

OT-OV

Lesson 96

1. Earlier I began a study of the book of 1st Kings by way of the Doctrine of Solomon and last week we completed a study of Solomon's replacements - Jeroboam and Rehoboam.

2. Jeroboam I ruled the northern kingdom from c. 931 to c. 910 B.C. He was of the tribe of Ephraim and is chiefly known as "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." His sin was the erecting of the calves at Dan and Bethel, establishing in Israel the calf worship which Israel had doubtless seen in Egypt.

3. His purpose was political, to keep the people away from the temple in Jerusalem, where their hearts might be drawn back to the house of David and the rulership of Solomon's son Rehoboam. The priests and Levites whose homes were in his territory were given no place in the new worship, others being indiscriminately chosen for the priesthood. 1Ki 12:25-31

4. While his reign was prosperous, his sin brought on him the stern judgment of God, seen in the death of his young son Abijah, and in the tragic ending of his dynasty in the second generation. (1Ki 14:1-20)

5. Rehoboam succeeded Solomon on the throne in 931 B.C. and reigned for 17 years over the southern Kingdom; his reign ended somewhere around 913 B.C. 1Ki 14:21

6. Judah fell into open idolatry under the direction of Rehoboam. (2Ch 12:1 and 1Ki 14:21-24)

7. Like his father, he practiced polygamy, taking to himself 18 wives and 60 concubines, and actually promoted the same thing among his sons. (2Ch 11:18-23)

8. Rehoboam's reign is classified as one of infamy because he rejected God.

2Ch 12:14 He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.

2Ch 12:15 As for the events of Rehoboam's reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that deal with genealogies? There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

9. So much for review now let's study the 19 Kings of Israel in the north and the 20 Kings of Judah in the south.

10. The reigns of several of these Kings will require brief comment.

11. Israel

11.1 Jeroboam I c. 931-910

11.2 Nadab c. 910-909

11.3 Baasha c. 909-886

11.4 Ellah c. 886-885

11.5 Zimri c. 885

11.6 Omri c. 885-874

11.7 Ahab c. 874-853

11.7.1 In the book of Kings Ahab appears as politically strong and spiritually destitute. On the secular side, he was able to win the respect of both friend and foe. On the religious side, his syncretistic practices spelled his doom. His political marriage with Jezebel resulted in mixed blessing and curse.

11.7.2 The alliance with Ethbaal, king of the Tyrians and father of Jezebel, brought increased trade, wealth, and a growing merchant class. However, Jezebel brought with her a Baalism which clashed head on with the worship of Jehovah. Ahab and Jezebel were opposed by Elijah.

11.7.3 He appeared repeatedly as an accusing conscience. He confronted Ahab in the vineyard of Naboth. He was the champion of the worship of God in the victory on Mount Carmel. While the Elijah stories present Ahab as weak and dominated by Jezebel, other aspects of his reign demonstrate certain strengths. His building operations were extensive.

11.7.4 At Samaria, he continued the construction begun by his father Omri. Ahab's reign however was one of constant international conflict. He is shown fighting against the Syrian kingdom of Damascus, fighting with them against the Assyrians and finally aligned with Judah against Ben-hadad of Syria at Ramoth-gilead.

11.7.5 In this battle to win back Ramoth-gilead from the Syrians, Ahab was struck down by an arrow. The king died, and his kingdom declined rapidly after his death.

11.8 Ahaziah c. 853-852

11.9 Joram c. 852-841

11.10 Jehu c. 841-814

11.11 Jehoahaz c. 814-798

11.12 Jehoash c. 798-782

11.13 Jeroboam II c. 782-753

11.14 Zechariah c. 753-752

11.15 Shallum c. 752

11.16 Menahem c. 752-742

11.17 Pekahiah c. 742-740

11.18 Pekah c. 740-732

11.19 Hoshea c. 732-721

12. Judah

12.1 Rehoboam c. 931-913

12.2 Abijah c. 913-911

12.3 Asa c. 911-870

12.4 Jehoshaphat c. 870-848 (co-regency c. 873-870)

12.4.1 At the age of 35 he became co-regent with his father Asa until the latter's death in 870. He was a contemporary of Ahab, Ahaziah, and Jehoram of Israel. He made an alliance with Israel by marrying his son Jehoram to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.

12.4.2 He did carry out several religious reforms; he joined with King Ahab to take the city of Ramoth-gilead (a town in Gilead near the border of Syria; it was located some 25 miles east of the Jordan River on a line roughly parallel with Jezreel and Megiddo). He was rebuked by the prophet Jehu for joining forces with King Ahab. Later Jehoram persuaded Jehoshaphat to attack Moab.

12.4.3 Near the end of his reign the Ammonites, Edomites, and Moabites joined forces to invade Judah however the Lord miraculously defeated them. Jehoshaphat and his son reigned together during his last five years.

12.5 Jehoram c. 848-841 (co-regency c. 853-838)

12.5.1 Jehoshaphat served as his father's co-regent for about five years before succeeding

him on the throne of Judah. To strengthen his father's political alliance with Israel he married the older daughter of Jezebel, who evidently influenced him to allow the worship of Baal. As a result of this indiscretion he died of a lingering, painful disease and none mourned the loss.

12.6 Ahaziah c. 841

12.7 Athaliah c. 841-835

12.8 Joash c. 835-796

12.9 Amaziah c. 796-767

12.9.1 Twenty-five years of age when he ascended the throne, he reigned for 29 years. There is disagreement on the dates of his reign. E.R. Thiele has placed the beginning of Amaziah's reign at 796 B.C. with a co-regency with his son Uzziah from 790 to 767 B.C. Though accounted as a good king, Amaziah challenged Jehoash, king of Israel, to battle.

12.9.2 The battle was fought at Beth-shemesh, and Amaziah was defeated and captured. Jehoash broke down the north wall of Jerusalem and robbed the temple of its treasure. Judah apparently became a vassal of Israel throughout the remainder of Amaziah's reign.

12.10 Uzziah c. 767-740 (co-regency c. 791-765)

12.10.1 Uzziah reigned during a period of temporary resurgence for both Israel and Judah in the 8th century. Archaeological excavations have confirmed the Biblical picture of this period as one of unusual prosperity. Uzziah ascended the throne at the age of 16.

12.10.2 He repaired the defenses of Jerusalem, reorganized and refitted the army, and used "engines" in battle. Late in his reign Uzziah was stricken by the Lord with leprosy because he entered the temple in pride to burn incense on the altar of incense. Because of this affliction, he was forced to yield the public administration of the affairs of the kingdom to his son Jotham.

12.11 Jotham c. 740-732 (co-regency c. 750-740)

12.11.1 Jotham was a son of Uzziah. He was co-regent with his father in c. 750-740 B.C. because his father had leprosy and was unable to administer efficiently the affairs of the kingdom. He abdicated the actual rulership in favor of his pro-Assyrian son Ahaz, and died in 731 B.C.

12.12 Ahaz c. 732-716

12.13 Hezekiah c. 716-687

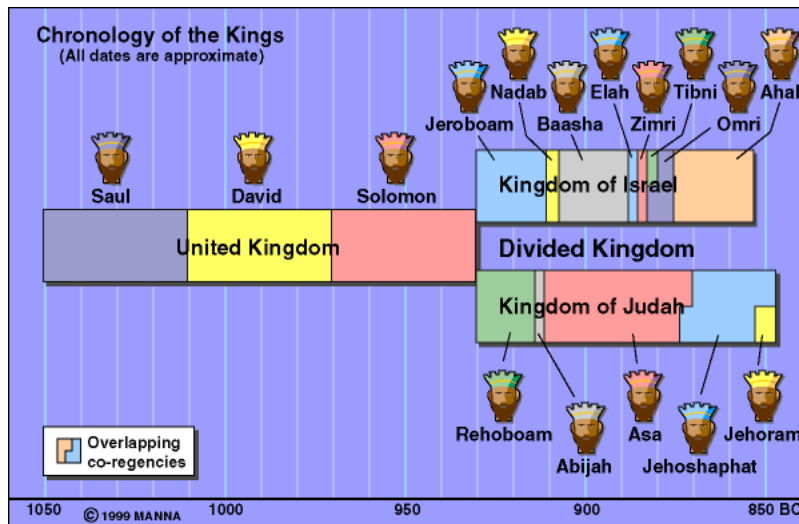
12.13.1 An Assyrian domination of the region posed the major international problem during his reign. His father had been enthroned in Judah with the support of a pro-Assyrian party which maintained a policy of vassalage to Assyria.

12.13.2 Keenly conscious that the captivity of the northern kingdom was caused by their idolatry, he removed idolatry, repaired and cleansed the temple and restored an observance of the Passover. Hezekiah also was an outstanding military leader.

12.13.3 Anticipating an Assyrian attack on Judah, he fortified Jerusalem. Sennacherib conquered numerous cities in Judah exacting excessive sums of tribute. Emboldened by Hezekiah's demonstrated weakness, Sennacherib sent a large army to encircle Jerusalem and demand its complete surrender.

12.13.4 Both the Bible and Sennacherib's records agree in essence concerning this campaign. By miraculous intervention the Assyrian army- was depleted in one evening by 185,000 troops. Sennacherib returned to Nineveh never to threaten Hezekiah again.

12.13.5 Hezekiah was rebuked for accepting a delegation from Babylon showing the vast wealth of the city. Because he did not give God the credit for Israel's opulence, Isaiah predicted the Babylonians would in the future conquer Jerusalem, but not during Hezekiah's lifetime.



End Lesson