

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

The Monarchical Books

1 and 2 Kings and Chronicles

Historical Books

The Theocratic Books	The Monarchical Books	The Restoration Books
Joshua	1 & 2 Samuel	Ezra
Judges	1 & 2 Kings	Nehemiah
Ruth	1 & 2 Chronicles	Esther

1st Kings

*Kingdom of Israel ; its Glory and Division
- Elijah Appears*

1 Kings

Author: Unknown

Date of events: 970 – 850 BC

Theme: Each king is evaluated in light of the covenant

Key Verse: 1 Kings 9: 4-5

“As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘you shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’”

Overview

1. The United Kingdom under Solomon (ch 1-11)
2. The Divided Kingdom (ch 12-22)
3. Elijah (ch 17-19)

The United Kingdom of Solomon (1:1-11:43)

Solomon's Accomplishments:

- Third King of Israel
- David's chosen heir (1:1-3:1)
- Wisest man who ever lived (3:2-4:34)
- Built God's Temple (5: 1-8:66)
- Diplomat, trader, collector, patron of arts (19:1-10:29)
- Wrote Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and
Psalms 72 & 127

Solomon's Weaknesses

He did not keep the covenant:

- Started small
 - Made alliance with Pharaoh
 - Offered sacrifices on the high places
- Then collected many chariots and wealth
- Eventually had 1,000 mostly foreign wives
- Foreign wives lead him astray in his old age (11)

The Lord raised up adversaries against him,
including Jeroboam

Wise Solomon Knew One Thing but Did Another

- **What he knew?**

- The requirements of the king (Dt 17)

- God's promise to him:

“As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘you shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’”

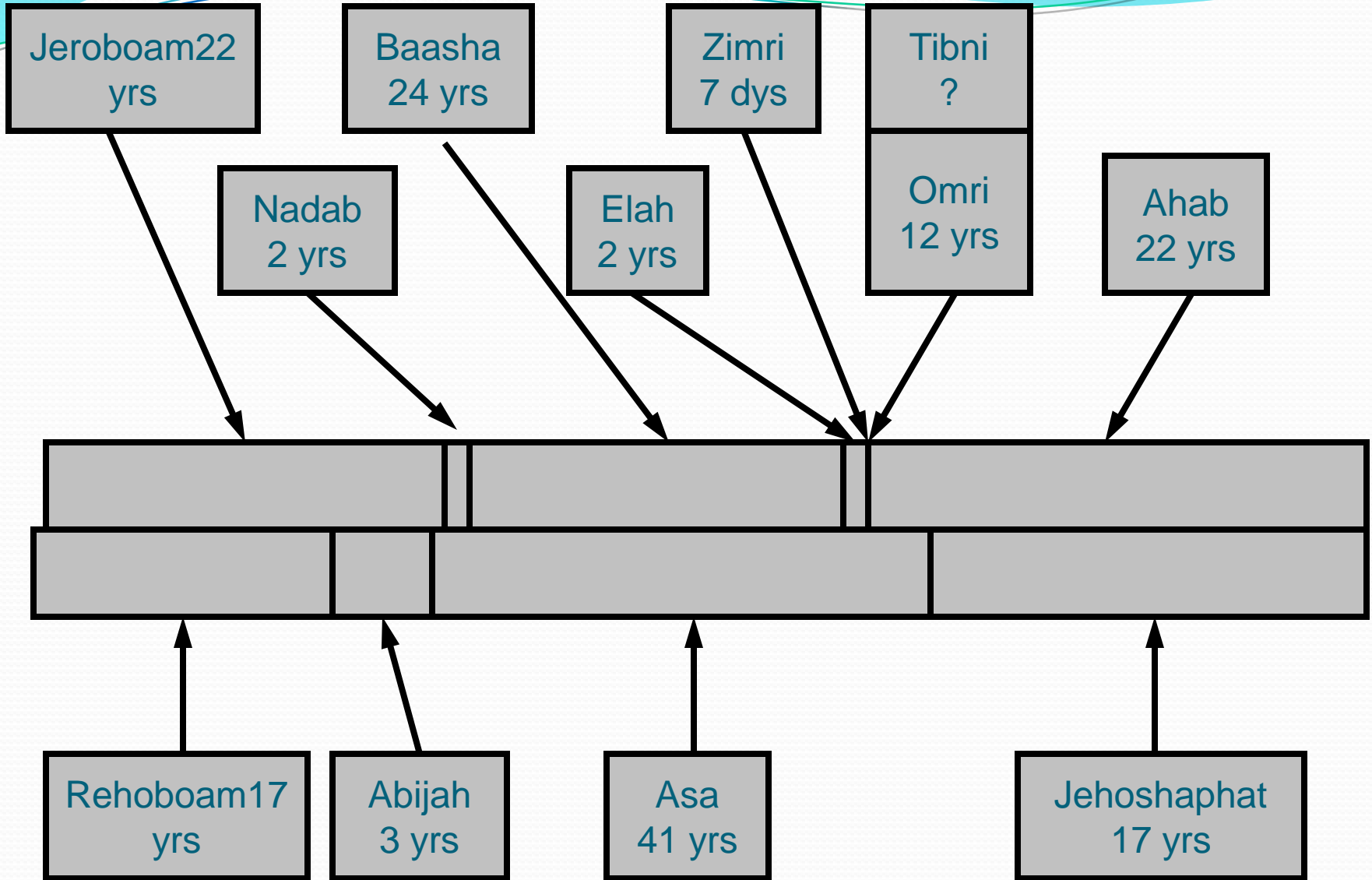
- **What he did?**

- Disobeyed
- Heart turned away from the Lord
- Did not seem to repent

The Divided Kingdom (12:1-22:53)

- After Solomon's death, northern tribes revolt
- **Israel**
 - Imposes calf worship at Bethel and Dan
 - Without exception, all Israelite kings were wicked
 - Many rebellions
- **Judah**
 - Preserved the line of David without break
 - Although most kings were wicked, there were some who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord
 - High places were not removed

The Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes)



The Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes)

Elijah's Ministry

- Elijah means *the Lord is my God*
- Prophesied a three year drought
 - Fed by ravens
 - Survived famine in the house of a widow
 - Raised her son to life
- Destroyed 450 priests of Baal

“...let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me ... so that these people will know that you ... are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”
- Flees from Jezebel
 - *“I have had enough, LORD. Take my life.”*
 - *“I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me.”*
- God tells him to go back and anoint 3 people
 - *“Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal...”*

What I Learned From 1 Kings

- God judges a successful life on the basis of:
 - keeping the covenant
 - being a good influence
 - not in terms of wealth or social achievements
- The importance of one man
- Commitment to the will of God
 - Solomon contrasts with David in this regard

“He was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.”

2nd Kings

Towards the Exile
- Elisha as symbol to Christ

2 Kings

Author: Unknown

Date of events: 850-560 BC

Date of writing/compilation: 561-538 BC

Themes:

- Record the history of Israel and Judah
- The sins of the kings and the people caused the eventual destruction of both kingdoms

Key verse:

The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God. (17:13-14)

Overview

- I. Elijah and Elisha (ch 1-9)
- II. Kings of Israel and Judah (ch 1, 8-24)
- III. Fall of Israel and Judah (ch 17, 24-25)

I. Elijah and Elisha

- Elijah's last days (ch 1-2)
 - Prophecies Ahaziah's death
 - Calls down fire from heaven on a captain and 50 men
 - Taken up to heaven in a whirlwind
- Elisha's ministry (ch 2-9)
 - Carries on Elijah's ministry
 - Clings to Elijah (ch 2)
 - inherits "a double portion" of his spirit
 - parts the Jordan, provides for a widow, raises a boy
 - Anoints Jehu as king of Israel, Hazael as king of Aram (1Ki 19:15-16)
 - Blesses a Shunamite woman
 - Other miracles:
makes stew edible, an axhead float, and water drinkable. Curses youths, feeds 100, blinds Arameans, prophesies deliverance, heals Naaman. Later a body thrown on his bones comes back to life.

Elisha as symbol to Christ

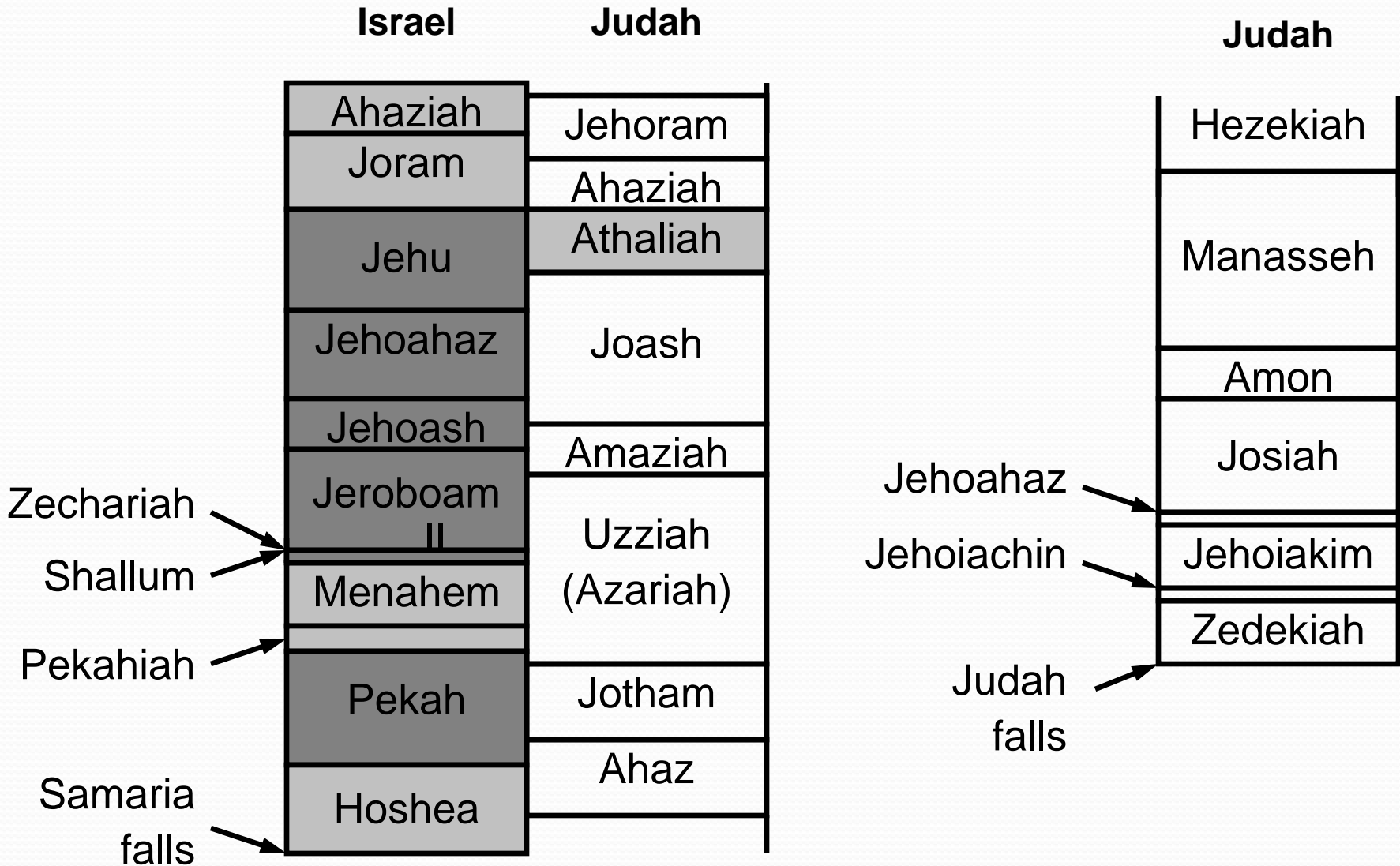
Elisha

- Twice of Elijah's soul (2)
- Mockery of Bit Eil's children (2)
- Victory over Moab; water to blood (7)
- Raising the Shunamite's son (4)
- Feeding 100 men by 20 loaves (4)
- Healing Naaman the Syrian from leprosy in the Jordan river (5)

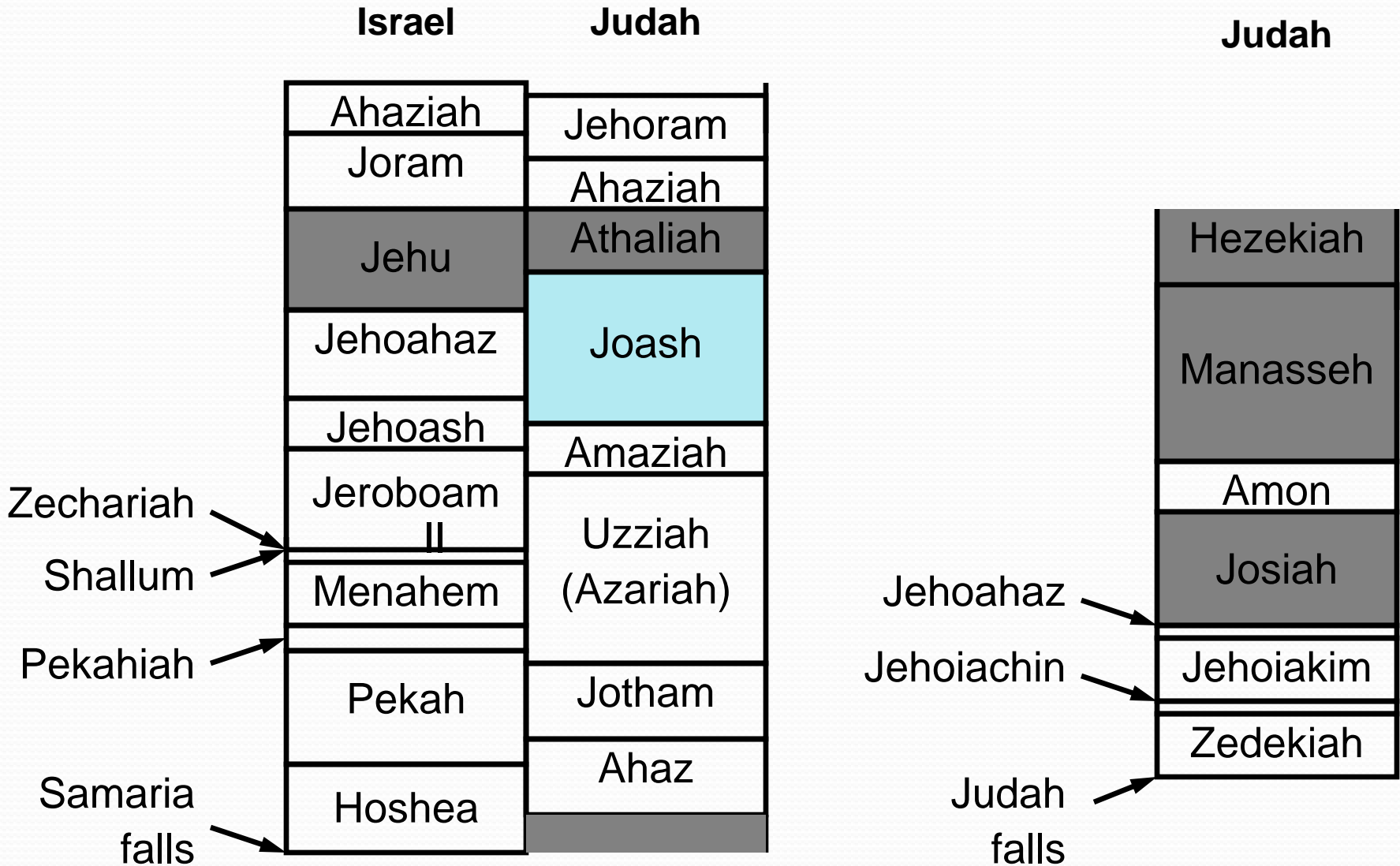
Christ

- Above all prophets
- His people rejected Him
- Victory over Satan by His blood
- His is the Resurrection
- Feeding 5000 men (w/o women and children) with 2 fish an 5 loaves
- Healed us through baptism

II. Kings of Israel and Judah



5 Important Kings



Jehu (ch 9-10)

However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam (10:29a)

- Anointed by Elisha
- Kills Joram, Jezebel, and all of Ahab's family
 - Carries out God's judgment on Ahab's family as prophesied by Elijah in 1Kings 21:19-23
 - It also serves his own purpose
- Kills Ahaziah – was not told to by God
- Kills all of the ministers of Baal
 - “see my zeal for the LORD”
- Is only relatively better than other Israelite kings:

The LORD said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descend-ants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit. (11:30-31)

God Saves David's Line from Athaliah

- Athaliah seizes the throne after Jehoram dies
 - Daughter of Ahab and an idol worshipper
 - Kills all her children and grandchildren
 - David's line could be wiped out
- God preserves David's line
 - infant Joash hidden in the temple
 - For six years, high priest, Jehoiada, raises him
 - Jehoiada orchestrates a coup
 - Athaliah killed and Joash becomes king at age 7

Hezekiah (ch 18-20)

Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. (18:5)

■ Threatened by Assyria

- Israel defeated
- Judah attacked
 - Hezekiah pays silver and gold from temple
 - Assyria only appeased for a short while
- Judah attacked a second time
 - Hezekiah seeks the Lord, through Isaiah
 - Hezekiah prays:
“Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God.” (19:19)
 - 185,000 Assyrian soldiers die, according to the word of Isaiah

■ Later he becomes ill and prays to live

- God adds 15 years, but it might have been better if he didn't

■ Welcomes envoys from Babylon

Manasseh (ch 21)

*Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command,
in
order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh
and
all he had done, including the shedding of innocent blood. (24:3-4)*

- Leads Judah astray for most of his 52 year reign
 - Rebuilds high places
 - Puts pagan altars in the temple
 - Sacrifices his son in the fire
 - Practices sorcery and divination
- Sheds much innocent blood
- Invited God's Judgement
- Later he repented and tried to undo his mistakes
 - Not mentioned in 2 Kings, but only in 2 Chronicles

Josiah (ch 22-23)

Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did-with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. (23:25)

- Orders the repair of the temple
 - The book of the law found
- Upon hearing the law Josiah repents:
 - “Great is the LORD’s anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book” (22:13)
 - Huldah prophesies destruction of Judah:
 - “Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD...you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see the disaster I am going to bring on this place”(22:19-20)
- Has the law read to the people & renews the covenant
 - Destroys idols from all the land and the temple
 - Reinstates the Passover

III. The Fall of Israel

- Israel was defeated by Assyria
 - Many people were deported to Medes
 - Assimilated into the culture
 - Many Assyrians colonized Samaria
 - Mixed race of Samaritans resulted
- Israel was exiled because of sin

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD(17:7a)

 - Worshipped other gods
 - Followed the Canaanite practices
 - Sacrificed sons and daughter in the fire

The Fall of Judah

- Jehoahaz is defeated by Egypt
 - Pharoah makes Jehoiakim king
- Jehoiakim is defeated by Babylon
 - Nebuchadnezzar makes Jehoiachin king
 - Many royalty exiled, such as Daniel
- Jehoiachin is defeated by Babylon
 - Nebuchadnezzar makes Zedekiah king
- Zedekiah rebels and is defeated by Babylon
 - Exile to Babylon

Judah was exiled because of its sin:

Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command, in

order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and

all he had done, including the shedding of innocent blood. (24:3-4)

Lessons

- A king's life often affected his children and descendants
 - A king is often compared to his father or to David or Jeroboam
- Kings were measured by their faithfulness to God
 - Not on military, political or economic achievements:
 - For example, Jeroboam II:
 - Powerful and prosperous, conquered Damascus
 - But the Bible mostly describes how he did evil in the eyes of the LORD and that the Israelites suffered under his reign
- The sins of Judah and Israel caused their destruction
 - A few good kings could not undo the damage
 - Repentance of Manasseh & other kings could not undo damage
 - They are under the law
- But God preserved a remnant and preserved David's line

1st Chronicles

God is the King

Title of the Books of Chronicles

- Hebrew Title: “Words of the Days.”
- Greek Title: “Things left to the side.”
- Recipients of the Book: Those who had returned from the exile.
- Theme of 1st & 2nd Chronicles: Worship in the Temple

Purpose of the Books of Chronicles

- To set forth a record of the priestly worship of God's people from David to the exile
- To give the fulfillment of the promises of the Mosaic Law regarding faithfulness and unfaithfulness to the covenant
- To show the importance of the Scriptures in providing the rule of faith for God's people

1 Chronicles

- Author: Thought to be Ezra
- Date of writing: 450-400 BC
- Title: A *chronicle* is a historical record
Septuagint & Catholic Bible: *Paralipomenon* - the things omitted
- Purposes:
 - Give a sense of history
 - Legitimize worship at the new temple
 - Encourage unity of all Israel
 - Show spiritual causes and effects
- Themes:
 - David and Solomon as types of Jesus
 - The central importance of the Temple
- Key verses: 17:12-14 (compare to 2 Samuel 7:13-16)
He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.

1st Chronicles

1-9

10

11-12

13-16

17-27

28-29

Genealogies
of Israel

Death
of
Saul

Reign of King David

Mighty
men

Ark &
Worship

Covenant
promises

Temple
site

Histories of Israel's Kings

Outline of 1 Chronicles

1. Genealogies (ch 1-9)
 - Modern readers may find it tedious and fail to recognize how significant and encouraging it was to the returnees
- 1½. *Saul (ch 10)*
2. David's reign (ch 11-21)
 - Mostly parallels 2 Samuel
3. David's preparations for the temple (ch 21-29)
 - Unique to Chronicles

1 Chronicles 1-9

1	Adam to Abraham and his sons	Lineage of David
2	Sons of Israel down to David	
3	Sons of David and Solomon	
4	Sons of Judah & Simeon	
5	Sons of Reuben, Gad, half tribe of Manasseh	
6	Sons of Levi, their musicians & settlements	
7	Sons of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher	
8	Sons of Benjamin (greater detail)	
9	Summary of Jerusalem after the exile <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priestly families• Levitical families	

David's Reign (ch 11-21)

1. All Israel welcomes David

- Skips 7 years at Hebron
- Makes Jerusalem the capital
- Recalls fugitive days: many warriors join him, even from Benjamin

2. Brings ark back to Jerusalem

- Explains why first attempt failed, where as Samuel doesn't:
It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.
- Ark enters Jerusalem as David sings a psalm of thanks

3. David wants to build temple

- God refuses, but promises to build David's house:
I will raise up one of your offspring to succeed you...He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.

- David's thankful prayer

4. David's victories

5. Counts the fighting men

- Only sin recorded: temple-related aspect outweighs idealic concern

David Prepares for the Temple (ch 21-29)

- Purchases the land
- Collects vast materials
- Instructs Solomon privately about succession and the temple
 - Reminds him of the key verse
 - Tells him to “be strong and courageous” for the task
- Organizes Levites, priests, gatekeepers, singers, treasurers, officials
- Instructs Solomon publicly
- Gives Solomon the temple blueprints

“All this,” David said, “I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan.”

 - Parallels exist between Moses/Joshua & David/Solomon
- Encourages more contributions, by example

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”
- David dies and Solomon is made king

Lessons Learned

- My identity as one of God's people
 - The lineage of the people of God stretches back to Seth and continued even through judgment and exile.
 - God is always working through his remnant
- Imitate David's good qualities
 - His concern for the worship of God and zeal to serve God by building a temple
 - His concern for Israel

"I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? O LORD my God, let your hand fall on me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people."
 - His generosity toward God
- God is faithful to all of his promises
 - He was not finished with his down-trodden people
 - He will keep his promise to David, to establish the throne of the Son of David forever

2nd Chronicles

A History of God's People in Worship

			1st Chronicles	1 Adam (Genealogies)		
		United Kingdom		10 Reign of David		
1st Kings	1 Reign of Solomon		2nd Chronicles	1 Reign of Solomon		
	12 Jeroboam	Divided Kingdom		10 Focus on the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the Temple to the Captivity		
	17 Elijah & Ahab					
2nd Kings	1 Elijah & Ahaziah					
	2 Elisha	Judah Alone				
	17 Fall of Samaria					
	18 Hezekiah	Exile				
	25 Babylonian Captivity					
						36:22 Return from Babylon

1 Chronicles 1-9	1 Chronicles 10-29	2 Chronicles 1- 9	2 Chronicles 10-28	2 Chronicles 29-36
Genealogies of Israel	The United Kingdom		Divided Kingdom	Reunited Kingdom
	King David	King Solomon	Kings of Judah	
	Preparation for the Temple	Construction of the Temple	Temple forgotten	Temple restored & destroyed

2 Chronicles

1 Seeking wisdom

1-5 Building the Temple

6-7 Consecration of the Temple

9 Kingdom Expansion

8 The Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon

10-13 Weakness of the Kingdom

14-16 King Asa

17-20 King Jehoshaphat

21-36 Kings Joash, Hezekiah, Josiah

Kingdom & Temple
Of Solomon

Reformation

Rehoboam (12)

- Kingly Succession
- A Divided Kingdom

Asa (14-16)

- Reformation

*And **Asa** did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God, 3 for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim, 4 and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment. (2 Chronicles 14:2-4).*

- Ethiopian Invasion

*So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before **Asa** and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. (2 Chronicles 14:12).*

- Blessings of Reformation

And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. (2 Chronicles 15:9).

Asa (14-16) “Cont’d”

- **Period of Reformation**
 - Ethiopian Invasion
- **Blessings of Reformation**
- **Assistance from Aram against Bashan**

*At that time Hanani the seer came to **Asa** king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand." (2 Chronicles 16:7).*

Uzziah (26)

- Right in the sight of the Lord
- Prosperity
- Pride
- Leprosy

Jotham (27)

- Uzziah's son
- Right in the sight of the Lord, but he did not enter the temple

Hezekiah (29-32)

- Restoration of the Temple
- Passover Observance
- Restoration of worshipers
- Sennacherib's Invasion

Manaseh (33:1-20)

- Hezekiah's son
- Idolatry
- Babylon (in chains)