apart Aaron and his sons to minister as priests. Make a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a tunic, a turban and a sash for them.

Ex29: Sacrifice a young bull and two rams to consecrate Aaron and his sons. Make daily sacrifices on the altar and I will dwell with Israel.

Ex30: Make an altar for burning incense. The Israelites shall each give half a shekel. Make a bronze laver. Make anointing oil and incense.

Ex31: I have filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, with skill to make everything I have commanded. The seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest.

Ex32: While Moses was away the people worshipped a golden calf. Moses pleaded with the LORD for them, but then had three thousand killed.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ex33: Moses set up a tent of meeting. He said to the LORD, "Don't send us from here without your presence." The LORD passed near to Moses.

Ex34: Moses made new tablets for the law. The LORD spoke to him and made a covenant with Israel. When Moses returned his face was shining.

Ex35: Moses told the Israelites to keep the Sabbath. He called for craftsmen to make the tabernacle. The people gave gifts for the work.

Ex36: The people gave more than enough. The craftsmen made the curtains. Bezalel made the curtains, the boards, the veil and the pillars.

Ex37: Bezalel made the ark with its cherubim, the table, the lampstand and the incense altar. He made the anointing oil and the incense.

Ex38: Bezalel made the altar of burnt offering, the laver and the court. Ithamar kept an inventory of the gold, silver and bronze used.

Ex39: They made the ephod, breastplate, tunics, turban and sash for Aaron. Moses saw that it had all been made as the LORD had commanded.

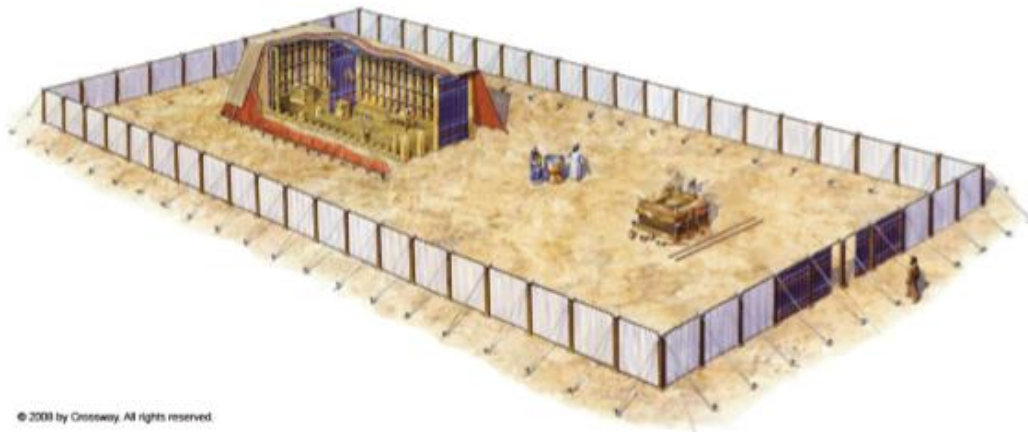
Ex40: Moses set up the tabernacle and brought the ark into it, as the LORD had commanded. Then the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

The Tabernacle

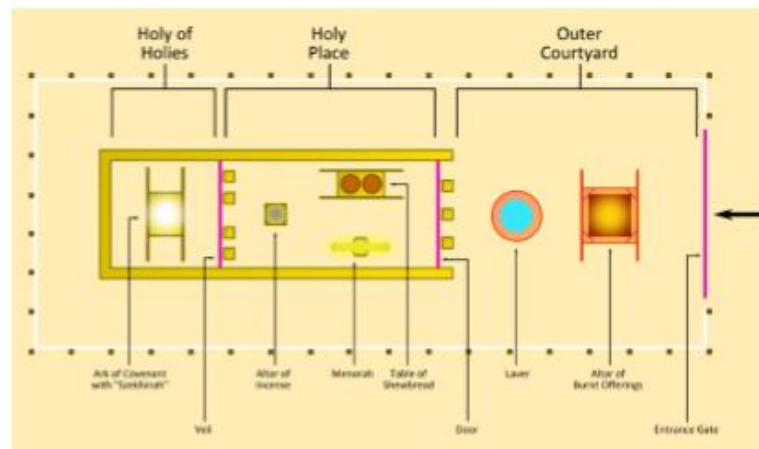
[Exodus 25:1-30:38]

The Tabernacle was the portable temple of the Israelites. It was the center of worship and the center for animal sacrifices (which allowed the Israelites to regain ~~right~~-standing before God after they had sinned.) Regulations for sacrifice and worship were very specific.

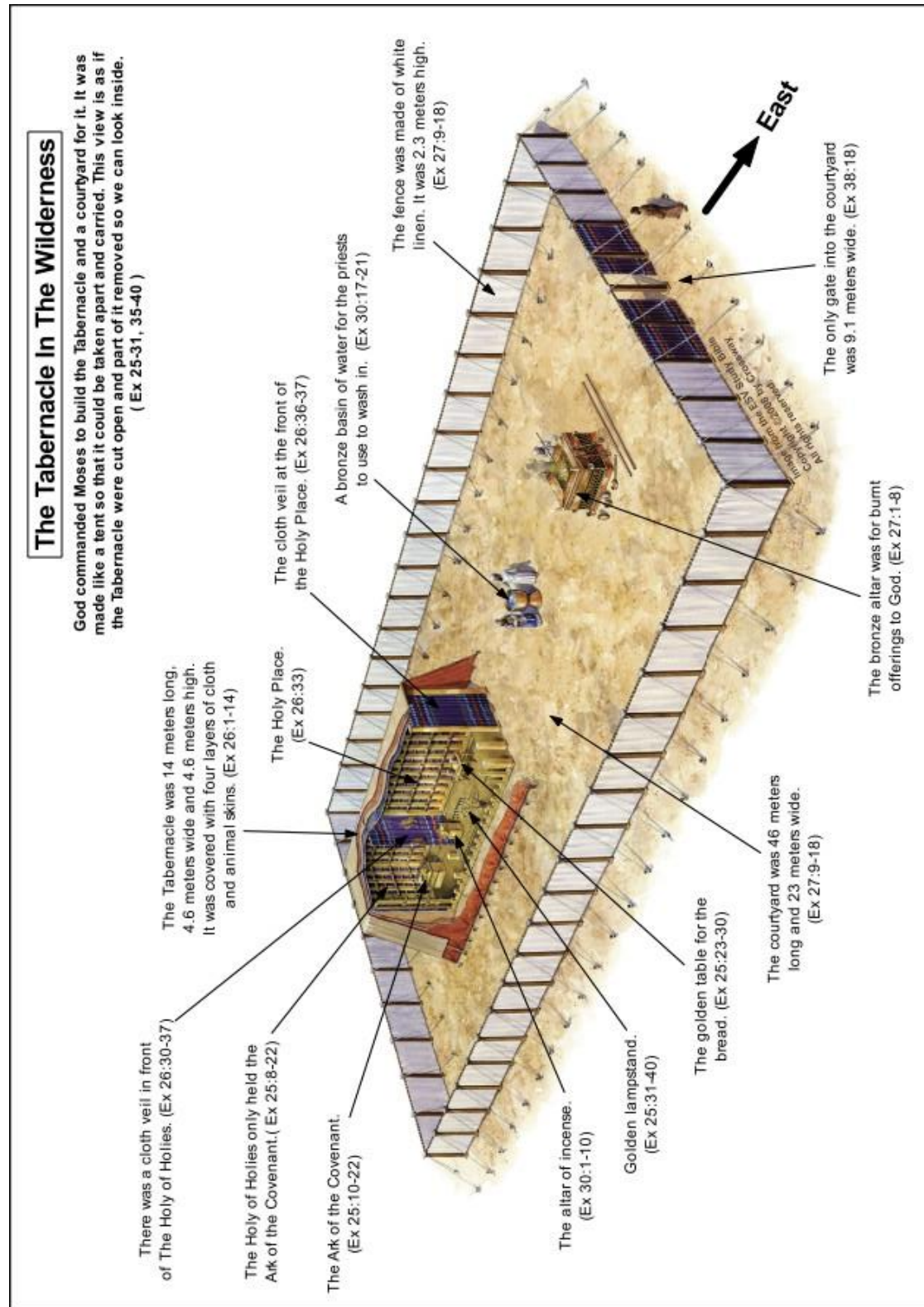
The Tabernacle contained several pieces of special golden furniture. The most significant piece of furniture in the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant. It was kept in the room called the Holy of Holies and it contained Aaron's rod that had budded, a jar of manna, and the stone tablets upon which God had written the 10 Commandments.



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Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Temple of Grace in Jesus Christ

His Body is the Temple. John 2:19-21

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb 4:16



Moses Meets God on the Mountain

10 – 16 OCT 2017

EX 19 - 40

Week 4 --- 46 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- Israel agrees to the terms of God's covenant and so God promises to take up personal residence among his people in the tabernacle. How is God's presence in the tabernacle similar/different from when God dwelt with humanity in perfect relationship in the Garden of Eden? From today?
- Review EX 21-23 and discuss how much these laws are dedicated to issues surrounding justice in family, business and community relationships. What character traits of God are reflected in these laws?
- What does it mean that God is a jealous God?
- Read Exodus 34:6-7. God presents Moses with a description of his character that is the most re-quoted line in the rest of the Old Testament. How are these character traits demonstrated in God's actions in the Exodus, Sinai, and the golden calf stories?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What are the key factors that lead the people in Exodus into idolatry (review the Golden Calf story in EX 32)? In Moses' intercessory prayer (EX 32:31-32), what reasons does he offer as to why God should not abandon the covenant?
- Why do you think God wanted the tabernacle? What is the danger of localizing God to the tabernacle or its furnishings? How do the instructions God gives for the tabernacle illustrate his desire for correct worship?
- How are the Israelites expected to be different ("holy") compared to the pagans around them? Who is singled out for special attention to God? What social responsibility does this place on God's people?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you think the Lord wants you to remember the Sabbath? How often do you take time off for rest, spiritual rejuvenation and worship? Why is Sabbath observance so central to the commandments of God?
- Is God's covenant with his people, then and now, sustained by their obedience or by his grace? Why do you think so? How does that affect the promises you make to God and to others?
- How do you usually act when others disappoint you? Anger? Depression? Prayer? Ignoring them? Disappointment? How does this compare with God's reaction to our sin?
- When in your life did you most noticeably feel the physical presence of God? How is the glory of the Lord made real to you during your normal day?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What passed for an idol in the time of Exodus and what types of idols do we have today? What idols are the most difficult to give up today?
- In Egypt the Israelites lived in houses and villages but are now living in tents and wandering in the wilderness. They are now free from Egyptian domination but are subject to Yahweh. Food and water, which were once plentiful, are now scarce. They are totally dependent on Yahweh for survival. How did these factors influence their actions in the wilderness?

A Holy Law Defined by a Holy God

17 – 23 OCT 2017

Leviticus 1 - 24

Week 5 --- 45 Weeks to Go

The Israelites have been led out of bondage and into a sanctuary and now they must move on from redemption to service; from deliverance to dedication. Leviticus is God's guidebook for his newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve and obey a holy God. It shows the Israelites how they could live in ritual and moral purity so God could dwell among them. The very detail of the law shows a God intimately concerned with every aspect of life. Required sacrifices atone for sin and voluntary sacrifices bring the people to fellowship with God. The call to holiness is a key recurring Biblical theme, as is the theme of sacrifice.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: LEV 1:1 – 4:35
Day 2: LEV 5:1 – 8:36
Day 3: LEV 9:1 – 13:59
Day 4: LEV 14:1 – 15:33
Day 5: LEV 16:1 – 19:37
Day 6: LEV 20:1 – 22:33
Day 7: LEV 23:1 – 24:23

Outline

How to approach God through offerings [Day 1-2]
The laws of the priests [Day 2-3]
Rules for clean and holy living [Day 3-4]
The Day of Atonement [Day 5]
Practical holiness [Day 5-6]
Israel's Festivals [Day 7]

Key Characters

Moses
Aaron
Aaron's sons (priests)

Key Locations

Mt. Sinai

Key Terms

Holy/Holiness
Offering
Sanctify
Atonement
Set Apart

Key Verses

"I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. [LEV 11:45]

Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy. [LEV 20:7-8]

Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine [LEV 20:26]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lev1: Whoever brings a burnt offering should slaughter a bull, a sheep, a goat or a bird. The priest shall burn it on the altar to the LORD.

Lev2: A grain offering should be fine flour with oil and incense. The priest shall burn a portion. The rest belongs to Aaron and his sons.

Lev3: A peace offering should be from the herd or the flock. Slaughter it at the tabernacle. The priest shall burn it on the altar as food.

Lev4: If anyone sins unintentionally they should slaughter a bull, a goat or a lamb. The priest shall burn it to the LORD to make atonement.

Lev5: When anyone sins with an oath or becomes unclean they should confess it and bring a sin offering. A guilt offering should be a ram.

Lev6: When anyone cheats a neighbor they should make restitution and bring a guilt offering. The fire on the altar shall never go out.

Lev7: The meat of a peace offering must be eaten within two days. Do not eat fat or blood. The wave offering belongs to Aaron and his sons.

Lev8: Moses gathered the people at the tabernacle. He made offerings on the altar and consecrated Aaron and his sons with oil and blood.

Lev9: Aaron brought a sin offering and a burnt offering to make atonement. The glory of the LORD appeared and a fire consumed the offerings.

Lev10: Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire, so fire came from the LORD and killed them. Aaron and his other sons stayed at the tabernacle.

Lev11: You may eat animals with cloven hooves that chew the cud, and fish with scales and fins. Anything that touches a carcass is unclean.

Lev12: A male child shall be circumcised on the eighth day. A woman who gives birth shall bring offerings after her days of purification.

Lev13: If anyone has leprosy the priest shall declare them unclean and they shall live outside the camp. A leprous garment shall be burned.

Lev14: If anyone is healed of leprosy they shall shave their hair and bring offerings. If a house has mildew the priest shall inspect it.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lev15: When a man has a discharge he is unclean. When he ejaculates he is unclean until evening. When a woman has her period she is unclean.

Lev16: Once a year Aaron shall make atonement for the people. He shall bring one goat as a sin offering and release another as a scapegoat.

Lev17: Anyone who kills an animal and does not bring an offering is guilty. The life is in the blood and I have given it to make atonement.

Lev18: Don't have sex with a relative, a woman on her period, your neighbor's wife, another man or an animal. These things defile the land.

Lev19: Be holy. Keep my Sabbaths. Don't turn to idols. Love your neighbor as yourself. Don't mix livestock. Do no injustice. I am the LORD.

Lev20: Anyone who worships Molech, curses their parents, commits adultery or has sex with a man shall be put to death. You shall be holy.

Lev21: A priest must not make himself unclean and must only marry a virgin. No descendant of Aaron with a defect may offer the offerings.

Lev22: A priest shall not eat the offerings if he is unclean. No outsider shall eat the offerings. Offerings must be animals without defect.

Proclaim as feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Fifty Days Later, the Day of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and Booths.

Lev24: Aaron is to tend the lamps and set out the bread before the LORD. An Israelite blasphemed so they took him outside and stoned him.

God gave the book of Leviticus to a people already redeemed. The offerings in Leviticus served as God's gracious provision for how one could regain and sustain fellowship with God.

1. Burnt Offering

The burnt offering teaches that God is pleased to accept anyone who comes to Him through His prescribed sacrifice (LEV 1:3). The whole animal was consumed on the altar, and it atoned for the worshipper's sin. It satisfied God's wrath against sin and made fellowship possible between a holy God and a sinful person.

2. Grain Offering

Someone accepted by God by His grace—through the burnt offering—could respond in gratitude through a grain (or cereal) offering (LEV 2:2). It usually was an offering of flour and oil in which a handful was burned and the priests ate the rest. It was a gift to God from the best of the worshipper's agricultural produce in an act of thanksgiving for sins forgiven. An additional offering, the drink offering (or "libation"), was poured on top of the grain offering as a symbol of joy (LEV 23:13; EX 29:40-41).

3. Peace Offering

Unlike the other offerings, the peace offering was optional, given in addition to the burnt offering. The peace offering closed with a meal, in which the priests (representing God) the worshipper and his or her friends ate together. The sacrifices had to be eaten in one or two days. There were three primary peace offerings:

- a) **Thanksgiving offering**—a freewill offering given as an act of thanksgiving to God when He blessed someone without their asking for it. Only in this instance could an imperfect animal be offered (LEV 7:12-15).
- b) **Wave offering**—the priest's portion of the peace offering was waved before the Lord as a special act signifying that it was His (LEV 7:30-31).
- c) **Votive offering**—a freewill offering given because of a vow taken, or in relation to a favor, or a simple voluntary act of worship (LEV 7:16-17).

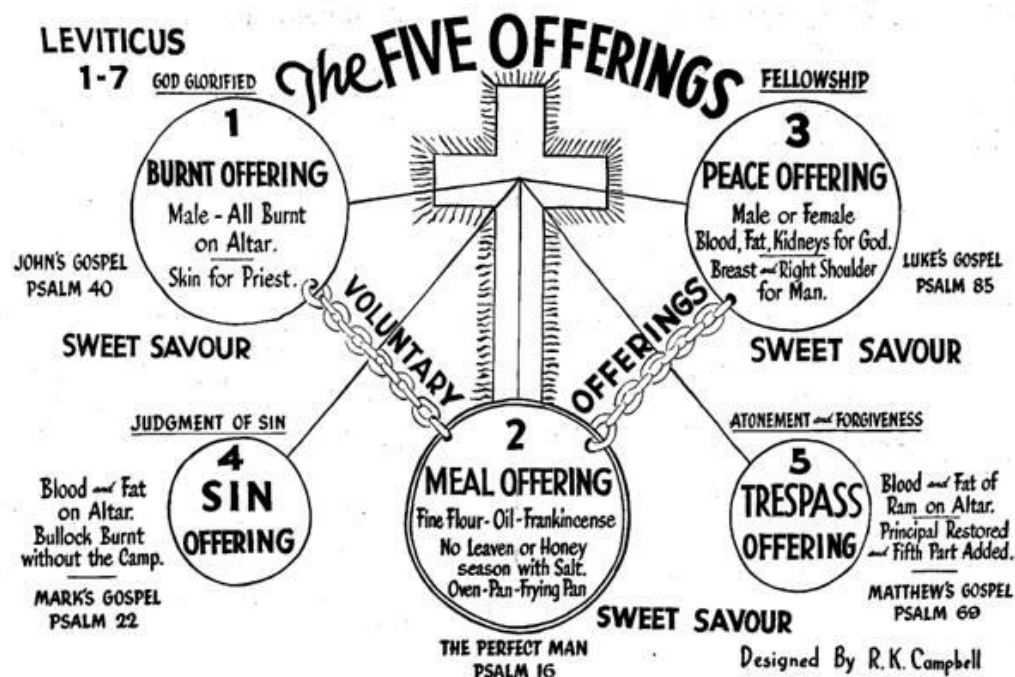
4. Purification (Sin) Offering

Though often called the "sin offering," a better translation is purification offering. It dealt with two issues: the necessity of forgiveness from unintentional sins and of cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness (LEV 4:2-3). The purpose of the sin offering was to *cleanse the tabernacle* from human defilement, thus making possible the continuing fellowship and presence of God among His people.

5. Guilt (Reparation) Offering

The guilt offering caused the individual to look beyond the sin to the damage it caused (LEV 5:16). The guilt offering is also called "reparation" because the person not only sought forgiveness, but *first* he or she also paid full restitution, adding to the price an additional percentage.

Because the offerings in Leviticus had their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, there is no need for them today (HEB 10:1-18). In fact, after Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross and rose again, the temple was destroyed in AD 70. No sacrifices have been made there since.



THE SEVEN JEWISH FEASTS

Appointed Feasts and Holy Convocations of Leviticus 23

"These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ"
Colossians 2:17

Month of Nisan				Month of Sivan	
14th	15th	17th		7th	
SPRING FEASTS					
3 days		50 days			
Passover	Unleavened Bread	Firstfruits	Pentecost		
Exodus 12	Leviticus 23:6-8	Leviticus 23:9-14	Leviticus 23:15-22		
Matthew 26:17-27		Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Deuteronomy 16:10		
Leviticus 23:5					
Crucifixion	Burial	Resurrection		Holy Spirit	
John 18:28	John 6:47-51	1 Corinthians 15:20-23	Acts 1 & 2		
1 Corinthians 5:7	Acts 2:29-32	James 1:18			

Church Age

Feasts Fulfilled at Christ's First Coming

Priestly role - Suffering Servant

1st			Month of Tishrei			15th		
FALL FEASTS								
70th week of Daniel								
Trumpets			Day of Atonement			Tabernacles		
Leviticus 23:23-25			Leviticus 23:26-32			Leviticus 23:33-44		
Numbers 29:1-6			Zechariah 12:10			Isaiah 65:17-19		
			Zephaniah 1:14-18			Ezekiel 43:7		
			Zechariah 13:1			Micah 4:1-3		
Rapture			2nd Coming			Millennium/Heaven		
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18			Matthew 24:29-30			Revelation 20:1-6		
Revelation 4:1-6			Luke 21:25-28			Revelation 21:1-27		
1 Corinthians 15:51-52			Revelation 19:11-21			Revelation 22:1-6		
Philippians 3:20-21			2 Thess 1:5-10			John 14:1-6		
			Romans 11:25-27					

Church Age

Feasts to be Fulfilled at Christ's 2nd Coming

Kingly role - Coming King





A Holy Law Defined by a Holy God

17 – 23 OCT 2017

Leviticus 1 - 24

Week 5 --- 45 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What is atonement and how do the sacrifices described in Leviticus bring forgiveness? Why did God choose animal sacrifice to reconcile the differences between sinful people and a sinless God? Why must blood be shed to receive forgiveness?
- How is it possible to create “an aroma pleasing to God” today? [see 2 COR 2: 14-17]
- How is a “guilt offering” different than a “sin offering”? For what types of sin is restitution possible and therefore required? What does this teach you about God’s view of sin? God’s view of the reconciliation process? What does God desire of His followers?
- What do all the regulations say about God’s concern for the sick? The well? The poor? The outsiders? The Insiders? Who was Jesus most concerned about [see MT 9:12-13]: the sick or the healthy? Those sinners who know they need the Physician or those righteous who deny it?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What rituals do we practice in our church? What do they look, smell, taste, or feel like? Why are rituals important in worship? Are they meaningful or routine?
- What special demands do spiritual leaders face? Should they be held to a higher standard? When have the clergy in your life felt the most real and approachable?
- Who are the lepers of society today? Who are the outsiders? The poor? Who do we tend to “screen out”? How can these people be incorporated into our church?
- Why is it important that Israel remember what God did to bring them out of Egypt? How does Passover help the Hebrews remember and retain a “right” relationship to God?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Sacrifice can be defined as the offering up of something precious for a cause or a reason. Does true sacrifice have to hurt? How do your sacrifices define your value system? For whom do you make sacrifices? What sacrifices have you, or can you, make for God?
- How would you describe your “offerings” to God? Why does God want our first fruits? In what ways do you give God first fruits of your labor, income and time?
- Do you feel responsible for sins that are “unintentional”? Some say “ignorance is bliss.” When is that not true? When is ignorance not bliss but guilt or enabling? What does unintentional sin do to your relationship with God? [see LEV 5:1-5]
- When you are particularly thankful to God, how do you show it? In what ways is this like the thanksgiving offering depicted in LEV 12-15? How do you express what you are thankful for to God?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- Why do you think health laws, such as those in LEV 13, are part of Israelite religion? Why, for example, must diseased persons be isolated or live alone and outside the camp? Why are priests put in charge of health inspection?
- Where would desert people get all the water for the many prescribed baths in LEV 15? How do these laws relate to hygiene today?

39 Years of Wandering

24 – 30 OCT 2017

LEV 25-27; NU 1-13

Week 6 --- 44 Weeks to Go

Leviticus ends with the sanctification of the people of Israel as a whole through ceremonial and moral holiness. Numbers is the book of wanderings, describing Israel's experiences during their 40 years in the wilderness. It begins with a census to prepare them for future tasks. The first generation of Israelites did not trust God and did not thank Him for His provision. They would not inherit the Promised Land because they had been faithless. God teaches His people the consequences of rebellion and irresponsible decisions. God ultimately shows great mercy and forgiveness for his people despite their repeated rebellion, disobedience and complaining.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: LEV 25:1-27:34
Day 2: NU 1:1 – 2:34
Day 3: NU 3:1 –4:49
Day 4: NU 5:1 – 5:29
Day 5: NU 6:1 – 8:26
Day 6: NU 9:1 – 12:16
Day 7: NU 13:1- 13:33

Outline

The Sabbath Years & Year of Jubilee [Day 1]
Rewards and Punishments [Day 1]
Laws of redemption [Day 1]
Israel prepares for their journey [Day 2-6]
Observing the Rite of the Passover [Day 6]
The people complain and rebel [Day 6-7]
Canaan Before the Conquest [Day 7]

Key Characters

Moses
Aaron
The Levites
12 tribes
Miriam
Joshua
Caleb

Key Locations

Sinai wilderness
Desert of Paran
Kadesh
Boundaries of Canaan

Key Terms

Wandering
Wilderness
Manna

Key Verses

Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. [NU 1:2]

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. [NU 6:24-26]

Come with us and we will treat you well, for the Lord has promised good things to Israel [NU 10:29]

“Rise up, Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you.” Whenever it [the ark] came to rest, he said, “Return, Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel.” [NU 10:35-36]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lev25: Every seventh year the land shall rest. Every fiftieth year shall be a jubilee, when property shall be restored and slaves released.

Lev26: If you keep my laws I will give peace in the land and make you fruitful. If not I will scatter you, but I will not break my covenant.

Lev27: If anyone dedicates a person or land to the LORD you shall make a valuation. A tithe of everything from the land belongs to the LORD.

Nu1: The LORD told Moses to count the Israelite armies. The number of men over twenty years old was 603,550. The Levites were not counted.

Nu2: The Israelites shall camp around the tabernacle: Judah to the east, Reuben to the south, Ephraim to the west and Dan to the north.

Nu3: The Levites are to assist Aaron. I have taken them in place of every firstborn. The number of Levites over one month old was 22,000.

Nu4: The Kohathites are to carry the most holy things. The Gershonites are to carry the coverings. The Merarites are to carry the frame.

Nu5: Anyone who sins shall make restitution and add a fifth. If a man suspects his wife of unfaithfulness he shall take her to the priest.

Nu6: Anyone who makes a Nazirite vow shall not drink wine or cut their hair. Aaron's blessing shall be: "The LORD bless you and keep you."

Nu7: The leader of each tribe brought a grain offering, a burnt offering, a sin offering and peace offerings. Moses spoke with the LORD.

Nu8: Present the Levites as a wave offering to the LORD and make atonement for them. I have set them apart to serve at the tent of meeting.

Nu9: In the first month of the second year the Israelites kept the Passover. Whenever the cloud lifted from the tabernacle they journeyed.

Nu10: Make two silver trumpets to direct the congregation. In the second month the cloud lifted and they set out as the LORD had commanded.

Nu11: The people grumbled that they had no meat. The LORD was angry but he sent quails. He put his Spirit on seventy elders to help Moses.

39 Years of Wandering

24 – 30 OCT 2017

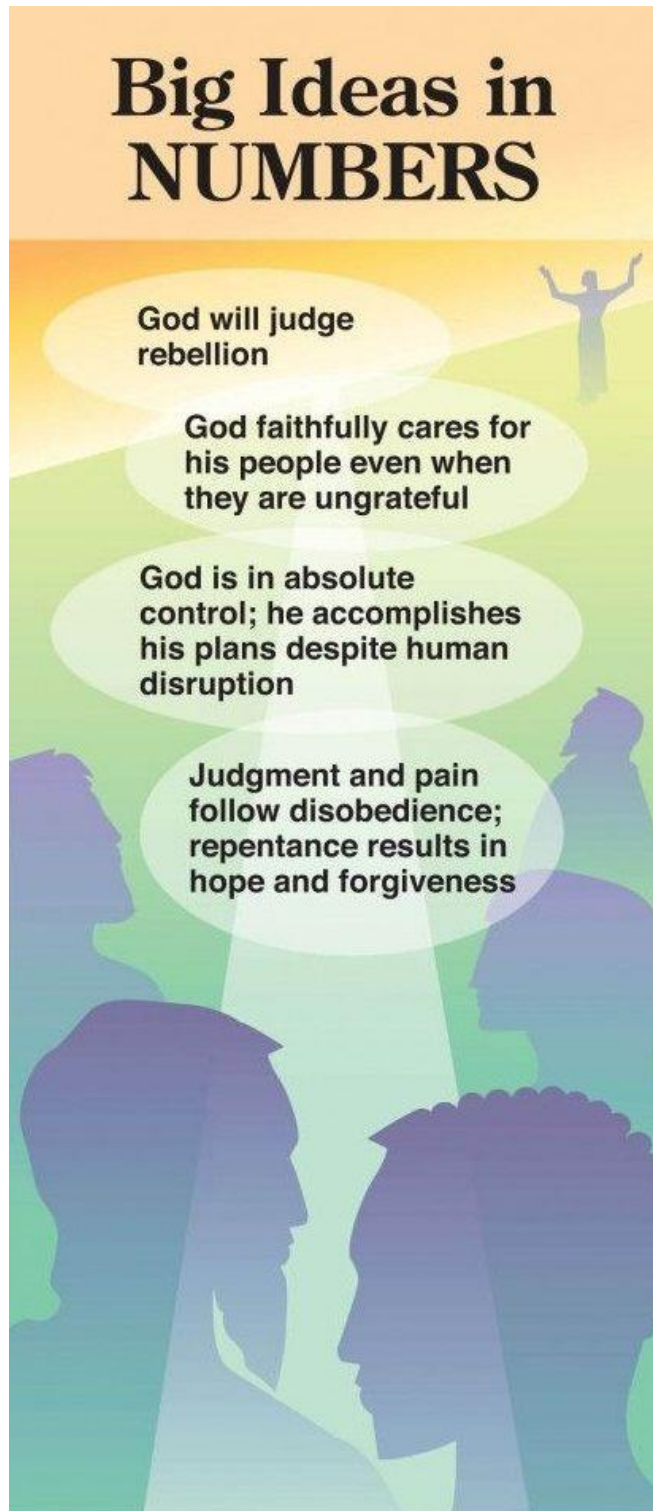
LEV 25-27; NU 1-13

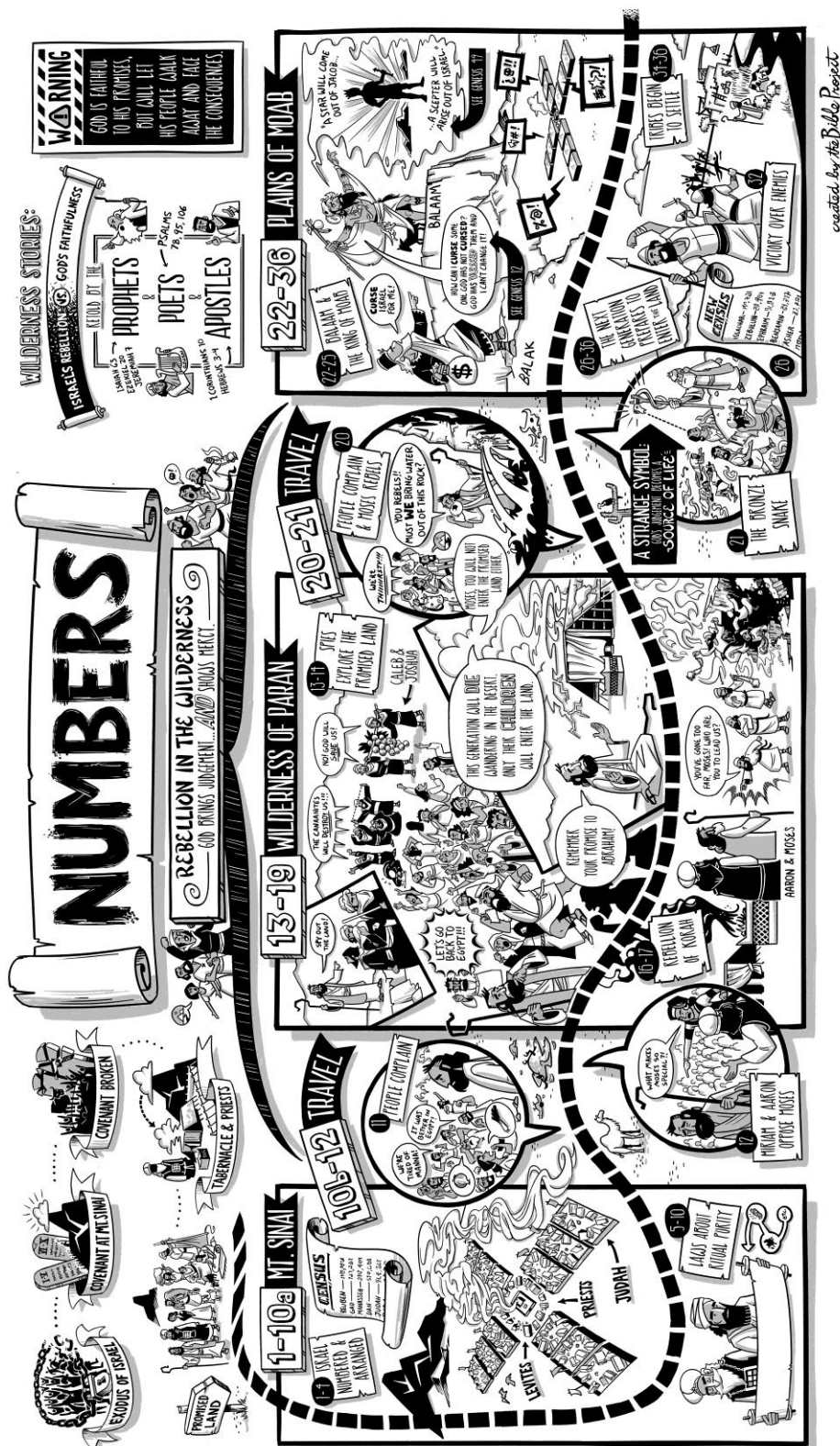
Week 6 --- 44 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Nu12: Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses. The LORD was angry and Miriam became leprous. Moses prayed and after seven days she returned.

Nu13: Moses sent men to spy out the land of Canaan. Caleb said, "Let us go up," but the others said that the inhabitants were too strong.





The 39 Years of Wandering

[The Book of Numbers]

God led the Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land but the Israelites mistrusted God and refused to go in and claim it. The Israelites feared that God would not give them victory over the Canaanites living there.

The consequence imposed upon the Nation of Israel for mistrusting God was that they would wander in the desert until all of the men who had been over 20 years old (at the time of mistrust) had died. The only exceptions were Joshua and Caleb because they had trusted God.

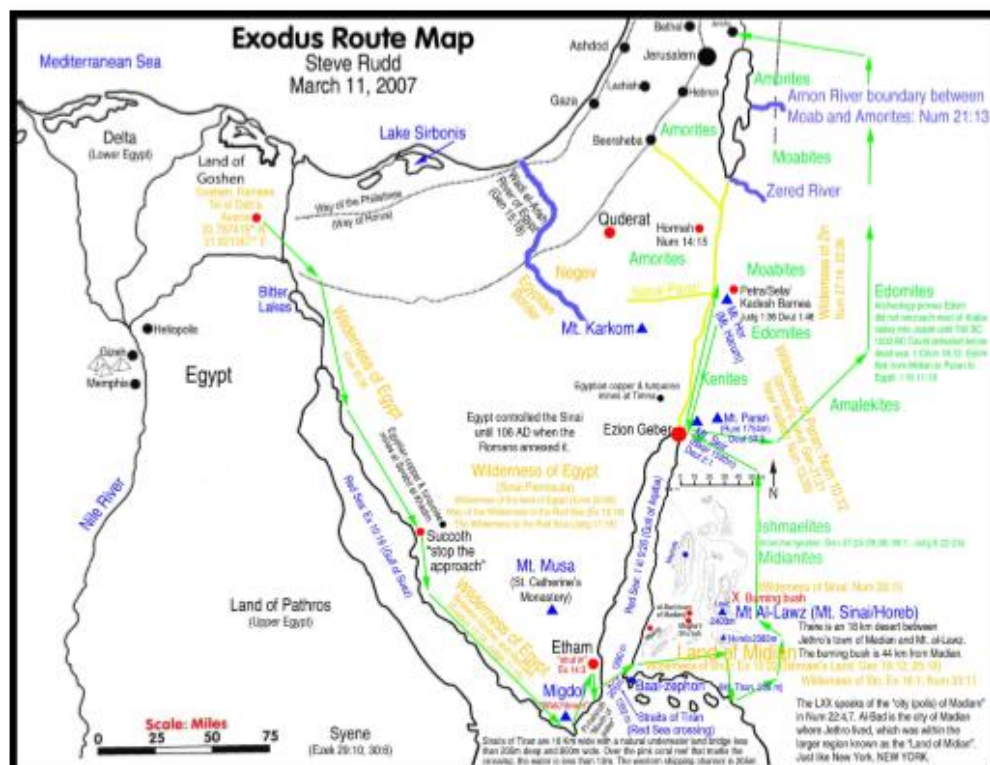
During the desert wanderings Moses disobeyed one of God's specific instructions and was told that as a result he also would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

After 39 years God once again led the Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land and Moses turned over his leadership to Joshua.

God took Moses up on Mt. Nebo to let him see the Promised Land. Moses died shortly after that and God buried him.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture.
From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



39 Years of Wandering

24 – 30 OCT 2017

LEV 25-27; NU 1-13

Week 6 --- 44 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 6 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What message does it communicate about God that he is orderly [NU 2-3]?
- Why do you think God used a cloud in his relationship with Israel?
- What does it mean to be “set apart” [NU8:14]? How would the ritual in NU 8:5-14 illustrate the concept? What does this teach you about God’s desires for his own?
- How does God guide spiritual leaders today? How does this compare with his guidance in NU 9:15-23?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In LEV 27:1-15, what might it mean for a house to be dedicated to the Lord? What kind of family life would be expected in such a home? What difference would it make if you deliberately dedicated your house or your car or your money to the service of Jesus?
- What are the dangers of becoming isolated from the real world in which we live? How can we keep the balance between separation and involvement in the world?
- What are the biggest reason the Israelites were complaining? How was Moses affected by the people’s complaints? What good comes from complaining? What harm comes from complaining?
- What was the greatest way that Moses demonstrated his humility [NU 12:3]?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- What kinds of gifts do you give to God in time, money or talent? What motivates you to give these gifts? How does God use these gifts to aid you in your spiritual pilgrimage?
- How do you seek God’s guidance in your life? How often do you think about knowing and doing the will of God?
- What effect do other people’s demands, complaints or negative attitudes have on you? What do you complain about most? How do you think God feels about your complaints? How do your complaints affect your relationship with God?
- God asks every child of His to keep Him first, to obey Him above all and to give Him the honor and glory due to Him. How does this truth help ou in your personal Christian walk?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- Given the mobile nature of the Israelites, how important would the work of the Gershonites and Merarites (NU 3:21-33) be in the religious life of the Israelites? How would their work enhance the worship of all Israel? What does this say about the nature of worship?

At the Doorway of the Promised Land

31 OCT – 6 NOV 2017

NU 14-36

Week 7 --- 43 Weeks to Go

Numbers might be a sad account of the stubbornness of the Israelites if it were not for God's faithfulness and protection. God remains faithful to getting Israel to the Promised Land, even when Israel, and Moses himself, disobey God. God keeps his promises. Numbers addresses the issues of keeping faith from generation to generation. We end Numbers with a new generation of Israelites at the doorway to the land of Canaan – the Promised Land. Paul teaches (1 Corinthians 10: 11-13) that the events in Numbers are recorded for our instruction, that we may endure and escape temptation. How does the story of a past generation become the story today?

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: NU 14:1 – 16:50
Day 2: NU 17:1 - 20:13
Day 3: NU 20:14 – 23:30
Day 4: NU 24:1 – 27:23
Day 5: NU 28:1 – 31:54
Day 6: NU 32:1 – 34:29
Day 7: NU 35:1 – 36:13

Outline

Israel in the Wilderness [Day 1-2]
Failure with the Moabites [Day 3-4]
Reorganization of Israel [Day 4-5]
Wandering in the Wilderness [Day 6]
The conquest and division of Israel [Day 7]

Key Characters

Moses	Aaron
12 tribes	Eleazar
Joshua	Caleb
Korah	Dathan
Abiram	Balak
Balaam	

Key Locations

Sinai Desert Wilderness
Desert of Zin
Kadesh
Edom
Mount Hor
Sihon and Og
Plains of Moab

Key Terms

Wandering
Wilderness
Unbelief
Manna
Offerings
Festivals
Cities of Refuge

Key Verses

“The Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?” [NU 14:11]

“The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.” [NU 14:18-19]

“Not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times – not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers.” [NU 14:22-23]

But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them [NU: 20:12]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Nu14: The people grumbled so the LORD said that they would spend forty years in the wilderness. They went up to the land but were defeated.

Nu15: There is one law for you and for strangers. Make an offering if you sin unintentionally. Anyone who sins defiantly shall be cut off.

Nu16: Korah, Dathan and Abiram rose against Moses and Aaron. Moses said, "The LORD will choose." The ground swallowed up those with Korah.

Nu17: The LORD told Moses to bring a staff from each tribal leader to the Tent of Meeting to stop the grumbling. Aaron's staff blossomed.

Nu18: The LORD told Aaron: "I have given you the Levites to work at the Tent of Meeting. Everything that is devoted to the LORD is yours."

Nu19: Burn a heifer outside the camp for the water of cleansing. Anyone who is unclean and does not cleanse themselves shall be cut off.

Nu20: The LORD told Moses to speak to a rock to produce water but he struck the rock. Edom refused Israel passage. Aaron died at Mount Hor.

Nu21: The people grumbled so the LORD sent snakes. Moses made a bronze snake and whoever looked at it lived. Israel defeated the Amorites.

Nu22: Balak sent for Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam's donkey warned him. The Angel of the LORD said, "Go, but speak only what I tell you."

Nu23: The LORD gave Balaam a word: "How can I curse whom God has not cursed?" Then at another place: "The LORD their God is with Israel."

Nu24: Balaam gave a word: "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob." Balak was angry. Balaam said: "A star and a scepter shall rise in Israel."

Nu25: The people were unfaithful with Moabite women and worshipped their gods. Phinehas killed one couple and the LORD commended his zeal.

Nu26: The LORD told Moses and Eleazar to take a census. There were 601,730 fighting men and 23,000 Levites. Only Joshua and Caleb remained.

Nu27: The daughters of Zelophehad were given an inheritance. The LORD told Moses that he was to die. Moses commissioned Joshua as leader.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Nu28: Bring offerings each morning and evening, on the Sabbath and on the first of the month. Celebrate Passover and the Feast of Weeks.

Nu29: In the seventh month on first day sound the trumpets; on the tenth day make atonement; on the fifteenth day celebrate for seven days.

Nu30: When a man makes a vow he must not break his word. When a woman makes a vow it shall stand unless her father or husband forbids it.

Nu31: The LORD told Moses to take vengeance on the Midianites. The Israelites killed the men, burned their cities and divided the spoils.

Nu32: Reuben and Gad asked to settle in Gilead. Moses agreed if they helped to conquer the land, so Reuben, Gad and Manasseh built cities.

Nu33: The Israelites journeyed from Egypt. In the fortieth year Aaron died. They camped by the Jordan and the LORD said, "Take the land."

Nu34: Your borders in Canaan shall be Edom, the Great Sea, Mount Hor and the Jordan. Eleazar and Joshua shall divide the land among you.

Nu35: You shall give cities to the Levites. Appoint cities of refuge for anyone who has killed accidentally. A murderer shall be put to death.

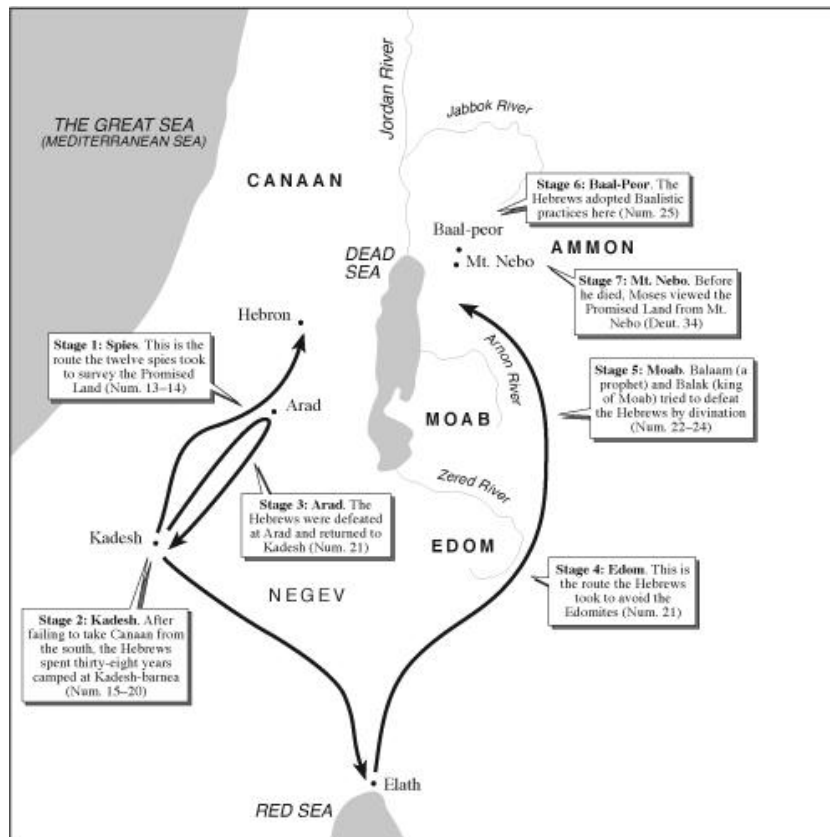
Nu36: The clan of Gilead asked about Zelophehad's daughters. Moses said, "Daughters who inherit land must marry within their own tribe."

At the Doorway of the Promised Land

31 OCT – 6 NOV 2017

NU 14-36

Week 7 --- 43 Weeks to Go



The Camp of Israel

The Camp of Reuben (Man)

Reuben	46,500
Simeon	59,300
Gad	<u>45,600</u>
	151,400

W

The Camp of Ephraim (Ox)

Ephraim	40,500
Manasseh	32,200
Benjamin	<u>35,400</u>
	108,100

SW

NW

S

Camp of Reuben
(151,400)

Man

Camp of Dan
(157,600)

Eagle

N

SE

NE

The Camp of Judah (Lion)

Judah:	74,600
Issachar	4,400
Zebulun	<u>57,400</u>
	186,400

Lion

The Camp of Dan (Eagle)

Dan	62,700
Naphtali	53,400
Asher	<u>41,500</u>
	157,600

E

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 7 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What is significant about God's display of His glory (NU 14:10-12)? Is God's anger with the Israelites justified? Why would He want to start all over again with Moses? How is God's character reflected in NU 14:18?
- Why does God allow the Levites and priests to eat the sacrifices made to him even the "first and finest"? What does this teach about the meaning of temple workers in God's eyes?
- Why is Moses unable to enter the promised land as a punishment when he strikes the rock in NU 20?
- Why is sin so offensive to the Lord? What is it particularly about idol worship that angers Him most?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Within reach of the promised land, the Israelites pull back from their goal. Why do you think they do this? What are their specific complaints? (NU 14) Based on the report of the spies, are their fears valid?
- How do the duties of the priests and Levites provide for the spiritual health of the Israelites? How would they fare without such leaders? How might material concerns damage the ability of the priests and Levites to adequately complete their job?
- What are some modern cultural practices that could erode the purity of the Christian faith? Which of these do you consider the most dangerous?
- What would Joshua's commissioning before Moses died do for Joshua? For the people? What would Joshua most need in order to successfully take over from Moses?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How does the composite picture of God in this story (NU 14) compare to your own experience of Him? Where would you place yourself in the story? How has God helped you to reach "insurmountable" goals or helped you overcome "giants" in your path? How does God help you overcome your fears?
- The Israelites were instructed to make offerings to the Lord, sacrificing something in His name. How does that relate to us today? What do you have to offer to God?
- What "enemies" (people or things that keep us from doing God's work) do we face in our everyday life? How are these enemies similar to those facing ancient Israel?
- What serves as a daily reminder of what God has done for you? In what sense are your daily reminders similar to what the Israelites offer daily?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What does it mean to "bless" [NU 26:58]? What is the priestly blessing?
- Given the open living conditions of life in the desert, why would the special regulations to limit contact with the dead bodies and restrict food be necessary for ancient Israel?

Obedience Brings Blessings

7– 13 NOV 2017

DT 1-26

Week 8 --- 42 Weeks to Go

Deuteronomy relates three sermons delivered by Moses as he prepares to die and turn leadership over to Joshua. Each sermon reviews the history of deliverance from Egypt and the journey to Canaan. We concentrate this week's reading on the first two sermons. A key theme is the love relationship between God and his people, and that of the people to God. We are asked to keep our focus on God in everything we do, to pass our faith to our children, and we learn that even the little things in our lives matter to God. We are urged to avoid practices that might be acceptable in our society, but may be detestable in God's eyes.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: DT 1:1 – 4:43
Day 2: DT 4:44 – 10:11
Day 3: DT 10:12 – 11:32
Day 4: DT 12:1 – 16:17
Day 5: DT 16:18 – 19:21
Day 6: DT 20:1 – 22:30
Day 7: DT 23:1 – 26:19

Outline

Preamble of the Covenant [Day 1]
God's Mighty Acts [Day 1]
What God Expects of Israel [Days 2-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua

Key Locations

Moab near the Jordan River
Mount Pisgah

Key Terms

Covenant
Obedience
Separation
Remember

Key Verses

See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. [DT 4:5]

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [DT 6:5]

Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. [DT 10:20]

Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. [DT 11:1]

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your own people. You must listen to him. [DT 18:15]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt1: The words of Moses: We journeyed from Horeb. You would not go up to take the land, so the LORD said, "This generation will not see it."

Dt2: We went into the wilderness. Thirty-eight years passed, then the LORD told us to cross by Moab. He delivered Sihon the Amorite to us.

Dt3: The LORD delivered Og of Bashan to us. I gave Gilead to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh. The LORD said that I would not cross into the land.

Dt4: Now, Israel, hear the commandments and obey them. You heard the LORD speak from the fire. Take care not to make idols. The LORD is God.

Dt5: The LORD made his covenant with us: Have no other gods; Keep the Sabbath; Honor your parents. You shall do all that he has commanded.

Dt6: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one. Love the LORD with all your heart, soul and strength. Teach your children these commandments.

Dt7: Make no treaty with the nations of the land. You are a holy people, the LORD has chosen you. He will drive out the nations before you.

Dt8: The LORD led you in the wilderness and tested you. He is bringing you into a good land. Do not forget the LORD or you shall perish.

Dt9: It is not for your righteousness that you will occupy the land. You rebelled and made the calf so I broke the tablets of the covenant.

Dt10: The LORD wrote on new tablets. What does the LORD ask? That you fear him, walk in his ways, love him, serve him and keep his commands.

Dt11: You have seen all that the LORD has done. Keep these commands so that you may live long in the land. There is a blessing and a curse.

Dt12: Destroy the high places where the nations worship their gods. You shall bring your offerings at the place that the LORD will choose.

Dt13: If a prophet or anyone else entices you away from the LORD they must be put to death. If a town has turned away it must be destroyed.

Dt14: You may eat animals with cloven hooves that chew the cud. Bring a tithe from your fields to eat before the Lord and for the Levites.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt15: Every seven years you shall cancel debts. Hebrew slaves shall go free in the seventh year. Set apart every firstborn male animal.

Dt16: Celebrate the Passover in the month of Abib. Celebrate the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths. Appoint judges in all your towns.

Dt17: Anyone who breaks the covenant shall be put to death. Go to the priests with hard decisions. Appoint the king that the LORD chooses.

Dt18: The priests shall eat the offerings made by fire. You shall not practise divination. The LORD will raise up a prophet from among you.

Dt19: Set aside three cities so that anyone who kills accidentally may flee there. A matter must be established by two or three witnesses.

Dt20: When you go to war, do not be afraid; the LORD is with you. As you go to attack a city, offer terms, except to the cities of the land.

Dt21: If a dead body is found, the city elders must cleanse the guilt. Give your eldest son his portion. A rebellious son shall be stoned.

Dt22: If you find your neighbor's ox you shall return it. If a man falsely claims that his new wife was not a virgin he shall be punished.

Dt23: No Ammonite shall enter the assembly of the LORD. When you go out to war the camp must be holy. Be careful to do what you have vowed.

Dt24: If a man divorces his wife he must not remarry her. Do not withhold wages. Leave the gleanings of your harvest for widows and orphans.

Dt25: A judge may give up to forty lashes. If a man dies and has no son, his brother shall marry his widow. You shall have honest weights.

Dt26: Bring the first fruits of the land to the LORD. Bring a tithe in the third year and say to the LORD, "Look down and bless your people."

Time In The Wilderness

Exodus 16:1 - Israel Given Manna	1 mo
Exodus 19:1 - Arrive At Sinai	2 mos
Exodus 40:17 - Tabernacle Setup	1 Year
Numbers 9:5 - 2nd Passover Feast	1 Year
Numbers 1:1 - Census Of Israel	1yr, 1mo
Numbers 10:11 - Israel Leaves Sinai	1yr, 1mo
Numbers 33:38 - Aaron's Death	40 Years
Deuteronomy 1:3 - Deuteronomy	40 Years
Deuteronomy 34:5 - Moses' Death	40 Years
Joshua 5:10 - Passover In The Land	41 Years

Deuteronomy and “remember”

The Book of Deuteronomy sets out 10 things that should not be forgotten:

1. The giving of the law (DT 4:9-10)
2. The Lord’s covenant (DT 4:23)
3. Slavery in Egypt (DT 5:15)
4. God’s judgment on Egypt (DT 7:18)
5. God’s provision (DT 8:2-6)
6. Israel’s rebellion against God (DT 9:7)
7. Deliverance from Egypt (DT 16:3)
8. God’s punishment (DT 24:9)
9. The power of their enemies (DT 25:17)
10. The days of old (DT 32:7)

The Israelites are instructed that they should never forget what God has done for them. “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm” [DT 5:15]

Big Ideas in DEUTERONOMY

God enters into a
covenantal relationship
with his people

Moses reminds the
people of everything
God has done

God expects
the Israelites
to love him
and keep his
commands

Our walk with
God affects every
area of life

God cares for the
vulnerable in
society: widows,
orphans, the poor

God promises to
send his people
another prophet
like Moses

Created by the Bible Project

Obedience Brings Blessings

7– 13 NOV 2017

DT 1-26

Week 8 --- 42 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- In DT 1:21, is God making an offer the Israelites can't refuse or can? Was the Israelite strategy in DT 1:22 borne out of fear or faith? Head or heart? Wisdom or folly? How did God address the real issue in DT 1:29-33? Why is God so angry?
- What part does God play in Sihon's refusal to allow the Israelites to pass through his territory (DT 2:24-37)? What does this reveal about God? What does this story reveal about how God works to prepare his people to carry out His plan?
- "Do not forget the things your eyes have seen" (DT 4:9). What is the relationship between the directive and obedience to the law? What does this tell you about how God works?
- What five responses does God want from his people (DT 10:12-13)? How do you define each? What kind of relationship with God would these produce? How is God described in DT 10:14-22? How does this explain the quality of relationship God seeks with Israel?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why is Moses eager to share leadership (DT 1: 9-18)? What is the wisdom of his proposal? In what ways is Moses' job now both lighter and heavier? How will this help the Israelites as they enter the Promised Land?
- As the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land, what fears might they have about the people who live there? How might God's care for the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites (DT 2: 5-12) help the Israelites face their fears?
- What does Moses' prayer (DT 3:24-25) reveal about his relationship with God? How do you think Moses felt looking at the Promised Land? About commissioning Joshua?
- What was the purpose of the tithe (DT 26:5-12)? How is tithing related to worship? Why is tithing important?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- What shared ministry model do you see in the way Moses organized the Israelites? For what counsel might your peers look to you? Where do you find justice?
- What part of your life seems directionless? How do you go about seeking God's will in such areas? If God solves life's problems in different ways, what advice would you give someone approaching God with a problem? Why is it sometimes hard to discern God's guidance?
- When have you, like Moses, been prevented from experiencing a much anticipated event? How did you feel? What did you do?
- What situations are most stressful for you? What affect does it have on your relationship with others? With God? Are your stress management techniques similar to the Israelites in DT 9?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What laws today are similar to the ancient cities of refuge (DT 19)? What do the cities of refuge affirm about human life and justice and mercy?
- Ancient peoples used animal figurines to represent their gods. In DT 4:15-31 how is the God of Israel differentiated from other gods?

Victory Through Faith

14– 20 NOV 2017

DT 27 – 34; PS 90; JOS 1-13:7

Week 9 - 41 Weeks to Go

We end Deuteronomy with a transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Moses predicts what will befall Israel (blessing and curses) in the near future and Moses dies. In Joshua, we read of the preparation for and conquest of Canaan. The people of Israel, through this and later campaigns, learn a crucial lesson: victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His word. In the conquest of Canaan we see God as a warrior who rescues his people from enemies. God's people still battle evil today and we can be confident that Christ has already assured the final outcome by his victory. If you are faithful to God you will be victorious.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: DT 27:1 –28:68
Day 2: DT 29:1 – 34:12
Day 3: PS 90
Day 4: JOS 1:1 – 5:15
Day 5: JOS 6:1 – 7:26
Day 6: JOS 8:1 – 9:27
Day 7: JOS 10:1 – 13:7

Outline

Ratification of the Covenant in Canaan [Day 1]
Transition of Leadership; Moses Final Words [Day 2]
Teach Us to Number Our Days [Day 3]
Israel is Prepared for the Conquest [Day 4]
The Conquest of Canaan by Israel [Days 5-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua
Liam
Rahab
Ascah and Caleb
Achan

Key Locations

Shores of the Jordan river
Mount Ebal
Mount Nebo
Canaan
Gilgal
Jericho
Ai
Hazor

Key Terms

Covenant
Obedience
Disobedience
Judgement

Key Verses

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them [DT 30:19-20]

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom [PS 90:12]

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.” [JOS 1:6]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt27: Write the law on large stones. The Levites will say, "Cursed is anyone who does not keep the law," and the people will reply, "Amen."

Dt28: If you obey the LORD he will bless you above all nations; if not, you will be cursed and the LORD will send a nation to destroy you.

Dt29: You have seen all that the LORD has done so keep this covenant. If you break it the land will be cursed and the LORD will uproot you.

Dt30: When you return to the LORD he will have compassion; he will circumcise your heart. I have set before you life and death. Choose life.

Dt31: Joshua will cross ahead of you. Read the law every seven years. The LORD said, "The people will turn away. Write a song as a witness."

Dt32: Ascribe greatness to our God! The LORD's portion is his people; They turned away so he spurned them; But he will provide atonement.

Dt33: Moses blessed Israel before his death: Let Reuben live; bless Levi's work; Joseph's land is blessed. The eternal God is your refuge.

Dt34: Moses climbed Mount Nebo. There the LORD showed him the Promised Land. Then Moses died. No prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses.

Ps90: Lord, you have been our dwelling place. All our days pass away under your wrath. Return, O Lord! Have compassion on your servants!

Jos1: The LORD said to Joshua, "Arise, cross into the land. Be strong and courageous." So Joshua told the officers to prepare provisions.

Jos2: Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. A prostitute called Rahab hid them, so they promised to spare her family. They reported to Joshua.

Jos3: The Israelites camped by the Jordan. When the priests carrying the ark reached the river it stopped, so Israel crossed on dry ground.

Jos4: The LORD told Joshua to set up memorial stones from the Jordan. When the priests brought the ark up to the bank the waters returned.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jos5: The LORD told Joshua to circumcise the men. They called the place Gilgal. Joshua met the commander of the LORD's army and bowed down.

Jos6: The LORD said that the army should march around Jericho. On the seventh day they shouted and the walls fell. They destroyed the city.

Jos7: Achan took some banned items. When the army went against Ai they were defeated. The LORD identified Achan and the people stoned him.

Jos8: The LORD told Joshua to take the army against Ai. They set up an ambush and destroyed the city. Joshua read out the book of the law.

Jos9: The Gibeonites sent envoys. They pretended that they were from far away and made a treaty. The Israelites found out but spared them.

Jos10: Five Amorite kings attacked the Gibeonites. The sun stood still while the Israelites took revenge. Joshua defeated the whole region.

Jos11: The kings of the north joined forces to fight against Israel but the LORD gave Joshua victory. So Joshua took the whole land.

Jos12: Israel defeated the kings east of the Jordan under Moses and the kings west of the Jordan under Joshua. Thirty-one kings in total.

Jos13: Now Joshua was old. The LORD said, "Divide the remaining land among the tribes." Moses had given land to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh.

Big Ideas in JOSHUA

God appoints a new leader, Joshua, to replace Moses

God demonstrates his power to his people

God is the ultimate warrior; he rescues his people from their enemies

God keeps his promises

God wants his people to faithfully obey him

Victory Through Faith

14– 20 NOV 2017

DT 27 – 34; PS 90; JOS 1-13:7

Week 9 - 41 Weeks to Go

JOSHUA

THE STORY SO FAR...

ABRAHAM

MOSES

WILDERNESS

PROMISED LAND

OBEDIENCE

DISOBEDIENCE

LOOKING BACK:

EXODUS 1-18

NUMBERS 1-36

DEUTERONOMY 1-34

LOOKING FORWARD:

JOSHUA 1-24

1-5

6-12

13-24

1-5 JOSHUA LEADS ISRAEL

1. OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE TORAH

2. THE SENDING OF THE SPIES

3. LEADS ISRAEL INTO PROMISED LAND

4. OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE TORAH

5. LEADS ISRAEL INTO PROMISED LAND

6-12 BATTLES WITH THE CANAANITES

6. DEFEAT OF THE CANAANITES

7-8. ISRAEL MUST BE OBEYANT

9. DEFEAT OF THE CANAANITES

10-11. DEFEAT OF THE CANAANITES

12. ISRAEL'S VICTORIES

13-22 JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

13. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

14. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

15. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

16. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

17. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

18. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

19. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

20. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

21. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

22. JOSHUA DIVIDES UP THE LAND

23-24 JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

23. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

24. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

25. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

26. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

27. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

28. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

29. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

30. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

31. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

32. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

33. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

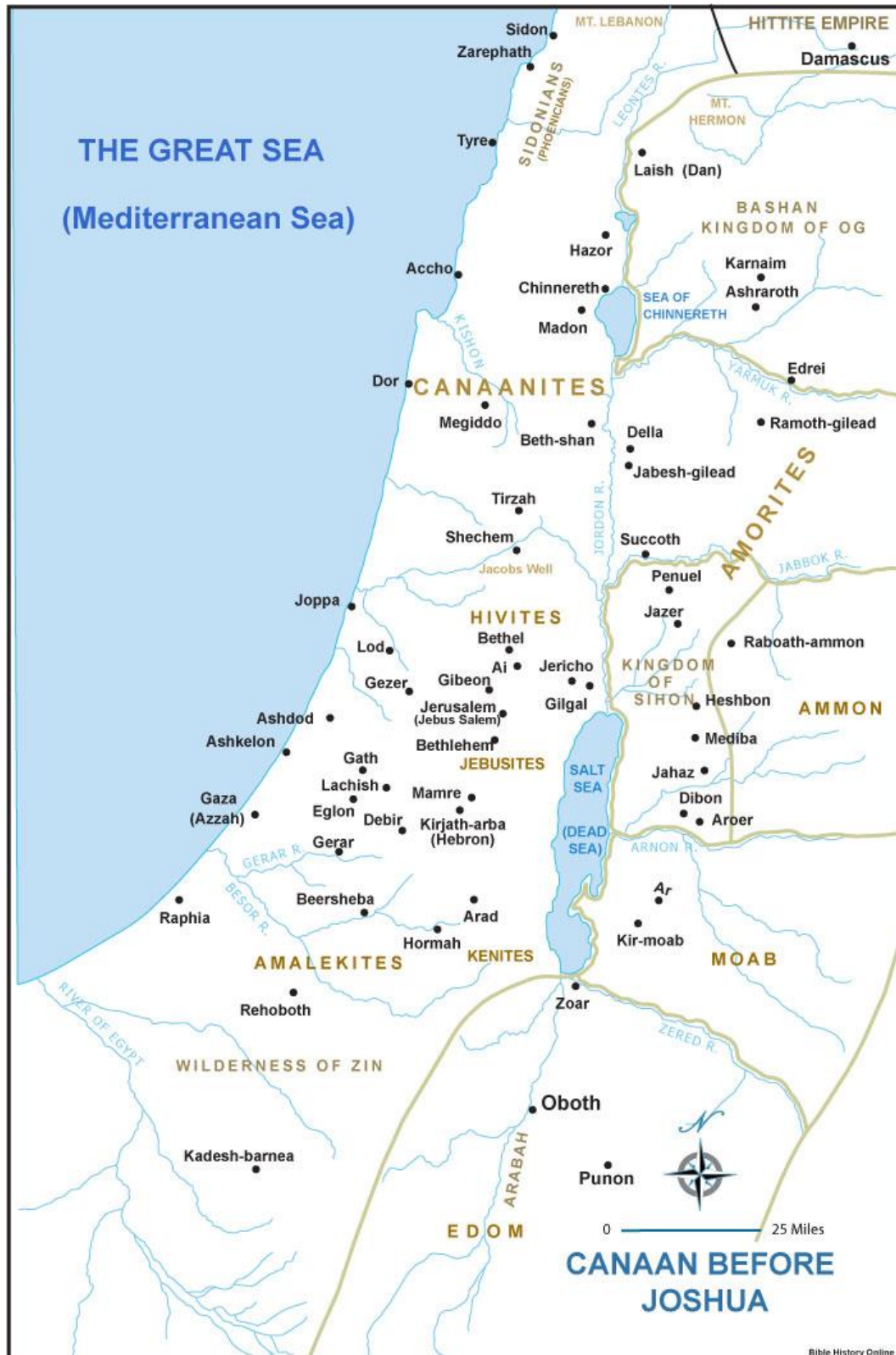
34. JOSHUA'S FINAL WORDS

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?

UNFAITHFULNESS

DIVINE JUSTICE AND EXILE

created by the Bible Project



Entering and Taking the Promised Land

[The Book of Joshua]

Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land (the Jordan River stopped flowing to let them cross) and led them to win one miraculous military victory after another as the Israelites took possession of the land from the idol-worshipping Canaanites who had settled there.

Joshua divided the Promised Land up among the 12 tribes of Israel.

The tribe of Levi was not given their own territory (they were the caretakers of the Tabernacle) but each of Joseph's 2 sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) was given a territory. Therefore, there were 12 tribes of Israel given territories in the Promised Land.

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 9 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- What is the foundation for the blessings in DT 28:1-14? God's work or our obedience? How will God be glorified by blessing his people? How is holiness inseparable from the promise?
- How do the curses (DT 28:15-68) fit with your understanding of God. What if God were just a God of blessing?
- What does it mean that "God is your rock" (DT 32)?
- Why do you think God inaugurated Joshua's career with a miracle similar to the one he gave Moses (JOS 3:7-17)? Why did God have the people cross the Jordan at the flood stage?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Is it harder for people to follow God in times of prosperity or times of adversity? Why?
- What about Moses' relationship with God and his people made him unique? What does it mean to know God "face-to-face"?
- How do you think Rahab related to God? Why did she risk her own safety to protect the spies?
- What was the first thing Joshua did after the victory at Ai? [JOS 8: 30]? What does this tell you about the kind of man he was? Why do you think the children and aliens were included in the ceremony?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you feel blessed? How would you put DT 28:3-6 in modern language?
- What memories help keep you faithful to God? How are they like Israel's memories?
- What modern idols are popular right now in our culture? How do they subtly become like what we worship – good or bad? How can idols drive a wedge between us and God and make us drift away from the covenant community?
- How do you "number your days" (PS 90)? One day at a time? Make each one count? With a clock and calendar? Other?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How did faith factor into the conquest of Jericho and how did the Israelites fight in a way different from other peoples of the time?
- Some Israelite conquest appear to have been peaceful assimilation of the native peoples into the Israelites' own group, such as with the Gibeonites (JOS 9). What is the danger of such assimilation? Why was so much emphasis in Israelite law focused on rejecting idols and multiple gods?

Settling in Canaan

21– 27 NOV 2017

JOS 13:8 - 24

Week 10 - 40 Weeks to Go

After the conquest of Canaan, the land was assigned to the descendants of the sons of Jacob. God's faithfulness is evident as Israel takes possession of the land, fulfilling the ancient promises to Abraham. God is a promise keeper. In the final chapters of the book, Joshua gathers the people together for his farewell speeches. Knowing their inclination toward disobedience and idolatry, he challenges them to choose whom they will serve...an exhortation that is as fitting for us today as it was for the Israelites thousands of years ago. This book marks the end of an age for Israel; there is no commissioned leader for the nation – the age of judges begins.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: JOS 13:8 – 15:63

Day 2: JOS 16:1 – 17:18

Day 3: JOS 18:1 – 19:51

Day 4: JOS 20:1 – 20:9

Day 5: JOS 21:1 – 21:45

Day 6: JOS 22:1 – 22:34

Day 7: JOS 23:1 – 24:33

Outline

The Settlement West of the Jordan (Days 1-3)

The Settlement of the Religious Community (Days 4-5)

The Altar of Witness (Day 6)

Joshua's Farewell and Death (Day 7)

Key Characters

Joshua

Eleazar

Caleb

Key Locations

Canaan

Key Terms

Allotment

Cities of Refuge

Key Verses

“So Hebron has belonged to Caleb, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.” [JOS 14:14]

“So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them.” [JOS 21:43-44]

“But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now.” [JOS 23:8]

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” [JOS 24:15]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jos14: Judah came to Joshua. Caleb said, "Moses promised me the mountain because I obeyed the LORD fully." So Joshua gave Hebron to Caleb.

Jos15: Judah's land bordered with Edom to the south. Caleb took Hebron, Othniel took Kiriath-sepher but Judah could not defeat Jerusalem.

Jos16: Joseph's land was from the Jordan to the sea. Ephraim's territory was within Manasseh's. Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites.

Jos17: There was a lot for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh and a lot for the rest of Manasseh. Manasseh did not drive out the Canaanites.

Jos18: Joshua sent surveyors from the remaining tribes and then divided the land. Benjamin's lot was from Kiriath-jearim to the Salt Sea.

Jos19: Simeon's lot was within Judah's. There were lots for Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan. The Israelites gave Joshua a city.

Jos20: The LORD said to Joshua, "Appoint the cities of refuge." So they set apart Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth and Golan.

Jos21: The Israelites gave cities and pasture lands to the Levites. So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had promised to their fathers.

Jos22: Reuben, Gad and Manasseh went back to their land and built an altar. They reassured Phinehas that they had not turned from the LORD.

Jos23: Joshua summoned Israel and said, "You have seen all that the LORD has done. Hold fast to the LORD or you will perish from the land."

Jos24: Joshua said to the people, "Choose this day whom you will serve," and they replied, "We will serve the LORD." Then Joshua died.

Settling in Canaan

21–27 NOV 2017

JOS 13:8 - 24

Week 10 - 40 Weeks to Go

Surrounded by Idol Worshipers

The Israelites conquered most of Canaan but they lived to regret not finishing the job. They neglected to conquer many Canaanite city-states (each with its own king) that were scattered throughout the same land that was now divided up among the 12 tribes.

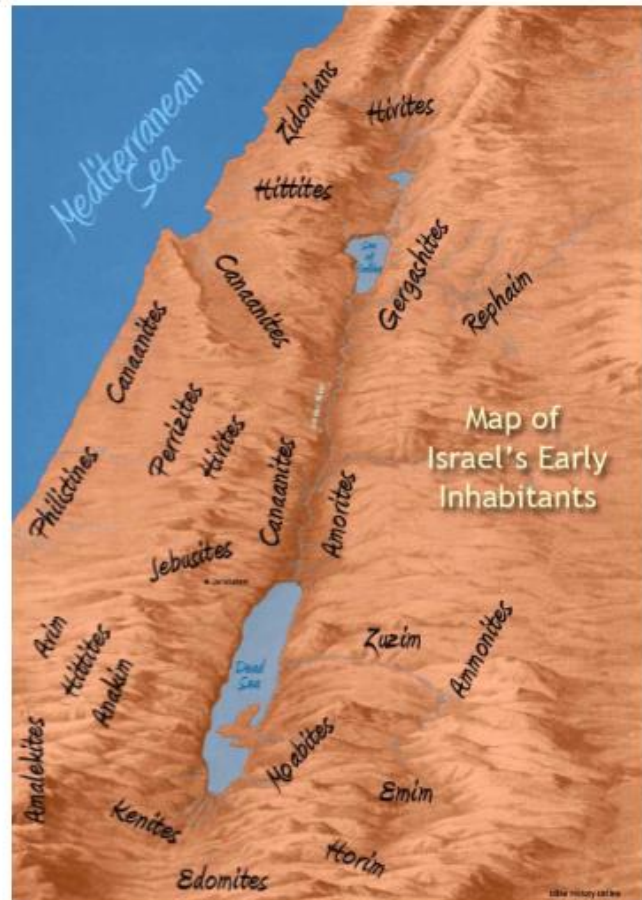
These unconquered, idol-worshipping Canaanites in their midst, openly worshipped their idols. This precipitated a HUGE amount of idol worship on the part of the Israelites who lived around them.

This was a time when the 12 scattered tribes of Israel were held together only by their common faith. Loyalty to God kept them a strong and united nation. Turning to idol worship made them a weak and divided nation.

The idol worshipping nations that surrounded the 12 tribes of Israel took turns oppressing the Israelites during the period of the Judges.

During most of the period of the Judges, the Tabernacle was in the city of Shiloh.

The Holy Land was now "The Land of Israel" instead of "Canaan"



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Settling in Canaan

21– 27 NOV 2017

JOS 13:8 - 24

Week 10 - 40 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 10 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- The Bible teaches that God is a being of love. Why do you think the Israelites thought God approved of the mass slaughter in Canaan?
- What is the relationship between God, Canaan and the Israelites? Why is it vital to the Israelites to live in Canaan?
- Joshua reminded Israel of God's faithfulness. After all they had been through, why were the Israelites given a choice about whom to serve (Joshua 24)? How was God faithful in His promises?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What do Caleb's actions say about the kind of man he was in his prime of life (in these chapters of Joshua)? How was he different from the others Moses sent up with him to explore the land? Why aren't more followers of God like Caleb?
- Why did the Levites receive no land for an inheritance? Would they have felt slighted or doubly blessed by this assignment? [JOS 14:33, NU 18:20-24] Do you think the other tribes had any objections to cities from their territory being given to the Levites?
- In reviewing Joshua's farewell address (Joshua 23), how did Joshua feel about his people's future? What did he want to communicate to the next generation?
- What choice or challenge did Joshua put before the people in 24:14-15? What choice had Joshua himself made? What can we learn here about man's free will power of choice?.

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- If you were living in Jericho while the Israelites were marching around it, what would your reaction be?
- If you were Joshua addressing the people at Shechem, what would you have said and done? How would you remind people of their commitment to the Lord? What did Joshua do?
- In Joshua 24, Joshua challenged the people to "choose whom they would serve." What are the "loves" in our own life (favorite people, possessions, activities) that may eclipse our love for God?
- What one thing do you want people to remember about you when you die? What was Joshua remembered for?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What modern principles of justice do you see in the establishment of cities of refuge? Were the placement of the cities significant?
- If Joshua took place in the present, how would the world react to his actions?

In Judges, a disobedient and idolatrous people are repeatedly oppressed by their enemies. Through a repeated cycle of disobedience, oppression, repentance and deliverance, Judges portrays a God of both judgment and forgiveness. God's love, as well as judgement, is evident. Judges illustrates that compromise with the secular world results in disaster. Israel suffers political and social misery for repeatedly ignoring God. The failures of Israel's leaders (parents, priests and judges) points out the importance of, and need for, godly leadership. This is a dark era in Israel's history. We see the need for a godly king -- a Messiah.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: JDG 1:1 – 3:6
 Day 2: JDG 3:7 – 5:31
 Day 3: JDG 6:1 – 8:35
 Day 4: JDG 9:1 – 10:18
 Day 5: JDG 11:1 – 12:15
 Day 6: JDG 13:1 – 16:31
 Day 7: JDG 17:1 – 21:25

Outline

Incomplete Conquest [Day 1]
 Oppression and deliverance [Days 2-6]
 Religious and moral disorder (Day 7)

Key Characters

Othniel	Ehud
Shamgar	Deborah
Barak	Gideon
Tola	Jair
Jephthah	Ibzan
Elon	Abdon
Samson	Delilah

Key Locations

Canaan

Key Terms

Deterioration
 Idols
 Leader
 Deliverance

Key Verses

“The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had spoken and as the Lord had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. Then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.”
 [JDG 2:14-16]

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” [JDG 21:25]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jdg1: Judah defeated the Canaanites and took Jerusalem. Joseph put Bethel to the sword. But the Canaanites were not driven out completely.

Jdg2: After Joshua's generation died the Israelites served Baals. The LORD sold them to their enemies but raised up judges to deliver them.

Jdg3: After Othniel died the Israelites did evil. King Eglon defeated them. The LORD raised up Ehud who thrust a sword into Eglon's belly.

Jdg4: Jabin and Sisera oppressed Israel. Deborah sent Barak against them and the LORD routed them. Jael drove a peg through Sisera's head.

Jdg5: Deborah and Barak sang: "When leaders lead and people are willing, praise the LORD! Blessed is Jael; Let your enemies perish, O LORD!"

Jdg6: The LORD gave the Israelites to Midian. The angel of the LORD told Gideon to save Israel and gave him a sign. Gideon gathered an army.

Jdg7: The LORD told Gideon to send away all but 300 men. The 300 crept into the Midianite camp. They blew trumpets and the Midianites fled.

Jdg8: Gideon defeated Zebah and Zalmunna and punished Succoth and Penuel. He refused to rule Israel. When Gideon died Israel served Baals.

Jdg9: Abimelech killed his brothers and ruled over Israel. Gaal rose against him. Abimelech destroyed Shechem but was killed by a millstone.

Jdg10: Again the Israelites did evil. The LORD sold them to the Philistines and the Ammonites. They cried out and put aside foreign gods.

Jdg11: Jephthah vowed to sacrifice whatever came out to meet him if he defeated the Ammonites. His daughter met him so he sacrificed her.

Jdg12: The Ephraimites attacked Jephthah. Jephthah and the Gileadites defeated them and caught survivors by making them say 'Shibboleth'.

Jdg13: The LORD gave Israel to the Philistines. The angel of the LORD told Manoah's wife that she would conceive. She named her son Samson.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jdg14: Samson took a Philistine wife. He killed a lion and bees made honey in the carcass. He posed a riddle but his wife explained it.

Jdg15: Samson's wife married another man so Samson burned the Philistine crops. The Israelites bound him. He killed a thousand Philistines.

Jdg16: Samson loved Delilah. She had his hair shaved so he lost his strength and was captured. He died pulling down the Philistine temple.

Jdg17: Micah set up a shrine. There was no king so everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Micah appointed a Levite as his priest.

Jdg18: Spies from Dan stayed with Micah. When the Danites went against Laish they took Micah's idol and his priest. They named the city Dan.

Jdg19: A Levite came to Gibeah. The men of the city raped his concubine until she died. He cut up her body and sent a piece to each tribe.

Jdg20: The Israelites gathered to attack Gibeah. The Benjaminites defended the city but they were defeated and only 600 of them survived.

Jdg21: The Israelites grieved that a tribe would be cut off. They destroyed Jabesh-gilead and captured wives for the remaining Benjaminites.

Finishing the Job

Judges 1:27–35; 3:3–5

Cities and nations left in Canaan and the tribes responsible for defeating them



ASHER

Akko, Sidon, Ahlab, Akzib, Helbah, Aphek, Rehob



MANASSEH

Beth Shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo

DAN

Mount Heres, Aijalon, Shaalbim



ZEBULUN

Kitron, Nahalol



NAPHTALI

Beth Shemesh, Beth Anath



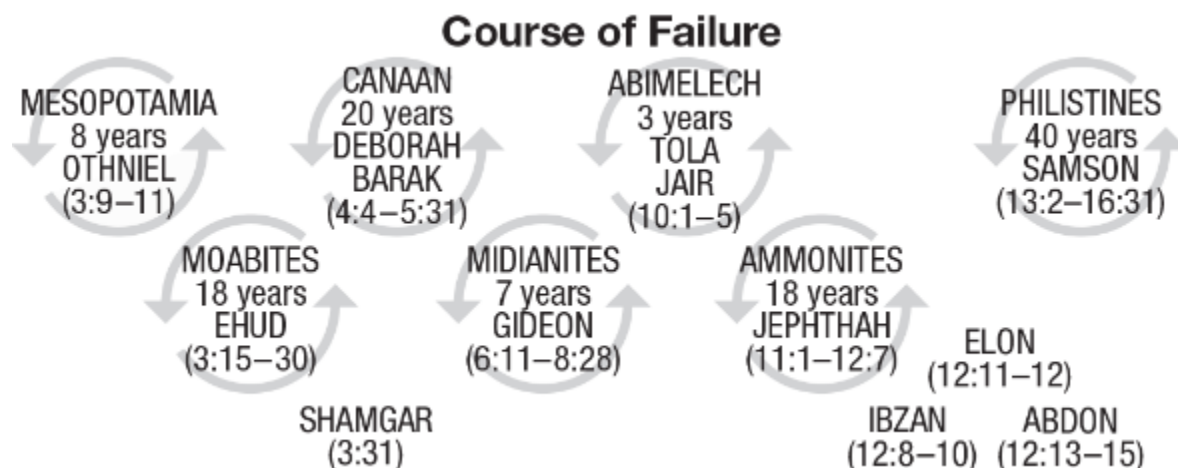
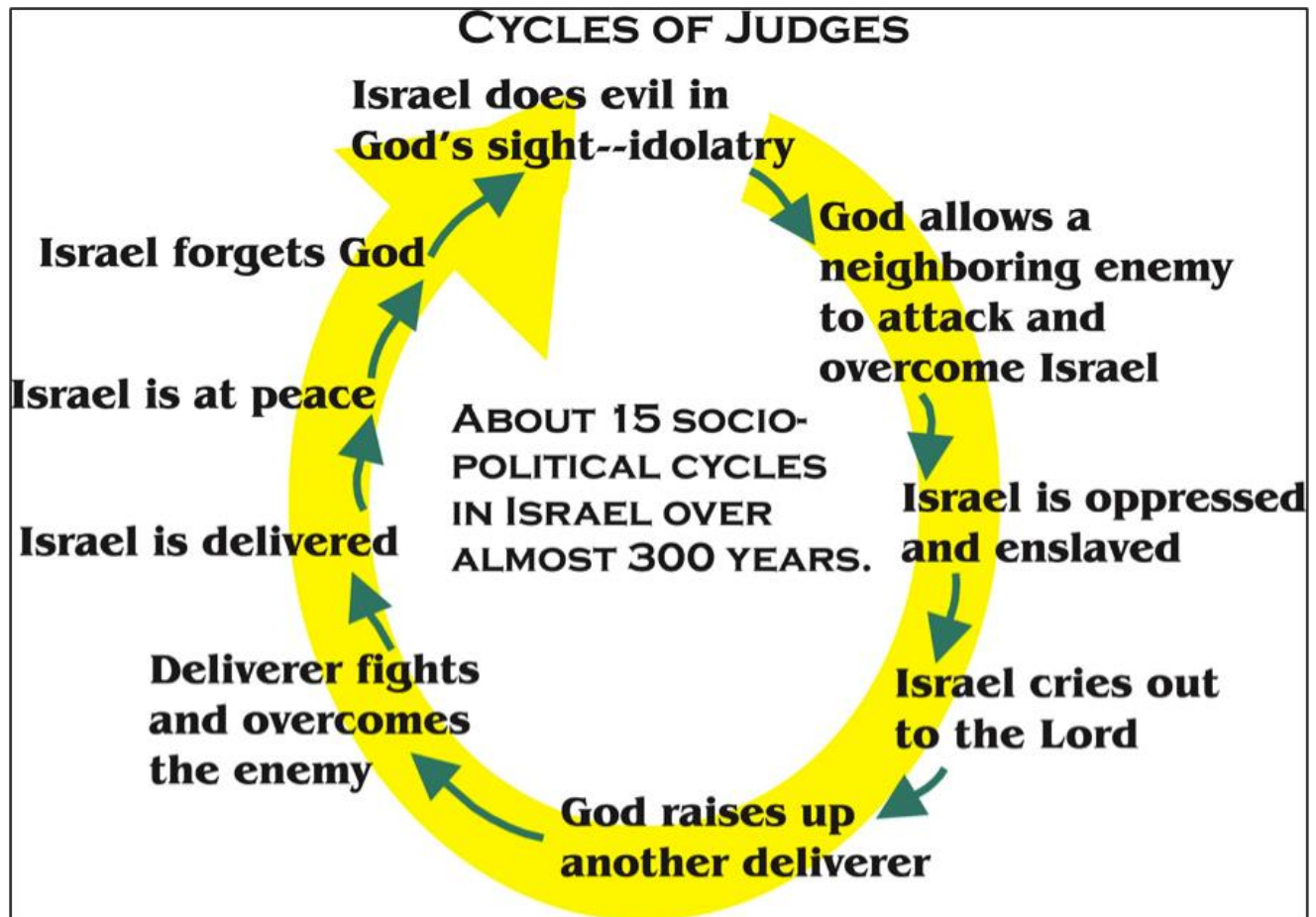
EPHRAIM

Gezer

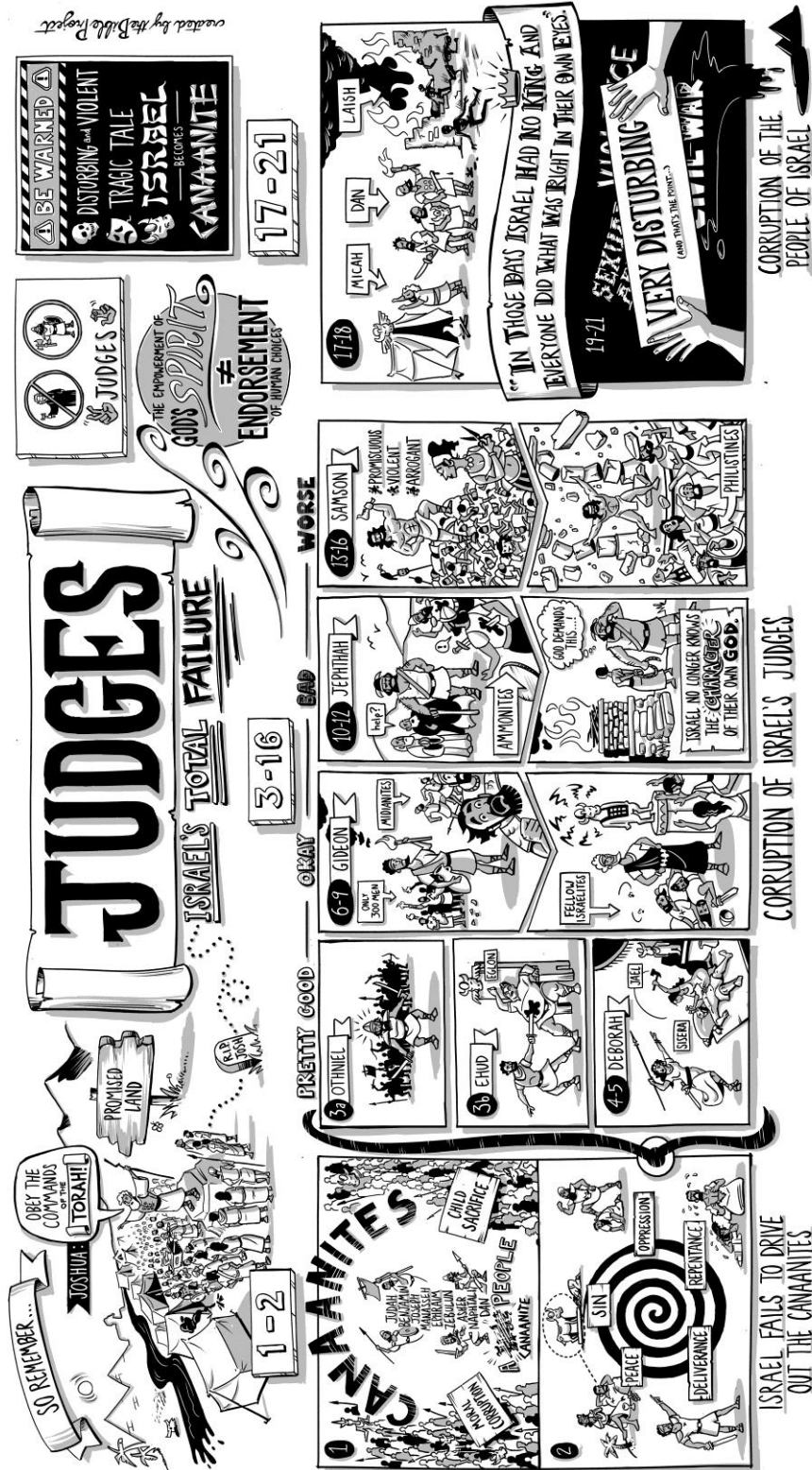
These nations covered broader areas and were also left behind: Philistines, Canaanites, Sidonians, Hivites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites



TOTAL: 20 Cities, 8 Nations







The 7 Cycles of Idol Worship, Oppression and Deliverance

[The Book of Judges]

After Joshua died, many of the Israelites forgot their own God, worshipped idols made of wood and stone and behaved immorally.

When enemy nations attacked them they were helpless without God and were easily conquered. Eventually they remembered God and cried out to Him for help. God then raised up a courageous Israelite to lead them to freedom (a judge).

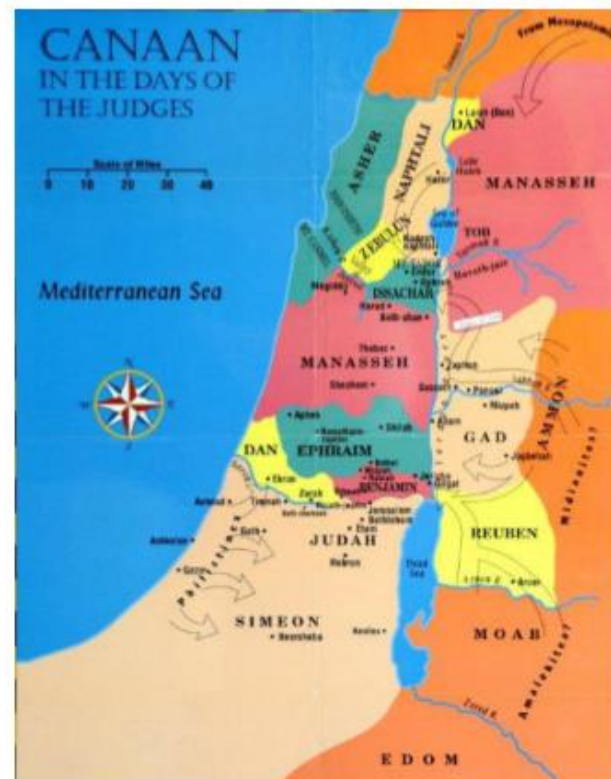
As long as the judge lived and ruled, the Israelites worshipped God. But when he or she died, they worshipped idols again.

In the 300 years after Joshua died, 8 oppressor nations ruled over the Israelites and after each "oppression" God raised up a "deliverer" to set the Israelites free. There were 13 judges in all; 7 deliverer judges and 6 judges that ruled during periods of calm.

The period of the Judges is characterized as a time in Bible history when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

The 13th and last Judge of Israel was Samuel. Samuel was also a prophet of God to whom God spoke directly and a priest who let the Israelites in the worship of God at the Tabernacle in the city of Shiloh.

The period of Judges ended when the people clamored for an earthly king to protect them from the Philistines and God told Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.



The Days of the Judges

Judge	Tribe	Enemy Defeated	Years of	
			Oppression	Rest
Othniel	Judah	Mesopotamia	8 yrs	40 yrs
Ehud	Benjamin	Moabites	16 yrs	80 yrs
Shamgar	?	Philistines	?	?
Deborah	Ephraim	Canaanites	20 yrs	40 yrs
Gideon	Manasseh	Midianites	6 yrs	40 yrs
Tola	Issachar	?		23 yrs
Jair	Manasseh	?		22 yrs
Jephthah	Manasseh	Ammonites	18 yrs	6 yrs
Ibsan	Judah	?		7 yrs
Elon	Zebulun	?		10 yrs
Abdon	Ephraim	?		8 yrs
Samson	Dan	Philistines	40 yrs	20 yrs

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What does Judges 2:10-19 reveal about the justice and mercy of God?
- Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? Why send the others home? What was God trying to teach Gideon?
- Why does God "sell" Israel to their enemy? What does polytheism say about human spirituality and gullibility? About God's jealousy? What did Israel do to change God's mind?
- Why did God give Manoah and his wife a special child (Samson)?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why does Israel make the same mistake over and over again? Does that ever happen today?
- When Gideon died, his people soon forgot God. What causes people to forget about God today? What can be done to help people remember?
- What relationship is there, if any, between the pervasive violence in Judges and the anarchy in which Israel lived? Is this a governmental problem? A social problem? A religious problem? Is the moral relativism we see today similar in any way to everyone doing what is right in his own eyes?
- What do you see as the most tragic thing about Samson's life?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Has the Lord ever tested you like He did the Israelites? How are you stronger today as a result of the testing experience.
- Gideon asked for signs from God. What signs of God's working in your life have you seen?
- What, for you, is the hardest thing about doing God's will? Figuring out what it is? Choosing from the options God gives you? Taking risks? Explaining your actions to others? Others?
- Samson was set apart for God. How can you separate yourself from the world and set yourself apart for God? When do you feel weakest against temptation?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- The Israelites refused to listen to God until He was their last option. Spiritual, as well as moral anarchy, had taken over the nation. "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." When they humbly petitioned God to take control He did! God is ready to extend His grace to those who are willing to faithfully trust in Him. What would have happened if they had trusted Him all along?
- The Period of Judges reminds us that we all need accountability. Allowing distance, apathy or separation to occur in our relationship with God is detrimental. What helps you keep accountable to following God?

From Turbulence to Rest

5– 11 DEC 2017

RU 1-4, 1 SA 1-16, PS 23

Week 12 - 38 Weeks to Go

The Book of Ruth takes place in the latter part of the Judges period. It is a story of love, devotion and redemption. As Boaz redeemed Naomi, great-grandson David will deliver Israel and Jesus will redeem us all. The book of 1 Samuel describes the transition of leadership in Israel from judges to kings – a transition from theocracy to God-appointed monarchy. With the turmoil under the rule of the Judges, Israel needs a prophet and God gives them Samuel. When Samuel grows old, the people demand a king and God gives them Saul. Saul does not obey God, so God gives them David. The God of Israel continues to be the true King of Israel.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: RU 1:1 – 4:12
Day 2: RU 4:13-22
Day 3: 1 SA 1:1 – 6:21
Day 4: 1 SA 7:1 – 17
Day 5: 1 SA 8:1-22
Day 6: 1 SA 9:1 – 12:25
Day 7: 1 SA 13:1-16:23; PS 23

Outline

Ruth and Boaz [Day 1 and 2]
God raises up Samuel as prophet and judge [Day 3]
Samuel's Public Ministry [Day 4]
Israel demands a king: Saul [Day 5]
Saul and David [Day 6]
Saul Rejected as King [Day 7]

Key Characters

Ruth	Naomi
Boaz	Eli
Hannah	Samson
Samuel	Saul
Jonathan	David

Key Locations

Moab
Bethlehem
Ramah
Jerusalem (Jebus)
Gibeah
Gilgal
Shiloh

Key Terms

Kinsman Redeemer
Gleaning
Kingship

Key Verses

“Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” [RU 1:16]

Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel [RU 4:14]

Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king will be swept away. [1 SA 12:24-25]

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” [1 SA 16:7]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ru1: Naomi, an Ephraimite, lived in Moab. Her husband and two sons died so she returned to Bethlehem with her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

Ru2: Naomi had a rich relative named Boaz. Ruth went to glean in his fields. Boaz gave her food and told his men to leave grain for her.

Ru3: Naomi told Ruth to go and sleep at Boaz's feet. When Boaz awoke, Ruth said, "You are my kinsman." Boaz said that he would marry her.

Ru4: Boaz settled the inheritance with another kinsman and married Ruth. Ruth bore a son, Obed. Obed was father of Jesse, father of David.

1Sa1: Hannah had no children. She cried out to the LORD, "Remember your servant." She bore a son, Samuel, and took him to Eli the priest.

1Sa2: Hannah prayed, "The LORD humbles and lifts up." Eli's sons did evil but Samuel served the LORD. A prophet condemned the house of Eli.

1Sa3: The LORD called Samuel. Eli told Samuel to answer, "Speak, LORD." The LORD told Samuel that he was about to judge the house of Eli.

1Sa4: The Israelites were defeated by the Philistines and Eli's sons were killed. When Eli heard that the ark had been captured, he died.

1Sa5: The Philistines put the ark in their temple. Their god fell on his face before it. The city became cursed so they sent the ark away.

1Sa6: The Philistines sent the ark away with guilt offerings. The people of Beth Shemesh found it and rejoiced but some were struck down.

1Sa7: The ark was taken to Kiriath-jearim. The Philistines attacked Israel. Samuel cried out to the LORD and the Israelites defeated them.

1Sa8: The elders of Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king. Samuel warned them what it would mean. The LORD told Samuel to give them a king.

1Sa9: Saul went looking for his father's donkeys. The LORD told Samuel to anoint him ruler of Israel. Samuel invited Saul to eat with him.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Sa10: Samuel anointed Saul and gave him signs. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied. Saul was chosen to rule the Israelites.

1Sa11: The Ammonites attacked Jabesh-gilead. Saul gathered the Israelites and defeated the Ammonites. The people made Saul king at Gilgal.

1Sa12: Samuel said, "The LORD brought your fathers out of Egypt. Now he has given you the king you asked for. Fear the LORD and serve him."

1Sa13: The Philistines encamped at Michmash. Saul made offerings to the LORD by himself. Samuel told Saul that his kingdom would not last.


1Sa14: Saul's son Jonathan went against the Philistines and routed them. Saul made an oath that no one should eat but Jonathan was spared.

1Sa15: The LORD told Saul to destroy Amalek but Saul spared King Agag. Samuel told Saul that the LORD had rejected him. Samuel killed Agag.

1Sa16: The LORD sent Samuel to anoint Jesse's son David as king. The Spirit came upon David. Saul sent for David to play the harp for him.

Ps23: The LORD is my shepherd. He leads me in paths of righteousness. I will fear no evil. I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Big Ideas in RUTH



God's family is built on faith, not nationality; Ruth, a non-Israelite from Moab, is an ancestor of Jesus

God's provision often comes through the love and faithfulness of his obedient servants

Boaz's redemption of Ruth foreshadows Christ's redemption of his people

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Big Ideas in 1 SAMUEL



God reigns as King, regardless of Israel's human leaders

God is pleased by obedience, not tradition

God establishes and removes kings

People look at appearance, God sees the heart

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

RUTH

1

“IN THE DAY THE JUDGES RULED”

2

3

4

CURIOUS FACT: GOD IS HARDLY MENTIONED

NAOMI RUTH BOAZ
THE WIDOW THE NAUITE THE STRANGER

INTERPLAY OF GODS PURPOSE AND HUMAN DECISIONS

TRAGEDY | SOLIDNESS | FAITHFULTY | GENEROSITY | LOYALTY

TRAGEDY & DEATH

“THE LAND OF MOAB”

“WHERE YOU GO I WILL GO, YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE MY PEOPLE, AND YOUR GOD WILL BE MY GOD.”

“CALL ME MIRA (BITTER)”

BOAZ

“MAN OF NOBLE CHARACTER”

“SHUNNS GENEROSITY (SEE DUTTERBANK, 2018)”

“PROPS. THAT GOD WILL BLESS HER”

“MY GOD REWARD YOU”

BOAZ KINSMAN REDEEMER!

“CULTURAL PRACTICE”

“MARRIAGES = IN-LAW”

“PROTECTOR = FAMILY TIME”

JOY & BIRTH

DAVID

“GENEALOGY”

“PERSEUSION”

“AMMANADAS”

“SALMON”

“DAVID”

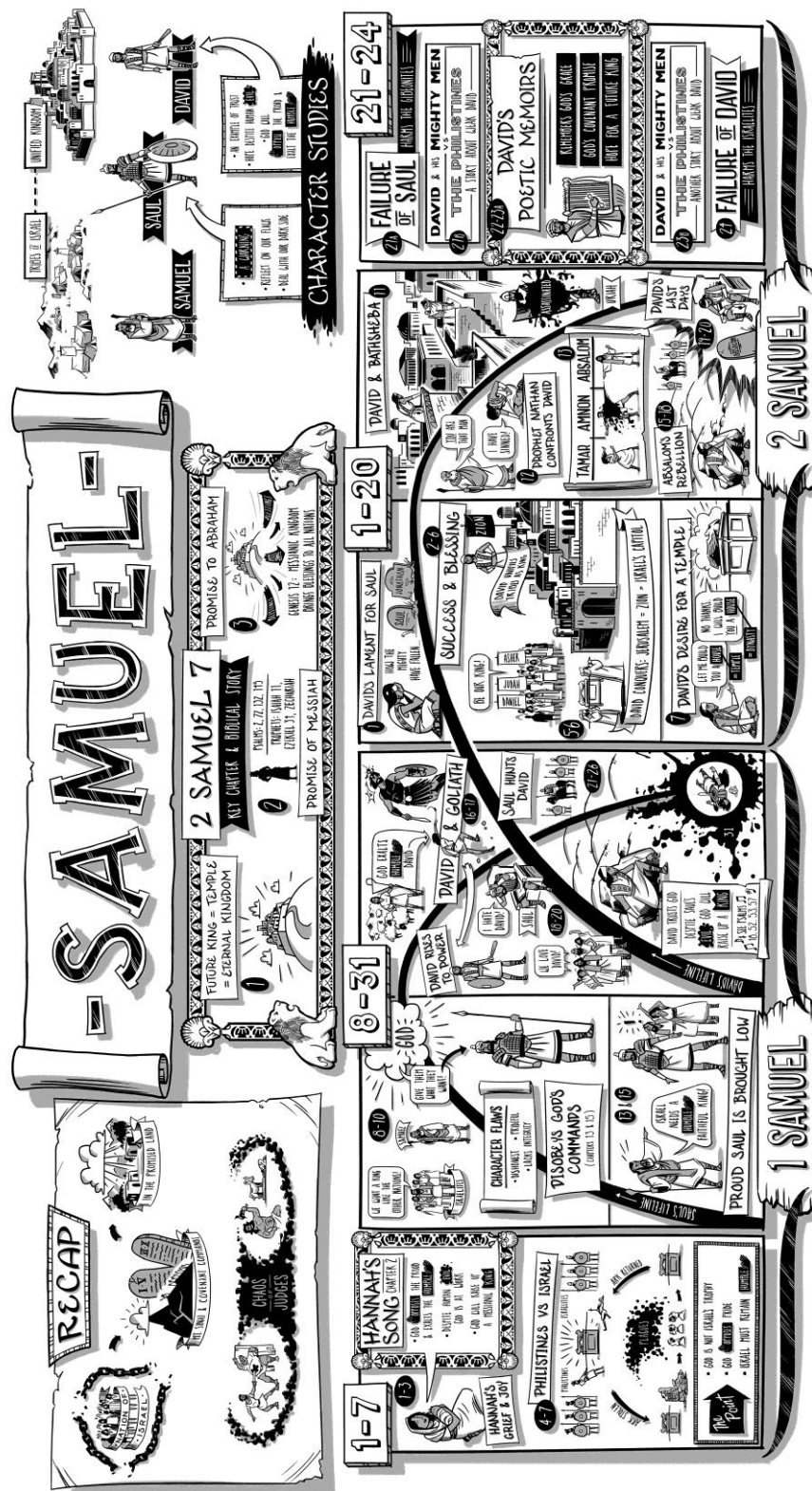
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created by the Bible Project

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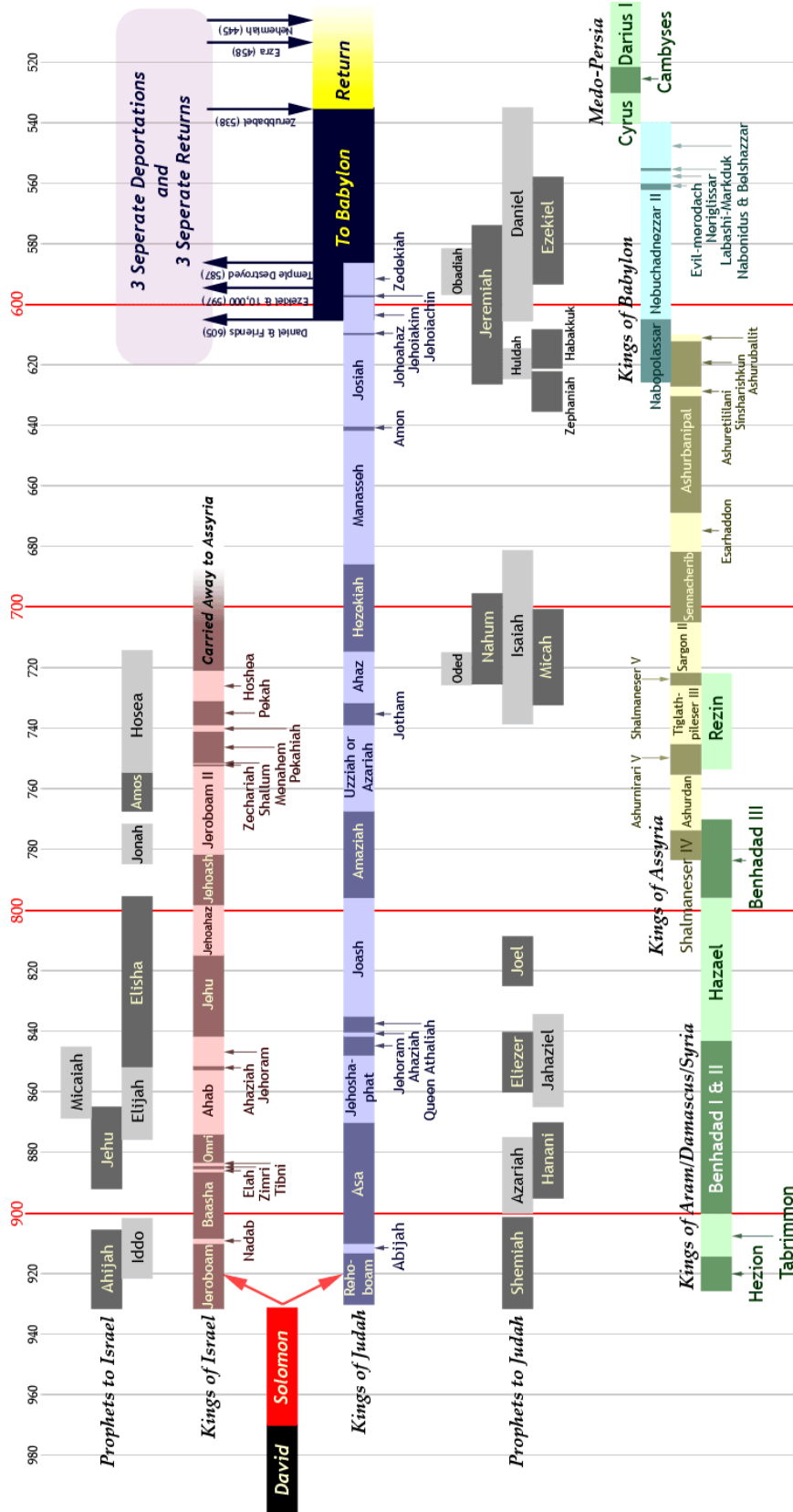
RU 1-4, 1 SA 1-16, PS 23

Week 12 - 38 Weeks to Go



created by the Bible Project

Timeline for 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles & Associated Prophets



1. The bottom line shows the rise and fall of the dominant world powers with which Israel -- whether united or divided -- contended.

2. Beginning with Israel united as a single nation under David and Solomon, the kingdom is divided and ruled by separate lines of kings. "Israel" from this point on refers to the northern half which is ruled by a succession of kings not of David's lineage who never return to the Lord and are taken into captivity by the Assyrians. The southern half is referred to as "Judah" although people from every tribe come to live within its borders. It is ruled by direct descendants of David, some of which repent and lead the people back to God. It will be carried away into captivity to Babylon, which in turn is conquered by the Medo-Persians, from whom the return to the land of Israel is effected.

3. To better understand the context of God's Word through the prophets, read the corresponding accounts of the kings reigning during their ministry and to which of the two kingdoms they mainly ministered to.

The following resources were used to develop this chart:

- "New Bible Dictionary - 2nd Edition" edited by D.R.W. Wood (Inter-Varsity Press, Donners Grove, Illinois)
- "Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary" edited by R.F. Youngblood (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville)
- "New Bible Atlas" edited by Bimson, Kane, Paterson, Wiseman and Wood (Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois)
- "The New Inductive Study Bible" (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon)

Ruth: A God Worshipper from Moab [The Book of Ruth]

The story of Ruth takes place during the period of the judges.

During a time of famine (but relative calm) in Israel, a God-worshipping family from Bethlehem went to live for awhile in the idol worshipping country of Moab. While there, both sons married Moabite women (Orpah and Ruth). Shortly after, the father and both sons died.

Naomi (the mother), having heard that conditions were now better in Bethlehem, decided to return to her own people. She encouraged Orpah and Ruth to return to their Moabite families.

Ruth loyally insisted upon staying with Naomi and worshipping Naomi's God. They traveled to Bethlehem and were very poor.

God led them to the fields of Naomi's close relative, Boaz. Boaz fell in love with Ruth, married her and they had a son named Obed. Obed fathered Jesse and Jesse fathered David. (Ruth was David's great grandmother. Ruth and David were both ancestors to Jesus who was born 1000 years after David.

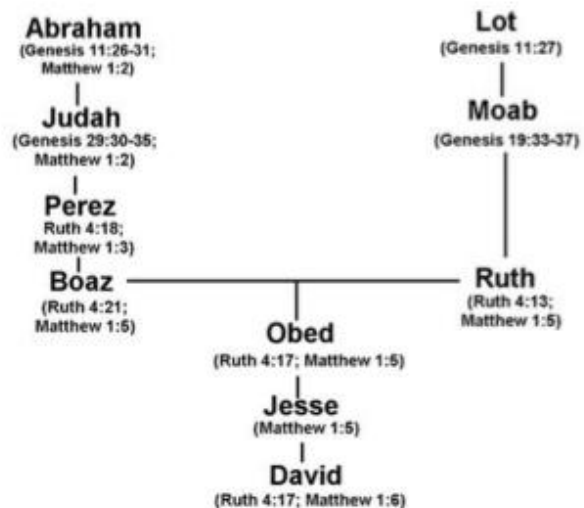
God not only accepted a despised Moabite into his family, but used her to produce Israel's greatest king (King David) and His own precious Son (Jesus).

To anyone who thought that God only loved the Israelites, this story sets the record straight.

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Family Tree of Ruth



Israel's 1st King — King Saul

[1 Samuel 8-15]

During the period of the Judges, the Israelites clamored for an earthly king and army to protect them from the Philistines.

God told Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first earthly king.

When the Philistines invaded, King Saul disobeyed God by performing the pre-battle animal sacrifice that only a priest like Samuel was authorized to perform.

King Saul and his army drove back the Philistines, then the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites and Amalekites. But once again, Saul disobeyed God's specific orders and took Amalekite prisoners when he should have killed them all.

Because of Saul's persistent disobedience, God rejected Saul as King of Israel and promised to eventually give his kingdom to a better man (and not to one of Saul's sons).

Near the end of Saul's life Saul ordered 85 priests to be murdered and consulted a medium to try to speak to the dead.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

From Turbulence to Rest

5– 11 DEC 2017

RU 1-4, 1 SA 1-16, PS 23

Week 12 - 38 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Both Ruth (RU 16-17) and Naomi (RU 20-21) confess God's sovereign control of events, each in her own way. What truth does each convey of God? Of themselves? Of their success in coping with stress? Which confession do you think would most startle the original readers? Why?
- How does Jesus Christ, like Boaz, function as a "kinsman-redeemer" for us?
- Observing Hannah's prayer (1 SA 2:1-10), which was likely sung as a hymn of praise by her and later by the nation of Israel, what do you learn of the God whom she worships? How does this song fit the nation of Israel as well as Hannah alone?
- Why do you think Samuel enjoyed God's favor? His youth and innocence? The good parenting he received? He chose to honor the Lord? He had a special calling and relationship with God? His mother prayed for him?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What do you think Boaz's motives were in seeking to be the kinsman-redeemer? Love for Ruth? Duty? Real estate expansion? Honor? Other?
- In the end, the whole community welcomes Ruth. What do you think brought her from being an outsider to being accepted?
- Why do the Israelites want a king? Why are they willing to ignore the warning about a king?
- Why do sheep (PS 23) represent believers so well? What kinds of duties did shepherds provide in Biblical times? How do those duties correspond with those performed by pastors?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Where in your life now are you inclined to trust in your own strength instead of God's? What will you do to learn to trust in God's strength?
- What is one of the best things your parents did in raising you? What do you feel is the most important thing you can do to raise a child right?
- How do you hear the voice of the Lord? Are your prayers more like, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" or "Listen Lord for your servant is speaking"?
- Psalm 23 talks about living life with God. However, in our broken world there is much to fear. As a child, how were you taught to deal with fear or stress? How did your parents or caregivers model this for you?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What ethnic enmity complicates prospects for Naomi's daughters-in-law? Given the social problems facing these widows, why does Naomi tell Ruth and Orpah to return to their families?

A Nation and Its Leader

12– 18 DEC 2017

1 SA 17-31; 2 SA 1-7; PS 18, 52, 54, 57, 59, 63, 142

Week 13 - 37 Weeks to Go

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel are really one story: God finds a man after His own heart to lead his people. Where 1 Samuel shows Israel's transition from God's authority to Saul's irresponsible rule, 2 Samuel documents the transition back to God-honoring leadership under David. The story of Saul is one of good beginnings but ends in abject failure because of his disobedience to God. Jonathan and David remain faithful and loyal friends and David remains faithful to Saul, even though Saul seeks to kill him. David faces hardship, but God promises that David's bloodline will have an everlasting kingdom.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1 SA 17:1 – 19:17
Day 2: PS 59; 1 SA 19:18 – 21:15
Day 3: PS 56, 34; 1 SA 22:1-23,
PS 52; 1 SA 23:1-29; PS 63
Day 4: 1 SA 24; PS 57, 142; 1 SA 25
Day 5: PS 54; 1 SA 26:1 – 30:31
Day 6: 1 SA 31; 2 SA 1, PS 18
Day 7: 2 SA 2:1 – 7:29

Outline

David in Saul's Court [Day 1]
David Flees from Saul [Day 2-4]
Seeking God's Guidance [Day 3]
The Death of Saul [Day 5 and 6]
David Becomes King of Israel [Day 7]
Spiritual Triumphs of David [Day 7]

Key Characters

Samuel	Saul
Jonathan	Jesse
David	Goliath
Milcah	Nathan
Joab	Abner
	Absalom

Key Locations

Hebron
Jerusalem
Israel
Gath
Nob
Adullam
Mizpah
Endor

Key Terms

Kingship
Covenant
Champion
Faithfulness
Jealousy

Key Verses

The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the Lord's battles and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the Lord your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. [1 SA 25:28-29]

“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.” [2 SA 7:12]

“Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to your servant.” [2 SA 7:28]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Sa17: A Philistine champion named Goliath challenged the Israelites. David killed Goliath with a sling and a stone. The Philistines fled.

1Sa18: Jonathan loved David. Saul set David over the army but became jealous and tried to kill him. David married Saul's daughter Michal.

1Sa19: Jonathan warned David about Saul. David escaped and fled to Samuel. Saul went after David but the Spirit of God made him prophesy.

Ps59: Deliver me from my enemies, O God. Each evening they return, howling like dogs. Destroy them in wrath! You, O God, are my fortress.

1Sa20: David and Jonathan agreed a sign. Saul was angry with Jonathan when David was not at the feast. Jonathan told David, "Go quickly!"

1Sa21: Ahimelech the priest gave David consecrated bread and Goliath's sword. David fled to King Achish of Gath and pretended he was mad.

Ps56: Be gracious to me, O God, for my enemies trample on me. Are my tears not in your book? In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust.

Ps34: O magnify the LORD with me! I sought him and he answered. Taste and see that the LORD is good. He is close to the brokenhearted.

1Sa22: About four hundred men joined David. Saul ordered that all the priests be killed because they helped David. Only Abiathar escaped.

Ps52: Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? Surely God will bring you down to ruin. But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

1Sa23: David and his men saved Keilah from the Philistines. Saul came to Keilah so David escaped. Saul gave chase but he was called away.

Ps63: O God, you are my God. My soul thirsts for you. Your love is better than life. My lips will sing your praise. Liars will be silenced.

1Sa24: Saul went after David. David cut off a piece of Saul's robe but spared his life. Saul wept and said, "You shall surely be king."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps57: Be merciful to me, O God. I am in the midst of lions. My heart is steadfast, for great is your love. Be exalted above the heavens!

Ps142: I cry out to the LORD! When my spirit is faint, you know my path. Save me from my persecutors! You will deal bountifully with me.

1Sa25: Samuel died. Nabal insulted David so his wife Abigail pleaded for restraint. The LORD struck Nabal dead and David married Abigail.

Ps54: Save me, O God! For strangers have risen against me. God is my helper. He will repay my enemies. I will praise your name, O LORD!

1Sa26: Saul came after David. David took Saul's spear and jug while he slept but spared his life. David called out and Saul blessed him.

1Sa27: David lived among the Philistines to escape Saul. King Achish gave him Ziklag. David secretly raided the land while he lived there.

1Sa28: The Philistines gathered for war. Saul asked a medium to call Samuel. Samuel said, "The LORD will hand you over to the Philistines."

1Sa29: David and his men marched with Achish. The Philistine commanders said, "He will turn against us," so Achish told David to go back.

1Sa30: The Amalekites had raided Ziklag. The LORD told David to pursue them. David and his men rescued the women and divided the spoils.

1Sa31: The Philistines fought Israel. Saul's sons were killed. Saul was badly wounded so he fell on his sword. The Israelites fled.

2Sa1: A man came and told David that Saul and Jonathan were dead. David sang: "The beauty of Israel is slain. How the mighty have fallen!"

Ps18: The LORD is my rock. I called and he thundered from heaven. He rescued me from my enemy. I will praise you among the nations, O LORD!

2Sa2: David was made king of Judah. Abner made Ish-bosheth king of Israel. Their men fought and Abner killed Joab's brother Asahel.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Sa3: Abner argued with Ish-bosheth and offered to support David. David asked for his wife Michal. Joab killed Abner and David mourned.

2Sa4: Ish-bosheth lost heart. His captains Rechab and Baanah killed him and took his head to David. David commanded that they be killed.

2Sa5: David was anointed king over Israel. He took Jerusalem and the LORD was with him. The Philistines gathered but David defeated them.

2Sa6: David brought the ark from Judah. Uzzah touched it and was struck down. As the ark came into the city David danced before the LORD.

2Sa7: The LORD said to Nathan, "Tell David: 'I will establish your house. Your son will build my house.'" David prayed, "Who am I, O LORD?"

Big Ideas in 2 SAMUEL

God establishes a covenant with David and promises an everlasting dynasty through David's descendants

Though God forgives sin, sometimes consequences from actions remain

No sin is so grave that God won't forgive it

The abuse of power can have broad effects



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Big Ideas in PSALMS

God is the Shepherd and the Warrior who saves his people from their oppressors

God is the great, eternal, perfect and powerful King who is worthy of praise

God is patient, just, merciful, forgiving and good

People are free to express their joy and their pain to God because he is compassionate and understanding

God blesses the righteous; the wicked will perish



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

PSALMS

Torah & Messiah Praise & Faith & Hope

[150 Hebrew Poems]

DAVID (73) HEYMAN & ERHAN (2)
 ASAPH (12) SOLOMON & MOSES (3)
 SONS OF KORAH (11) ANONYMOUS (47)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR...
 (SEE 1 CHRONICLES 25 & NEHEMIAH 11:22-23)

...BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

BOOK 1

BOOK 2

BOOK 3

BOOK 4

BOOK 5

PRaise & Lament

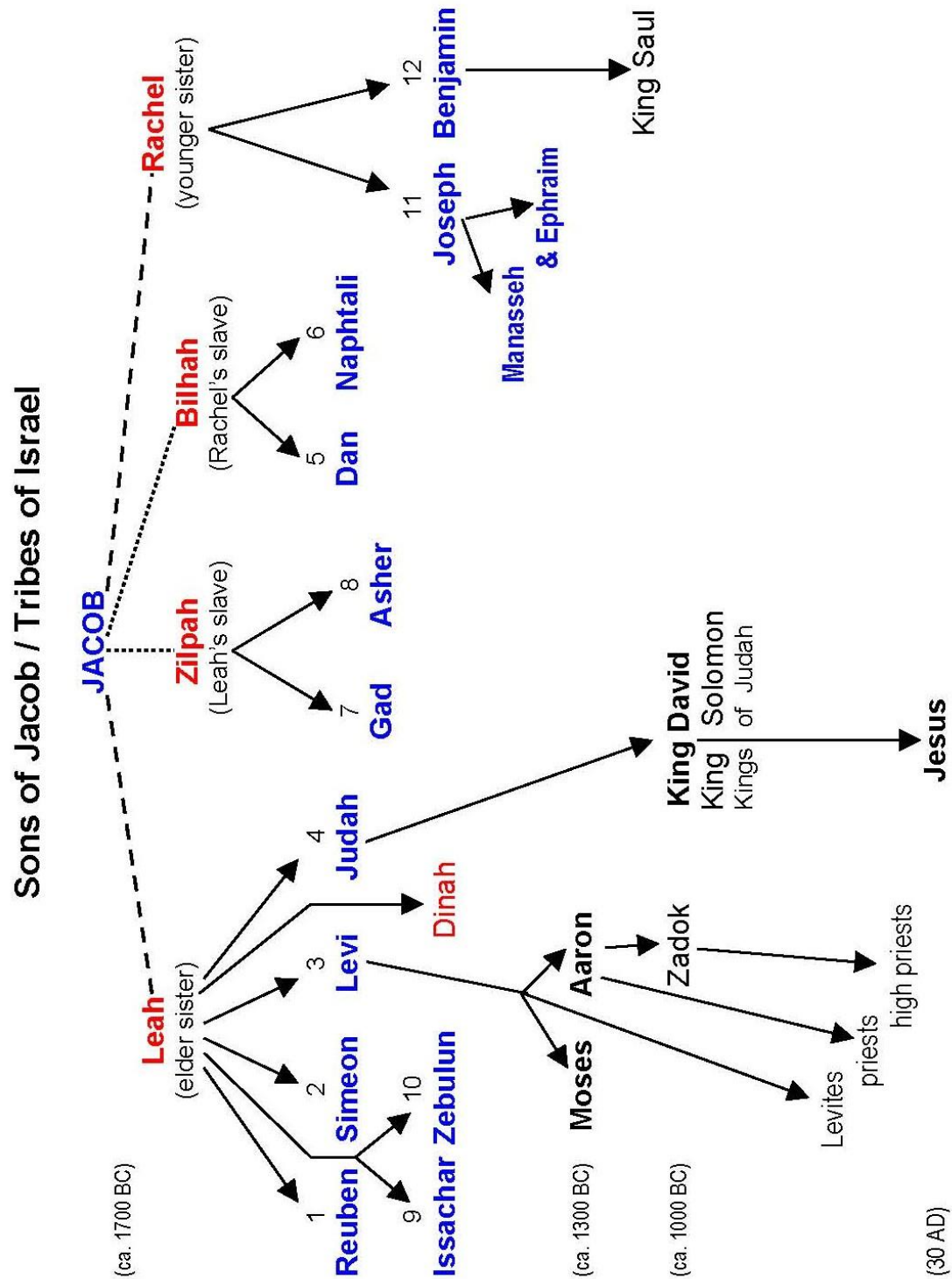
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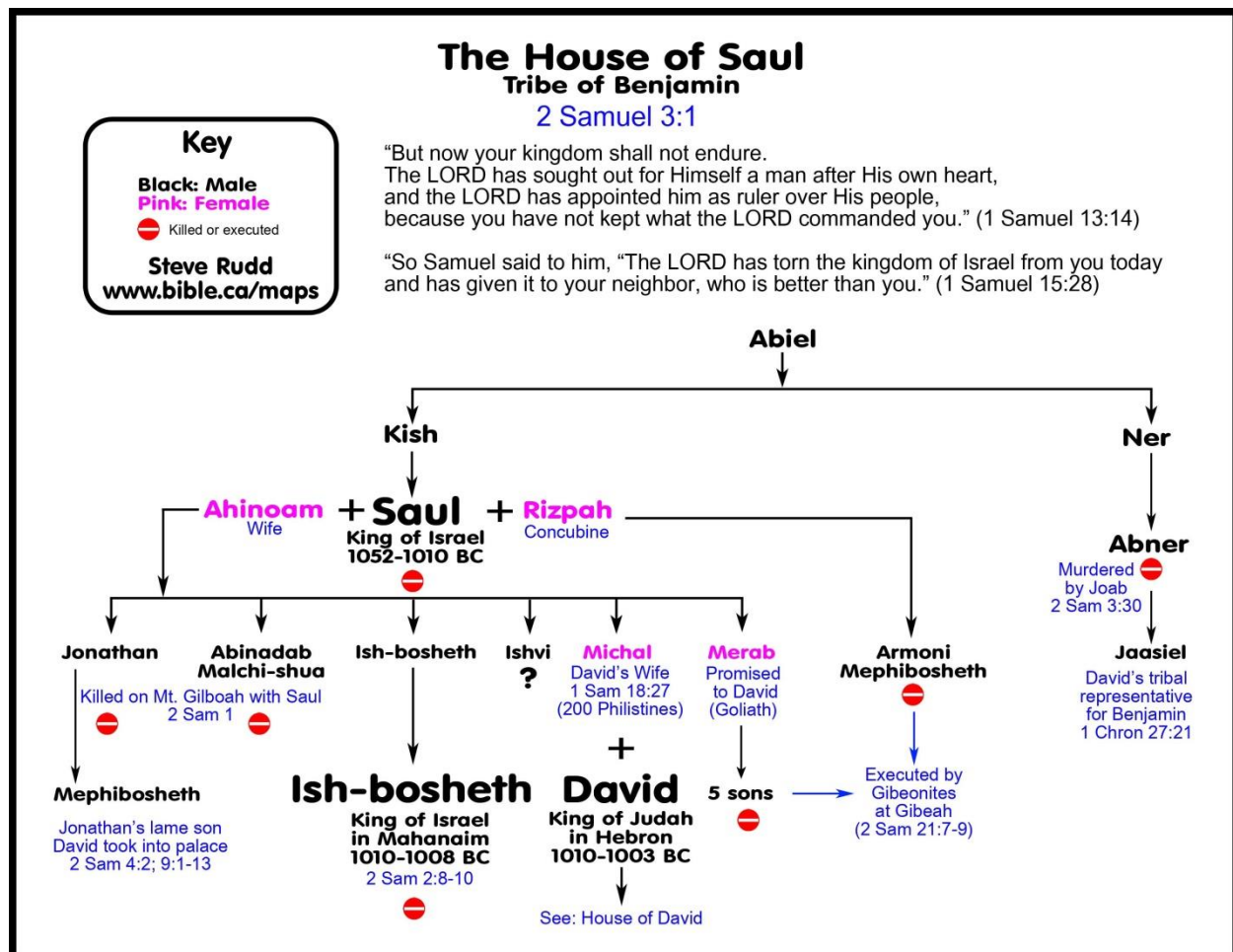
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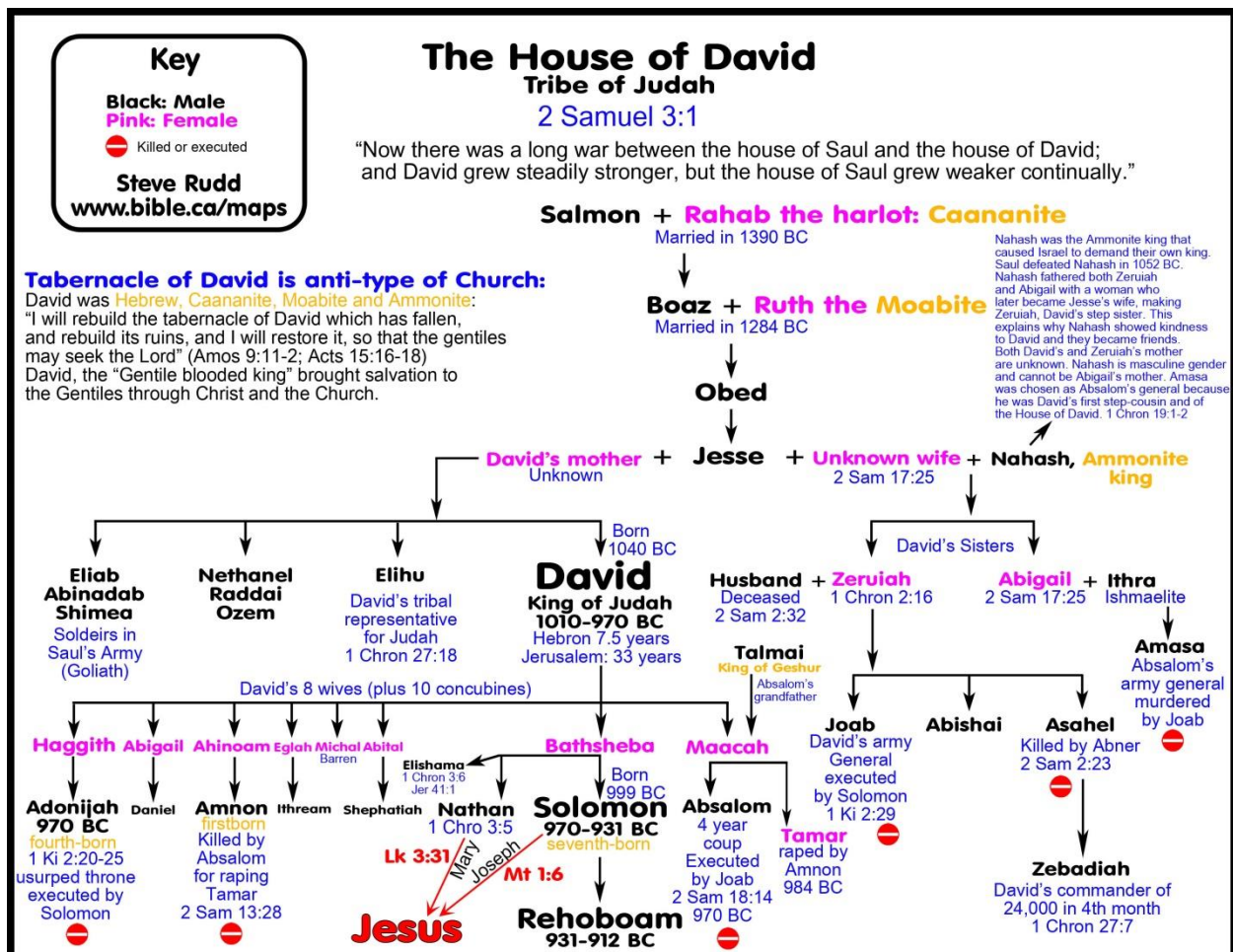
12– 18 DEC 2017

1 SA 17-31; 2 SA 1-7; PS 18, 52, 54, 57, 59, 63, 142

Week 13 - 37 Weeks to Go







Israel's 2nd King — King David

[1 Samuel 16; 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 11-29]

Samuel anointed David as God's choice for Israel's 2nd king long before David was given the opportunity to rule as King of Israel.

King Saul's jealousy and fear drove him to stalk David with the intent of killing him. David generously passed up several opportunities to kill Saul because Saul had been chosen by God.

Saul committed suicide during a losing battle with the Philistines and David became King of Israel. David drove out the Philistines.

David conquered the Canaanite city of Jerusalem and established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. David lived in Jerusalem and brought the Tabernacle from Shiloh to Jerusalem.

King David was Israel's greatest king and "a man after God's own heart." David consulted God, worshipped God and fought for God.

King David was not perfect. He slept with another man's wife (Bathsheba) then had the man killed. Her 2nd son was Solomon.

God told David to pass over his older sons and to make Solomon Israel's next king.

Covenant #4: The Davidic Covenant

God promised David that the Messiah would enter the world through one of David's descendants.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

A Nation and Its Leader

12– 18 DEC 2017

1 SA 17-31; 2 SA 1-7; PS 18, 52, 54, 57, 59, 63, 142

Week 13 - 37 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

We won't be discussing in class this week, but still food for thought!

What did I learn about God?

- Why is Uzzah's act in moving the ark (2 SA 6) irreverent? What do you think of Uzzah's punishment for his act? Too harsh? Scary? Fair? Other? What does God's anger to this irreverence say about God's holiness?
- In PS 57, David turns to the Lord in time of crisis. Although he may not have realized why God was allowing him to suffer, he did understand what God wanted from him in his suffering. A Christian who has just lost a child bitterly asks, "How can a good God allow this?" What would you say? Is praising God when you don't feel like it hypocrisy or a matter of obedience?
- In PS 59, what comfort and hope does David draw from the promise of God's personal and world-wide judgement? What does judgement show about God's view of injustice in the world? What would it mean if God did not judge evil?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What motivated David to fight Goliath (1 SA 17:25-27)? What's at stake for the victor? For Israel? What reasoning did David use to persuade Saul to let him fight Goliath (1 SA 17:32-37)? Would it have persuaded you? What Goliaths are there in society – defying God and Christians?
- What do you see as Saul's worst problem in 1 SA 18? His jealousy? His torment by an evil spirit? His fear? Being separated from God? His temper? Other?
- What do you think was the secret to the friendship of David and Jonathon? Common interests? Loyalty? Affection? Trust? Problems they went through together? What quality do you think is most important in a friend?
- In Psalm 63, David says he is seeking God. What does it mean to seek God? How does a person seek God? What is the difference between having God as a slice of life versus having God permeate every part of life?
- When David felt severe, life-threatening trial in Ps. 142, he turned to God. Does praying in faith mean that we believe that God will deliver us from a trial or that He is able to deliver us?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is your attitude toward the "giants" that are drawn up against you more like Saul's or David's? What larger missionary purpose might be accomplished for God if you would turn that battle over to the Lord?
- How do you define success in your life? What motivates you to try to be "successful"?
- In your worship, do you tend to treat God more with reverential awe or familiarity? Is it easy or hard for you to say "I love you Lord"? When are you most aware of God's love for you?
- What promises of God do you lean on in hard times? PS 57:5 expresses faith in hard times; PS 57:11 expresses joy after deliverance. Which context is yours right now?

The People in Jerusalem

9 –15 JAN 2018

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

The Chronicles were written to those who were rebuilding Jerusalem following the Babylonian captivity. The history helped reestablish continuity with the past. It depicts the faithfulness and promises of God to His people, the power of the Word of God and the central role of worship in the lives of God's people. The people are reminded of their heritage, and that God remains with them. In turn, they must remain faithful to God. The positive aspects of David's reign remind us of the importance of doing things God's way and in God's timing. David's choice to follow God's plan brings blessings to Israel. He united the tribes and delivered Israel from enemies.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1 CH 9:35 - 11:47
Day 2: 1 CH 12:1- 15:29
Day 3: PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 65, 68, 103
Day 4: PS 108, 138, 1 CH 16:1-43
Day 5: PS 96, 105, 106
Day 6: PS 39, 62, 50, 73-79
Day 7: PS 80-83, 88

Outline

Genealogy of Saul [Day 1]
The Beginning of David's Reign [Day 1-2]
The Return of the Ark of the Covenant [Day 2, 4]
Music in the Temple [Day 4]
Psalms of the Musicians [Day 5-7]

Key Characters

Saul
David
David's warriors

Key Locations

Israel
Jerusalem
Mt. Gilboa
Hebron

Key Terms

Worship
Faithfulness
Ark of the Covenant

Key Verses

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually [1 CH 16: 11]

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. [1CH 16:24-25]

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth [PS 8:1]

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken [PS 62:6]

But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge. [PS 73: 28]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ch9: Jerusalem was resettled by Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh; there were priests and Levite gatekeepers. Kish was father of Saul.

1Ch10: The Philistines fought Israel and Saul fell on his sword. The Israelites fled. Saul died for his unfaithfulness against the LORD.

1Ch11: The elders anointed David king. David's mighty men included the three who brought him water from Bethlehem. Abishai led the thirty.

1Ch12: Benjaminites and Gadites went over to David at Ziklag. David made them officers. People kept coming until there was a great army.

1Ch13: David said, "Let us bring the ark back." As they carried the ark Uzzah steadied it and was struck down. David took it to Obed-edom.

1Ch14: David had more children. The Philistines attacked; David inquired of God and when he heard marching in the trees he defeated them.

1Ch15: David told the Levites to carry the ark. Heman, Asaph and Ethan were the musicians. The ark was brought into the city of David.

Ps8: David told the Levites to carry the ark. Heman, Asaph and Ethan were the musicians. The ark was brought into the city of David.

Ps19: The heavens declare the glory of God. The law of the LORD is perfect, making wise the simple. May my words be pleasing to you, O LORD.

Ps29: Ascribe to the LORD glory! The voice of the LORD is over the waters. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness. The LORD is king!

Ps32: Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away. You surround me with glad cries of deliverance!

Ps65: Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion. By awesome deeds you answer us. You silence the roaring seas. You crown the year with abundance.

Ps103: Bless the LORD, O my soul. He forgives all your iniquity. He has compassion on those who fear him. Bless the LORD, all his works!

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps108: My heart is steadfast, O God. Your love is great above the heavens. God has spoken: "Judah is my sceptre." Help us against the enemy!

Ps138: I give you thanks, O LORD! All the kings of the earth will praise you. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.

1Ch16: They made offerings and David appointed singers. "Give thanks to the LORD; He is greatly to be praised!" Asaph ministered each day.

Ps96: Sing to the LORD! Declare his glory among the nations. Worship the LORD in holy splendour. He will judge the world in righteousness.

Ps105: Give thanks to the LORD! He has remembered his covenant. He sent Moses to perform signs. He brought his people out of Egypt with joy.

Ps106: The LORD is good! We have sinned like our fathers. They forgot their God. They served idols. But the LORD remembered his covenant.

Ps39: When I was silent, my anguish increased. O LORD, what is the measure of my days? My hope is in you. Deliver me from my transgressions.

Ps62: My soul waits for God alone. He alone is my rock and my salvation. Trust in him at all times, O people. Power and love belong to God.

Ps50: The Mighty One, God the LORD speaks: "I will not accept bulls and goats. For you hate discipline. Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving."

Ps73: Surely God is good to the pure in heart. I envied the wicked until I saw their end. They are swept away. God is my portion forever.

Ps74: O God, why have you rejected us? Foes have defiled your sanctuary. How long will they mock? You are king from of old. Rise up, O God!

Ps75: We give thanks to you, O God. "I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast.'" God is the judge. The wicked will drain the dregs of his cup.

Ps76: God is known in Judah. You are glorious, more majestic than the mountains. The earth feared and was still when God arose to judgement.

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps77: In the day of trouble I sought the LORD. Has he withdrawn his compassion? You are the God of wonders. Your path led through the sea.

Ps78: God worked miracles in Egypt. He brought his people to the holy land. They rebelled and he rejected them. He chose David to tend them.

Ps79: O God, the nations have invaded and shed blood like water. How long, O LORD? Save us for your name's sake. Make your vengeance known!

Ps80: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel! How long will you be angry? Restore us, O God. Watch over the vine that you planted. Restore us, O God.

Ps81: Sing aloud to God our strength. I hear a voice: "I am the LORD. Oh, that my people would listen to me! I would subdue their enemies."

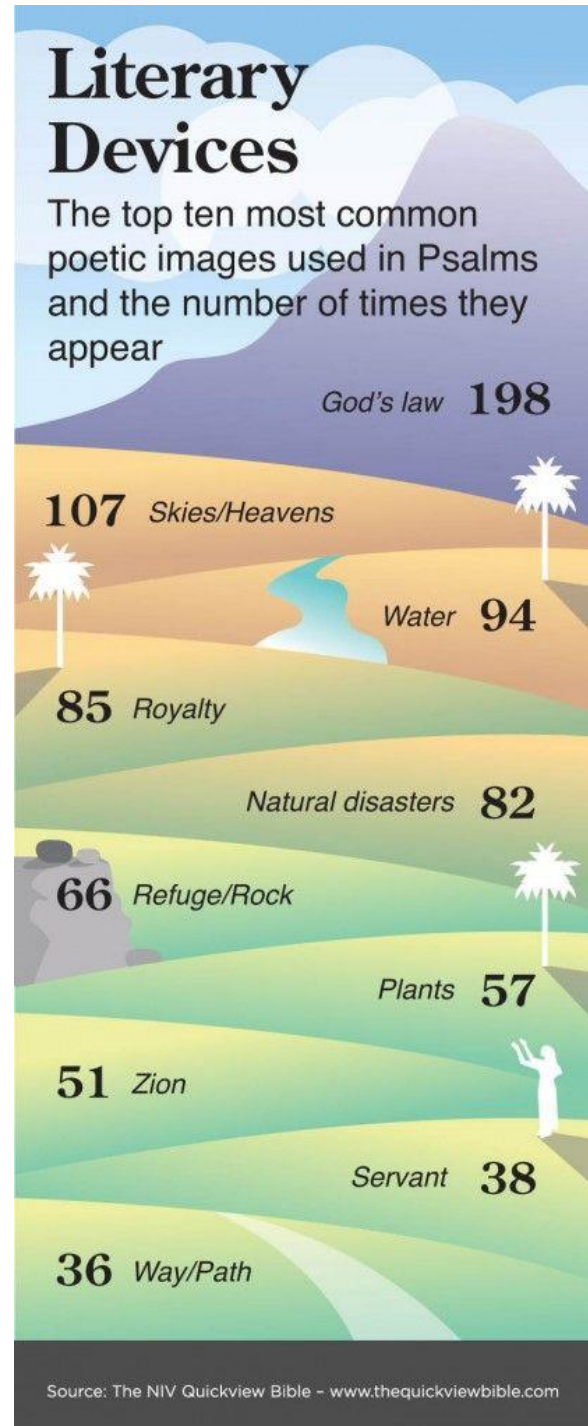
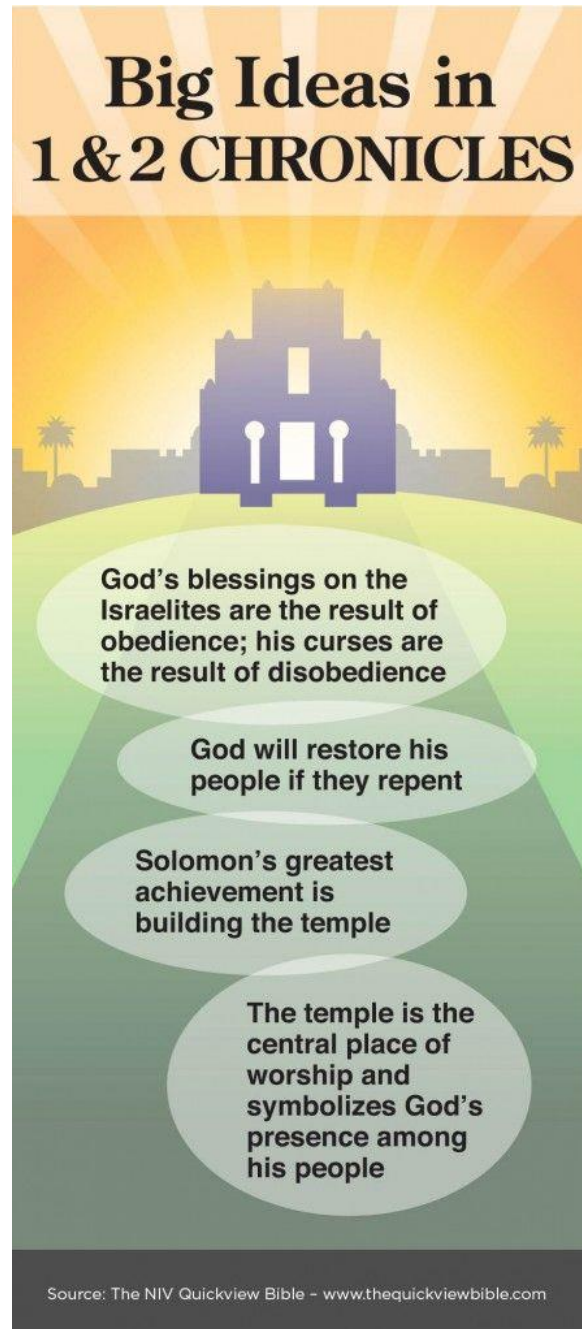
Ps82: God judges among the gods: "How long will you judge unjustly? Defend the weak. You are all gods, but you shall die." Arise, O God!

Ps83: O God, do not keep silent! Your enemies make plans against your people. Edom, Moab, Amalek and Philistia. Let them be put to shame.

Ps88: O LORD, day and night I cry out to you. You have put me in the darkest depths. Do the dead rise up to praise you? I am in despair.

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

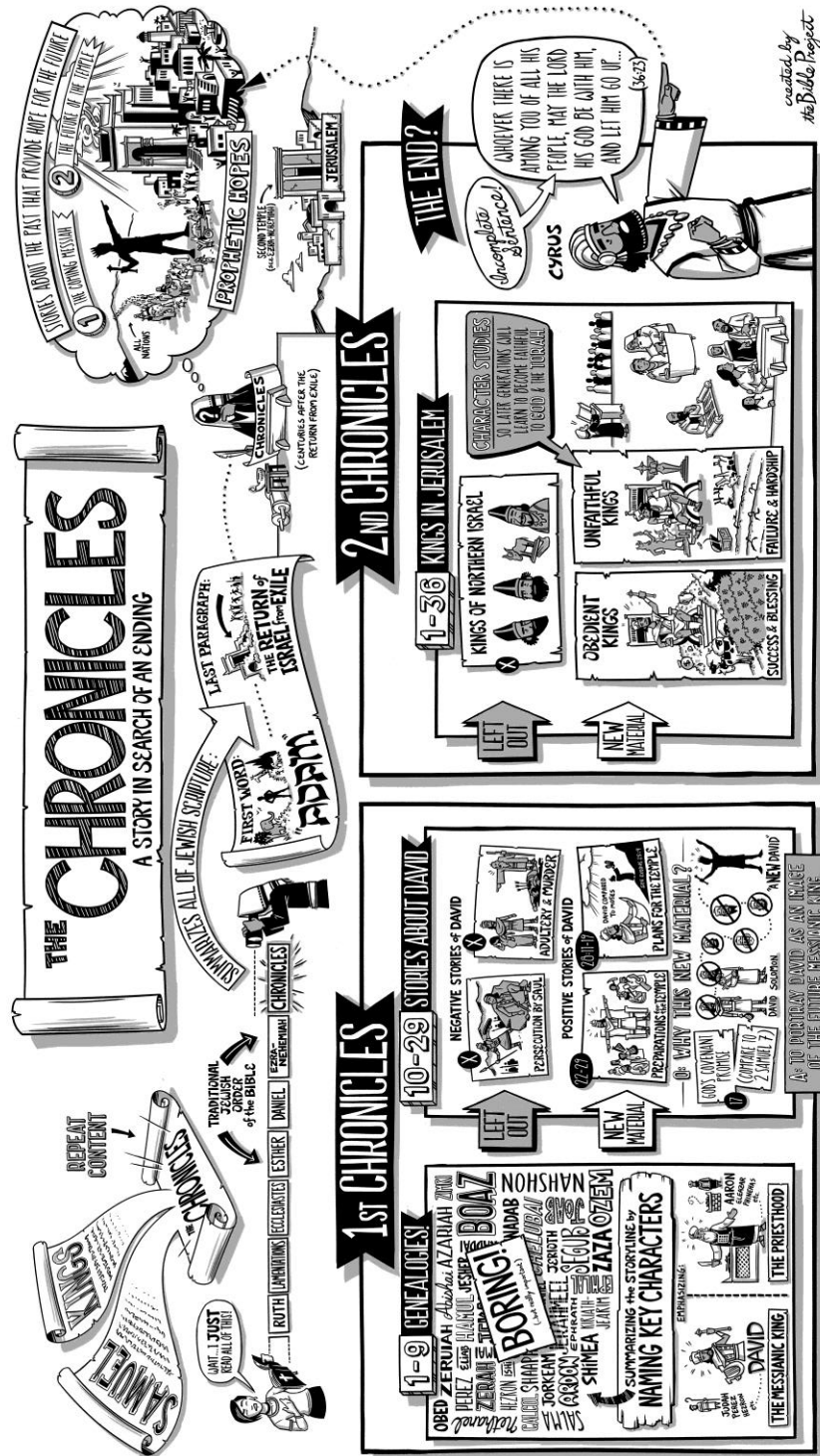
Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go



9-15 JAN 2018

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go



The People in Jerusalem

9 –15 JAN 2018

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

1 CH 9:35-16:43; PS 8, 19, 29, 32, 39, 50, 62, 65, 68, 73-79,
PS 80-83, 88, 96, 103, 105-106, 108, 138

Week 14 - 36 Weeks to Go

What did I learn about God?

- Do you think God's will has anything to do with national elections or national prosperity, as was so obvious in David's day?
- In PS 19, who speaks in verses 1-4? What do "they" say? Is the truth about God in nature obvious to everyone? Why don't some people "hear" it? What does the revelation through Scripture do for us that the revelation in creation does not (v11)?
- What picture of God is drawn in PS 50:1-6? Whom is God addressing and judging? What is God's message to the religious in PS 50:7-15? Is it wrong to offer sacrifices as decreed in the Law? What does God want of His people (PS 50:22-23)?
- What kind of God would you prefer: one who is strong or loving? In PS 62:11-12, what two things has David heard about God? How does this impact your thoughts about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In 1 CH 11, what managerial and motivational techniques does David use to reach his impossible goal?
- 1 CH is filled with war stories. Why is it important for a nation to remember the battles it has been through? Where do we find memorials to our "mighty men" today?
- 1 CH 15-16, we get some insight into how David worshipped. What would a worship service led by David be like today? What sights and sounds would surprise us? How would this type of service be received?
- What is the source of blessedness or happiness in PS 32? What has David realized about God in verses 6-7? What picture would you use to describe forfeiting God's blessing by covering up your own sin?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- In 1 CH 12:23-40, huge numbers spent 3 days being joyful over David's coronation. When have you given joy three days of your time? Why do we often feel guilty about such time-consuming pleasure?
- In 1 CH 13:12, David was afraid of God. Do you treat God with more reverential awe or more familiarity? Why?
- Do you tend to forget about the past and live for now? Or do you tend to relive and reflect on the past? Why does the chronicler want Israel to remember the past?
- What storm blows through your life now (or in the past)? Are you responding like the people in PS 29, giving glory to God for ruling over the storm? Or are you like nature – in uproar? Would you find peace by recognizing the Lord of the storm? Why or why not?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- Why bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem? Could having an exclusive house of worship in the capital serve any political purpose for David?
- Why would the author retell a story that's already been told elsewhere? Is there some benefit to seeing an old story with new eyes? Why does the book mainly focus on the Southern Kingdom of Judah and barely mention the Northern Kingdom of Israel?

We continue with the history of David's reign. We read about the everlasting covenant God makes with David -- that his son Solomon's throne will be established. We also read about the many victories of David and his mighty warriors, as well as the troubles that begin in David's house following his adultery with Bathsheba. This history shows that a person's obedience or disobedience to God has direct consequences for that person's life. David would not build the temple he longed to build. Despite consequences, God will rule so His long-term purpose of world blessing and redemption can occur.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1CH 17; 2 SA 8:1-12:14; PS51
 Day 2: 2 SA 12:15-14:33
 Day 3: 2 SA 15:1-37; PS 3;
 2 SA 16:1-14; PS7
 Day 4: 2 SA 16:15-20:26
 Day 5: 2 SA 21:1-22
 Day 6: 2 SA 22:1-23:39; 1CH 18:1-13
 Day 7: PS 60; 1 CH 18:14-20:8;
 2 SA 24:1-25

Outline

A Desire to Build the Temple [Day 1]
 Prophetic Account of David's Reign [Day 1]
 The Sons of David [Day 2]
 Absalom Subverts the Nation [Day 3]
 Absalom's Death [Day 4]
 The Gibeonites are Avenged [Day 5]
 Priestly Account of David's Reign [Day 6]
 David's Final Years [Day 7]

Key Characters

David	Nathan
David's warriors	Uria
Mephibosheth	Bathsheba
Absalom	Tamar
Joab	Amasa

Key Locations

Israel
 Jerusalem
 Rabbah
 Hebron

Key Terms

Kingship
 Covenant
 Dynasty
 Sin
 Repentance

Key Verses

"He [Solomon] shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever." [1 CHR 17:12]

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. [PS 51:11-12]

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior – from violent men you save me." [2 SA 22:1-3]

It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure [2 Samuel 22:33]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ch17: The LORD said to Nathan, "Tell David: I will establish your house; your son will build my house." David prayed, "Who am I, O LORD?"

2Sa8: David defeated the Philistines, the Moabites, King Hadadezer, the Arameans and the Edomites. He reigned over Israel with justice.

2Sa9: David heard about Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, who was lame. He restored Saul's land to Mephibosheth and had him eat at his table.

2Sa10: The King of Ammon humiliated David's servants and hired the Arameans for war. Joab defeated them and David defeated King Hadadezer.

2Sa11: David lay with Uriah's wife Bathsheba and she fell pregnant. He told Joab to have Uriah killed in battle. David married Bathsheba.

2Sa12: Nathan asked David, "Why have you done evil?" David pleaded with God but his child with Bathsheba died. Then Bathsheba bore Solomon.

Ps51: Have mercy on me, O God! Cleanse me from my sin. Do not cast me away from your presence. A broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

2Sa13: David's son Amnon sent for his sister Tamar and raped her. Tamar's brother Absalom had his servants kill Amnon and then he fled.

2Sa14: Joab sent a wise woman to ask David to bring Absalom back. David agreed, but he would not let Absalom see his face for two years.

2Sa15: Absalom went to Hebron and sent out spies to proclaim him king. David fled, but he told Zadok and Hushai to return to Jerusalem.

2Sa16: Shimei cursed David but David spared him. Absalom came to Jerusalem. Ahithophel advised Absalom to sleep with David's concubines.

2Sa17: Ahithophel wanted to pursue David, but Hushai advised gathering Israel. Absalom listened to Hushai. Hushai sent a warning to David.

2Sa18: The servants of David defeated Israel. Absalom got stuck in a tree and Joab killed him. Ahimaaz and the Cushite ran to tell David.!

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Sa19: The king mourned for Absalom. The men of Judah came to escort him back across the Jordan. Shimei and Mephibosheth came to meet him.

2Sa20: Sheba led the men of Israel to desert David. Joab killed Amasa and besieged Sheba at Abel. The people of Abel cut off Sheba's head.

2Sa21: There was a famine; so David sought the LORD. He let the Gibeonites kill seven of Saul's descendants. Israel fought the Philistines.

2Sa22: David sang: "The LORD is my rock; I called and he thundered from heaven; He delivered me from my enemy; I will extol you, O LORD!"

2Sa23: David's last words were: "My house is secure with God." David's mighty men included the three who brought him water from Bethlehem.

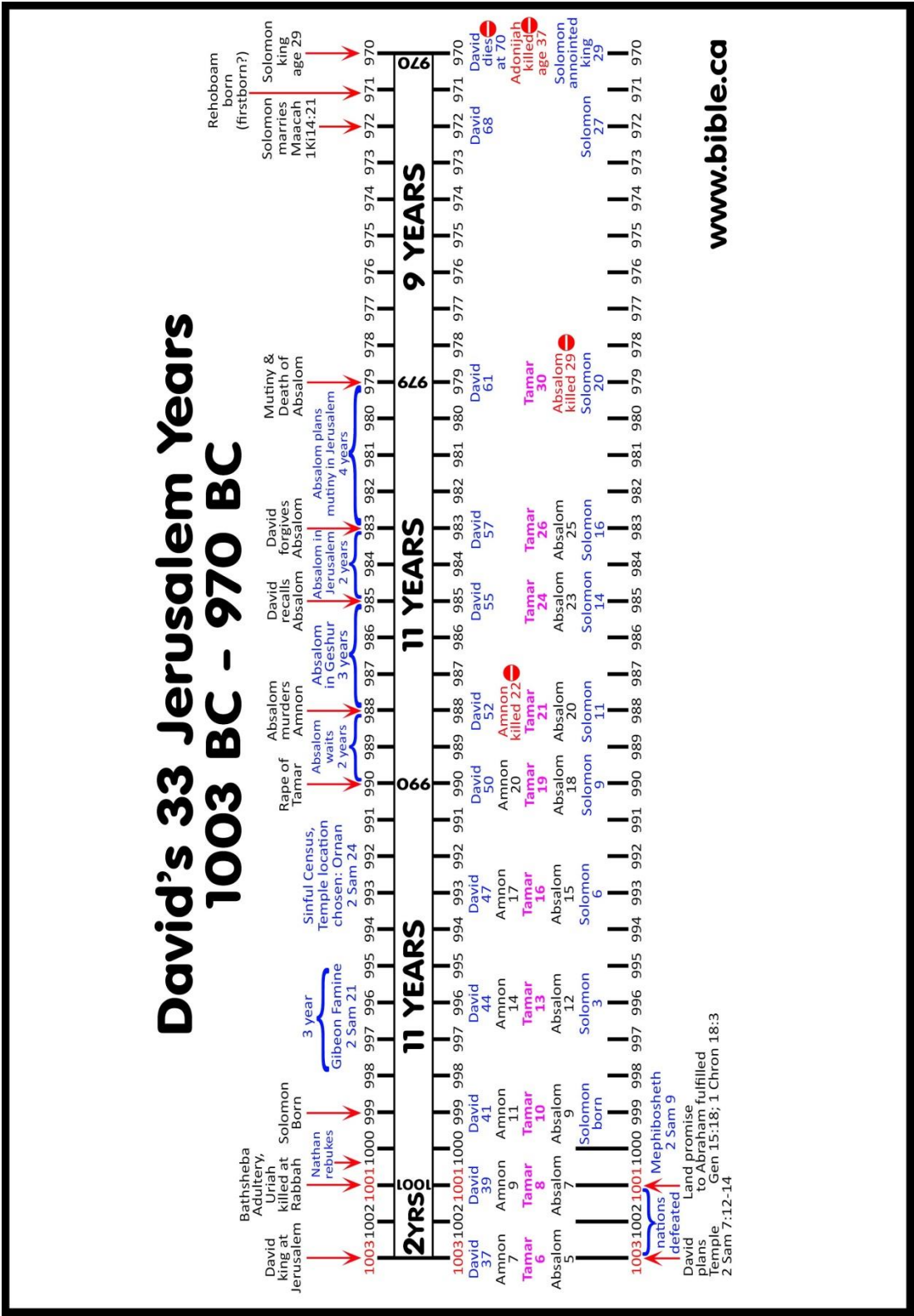
1Ch18: David defeated the Philistines, the Moabites, King Hadadezer, the Arameans and the Edomites. He reigned over Israel with justice.

Ps60: O God, you have rejected us, broken us. Now restore us! God has promised: "Judah is my sceptre." O grant us help against the enemy!

1Ch19: The King of Ammon humiliated David's servants and hired the Arameans for war. Joab defeated them and David defeated King Hadadezer.

1Ch20: Joab besieged Rabbah and David took the plunder. War broke out with the Philistines and David and his men killed the giants.

2Sa24: David numbered the people of Israel and then regretted it. The LORD sent a plague. David bought Araunah's field and made offerings.



Create in Me a Clean Heart

9 –15 JAN 2018

2 SA 8-25; 1 CH 17-20; PS 3, 7, 51, 60

Week 15 - 35 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Why was David victorious over all his enemies (Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, etc.)? Why do you think the Lord continued to bless David with victory after victory? Why does God love David?
- Why are the day-to-day operations of the temple such a big deal?
- How did David view God in the Psalms we read? For what aspect of God's character are you especially thankful today?
- In Psalm 3, David begins with acknowledging that everyone he knows has turned against him over the years. David suffers from shame and failure and many family problems. He is isolated from his family and friends. How does David find strength in God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- How would you describe God's response to David's repentance (2SA 12:15-25)?
- What effect can a traumatic event, like what happened to Tamar (2SA 13:1-22) have on a person's faith in God?
- Why is it important for a nation like Israel to remember the battles it has been through?
- What does Psalm 51 say the effect of David's guilt have on him (PS 51:2,3, 7, 8, 10, 12)? Why is it so painful to be confronted with a specific sin? What role does honesty play in receiving forgiveness?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- God sent Nathan to confront David about his sins. David composed a song (psalm) expressing his sorrow for his sins and asking his God for forgiveness (Psalm 51) after Nathan confronted him. How do you generally respond to correction or criticism from someone (fear, acceptance, frustration, sorrow, defensive??)? How does God convince you of your sin?
- When someone you love disappoints you, how are you most likely to react? (get mad and yell? Forgive and forget? Forgive, but...? Get even? Other?) What does it take (or has it taken in the past) for you to reconcile a broken relationship?
- What does David's prayer (1 CH 17:16-28) inspire you to pray for? What makes certain prayer situations more satisfying than others?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- Why would the author of 1 Chronicles retell a story that's already been told elsewhere? Is there some benefit to seeing an old story with new eyes?
- How are women treated (David and Bathsheba, Amnon and Tamar, Absalom and David's concubines, Abner and Ishbaal and Saul's concubines)? Do the narrators give any insight into the psychology and characters of the women in the story?
- How are the battles that Christians have to face different from the wars of God's Old Testament people? How are they similar?

Solomon Becomes King

16 –22 JAN 2018

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-71, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

We begin our readings with David making his son Solomon king. The succession was not “clean”, however, with Solomon’s elder brother feeling entitled to the throne. Prior to his death, David urges Solomon to remain obedient to God and to pay close attention to the consequences of his actions. David dedicated all of the spoils of war to God, suggesting that he viewed his battles as campaigns of holy war – initiated and led by God. All proceeds of the victory belonged to God. As we read, thank God for our spiritual forefathers and recommit ourselves to passing on God’s truth to the next generation.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1KI 1:1-2:46; 1CH 21:1-30
Day 2: PS 4, 5, 6, 9, 10
Day 3: PS 11-14, 16, 17, 22
Day 4: PS 25-28, 31
Day 5: PS 35, 36, 38, 40, 41
Day 6: PS 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-71
Day 7: PS 86, 102, 109, 139-141, 143

Outline

Establishing Solomon as King [Day 1]
The Military Victories of King David [Day 1]
David’s Final Years [Day 1]
David’s Psalms of lament [Days 2-7]

Key Characters

David Nathan
Bathsheba Adonijah
Solomon Joab
Zadok

Key Locations

Judah
Jerusalem
Moab

Key Terms

Covenant
Lament
Obedience

Key Verses

“So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go and that the Lord may keep his promise to: “If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.” [1 KI 2:2-4]

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord. [PS 4:6]

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice. Upright men will see his face. [PS 11:7]

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. [PS 25:4-5]

The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? [PS 27:1]

This is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. [PS 27:4]

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. [PS 55:22]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki1: David was very old. His son Adonijah exalted himself as king. When David heard he told Zadok and Nathan to anoint Solomon as king.

1Ki2: David charged Solomon to keep the law and to punish Joab and Shimei. Then David died. Solomon had Adonijah, Joab and Shimei executed.

1Ch21: Satan led David to count the Israelites. God sent a plague and a destroying angel. David bought Ornan's field and made offerings.

Ps4: Answer me when I call, O God! O people, how long will you seek lies? Put your trust in the LORD! O LORD, you make me sleep in safety.

Ps5: Hear my cry, O LORD! You hate all evildoers. Lead me in righteousness because of my enemies. Let all who take refuge in you rejoice!

Ps6: Be merciful to me, O LORD! My soul is in anguish. I flood my bed with tears. Depart from me, you evildoers! The LORD has heard my cry.

Ps9: I will praise you, O LORD! You have rebuked the nations. The LORD will judge the world with justice. The needy will not be forgotten.

Ps10: O LORD, why do you stand far off? The wicked man hunts the weak. He says, "God will never see." O God, break the arm of the wicked!

Ps13: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? Look on me and answer! Give light to my eyes. But I will trust in your unfailing love.

Ps14: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." There is no one who does good. Will evildoers never learn? God is with the righteous.

Ps16: Protect me, O God! I have no good besides you. The LORD is my portion. I will not be shaken. In your presence is fullness of joy!

Ps17: Hear a just cause, O LORD. My steps have held to your paths. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. Deliver my life from the wicked.

Ps22: My God, why have you forsaken me? I am despised. They have pierced my hands. You have answered me! The nations will worship the LORD!

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps25: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Show me your ways, teach me your paths. Be gracious to me, forgive my sins. I take refuge in you.

Ps26: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked with integrity. I do not sit with deceitful men. I love the place where your glory dwells.

Ps27: The LORD is my light and my salvation. My heart will not fear. I will seek your face, O LORD; do not forsake me! Wait for the LORD.

Ps28: To you I cry, O LORD my rock. Repay the wicked according to their works! The LORD is my shield. He is the strength of his people.

Ps31: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit. Deliver me from my enemies. Praise the LORD for his steadfast love!

Ps35: O LORD, fight against those who fight against me! Then I will rejoice. They repay evil for good. Vindicate me in your righteousness!

Ps36: The wicked flatter themselves. Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens. In your light we see light. There the evildoers lie fallen.

Ps38: O LORD, your arrows have pierced me! My guilt has overwhelmed me. My strength fails me. I confess my sin. Do not forsake me, my God!

Ps40: I waited patiently for the LORD. He drew me up from the pit. I delight to do your will, O God. My heart fails me, but you are my help.

Ps41: Blessed are those who consider the weak. My enemies say, "When will he die?" They gather slander. But you, O LORD, have upheld me.

Ps55: Give ear to my prayer, O God. My heart is in anguish. It is my equal, my friend who rises against me! Cast your burden on the LORD.

Ps58: Do you rulers judge justly? No, you mete out violence. O God, break their teeth! The righteous will rejoice when they see vengeance.

Ps61: Hear my cry, O God! Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Prolong the life of the king. So I will ever sing praise to your name.

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps64: Hear me, O God! Hide me from the plots of the wicked, who ambush the blameless. God will bring them to ruin. Let the upright be glad!

Ps69: Save me, O God! I endure scorn for your sake. Rescue me from the mire. My foes are all known to you. Let your salvation protect me!

Ps70: Make haste to help me, O God! May those who seek my life be put to shame. May all who seek you rejoice, O LORD, do not delay.

Ps71: In you, O LORD, I take refuge. Do not forsake me when my strength fails. I will tell of your righteousness. I will praise you, O God.

Ps86: Hear, O LORD, and answer me. Save your servant! You alone are God. I will glorify your name forever. Show me a sign of your favor.

Ps102: Hear my prayer, O LORD; I wither away like grass. You sit enthroned forever. The heavens will perish, but your years have no end.

Ps109: Do not be silent, O God. For wicked mouths speak against me. May his name be blotted out! Let curses come upon him! Help me, O LORD.

Ps139: O LORD, you have known me. Where can I go from your Spirit? You knit me together in my mother's womb. Search me and know my heart.

Ps40: I waited patiently for the LORD. He drew me up from the pit. I delight to do your will, O God. My heart fails me, but you are my help.

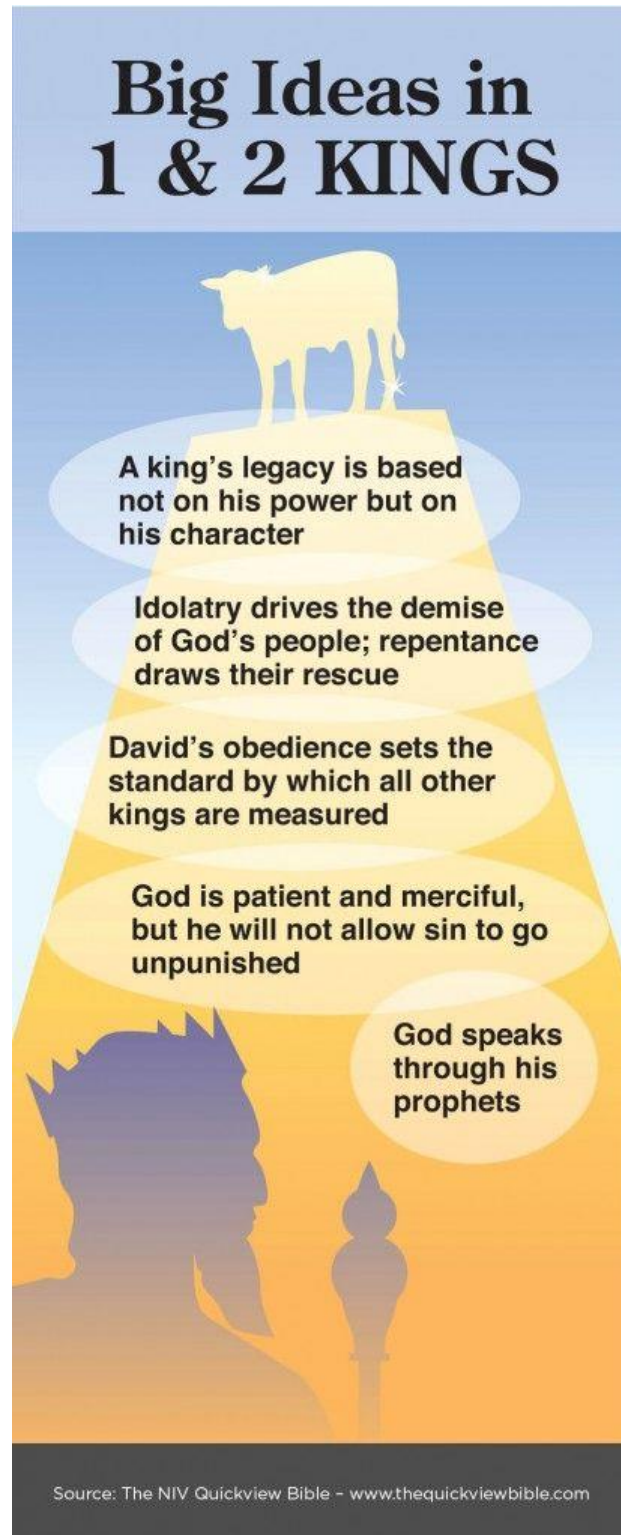
Ps140: Rescue me, O LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent. You are my God, my salvation. The LORD executes justice for the poor.

Ps141: O LORD, may my prayer be as incense. Do not turn my heart to evil. Let the righteous rebuke me. Keep me from the traps of the wicked.**Ps58:** Do you rulers judge justly? No, you mete out violence. O God, break their teeth! The righteous will rejoice when they see vengeance.

Ps143: Hear my prayer, O LORD! My enemy has crushed my life. My soul thirsts for you. Teach me the way I should go. Destroy my adversaries.

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-71, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

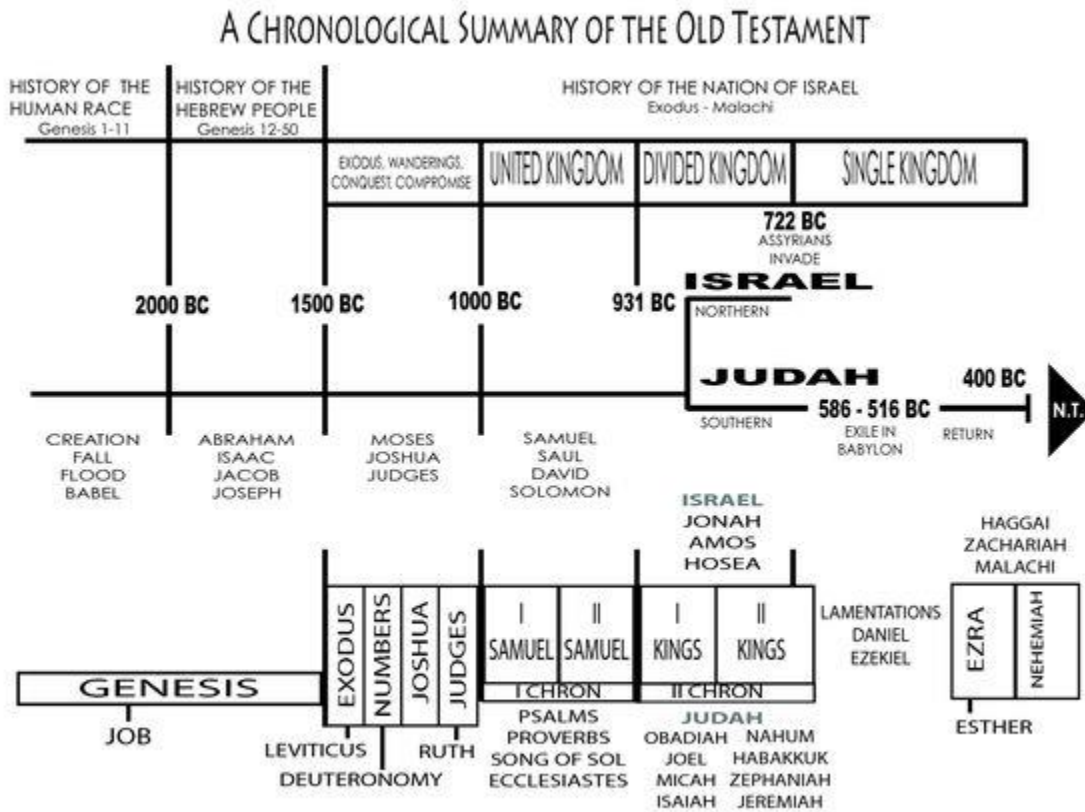


Solomon Becomes King

16 –22 JAN 2018

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go



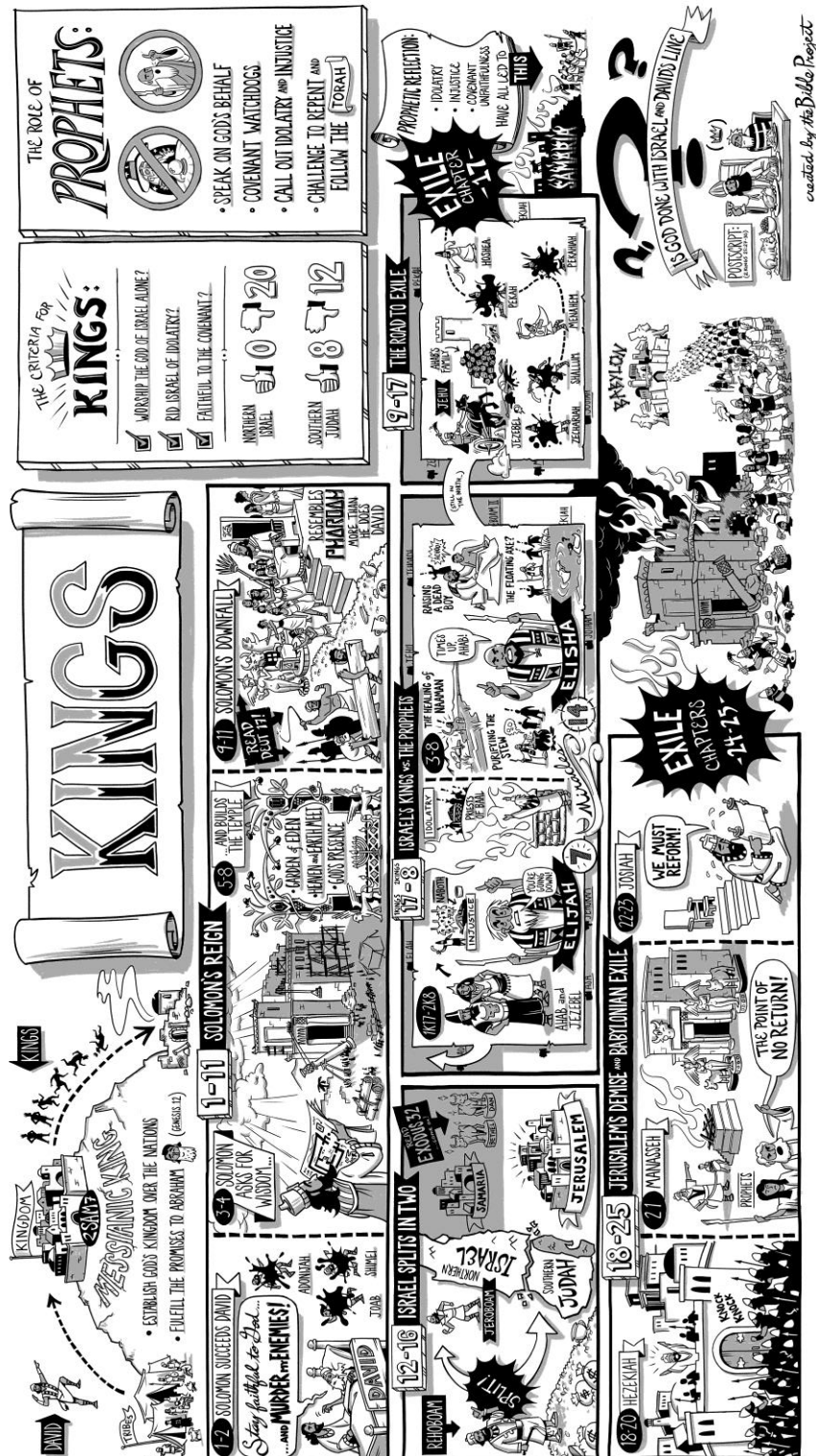
Compiled from several sources by Tom Oylet, 2010.

Solomon Becomes King

16-22 JAN 2018

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go



Solomon Becomes King

16 –22 JAN 2018

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36,
38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

1 KI 1-2; 1 CH 21; PS 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 22, 25-28, 31, 35-36, 38, 40-41, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 69-17, 86, 102, 109, 139, 141, 143

Week 16 - 34 Weeks to Go

What did I learn about God?

- What does the story in 1 CH 21:1-30 (David taking a census) say about the link between sin and suffering? Between sin and sacrifice? Between humility and service? Between wrath and mercy? What bearing does this have on our confidence that God brings good out of the trials we endure?
- Psalm 9 says “The Lord is known by his justice” and Psalm 10 says sometimes the Lord seems far away in times of trouble. What hope do these psalms give people suffering injustice? Why is God sometimes so silent in time of great need?
- What does Psalm 26 tell us are the ways God tests the mind and heart?
- In Psalm 86 David describes many actions and attributes that define the nature of God. Do we see these today? How is God the Lord of modern day affairs? Of our life? What personal demands does God’s lordship make on us?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What kind of king does David want Solomon to be (1 KI 2:2-4)? What advice does David give in verses 5-9? What do these verses say about David?
- How does the desire for vengeance, even if justified, affect a person’s life? How did David recommend Solomon deal with vengeance in 1 KI 2:5-17)? How did Solomon secure his kingdom (1 KI 2:13-46)? Is it reasonable that Solomon needed to protect himself?
- Psalm 12, the Psalmist talks of “flattering lips”. Why are a person’s words so important? When can a small word hurt a lot? Encourage a lot? What does PS 12:4 mean (“We will triumph with our tongues; we own our lips – who is our master?”)?
- In Psalm 35, David prays for vengeance on his enemies. Are you comfortable with this? How might a Christian pray “against” enemies?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Regarding Psalm 5: Why pray for the same thing day after day? How can you tell if God is answering “Wait” or “No”? When God doesn’t seem to answer your prayer (Psalm 10) do you persevere in faith anyway? How?
- In what areas of your life could someone be praying Psalm 10 against you? In what areas of your life are you part of solution? Part of the problem?
- In Psalm 53 David says “the fool says in his heart, there is no God”. Is there any area of your life that runs without (or with little) regard to God? How can you put your faith to work in that area today?
- When you experience serious problems or calamity can you direct your thoughts to God as David did in Psalm 143 to keep from becoming despondent? What do you focus on? When is the last time you felt you were walking on “level ground”? Are you usually climbing upwards or going “downhill”? Are you teachable? When did you last change your mind on an important matter?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- Explain how PS 86:8 fits Israel’s unique view of the oneness and oneliness of YHWH.
- What organ of the human body was believed to be the origin of thought and feelings (see Psalm 16)?

The Last Days of David

23 JAN –29 JAN 2018

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84, 85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

Israel prepares for and is organized to build the temple, which will be built by David's successor, Solomon. The conquest of the land begun in Joshua's time and completed under David was a divine, not a human matter. The land was God's and His people were His tenants. Only when God Himself brought the land into subjection would He authorize construction of a temple. The temple symbolizes God's presence among His people and reminds them of their high calling. David's prayer, as his life ends, reminds us that life is transitory, and we must remember the care and blessing of a sovereign God in our lives to find meaning.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: PS 37; 1 CH 22:1-19; PS 30
Day 2: 1 CH 23:1 – 26:19
Day 3: PS 15, 24, 42-46
Day 4: PS 47-49, 84-85, 87
Day 5: 1 CH 26:20-29:30
Day 6: PS 2, 20, 21, 72, 93
Day 7: PS 94, 95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Outline

Preparation for the temple [Day 1]
Divisions of Temple Personnel [Day 2]
Psalms of The Sons of Korah [Day 3-4]
David's Counsel to Solomon [Day 5]
Royal and Enthronement Psalms [Day 7]

Key Characters

David
Solomon
The Levites

Key Locations

Jerusalem

Key Terms

Temple
Sovereignty
Covenant

Key Verses

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. [PS37:5-6]

Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God [1 CH 22:19]

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? [PS 42:2]

God is our refuge and strength, an ever presnt help in trouble. [PS 46:1]

The ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough [PS 49:8]

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. [1 CH 29:11]

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. [1 CH 29:13]

O Lord, what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him? [PS 144:3]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

The Last Days of David

23 JAN –29 JAN 2018

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84, 85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps37: Do not be envious of evildoers, for they will fade like the grass. The righteous will inherit the earth. The LORD is their stronghold.

1Ch22: David told Solomon: "The LORD has said that you will build his temple. I have provided materials." He ordered the leaders to help.

Ps30: I will exalt you, O LORD, for you spared me from going down to the pit. I cried to you for mercy. You turned my mourning into dancing.

1Ch23: David made Solomon king over Israel. He organised the Levites into the sons of Gershon, Kohath and Merari to serve in the temple.

1Ch24: The sons of Aaron were priests. David organised the sons of Eleazar and Ithamar by lot. The rest of the Levites also cast lots.

1Ch25: The sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun prophesied with music. 288 were trained in singing to the LORD. They cast lots for duties.

1Ch26: The sons of Obed-edom, Meshelemiah and Hosah were gatekeepers. Ahijah, Zetham, Joel, Shubael and Shelomith oversaw the treasuries.

Ps15: LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? He whose walk is blameless, who does not slander, who keeps his oath even when it hurts.

Ps24: The earth is the LORD's! He who has a pure heart will receive blessing. Lift up your heads, O gates! The King of glory shall come in.

Ps42: As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs for you, O God. Your waves break over me. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Hope in God..

Ps43: Vindicate me, O God. Why have you rejected me? Send forth your light and your truth. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Hope in God.

Ps44: O God, our fathers have told us how you drove out the nations. But now you have sold your people. Awake, O Lord! Rise up and help us.

Ps45: My heart overflows with verses for the king. Your God has anointed you with gladness. All glorious is the princess in her chamber.

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84,
85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps46: God is our refuge. We will not fear, though the earth give way. The nations rage, kingdoms fall. "Be still and know that I am God."

Ps47: Clap your hands, you nations. How awesome is the LORD Most High! Sing praises to our God, sing praises. He is king of all the earth.

Ps48: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised! The joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion. O God, we ponder your love in your temple.

Ps49: Hear this, all peoples! Man in his pomp will not endure. He is like the beasts that perish. But God will ransom my soul from Sheol.

Ps84: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. For the LORD is a sun and shield.!

Ps85: O LORD, you forgave the iniquity of your people. Restore us again! Surely his salvation is at hand. Love and faithfulness will meet.

Ps87: Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God. The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion."

1Ch26: The sons of Obed-edom, Meshelemiah and Hosah were gatekeepers. Ahijah, Zetham, Joel, Shubael and Shelomith oversaw the treasuries.

1Ch27: Divisions of 24,000 men were on duty month by month. There was a chief officer over each tribe. Joab was the commander of the army.

1Ch28: David assembled the leaders and said, "The LORD has chosen Solomon to build his house." He gave Solomon the plans for the temple.

1Ch29: The leaders gave offerings. David prayed, "Yours is the kingdom, O LORD. Of your own have we given you." David died at an old age.

Ps2: Why do the rulers plot against the LORD and his anointed? The LORD laughs! He said to me, "You are my son." O kings, fear the LORD!

Ps20: May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May he remember your offerings. The LORD saves his anointed. We rise up and stand firm!

The Last Days of David

23 JAN –29 JAN 2018

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84,
85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps21: O LORD, the king rejoices in your strength! You set a crown upon his head. You will destroy your enemies. We will praise your power!

Ps72: Give the king your justice, O God. May he defend the cause of the poor. May all kings fall down before him. Blessed be the LORD!**Ps70:** Make haste to help me, O God! May those who seek my life be put to shame. May all who seek you rejoice. O LORD, do not delay.

Ps93: The LORD reigns! Your throne is established from of old. The LORD is mightier than the sea. Holiness adorns your house forever

Ps94: O LORD, God of vengeance, shine forth! How long will the wicked exult? The LORD will not reject his people. He will repay the corrupt.

Ps95: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! He is the King above all gods. Oh come, let us worship and bow down! Do not harden your hearts.

Ps97: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice! Fire goes before him. The heavens declare his righteousness. Give thanks to his holy name!

Ps98: The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble! The King loves justice. He spoke from the pillar of cloud. The LORD our God is holy!

Ps99: The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble! The King loves justice. He spoke from the pillar of cloud. The LORD our God is holy!

Ps101: I will sing of justice, O LORD. I will walk with integrity. My eyes will be on the faithful of the land. I will destroy the wicked.

Ps110: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand. You are a priest in the order of Melchizedek." The Lord will judge the nations.

Ps144: Praise the LORD, O my soul! Do not trust in mortal men. The LORD executes justice for the oppressed. He watches over the fatherless.

The Last Days of David

23 JAN –29 JAN 2018

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84,
85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

The Last Days of David

23 JAN –29 JAN 2018

1 CH 22-29; PS 2, 15, 20, 21, 24, 30, 37, 42-49, 72, 84, 85, 87, 93-95, 97-99, 101, 110, 144

Week 17 - 33 Weeks to Go

What did I learn about God?

- PS 30:9 suggests that God has given man has one primary task on earth. What is it? How do we fulfill it?
- PS 15 describes who can approach the Lord in the temple and live on God's holy hill. What are the positive and negative characteristics of a faithful follower? Why isn't God's dwelling available to everyone on an equal basis? How are PS 15 and PS 24 related?
- God is "King over all the earth" (PS 47). Is this true when so many ignore and disobey Him?
- PS 94 deals with evil and injustice. Why doesn't God just end injustice? Is it our job to deal with injustice or should we wait for God to intervene and "set the record straight"? What happens to us when we are amid adversity and evil – do we turn toward or away from God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Psalm 37 tells us to wait patiently for the Lord in dealing with evil. What do people really want to see happen to those who do evil and enjoy momentary success? How does their success and our reaction to it relate to how we feel about God?
- In 1 CH 23, how hard is it for David to turn over power? How does this related to when you have observed transitions of power in your own life? David delegated extensively at this stage of his career. What are the modern day equivalents for the offices appointed? Could your town use four times as many pastors as police?
- In 1 CH 29, in David's prayer, what is David's view of how a nation prospers? Of who leads a nation? What seems to be his formula for successful leadership of the nation? How do the people of Israel respond? What aspects of the prayer are useful to Christians today? Why?
- Is the message in PS 49 for the rich alone? In what things do the people in PS 49 trust (v 6, 11)? What reality do they not see? How is this world view expressed today? What reasons does the psalmist give for not fearing in the days of adversity?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Throughout the Psalms, David praises God in a way that reflects his own personal experience with God. What "praises" do you regularly sing about God that fit your own personal experience? When do you typically sing the praises of the Lord?
- How can PS 46:2-3 and 5-6 apply to a crisis in your own life? How do you respond to life's crises? What difference does it make to you to know God is Lord over all the chaotic events of your life? How is He a fortress to you in times of trouble?
- PS 48:13 expresses the importance of relating the glory of God to the next generation. Who was significant in passing God's love on to you? How can you pass God's love on? What role might "ramparts and citadels" help in passing on the message?
- PS 85 talks about "God's glory dwelling in our land". What does it mean to have God's glory dwell in your land (or life)? What is meant by "good" in PS 85:12?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- In PS 87, the psalmist lists several nations (Rahab (Egypt), Babylon, Philistia, Tyre (Phoenicia), and Ethiopia (Cush). All the nations come from God's sovereignty, but Israel was His special people. How inclusive or exclusive do you think God's kingdom is? Will anyone be left out? What did the Hebrews think?

The Wisdom of Solomon

30 JAN –5 FEB 2018

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22

Week 18 - 32 Weeks to Go

These opening chapters of 1 Kings describe Solomon's divinely given wisdom and the golden years of his reign. Solomon is blessed with wisdom and charged with building a majestic temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. The building of the temple, which will hold the Ark of the Covenant, is Solomon's greatest success. Solomon's reign begins with great success. God tells Solomon to remember Him and follow his father David's example. Solomon seeks wisdom from God to govern his people well. God responds by giving him unparalleled wisdom, which will bring wealth and fame. The heart of Israel's wisdom tradition is shown in Proverbs.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1 KI 3:1-4:34
Day 2: PR 1:1-4:27
Day 3: PR 5:1-9:18
Day 4: PR10:1-15:33
Day 5: PR16:1-22:16
Day 6: 1 KI 5:1-18
Day 7: 1 KI 6:1-38

Outline

The Rise of Solomon as King [Day 1]
Proverbs [Day 2-5]
Preparations for Building the Temple [Day 6]
Laying the Temple's Foundation [Day 7]

Key Characters

Solomon
Hiram

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Gibeon

Key Terms

Wisdom
Temple

Key Verses

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. [1 KI 3:9]

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and discipline. [PR 1:7]

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart [PR3:3]

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. [PR 3:27]

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. [PR 4:23]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki3: Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter. He asked the LORD for discernment. Two women came before him and he judged between them wisely..

1Ki4: Solomon had officials and twelve governors. He ruled from the River to the land of Egypt. Men of all nations came to hear his wisdom.

Pr1: The proverbs of Solomon. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. Wisdom calls aloud. The complacency of fools destroys them.

Pr2: My son, apply your heart to understanding. For the LORD gives wisdom. It will save you from the way of evil, and from the adulteress.

Pr3: My son, trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not despise his discipline. Wisdom is a tree of life. Do not quarrel without cause.

Pr4: Listen, my sons: Get wisdom. The path of the righteous is like the morning sun. Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Pr5: My son, listen to my words. In the end an adulteress is bitter as wormwood. Keep away from her. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Pr6: A little slumber, and poverty will come like a bandit. A scoundrel sows discord. My son, a man who commits adultery destroys himself.

Pr7: My son, wisdom will keep you from the adulteress. I saw her seducing a young man. He followed her like an ox going to the slaughter.

Pr8: Wisdom cries aloud: "My mouth speaks truth. The LORD brought me forth at the beginning of his works. Whoever finds me finds life."

Pr9: Wisdom has built her house. She says, "Come, leave your folly." The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Folly knows nothing..

Pr10: A wise son makes a glad father. Love covers all offences. With many words, sin is not lacking. The righteous will never be uprooted.

Pr11: The LORD hates dishonest scales. The wicked earn false wages. Whoever gives water will get water. Whoever trusts in riches will fall.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Pr12: No one finds security by wickedness. Those who work the land have food. Rash words pierce like a sword. Righteousness leads to life.

Pr13: The righteous hate lies. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Whoever heeds reproof is honored. Whoever spares the rod hates his son.

Pr14: The talk of fools is a rod for their backs. Even in laughter the heart may ache. Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker.

Pr15: A gentle answer turns away wrath. The eyes of the LORD are everywhere. Plans fail for lack of counsel. The LORD hears the righteous.

Pr16: A man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Kings detest evil. Pride goes before destruction. Wisdom is a fountain of life.

Pr17: A wise servant will rule over a shameful son. Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam. Even a fool seems wise if he keeps silent.

Pr18: A fool delights in his own opinions. The name of LORD is a strong tower. A gift opens the way. The tongue can bring life or death.

Pr19: Wealth makes friends. A false witness will not go unpunished. A good wife is from the LORD. Whoever helps the poor lends to the LORD.

Pr20: Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler. Even a child is known by his deeds. The LORD hates false weights. It is a snare to make rash vows.

Pr21: To do justice is better than sacrifice. Better to live on the roof than with a quarrelsome wife. No plans can avail against the LORD.

Pr22: A good name is better than riches. Train a child and he will not go astray. Incline your ear and apply your heart to my teaching.

1Ki5: Solomon sent to King Hiram: "I will build a house for the LORD. Cut down cedars for me." The workers prepared the timber and stones.

1Ki6: Solomon built the temple. The LORD said, "If you walk in my ways I will dwell with Israel." Solomon overlaid the temple with gold.



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created by the Bible Project

The Wisdom of Solomon

30 JAN –5 FEB 2018

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22

Week 18 - 32 Weeks to Go

Israel's 3rd King — King Solomon

[1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9]

King Solomon started out great! He prayed for wisdom to lead God's people and God gave him both wisdom and riches.

Under King Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel rose to prominence and people marveled at Solomon's wisdom and greatness.

God chose Solomon (a man of peace) to build the Temple.

King Solomon lived in a lavish palace and married hundreds of women, including idol worshipping women from neighboring nations. To support his extravagant lifestyle, King Solomon imposed harsh taxes and had little regard for the poor.

To please his foreign wives, he had a temple of idols built and King Solomon himself offered sacrifices to those idols.

God was very angry with Solomon and promised to take 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel away from those that Solomon's son Rehoboam would inherit as his kingdom. Rehoboam became king of 2 tribes.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Wisdom of Solomon

30 JAN –5 FEB 2018

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22

Week 18 - 32 Weeks to Go

Solomon's Temple

[1 Kings 5-9]

This Temple, built in Jerusalem by King Solomon, was gorgeous and lavish. It was twice as long and twice as wide as the Tabernacle and became the replacement for the Tabernacle.

At the Temple dedication service the Ark of the Covenant was transferred from the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle to the Holy of Holies in the Temple “and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple.”

This Temple was the center of sporadic God worship until it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC. (The Babylonians stole the Ark of the Covenant and it has never been found since.)



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



30 JAN – 5 FEB 2018

Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

INSIDE THE TEMPLE
(cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Cherubim
3. Ark of the Covenant
4. Veil
5. Altar of Incense
6. Table of Showbread
7. Lampstand
8. Priests' rooms and storage

Size comparison
(approximate):
Temple
Altar
Priests' rooms and storage
Upper Court (Inner Court)
American Football Field
Great Court (Outer Court)
Upper Court (Inner Court)
Ramp
Altar
Boaz
Porch
Jachin
Molten Sea
Lavers and Bases
Great Court (Outer Court)

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Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

The Wisdom of Solomon

30 JAN –5 FEB 2018

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22

Week 18 - 32 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What distinctions does God make regarding a worshiper's integrity (PR 15:8-9)?
- How does God chasten his children (PR 3:11-12)? What are the seven things that God hates (PR 6:16-19)?
- Why is God so concerned about the treatment of the poor and down-trodden? Why does God indebted Himself to us for helping the poor (PR 19:17)?
- Why do God and pride not mix? What causes enmity between the two? Is there any positive kind of pride that we should have?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Wisdom tends to be defined differently by people who have different perspectives. What may seem wise to one group may be deemed foolish by another. Does having wisdom guarantee we will live by wisdom? How do the following uphold wisdom: understanding, knowledge, prudence, shrewdness, instruction, discretion, perception?
- The opening of Proverbs (PR 1:7) says that knowledge and wisdom begins by having a healthy fear of God. What does it mean to have "fear of the Lord?" How does the fear of the Lord give us a good foundation for life?
- Should a person's emotions be his master or his servant? Does the way in which emotions like anger are directed make a difference? When someone "blows up" where is anger directed? When someone "clams up" where is anger directed? Where should anger be directed? With so many passionate and conflicting emotions prompting people to action, what is our responsibility to controlling those actions?
- Humility is important throughout the Bible. Proverbs assert that because of pride, a person is often tempted to take risks and be dishonest to protect reputation. Humility allows a man to confess his shortcomings and ask for advice. How does pride lead to strife (PR 13:10)? We are told in PR 15:33 that humility precedes true honor. What does that mean? Why are we not able to see pride in ourselves but can so easily detect it in others?
- Why is a friend who tells us the uncomfortable truth so valuable (PR 13:17-18; PR 20:30)? Are strong words sometimes necessary to correction (PR 15:10)? How strong?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Knowing that God sees and knows all we do, should that knowledge make us afraid? Or comforted? Or both? In what ways can knowing God – as He is depicted in Proverbs—motivate us to live wisely?
- The wisdom of proverbs talks about the need for people to tame the tongue. How can our words build up or tear down the wayward and the weak (PR 15:4; 16:24)?
- Integrity is a matter of relationships with other people that reflect the influence of our relationship with God. What would it say about me if I had the power to help someone but refused (PR 3:27-30)? What would it say about my relationship with God? What are some specific situations in which we have opportunities to show integrity in our day-to-day activities (PR 11:1)?
- Are you an advice-giver or an advice-receiver? Do those who give the most advice generally heed the advice of others?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- How are the Proverbs able to span years, locations, and cultures, and still be relevant to all people?

Solomon's Reign

6 –12 FEB 2018

1 KI 7-11; ECC; SS

Week 19 - 31 Weeks to Go

Solomon continues his building project, completing his palace, and furnishing and consecrating the temple. The Ark of the Covenant is placed in the temple, a cloud of God's glory covers the temple, and Solomon gives glory to God and praises the people for accomplishing God's will. Solomon gains world renown as a wise king and becomes very wealthy. Enjoying his worldly success, Solomon is unfaithful to God. In response, God pits many adversaries against him. Solomon dies and his son Rehoboam succeeds him. Ecclesiastes ponders the question, what does our life mean apart from God? The Song of Solomon celebrates the power and intensity of love and the human longing to know and be known. Love is a gift from God.

Weekly Reading Plan (Pages 487-512)

Day 1: 1 KI 7:1-9:14
Day 2: 1 KI 9:15-10:29
Day 3: ECC 1:1 – 3:22
Day 4: ECC 4:1-7:29
Day 5: ECC 8:1-12:14
Day 6: 1 KI 11:1-8
Day 7: SS 1:1- 8:14

Outline

Building the King's Palace [Day 1]
Solomon's Other Accomplishments [Day 2]
All is Vanity [Day 3-5]
Solomon's Wives [Day 6]
Song of Solomon [Day 7]

Key Characters

Solomon
Hiram
Queen of Sheba
Jeroboam
Rehoboam

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Israel

Key Terms

Temple
Covenant
Apostasy
Divided Kingdom
Wisdom
Love

Key Verses

"As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, "You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel." But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep my commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight (1 KI 9:4-7)

What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun [ECC 1:3]

"Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised [SS 8:7]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki7: Solomon built his own house. Hiram made pillars, the sea and utensils for the temple of bronze. Solomon made the furniture of gold.

1Ki8: The priests brought the ark into the temple. Solomon said, "O LORD, if anyone prays toward this place then hear from heaven and act."

1Ki9: The LORD said to Solomon, "If you walk in my ways I will establish your throne." Solomon did not make slaves of the sons of Israel.

1Ki10: The queen of Sheba came to test Solomon. She gave him gold, spices and precious stones. Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth.

Ecc1: Everything is meaningless! There is nothing new under the sun. I applied my heart to know wisdom, but much wisdom brings much sorrow.

Ecc2: I built houses, gathered possessions and sought pleasure. It was meaningless! The wise die like the foolish. I despaired of my toil.

Ecc3: There is a time for everything: to live, to die, to mourn, to dance. It is the gift of God that man should find pleasure in his work.

Ecc4: I saw the tears of the oppressed. Two have a good reward for their toil. I saw everyone follow a new king. This too is meaningless!

Ecc5: Do not make rash vows before God. The lover of money never has enough. What is gained by toil? It is good to find enjoyment in life.

Ecc6: Here is an evil: to have wealth and honour but not to enjoy them. What do the wise gain over fools? The more words, the less meaning.

Ecc7: The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning. Do not be too righteous, or too wicked. Men have gone in search of many schemes.

Ecc8: Obey the king's command. Though sinners do evil, it will be well for those who fear God. No one can know what goes on under the sun.

Ecc9: The same fate comes to all. A living dog is better than a dead lion. Enjoy the days of your vain life. Wisdom is better than strength.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ecc10: A little folly spoils wisdom. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it. The lips of a fool consume him. Through laziness the roof leaks.

Ecc11: Whoever watches the clouds will never reap. You do not know what will prosper. Enjoy your youth, but know that God will judge you.

Ecc12: Remember your Creator in your youth, before the days of trouble come. Everything is meaningless! Fear God and keep his commandments.

1Ki11: Solomon had many wives and turned to other gods. Ahijah told Jeroboam that the LORD would give him ten of the tribes. Solomon died.

Ss1: Let him kiss me! I am dark and lovely. Tell me, where do you pasture your flock? Follow the tracks, my love. Behold, you are beautiful.

Ss2: She is a lily among thorns. He is an apple tree in the wood. Here he comes, leaping on the mountains. My beloved is mine and I am his.

Ss3: By night I sought the one whom I love. I brought him into my mother's house. Behold, O daughters of Zion, the carriage of King Solomon!

Ss4: You are beautiful, my love! Your eyes are doves, your breasts are like fawns. My bride is a garden. Let my beloved come to his garden.

Ss5: My beloved is knocking! I opened to him but he had gone. The guards found me and wounded me. My beloved is ruddy, his body is ivory.

Ss6: Where has your beloved gone? He has gone to his garden. You are beautiful, my love. Fair as the moon, awesome as an army with banners.

Ss7: Your thighs are like jewels, your breasts like the fruit of a palm. May your kisses be like wine! Beloved, let us go into the fields.

Ss8: Do not awaken love until it pleases. Love is as strong as death. Solomon had a vineyard, but mine is my own. Make haste, my beloved!

Big Ideas in ECCLESIASTES

Wisdom and pleasure alone
have no lasting significance

Earthly
achievements
are ultimately
futile

Enjoy the life God
has given you

The wicked may
seem to thrive
while good
people suffer,
but God will
balance the
scales one day

God's wisdom is beyond
human understanding

Life is meaningless
without God; fear
God and keep his
commandments

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Big Ideas in SONG OF SONGS

The love a person
feels for someone
else is powerful

Sex within marriage is a
divine gift to value and enjoy

There is no shame in
erotic love between
husband and wife

Love is precious
and spontaneous
and should be
celebrated

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Solomon's Temple vs. Palace

1 Kings 6–7

Differences and similarities between Solomon's great building projects

Temple



Palace



7 years to build 6:38

13 years to build 7:1

Built according to God's specifications
6:38; see 1 Chron. 28:11–12

No specifications from God

Dimensions: 90 feet long, 30 wide, 45 high 6:2

Dimensions: 150 feet long, 75 wide, 45 high 7:2

Constructed with blocks dressed at quarry 6:7

Constructed with blocks of high-grade stone 7:9

No iron tools used at temple building site 6:7

Stone cut and trimmed to size 7:9

Narrow windows placed high 6:4

Windows placed high, in sets of three 7:4

Inner courtyard surrounded by wall of dressed stone and trimmed cedar beams 6:36; 7:12

Great courtyard surrounded by wall of dressed stone and trimmed cedar beams 7:12

Floors made of juniper, covered in gold; whole interior covered with cedar and overlaid with gold 6:15, 18, 22, 30

Throne hall covered from floor to ceiling with cedar 7:7

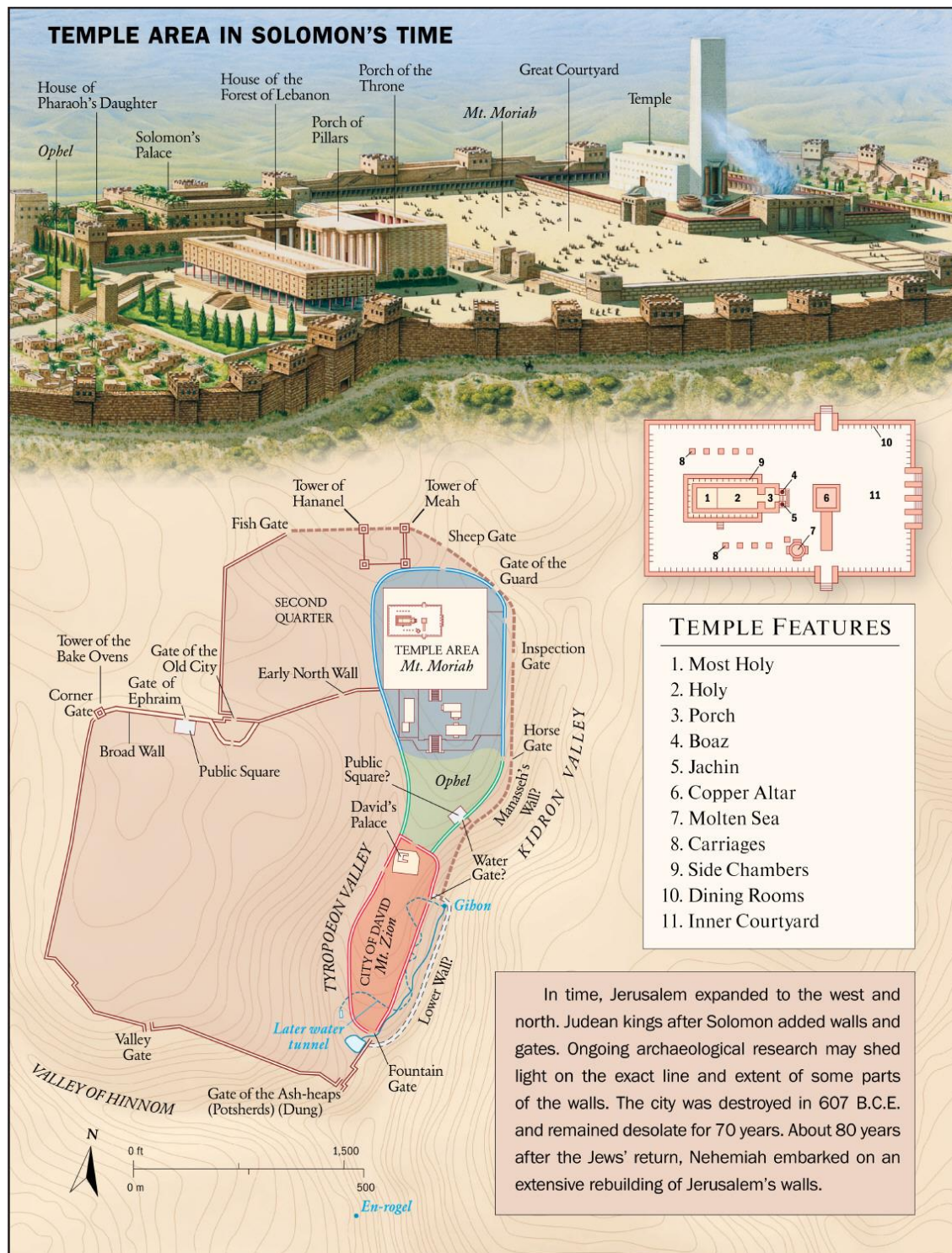


Illustration and diagram from *See the Good Land*, Watchtower publications.

Solomon's Vast Wealth


1 Kings

Solomon owns a large palace as well as huge quantities of food and livestock; he also owns the following:

 12,000 horses 4:26

 4,000 stalls for chariot horses 4:26

 666 talents of gold received per year (about 25 tons) 10:14

 540 talents of gold from Ophir and Sheba (about 20 1/2 tons) 9:28; 10:10

 500 gold shields 10:16–17



Fleet of trading ships that bring him gold, silver, ivory, apes and baboons 10:22



Gold goblets; all household articles pure gold 10:21



Revenues from merchants, traders, governors, Arabian kings 10:15



Precious stones 10:10



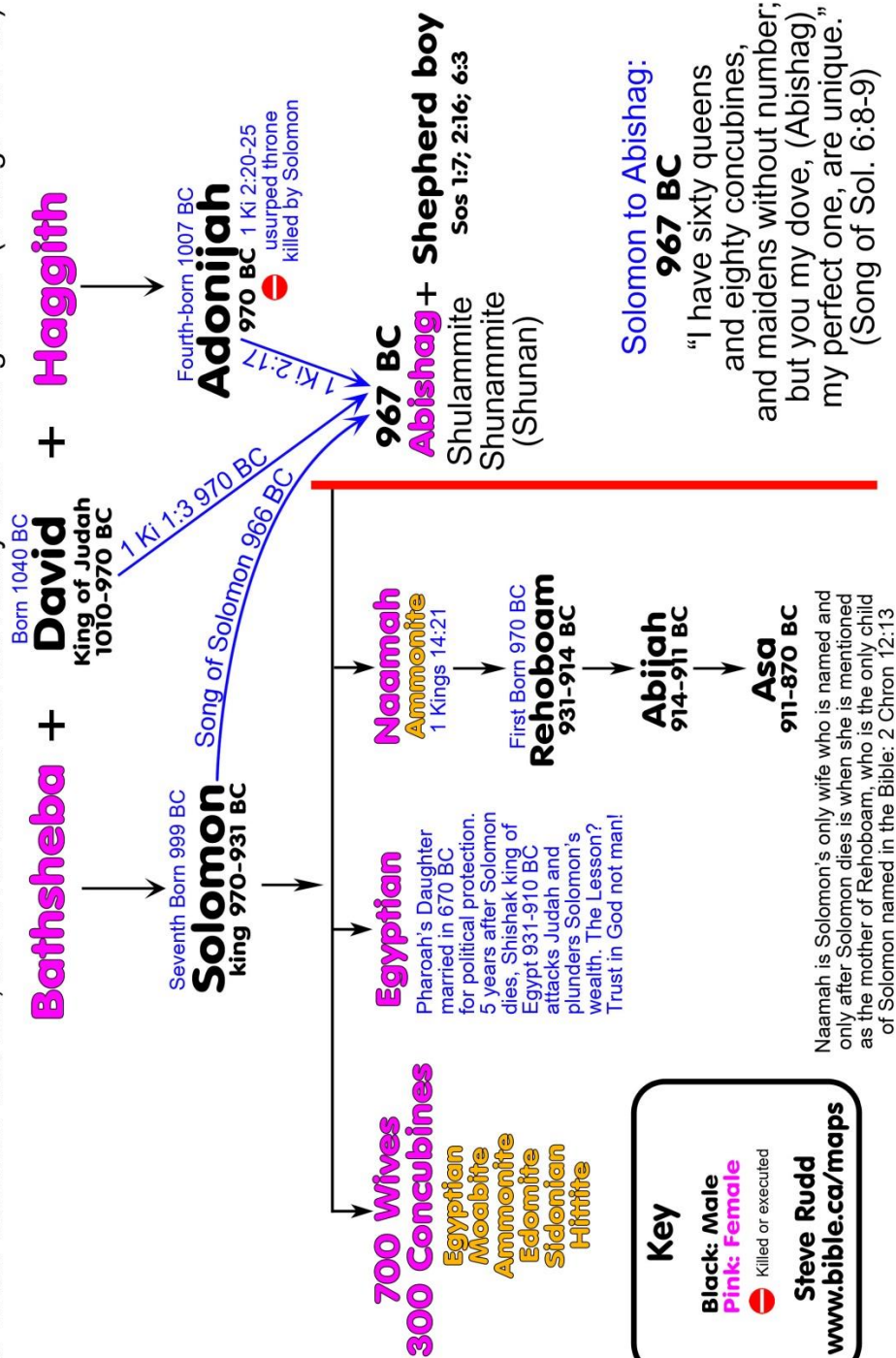
Large quantities of spices 10:10



Solomon is so wealthy that he makes silver as common as stones! 10:27

The 1000 Wives of Solomon (And almost wife #1001 who said no!)

"Solomon had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods..." (1 Kings 11:1-13)





created by the Bible Project



Solomon's Reign

6 –12 FEB 2018

1 KI 7-11; ECC; SS

Week 19 - 31 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In 1 Kings 8 Yahweh takes possession of His temple, with the cloud being a visible manifestation of His presence. Why does God appear as a cloud (1 KI 8:10-11)? In 1 KI 8:15-20 and 1 KI 8:27-30, does Solomon say that God lives in the temple? How does he speak about God's presence there?
- Read ECC 3:1-12. What parts of life is God concerned with? Do some parts please Him while others don't? Is He more impressed with a person making a lot of money before they turn 30 than a mother washing some dishes? Do things of importance and routine things both form our lives? What is God pleased with? Why will man never find happiness or meaning apart from God?
- Solomon and all of Israel offered an enormous amount of sacrifice at the dedication of the temple. What sacrifices does God require today and why?

What did I learn about human nature?

- When Solomon brought the ark to the temple (1 KI 8) there was much ceremony in placing the ark in the temple. How do the Israelites approach God? How should we today approach the presence of God in worship and gatherings?
- Was Solomon a successful ruler?
- Is it possible to be overly righteous and/or overly wise? What does it mean to be overly righteous or overly wise? Does someone who Fears God want to be overly righteous or overly wise?
- Ecclesiastes 5 talks about the meaninglessness of riches. What causes people to love money? How can the love of money ruin a person's relationship with God? What is the right attitude for people to have with regard to money from a Biblical standpoint?
- The primary purpose of The Song of Solomon is to put before God's people an example of love and intimacy as it was designed by the Creator. Is God's view of sex more satisfying and pleasurable than the view of the world? Should we value intimacy more highly? Do we, as a culture, put it in its proper context?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Solomon reminds the people of God's faithfulness as he blesses the people and prepares to dedicate the temple (1 KI 8:14-21). Review how God has been faithful to Israel (according to Solomon's praise). How often do we look back and remember the faithfulness of God in our lives and in the lives of our community of faith? What are some examples of God's faithfulness demonstrated in our lives, the lives of our community of faith, in the lives of our friends?
- What is your "ark" – something you must have in your life to feel close to God?
- In Ecclesiastes, Solomon speaks about the meaninglessness of man's life and work. Do you find this true at all? If so, in what situations? Have you ever felt this way about your studies, work or life in general? What is the meaning of life? Where does it come from? What is our purpose for existing?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go

The glory of the united kingdom began to fade with the death of Solomon. First Kings provides a prophetically oriented evaluation of the spiritual and moral causes that led to the political and economic demise of the two kingdoms (Israel and Judah). Rehoboam's rejection of the Israelites request to lighten their yoke was a great turning point in the history of Israel. From this point on, the southern kingdom will be known as Judah, with Jerusalem as its capital and the Northern Kingdom will be known as Israel. Samaria will eventually become its capital. The two kingdoms will be at war with each other. The lives of the kings that ruled the divided kingdoms contrasts the lives of those who live for God and those who refuse to do so. We also learn of the prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha, who wanted to awaken Israel to the conviction that Yahweh alone is God. Even today we can choose to follow other gods by not choosing to follow God.

Weekly Reading Plan: (pp. 512-547)

Day 1: 1 KI 11:9-43; 2 CH 1:1-4:22

Day 2: 2 CH 5:1 – 9:31

Day 3: 1 KI 12:1- 14:20

Day 4: 1 KI 14:21– 16:20;
2 CH 10:1 – 11:23

Day 5: 2 CH 12:1-16:14

Day 6: 1 KI 16:21 –34

Day 7: 1 KI 17:1 – 19:21

Outline

Solomon's Decline [Day 1]

Priestly Account: The Reign of Solomon [Day 1 and 2]

The Division of the Kingdom [Day 3]

First Dynasty of Israel [Day 3]

The Davidic Dynasty in Judah [Day 4]

Unrest in Israel [Day 4]

Priestly Account: The Kingdom Divides [Day 4]

Rehoboam's Apostasy [Day 5]

Asa's Revival [Day 5]

Prophetic Account: Ahab and Jehoshaphat [Day 6]

The Ministry of Elijah [Day 7]

Key Characters

Solomon	Hadad
Jeroboam	Rehoboam
Queen of Sheba	Alijah
Abijah	Asa
Nadab	Baasha
Elah	Zimri
Shishak	Jehosophat
Omri	Ahab
Elijah	Elisha
Obadiah	

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Gibeon
Israel
Judah
Mount Moriah
Mount Carmel
Horeb
Samaria

Key Terms

Kingship
Covenant
Rebellion
Temple
Peace
Reform
Prayer
Prophecy

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go

Key Verses

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. [1 KI 18:21]

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
[2 CH 7:14]

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. [2 CH 16:9]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki11: Solomon had many wives and turned to other gods. Ahijah told Jeroboam that the LORD would give him ten of the tribes. Solomon died.

2Chr1: Solomon made offerings. God said, "What shall I give you?" Solomon said, "Wisdom to rule this people." So Solomon ruled over Israel.

2Chr2: Solomon sent to King Hiram: "Send me cedars and a craftsman for the temple." Hiram replied, "The LORD has given David a wise son."

2Chr3: Solomon started work on the temple. He built the portico, the main hall, the Most Holy Place, two cherubim, the veil and two pillars.

2Chr4: Solomon made an altar, the Sea, ten lavers, ten lampstands, ten tables and the courts for the temple. Hiram made the furnishings.

2Ch5: The priests brought the ark into the Most Holy Place. The singers praised the LORD and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

2Ch6: Solomon said, "The LORD has kept his promise." He prayed, "O LORD, if anyone prays toward this place then hear from heaven and act."

2Ch7: Fire came from heaven and the Israelites worshipped. The LORD said to Solomon, "If you walk in my ways I will establish your throne."

2Ch8: Solomon built cities. He did not make slaves of the Israelites. He appointed the divisions of priests and Levites to their duties.

2Ch9: The queen of Sheba came to test Solomon and gave him gold and spices. Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth. Then he died.

1Ki12: Rehoboam refused to reduce the labour demands on Israel. So all Israel except Judah made Jeroboam king. Jeroboam made golden calves.

1Ki13: A man of God cried out against Jeroboam's altar. He disobeyed the LORD by eating at an old prophet's house and was killed by a lion.

1Ki14: Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife: "The LORD says, 'I will sweep away the house of Jeroboam.'" Rehoboam ruled Judah and Judah did evil.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki15: Abijam ruled Judah and was not devoted to the LORD. Asa ruled and did right. Nadab ruled Israel and did evil. Baasha killed Nadab.

1Ki16: Elah ruled Israel and did evil. Zimri killed Elah but Israel made Omri king. Omri did evil. Ahab ruled and began to worship Baal.

2Cr10: Jeroboam and all Israel asked Rehoboam to reduce the labour demands. He refused. Rehoboam still ruled Judah but Israel rebelled.

2Ch11: The LORD told Rehoboam not to attack Jeroboam. All the Levites came to Judah because Jeroboam set up idols. Rehoboam had sons.

2Ch12: Rehoboam was unfaithful to the LORD so Shishak attacked Jerusalem. Rehoboam humbled himself and the anger of the LORD turned away.

2Ch13: Abijah became king of Judah. He drew up battle lines against Jeroboam and said, "The LORD is our God". The LORD routed Jeroboam.

2Ch14: Asa became king. He did right in the sight of the LORD. Zerah the Ethiopian brought an army against Judah but the LORD routed them.

2Ch15: Azariah said to Asa, "The LORD is with you when you are with Him. Do not give up." The people made a covenant to seek the LORD.

2Ch16: Baasha fortified Ramah so Asa made a treaty with Ben-hadad. Hanani said, "You relied on Aram not the LORD." Asa became ill and died.

1Ki16: Elah ruled Israel and did evil. Zimri killed Elah but Israel made Omri king. Omri did evil. Ahab ruled and began to worship Baal.

1Ki17: Elijah told Ahab, "There will be no rain." Elijah stayed with a widow in Zarephath. The widow's son died but the LORD revived him.

1Ki18: Elijah went to Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal. Baal gave no answer but the LORD answered Elijah with fire. Then rain fell.

1Ki19: Elijah fled from Jezebel. At Horeb there was a wind, an earthquake and a fire; then the LORD spoke. Elijah put his mantle on Elisha.

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go



Rulers and Prophets of Israel and Judah

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL	PROPHETS	KINGDOM OF JUDAH
Jeroboam I 931-910	925 B.C.	Rehoboam 931-913
Nadab 910-909		Abijah 913-911
Baasha 909-886	900 B.C.	
Elah 886-885		Asa 911-870
Zimri 885 (7 days)		
Omri 885-874	875 B.C.	
Ahab 874-853		Jehoshaphat 870-848 (coregent with Asa 873-870)
Ahaziah 853-852	Elijah 850 B.C.	Jehoram 848-841 (coregent with Jehoshaphat 853-848)
Joram 852-841	Elisha Obadiah	Ahaziah 841 (1 year)
	Joel 825 B.C.	Athaliah 841-835
Jehu 841-814		Joash 835-796
Jehoahaz 814-798	800 B.C.	
Jehoash 798-782		Amaziah 796-767
Jeroboam II 782-753 (coregent with Jehoash 793-782)	Jonah 775 B.C.	Uzziah 767-740 (overlap/coregent with Amaziah 792-767; isolated 751-740)
Zechariah 753/752 (6 months)	Amos 750 B.C.	Jotham 740-736 (coregent with Uzziah 751-740; abdicates 736)
Shallum 752 (1 month)		Ahaz 736-729 (coregent with Jotham 744-736)
Menahem 752-742	Hosea 725 B.C.	Hezekiah 729-686 (regent for Ahaz 729-715)
Pekahiah 742-740		
Pekah 740-732	Isaiah	
Hosea 732-722	Micah 700 B.C.	
FALL OF SAMARIA, 722		
	675 B.C.	Manasseh 686-642 (coregent with Hezekiah 696-686)
	650 B.C.	Amon 642-640
	Zephaniah 625 B.C.	Josiah 640-609
	Nahum	Jehoahaz 609 (3 months)
	Habakkuk 600 B.C.	Jehoiakim 608-598
		Jeconiah 598/597
	Ezekiel 575 B.C.	(3 months; coregent with Jehoiakim 608-598)
	Daniel	Zedekiah 597-586
		FALL OF JERUSALEM, 586

NOTE ABOUT DATES

While scholars' opinions about the dates of kings' reigns and the timing so some prophets' ministries may vary, the dates on this chart are based on the best knowledge and evidence available to us at this time. Most reputable scholars' dates will be close, though not necessarily identical, to these. There simply isn't enough specific information available in the biblical record to identify the timing of each king's reign with certainty.

Epoch 4

The Period of the Divided Kingdom

The period of time when the Nation of Israel split and existed as 2 separate and neighboring kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel and included 10 tribes of Israelites. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah and included 2 tribes of Israelites. Sometimes Israel and Judah fought each other and sometimes they got along nicely.

Prophets

Elijah (N)
Elisha (N)
Amos (N)
Hosea (N)
Jonah (--)
Isaiah (S)
Micah (S)

Israel's Kings

Jeroboam I (bad)
Nadab (bad)
Baasha (bad)
Elah (bad)
Zimri (bad)
Omri (bad)
Ahab (bad)
Ahaziah (bad)
Jehoram (bad)
Jehu (bad)
Jehozhaz (bad)
Joash (bad)
Jeroboam (bad)
Zechariah (bad)

Judah's Kings

Rehoboam (bad)
Abijah (bad)
Asa (good)
Jehoshaphat (good)
Jehoram (bad)
Ahaziah (bad)
Athaliah (bad)
Joash (good)
Amaziah (OK)
Azariah (OK)
Jotham (OK)
Ahaz (bad)
Hezekiah (good)
Manasseh (bad)
Amon (bad)
Josiah (good)
Jehoahaz II (bad)
Jehoiakim (bad)
Jeholachin (bad)
Zedekiah (bad)

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go

The Kingdom Divides

[1 Kings 12–2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 10-36]

After King Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam became King and promised to tax the Israelites even more heavily than his father had.

10 of the 12 tribes of Israel broke away from the rule of King Rehoboam and made Jeroboam their king. This northern kingdom was called "Israel" and its capital was Samaria. This kingdom did not have the Temple for worship.

The region around the city of Samaria also became known as Samaria. Eventually the entire northern kingdom of Israel was called Samaria and the people were often called Samaritans.

King Rehoboam ruled over the tribe of Judah (a large tribe) and the tribe of Benjamin (very small). This southern kingdom was called "Judah" and its capital was Jerusalem. This kingdom had the temple for worship.

Sometimes Israel and Judah fought each other and sometimes they got along nicely.

Both Israel and Judah had continual problems with widespread idol worship.



God's Prophets to Israel and Judah

Each of the 14 consecutive kings in the northern kingdom of Israel allowed or encouraged idol worship.

Most (15 out of 20) of the kings in the southern kingdom of Judah allowed or encouraged idol worship.

God raised up prophets to communicate His messages to His people.

God continually warned the people of Israel and Judah (through the words of His prophets) to turn away from idol worship and to return to their covenant relationship with Him.

God's prophets to Israel and Judah warned that if the people continued to worship idols, God would eventually allow each kingdom to be overtaken by foreigners and taken into foreign exile.

Prophet	Prophesied To	Dates
Jonah	Assyria	Before Captivity (800-650)
Nahum	Assyria	Before Captivity (800-650)
Obadiah	Edom	Before Captivity (800)
Hosea	Israel	Before Captivity (750)
Amos	Israel	Before Captivity (750)
Isaiah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Jeremiah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Lamentations	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Joel	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Micah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Habakkuk	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Zephaniah	Judah	Before Captivity (800-606)
Ezekiel	Judah	During Captivity (605-536)
Daniel	Judah	During Captivity (605-536)
Haggai	Judah	After Captivity (536-400)
Zechariah	Judah	After Captivity (536-400)
Malachi	Judah	After Captivity (536-400)

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go

Elijah and the Contest on Mt. Carmel

[1 Kings 18:16-45]

Elijah was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

Elijah appeared on the scene when the wicked duo of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were trying to wipe out all worship of the one true God in the northern kingdom.

Elijah proposed a showdown between his God and Baal (the alleged God of weather and other things).

The 450 “prophets” of Baal agreed with Elijah that each side would call upon their own god. Whichever god answered by fire would be the one true God.

The prophets of Baal danced and shouted for hours but could get no response from Baal.

Elijah had 12 large jars of water poured over his bull then simply asked God to let the people know that He is the one true God.

God instantly unleashed a spectacular display of fire and the people immediately worshipped God and slaughtered the 450 prophets of Baal.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Dates related to the Divided Kingdom (for reference over the next weeks):

- 931 B.C. United Monarchy divides
- 722 B.C. Fall of Samaria, Israel
- 605 B.C. Judah invaded by Babylon
- 586 B.C. Jerusalem Destroyed
- 538 B.C. Fall of Babylon
- 536 B.C. End of Captivity (606/05-536/35 B.C.)
- 516 B.C. Temple Rebuilt

The Divided Kingdom

13 –19 FEB 2018

1 KI 11-19; 2 CH 1-16

Week 20 - 30 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What are the different ways God appears to people in 1 Kings?
- Was God wise to promise David's descendants that they could reign forever in Israel? Did this license to rule affect the downfall of the monarchy in Judah?
- What convinces you that God is more powerful than anything else? What inspires your faith? Miracles, his Word, the way people's lives are changed, the inadequacy of worldly pleasures? Other? What is your biggest struggle in submitting yourself fully to God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Was Solomon a successful ruler? Would he have been a good king in real life? Did his success as a ruler change over time? What are things that caused Solomon to lose his focus on God as he got older? Did Solomon ever repent for his actions?
- If Solomon was so wise, how did his wives cause him to turn away from God?
- Who was greater in their prime: Solomon or Elijah? If Elijah had lived during King Solomon's reign, what would their relationship have been like?
- Why set up the Temple in Jerusalem? Could having an exclusive house of worship in the capital serve any political purposes for Solomon and the other kings of Judah?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- We are introduced to the prophet Elijah in our readings and there will be much more reading about the prophets. Elijah, like the other prophets, was an ordinary individual that the Lord used to do extraordinary things. Elijah put his faith to the test on several occasions by believing God. How do you think you would have responded to the Elijah? What would it mean for you to follow Elijah's example?
- Does God have your undivided attention? When do you notice yourself drifting away from God? When you get too busy? When you get successful or when you fail? When you stop going to church? When you are under stress? When you give in to bad habits? When you let others influence you? When you focus on material things? Other times? What helps you keep on the right path? Family, friends, prayer, church, God?
- 1 Kings 11:14-25 talks about Solomon's adversaries. Who are your adversaries (now or in past)? How should people respond to adversaries? What word might God be trying to get to you through them?
- President Lincoln was asked during the Civil War if God was on the side of the Northern states. He responded, "We should not ask if God is on our side, but rather we should ask if we are on God's side." How are you seeking to know Him, love Him and obey Him? How do your actions demonstrate your commitment?
- You obviously place a priority on reading the Bible or would not be in the class. What will you do when our class is finished? Has reading the Bible always been important to you and will it be after this year? What are you learning from this process? How is it impacting your faith walk?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- What are some of the differences in the stories about Israel and Judah in Kings and Chronicles?
- Why was Jerusalem such a big deal to the Jewish people back in the Old Testament times? Why is it today?

We continue to read the history of Israel and Judah. God repeatedly exhibited his power and urged repentance, while the people failed to uphold their covenant promises. Kings defiantly challenged God by word and deed. God used prophets to call his people and their leaders back to a covenant relationship with himself. Elijah and Elisha were the two greatest prophets of the period, both of whom ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel. The Chronicler emphasized that God's blessing resulted from obedience to the Mosaic covenant but that his judgment followed disobedience. If the people would humbly repent, God promised to restore them.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 547-577)

Day 1: 1 KI 20:1 – 22:50

Day 2: 2 CH 17:1-20:37

Day 3: 1 KI 22:51-53; 2 KI 1:1-18

Day 4: 2 KI 2:1-4:44

Day 5: 2 KI 5:1-8:15

Day 6: 2 KI 8:16-10:36

Day 7: 2 CH 21:1-22:9;

2 KI 11:1-12:21

Outline

Wars with Syria [Day 1]

Alliance of Judah and Israel [Day 1]

Ahab and Jehoshaphat [Day 2]

Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah of Israel [Day 3]

Elisha in Israel [Day 4-5]

Israel and Judah [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Ahab	Naboth
Jezebel	Ahaziah (I)
Jehoshaphat	Jehoram
Elijah	Elisha
Naaman	Hazael
Jehu	Athaliah
Joash	Jehoram
Ahaziah (J)	Athaliah

Key Locations

Syria
Samaria
Ramoth Gilead
Moab

Key Terms

Kingship
Covenant
Rebellion
Temple
Peace
Reform
Prayer
Prophecy

Key Verses

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. [1 KI 18:21]

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [2 CH 7:14]

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. [2 CH 16:9]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki20: Ben-hadad attacked Samaria. Israel defeated the Arameans twice. Ahab made a treaty with Ben-hadad so a prophet spoke against him.

1Ki21: Naboth would not sell his vineyard, so Jezebel had him killed. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel."

1Ki22: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch17: Jehoshaphat became king and was devoted to the LORD. He sent his officials to teach the law. He grew greater and built fortresses.

2Ch18: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch19: Jehoshaphat returned to Jerusalem. He appointed judges and said to them, "Judge carefully, for with the LORD there is no injustice."

2Ch20: An army came against Jehoshaphat so he sought the LORD. Jahaziel said, "The battle is not yours but God's." The LORD set ambushes.

2Ki1: Ahaziah consulted Baal-zebul. Elijah said that he would die. Ahaziah sent men to Elijah but they were consumed by fire. Ahaziah died.

2Ki2: Elisha followed Elijah. A chariot of fire appeared and Elijah went up to heaven. Elisha took Elijah's mantle and divided the waters.

2Ki3: Israel, Judah and Edom went to fight Moab. Elisha said, "The LORD will send water and give you Moab." The Moabites were defeated.

2Ki4: Elisha told a Shunammite woman that she would have a son. The child died but Elisha revived him. Elisha cleansed the food at Gilgal.

2Ki5: Naaman of Aram was a leper. Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan and he was healed. Gehazi asked for a gift and became leprous.

2Ki6: The king of Aram sent an army to capture Elisha but the LORD blinded them. Ben-hadad besieged Samaria and there was a great famine.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki7: Elisha prophesied an end to the famine. Four lepers went and found that the Arameans had fled. The people plundered the Aramean camp.

2Ki8: Elisha told Hazael that he would rule Aram. Hazael killed Ben-hadad. Jehoram ruled Judah and did evil. Ahaziah ruled and did evil.

2Ki9: Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu. Jehu killed Joram and Ahaziah. Eunuchs threw Jezebel out of the window and dogs ate her body.

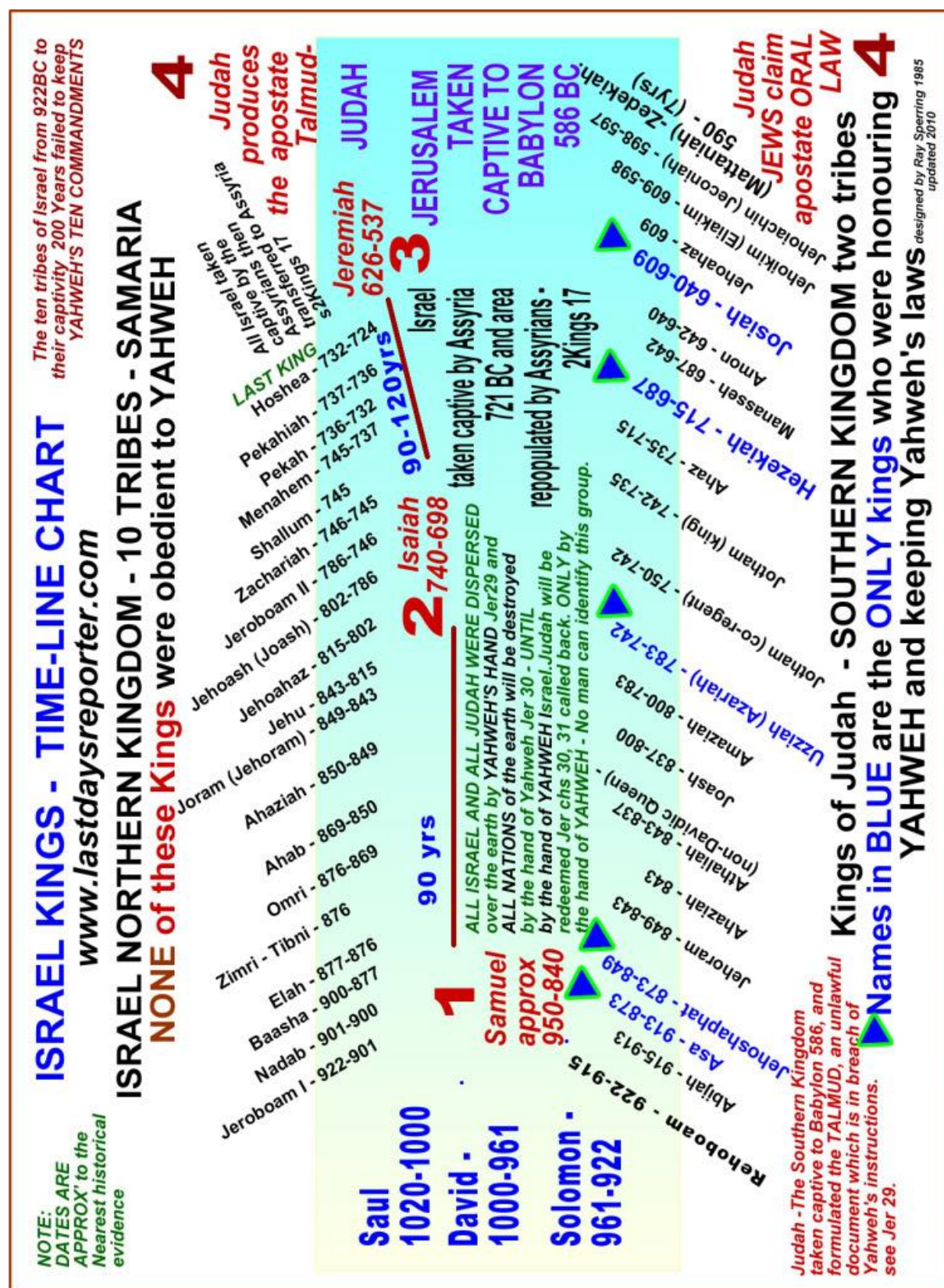
2Ki10: Jehu sent a letter and had Ahab's sons killed. He killed Ahaziah's brothers and all the worshippers of Baal. Hazael defeated Israel.

2Chr21: Jehoram ruled and did evil. Elijah wrote saying, "The LORD will send a plague." The LORD struck Jehoram with a disease and he died.

2Ch22: The people made Ahaziah king. He did evil and was killed by Jehu. Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehoshabeath hid Joash.

2Ki11: Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehosheba hid Joash. Jehoiada had the army proclaim Joash as king and put Athaliah to death.

2Ki12: Joash ruled in Jerusalem and did what was right. The priests collected money to repair the temple. Joash was killed by his servants.



History and Prophecy

20 - 26 FEB 2018

1 KI 20-22; 2 KI 1-12; 2 CH 17-22

Week 21 - 29 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In 1 KI 22:29-39, Ahab was killed by someone randomly drawing his bow and hitting Ahab. Do you believe that God sovereignly controls all of life's circumstances? Is there human choice? Randomness? Explain.
- In the story of the widow's oil, God used the widow's own limited resources. What resource of yours could God use or has God used, to provide for you?
- Does God still provide miracles today like those described with Elisha in 2 Kings? Have you ever witnessed a miraculous healing? What about unsuccessful prayers for healing?
- Read 2 KI 5: 11-12 where Namaan is angry because the rivers of Damascus should be better than the River Jordan. Since there is only one God, aren't all religions just different ways to God? Or does religion affect the inside heart of a person making them really different? What affect might the outside form of religion have on the heart of a person? How do you know?
- Is the God of 2 Kings more just than merciful or the reverse? In what ways does He demonstrate mercy and how does He balance it with justice? Are the people of Judah collectively punished for the sins of their kings? Is that fair? Are the righteous people rewarded and do they always receive mercy?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In reading about the various kings in this week's readings the candid and sordid stories leave much room for pondering "what if" questions. What do you think would have been different if these kings had done right in the sight of the Lord, or if they had listened to the Lord's prophet? What qualities do the wicked kings have in common? Is it just polytheism and image worship? Or is there more to it than that?
- What impressed you the most about the Shunammite woman who helped Elisha? Her initiative? The way she used her resources? Her desire to serve? Her hospitality? Her focus? Her faith?
- Why do people react instantly to physical threat, yet often seem indifferent to spiritual threat?
- In the story of Naaman being cured of leprosy, why was Naaman reluctant to follow Elisha's instructions? What do you think Naaman's biggest problem was (his leprosy? His temper? His pride? His attitude?) Why do you think Gehazi sought out Naaman after Naaman was healed? How do you feel about the punishment Gehazi received for his actions?
- Are some behaviors (like plunder and killing) fair "in love and war" that would normally be wrong? Are morals justified by circumstances?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is it possible to know that your life is "right in the eyes of the Lord?" Does it matter if you know or not?
- When you are faced with a distressing experience (like the Shunammite woman when she loses her son) where do you generally turn? To family? To friends? To God? To church? Other?
- Based on your view of God, what side do you think God takes in current wars? Do you believe anyone is completely "right" when they use violence?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- What impact might culture at the time of these writings have had on how people "heard" God? They lived in a very violent time period – did that impact why God would command them to do so much killing? How does culture impact our interpretation of Scripture?

Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go

The history of Israel and Judah continues to be told through the eyes of their kings and the history of David's royal line in the history of Judah through the chronicler. God's blessing come from obedience to the Mosaic covenant, and judgement results from disobedience. God, however, has great mercy and stands with His people. If people humbly repent, God promises to restore them. The book of Jonah tells the story of a rebellious prophet who questions God's mercy toward His enemies. Amos reminds us that our success and power, which comes from God, should be used to serve others. Hosea reminds us that we serve a God who is full of love, compassion and grace. God's faithfulness is stronger than our failures.

Weekly Reading Plan

(pp. 577-609)

Day 1: 2 KI 13:1-14:22;
2 CH 22:10-23:21

Day 2: 2 CH 24:1-25:28

Day 3: 2 KI 14:23-29; JNH 1:1-4:11

Day 4: AM 1:1-6:7

Day 5: AM 6:8-9:15

Day 6: HOS 1:1-6:11

Outline

Israel and Judah [Day 1-3]

Jonah – A reluctant missionary [Day 3]

Amos – A stand against materialism [Day 4-5]

Hosea – Heal and save [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Jehoahaz	Johash
Elisha	Amaziah
Amos	Jonah
Hosea	Gomer

Key Locations

Israel	Samaria
Judah	Bethel
Assyria	Ninevah

Key Terms

Blessings
Judgement/discipline
Prophets/Prophecy
Rebellion
Repent

Key Verses

Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence. [2 KI 17:20]

Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel! [2 KI 19:22]

Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and one who relents concerning calamity. [JNH 4:2]

“Behold the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob”, declares the Lord [AM 9:8]

Then the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes (HOS 3:1)

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki13: Jehoahaz ruled Israel and they were oppressed by Hazael. Jehoash ruled and Elisha told him to strike the ground. Then Elisha died.

2Ki14: Amaziah ruled Judah and did right. He challenged Jehoash but Judah were defeated. Jeroboam ruled Israel and restored the borders.

2Chr22: The people made Ahaziah king. He did evil and was killed by Jehu. Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehoshabeath hid Joash.

2Chr23: Jehoiada gathered the Levites and anointed the king's son as king. Athaliah was killed. The people tore down the temple of Baal.

2Chr24: Joash ruled and did right while Jehoiada lived. The priests collected money to repair the temple. Joash was killed by his servants.

2Chr25: Amaziah ruled in Jerusalem. After he slaughtered the Edomites he bowed down to their gods. He challenged Jehoash and was defeated.

Jnh1: The LORD sent Jonah to Nineveh. Jonah fled by ship. A storm arose and the men threw Jonah into the sea. A great fish swallowed him.

Jnh2: Jonah prayed: "I cried out in my distress. Waters surrounded me. You brought me up from the pit!" The fish vomited him onto dry land.

Jnh3: So Jonah went to Nineveh and said, "Nineveh shall be overthrown!" The people fasted and wore sackcloth. God relented of the disaster.

Jnh4: Jonah was angry and said, "O LORD, take my life." A plant sheltered Jonah but it died. The LORD said, "Should I not pity Nineveh?"

Am1: The LORD says: "I will punish Damascus. The remnant of the Philistines shall perish. I will send fire upon Tyre, Edom and Ammon."

Am2: "I will send fire upon Moab and Judah. I will punish Israel. They sell the poor for a pair of sandals. The mighty shall flee naked."

Am3: Does a lion roar when it has no prey? The LORD reveals his plans to the prophets. "On the day I punish Israel, I will punish Bethel."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Am4: "You cows of Bashan will be led away with hooks. I withheld the rain. I overthrew some of you. Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

Am5: "Fallen is virgin Israel. Seek me and live. You shall not dwell in your houses. I despise your feasts. Let justice roll like waters."

Am6: Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, who are not grieved over Joseph. The LORD declares: "I will raise up a nation against you."

Am7: The LORD showed me locusts, fire and a plumb line. Amaziah told Amos, "Flee to Judah." Amos said, "You shall die in an unclean land."

Am8: The LORD said: "The end has come upon Israel. I will not forget your deeds. I will send a famine of hearing the words of the LORD."

Am9: The LORD said: "Strike the pillars until the earth shakes. I will sieve the house of Israel. In that day I will restore my people."

Hos1: The LORD told Hosea, "Marry an adulterer for the land has prostituted itself." Gomer had sons. The LORD said, "You are not my people."

Hos2: "Your mother has been unfaithful. I will expose her lewdness. Now I will speak tenderly to her. I will betroth you to me forever."

Hos3: The LORD said to me, "Go, love your wife again as the LORD loves Israel." So I bought her back. For Israel will return to the LORD.

Hos4: The LORD has a charge against Israel: "There is no faithfulness. They have left God to play the whore. The rulers love shameful ways."

Hos5: "Hear this, O priests, O king! Israel shall stumble in his guilt. Ephraim is crushed in judgement. I will leave until they seek me."

Hos6: Come, let us return to the LORD. On the third day he will raise us up. "I desire steadfast love, not offerings. Israel is defiled."

Hos7: "The sins of Ephraim are revealed. They are like a heated oven. They call to Egypt, go to Assyria. Woe to them for they have strayed!"

Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go

Hos8: "A vulture is over Israel. The calf of Samaria shall be broken. The LORD will punish their sins. For Israel has forgotten his Maker."

Hos9: Rejoice not, O Israel! The days of punishment have come. "I will bereave them. I will drive them from my house." God will reject them.

Hos10: Israel is a rich vine. The LORD will break down their altars. "Nations shall be gathered against them." It is time to seek the LORD.

Hos11: "When Israel was a child, I loved him. But the sword shall devour them. How can I give you up, O Ephraim? I will bring them home."

Hos12: "Jacob fought with God. Ephraim has said, 'I am rich.' But I am the LORD. I spoke through the prophets." The LORD will repay Ephraim.

Hos13: "They make idols of silver. But I am the LORD. I will tear them open. Ephraim's sin is stored up. Shall I redeem them from death?"

Hos14: O Israel, return to the LORD. "I will heal their apostasy. They shall blossom like the vine. Whoever is wise, let him understand."

Big Ideas in JONAH

God is sovereign—he
has absolute control
and power and will carry
out his plans on earth

If they repent, God shows
mercy even to the
enemies of his people

God demands
obedience but
offers second
chances

God loves people
who don't know him
and expects his people
to do the same



27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go



Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go

Jonah is sent to Ninevah

[The Book of Jonah]

Jonah was a prophet in Israel who was commissioned by God to leave his home near Nazareth and take a message of repentance to the city of Ninevah in the enemy nation of Assyria.

Assyrians were well known for torture. Jonah feared them and also couldn't understand why God loved Israel's enemies.

Jonah disobediently went to Joppa and caught a boat headed west and away from Ninevah.

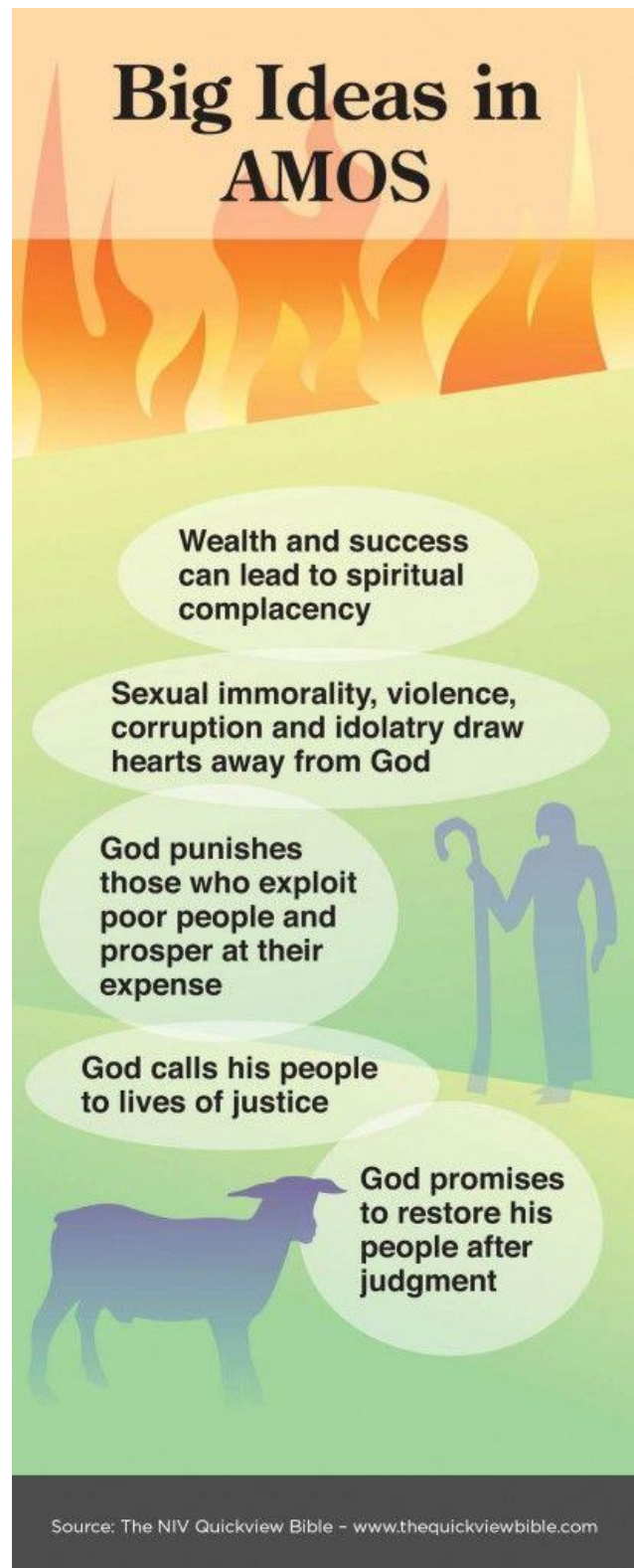
When a storm threatened to sink the ship, Jonah admitted his wrong-doing and told the crew to throw him overboard. Reluctantly they did and God had Jonah fish-expressed back to the shore.

Jonah, now convinced of God's love for the Ninevites, traveled to Ninevah and preached a strong message of warning and repentance. The Ninevites listened, turned from sin, and sought the one true God! (Israel should have been so humble!)

The pervading theme of this book of Jonah is God's gracious extension of His mercy to gentile nations.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Amos's Visions

Amos 7–9

Vision

Outcome

Locusts—God sends swarms of locusts that devastate Israel's crops



Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment 7:1–3

Fire—God sends fire that dries up the water and devours Israel's land



Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment 7:4–6

Plumb line—God compares Israel to a wall built true to plumb; God's people fail to meet his standards



God destroys Israel's high places and sanctuaries 7:7–9

Basket of ripe fruit—God declares that Israel is ripe for judgment



God sends death, destruction and darkness to Israel; God refuses to answer his people 8:1–14

The Lord by the altar—God tells Amos to strike the tops of the temple pillars



God destroys the Israelites, who are crushed by the collapsing temple or killed by the sword 9:1–10

27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go



Big Ideas in HOSEA

God's relationship with his
people is compared to marriage

God loves his people
despite their unfaithfulness

Idolatry among God's
people is like prostitution

The Israelites' continuous
refusal to acknowledge God
will result in their exile

After exile,
when the
Israelites
repent,
God will
restore
them to
the land



27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go

created by the Bible Project

Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

27 FEB –5 MAR 2018

2 KI 13-14; 2 CH 22-25; JNH 1-4; AMOS 1-9; HOS 1-14

Week 22 - 28 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Why is wholeheartedness so important to God? Is a little faith better than no faith at all?
- God's pursuit of Jonah is quite revealing. What does it reveal about A) the justice and mercy of God? B) the gifts and call of God? C) Human fear and faith? D) God's claim to judge all the earth?
- How do you picture the God of Hosea? How did Israel experience His discipline? What are some of the early warning signals that God will discipline? What are the consequences of failing to heed these?
- How does God view Israel's love and worship (HOS 6:4-6)? What does it mean to truly "acknowledge God" in our dealings with others?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What was Athaliah's plan for herself after the death of her son (2 CH 23)? What does this tell you about her character? If she had been successful in her scheme, what would have happened to God's covenant with King David?
- What is the balance between "trusting the Lord" and "taking matters in your own hands" as a Christian? Should we ever involve ourselves in violent revolution? How does the story of Athaliah and Joash (2 CH 23) help you discern?
- In the end, Joash's religious reforms were only skin deep (2 CH 24). What should he have done to bring about a deep, long lasting revival in the people of Judah? What can we do to bring about renewal in our own community? What persecution (and blessing) might we get in return?
- Does Amos have the proper credentials to speak for God? Why should the people listen to him? How are the sins of Israel's neighbors similar? How are they different? Which of these sins are prevalent today?
- What is the difference between pride and confidence? How can we develop confidence without pride?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is it easier to seek God when you are prospering or struggling? Have things gone well for you in times of sin? Poorly in times of prayer?
- When have you "run away" from God – refusing to do something you know he's telling you to do? Where can you escape him (PS 139:7-12)? What "storms," then and now, bring you back?
- Jonah didn't care for the people of Nineveh. Who do you struggle to reach out to? People of a different religion? People of a different denomination? People of a different ethnic background? People in a different social class? Who do you see as people God is calling you to reach? Your family? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Others?
- Amos leveled his criticism at enemies of Israel and Israel itself. How do you respond when enemies are criticized? When friends are criticized? When you are criticized? What sort of issues do you sense God is pointing out as wrong today? Are they personal, individual sins or do they delve into the way society treats other people and other nations?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Judgment and Salvation

6 – 12 MAR 2018

2 KI 15-16; ISA 1-10, 14, 17; 2 CH 26, MIC 1-2

Week 23 - 27 Weeks to Go

Israel and Judah are split into two nations, warring with each other and with their surrounding nations. Neither kingdom can stand through the storms to come. Assyrians are rising in power. Eventually the Babylonians will overthrow them. The people of Israel and Judah do not remain faithful to their God so their security as a nation cannot last. God is “the Holy One of Israel”, who must punish his rebellious and sinful people. Isaiah assures the people of Israel and Judah that by God’s very nature, He will have compassion on them and redeem them after judgment. God is just, even when His people have no justice and God is merciful, even when His people show no mercy.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 610-630)

Day 1: 2 KI 15:1-7

Day 2: ISA 6:1-13; 1:1-5:30

Day 3: 2 CH 26:1-23

Day 4: 2 KI 15:8-31

Day 5: 2 KI 15: 32-16:9

Day 6: ISA 7:1-10:4; ISA 17:1-14

Day 7: ISA 14:24-32; 2 KI 16:10-20;
MIC 1:1-2:13

Outline

Azariah: King of Judah [Day 1]

Isaiah’s Messages of Rebuke and Promise [Day 2]

Priestly Account: Jeroboam and Uzziah [Day 3]

Prophetic Account: Pekah Attacks Ahaz [Day 4]

Jotham and Ahaz in Judah [Day 5]

Israel and Aram Besiege Judah [Day 5-6]

After the Syro-Ephraimite War [Day 7]

Micah’s Judgment Against Israel and Judah [Day 7]

Key Characters

Azariah	Jotham
Isaiah	Uzziah
Zechariah	Shallum
Menahem	Pekahiah
Pekah	Jotham
Ahaz	Rezin
Uriah	Micah

Key Locations

Judah
Jerusalem
Israel
Samaria
Assyria
Damascus

Key Terms

Prophecy
Judgment
Righteousness
Mercy

Key Verses

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. [ISA 6:3]

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. [ISA 1:17]

Zion will be redeemed with justice and her repentant ones with righteousness [ISA 1:27]

Hear, you people, all of you, listen, earth and all who live in it, that the Sovereign Lord may bear witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. [MIC 1:2]

I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. [MIC 2:12]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki15: Azariah and Jotham ruled Judah and did what was right. Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah and Pekah ruled Israel and did evil.

Isa6: I saw the LORD seated on high. A seraph brought a coal to my lips. The LORD said, "Who will go for us?" I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Isa1: The LORD has spoken: I raised children but they have rebelled. Wash yourselves. I will smelt away your dross. Zion shall be redeemed.

Isa2: The mountain of the LORD will be established. On that day the pride of men will be humbled. They will flee the splendour of the LORD.

Isa3: The LORD will take away all support from Judah. Children will govern. You grind the faces of the poor. The women of Zion are proud.

Isa4: In that day the branch of the LORD will be glorious. Those who are left in Zion will be called holy. The LORD will create a shelter.

Isa5: Why did my vineyard yield wild grapes? Woe to those who pursue drink, who call evil good. The anger of the LORD is against his people.

2Ch26: The people made Uzziah king. He did right and became powerful. But he went to burn incense on the altar and was struck with leprosy.

2Ki16: Ahaz ruled Judah and did evil. Aram and Israel attacked Judah so Ahaz sent a tribute to the king of Assyria. Ahaz set up an altar.

Isa7: Aram plotted with Ephraim. The LORD sent Isaiah to King Ahaz: Behold, a virgin shall bear a son. The LORD will use Assyria as a razor.

Isa8: The floodwaters of Assyria will overflow the land. Many will fall and be snared. I will trust in the LORD. They will curse their gods.

Isa9: A child is born to us. His government will increase forever. The LORD will raise the enemies of Israel. His anger has not turned away.

Isa10: Woe to those who rob the poor of justice. Woe to Assyria, whose purpose is to destroy. The remnant of Israel will return to the LORD.

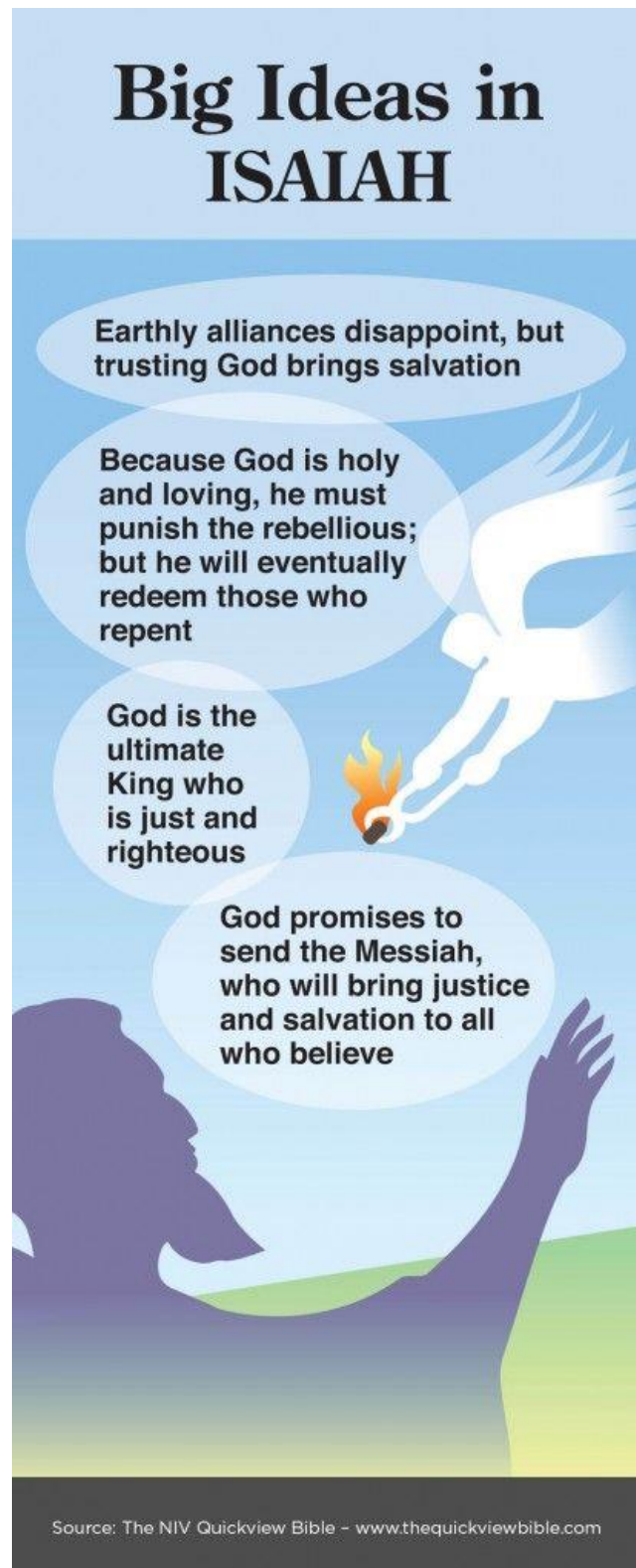
Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Isa17: An oracle concerning Damascus: Damascus will become ruins. Jacob will be brought low. You have forgotten the God of your salvation.

Isa14: The LORD will again choose Israel. How you are fallen, O Lucifer! You will be cast away like a trampled corpse. Wail, O Philistia!

Mic1: The LORD is coming! The mountains will melt. "I will make Samaria a ruin." Her wound is incurable. Disaster has come to Jerusalem.

Mic2: Woe to those who plot evil! The LORD says: "I am planning disaster. My people have risen up like an enemy. I will gather a remnant."

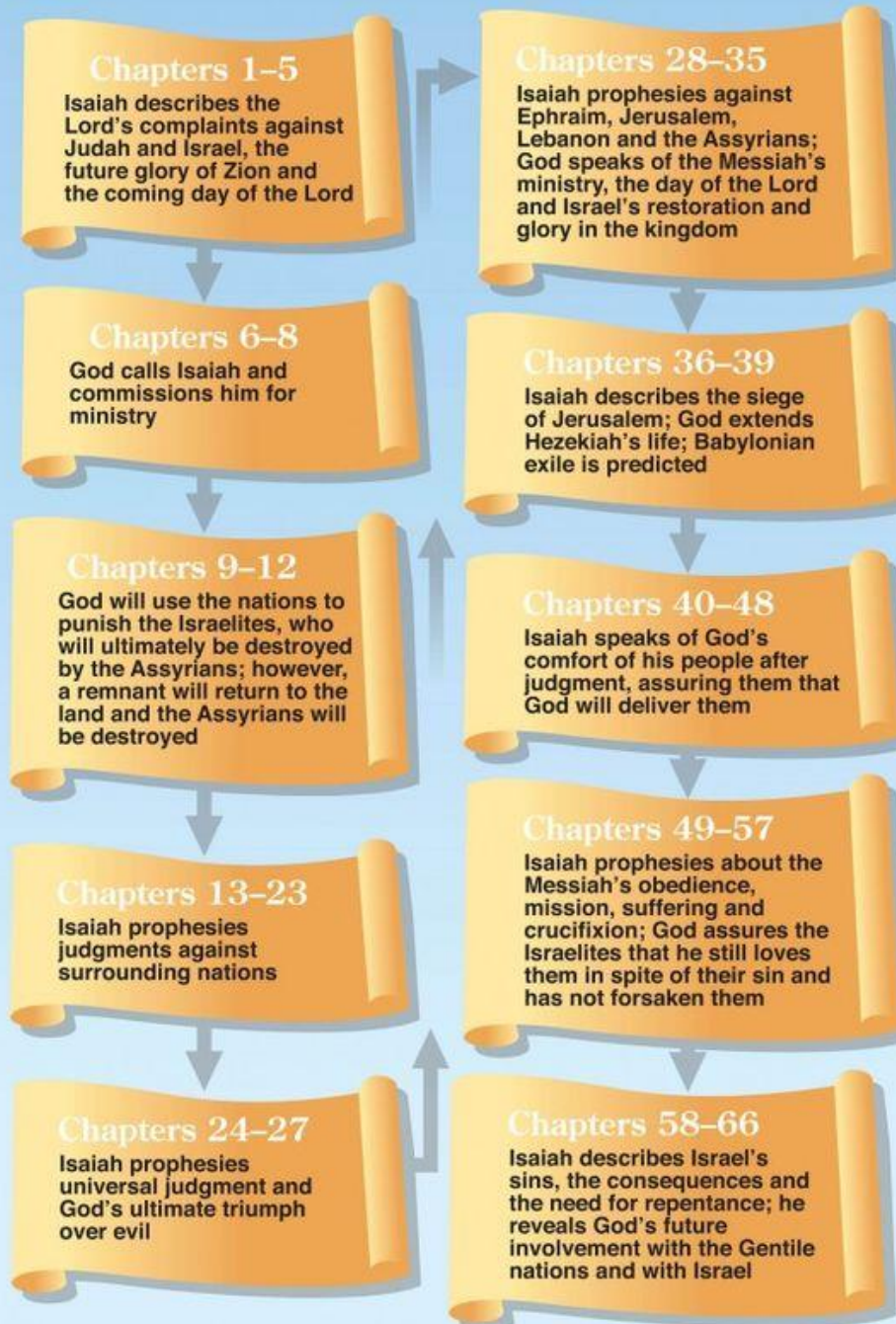


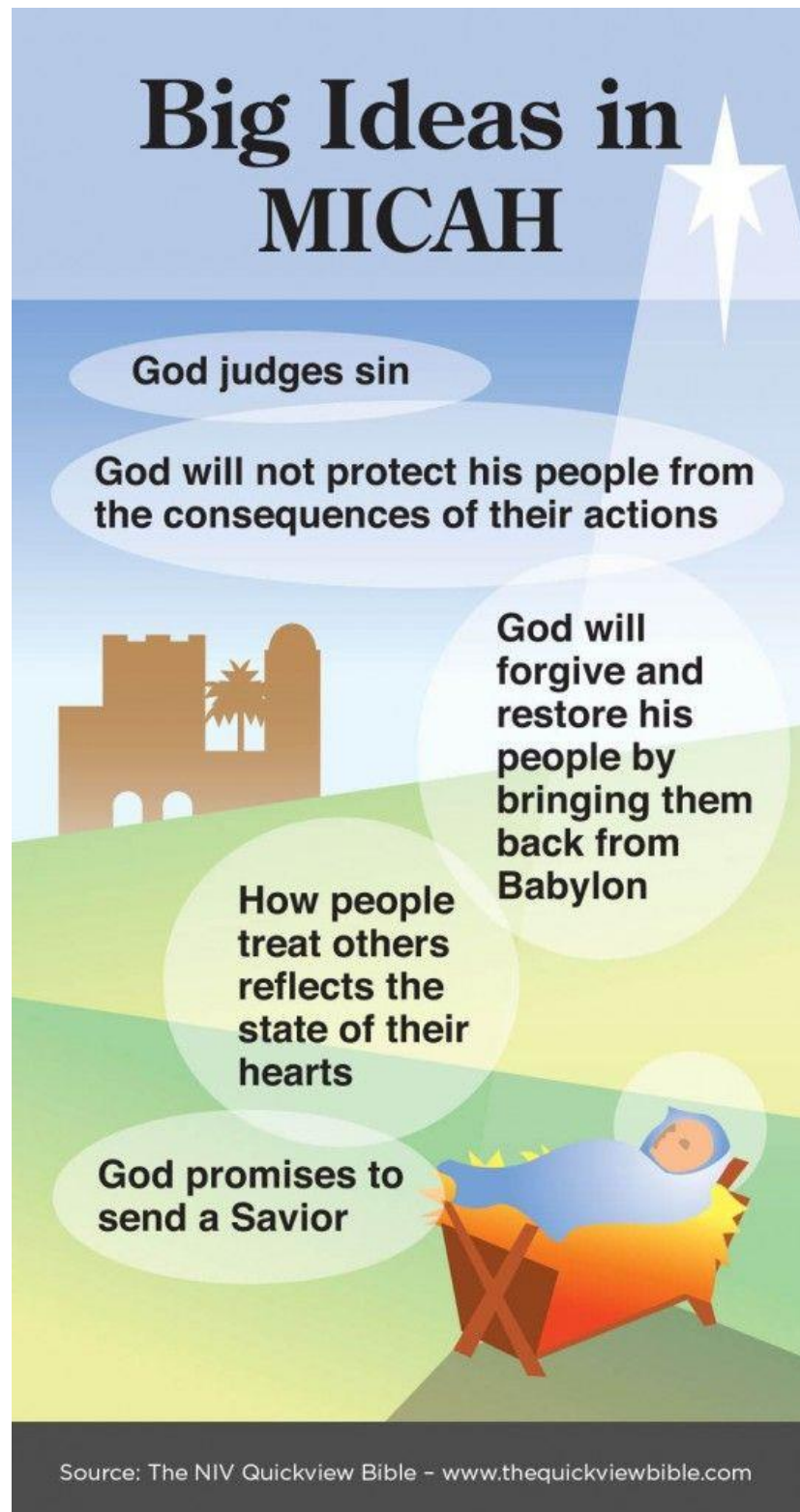
6 – 12 MAR 2018

Week 23 - 27 Weeks to Go



Organizing the Big Book of Isaiah





Judgment and Salvation

6 – 12 MAR 2018

2 KI 15-16; ISA 1-10, 14, 17; 2 CH 26, MIC 1-2

Week 23 - 27 Weeks to Go



Judgment and Salvation

6 – 12 MAR 2018

2 KI 15-16; ISA 1-10, 14, 17; 2 CH 26, MIC 1-2

Week 23 - 27 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- How does the Bible's view of God's involvement in human events affect your attitude toward developments on the world scene today?
- What is redemption? How does Isaiah think that people can be redeemed? Is it God's job to redeem people? What do they need to do themselves?
- In MIC 1, to what does Micah compare God's wrath? How does God's holy, perfect wrath differ from human wrath?
- How should the fact that God is Holy affect the way we live day to day? See ISA 5-6.

What did I learn about human nature?

- Is success sometimes a danger to our relationship with God? What does Uzziah's story (2 CH 26) say to you about this?
- Ahaz masked his lack of trust in God with false humility (ISA 7:12). What examples have you seen of people covering up their sin with a veneer of virtue? Since Ahaz was a bad king all along, what does it mean to you that God would still desire to give him a sign of his mercy? How does Ahaz' refusal serve as a warning to you?
- How does the sin of idolatry show itself in life today?
- During Micah's time, many were enjoying great prosperity. With the wealth came an increasing number of social evils and moral decay. In our world, where do we see people planning evil (MIC 2:1-2)? What evil are we capable of and must watch out for? What is the link between justice and other-centered humility? Between injustice and self-seeking pride?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- 2KI teaches an important life lesson: actions have consequences. "Repent! Sin will incur judgment," God warned in effect through the prophets. Israel and Judah learned the hard way that God means what He says. How will we learn? Consider your heart. Is it resistant to God's call? Can you acknowledge your sin and turn back to Him (repent)?
- How do you define justice? Aristotle said, "At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst." Theodore Roosevelt said, "Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong." Benjamin Franklin said, "Without justice, courage is weak." How do you respond to these statements?
- God's holiness and universal reign awed Isaiah (ISA 6). Which of God's attributes most impress you? Why? Are you willing to serve anywhere, anytime? Why has God sent you to your world? If you had a vision like this, would it change your life? Would you view God differently?
- Much of Micah's indictment against Israel and Judah involves these nation's injustice toward the lowly – unjust business dealing, robbery, mistreatment of women and children and a government that lived in luxury off the hard work of its nation's people. Where does injustice dwell in your own life? Who are the lowly in your life?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

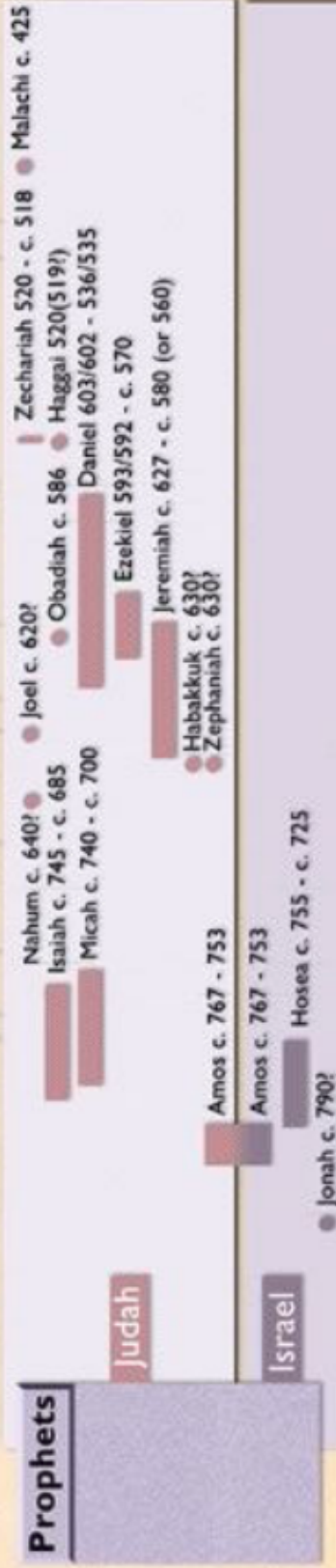
Characteristics of a True Prophet in the Old Testament (bible.org)

To reveal the nature and attributes of God to men
To make known to men the laws of God
To call the people back to obedience to God's laws
To exhort the people to sincerity in worship
To warn the people of Divine judgment upon sin, both personal and national
To foretell future events that God had willed
To foretell the coming of the Messiah
To record the history of God's dealings with men
To record the word of God in Holy Scriptures

Deuteronomy 18:14-22

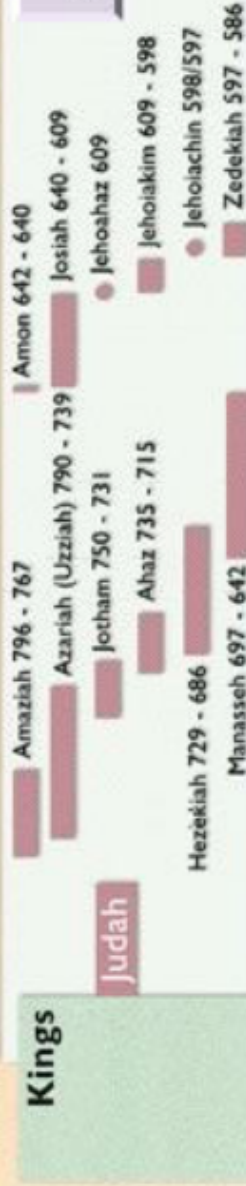
A true prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah
A true prophet will be chosen by God from one of the tribes of Israel
A true prophet will speak the words that Jehovah puts into his mouth
A true prophet will be vindicated by the fulfillment of his message

Prophets

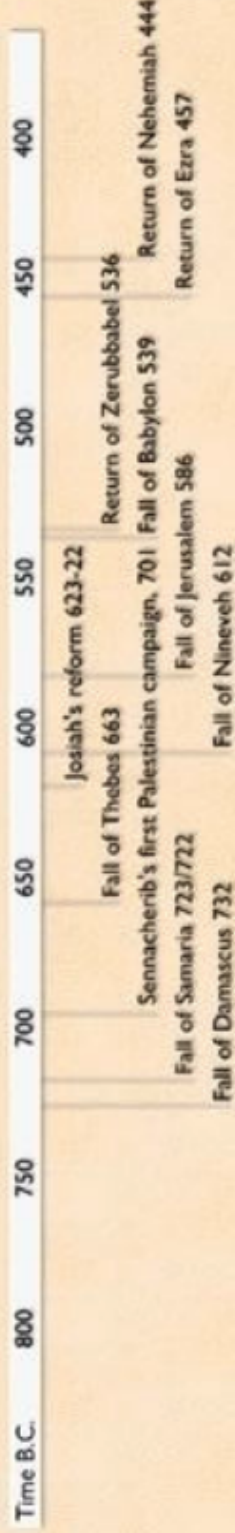


Kings

To Kings of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia



Prophets and Kings of Judah and Israel



REDEMPTION

Nelson's Bible Dictionary Definitions

Redemption

Deliverance by payment of a price.

In the New Testament, redemption refers to salvation from sin, death, and the wrath of God by Christ's sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the word redemption refers to redemption by a kinsman.

In the Old Testament redemption was applied to property, animals, persons and the nation of Israel as a whole. In nearly every instance, freedom from obligation, bondage, or danger was secured by the payment of a price, a ransom, bribe, satisfaction or sum of money paid to obtain freedom, favor or reconciliation. People may redeem property, animals, and individuals (slaves, prisoners, indentured relatives) who are legally obligated to God or in bondage for other reasons. God alone, however, is able to redeem from the slavery of sin (PS 130:7-8), enemy oppressors (DT 15:15) and the power of death (JOB 19:25-26; PS 49:8-9).

The New Testament emphasizes the tremendous cost of redemption: "the precious blood of Christ (1 PE 1:19; EPH 1:7) which is also called an atoning sacrifice, "a propitiation by His blood" (RO 3:25). Believers are exhorted to remember the "price" of their redemption as a motivation to personal holiness (1 CO 6:19-20, 1 PE 1:13-19). The Bible also emphasizes the result of redemption: freedom from sin and freedom to serve God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How can you fail to rejoice, having been freed from the oppressive bondage of slavery to sin (JN 8:34, RO 6:18), the law (GAL 4:3-5, GAL 5:1) and the fear of death (HEB 2:14-15)?

"Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed (JN 8:36)

Redeemer

One who frees or delivers another from difficulty, danger, or bondage, usually by the payment of a ransom price. In the Old Testament the redeemer could function in several ways. He could buy back property (and even enslaved people) sold under duress (LEV 25:23-32). He (usually as owner, not as a relative) often redeemed from the Lord dedicated property and firstborn livestock (LEV 27:1-33, EX 21:28-30). He could (as legal avenger) take the life of one who had murdered his relative as a blood price (NU 25:12-28).

Boaz's function as redeemer for Ruth (RU 3:13-4:10) is well known, as is Job's resurrection hope in God, his Redeemer (JOB 19:25). God Himself is the Redeemer of Israel, a fact mentioned 18 times – especially by Isaiah (PS 78:35, IS 41:14).

In the New Testament Christ is viewed as the ultimate Redeemer. Jesus gave his life as a "ransom for many" (MK 10:45). Thus, Paul speaks of believers as having "redemption through His blood" (EPH 1:7).

Biblical References to Redemption

Exodus 13:11-13 TLB

when the Lord brings you into the land he promised to your ancestors long ago, where the Canaanites are now living, all firstborn sons and firstborn male animals belong to the Lord, and you shall give them to him. A firstborn donkey may be purchased back from the Lord in exchange for a lamb or baby goat; but if you decide not to trade, the donkey shall be killed. However, you *must* buy back your firstborn sons.

Exodus 21:28-30 NIV

‘If a bull gores a man or woman to death, the bull is to be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten. But the owner of the bull will not be held responsible. ²⁹ If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull is to be stoned and its owner also is to be put to death. ³⁰ However, if payment is demanded, the owner may redeem his life by the payment of whatever is demanded.

Leviticus 25:24 TLB

In every contract of sale there must be a stipulation that the land can be redeemed at any time by the seller.

Leviticus 25:29 ESV

“‘Anyone who sells a house in a walled city retains the right of redemption a full year after its sale. During that time the seller may redeem it.

Leviticus 25:48 ESV

they retain the right of redemption after they have sold themselves. One of their relatives may redeem them

Leviticus 25:52 ESV

If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, they are to compute that and pay for their redemption accordingly..

Numbers 3:47-51 ESV

You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore, I command you this today.

Deuteronomy 15:15 ESV

If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, they are to compute that and pay for their redemption accordingly..

Ruth 3:6-18 ESV

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a

redeemer.” And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ...

Ruth 4:3-10 ESV

Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.” Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ...

Job 19:25-27 ESV

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Psalms 34:22 ESV

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalms 48 ESV

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalms 49:5-9; 15-19 ESV

Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked deceivers surround me—those who trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches? No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—so that they should live on forever and not see decay.. .

. . . But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself. Do not be overawed when others grow rich, when the splendor of their houses increases; for they will take nothing with them when they die, their splendor will not descend with them. Though while they live they count themselves blessed—and people praise you when you prosper—they will join those who have gone before them, who will never again see the light of life.

Psalms 71:21-24 ESV

I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed. And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

Psalm 78:35 NIV

They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.

Psalm 107:1-3 ESV

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Psalm 111:9 ESV

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

Psalm 130:7 ESV

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

Isaiah 41:14 ESV

Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 43:1-2 ESV

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 44:21-22 ESV

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Isaiah 59:1 NIV

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

Isaiah 63:1 NIV

Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save."

Jeremiah 32:7-8 ESV

Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.' Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:57-58 ESV

You came near when I called on you; you said, ‘Do not fear!’ “You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life.

Micah 4:10 NIV

Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the Lord will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.

Mark 10:45 ESV

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Luke 2:38 ESV

And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 21:25-28 ESV

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Romans 3:24-26 ESV

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 8:23 NIV

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV / 60 helpful votes

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

1 Corinthians 6:20 ESV

You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

Galatians 1:4 ESV

Who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

Ephesians 1:7 ESV

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Ephesians 1:14 ESV

Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30 NIV

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Colossians 1:13-14 ESV

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 ESV

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Hebrews 9:12 ESV

He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:15 ESV

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

1 Peter 1:17-19

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32,
PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

Prophets continue to call the people of Israel and Judah to repent and stop their evil ways. As the fabric of morality slowly unravels in both Israel and Judah, the lines of right and wrong become blurred. The fall and destruction of Samaria was the result of the people's persistent covenant breaking and persistent sin. Imagine the despair of God's chosen people when God finally allows them to be captured by their enemies. God was patient, using prophets to call his people and their leaders back to a covenant relationship, warning them of coming judgment, but eventually his ancient covenant curses were realized.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 630-660)

Day 1: MIC 3:1-7:20
Day 2: 2 CH 27:1-28:27; 2 KI 17:1-4
Day 3: ISA 28:1-29:24; 2 KI 17:5-41
Day 4: 2 KI 18:1-12; ISA 10:5-12:6
Day 5: PR 25:1-29:27
Day 6: ISA 18:1-20:6; 15:1-16:14
Day 7: ISA 22:15-25; 30:1-32:20

Outline

Micah's Ministry [Day 1]
Priestly Account: Pekah Attacks Ahaz [Day 2]
Prophetic Account: Assyria's Invasions [Day 2]
A Warning to Jerusalem's Leaders [Day 3]
The Fall of Samaria [Day 3]
A New King in Judah [Day 4]
Assyria, Tool in God's Hand [Day 4]
Hezekiah's Proverbs [Day 5]
The Ashdod Rebellion [Day 6 and 7]

Key Characters

Micah	Pekah
Ahaz	Jotham
Hoshea	Rezi
Hezekiah	

Key Locations

Judah	Jerusalem
Israel	Samaria
Assyria	Damascus
Ephraim	Halah
Edom	Cush
Egypt	Moab

Key Terms

Justice
Judgment
Remnant
Wisdom
Prophecy
Righteousness

Key Verses

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. [MIC 6:8]

Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness. [MIC 7:9]

All this comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent. [ISA 28:29]

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! [ISA 30:18]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32,
PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mic3: You rulers tear the skin from my people. The LORD says, "The sun will set for the prophets." Zion will be ploughed up like a field.

Mic4: In the last days, nations will come to the mountain of the LORD. Zion will be rescued from Babylon. "I will give you horns of iron."

Mic5: "From you, O Bethlehem, will come a ruler." The remnant of Jacob will be like a lion. "I will punish the nations that did not obey."

Mic6: "O my people, have I wearied you?" What does the LORD require? Act justly and love mercy. "I will make you desolate for your sins."

Mic7: The godly have perished from the earth. But I will look to the LORD. The nations will tremble. Who is a God like you, forgiving sin?

2Ch27: Jotham became king and did right in the sight of the LORD. He built fortresses in the hills and conquered the Ammonites.

2Ch28: Ahaz became king. He made idols, so the LORD gave him to Aram and Israel. He shut the LORD's temple and sacrificed to other gods.

2Ki17: Hoshea ruled Israel. The king of Assyria invaded and settled the land. This happened because the Israelites rejected the covenant.

Isa28: Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim! They will be snared. Behold, I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone. The LORD will do his alien work.

Isa29: Woe to Ariel, the city of David! But your enemies will be like dust. I will astound these people. No longer will Jacob be ashamed.

2Ki18: Hezekiah ruled Judah and did right. The Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem. Rabshakeh said, "Don't listen to Hezekiah. Come out to me."

Isa10: Woe to those who rob the poor of justice. Woe to Assyria, whose purpose is to destroy. The remnant of Israel will return to the LORD.

Isa11: A shoot will come up from Jesse. He will judge with righteousness. The wolf will live with the lamb. The Lord will gather his people.

Isa12: In that day you will say: I will praise you, O LORD! Your anger has turned away. Surely God is my salvation. Sing for joy, O Zion!

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32,
PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Pr25: Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence. If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. To seek one's own glory is not glory.

Pr26: As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Without gossip a quarrel dies down. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it.

Pr27: Faithful are the wounds of a friend. A loud blessing in the morning will be taken as a curse. A person is tested by being praised.

Pr28: Better to be poor and honest than crooked and rich. Whoever confesses sins will find mercy. Whoever trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Pr29: By justice a king builds up the land. Whether a fool rages or laughs, there is no peace. Correct your son and he will give you rest.

Isa18: Woe to the land of buzzing wings, beyond the rivers of Cush. The LORD will cut down the branches. Wild animals will feed on them.

Isa19: An oracle concerning Egypt: I will hand the Egyptians over to a cruel master. When they cry out to the LORD, he will send a saviour.

Isa20: The LORD spoke through Isaiah: As Isaiah has gone stripped for three years, so Assyria will lead the Egyptians and Cushites captive.

Isa15: An oracle concerning Moab: Ar of Moab is laid waste. In the streets they wear sackcloth. The waters of Dibon are full of blood.

Isa16: A throne will be established from the house of David. We have heard of the pride of Moab. Within three years Moab will be despised.

Isa22: The oracle concerning the valley of vision: The LORD has taken away the covering of Judah. I will give to Eliakim the key of David.

Isa30: Woe to the stubborn children who seek help from Egypt! The LORD will wait to show mercy. The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria

Isa31: Woe to those who trust in chariots! As a lion roars, so the LORD will come down to fight for Mount Zion. Turn back to him, O Israel.

Isa32: Behold, a king will reign in righteousness. Tremble, you women of ease. The city will be deserted until the Spirit is poured upon us.

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32, PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

Israel is taken into exile by Assyria

[2 Kings 17]

For over 200 years the northern kingdom of Israel had worshipped idols, dishonored their covenant relationship with God, and ignored God's warnings of exile.

For many years the Assyrians had been expanding their empire and had now become a large and dominant empire.

In 722 BC, Assyria conquered Israel and took most of the people from those 10 tribes to live in other conquered territories to the north and east of Israel. (Judah was taxed by the Assyrians but never conquered by them).

These 10 tribes of Israelites were scattered and assimilated into other cultures. These are the "10 lost tribes of Israel".

Assyria brought other conquered peoples to live in Israel (also called Samaria). These foreigners intermarried with the remnant of Israelites that had not been carried off into exile. The resulting people worshipped both God and idols. These people were referred to as Samaritans. In Jesus' day, the descendants of these Samaritans were looked down upon by other Jews (but not by Jesus!)



Judah last for another 135 years

[2 Kings 18-24 and 2 Chronicles 29-36]

When the Assyrian Empire expanded into the Holy Land, the Assyrians did not conquer or exile the people of Judah. Judah was allowed to maintain its own kings and armies but they were considered to be part of the Assyrian Empire and were required to pay taxes to Assyria.

Judah survived as a nation 135 years longer than Israel.

Most of Judah's kings encouraged idol worship and God was displeased with Judah.

God raised up prophets in Judah to warn the people to turn away from sin and idol worship. These prophets predicted a 70 year exile ahead.

During these years the Assyrian Empire lost its strength and the Babylonian Empire grew in prominence and took over much of the former Assyrian Empire.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32,
PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

The Fall of Israel

MIC 3-7; 2 CH 27; 2 KI 17-18, ISA 10-12, 15-16, 18, 22-25, 28-32,
PR 25-29

13 –19 MAR 2018
Week 24 - 26 Weeks to Go

What did I learn about God?

- Micah talks a lot about justice. How is God's rule and justice different from the world's?
- How does the remnant theme (ISA 10:20-34) show both God's judgment and his mercy?
- Are salvation (ISA 30: 18-26) and judgment (ISA 30: 27-33) flip sides of the same action on God's part? How do they work together to achieve the same divine purpose?
- God intended to deliver Judah even while she persisted in rebellion (ISA 31). What hope does that offer you? In ISA 32, what does Isaiah say the outpouring of the Spirit will be like on God's people? Is it an individual or corporate experience? What does Isaiah say about God's ultimate desire for you?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Micah 3 rebukes Israel's leaders. How much does the leadership of a nation define its character? Why should leaders be judged more strictly than others? What punishment is fitting for leaders that are unjust? What will the consequence of Israel's leaders actions have on Israel?
- In ISA 15, what do you imagine the scene was like for these refugees fleeing the warfare in Moab? What do they look like? What are they carrying? What are they feeling? What are their future prospects? What hope do they have (ISA 16)? What message would God want Judah to look at when learn from the prophecy about Moab?
- What evil regimes in our society seem ripe for judgment today? Would you weep over their callousness as Isaiah did (ISA 22:4)? Or would you inwardly cheer that they finally "got what they deserved? Why?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is there always a need for destruction when it comes to deliverance and salvation? Does a work of restoration always involve some kind of destruction? In Micah 5:10-15, what is God talking about taking away? Why? What would God remove from your life so you could become more obedient to him?
- Isaiah looked back to the stories of Moses and Gideon to provide hope for the people. What stories of God's grace and deliverance – both Biblical and contemporary—can you look back upon to find hope in times when it is hard to trust God? How have you seen God cut down an "Assyrian army" that has threatened you?
- If you practiced the principle of humility set forth in PR25:6-7, what would happen at work? At home? At church? To what would you like to be elevated?
- It's been said that "whatever we trust in place of God will eventually turn on us and destroy us." How does that relate in Isaiah 19? Have you seen that to be true in your own experience? What is the "Assyria" that seems unstoppable in your life? What "Egypt" are you tempted to rely upon for help instead of God? What has contributed to your trusting in God when you encounter problems?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

The accounts of the Assyrian invasion of Syria-Palestine show an increasing trust in God by Hezekiah. Sennacherib mocks God, but as he does. Hezekiah places more and more trust in God. God shows the Assyrians that they were used for His purpose and that He is in control. Hezekiah celebrates Passover to pray for deliverance. God answers with a message of comfort and hope, victory and triumph. Hezekiah's increasing growth of trust in God, resulted in a supernatural defeat of the Assyrian Army by the angel of death at night. Isaiah's prophecy to Jerusalem is fulfilled.

Weekly Reading Plan

(pg. 660-686)

Day 1: 2 KI 20:1-11; ISA 38:1-22;
2 KI 20:12-19; ISA 39:1-8;
ISA 36:1; 2 KI 18:13-16
Day 2: 2 KI 18:17-19:7; ISA 26:2-37:7
Day 3: 2 KI 19:8-37; ISA 37:8-38;
2 KI 20:20-21
Day 4: ISA 22:1-14, 23:1-18; 24:1-23
Day 5: ISA 25:1-27:13
Day 6: 2 CH 29:1-31:21
Day 7: 2 CH 32:24-31; 32:1-23, 32:32-33. 2 KI 21:1 - 22:20

Outline

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery [Day 1]
Sennacherib's Invasion [Day 1]
A Second Invasion [Day 2-3]
After Sennacherib's Campaign [Day 4-5]
Priestly Account: Assyria's Invasions [Day 6]
Hezekiah's Sickness and Rebellion [Day 7]
Prophetic Account: Bad and Good Kings [Day 7]

Key Characters

Hezekiah	Isaiah
Marduk-Baladan	Eliakim
Sennacherib	Hilkiah
Joah	Shebna
Levites	Manasseh
Amon	

Key Locations

Judah	Babylon
Assyria	Jerusalem
Tyre	Tarshish

Key Terms

Remnant
Prophecy
Righteous
Trust
Deliverance

Key Verses

Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God. [2 KI 19:19]

For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. [2 KI 19:31]

The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth. [ISA 26:7]

In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered. [2 CH 31:21]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki20: Hezekiah was sick but the LORD extended his life. Envoys came from Babylon. Isaiah told Hezekiah, "Everything will be taken away."

Isa38: Hezekiah became sick, so he prayed. The LORD said, "I will add fifteen years to your life." Hezekiah wrote, "The LORD will save me."

Isa39: The king of Babylon sent envoys. Hezekiah showed them his treasure houses. Isaiah said, "All you have shall be carried to Babylon."

Isa36: The king of Assyria came against Judah. His commander said, "Do not listen to Hezekiah. Have any of the gods delivered their lands?"

2Ki18: Hezekiah ruled Judah and did right. The Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem. Rabshakeh said, "Don't listen to Hezekiah. Come out to me."

2Kgs19: Hezekiah prayed, "O LORD, save us." Isaiah said, "The LORD says: I will defend the city." That night the Assyrians were struck dead.

Isa26: A song will be sung in Judah: The LORD is the eternal Rock. Your hand is lifted high. We gave birth to wind, but your dead will rise.

Isa27: In that day the LORD will slay Leviathan. By exile the guilt of Jacob will be purged. Those who were perishing will worship the LORD.

Isa28: Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim! They will be snared. Behold, I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone. The LORD will do his alien work.

Isa29: Woe to Ariel, the city of David! But your enemies will be like dust. I will astound these people. No longer will Jacob be ashamed.

Isa30: Woe to the stubborn children who seek help from Egypt! The LORD will wait to show mercy. The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria.

Isa31: Woe to those who trust in chariots! As a lion roars, so the LORD will come down to fight for Mount Zion. Turn back to him, O Israel.

Isa32: Behold, a king will reign in righteousness. Tremble, you women of ease. The city will be deserted until the Spirit is poured upon us.

Isa33: Woe to you, O destroyer! The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure. "I will arise," says the LORD. You will see the king in his beauty.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Isa34: The LORD is enraged against the nations. His sword is filled with blood. He has a day of vengeance for Zion. Edom shall lie waste.

Isa35: The desert shall rejoice and bloom. The eyes of the blind shall be opened. The ransomed of the LORD shall return to Zion with songs.

Isa36: The king of Assyria came against Judah. His commander said, "Do not listen to Hezekiah. Have any of the gods delivered their lands?"

Isa37: Hezekiah prayed to the LORD. Isaiah said, "The king of Assyria will not enter the city." The angel of the LORD struck the Assyrians.

2Kgs20: Hezekiah was sick but the LORD extended his life. Envoys came from Babylon. Isaiah told Hezekiah, "Everything will be taken away."

2Kgs21: Manasseh ruled in Jerusalem and did evil. The LORD said, "I will bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah." Amon ruled and did evil.

Isa22: The oracle concerning the valley of vision: The LORD has taken away the covering of Judah. I will give to Eliakim the key of David.

Isa23: The oracle concerning Tyre: Wail, O ships, for Tyre is laid waste. The LORD has planned it. Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years.

Isa24: Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste. Its people are held guilty. Fear and pit and snare await you. The LORD of hosts will reign.

Isa25: O LORD, I will praise you. You have done marvellous things. The LORD will swallow up death forever. Moab will be trampled as straw.

Isa26: A song will be sung in Judah: The LORD is the eternal Rock. Your hand is lifted high. We gave birth to wind, but your dead will rise.

Isa27: In that day the LORD will slay Leviathan. By exile the guilt of Jacob will be purged. Those who were perishing will worship the LORD.

2Chr29: Hezekiah became king and did right. He told the Levites to cleanse the temple. He assembled the officials and they made offerings.

2Chr30: Hezekiah sent couriers throughout Judah and Israel saying, "Return to the LORD." Many gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

2Chr31: Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to their duties. The Israelites gave a tithe. Conaniah was in charge of the offerings.

2Chr32: Sennacherib besieged Judah. Hezekiah and Isaiah cried out to the LORD and the Assyrians were struck dead. Hezekiah had great riches.

2Kgs22: Josiah ruled and did right. He had the law read out and tore his robes. Huldah said, "The LORD says: You will be buried in peace."

Trust in God

20 – 26 MAR 2018

2 KI 18-22; ISA 22- 26, 36-39, 2 CH 29-33

Week 25 - 25 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- When Isaiah tells Hezekiah he will soon die from his illness, Hezekiah prays to God and is healed. What makes prayer most effective? Can prayer actually change God's mind? If so, what does it mean to say God never changes?
- Wicked people often live easy lives, or long lives, whereas those serving God often experience great hardships. How do you deal with the seeming unfairness? What might be God's perspective on the matter?
- What do you learn about God from considering his past judgments (e.g., Noah's flood or the fall of specific nations)? In comparison, what do you learn when you consider God's future glory, which will eclipse even the sun and stars above?
- Hezekiah is criticized for his pride [2 CH 23:24-33]. Is pride always bad? What can make it objectionable to God? How does God measure greatness in life? Is there anything God won't forgive if you are truly repentant?

What did I learn about human nature?

- After Sennacherib's attack, every city in Judah, except Jerusalem, was destroyed, thousands of innocent people were killed and Judah was plunged into poverty for decades following the attack. If you were living in Jerusalem, how would you react when you heard that 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died? Although Jerusalem was spared, a nearby city, Lachish, was destroyed. How would you explain God's ways to a resident of Lachish? What could be God's purpose in delaying or saying No?
- Hezekiah links "right worship" with God's blessing [2 CH 29]. Do you agree? What evidence would you give for pro or con?
- If Babylon represented the height of the world's culture and Tyre the apex of its wealth, how would you use Isaiah's message to challenge people dedicated to power and money? Does this mean power and wealth in themselves are wrong? Why or why not? How does this message serve as an ongoing warning to people in every age?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- When have you felt like Hezekiah – backed up against a wall with no recourse but to pray? How have you seen God's affirmation of his love for you?
- Hezekiah viewed life as a gift from God to be used for His purposes. How does this affect how you will live out your numbered days?
- In Isaiah, Judah looks to alliances to provide protection against Assyria in stead of relying on God. To what or to whom have you looked to fill that God-shaped void of insecurity in your own life? Since all we have comes from God, what is the place for human planning, preparing and hard work?

Insights about the time and/or customs?