

The Divided Kingdom

(930 – 586 B.C.)

From the Golden Age to A Broken & Divided House

I. Why Did the Kingdom Split?

(1) Division and Jealousy Between the Tribes Reaching All the Way Back to Jacob, Rachel, Leah, and Their Twelve Sons.

- Jealousy and Strife Between Joseph (Rachel) and His Brothers (Leah) (See Genesis 37:1-35)
- Enmity Continued and Civil War Among Benjamin (Rachel) the Brothers (Leah) Descendants (See Judges 20)
- When David Became King the Benjamites Rebelled (See 2 Samuel 2-3)
 - Saul was a Benjamite (Rachel)
 - David was From Judah (Leah)
 - After a long war David united the 12 Tribes (2 Samuel 3:1; 5:1-5)
- Later in David's Reign an incident occurred in conjunction with David's return to Jerusalem that reveals the growing division and fragility of the state of the kingdom's unity:

2 Samuel 19:41-43

41 Then all the men of Israel began coming to the king. They asked the king, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, sneak the king away and help the king and his household cross the Jordan—and not only him but all of David's men as well?" 42 All the men of Judah replied to the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why are you so upset about this? Have we eaten at the king's expense? Or have we misappropriated anything for our own use?" 43 The men of Israel replied to the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and we have a greater claim on David than you do. Why do you want to curse us? Weren't we the first to suggest bringing back our king?" But the comments of the men of Judah were more severe than those of the men of Israel.

(2) Solomon's Idolatry That Spread Throughout the Kingdom

- Idolatry Weakened People's Faithfulness and Encouraged Selfishness and Fueled the Old

Jealousy.

1 Kings 11:1-13

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for* they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. 4 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father *had done*. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. 8 Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

9 Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord had commanded. 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, *but* I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

- God Raises Up Enemies and Ends the Time of Peace (See 1 Kings 11:14-40)

(3) Solomon's Heavy Burden of Taxation on All the People

- Samuel's Prophecy Regarding the Heavy Taxation and Burdens That Would Come with a King Came True (1 Samuel 8:10-18)
- Forced Labor and Heavy Taxation (1 Kings 9:20-22; 12:1-5)

(4) Jereboam's Ambition to Stir Revolt

- God Uses Jereboam (a Servant and Warrior Under Solomon) to Punish Solomon's Disobedience
- The Prophet Ahijah Gives Jereboam 10 Tribes
- God Promises to be With and Establish Jereboam and His Dynasty IF He is Obedient and Faithful

1 Kings 11:34-40

34 I will not take the whole kingdom from his hand. I will allow him to be ruler for the rest of his life for the sake of my chosen servant David who kept my commandments and rules. 35 I will take the kingdom from the hand of his son and give ten tribes to you. 36 I will leave his son one tribe so my servant David's dynasty may continue to serve me in Jerusalem, the city I have chosen as my home. 37 I will select you; you will rule over all you desire to have and you will be king over Israel. **38 You must obey all I command you to do, follow my instructions, do what I approve, and keep my rules and commandments, like my servant David did. Then I will be with you and establish for you a lasting dynasty, as I did for David; I will give you Israel.** 39 I will humiliate David's descendants because of this, but not forever." 40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam escaped to Egypt and found refuge with King Shishak of Egypt. He stayed in Egypt until Solomon died.

(5) Rehoboam's Arrogance and Foolishness as King

- Rehoboam, the Son and Heir of Solomon, is Arrogant and Foolish and Insults and Threatens the Northern 10 Tribes
 - The Ten Tribes Revolt

1 Kings 12:6-20

6 King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you counsel *me* to answer this people?" 7 Then they spoke to him, saying, **"If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."** 8 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. 9 So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?'" 10 The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!' But you shall speak to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins! 11 Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

12 Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day." 13 The king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him, 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." 15 So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn *of events* from the Lord, that He might establish His word, which the Lord spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16 When all Israel *saw* that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, **"What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!"** So Israel departed to their tents. 17 But as for the sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his

chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. 20 It came about when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, that they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None but the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.

The North

2 X Area
More Fertile Ground
3 X Population
Better Military Equipment
Schools of the Prophets
ALL the Kings Were Wicked

The South

Legitimate Temple in Jerusalem
Many Godly Kings
More Faithful to Jehovah
Lasted 136 Years Longer

Kings of the North (10 Tribes of Israel)

1. **Jeroboam**, 1 K.12:20-14:20. Reigned 22 years and died.
2. **Nadab**, 1 K.15:25-27. Reigned 2 years and was slain.
3. **Baasha**, 1 K.15:27-16:6. Reigned 24 years and died.
4. **Elah**, 1 K.16:6-10. Reigned 2 years and was slain.
5. **Zimri**, 1 K.18:11-20. Reigned 7 days and died by suicide.
6. **Omri**, 1 K.16:31-28. Reigned 12 years and died.
7. **Ahab**, 1 K.16:29-22:40. Reigned 22 years and was slain in battle.
8. **Ahaziah**, 1 K.22:51-2 K.1:18. Reigned 2 years and died from an accident.
9. **Jehoram**, 2 K.3:1-9:24. Reigned 12 years and was slain.
10. **Jehu**, 2 K.9:1-10:36. Reigned 28 years and died.
11. **Jehoahaz**, 2 K.13:1-9. Reigned 17 years and died.
12. **Jehoash**, 2 K.13:10-14:16. Reigned 16 years and died.
13. **Jeroboam II**, 2 K.14:23-29. Reigned 41 years and died.
14. **Zechariah**, 2 K.15:8-10. Reigned 6 months and was slain.
15. **Shallum**, 2 K.15:13-14. Reigned 1 month and was slain.
16. **Menahem**, 2 K.15:14-22. Reigned 10 years and died.
17. **Pekahian**, 2 K.15:23-26. Reigned 2 years and was slain.
18. **Pekah**, 2 K.15:27-16:9. Reigned 20 years and was slain.
19. **Hoshea**, 2 K.17:1-6. Reigned 9 years and put in prison.

Kings of the South (Judah & Benjamin)

1. **Rehoboam**, 1 K.12:21-24; 14:21-31; 2 Chron.11:1-12:16. Reigned 17 years and died.
2. **Abijah**, 1 K.15:1-8; 2 Chron.13:1-22. Reigned 3 years and died.
3. **Asa**, 1 K.15:9-24; 2 Chron.14:1-16:14. Reigned 41 years and died.

4. **Jehoshaphat**, 1 K.13:24; 23:41-50; 2 K.3:1-27; 2 Chron.17:1-21:1. Reigned 25 years and died.
5. **Jeboram**, 2 K.8:16-24; 2 Chron.21:1-20. Reigned 8. years and died.
6. **Ahaziah**, 2 K.8:25-29; 9:27-29; 2 Chron.22:1-9. Reigned 1 year and was killed by order of Jehu.
7. **Athaliah**, 2 K.11:1-21:2; 2 Chron. 22:10-23:6. Reigned 6 years & slain when Joash became king.
8. **Joash**, 2 K.11:3-12:21; 2 Chron.24:1-27. Reigned 40 years and was slain.
9. **Amaziah**, 2 K.14:1-20; 2 Chron.25:1-28. Reigned 29 years and was slain.
10. **Uzziah or Azariah**, 2 K.14:21-25; 2 Chron.28:1-23. Reigned 52 years and died.
11. **Jotham**, 2 K.15:32-36; 2 Chron.27:1-9. Reigned 16 years and died.
12. **Ahaz**, 2 K.16:1-30; 2 Chron.28:1-27. Reigned 16 years and died.
13. **Hezekiah**, 2 K.18:1-20-21; 2 Chron.29:1-32:33. Reigned 29 years and died.
14. **Manasseh**, 2 K.21:1-18; 2 Chron.33:1-20. Reigned 55 year and died.
15. **Amon**, 2 K.21:19-26; 2 Chron.33:20-25. Reigned 2 years & slain by a conspiracy of his servants.
16. **Josiah**, 2 K.22:1-23; 2 Chron.34:1-33:27. Reigned 31 years and was killed in battle.
17. **Jehoahaz**, 2 K.23:30-34; 2 Chron.36:1-4. Reigned 3 months dethroned & died in Egypt.
18. **Jehoiakim**, 2 K.23:34-24:6; 2 Chron.36:4-8. Reigned 11 years and died.
19. **Jehoiachin**, 2 K.24:6-16; 2 Chron.36:9-10. Reigned 3 months and was carried captive to Egypt.
20. **Zedekiah**, 2 K.24:17-25; 2 Chron.36:11-21. Reigned 11 years and carried captive into Egypt.

II. The Fall of the Northern Kingdom 722 B.C.

Deuteronomy 28:49-52

The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you. They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

In spite of many warnings, God's people continued to sin against Him and the time came for God to use the mighty nation of Assyria to punish them.

Isaiah 7:17

'The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house...'

Isaiah 8:7

'Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them the waters of the River, strong and mighty-- the king of Assyria and all his glory; he will go up over all his channels and go over all his banks'

Isaiah 10:5-6

'Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger and the staff in whose hand is my indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of my wrath I will give him charge...'

The Assyrians were very brutal, cruel, and ferociously violent people. See Article *“Grisly Assyrian Record of Torture and Death”* from the Biblical Archaeological Society Handout.

- Hoshea Refused to Pay Tribute to Assyria
- Shalmaneser V Began a 3-year Siege on Samaria
- Israel was Defeated and the Kingdom Destroyed Forever

2 Kings 17:5-8

‘Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria...For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

III. The Fall and Exile of the Southern Kingdom 586 B.C,

- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (The Chaldeans)

2 Chronicles 36:10-21

10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the Lord, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem. 11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. 12 He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the Lord. 13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear *allegiance* by God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel. 14 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the Lord which He had sanctified in Jerusalem. 15 The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; 16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy. 17 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave *them* all into his hand. 18 All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought *them* all to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles. 20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

- The Fierce Chaldeans

Habakkuk 1:5-11

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days— You would not believe if you were told. 6 “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs. 7 “They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves. 8 “Their horses are swifter than leopards And keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, Their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping *down* to devour. 9 “All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces *moves* forward. They collect captives like sand. 10 “They mock at kings And rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress And heap up rubble to capture it. 11 “Then they will sweep through *like* the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, They whose strength is their god.”

IV. The Prophets

See KINGS and PROPHETS Handout

Major Themes of The Prophets

1. The Prophets Were Enforcers of the Mosaic Law
 - Special Focus on Issues of Social Justice
 - Poor and Wealthy
2. The Prophets Emphasized the Covenant Between God and His People
3. The Prophets Acknowledge Jehovah as King and Ruler of All the Nations
4. The Prophets Central Theme is the Exile and Restoration of God’s People
 - Poetic Mouthpieces of God’s Wrath and Mercy
 - Judgment
 - Restoration
 - The Remnant
5. The Prophets Predict the Coming and Redemptive Work of the Messiah