



Pastor's Bible Study

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Week Thirty-Three 1 Kings 12-16:28

Review

Literary Period

The Divided Kingdom period of ancient Israel and Judah spanned from approximately 931 BCE to 586 BCE.

Review

This Kingdom is divided because:

- Rehoboam foolishly threatens to increase the people's burdens (tax and conscription).
- As a result the northern 11 tribe's rebel against Rehoboam's harsh rule.

Lecture Segment

Division of the Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Israel splits into two after Solomon's death:

1. Rehoboam, Solomon's son, becomes king of Judah (southern kingdom).
2. Jeroboam becomes king of Israel (northern kingdom).

Jeroboam's Reign in Israel

Jeroboam establishes idolatry in the northern kingdom:

- He creates two golden calves for worship in Bethel and Dan to provide a place of worship away from the Temple in Jerusalem.
- He appoints non-Levite priests and establishes new festivals to replace the Passover, Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles/Booth.

God sends a prophet to warn Jeroboam, but he does not repent.

Succession of Kings

The narrative then follows a series of kings in both kingdoms. Moving from North to South and vice versa. See Charts on following pages.

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Spiritual Decline

Both kingdoms will experience a spiritual decline:

- Most of the kings "did evil in the eyes of the Lord".
 - In the Northern Kingdom they all did "evil in the eyes of the Lord".
 - In the Southern Kingdom (Judah) only 8 of the Kings do good.
- Idolatry becomes widespread, especially in the northern kingdom.
- God will send prophets to warn the people and kings, but they will be largely ignored.

Political Instability

The northern kingdom of Israel will experience a myriad of political instability:

- Multiple assassinations and coups occur.
- The capital moves from Shechem to Tirzah, and finally to Samaria under Omri.

The period covers approximately the first 57 years after the kingdom becomes divided, characterized by antagonism between Judah and Israel and spiritual decline in both nations².

Key Observations

1. The cycle of good and bad kings in Judah lasted for roughly 345 years.
2. Good kings typically reigned for longer periods:
 - a. Every good king reigned more than 20 years
 - b. Only one evil king reigned for more than 20 years
3. God's metric for judging kings was simple: "he did what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord" for good kings, and "he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" for bad kings.
4. Some kings, like Manasseh, were initially evil but later became good after repenting.
5. The consistent evil rule in the Northern Kingdom of Israel will lead to its downfall earlier compared to Judah.
6. Despite the presence of good kings, the overall trend of disobedience and idolatry will eventually lead to the downfall of both kingdoms

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Kingdom of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

King	Reign (BC)	Length	Notable Events
Jeroboam I	931-910	21 years	Established golden calf worship
Nadab	910-909	2 years	Killed by Baasha
Baasha	909-886	23 years	Destroyed house of Jeroboam
Elah	886-885	2 years	Assassinated by Zimri
Zimri	885	7 days	Committed suicide
Omri	885-874	11 years	Built Samaria as new capital
Ahab	874-853	21 years	Married Jezebel, promoted Baal worship
Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Brief, uneventful reign
Joram/Jehoram	852-841	11 years	Killed by Jehu
Jehu	841-814	27 years	Destroyed Baal worship
Jehoahaz	814-798	16 years	Oppressed by Aram
Jehoash	798-782	15 years	Recaptured cities from Aram
Jeroboam II	782-753	41 years	Period of prosperity and expansion
Zechariah	753-752	6 months	Assassinated by Shallum
Shallum	752	1 month	Killed by Menahem
Menahem	752-742	10 years	Paid tribute to Assyria
Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Assassinated by Pekah
Pekah	740-732	20 years	Allied with Aram against Judah
Hoshea	732-722	9 years	Last king; Israel falls to Assyria



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Kingdom of Judah (Southern Kingdom)

King	Reign (BC)	Length	Notable Events
Rehoboam	931-915	17 years	Kingdom divided under his rule
Abijah	915-912	3 years	War with Jeroboam I
Asa	912-871	41 years	Religious reforms
Jehoshaphat	871-849	25 years	Allied with Israel
Jehoram	849-842	7 years	Married Ahab's daughter
Ahaziah	842-841	1 year	Killed by Jehu of Israel
Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Only queen to rule Judah
Joash	835-796	39 years	Temple repairs
Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Defeated Edom
Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740	52 years	Long, prosperous reign
Jotham	750-735	16 years	Co-regent with Uzziah
Ahaz	735-715	16 years	Aligned with Assyria
Hezekiah	715-687	29 years	Religious reforms, resisted Assyria
Manasseh	687-642	55 years	Longest reign, promoted idolatry
Amon	642-640	2 years	Assassinated by his officials
Josiah	640-609	31 years	Major religious reforms
Jehoahaz	609	3 months	Deposed by Pharaoh Neco
Jehoiakim	609-598	11 years	Judah becomes Babylonian vassal
Jehoiachin	598-597	3 months	Exiled to Babylon
Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Last king; Jerusalem falls to Babylon



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Good Kings verse Bad Kings

Kingdom of Judah (Southern Kingdom)

Out of 20 rulers (19 kings and 1 queen):

- 8 good kings
- 12 bad rulers (11 kings and 1 queen)

Good kings of Judah:

1. Asa
2. Jehoshaphat
3. Joash (Jehoash)
4. Amaziah (mostly good)
5. Uzziah (started good, later bad)
6. Jotham
7. Hezekiah
8. Josiah

Hezekiah is considered the best of all the kings of Judah, as stated in 2 Kings 18:5: "He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him"

Kingdom of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

All 19 kings of Israel were considered bad or evil. They all "did evil in the sight of the LORD"

Next Session

Read 1 Kings 16:29 - 22
Ahab/Elijah/Jezebel