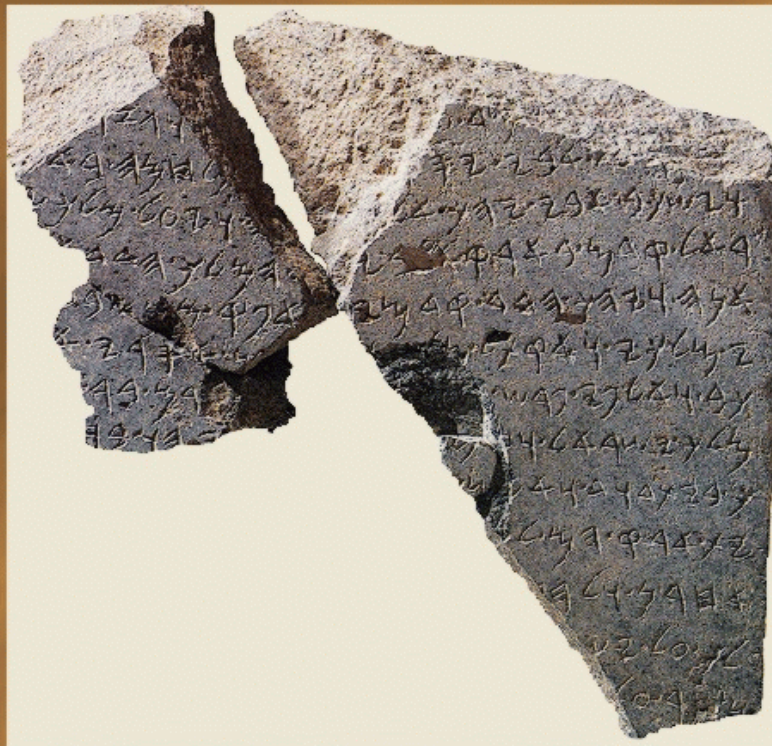


THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM PROPHECY & RENEWAL

An Historical Synopsis



Paul Wayne Ferris Jr

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Israel

I. Saul (c.1051-1011)

A. Reign: 40 yrs ([1Sam 13:1](#) cp. [Acts 13:21](#))

B. Sources:

1. [1Sam 9-31](#)
2. [1Chr 10](#)
3. Wen-Amon papyrus: *ANET* 25-29; *ANE* 1:16-24.

C. Issues & Events:

1. [International scene](#):
 - a. Developments in the “superpowers” create a power vacuum in “the land between.”
 - b. Egypt at the end of the 20th dynasty (c. 1200-1085) is marked by political impotency. In the space of 20 years Egypt has 8 pharaohs . With the 21st dynasty (1085-945), the Third Intermediate Period (1085-656) is ushered in one of the lowest points in Egyptian history to date. The once powerful nation is almost divided in two: Upper (S) & Lower (N) Egypt. Its ability to control extra-territorial lands is reduced to nothing.
 - c. Egyptian sources indicate that by the 8th year of Ramses III (c. 1196) the [Philistines effectively control the southern coastal plain](#) (*ANET* 262-3) where they establish their pentapolis of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron & Gath. (“Philistine” refers to several peoples who appear along the Levant in the early 14th cent. & whose migration had reached critical mass by c. 1200.) Philistines are the dominant culture in the S. Levant. Apparently fluent in local language, Philistine culture is sophisticated & eclectic, expert in ironworks, with a well-organized & well-equipped army. Judge Shamgar ([Jdg 3:31](#)) battles them. The Samson narrative ([Jdg 13-14](#)) indicates that by c. 1070 the Philistines enjoy significant control over the Israeli tribes. Names of three of the Philistine’s gods are known: Dagon, Ashtoreth, Baal-zebul (-zebul).
 - d. With the assassination of legendary Tukulti-Ninurta I (c. 1208) Assyria declines for about a cent. Around 1000 she begins to reassert herself but finds herself preoccupied with the Arameans, her neighbor to the West. From c. 1075-935 the Arameans blunt Assyria’s extra-territorial influence.
 - e. Further to the south, Babylonia is still in decline.
 - f. Under the international circumstances the people of Ammon in Transjordan are also flexing their muscles & seeking to free themselves of Israeli presence in Transjordan.
2. [Domestic scene](#):
 - a. Politically, the tribes are loosely connected & somewhat demoralized due to years of skirmishes with neighboring peoples. Although various judges were instrumental in providing some relief to one region or another, the pressure is not letting up, but seems to be increasing under the Philistines who have controlled the region for some 40 years now. What independence the Israelis may have enjoyed is limited to the mountains of S. Ephraim & Judah on the West Bank & Gilead & Ammon in Transjordan. This protracted pressure gives rise to the Israelis’ feeling a need for a more permanent judge who would be called king.
 - b. Saul of Benjamin, one of the smallest tribes, is anointed “ruler over the LORD’s inheritance” & empowered by the Spirit of God as a prophet. ([1Sam. 10:1-13](#))
 - c. The reluctant new king gets mixed reaction from the people. ([1Sam 10:17-27](#))
 - d. Saul’s response to Ammonite threats proves effective. [Wars with Philistines](#) continue throughout Saul’s reign. He

- e. [Territory of the new kingship is effectively limited](#) to the highlands between Mt. Gilboa in the N to Benjamin in the S & a stretch of land on the Dome of Gilead in Transjordan (from the N end of the Dead Sea to just S of the Jabesh (Yavesh) River).
 - f. David's popularity creates problem for Saul. David's marriage to Saul's daughter, Michal, results in more discomfort for the king. Saul gives evidence of emotional instability.
3. Spiritual scene.
- a. Nominality & externalism characterize religious life of some, if the son's of Eli give any indication. Spiritual values are repudiated for personal gain. Spiritual & moral authority are abused for personal gratification including immoral sexual behavior. Complaints against such behavior may indicate a sensitivity against such perversions. However, Eli's response seems to imply that it was not out of moral outrage so much as that social equilibrium had been upset. Note that even Samuel's sons are corrupt judges.
 - b. Superstition is one characteristic of Israeli popular religion as evidenced by its use of the Ark of the Covenant as a magic charm.
 - c. Syncretism is evidenced in Saul's resorting to the occult, etc.
 - d. Righteous remnant is indicated by the likes of Elkanah, Hannah & Samuel, Jesse & David.

II. Ishbosheth/Eshbaal (c. 1011-1009? Or 1006-1004?)

- A. Reign 2 yrs
- B. Sources: [2Sam 2-4](#)
- C. Issues & Events
 - 1. International scene: much the same as above.
 - 2. [Domestic scene:](#)
 - a. Political & social chaos. Abner, Saul's cousin & "Chief of Staff" & "General of the Army" is major power figure. At his initiative, Saul's son Ishbosheth is crowned as Saul's successor. [The capital is moved to Mahanaim, Gilead.](#)
 - b. There is civil war between the House of Saul & the House of David. The Saulite party continues to lose influence. David grows in popularity. Abner is confronted about moral failure & his insult to royal house which he arrogantly excuses & in anger defects to David, arranging to bring David's estranged bride Michal with him.
 - c. In the instability following Abner's murder, Ishbosheth is assassinated by two of his military commanders.
 - 3. Spiritual scene: much the same as under Saul's leadership.

III. David (c. 1011-971)

- A. Reign
 - 1. 7 ½ yrs over Judah
 - 2. 33 yrs over United Israel
- B. Sources
 - 1. [1Sam 16-30](#)
 - 2. [2Sam 1-24](#)
 - 3. [1Kgs 1-2](#)
 - 4. [1Chr 11-29](#)
 - 5. [Psalms 3-9, 11-32, 34-39, 41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108, 110, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138-145 \(esp. 3, 7, 18, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 142\)](#)
 - 6. Posthumous notice in [Mesha Stela](#) (*Moab*), c. 840-820: *ANET* 320-321; *ANE* 1:209-210 cp. *BAR* 20.3 (1994):30-37; [Aramaic stela](#) (*Dan, Israel*), *IEJ* 43 (1993):81-98.
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. [International scene:](#)
 - a. Conditions in Egypt & Mesopotamia basically same as above.
 - b. Defeat of Ramses III makes Philistia heir of Egyptian presence in the S. Levant.
 - c. Philistines may have regarded David as merely a vassal to Achish of Gath while David's capital was at Hebron. But a unified Israel is a threat to Philistia. So they mounted a pre-emptive strike against David at the Rephaim Valley just S. of Jerusalem ([2 Sam 23:13-17](#)). David proves victorious.
 - d. David captures the "stronghold of Zion" from Jebusites. ([2 Sam 5:7](#)) Once established at Jerusalem, David turns his attention to securing the area.

- e. Ammonites are subdued, David assumes the crown of Ammon making it a vassal state ([2 Sam 10:1-11:1](#); [12:26-31](#); [1 Chron 19-20:3](#))
 - f. Arameans allied with Ammon were soundly defeated at battle of Helam. Hadadezer (Beth Rehob in Bekaa Valley) & vassal states brought under rule of David. ([2 Sam 10:17](#); [1 Chr 19:16-19](#))
 - g. Moab, homeland of David's grandmother & place of security for the parents of fugitive David, is made a vassal state apparently because of its geography. It was "in the way" during the Ammonite war.
 - h. Edom is brought under Israeli control & David establishes garrisons throughout the area. ([2 Sam 8:14](#))
 - i. Thus David gains total control of "the King's Highway" securing for Israel the economic & military advantages it affords.
2. Domestic scene
- a. David born in Bethlehem to a family of Ephrath.
 - b. Early connections with royal court include serving Saul with music therapy when he suffered from an "evil spirit," in which connection he was named an "armor-bearer." David develops a close friendship with Prince Jonathan. David marries Princess Michal, becoming a royal son-in-law.
 - c. Saul is informed his reign is terminal & David is anointed to be king. However, Saul will continue on the throne for a considerable time, setting stage for great tension.
 - d. [While a fugitive](#), David builds an organization & establishes a reputation in the S. both with Judeans & surrounding peoples.
 - e. At Saul's death political tension is great. David is crowned at Hebron, King of Judah. [Ishbosheth \(of Benjamin\)](#), [Saul's son enthroned at Mahanaim](#) (*Gad*) & civil war ensues.
 - f. David's first royal act is to build bridges with the N by commending Jabesh-gilead for caring for the body of king Saul. (Later David takes in Saul's handicapped grandson, Mephibosheth.) Nevertheless, tensions between N & S are high. Civil war rages. Abner defects to David but Joab, David's General of the Army, distrusting Abner, kills him.
 - g. Ishbosheth's assassination opens way for David to make overtures to the N. David executes justice on Ishbosheth's behalf & in deference to kingship. In result, the tribes of Israel come to Hebron to recognize David as king.
 - h. [David captures the city of Jebus, making it a "city of David"](#) as opposed to a city belonging to one of the tribes. Jebus/Jerusalem provides a politically neutral site for a capital, & more centrally located than Hebron.
 - i. David engages master builders from Phoenicia, N on the Levant, to build a palace.
 - j. David engages foreigners to serve as the Royal Secret Service.
 - k. Sophisticated central government takes shape. Royal cabinet includes equivalent of Minister of Defense, Minister of State, Minister of Religious Affairs, Minister of Security, Minister of Labor, Minister of Finance.
 - l. Jerusalem becomes spiritual as well as political capital. Accordingly, the Ark of Covenant is brought to Jerusalem where he hopes to build a Temple on a site he purchased adjacent to the royal compound.
 - m. Begins to modernize army by building chariotry forces.
 - n. [Territorial expansion](#) begins to approximate the description of [Gen. 15:18](#); [Deut 1:7-8](#).
 - o. Sin & tragedy afflict the family. Son Absalom kills the crown prince & flees to Galilee. Father & son do not speak for 5 yrs. After returning to Jerusalem, Absalom prepares for a coup d'etat. David, surprised, tearfully flees to the Judean wilderness & on to Ishbosheth's old capital at Mahanaim. After the usurper dies in a freak accident, David receives a less than enthusiastic homecoming. In David's last years he suffered another son's (Adonijah) efforts to usurp the throne.
 - p. David declines & Solomon is named vice- or co-regent & so served for perhaps last two years of David's life & reign. ([2 Chr 23:1](#) cp. [29:22b](#))
3. Spiritual scene
- a. This seems to be a period of spiritual renewal. The leader sets the pace as a man "after God's heart" ([1Sam 13.14](#); [Acts 13.22](#)), although he proves to be no "plaster saint." The Chronicler declares that David administered justice & righteousness for all his people. The Psalter gives many examples of spiritual expression of the time. There is a sensitivity toward a personal relationship with the Living God.
 - b. On the other hand, there is ample evidence of spiritual struggle (lust, jealousy, anger, bitterness, hatred, backbiting...) & defeat.

IV. Solomon (c. 971-931)

A. Reign

1. 40 yrs

B. Sources

1. [1Kgs 1-11](#)
2. [2Chr 1-9](#)
3. [Psalm 72, 127](#)
4. [Proverbs 1:1-7; 10:1-22:16; 25:1-29:27](#)

C. Issues & Events

1. [International scene:](#)

- a. Conditions in Egypt & Mesopotamia basically same as above. In this power-vacuum, Israel has opportunity to flourish in peace.
- b. Solomon's reputation positively positions Israel in perceptions of other nations.
- c. Solomon exploits the benefits of the King's Highway, developing new international trade to the S.
- d. Toward the end of Solomon's reign, Edom (under returned exile, Hadad) & Aram (under Rezon of Damascus) begin to test Israel. Damascus becomes an independent state. The narrative indicates this is in result of Solomon's apostasy.

2. [Domestic scene](#)

- a. Solomon made co-regent in David's last years. ([1 Chr 23:1](#))
- b. Solomon's ascension to throne threatened by older brother Adonijah's attempt at a quiet coup d'état. David responds by formally installing Solomon a second time. ([1Chr 29:22b](#))
- c. [Establishes political districts distinct from tribal boundaries.](#) ([1Kgs 4:7-9](#))
- d. Refines taxation & revenue collection.
- e. Continues corvée in support of public works. Jerusalem & Judah appear to be exempt since they are not included in the list of tax districts.
- f. [Construction of the Temple](#) given primacy in narrative. ([1Kgs 5-8; 2Chr 2-7](#))
- g. Engages in ambitious public works program which advanced infrastructure. ([1Kgs 9:10-21](#))
- h. [Economy strengthened by expanding markets supported by merchant marine & road system. Establishes sea port at Ezion-Geber](#) (prob. Jezirat Faraun-- remains of casemate walls, nine towers, dolphin-shaped moorings). ([1Kgs 9:26-28](#))
- i. [Security strengthened](#)
 - (1) by strategic alliances, sealed by means of marriage.
 - (2) by modernizing military by means of chariotry.
 - (3) [by strategic fortifications, e.g., Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, Beth-Horon.](#)
- j. Capital city becomes more cosmopolitan.
- k. Solomon's extraordinary wealth should be seen in light of Pharaoh Osorkon's (c. 914-874) donation of 383 tons of gold to the Bubastis temple (likely included gold taken from Jerusalem by his predecessor, Shishak I. See below.) & of Alexander the Great's spoils from Persia (7,000 tons of gold).
- l. Prophet Ahijah informs cabinet member, Jeroboam ben Nebat, that because of Solomon's apostasy he will become king of 10 tribes. He takes matters into his own hands & mounts an unsuccessful coup resulting in his own exile in Egypt. ([1Kgs 11:26-43](#))
- m. political & economic deterioration may be indicated by the forced ceding of 20 cities in Galilee to Phoenician King Hiram.

3. Spiritual scene:

- a. At the outset there seems to be a high degree of spiritual vitality ([2 Chr 29:9-19](#)). Early on, worship is decentralized. The Ark & accoutrements are kept in Gibeon by Obed-edom. Building a house for God's name is top priority. This will facilitate centralization of the cultus in accordance with Deut. 12. This may be when more of the nation express conviction of the monotheism of Yahweh & evidence a faith relationship with and loyalty to Yahweh. ([1Kgs 3:1-15; 6:1-38; 8:12-66; 9:1-9](#); cp. parallels in Chronicles; [Psa. 132; 136](#))
- b. On the other hand, spiritual drift sets in before long. Solomon sets the pace (negatively) by sanctioning polytheism. Apostasy begins to take root at highest level. ([1Kgs 11](#)) Solomon builds *bamoth* on the Mt. of Olives for his foreign wives. Syncretism becomes issue. The gods Ashtoreth of Sidon, Molech of Ammon, Chemosh of Moab, etc. are worshiped along with Yahweh ([1Kgs 11:1-11, 33](#))

Judah

- V. Rehoboam ben Solomon (c.931-913) (-)*
- A. Reign: 17 yrs
 - B. Sources:
 - 1. [1Kgs 12:1-24; 14:21-31](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 10-12](#)
 - 3. [Shishak inscriptions](#), (*Karnak*, Amon Temple): ANET 263-4; ANE 1:187
 - C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene:
 - a. Egypt exploits the power vacuum along the International Coastal Highway & invades Judah to secure a claim on the international trade route.
 - b. Responding to Egyptian threats, [Rehoboam builds series of 15 fortresses to the W., S., & E., to defend the heartland](#). In 926, Rehoboam's 5th year, [Shishak \(dyn. XXII\) takes the Negev & Coastal Plain & then moves on Jerusalem via Ascent of Beth-Horon](#). Jerusalem is spared when Rehoboam strips the Temple & palace to pay sizeable tribute to Shishak.
 - c. Moab & Ammon gain their independence as a result of the civil war in Israel & re-take control of the King's Highway.
 - 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. To maintain tribal unity & allegiance to Davidic dynasty. Rehoboam stages coronation in Shechem, associated with key events under Joshua, to secure Northern allegiance.
 - b. To maintain economic stability in face of extreme economic tensions, Rehoboam ignores popular demands for tax relief & against professional advice increases tax burden. Civil war ensues, led by exiled former Solomon cabinet member, Jeroboam ben Nebat, & northern tribes secede from union.
 - c. Benjamin is incorporated into the S. kingdom & acts as a buffer on Judah's N frontier.
 - d. An indication of an enduring hope of reunification, Rehoboam's extensive fortification project (see above) included none to the N. even though there was constant conflict with the N.
 - e. [Judah's topography](#) rendered it relatively more isolated from the outside world. **Illus.**
 - 3. Spiritual scene. Syncretism is fairly well entrenched due to Solomon's following the normal foreign policy of sealing international alliances by marriage (1Kgs 11:1-6), accommodating pagan religious observance, &

Prophets Israel

Ahijah
[1 Kgs 11:29](#)

Shemaiah
[2 Chr 12:5](#)

Azariah
ben Oded
[2 Chr 15:1-8](#)

- I. Jeroboam (I) ben Nebat (c.930-910) (-)
- A. Reign: 22 yrs
 - B. Sources:
 - 1. [1Kgs 12:25-14:20](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 13:4-20](#)
 - 3. [Shishak inscriptions](#), (*Karnak*, Amon Temple): ANET 263-4; ANE 1:187
 - C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene.
 - a. Israeli civil war allows Moab & Ammon to gain their independence & control the King's Highway.
 - b. Egypt, taking advantage of the power vacuum along the International Coastal Highway [invades Israel](#), [listing Gibeon, Beth-horon, Ajjalon, Taanach, Shunem, Beth-shean, Rehob & Mahanaim](#). The invasion implies Jeroboam did not accrue much "diplomatic capital" in Egypt.
 - 2. [Domestic Scene](#): basically unstable.
 - a. Jeroboam returns from exile confident in leading 10 tribes to secede. He fortifies Shechem & Penuel. [He also builds a royal residence at Tirzah, at the head of the wadi Fari'a](#), a more secure position vis-a-vis the threat from Judah as well as Egypt.
 - b. He is crowned by the N. tribes at Shechem which becomes his first capital.
 - c. To avoid losing subjects to the South for religious reasons, [Jeroboam erects sanctuaries complete with "golden calves" near the S. border at Bethel & at Dan in the N.](#)
 - d. Protracted civil war follows. Jeroboam is finally defeated by Abijah of Judah during battle for the strategic northern approaches to the central Benjamin plateau (2Chr 13:19-20).
 - e. Israel's geographical situation rendered it more open to economic & social interaction with the outside world.
 - 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Rejection of political Jerusalem was accompanied by rejection of Zion theology as constituted in Jerusalem
 - b. The establishment in Dan & Bethel of pagan sanctuaries as alternatives to the Jerusalem temple is labeled "the sin of Jeroboam" by which "he made Israel to sin." This is identified as the root of Israel's eventual downfall.

his religious practice of sacrificing at the high places (1Kgs 3:3).

VI. Abijah/Abijam ben Rehoboam (c.913-911) (-)

- A. Reign: 3 yrs (fr. Jeroboam 18)
- B. Sources:
 - 1. 1Kgs 15:1-8
 - 2. 2Chr 13
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. Domestic scene: Attempts to retake N. or at least secure borders. Abijah engages in constant warfare w/ N., defeats Jeroboam & captures several cities in S. Ephraim, incl. Bethel, Jeshanah & Ephron & their villages. However, he fails to reunify the realm.

VII. Asa ben Abijah (c.911-870) (+)

- A. Reign: 41 yrs (fr. Jeroboam 20)
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [1Kgs 15:9-24](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 14-16](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene:
 - a. W. & S. frontiers need securing under threat from the armies of Egypt's Osorkon I (914-874) at the hand of his General Zerah of Ethiopia whom Asa soundly defeats in 897 (35th yr since division in 931 (per Theile)). This apparently ends Egypt's imperialistic ambitions for a couple centuries.
 - b. N. border still in dispute -- constant skirmishes. Baasha secures Ramah to prevent his citizens access to Asa & Jerusalem. [Asa, in spiritual lapse, pays off Aram \(Ben-hadad\) to break its treaty with Israel & enter into treaty with Judah thereby introducing military threat to Israel's N. frontier.](#) With the N's attention diverted, [Asa razes Baasha's fortifications at Ramah & uses the material to fortify Mizpeh & Geba This becomes established as the traditional N/S border.](#)
 - 2. Spiritual scene:
 - a. Syncretism, apostasy & idolatry are rampant.
 - b. Asa initiates major reform by calling nation to repent & by removing idols, high places & altars & deporting the male hierodules resulting in the **FIRST REVIVAL**.
 - c. Peace & theological purity do not necessarily indicate spiritual vitality.
 - d. With idolatry & syncretism subdued & the nation at peace, Asa yields to the temptation to trust his own ingenuity & resources in lieu of trusting God. Even in the face of severe chastisement, Asa fails to correct his

Jehu
ben Hanani
[1 Kgs 16:7](#)

II. Nadab ben Jeroboam (c.910-909) (-)

- A. Reign: 2 yrs (fr. Asa 2)
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 15:25-28](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. Nadab follows his father's footsteps.
 - 2. During an attack on Gibbethon, 2 mi. W of Gezer on the edge of the Philistine plain, he is killed in a coup d'etat led by Baasha ben Ahijah (Issachar).

III. Baasha ben Ahijah (c.909-886) (-)

- A. Reign: 24 yrs (fr. Asa 3)
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 15:28-16:7](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene:
 - a. [Aramean hegemony headed by Ben-hadad expands S. under Judean encouragement & in 890 forces Baasha to yield territory.](#)
 - 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. Basically unstable.
 - b. Baasha assassinates Nadab in coup d'etat & massacres the entire Jeroboam family to eliminate any competition.
 - c. Border with Judah is unstable leading to continual border wars.
 - d. [He fortifies & temporarily holds strategically located Ramah in the center of the central Benjamin plateau at the head of the ridge route leading S. past Jerusalem, thereby staking out the frontier while closing off access to Jerusalem for his subjects.](#)
 - 3. Spiritual scene: Baasha follows in Jeroboam's footsteps.

IV. Elah ben Baasha (c.886-885) (-)

- A. Reign: 2 yrs (fr. Asa 26)
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 16:8-11](#)
- C. Issues & Events: Elah, decadent & evil, is assassinated while drunk during a coup d'etat led by Zimri, one of his chariot commanders.

V. Zimri (c.885) (-)

- A. Reign: 7 days
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 16:15-20](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. Zimri massacres the entire household of Baasha, undoubtedly to remove the possibility of challenge from any royal pretender to the throne.
 - 2. Zimri does not have the army solidly behind him. In the aftermath of the coup, Omri rises to commander of the army. He lifts the siege of

misdirected or out-of-focus faith & dies a horrible death.

Gibbethon to deal with the renegade officer/king, Zimri.

3. Besieged by Omri in the palace at Tirzah, Zimri commits suicide by arson.
4. Social & political stability in Israel is at its lowest.

VI. Tibni ben Ginath (c. 885-?) (-)

- A. Reign: unknown
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 16:21-22](#)
- C. Issues & Events: The situation in Israel is extremely unstable. Loyalties are divided. "Half" recognize Omri as king, "half" recognize Tibni.

VII. Omri (c.885-874) (-)

- A. Reign: 12 yrs (fr. Asa 27)
- B. Sources: [1Kgs 16:15-28](#)
- C. Issue & Events:
 1. International scene:
 - a. Omri makes alliances with Phoenicia (marries son Ahab to Phoenician Ethbaal's daughter, Jezebel) opening Mediterranean markets to Israeli goods & commerce.
 - b. Inscriptions of Tiglath-pileser III & Sargon II refer to Israel as the "land of Omri" or the "house of Omri."
 - c. The Moabite "Mesha Stone" indicates how Omri & son humiliate Moab for 40 years.
 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. The Bible does not say much about Omri. However, extra-biblical documents show he has significant influence.
 - b. Omri makes an ingenious land purchase from Shemer & builds a new capital, Samaria, facing the coast from W of the Ebal-Gerizim pass. It is not associated with any tribe or with the unstable history represented by the previous capitals at Shechem, Tirzah & Peniel.
 - c. The length of his reign vis-a-vis his four predecessors indicates the establishment of some political stability.
 3. Spiritual scene: Omri perpetuates the values of Jeroboam apparently with such zeal that the author of Kings declares him to have "acted more wickedly than all who were before him." ([1Kgs 16:25](#))

- VIII. Jehoshaphat (c.872-848) (+)
- A. Reign: 25 yrs (fr. Ahab 4)
 - B. Sources:
 1. [1Kgs 22:2-50](#)
 2. [2Chr 17-20](#)
 3. Moabite Stela (*Dibon, Transjordan*), ANET 320-21; ANE 1:209-210
 - C. Issues & Events:
 1. International scene:
 - a. Assyria is preoccupied closer to home.
 - b. Relating to N. Jehoshaphat establishes a concord with N. under Ahab & Ahaziah.
 - c. Jehoshaphat stations troops at all Judah's fortified cities & garrisons along the N. border.
 - d. His authority was such that even the Philistines & the Arabians paid tribute.
 - e. Mesha of Moab revolts, c.855; [Jehoshaphat & Jehoram responds & subdues Moab but Moab refuses to surrender.](#)
 - f. Moab-Ammon-Edom coalition declare war & attack c. 853 but are routed.
 2. Domestic scene.
 - a. Building the national economy.
 - b. Jehoshaphat builds navy & merchant marine, but is unsuccessful.
 - c. He initiates reform of the judicial system.
 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Maintaining "revival" values developed under Asa, he removed pagan *Asheroth*.
 - b. Institutes systematic program of biblical education at the grass-roots.
 - c. Nevertheless, the *bamoth* are still in use & syncretism marks popular religion

Elijah
[serves through the reign of Ahaziah](#)

Micaiah
 ben Imlah
[1 Kgs 22:5-36](#)

- VIII. Ahab ben Omri (c.874-853) (-)
- A. Reign: 22 yrs (fr. Asa 38)
 - B. Sources:
 1. [1Kgs 16:29-22:40](#)
 2. [2Chr 18](#)
 3. [Shalmaneser III inscription, Kurkh Stela \(Calah, Assyria\)](#), ANET 276-81; ANE 1:188-192
 - C. Issues & Events:
 1. International scene:
 - a. [Alliance with Phoenicia is maintained producing political & economic benefits](#) but also having a detrimental impact morally & spiritually.
 - b. Early stages of the neo-Assyrian empire are focused close to home. Ashurnasirpal (883-859) establishes empire & moves capital to Calah. His son, Shalmaneser III (859-824), proves to be a master strategist. (What would become annual military campaigns serve as an auxiliary dating system, forming the basis of the Eponym Chronicles.)
 - c. Arameans continually press S. trying to secure as much territory & control of [international trade routes](#) as possible.
 - (1) [First campaign](#) - 856: Ben-hadad II & 32 kings with their armies lay siege to Samaria, demanding gold & silver & harem members from Ahab. But when they also threaten to destroy the city they are routed even though they greatly outnumber the Israeli troops. (1Kgs 20)
 - (2) [Second campaign](#) - 855: Arameans attack Aphek (Golan) & are defeated. Ben-hadad returns the territory taken by his father in the 890 campaign & his life is spared.
 - (3) With Aram & Moab growing in strength, Israel & Judah are motivated to ignore their differences & join forces against their mutual enemies.
 - (4) In 853, during a brief lull when Aram & Israel are allied with ten other states against Shalmaneser III of Assyria at Qarqar, Israel fields 2,000 chariots & 10,000 infantry. Ahab dies in battle. Although [Shalmaneser claims victory](#), indications are that the Aram-Israel coalition withstood. (Subsequent Assyrian expeditions are much closer to home, & the coalition opposes Shalmaneser again in 849, 848, 845, 841)

2. Domestic scene:
 - a. Ahab makes a mutual-defense pact with Jehoshaphat, sealing it by the marriage of his daughter Athaliah to Jehoram of Judah.
 - b. Ahab builds luxurious palace decorated with ivory & furnishings inlaid with ivory.
 - c. He builds a temple to Baal in the city.
 - d. The economy is severely tested by three years of drought & famine.
 - e. Corruption in government & justice system is highlighted by the Naboth incident.
3. Spiritual scene:
 - a. Ahab leads Israel to deeper levels of apostasy & he & Jezebel introduce Baalism to Israel.
 - (1) Baal is the storm/fertility god who brings rain to the semi-arid land. Anath & Astarte/Ashtoreth are his consorts. Asherah is also paired with Baal.
 - (2) Dependence upon rain (vs. Egypt's dependence on Nile) pits Baal against Yahweh (Dt. 11:10-12).
 - (3) Fertility aspects of the Baal cult included ritual sexual activity involving hierodules.
 - b. The religious establishment is thoroughly corrupted as prophets prophesy for hire (priestly functions were already paganized since Jeroboam) & true prophets of Yahweh are persecuted.
 - c. The [Mt. Carmel confrontation between Elijah & the 850 prophets of Baal & Asherah](#) must have some impact, if only temporary.

IX. Ahaziah ben Ahab (c.853-852) (-)

- A. Reign: 2 yrs (fr. Jehoshaphat 17)
- B. Sources:
 1. [1Kgs 8:16-24](#)
 2. [2Kgs 22:51-53](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 1. Political scene: Mesha of Moab rebels & declares independence from Israel.
 2. Spiritual scene. Apostasy is rampant. The king, injured in a fall, inquires of the Philistine god Baal-zebul in Ekron whether or not he will recover. The envoys are intercepted by Elijah who sends the prediction of the king's death.

[Elisha](#)
c. 850-795

IX. Jehoram ben Jehoshaphat (c.853/848-841) (-)

- A. Reign: 8 yrs (fr. Joram 5)
- B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 8:16-24](#)
 2. [2Chr 22:1-9](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 1. International scene.
 - a. Edom & Libnah revolt & attack Judah (c.845ff.)
 - b. Philistia & Arabia invade Judah & plunder Jerusalem leaving the youngest son, Jehoahaz.
 2. Domestic scene.

X. Jehoram ben Ahab (Joram) (c.852-841) (-)

- A. Reign: 12 yrs (fr. Jehoshaphat 18, Jehoram 2)
- B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 1:17-18](#)
 2. [2Kgs 3:1-27](#)

- a. Stabilization of an insecure administration.
 - b. Jehoram slaughters all his brothers to prevent a coup d'état, at least within the dynasty.
 - c. Jehoram contracts a virulent terminal abdominal disease as prophesied by Elijah.
3. Spiritual scene.
- a. Apostasy increases. Jehoram marries Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel & Ahab, & espouses the values of the N., introducing Baal worship to Judah & building numerous high places.

OBADIAH
c. 848-841

3. [2Kgs 10:26-29](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
1. International scene
 - a. Maintains alliance with Jehoshaphat & Ahaziah.
 - b. Enters an alliance with Edom.
 - c. [Subjugates Moab c. 850.](#)
 - d. Experiences [continued wars with Arameans, by now the most powerful state in the Levant.](#)
 - e. Shalmaneser III engages the south Syrian coalition in 849, 848, 845 & 841 when he finally succeeds in subduing the western states.
 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. Elisha's ministry
 - b. Severe famine during Aramean siege c. 845 leads to cannibalism.
 - c. Jehu is anointed by a prophet under commission from Elisha to purge Israel of the Omride dynasty & Baalism. Jehu assassinates both the sick king Jehoram & Ahaziah of Judah who had come to pay a state visit, along with Jezebel & wipes out the entire household & staff of Ahab including his priests.
 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Makes effort to check Baalism, but maintains the apostasy & syncretism of Jeroboam.

- X. Ahaziah/Jehoahaz ben Jehoram (c.841) (-)
- A. Reign: 1 yr (fr. Jehoram 12)
 - B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 8:25-29](#)
 2. [II Chr 22:1-9](#)
 - C. Issues & Events:
 1. Domestic scene. Security. Ahaziah enters into alliance with Jehoram ben Ahab. Jehu kills him during overthrow of Jehoram.
 2. Spiritual scene. Apostasy. Ahaziah son of Athaliah daughter of Ahab/Jezebel, follows his wicked mother's counsel.

- XI. Athaliah (c.841-835) (-) (wife of Jehoram, daughter of Omri)
- A. Reign: 6 yrs (fr.
 - B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 11](#)
 2. [2Chr 22:10-23:21](#)
 - C. Issues & Events:
 1. Domestic scene.

- XI. Jehu ben Jehoshaphat ben Nimshi (c.841-814) (+/-)
- A. Reign: 28 yrs
 - B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 9-10](#)
 2. [Shalmaneser III inscription, Black Obelisk \(Calah, Assyria\), ANET 280-81; ANE 1:191-192](#)
 - C. Issues & Events:
 1. [International scene.](#)
 - a. Shalmaneser's 841 campaign records [Jehu's paying obeisance & tribute. Shalmaneser III inscription refers to Jehu as "son of Omri"](#) even though he is not biologically related.
 - b. 828-827: the Great Revolt in Nineveh & other Assyrian centers which will have a major effect on Assyria for the next 45 yrs. Shalmaneser is succeeded by Shamshi Adad V (823-811)
 - c. [Hazael of Damascus, taking advantage of Assyria's preoccupation, moves to secure the International Coastal Highway through the Philistine plain, & the King's Highway](#)

- a. Security of Davidic dynasty is at stake.
 - b. In order to secure her claim to the throne, Athaliah, daughter of Omri, slaughters all male Davidic offspring with the single exception of one year old Joash, rescued by his sister Jehosheba & sequestered in the Temple by Jehoiada the chief priest & his wife for six years.
 - c. After six years, Jehoiada leads a coup d'etat in which Athaliah is assassinated & 7 yr old Joash crowned king, although, for a while, Jehoiada remains the power behind the throne.
2. Spiritual scene.
- a. Apostasy & syncretism.
 - b. Athaliah proceeds to foster the growth of Baal worship & the decline of Yahweh worship. The looted Temple falls into disrepair.

XII. Joash/Jehoash ben Ahaziah (c.835-796) (+)

- A. Reign: 40 yrs (fr. Jehu 7)
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 12](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 24](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene. Arameans attack & plunder Judah & march against Jerusalem (796), Joash averts the attack by taking the Temple treasures & sending them to Hazael. The Arameans will continue to threaten Judah's security for some time.
 - 2. Domestic scene.
 - a. Joash is crowned at 7 reinstating claim of Davidic dynasty, although the High Priest was head of the government at least until Joash reached majority.
 - b. Rejection of the king. Within a year of Hazael's attack Joash is assassinated by those of his own court.
 - 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Apostasy & syncretism. Fifteen years of wicked leadership provide ample opportunity for syncretism & all sorts of apostasy to flourish. The dilapidated condition of the Temple implies no significant temple worship. Religious leadership is jaded.
 - b. Joash takes the initiative toward spiritual renewal.
 - c. Jehoiada leads Judah into the **SECOND REVIVAL**. ([2Chr 24:13-14](#)) The depth of this revival, however, is questionable. It does not outlive Jehoiada. ([2Chr 24:18](#))
 - d. Virtually as soon as Jehoiada dies, the people revert to their old ways, abandoning proper

JOEL?
c. 835

[in Transjordan threatening Israel & Judah economically as well as militarily.](#)

- 2. Domestic scene.
 - a. [Jehu assumes throne via a coup d'etat with Assyrian-style terrorist tactics in which Ahab & his entire family & staff are killed as well as king Ahaziah of Judah.](#)
 - b. Jehu is accepted as king & establishes an 89-yr. Long dynasty, the longest in Israel. Economically prosperous & politically stable.
 - c. [All Israeli territory in Transjordan is lost to the Arameans under Hazael \(815-810\).](#)
- 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Baal worship is ruthlessly eliminated & many Baal worshipers exterminated during the bloody purge.
 - b. Worship of Yahweh is established as the official religion of Israel.
 - c. Syncretism, however, remains firmly rooted & the "sin of Jeroboam" is perpetuated by Jehu.
 - d. Jehu's "reform & revival" is half-hearted.

XII. Jehoahaz ben Jehu (c.814-798) (-)

- A. Reign: 17 yrs (fr. Joash 23)
- B. Sources: [2Kgs 13:1-9](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene. Adad-nirari III rules Assyria (810-783). In the face of Assyrian preoccupation with the aftermath of the Great Revolt, Hazael & his son Ben-hadad II continually oppress Israel taking a great toll on Israel's army.
 - 2. Domestic scene. Jehoahaz appeals to Yahweh & an unnamed deliverer brings relief from the Arameans.
 - 3. Spiritual scene. Jehoahaz perpetuates the

Yahweh worship at the Temple for the asherim & idols. Even the king demonstrates his spiritual condition when he rejects the prophets & executes Zechariah ben Jehoiada who rebuked him for his apostasy & rebellion against the LORD.

JONAH
c. 800-760

apostasy & syncretism characteristic of Israel since Jeroboam.

XIII. Jehoash ben Jehoahaz (c.798-782) (-)

A. Reign: 16 yrs (fr. Joash 37)

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 13:10-25](#)
2. [Adadnirari III inscription, Tel al-Rimah Stela \(Calah, Saba, Assyria\)](#). ANET 281-281; ANE 1:192-193

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene.
 - a. Adad-nirari is unable to hold the West with his armies engaged closer to home.
 - b. Jehoash succeeds in reclaiming the cities taken by the Arameans.
 - c. Aramean power in decline, Israel retakes control of a portion of the King's Highway.
2. Domestic scene.
 - a. He succeeds in rebuffing the belligerent confrontation of Amaziah, routing the Judeans at Beth-shemesh, capturing Amaziah, which victory enables him to march right into Jerusalem where he loots the Temple.
 - b. Elisha dies.
3. Spiritual scene. Jehoash continues in the sins of Jeroboam.

XIII. Amaziah ben Joash (c.796-767) (+/-)

A. Reign: 29 yrs (fr. Jehoash 2)

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 14:1-22](#)
2. [2Chr 25](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene
 - a. Aramean power in decline, Judah retakes control of a portion of the King's Highway.
2. Domestic scene
 - a. Expansionist desires.
 - b. Amaziah attacks Edom & conquers Sela, renaming it Joktheel.
 - c. He threatens Israel, but is defeated at Beth-shemesh, his own front-porch. Jehoash then takes Jerusalem & plunders the Temple & the palace & takes hostages & the loot to Samaria.
 - d. Rejection of king. Amaziah flees Jerusalem for Lachish where he is assassinated.
3. Spiritual scene
 - a. Syncretism & apostasy. High places active &

XIV. Jeroboam II (c.793-753) (-)

A. Reign: 41 yrs (fr. Amaziah 15), 11 yrs as co-regent with Jehoash, 29 in his own right.

B. Sources: [2Kgs 14:23-29](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene.
 - a. 782 marks the beginning of the consolidation of the Assyrian empire under Shalmaneser IV. Activity in W. diminished & rebellion breaks out in Assyria.
 - b. The leadership of a number of nations within the Assyrian sphere of influence are firmly entrenched, including Urartu, Judah & Israel.
2. Domestic scene.
 - a. [Jeroboam succeeds in regaining most of the Solomonic realm except for Judah.](#)
 - b. This is also a time of very significant economic expansion. Agriculture, manufacturing & trade flourishes. The upper classes enjoy great luxury.
 - c. The contrast between the have's & the

eventually take over.

XIV. Uzziah/Azariah ben Amaziah (c.792-740) (+)

- A. Reign: 52 yrs (fr, Jeroboam 27)
- B. Sources:
 1. [2Kgs 15:1-7](#)
 2. [2Chr 26](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 1. International situation.
 - a. Urartians control international trade.
 - b. Assyrians "regrouping." [Tiglath-pileser III becomes king in 744, just five years before Uzziah's death. His foreign policy includes gaining control of the main international trade routes.](#) Preoccupation with domestic & , temporarily, foreign issues closer to home, Assyria presents few problems for Israel & Judah.
 - c. Babylonians are a significant burr under the saddle for the Assyrians.
 - d. Egypt is relatively weak, needing the Levantine states to act as buffer against growing Assyrian power.
 - e. Arameans in decline during reigns of Uzziah & Jotham.
 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. 16 yr old king introduces time of significant economic growth & political expansion.
 - b. He [repairs Jerusalem's defenses destroyed by Hazael & rebuilds the army. He reasserts control in Transjordan \(Amorites\), the Negev & Philistine Plain & rebuilds Eilat.](#)
 - c. He establishes cordial relations with Israel.
 - d. The economy (agriculture & commerce) flourish.
 - e. Growing nationalism & development is possible in good part because of the international situation.
 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. This period still plagued by syncretism. Uzziah fails to rid the nation of her many high places & allows the people to use them for worship.
 - b. Much success fosters pride. Uzziah arrogantly tries to usurp priestly prerogatives & offer incense in the Temple himself, c.750. As a result, the LORD strikes him with leprosy, disqualifying him for active leadership & his son Jotham become co-

[AMOS
c. 765-755](#)

[HOSEA
c. 755-715](#)

have-not's is tremendous. Social injustice is widespread.

- d. The renewed military, political & economic strength leads to a sense of euphoria & intense optimism.
3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. Apostasy & syncretism is as rampant as ever.
 - b. Baalism creeps back into the religious scene.
 - c. Religious activity is at a peak, as measured by attendance & offerings. However, religion has absolutely no positive impact on the moral & ethical ills of society, but rather only seems to exacerbate them.

regent & acting king for six years in his father's stead.

XV. Jotham ben Azariah (c.750-731) +

- A. Reign: 19 yrs (fr. Pekah 2), 11 yrs as co-regent with Uzziah, 8 yrs in his own right. He remains titular king with Ahaz as co-regent until Jotham dies in 731.
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 15:32-38](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 27](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. Security. Jotham defeats Ammon. He refuses to join the alliance formed by Pekah & Rezin against Assyria & they retaliate.
 - 2. Economic prosperity. Jotham continues the pattern of building begun by his father.
 - 3. Spiritual vitality. Jotham fails to remove the high places & allows worship to take place there. Jotham himself neglects proper Temple worship. With this kind of pace being set, it is no wonder that "the people continued acting corruptly."

XV. Zechariah ben Jeroboam (c.753-752) (-)

- A. Reign: 6 months (during Uzziah 38)
- B. Sources: [2Kgs 15:8-12](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. Domestic scene.
 - a. The disintegration of the social fabric of Israel leads to utter anarchy.
 - b. Zechariah is assassinated by Shallum in a coup 6 months after assuming the throne, bringing the dynasty of Jehu to an end.
 - 2. Spiritual scene. Zechariah continues in the sins of Jeroboam.

XVI. Shallum ben Jabesh (c.752) (-)

- A. Reign: 1 month (during Uzziah 39)
- B. Sources: [2Kgs 15:13-15](#)
- C. Issues & Events: Shallum is assassinated in coup led by Menahem.

XVII. Menahem (c.752-742) (-)

- A. Reign: 10 yrs (fr. Uzziah 39)
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 15:16-22](#)
 - 2. [Tiglath-Pileser III Annals, ANET 283](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene.
 - a. The virtual stalemate in Assyria is about to end. [In 744 governor of Calah leads a rebellion & usurps the throne of Assurnirari. He takes the throne-name Tiglath-pileser III, & changes the balance of power in the N.E.](#)
 - b. [Israel becomes a vassal state, apparently without resistance.](#)
 - 2. Domestic scene.
 - a. Takes throne at Samaria by coup d'etat. At roughly same time, Pekah establishes himself as king in Gilead. Hosea (5:5) refers to the dual kingdom in the N.
 - b. The moral values of Menahem are demonstrated in his coup. Efforts to establish his reign are extremely ruthless, including slashing open all pregnant women.
 - c. Heavy taxes are levied to raise the tribute demanded by Assyria of its vassal.

XVIII. Pekahiah (c.742-740) (-)

- A. Reign: 2 yrs (fr. Uzziah 50)
- B. Sources: [2Kgs 15:23-26](#)
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. He perpetuates the sins of Jeroboam.
 - 2. He is assassinated in a coup led by Pekah, captain of the army.

XIX. Pekah (c.(752)740-732) (-)

- A. Reign: 20 yrs (fr. Uzziah 52), apparently 12 yrs as co-regent with Menahem & Pekahiah, possibly in Gilead, & then 8 yrs in his own right.
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 15:27-31](#)
 - 2. [Tiglath-pileser III Annals & reliefs](#) (*Calah, Assyria*): ANET 282-284; ANE 1:193-194.
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene:
 - a. Assyria has the pre-eminent military & economic world power.
 - b. Rezin of Damascus is the prime-mover behind anti-Assyrian resistance. Pekah joins the coalition made up of probably all the significant Levantine states except Judah which was pro-Assyrian.
 - c. When [Ahaz appeals to Tiglath-pileser for assistance in the face of mounting pressure by the Syro-Ephraimite coalition, Assyria responds](#), subduing Galilee & Transjordan & deporting the respective populations.
 - 2. Domestic scene.
 - a. Corruption & crime are epidemic. Violence is pervasive.
 - b. Disadvantaged are oppressed.
 - c. Social fabric is disintegrated. No one is to be trusted.
 - 3. Spiritual scene:
 - a. Mercenary false prophets lead people astray

[ISAIAH](#)
[c. 739-690](#)

[MICAHA](#)
[c. 735-700](#)

XVI. Ahaz ben Jotham (c.735-715) -

- A. Reign: 20 yrs (fr. Pekah 17), 4 yrs as co-regent with Jotham, 16 yrs in his own right.
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 16](#)
 - 2. [2Chr 28](#)
 - 3. [Isaiah 7-8](#)
 - 4. [Tiglath-Pileser III relief](#), (*Calah, Assyria*) ANET 282
- C. Issues & Events:
 - 1. International scene:
 - a. [Israel & Syria continue their harassment of Judah for refusing to join their coalition.](#)
 - b. Rejecting Isaiah's message (Isa 7), [Ahaz applies to Tiglath-pileser III for a defensive alliance. T-P attacks Syria & Israel forcing them to retreat from their attacks on Judah.](#) Deliverance from Israel & Syria comes at the expense of vassalage to the Assyrian empire. The impudence of these minor players occupying strategically desirable territory will have disastrous results.

XX. Hoshea (c.732-722) (-)

- A. Reign: 9 yrs (fr. Ahaz 12)
- B. Sources:
 - 1. [2Kgs 17](#)
 - 2. [1 Chron. 5:6, 26](#)
 - 3. [Tiglath-Pileser III Annals](#) (*Calah, Assyria*): ANET 283-284; ANE 1:194
 - 4. [Sargon II Annals](#) (*Khorsabad, Asshur, Assyria*): ANET 284-287; ANE 1:195-198; ANE 1:195-198
- C. [Issues & Events](#):
 - 1. As a result of the Assyrian defeat, Hoshea leads a coup d'etat, killing Pekah.
 - 2. [Assyrian annals claim Tiglath-pileser places Hoshea on the throne in Israel.](#)
 - 3. Tiglath-pileser is succeeded by [Shalmaneser V in 727. Hoshea apparently sees this as an opportunity to bolt. Shalmaneser attacks Samaria c. 725 & imprisons Hoshea for a time. Hoshea promises tribute & is released. He soon rebels once again, resulting in Shalmaneser's return & a three year siege of Samaria.](#)
 - 4. In 722 Sargon II becomes emperor [& brings](#)

- c. God brings the bitter & devastating Israeli-Aramean invasions as chastisement.
- 2. Domestic scene:
 - a. As a vassal, Ahaz pillages the Temple to pay the Assyrians & then closes the Temple.
 - b. Corruption & crime are epidemic. Violence is pervasive.
 - c. Social fabric is disintegrated. No one is to be trusted.
- 3. Spiritual scene:
 - a. Yahweh worship is considered boring
 - b. Syncretism & utter apostasy. Expecting severe defeat, Ahaz openly accepts the gods of the Aramean pantheon along side Yahweh.
 - c. Temple closed, Ahaz builds numerous altars to the Assyrian gods throughout Jerusalem. He offers sacrifices in the valley of ben-Hinnom & including his own children. "He sacrifices & burns incense on the high places, on the hills, & under every green tree."

[the siege to closure, destroying Samaria & carrying the peasantry away, resettling the land with people from elsewhere.](#)

- 5. [2Kgs 17:7-23](#) records graphic description of the circumstances leading up to the fall of Samaria.

DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

*("+ " = righteous king; "-" = wicked king)

XVII. Hezekiah ben Ahaz (c. (729) 715-686) (+)

A. Reign: 29 yrs (fr. Hoshea 3)

B. Sources:

- 1. [2Kgs 18-20](#)
- 2. [2Chr 29-32](#)
- 3. [Isa 36-39](#)
- 4. [Siloam Inscription](#) (*Jerusalem*): ANET 321; ANE 1:212.
- 5. [Sennacherib annals](#) (*Nineveh, Assyria*): ANET 287-288; ANE 1:199-201

C. Issues & Events:

- 1. International scene.
 - a. The political situation in Mesopotamia is somewhat unsettled. [Israel is now an Assyrian province.](#) Assyria is concerned to consolidate its control of the international coastal highway. However, revolt in Babylonia under Merodach-Baladan & in Urartu preoccupies Assyria.
 - b. Egypt, now a second-rate power, uses this occasion to encourage the smaller Levantine states to revolt in 713. Isaiah advises Hezekiah against joining in & as a result, Judah is spared when, in 711, Sargon marches South to suppress the rebellion.
 - c. Later, however, after Sargon's death, [Hezekiah does form an alliance with Egypt](#) & proceeds to [fortify the Judean mountains & secure Jerusalem's water supply](#) while also expanding into the coastal plain & the Negev.
 - d. Eventually Sennacherib [suppresses the Babylonian rebels & with things stabilized in the E., turns toward Egypt. En route, he dispatches a contingent with Rabshakeh to demand Jerusalem's surrender.](#) Hezekiah refuses & the Angel of the Lord strikes the Assyrian army forcing it to withdraw.
- 2. Domestic scene
 - a. One significant side effect of the revival is its impact on national security. The rejection of Assyrian religion is tantamount to political rebellion in Assyrian eyes.

- b. The formal dissolution of the alliance is the last straw. [Sennacherib, Sargon's successor, besieges Jerusalem & writes that he has Hezekiah shut up "like a bird in a cage."](#) Hezekiah resorts to stripping both the Temple as well as the palace to gather sufficient tribute to satisfy Sennacherib. It is probably about this time that Hezekiah is told he is terminally ill by Isaiah (38), but is granted 15 years in answer to prayer & is assured that Yahweh will deliver Judah from Assyria.
- 3. Spiritual scene.
 - a. The temple in Jerusalem had been closed by Ahaz & is in disrepair. Pagan practices are rampant.
 - b. Conservative Hezekiah removes the high places & destroys the sacred pillars & the Asherah. He even destroys Moses' brazen serpent which had been turned into a cult object. Thus Hezekiah leads the **THIRD REVIVAL** in Judah.
 - c. Alliances with pagan nations were normally a statement of non-reliance upon Yahweh. Therefore as a result of the Revival, Hezekiah ultimately leads Judah to rescind its alliance arrangement with Assyria when Sargon dies.

XVIII. Manasseh ben Hezekiah (c.(697) 686-642) (-)

A. Reign: 55 yrs, 9yrs as co-regent with Hezekiah

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 21:1-18](#)
2. [2Chr 33:1-20](#)
3. [Essarhaddon Annals](#): ANET 289-294; ANE 1:201-202; ANE 2:52-53
4. [Ashurbanipal Annals](#): Cylinder C; Cylinder E; K 1295: ANET 294-301
5. Herodotus, *Histories*. [1:105](#); [II.157](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene
 - a. Saite Renaissance in Egypt (664-525) marks end of Assyrian rule & return to unified kingship (N & S) in Egypt. Egypt engages mercenary armies & fleets manned by Greek & Aegean peoples
 - b. Manasseh vassal to Ashurbanipal by 667.
 - c. Manasseh feels the [wrath of Assyria who apparently suspects him of complicity in the rebellions plaguing the empire. He is humiliated & bound with nose hook & chains & dragged off to Babylon c. 648.](#)
2. Domestic scene
 - a. Extreme violence results in "very much innocent blood" being spilt.
3. Spiritual scene
 - a. Manasseh reintroduces & openly supports paganism & occult practices, thus leading his nation into a period of deep moral, ethical & social decadence worse than what was seen among the surrounding pagan nations.
 - b. He builds pagan altars & sets up an Asherah in the Temple. Makes sons pass through fire in the ben-Hinnom valley.
 - c. He is heavily involved in occult practices
 - d. People refuse to hear from God.
 - e. Apostasy & vile wickedness apparently becomes so indelibly a part of the people's values during this period that the judgment of Judah is certified (2Kgs 21:10ff).
 - f. After having experienced God's chastisement in Babylon, Manasseh seems to have repented. He removes the foreign gods & altars. He reinstates worship of Yahweh & orders Judah to serve Yahweh. The effects of syncretism made it possible for them to think they were worshiping Yahweh as they continued to sacrifice in the high places.

XV. Amon ben Manasseh (c.642-640) (-)

A. Reign: 2 yrs

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 21:19-26](#)
2. [2Chr 33:21-25](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. Domestic scene: Political & social instability.
 - a. Amon's practices so alienate his court staff that he is assassinated by his own staff at the age of 24.

- b. The people execute all the conspirators & coronate Amon's 8 yr old son, Josiah.
- 2. Spiritual scene: Apostasy. Amon reinstates the earlier policies & practices of his father.

ZEPHANIAH
c. 640-620

XVI. Josiah ben Amon (c.640-609) (+)

A. Reign: 31 yrs

B. Sources:

- 1. [2Kgs 22:1-23:30](#)
- 2. [2Chr 34-35](#)

NAHUM?
c. 630

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene:

- a. The Assyrian Empire is in decline. The Empire was built & maintained on sheer military might & terror. Expansion seemed easy for her. Assimilation never took place. Overextended, her influence & intervention basically had to be withdrawn from the outlying territories.
- b. The Scythians ransack the NW territories.
- c. [The Babylonians are "regrouping" & laying the foundation for the Neo-Babylonian Empire which is eventually established by Nabopolassar as he successfully leads their revolt against the Assyrians in 625/6.](#)
- d. To the NE, Cyaxerxes becomes king of the Medes.
- e. Arab tribes exploit the developing power vacuum & ransack nations along the King's Highway from Edom to Zobah (Isa 15-16; Jer 48:1-49).
- f. In [612, a Babylonian/Median alliance sacks the Assyrian capital.](#)
- g. Preferring a weakened & preoccupied Assyrian overlord to the up-and-coming Babylonians, Pharaoh Neco II (609-594) mounts a military expedition in 609 to aid Assyria. Josiah understands that a victorious Assyro-Egyptian alliance would create a new & uncomfortable political reality for Judah & [attempts to stop the Egyptians at the Megiddo pass](#) in the process of which Josiah is mortally wounded.

JEREMIAH
c. 627-577

Huldah
c.622

2. Domestic scene.

- a. The motivation behind the execution of the assassins of Amon is unclear.
- b. At 8 yrs of age, Josiah undoubtedly has his "handlers." Not much is known about them. From the outcome, however, it appears that they were reformers.
- c. Josiah takes advantage of Assyrian weakness & [reclaims Assyrian provinces of Samaria, Megiddo \(Jezreel & Galilee\) & N. Philistia, thus giving him significant economic advantage of ports & that section of the International Coastal Highway through the Sharon plain & the Jezreel valley.](#)
- d. Ultimately, [Josiah reasserts the claim of the Davidic throne on territories in the N. & Gilead in Transjordan.](#)

3. Spiritual scene.

- a. At 16 Josiah develops a spiritual sensitivity & begins to seek the LORD.
- b. By age 20 he initiates a nation-wide purge of paganism & syncretism.
- c. At age 26 (his 18th yr) he initiates an effort to restore (prob. reopen) the Temple. In this process, Hilkiah the high priest discovers the book of the Law of Moses.
- d. Exposure to the book of the Law adds tremendous momentum to the reformation & leads to the **FOURTH REVIVAL**.
- e. Unfortunately, although the revival is real & life-changing for those genuinely touched by its power, it proves to be superficial. Pagan values have become deeply entrenched.

HABAKKUK
c. 609-605

XVII. Jehoahaz (Shallum) ben Josiah (c.609-608) (-)

A. Reign: 3 months

B. Sources:

- 1. [2Kgs 23:31-33](#)
- 2. [2Chr 36:1-4](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene.

- a. [Pharaoh Neco proceeds to Assyria's aid & is held off by the Babylonians at Carchemish.](#)
- b. Neco's next option is to secure as much of the Levantine "land bridge" as possible as a buffer against the Babylonians. This results, in part, in the deposition & deportation of Jehoahaz.

2. Spiritual scene. No details are given of Jehoahaz' very brief reign except to say that "he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done."

XVIII. Jehoiakim (Eliakim) ben Josiah (c.609-598) (-)

A. Reign: 11 yrs

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 23:34-24:7](#)
2. [2Chr 36:4-8](#)
3. [Jer 22:18-30; 25-26; 35-36; 45-51](#)
4. Nebuchadnezzar II Chronicle: ANET 308; ANE 1:205

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene.
 - a. Saite Pharaoh Neco II installs Jehoahaz' older brother, Jehoiakim, expecting him to be more supportive of Egypt.
 - b. Babylonians defeat the Assyrian coalition at Carchemish in 605, thus establishing Babylonian supremacy within 20 years of the liberation of the city of Babylon. Neco has to pull back Hamath but is pursued to the Orontes where the Egyptian army is decimated.
 - c. Babylonia expands into the Levant, thus gaining control of the lucrative international trade routes which had been held temporarily by the locals.
 - d. Nabopolassar dies in 605, forcing crown prince Nebuchadnezzar (605-562) to return immediately to Babylon to assume the throne.
 - e. Beginning in 604, Nebuchadnezzar leads military expeditions virtually on an annual basis. For a short time, Babylonia resumes role as world-power in the N.
 - f. In 601 Nebuchadnezzar almost succeeds in invading Egypt, but Saites holds on to Land Bridge.
2. Domestic scene.
 - a. Jehoiakim is installed as vassal to Neco II.
 - b. The economy is put under tremendous strain because of:
 - (1) the heavy tribute exacted by Egypt which Jehoiakim raises through high property taxes (2Kgs 23:35), &
 - (2) lavish personal projects for which he uses corvee labor (Jer 22:13-17).
 - c. [Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem in 605 & takes the first wave of captives, including members of royalty & nobility](#), including Daniel, as well as laborers.
 - d. Habakkuk complains of endemic wickedness & violence accompanied by perverted justice.
 - e. Jehoiakim is made a vassal to Babylonia & submits for three years but then he revolts.
 - f. Jehoiakim appears to have been assassinated during the siege of Jerusalem in 598 (Jer 22:18; 36:30).
3. Spiritual situation.
 - a. The revival & reforms of Josiah quickly relapse into the previous paganism & syncretism.
 - b. True prophets are severely persecuted.

DANIEL
c. 605-536

XIX. Jehoiachin (Coniah) ben Jehoiakim (a.k.a. Jeconiah) (c.597) (-)

A. Reign: 3 months

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 24:6-16](#)
2. [2Chr 36:8-10](#)
3. [Babylonian Chronicle](#): ANET 568-569; ANE 1:203; ANE 2:122

C. Issues & Events:

1. In December, 598 Nebuchadnezzar lays siege to Jerusalem. The 18 yr old prince, Jehoiachin, assumes throne during the siege. He surrenders to Nebuchadnezzar in March 597 & the king is taken captive along with some 13,000, including Ezekiel & an enormous booty.
2. In Babylon, Jehoiachin is well-treated as a royal captive, & when Nebuchadnezzar dies, his successor

allowed Jehoiachin to live in the palace.

3. None of Jehoiachin's sons will succeed him on the throne.

XX. Zedekiah (Mattaniah) ben Josiah (c.597-586) (-)

A. Reign: 11 yrs

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 24:17-25:7](#)
2. [2Chr 36:10-16](#)
3. [Lachish Ostraca](#): ANET 321-322; ANE 1:212-214
4. [Lamentations](#)

C. Issues & Events:

1. International scene
 - a. Psamtik II (594-588) was forced to turn attention from the Land Bridge to the S borders of Egypt.
 - b. Greek colonies continue to develop in Egypt.
2. Domestic scene
 - a. Zedekiah is enthroned by Nebuchadnezzar as his vassal.
 - b. Whether due to his being vassal or to his weakness of character, or both, Zedekiah does not seem to have been highly regarded. Jeremiah & Ezekiel both seem not to regard him as a proper or legitimate king ([Jer 24:29](#); [Ezek 11:14-21](#)).
 - c. Contrary to prophetic injunctions, & encouraged by growing anti-Babylonian sentiments among the Levantine states, Zedekiah clandestinely prepares for war against Babylonia & turns to Egypt for support in revolting against Babylonia in 589. Nebuchadnezzar responds in 588, laying siege against Jerusalem for a year & a half, which is lifted only briefly due to Egyptian intervention.
 - d. One result is severe famine & disease.
 - e. [Jerusalem falls & is burned in July 586](#). Zedekiah is mutilated by blinding & taken into captivity with many of the populace.
3. Spiritual situation.
 - a. Syncretism, paganism & accompanying debauchery are rampant. Officials, prophets, & the priesthood are all thoroughly infected.
 - b. True prophets are mocked, threatened, imprisoned.

EZEKIEL
c. 593-560

FALL OF JERUSALEM

XXI. Gedaliah ben Ahikam (c.586-585)

A. Term: 7 months

B. Sources:

1. [2Kgs 25:22-26](#)
2. [Jeremiah 26:24; 39:14; 40-41; 52:16](#)
3. Lachish Seal

C. Issues & Events:

1. [International scene](#)
 - a. With Nebuchadnezzar's death in 562, Babylonia begins decline. The next 7 yrs see 3 emperors. In 556 Nabonidus seizes the throne & , concerned with growing Persian power, moves capital to the oasis of Tema in W. Arabia where it remained until c. 545. Meanwhile Belshazzar was left to administer Babylon.
 - b. [In 550 Cyrus, king of Anshan conquers the Medes. In 546 he conquers Lydia in W. Turkey. In 539, with support of the Marduk priests, he enters Babylon without a fight to restore the ancient worship of Marduk.](#)
2. Domestic scene
 - a. Gedaliah tries to pacify the situation in Judah, encouraging resignation to Babylonian rule & making the best of it by getting on with life in the land.
 - b. These efforts are rejected as treasonous by [survivors of the royal family & court who had fled to Ammon](#). Gedaliah was assassinated by Ishmael.
 - c. Jeremiah's friends whisk him off to Egypt, fearful of Babylonian reprisals.

FIRST RETURN - 538

XXII. Sheshbazzar - Governor (538-536?)

- A. Term: Two years?
- B. Sources
 - 1. [Ezra](#)
- C. [Issues & Events](#)
 - 1. International scene
 - a. [Cyrus issues decree - 539](#), allowing detainees to return to their homeland. Valuables taken as booty from the Jerusalem Temple are returned.
 - b. Almost 200 yrs of peace provides opportunity for stability. Agricultural lands are reclaimed.
 - c. International trade resumes, bringing foreigners in contact with Judeans.
 - 2. Domestic scene
 - a. Only a small portion of exiles choose to leave the comfort of Persia to return to the ruins of Judah.
 - b. Temple restoration begins 536 but, shortly is abandoned due to discouragement over its poor comparison to Solomon's Temple & to heavy opposition. It lay waste for 16 more years.
 - c. Persian policy eliminates local kings on the one hand, but elevates priesthood to titular civil authority as well as religious authority.
 - d. Hard division between Persian provinces of Samaria & Yehud set stage for political & religious tensions in years to come.

XXIII. Zerubbabel ben Shealtiel - Governor (536-516+?)

- A. Term: At least 20 yrs. No mention is made of Zerubbabel after completion of Temple.
- B. Sources
 - 1. [Ezra](#)
 - 2. [Nehemiah](#)
 - 3. [Esther](#)
 - 4. [Haggai](#)
 - 5. [Zechariah](#)
- C. [Issues & Events](#)

- 1. International scene
 - a. Cambyses II (529-522) succeeds father Cyrus & secretly assassinates his brother to secure his position. Conquers Egypt in 525. In 522 he rushes home in response to a coup d'etat led by Gaumata (Smerdis to Herodotus) who looks like the slain brother & dies from complications of an accidental self-inflicted wound.
 - b. Darius I (522-486) an uncle of Cambyses & officer of elite army corps. Quells opposition & assumes throne. Shows the flag in Egypt & Libya, conquered by predecessor Cambyses, with virtually no resistance. He expands the Empire to the Indus River in the E. The Persian Empire encompasses Libya, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tadjhikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmen, Turkey, E. Greece, Bulgaria. The Greeks defeat the Persians at Marathon (490). Establishes 1700 mile Persian Royal Road with postal stations every 15 miles. Invented horseshoes to expedite mail service. A mail courier could cover c. 240 miles per day. Herodotus, (485-425) speaking of Persian mail system (of Xerxes), wrote "*Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.*" (8.98). Darius dies in 486, succeeded by his son Xerxes (486-465), the biblical Ahasuerus.
 - c. [Ahasuerus \(485-465\) \(Gk. Xerxes\), son of Darius the Great, was intent on including Greece in the Empire. Ahasuerus is stalled by Spartans at Thermopylae \(480\) & their navy defeated at Salamis \(479\).](#) He also keeps busy quelling problems in Babylonia & Egypt. His main interest seems to be completing the magnificent palace at Susa & the 21 yr. project at Persepolis, the treasury city. Ectabana is the historic capital of Cyrus. Esther replaces Vashti as Queen.
- 2. Domestic scene
 - a. [1 Chr 3:17-24](#) traces Zerubbabel's ancestry to David
 - b. [Cyrus issues decree allowing return - 539](#)
 - c. [49,697 exiles return](#)

HAGGAI
c. 520

ZECHARIAH
c. 520-490

(ESTHER)
c. 485-465

- d. There had been no Temple worship for some 50 yrs. Sacrifices offered & Feast of Booths celebrated.
 - e. Temple restoration begins 536 & is abandoned for 16 years during which time provisions for Temple re-allocated to domestic projects.
 - f. Growing opposition from Samaritans, including false accusations made against the Jews in letter to the Persian court. Record of Cyrus' decree was found on file & Darius sends reply by return mail (c. 1 wk delivery time). The reply not only ratifies Cyrus' decree but instructs the detractors to financially support the project
 - g. Haggai & Zechariah challenge the returnees in 520 to resume the project.
 - h. Darius ratifies the Cyrus decree & facilitates effective resolution on his way to Egypt in 519
 - i. The Temple is completed in 516.
3. Spiritual scene
- a. Haggai & Zechariah recognize Zerubbabel as a messianic figure.
 - b. After 16 yrs of distraction, misplaced priorities & discouragement, there appears to be a measure of revival & "the Spirit of the LORD stirred up the spirit" of both leadership & general population & they "obeyed the voice of the LORD their God."
 - c. There is a heightened interest in messianic teaching & a growing interest in apocalypics.

SECOND RETURN - 458

XXIV. Ezra (Aaronic priest & scribe) - Minister of Jewish Affairs (No record of a governor until Nehemiah)

- A. Term:
- B. Sources
 - 1. [Ezra](#)
 - 2. [Nehemiah](#)
- C. Issues & Events
 - 1. International scene
 - a. Artaxerxes I (464-423) ascends throne of father after some intrigue.
 - b. Issues decree in yr. 7 (458) reaffirming Persian policy of freedom of religion & movement.
 - c. Egypt, with Athenian support, revolts. Persia desperate to maintain their Land Bridge to Egypt have interest in stable & secure Yehud Province.
 - 2. Domestic scene
 - a. Ezra commissioned Scribe of the Law of the God of Heaven = "Minister of Jewish Affairs" responsible for religious, judicial & educational affairs in the Province of Yehud. Ezra leaves the capital with c. 1,800 men & their families & arrive in Jerusalem c. 15 weeks later.
 - b. Work on city walls goes slowly then, under duress of hostile neighbors, grinds to near halt c. 446-445
 - 3. Spiritual scene
 - a. Spiritually lax. Intermarriage raises concern over syncretism.
 - b. Ezra sets pace as he "set his heart" to learn the Word of God, & to personally apply it & model it & to make disciples. (7:10)

THIRD RETURN - 444

XXV. Nehemiah (444-433)

- A. Term: 11 yrs.
- B. Sources: Nehemiah
- C. Issues & Events
 - 1. International scene
 - a. Artaxerxes (464-423) permits Nehemiah, an officer of the royal court, to return to his homeland, commissioning him [Governor of the Province of Yehud](#) with a royal decree permitting the rebuilding of the city walls of Jerusalem, & providing supplies for the rebuilding project. The Emperor provides military escort for the new Governor.
 - b. Such show of force raises anxiety amongst some of the neighbors. One result is intense opposition from Samaria, Ammon & Arabia.

MALACHI
c. 430

- c. Refortification of Jerusalem is part of larger Persian fortification program along the Land Bridge.
 - d. By 431 the Peloponnesian Wars will begin, lasting until 404 when Athens falls.
2. Domestic scene
- a. The governor's leadership skills are apparent
 - b. Wall miraculously built in 52 days. The reconstruction approximated the lines of Solomon's fortifications, but was c. a quarter the size of Hezekiah's Jerusalem
3. Spiritual scene
- a. Nehemiah sets the pace with respect to prayer & faith
 - b. Word of God becomes central. Public reading & exposition leads to growing responsiveness & ultimately revival & renewing of the Covenant.