

1 KINGS (STUDENT EDITION)

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AUTHOR-

IN THIS GREAT BUT DIFFICULT BOOK TO FOLLOW, WE ENCOUNTER SIMILARITIES WITH THE BOOKS WE JUST FINISHED, 1 & 2 SAMUEL. IN THE ORIGINAL HEBREW CANON, 1 & 2 KINGS WERE ACTUALLY _____. THE ENTIRE BOOK GIVES ONE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BY ONE AUTHOR. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DEBATE ABOUT WHO THE AUTHOR ACTUALLY IS, AND WE HAVE NO REAL CERTAINTY ABOUT WHO GOD USED. MANY SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. ONE THEORY THAT SEEMS PROBABLE IS THAT THE AUTHOR WAS THE PROPHET _____. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE BOOK RECORD _____, SOMETHING HE WITNESSED, AND WE ARE TOLD BY ANCIENT SOURCES THAT THE BOOK OF KINGS WAS WRITTEN BY "THE PROPHETS". ALSO, ANCIENT TALMUDIC TRADITION STATED THAT JEREMIAH WROTE IT, AND THERE ARE PARALLEL PORTIONS BETWEEN THE BOOK NAMED AFTER HIM AND KINGS (COMPARE 2 KINGS & JEREMIAH 39-42; 52).

HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY SCHOLARS TODAY WHO DO NOT HOLD TO THE JEREMIAH THEORY. THEY CLAIM THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO AN _____ WHO WORKED AT THE SAME TIME AS JEREMIAH TO COMPILE THIS LONG HISTORY OF HIS NATION'S RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LIFE. REGARDLESS, WHILE THIS PROPHET-WRITER IS NOT NAMED IN THE BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 KINGS, HE DOES REVEAL THE SOURCES THAT HE USED. HE SPEAKS OF "THE CHRONICLES OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL" (1 KINGS 14:19) AND "THE CHRONICLES OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH" (1 KINGS 14:29). THESE WERE PROBABLY THE _____ AND _____ OF THE TWO NATIONS. HE MUST HAVE DRAWN FROM THEM FREELY AS HE WROTE.

WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THIS BEING ONE BOOK, NOT TWO, AND BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY INVOLVED IN THESE BOOKS, WE WILL DISCUSS BOTH BOOKS OF KINGS AND A VERY BRIEF HISTORY TO HELP YOU GET CONTEXT OF THE TIMES IT WAS WRITTEN.

THESE BOOKS COVER, IN _____, ABOUT _____ YEARS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY. THE LAST EVENT MENTIONED IN

THIS CHRONOLOGY IS THE _____ OF JUDAH'S CITIZENS BY THE _____. THIS MEANS THE BOOK HAD TO BE COMPILED IN ITS FINAL FORM SOME TIME AFTER THE BABYLONIANS OVERRAN JERUSALEM IN _____. IN FACT, THE LAST EVENT RECORDED IN 2 KINGS IS THE RELEASE OF JEHOIACHIN OF JUDAH FROM IMPRISONMENT IN BABYLON. SINCE HE WAS IMPRISONED IN 597 B.C. (SEE 2 KINGS 24:8-17), AND RELEASED _____ (2 KINGS 25:27), THEN 2 KINGS HAD TO BE WRITTEN AFTER _____ TO INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION. FURTHER, SINCE BABYLON _____ IN 538 B.C. AND THIS MAJOR EVENT IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED, WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT KINGS WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THAT TIME. THEREFORE WE CAN DATE THE WRITING OF 1 & 2 KINGS BETWEEN _____ THE BOOK OF 1 KINGS COVERS A SPAN OF _____ OF HISTORY AND 2 KINGS ALMOST _____ OF HISTORY. REMEMBERING THAT THE NATION BECOMES DIVIDED INTO NORTHERN (_____) AND SOUTHERN (_____) KINGDOMS, THE FOUR CENTURIES COVERED BY 1 AND 2 KINGS WERE TIMES OF CHANGE AND POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN THE ANCIENT WORLD AS THE BALANCE OF POWER SHIFTED FROM ONE NATION TO ANOTHER. SURROUNDING NATIONS THAT POSED A THREAT TO ISRAEL AND JUDAH AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THIS PERIOD INCLUDED _____, _____. THE _____ THREAT WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG DURING THE LAST 50 YEARS OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM. UNDER TIGLATH-PILESER III, THIS CONQUERING NATION LAUNCHED THREE DEVASTATING CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ISRAEL IN 734, 733 AND 732 B.C. IT WAS A BLOW FROM WHICH ISRAEL NEVER RECOVERED, AND THE NATION FELL TO ASSYRIAN FORCES JUST 10 YEARS LATER IN 722 B.C. WHILE SYRIA AND ASSYRIA WERE THREATS TO JUDAH AT VARIOUS TIMES, THEIR WORST ENEMY TURNED OUT TO BE THE NATION OF _____. THE _____ TOOK CAPTIVES AND GOODS FROM JERUSALEM IN THREE CAMPAIGNS- IN 605 AND 597 B.C. AND IN A TWO-YEAR SIEGE BEGINNING IN 588 B.C. _____ . THE TEMPLE WAS DESTROYED, AND THOUSANDS OF JUDAH'S LEADING CITIZENS WERE CARRIED INTO CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON.

ABOUT THE BOOK-

PART OF THE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE JOINT BOOK OF KINGS IS BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE NATION'S REBELLION. AS GOD JUDGES THE NATION, STARTING WITH SOLOMON'S WEAKNESSES WITH WOMEN AND HIS HEART BEING TURNED AWAY FROM THE ONE TRUE GOD BY HIS WIVES AND CONCUBINES, WE SEE A _____. THE RESULT OF THIS WAS VARIOUS FACTIONS AND INTRIGUES TRYING TO GAIN RULE. THE REASON THIS LEADS TO DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK IS BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE HISTORY THAT FOLLOWS REBELLION AND HOW IT IS WRITTEN. THE NARRATIVE BECOMES DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW AFTER THE FIRST HALF OF 1 KINGS BECAUSE THE AUTHOR SWITCHES BACK AND

FORTH BETWEEN THE _____ OF ISRAEL AND THE _____ OF JUDAH TRACING THEIR HISTORIES SIMULTANEOUSLY. THERE WERE _____ IN ISRAEL, ALL OF THEM _____. THERE WERE _____ IN JUDAH, AND _____ OF THEM WERE _____. 1 KINGS RECORDS THE FIRST 9 RULERS IN ISRAEL AND THE FIRST 4 IN JUDAH. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT SOME KINGS ARE COVERED BRIEFLY AND OTHERS WITH ENTIRE CHAPTERS. MAJOR ATTENTION WAS BROUGHT TO THOSE WHO WERE _____ OR TO THOSE WHO WERE _____ AND OF WHY THE NATIONS FINALLY COLLAPSED.

IT SEEMS OBVIOUS, CONSIDERING ALL OF THE ABOVE, THAT THE WRITER OF 1 & 2 KINGS WAS CONTEMPLATING THE HORROR OF THE EXILE AND DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL & JUDAH. HE IS ATTEMPTING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION WHY THIS HAPPENED, AND IN VIEWING THE HISTORY WRITES A PROPHETIC MESSAGE THAT THE DESTRUCTION WAS THE _____ OF GOD THROUGH FOREIGN NATIONS ON THE _____ OF GOD'S COVENANT BY HIS PEOPLE. HENCE, THE BOOK OF KINGS WAS WRITTEN TO EXILES TO _____.

BASICALLY, 1 & 2 KINGS TAKE UP WHERE 1 & 2 SAMUEL LEFT OFF. THIS IS MORE THAN HISTORY! IT IS SELECTIVE HISTORY WITH _____, DEMONSTRATING THAT GOD, AS LORD OF HISTORY, WORKS PROVIDENTIALLY FOR HIS REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE. THIS HISTORY REVEALS WHAT WE HAVE SEEN EMPHASIZED SO OFTEN: OBEDIENCE HAS _____ AND DISOBEDIENCE VERY _____. AND WITH THIS IN MIND, 1 & 2 KINGS EMPHASIZES THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS THAT ARE MORALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY SIGNIFICANT.

1 KINGS RECORDS THE TURBULENT EXPERIENCES OF GOD'S PEOPLE FROM THE DEATH OF DAVID TO THE REIGN OF JEHOASHAPATH (THE 4TH KING OF JUDAH) AND THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH (THE 9TH OF ISRAEL). THERE IS ONE LAST THING WE SHOULD NOTE: THE BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 KINGS PRESENT AN INTERESTING CONTRAST BETWEEN KING DAVID OF JUDAH AND _____, THE FIRST KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF _____.

JEROBOAM ESTABLISHED A LEGACY OF IDOL WORSHIP IN THIS NEW NATION BY SETTING UP GOLDEN CALVES AT BETHEL AND DAN (1 KINGS 12:25-33). THESE WERE SYMBOLS OF THE FERTILITY RELIGION OF BAAL. HIS STRATEGY WAS TO MIX THIS FALSE RELIGION WITH WORSHIP OF THE ONE TRUE GOD IN AN ATTEMPT _____ OF THE PEOPLE AND BIND THEM TOGETHER AS A DISTINCTIVE NATION. THE WRITER OF 1 AND 2 KINGS _____ THIS ACT OF IDOLATRY. _____ OF ISRAEL WAS MEASURED AGAINST THE STANDARD OF JEROBOAM'S IDOLATRY. OF EACH KING WHO LED THE PEOPLE ASTRAY, IT WAS WRITTEN, "HE DID NOT DEPART FROM THE SINS OF JEROBOAM THE SON OF NEBAT, WHO HAD MADE ISRAEL SIN" (2 KINGS 15:9).

JUST AS THE WRITER OF 1 AND 2 KINGS USED JEROBOAM AS A BAD EXAMPLE, _____ WAS USED AS A STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE. IN SPITE OF DAVID'S MORAL LAPSES, HE BECAME THE MEASURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR ALL KINGS WHO FOLLOWED HIM. THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS MARKED BY REBELLION AND STRIFE AS OPPOSING FACTIONS STRUGGLED FOR THE RIGHT TO REIGN, BUT _____ CONTINUED IN THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FOR NEARLY FOUR CENTURIES. THE WRITER EXPLAINED THAT THE EVILS OF KINGS SUCH AS ABIJAM (OR ABIJAH) _____ THE LOVE AND MERCY THAT GOD HAD PROMISED TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID: "NEVERTHELESS FOR DAVID'S SAKE THE LORD HIS GOD GAVE HIM A LAMP IN JERUSALEM, BY SETTING UP HIS SON AFTER HIM AND BY ESTABLISHING JERUSALEM; BECAUSE DAVID DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF THE LORD" (1 KINGS 15:4-5).

A BASIC ASSESSMENT OF 1 KINGS (BASIC THEMES)-

IN 1 KINGS WE SEE, IN THE TRANSITION FROM DAVID TO SOLOMON, A STUDY OF _____. THAT IS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD BESTOWING FAVOR _____ VERSUS GOD'S GLORY AND MAJESTY _____ (CAN ANYONE FORGET THE SCENES IN 1 KINGS 8?).

WE SEE IN THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE BOOK THE BUILDING AND DEDICATING OF THE TEMPLE AND IN IT THE PRIMARY CALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE TO BE FIRST AND FOREMOST A _____. IN THE REST OF 1 KINGS WE SEE A TESTAMENT TO THE _____, DEMONSTRATING THAT WHATEVER MAN DOES- EITHER IN OBEDIENCE OR REBELLION- GOD'S PURPOSES _____. I NEED TO PUT IN A WORD ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY HERE. FIRST A DEFINITION OF SOVEREIGNTY: THIS IS A TERM BY WHICH IS EXPRESSED THE _____ OF GOD. THE POSSESSION OF THE MOST COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY IS A NECESSARY PART OF THE PROPER CONCEPTION OF GOD AND IS ABUNDANTLY DECLARED IN THE SCRIPTURES (E.G., PS 50:1; 66:7; 93:1; ISAIAH 40:15,17; 1 TIM 6:15; REV 11:17). THE METHOD OF THE DIVINE RULERSHIP IS, HOWEVER, TO BE JUDGED IN THE LIGHT OF SPECIAL REVELATION. THE TERM ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY AS USED IN CALVINISM MEANS THE _____ OF A CERTAIN NUMBER TO SALVATION AND THE _____ OF OTHERS. THERE IS A SENSE, INDEED, IN WHICH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS ABSOLUTE. HE IS UNDER NO _____ WHATSOEVER. HE IS THE SUPREME DISPENSER OF ALL EVENTS. ALL FORMS OF EXISTENCE ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS DOMINION. AND YET THIS IS NOT TO BE VIEWED IN ANY SUCH WAY AS TO ABRIDGE THE REALITY OF THE MORAL FREEDOM OF GOD'S RESPONSIBLE CREATURES OR TO MAKE MEN ANYTHING ELSE THAN THE ARBITERS OF THEIR OWN ETERNAL DESTINIES. GOD HAS SEEN FIT TO CREATE BEINGS WITH THE _____ BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. HE RULES OVER THEM IN JUSTICE AND WISDOM AND GRACE. THIS IS THE WHOLE TENOR OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THE PLAIN DECLARATION OF MANY

PASSAGES (E.G., DEUT 10:17; JOB 36:5; ACTS 10:34-35; ROM 2:6; COL 3:25; 1 PETER 1:17).

PEOPLE VIEW SOVEREIGNTY AS MEANING THAT GOD SO OVERRULES IN HUMAN AFFAIRS THAT HUMAN ACTIONS HAVE NO CONSEQUENCE OR AT LEAST CANNOT AFFECT GOD'S PURPOSES. THIS BOOK SPEAKS OTHERWISE! EXAMINING GOD'S DEALINGS WITH SOLOMON HELP US TO AVOID THIS "_____ " I LIKE TO CALL DORIS DAY CHRISTIANITY: "QUE SERA, SERA, WHATEVER WILL BE, WILL BE." WHEN SOLOMON TURNS FROM GOD (11:2), GOD DECLARES HIS OVERRULING WILL (11:11). THE DIFFICULTIES WITH EDOM (11:14) ARE ALSO SEEN AS THE RESULT OF _____. THE BIBLE _____ THAT GOD FOREORDAINED SOLOMON'S FAILURES (_____) BUT THAT HIS DISCIPLINING GRACE AND WISDOM _____ THE TESTIMONY OF HIS HOLY CHARACTER AND ETERNAL WILL (SOVEREIGNTY). THIS SAME STORY IS RETOLD IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN DEALINGS IN 11:26-14:31, AS THE LORD SUSTAINS HIS PURPOSES FOR DAVID'S ROYAL SEED DESPITE THE REVOLT OF THE TEN NORTHERN TRIBES.

YOU SEE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT ELIJAH AND ELISHA'S MINISTRY AS WELL. NO MATTER THE SIN IN BOTH KINGDOMS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF SELF AND SATAN GOT IN, WHATEVER MAN'S INFLUENCE, WE SEE

_____ THE FINAL OUTCOME (CHAPTERS 15-22).

INDEED, THE MESSAGE OF THIS BOOK IS RELEVANT TODAY. GOD STILL CONTROLS HUMAN AFFAIRS. THE PERSON OR NATION WHO _____ IN OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD WILL BE BLESSED. THOSE _____ WILL BE PUNISHED. BUT GOD IS ALWAYS READY TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO REPENT AND TURN.

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-

THERE ARE SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM! HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS FROM WHAT WE HAVE SO FAR DISCUSSED THAT THE THEME IN THE BOOK DEALS WITH THE FACT THAT THE WELFARE OF LEADER AND PEOPLE IS CONTINGENT UPON THEM SERVING YAHWEH AND BEING FAITHFUL TO HIM, AND THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO LEADS TO JUDGMENT, IT LEADS ME TO CHOOSE AS THE KEY WORD AN EXPRESSION OF THAT JUDGMENT:

_____.

KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER(S)-

I REALLY COULDN'T COME UP WITH ONE VERSE, BUT RATHER ONE PASSAGE. THE KEY VERSES I CHOSE RELATE TO THE CAUSE OF WHAT I SEE AS THE KEY WORD. HENCE, MY KEY VERSES ARE:

_____.

AS TO THE KEY CHAPTER, THIS IS, AT LEAST TO ME, AGAIN RELATED TO THE KEY WORD AND THE CRITICAL TURNING POINT IN THE YOUNG NATION'S HISTORY. THE CRUCIAL CHAPTER IS THE MOMENTOUS CHAPTER: _____. IT IS IN THIS CHAPTER THAT THE

_____ UPON THE DEATH OF SOLOMON, IN
KEEPING WITH GOD'S COMMAND OF JUDGMENT.

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

✓ ELIJAH IS A TYPE OF JESUS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CALLING DOWN OF
FIRE- IT IS REMINISCENT OF JESUS SENDING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
HIS WORDS IN LUKE 12:49

- ✓ _____

- ✓ _____

- ✓ _____

- ✓ _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

✓ THE CLOUD OF GLORY FILLING THE TEMPLE

- ✓ _____

- ✓ _____

- ✓ _____

- ✓ ALL THE PROPHECIES AND MINISTRY GIFT OF PROPHET
- ✓ _____

SOME TRUTHS AND APPLICATIONS-

1 KINGS 3:5-15

GOD REALLY DOES WANT TO BLESS US AND GIVE US THE DESIRES OF OUR
HEARTS. BUT HIS HOPE IS THAT WE WILL ASK FOR WHAT IS IMPORTANT
TO HIM. ASK FOR WISDOM, WHICH HE PROMISES TO GIVE ABUNDANTLY!
WITH THAT, EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE IN ITS PROPER PLACE.

1 KINGS 8:46

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO DOESN'T SIN. ASK GOD DAILY TO
SEARCH YOUR HEART AND POINT OUT SINS YOU DON'T SEE. ASK TO
ALWAYS BE TENDER TO HIS CONVICTION.

1 KINGS 11:1-13

WHO WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH MATTERS. DO NOT BE UNEQUALLY
YOKED! DON'T LET YOUR FAITH GROW OLD, BUT KEEP IT FRESH TO
RESIST OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. UNDERSTAND THIS: IT IS NOT YOUR PAST

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT MATTERS; IT IS WHERE YOU ARE AT NOW!
DO NOT RELY ON PAST COMMITMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

1 KINGS 13:1-32

DO WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO DO. DO NOT OBEY ANOTHER BELIEVER, NO
MATTER HOW SPIRITUAL THEY SEEM. REMEMBER WHAT GOD TOLD YOU
AND DO THAT!

1 KINGS 14:1-6

YOU CANNOT FOOL GOD! DON'T TRY AND PRETEND YOU ARE WHAT YOU
ARE NOT! WHAT IS DONE IN THE DARKNESS WILL BE REVEALED IN THE
LIGHT- SO REPENT OF SECRET AND BESETTING SINS.

1 KINGS 18

PRAY FOR THE FAITH, PASSION AND BOLDNESS OF ELIJAH! LET'S REPAIR
THE ALTAR OF WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND REPENTANCE IN OUR LIVES,
HOMES AND CHURCHES. LET'S CALL ON GOD FOR HIS FIRE TO FALL!

1 KINGS 19:1-5

REALIZE THAT SOME OF YOUR BIGGEST ATTACKS COME AFTER YOUR
BIGGEST VICTORIES. IN THE CONSTANT BATTLE OF FAITH WE GET WORN
DOWN AT TIMES, BUT WE SHOULD NEVER FEAR! GOD WILL SUSTAIN US
AND SPEAK CLEARLY TO US IN THOSE TIMES.

1 KINGS 19:11-13

ELIJAH HAD A DISCERNING EAR AND WAITED THROUGH ALL THE
COMMOTION UNTIL GOD SPOKE. MAY WE HAVE THAT DISCERNMENT! ASK
GOD TO HELP YOU TO BE ABLE TO DISCERN WHEN GOD APPEARS AND TO
BE PATIENT- EVEN THROUGH THE MIDST OF CHAOS OR REVIVAL.

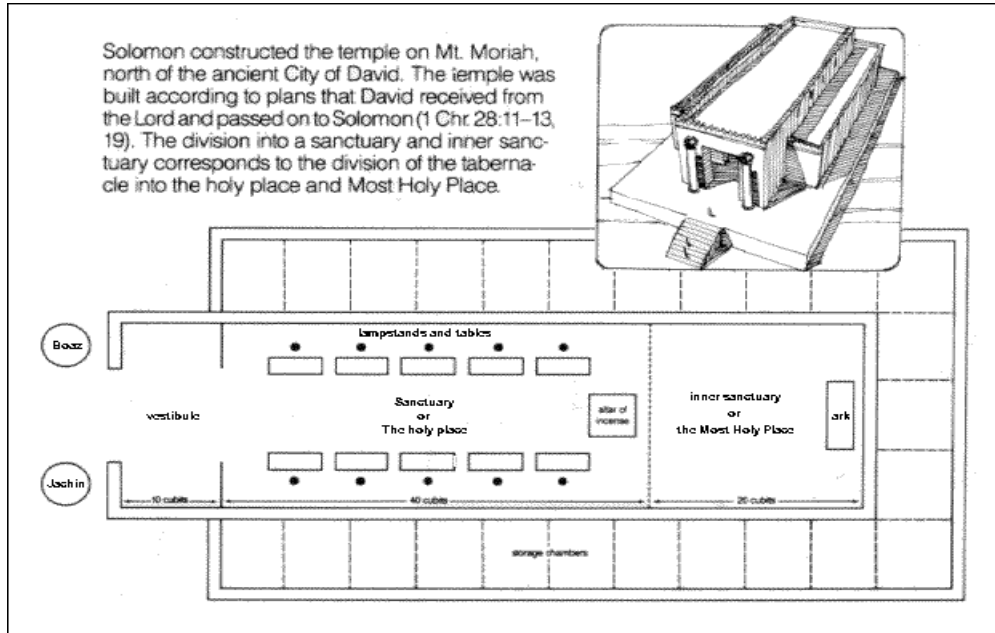
1 KINGS 22:1-28

MICAHIAH'S NAME MEANS, "WHO IS LIKE JEHOVAH". ONE MORAL OF THIS
STORY IS EVERYONE WENT ALONG WITH WHAT THE "IMPORTANT" PEOPLE
WANTED TO HEAR. BUT NOT MICAHIAH! HE STOOD AGAINST WHAT WAS
POPULAR AND PREACHED THE TRUTH. WE NEED THAT KIND OF
CHARACTER! ASK GOD TO MAKE YOU STRONG AGAINST THE "POPULAR
WAVE" AND TO STICK WITH WHAT IS POPULAR WITH HIM.

THE PLAN OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

SOLOMON'S GREATEST LEGACY WAS THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE. KING
DAVID HAD WANTED TO BUILD IT, BUT WAS FORBIDDEN TO DO SO BY GOD
BECAUSE HE HAD SHED SO MUCH BLOOD (1 CHR. 28:3). THUS, THE TASK
FELL TO SOLOMON, WHO WAS KNOWN AS A MAN OF PEACE. THE BUILDING
OF THE TEMPLE BEGAN IN THE SPRING OF SOLOMON'S FOURTH YEAR
(966 BC) AND WAS COMPLETED SEVEN YEARS LATER (6:1-38). THE
TEMPLE WAS SIMILAR TO THE TABERNACLE, THOUGH TWICE ITS SIZE. IT
WAS 90 FEET LONG AND 30 FEET WIDE, AND IT CONTAINED THE HOLY
PLACE AND THE MOST HOLY PLACE. LIKE THE TABERNACLE, THE TEMPLE
FACED TOWARD THE EAST, HAVING THE MOST HOLY PLACE AT THE
EXTREME WESTERN END.

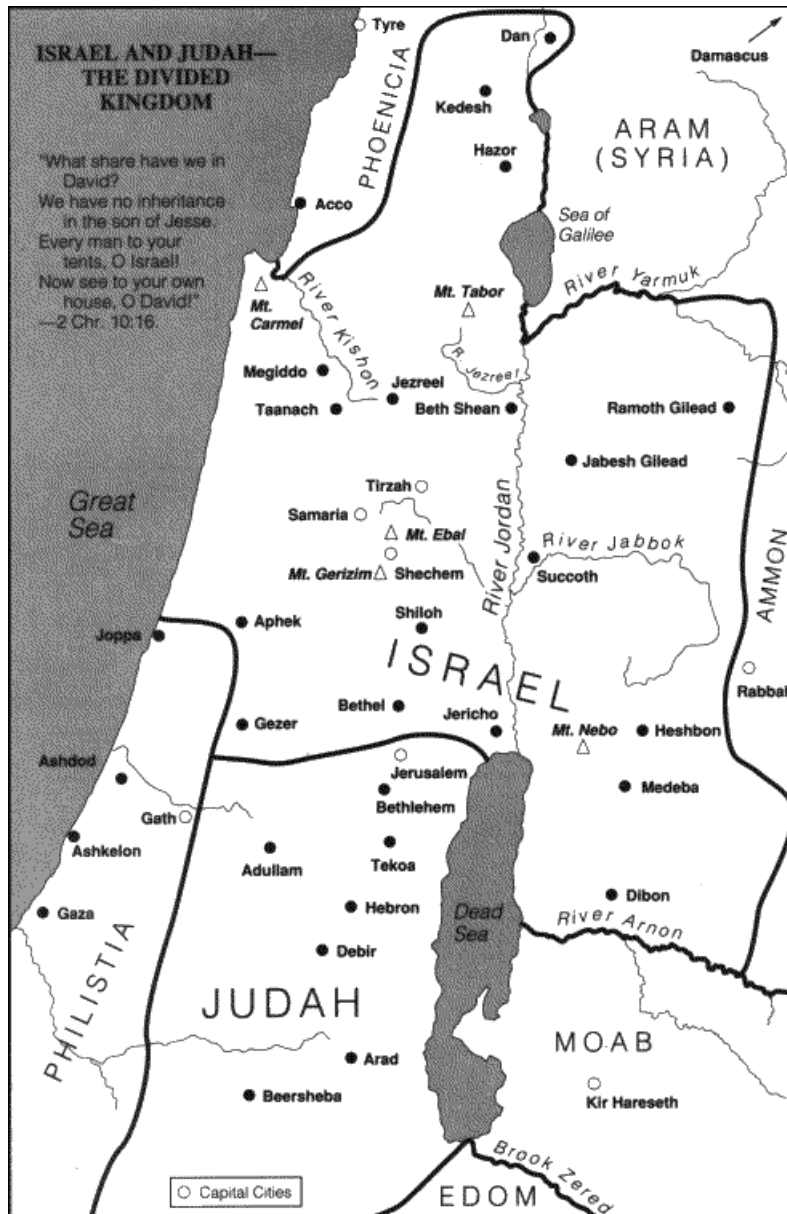
SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

THE GLORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BEGAN TO FADE WITH THE DEATH OF SOLOMON WHEN HIS UNWISE SON REHOBOAM SPOKE HARSHLY TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAEL WHO REQUESTED RELIEF FROM THE HEAVY TAXATION OF SOLOMON'S TIME (12:1-24). REHOBOAM REIGNED OVER JUDAH TO THE SOUTH AND JEROBOAM BECAME KING OF ISRAEL TO THE NORTH.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



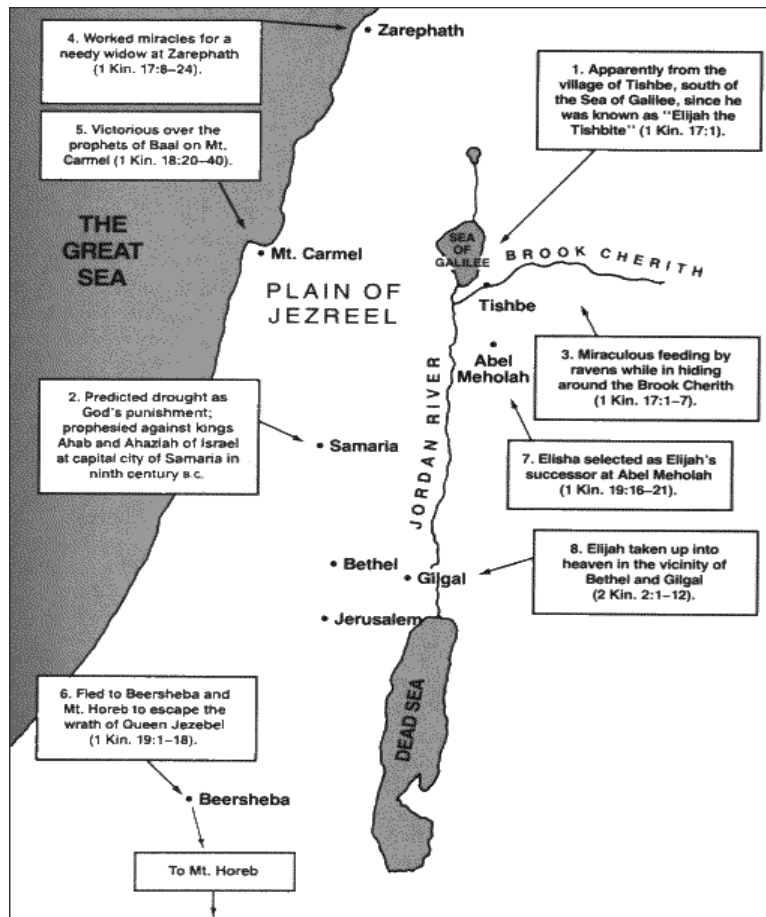
THE PROPHET ELIJAH

ELIJAH THE PROPHET WAS FROM TISHBE IN GILEAD, BUT THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THIS TOWN IS UNCERTAIN. THERE IS NO MENTION OF HIS BIRTH AND PARENTAGE AND HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN NON-ISRAELITE. ELIJAH'S NAME, WHICH MEANS "YAHWEH IS MY GOD," MAY BE REGARDED AS THE MOTTO OF HIS LIFE. HIS PROPHETIC OBJECTIVE WAS TO AWAKEN ISRAEL TO THE CONVICTION THAT YAHWEH ALONE IS GOD. ELIJAH IS PICTURED AS A LONELY FIGURE "WEARING A LEATHER BELT AROUND HIS WAIST" (2 KIN. 1:8). ELIJAH LIVED DURING THE PERIOD OF AHAB'S REIGN, WHEN THE PAGAN WORSHIP OF BAAL WAS FORMALLY INTRODUCED INTO ISRAEL (16:32).

ELIJAH'S FIRST ACT WAS TO ANNOUNCE TO AHAB THAT THE TRUE GOD WAS ABOUT TO SEND A DREADED FAMINE UPON THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF AHAB'S RELIGIOUS SINS (17:1). BAAL, THE CANAANITE GOD OF STORM AND FERTILITY, WAS DIRECTLY CHALLENGED BY THIS PREDICTION OF DROUGHT.

WHEN ELIJAH'S CAREER WAS OVER, HE NEITHER DIED NOR WAS BURIED. WHILE CONVERSING WITH HIS SUCCESSOR, THE PROPHET ELISHA, ELIJAH WAS SUDDENLY TAKEN UP IN A CHARIOT OF FIRE AND WHIRLWIND INTO HEAVEN (2 KIN. 2:1-12). ELIJAH IS MENTIONED IN MALACHI 4:5 AS THE HARBINGER OF THE "DAY OF THE LORD" AND AS THE HERALD OF THE MESSIAH, AND THIS PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED IN THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (MATT. 11:7-14; LUKE 1:17).

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH



THE PROBLEM OF CHRONOLOGY

THREE FACTORS MAKE THE DATING OF THE KINGS MATERIAL EXTREMELY DIFFICULT: (1) THE CO-REGENCY SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM, WHEREBY A SON OFFICIALLY BEGAN HIS REIGN DURING THE LIFETIME OF HIS FATHER, WITH BOTH FATHER AND SON RECEIVING CREDIT FOR THE YEARS OF CO-REGENCY; (2) THE USE OF BOTH THE “ACCESSION-YEAR” SYSTEM (WHEREBY THE YEAR IN WHICH A KING CAME TO THE THRONE WAS NOT COUNTED AS HIS FIRST YEAR) AND THE “NONACCESSION-YEAR” SYSTEM (WHEREBY THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR IN WHICH A KING WAS CROWNED WAS RECKONED AS HIS FIRST YEAR; AND (3) THE USE OF BOTH THE SACRED-YEAR (BEGINNING WITH NISAN, THE FIRST MONTH) AND THE CIVIL-YEAR (BEGINNING WITH TISHRI, THE SEVENTH MONTH) METHODS OF DATING. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE HARMONIZATION OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE HEBREW KINGS, MANY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE BIBLICAL DATES ARE OBVIOUSLY CONTRADICTORY AND HOPELESSLY BEYOND SOLUTION. TODAY, HOWEVER, THE CHRONOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ARE BASICALLY SOLVED, AND THE BIBLICAL DATING HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED TO BE TRUSTWORTHY AND ACCURATE. FOLLOWING IS A CHART THAT SHOULD REALLY HELP IN YOUR OT STUDIES!

SOUTHERN KINGDOM (931-586 BC)				NORTHERN KINGDOM (931-722 BC)			
KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS	KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS
(1) REHOBOAM SON OF SOLOMON 17 YEARS	931-913 BC	1 KIN. 14:21-31; 2 CHR. 9:31-12:16	SHEMAIAH— 2 CHR. 11:2-4; 12:5-7, 15 IDDO THE SEER—2 CHR. 12:15	(1) JEROBOAM I SON OF NEBAT 22 YEARS	931- 910 BC	1 KIN. 11:26-40; 12:1-14:20; 2 CHR. 10:1-11:4; 11:13-16; 13:2-20	AHIJAH THE SHILONITE—1 KIN. 11:29-39; 14:1-18 MAN OF GOD FROM JUDAH— 1 KIN. 13:1-32; 2 KIN. 23:15- 18 OLD PROPHET AT BETHEL—1 KIN. 13:11-32; 2 KIN. 23:18 IDDO THE SEER—2 CHR. 9:29
(2) ABIJAM (ABIJAH) SON OF REHOBOAM 3 YEARS	913-911 BC	1 KIN. 15:1- 8; 2 CHR. 13:1-14:1	IDDO THE SEER—2 CHR. 13:22	(2) NADAB SON OF JEROBOAM 2 YEARS	910- 909 BC	1 KIN. 15:25-31	
(3) ASA SON OF ABIJAM 41 YEARS	911-870 BC	1 KIN. 15:9- 24; 2 CHR. 14:1-16:14	AZARIAH, THE SON OF ODED—2 CHR. 15:1, 8 (SEE NOTE IN CENTER COLUMN) HANANI—2 CHR. 16:7- 10	(3) BAASHA SON OF AHIJAH 24 YEARS	909- 886 BC	1 KIN. 15:16-22, 27-29, 32- 34; 16:1-7	JEHU, THE SON OF HANANI—1 KIN. 16:1-7
				(4) ELAH SON OF BAASHA 2 YEARS	886- 885 BC	1 KIN. 16:8- 14	
				(5) ZIMRI CHARIOT COMMANDER UNDER ELAH—7 DAYS	885 BC	1 KIN. 16:9- 12, 15-20	
				(6) OMRI ARMY COMMANDER UNDER ELAH 12 YEARS	885- 874 BC	1 KIN. 16:16-18, 21-28	
(4) JEHOSHAPHAT SON OF ASA 25 YEARS	870(873)- 848 BC	1 KIN. 22:41-50; 2 CHR. 17:1-21:1	JEHU, THE SON OF HANANI—2 CHR. 19:2, 3 JAHAZIEL— 2 CHR. 20:14-17 ELIEZER—2 CHR. 20:37	(7) AHAB SON OF OMRI 22 YEARS	874- 853 BC	1 KIN. 16:29- 22:40; 2 CHR. 18:1-34	ELIJAH—1 KIN. 17-21; 2 KIN. 1; 2 ELISHA (SERVANT OF ELIJAH)—1 KIN. 19:19-21 MICAIAH THE SON OF IMLAH—1 KIN. 22:8-28; 2 CHR. 18:7-27
(5) JEHORAM (JORAM) SON OF JEHOSHAPHAT 8 YEARS	848(853)- 841 BC	2 KIN. 8:16- 24; 2 CHR. 21:1-20	OBADIAH ELIJAH—2 CHR. 21:12- 15	(8) AHAZIAH SON OF AHAB 2 YEARS	853- 852 BC	1 KIN. 22:51-2 KIN. 1:18; 2 CHR. 20:35-37	UNNAMED PROPHETS—1 KIN. 18:4, 13; 20:28, 35-43 ELIJAH'S TRANSLATION— 2 KIN. 2:1-18 ELISHA ELISHA
				(9) JORAM (JEHORAM) SON OF AHAB 12 YEARS	852- 841 BC	2 KIN. 3:1- 9:26	

SOUTHERN KINGDOM (931-586 BC)				NORTHERN KINGDOM (931-722 BC)			
KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS	KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS
(6) AHAZIAH (JEHOAHAZ) SON OF JEHORAM 1 YEAR	841 BC.	2 KIN. 8:25-9:29; 2 CHR. 22:1-9		(10) JEHU SON (OR GRANDSON) OF NIMSHI; AN ARMY OFFICER UNDER AHAB 28 YEARS	841-814 BC	2 KIN. 9:1-10:36	ELISHA
QUEEN ATHALIAH DAUGHTER OF AHAB; MOTHER OF AHAZIAH 6 YEARS	841-835 BC	2 KIN. 11:1-20; 2 CHR. 22:10-23:21					
(7) JOASH (JEHOASH) 40 YEARS	835-796 BC	2 KIN. 11:21-12:21; 2 CHR. 24:1-27	JOEL	(11) JEHOAHAZ SON OF JEHU 17 YEARS	814-798 BC	2 KIN. 13:1-9	ELISHA
(8) AMAZIAH SON OF JOASH 29 YEARS	796-767 BC	2 KIN. 14:1-20; 2 CHR. 25:1-28	UNNAMED PROPHETS— 2 CHR. 25:7-9, 15, 16	(12) JEHOASH (JOASH) SON OF JEHOAHAZ 16 YEARS	798-782 BC	2 KIN. 13:10-13, 25; 14:8-16; 2 CHR. 25:17-24	DEATH OF ELISHA
(9) UZZIAH (AZARIAH) SON OF AMAZIAH 52 YEARS	767(792)- 740 BC	2 KIN. 15:1-7; 2 CHR. 26:1-23	ISAIAH — CALLED THE YEAR THAT UZZIAH DIED ZECHARIAH — 2 CHR. 26:5	(13) JEROBOAM II SON OF JEHOASH 41 YEARS	782(793)- 753 BC	2 KIN. 14:23-29	JONAH AMOS HOSEA
				(14) ZECHARIAH SON OF JEROBOAM II 6 MONTHS	753-752 BC	2 KIN. 15:8-12	HOSEA
				(15) SHALLUM SON OF JABESH 1 MONTH	752 BC	2 KIN. 15:10, 13-15	HOSEA
(10) JOTHAM SON OF UZZIAH 16 YEARS	740(750)- 731 BC	2 KIN. 15:32-38; 2 CHR. 17:1-9	ISAIAH MICAH	(16) MENAHM SON OF GADI 10 YEARS	752-742 BC	2 KIN. 15:14, 16-22	HOSEA
				(17) PEKAHIAH SON OF MENAHM 2 YEARS	742-740 BC	2 KIN. 15:23-26	HOSEA
(11) AHAZ SON OF JOTHAM 16 YEARS	731(735)- 715 BC	2 KIN. 16:1-20; 2 CHR. 28:1-27	ISAIAH MICAH	(18) PEKAH SON OF REMALIAH 20 YEARS	740(752)- 732 BC	2 KIN. 15:25, 27-31; 16:5; 2 CHR. 28:5, 6; Is. 7:1	HOSEA ODED THE PROPHET— 2 CHR. 28:9-11

SOUTHERN KINGDOM (931-586 BC)				NORTHERN KINGDOM (931-722 BC)			
KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS	KING	DATE	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	PROPHETS
(12) HEZEKIAH SON OF AHAZ 29 YEARS	715(729)- 686 BC	2 KIN. 18:1- 20:21; 2 CHR. 29:1-32:33; Is. 36:1- 39:8	ISAIAH MICAH	(19) HOSHEA SON OF ELAH 9 YEARS	732- 722 BC	2 KIN. 15:30; 17:1- 6; 18:9, 10	HOSEA
(13) MANASSEH SON OF HEZEKIAH 55 YEARS	686(696)- 642 BC	2 KIN. 21:1- 18; 2 CHR. 33:1-20	NAHUM UNNAMED PROPHETS—2 KIN. 21:10; 2 CHR. 33:18	722 BC—FALL OF SAMARIA (10 NORTHERN TRIBES GO INTO CAPTIVITY— ASSYRIA)			
(14) AMON SON OF MANASSEH 2 YEARS	642-640 BC	2 KIN. 21:19-26; 2 CHR. 33:21-25					
(15) JOSIAH SON OF AMON 31 YEARS	640-609 BC	2 KIN. 22:1- 23:30; 2 CHR. 34:1-35:27	JEREMIAH ZEPHANIAH HULDAH THE PROPHETESS—2 KIN. 22:14-20; 2 CHR. 34:22-28	NOTES: * NAMES IN PARENTHESES DENOTE ALTERNATE NAMES OF THE SAME KING ** DATES IN PARENTHESES DENOTE CO- REGENCIES, A PERIOD OF RULE IN WHICH THE SON OCCUPIED THE THRONE WITH HIS FATHER. *** PROPHETS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN BOLDFACE LETTERS ARE CANONICAL PROPHETS.			
(16) JEHOZHAZ (SHALLUM) SON OF JOSIAH 3 MONTHS	609 BC	2 KIN. 23:31-34; 2 CHR. 36:1-4; JER. 22:1- 12	JEREMIAH				
(17) JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM) SON OF JOSIAH 11 YEARS	609-598 BC	2 KIN. 23:34-24:7; 2 CHR. 36:4-8; JER. 22:13- 23; 26; 36	JEREMIAH HABAKKUK DANIEL URIAH THE SON OF SHEMAIAH JER. 26:20				
(18) JEHOIACHIN (CONIAH) SON OF JEHOIAKIM 3 MONTHS	598-597 BC	2 KIN. 24:8- 17; 2 CHR. 36:9, 10; JER. 22:24- 30; 52:31- 34	JEREMIAH DANIEL				
(19) ZEDEKIAH (MATTANIAH) SON OF JOSIAH 11 YEARS	597-586 BC	2 KIN. 24:17-25:7; 2 CHR. 36:11-21; JER. 39:1- 10; 52:1-11	JEREMIAH DANIEL EZEKIEL				
586 BC—FALL OF JERUSALEM (SOUTHERN KINGDOM GOES INTO CAPTIVITY—BABYLON)							