

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)

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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 Kingdom Divides

1 Kings 11–15



Solomon forsakes the covenant by worshipping other gods
11:1–13

A prophet tells Jeroboam of God's plan to give him rule over ten tribes of Israel *11:29–39*

Solomon attempts to kill Jeroboam, who flees to Egypt until Solomon dies *11:40*



Rehoboam succeeds Solomon as king *11:41–43*

Rehoboam refuses to show kindness to the Israelites, who rebel against him *12:1–19*

Jeroboam becomes king over Israel; the tribe of Judah remains loyal to Rehoboam *12:20*

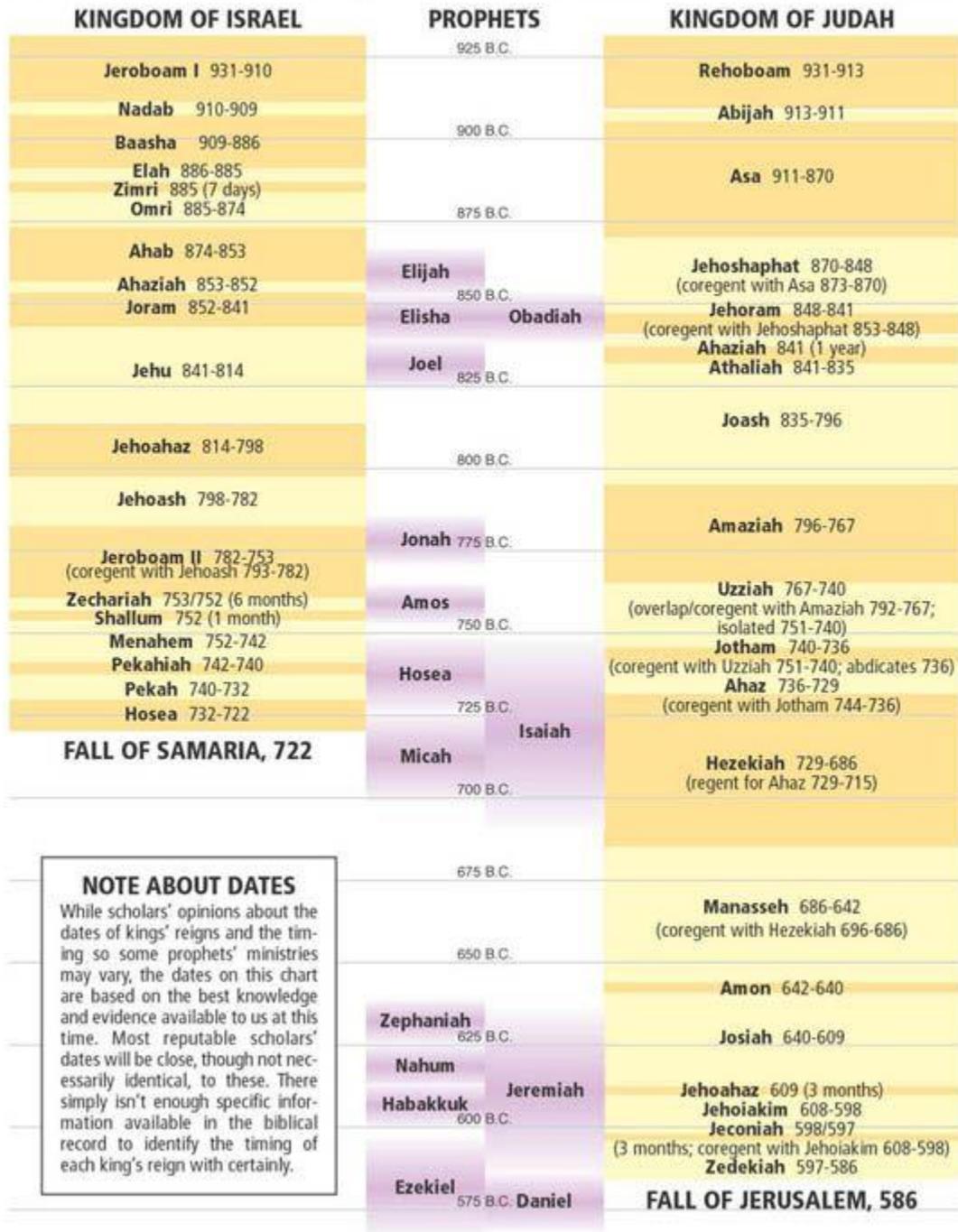


Jeroboam sets up golden calves for the people to worship, provoking God's wrath
12:25–33; 14:7–16

The people of Judah, under Rehoboam's rule, turn away from worshipping God and provoke his wrath *14:21–28*

Continual warfare takes place between Israel and Judah
14:30; 15:6,16

Rulers and Prophets of Israel and Judah



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)

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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		
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.

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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.



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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

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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 changes, 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?