

CHRONICLES OF THE KINGS

January 22, 2017
Celebration · 9:00 am
Pastor Dave Mitchell

Healing the Great Divide 1 Kings 11-14, 2 Chronicles 12

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

Historical background for three kings:

Solomon: Did not finish well. Half Hearted commitment to God. 1 Kings 11:9-14

“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, 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...” (v. 9-10)

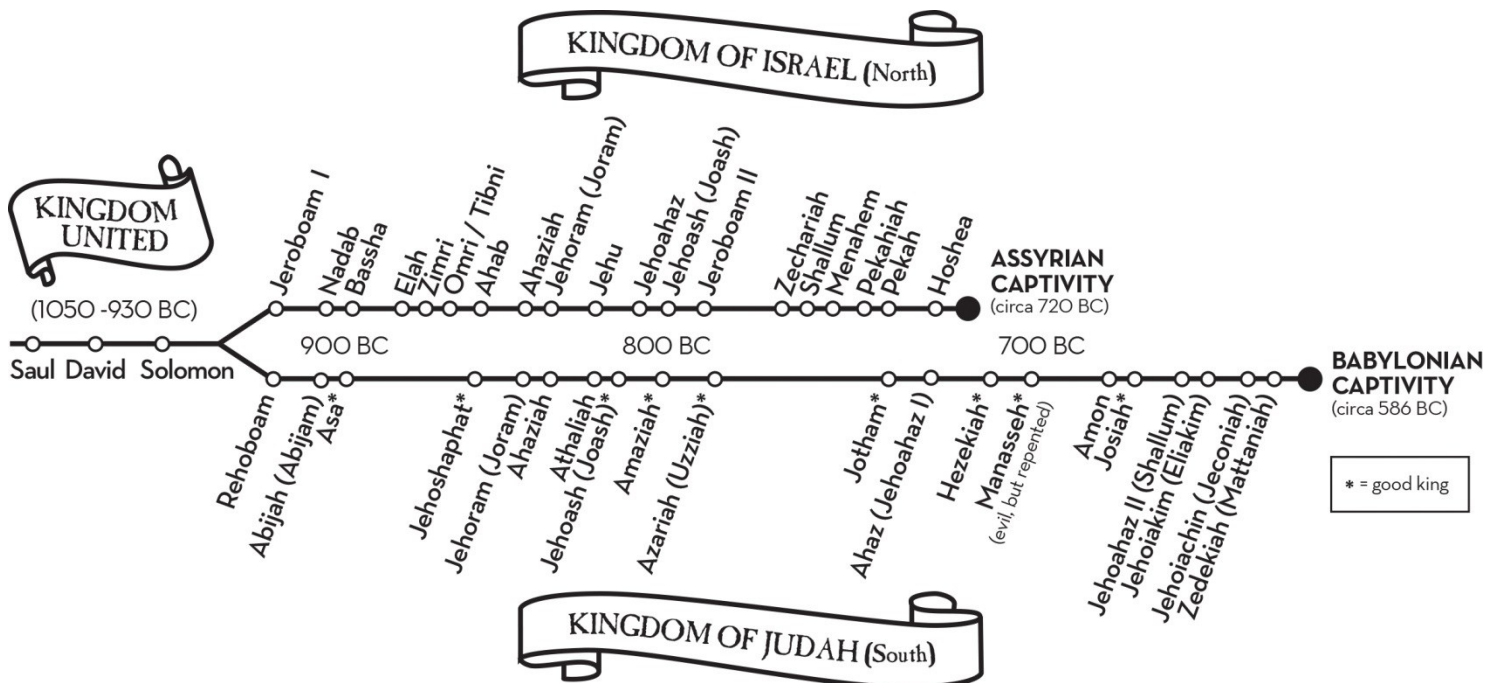
- Ashtoreth was a goddess of sex and Molech worship involved human sacrifices, especially children

Jeroboam: King over 10 northern tribes called Israel. 931-910 BC

- official for Solomon, a “valiant warrior.”
- he is promised the 10 northern tribes revealed though a cloak torn into 12 pieces. 1 Kings 11:28-38
- he is promised a great kingdom and blessing if he walks with the Lord. 1 Kings 11:38
- he led the people into false worship with fake leaders and phony festivals to avoid Jerusalem. 1 Kings 12:25-33
- God warns him about his sinful worship and verifies His truth and power miraculously. 1 Kings 13:1-10
- God prophesies of a future good king Josiah (2 Kings 23:15-20) who would rule 290 years later. 1 Kings 13:2
- he does not repent after God’s warning but continued his evil ways. 1 Kings 13:33-34
- his son is ill, deceptively seeks God’s healing but he is denied and son dies. 1 Kings 14:1-18
- God predicts the destruction of Israel by Assyria (722 B.C.) because of their sin. 1 Kings 14:15-16
- Jeroboam dies unrepentant over his sins. 1 Kings 14:19-20

Rehoboam: King over Judah, includes Benjamin. 931-913 BC

- son of Solomon
- 10 northern tribes rebelled at his heavy taxation and abusive rule. 1 Kings 12:12-19
- warned by God to not attack Israel and did not. 1 Kings 12:22-25
- very evil rule with idolatry and cult prostitutes. 1 Kings 14:22-24
- attacked by Shishak, king of Egypt which ultimately humbles him to repentance. 2 Chronicles 12:2-7
- Judah becomes slaves to Egypt to learn from God. 2 Chronicles 12:8



Lessons from these kings to learn from God how to heal what divides us.

Unify and live by the foundational truths of God's Word with a whole heart.

- Learn from Solomon that external and internal stressors should turn us to God. 1 Kings 11:14, 23-25
- Learn from the value of a righteous life which heals relationships. 1 Kings 11:38
- Learn from the counsel of godly leaders for healthy relationships. 1 Kings 12:8

Trust in God's power and control to correct what you cannot control. His truth is verifiably true and trustworthy. 1 Kings 13:1-10

- Prediction of King Josiah (2 Kings 23:15-20) 290 years before he ruled 640 to 609 B.C. (v.2)
- Prediction and fulfillment of a split altar (v.3, 5)
- His hand dries up and then is healed instantly by God. (v.4, 6)

Live with a healthy fear of God's discipline and judgment against sin which divides us.

1 Kings 14:13-16

- Discipline against the man of God for disobedience. 1 Kings 13:26
- Judgment for Jeroboam. 1 Kings 14:6-10

"...yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart...therefore behold, I am bringing calamity on the house of Jeroboam..."

- Judgment for Israel. 1 Kings 14:15-16

"He will give up Israel on account of the sins of Jeroboam, which he committed and with which he made Israel to sin."

John 3:36; Romans 2:5-11; Matthew 25:41-46

Be assured, God heals the divide in any heart that humbly seeks His grace.

2 Chronicles 12:7-8

"When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, 'They have humbled themselves so I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some measure of deliverance, and My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak. But they will become his slaves so that they may learn the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.'"

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

- Often, a failure to know and live by the truth of God in His Word is the root cause of division and broken relationships. God's Word is designed to make our lives better, not worse.
- Read the following passages and describe the way life would be better if those in any kind of relationship would live by this truth in these verses. How would these Bible verses help heal divided relationships?
- How would marriages improve if both spouses lived by Ephesians 5:21-33?
- How would the work place improve if all obeyed Ephesians 6:5-9?
- How would friendships improve if both people lived according to Ephesians 5:25-32?
- How would our churches improve if all members lived by Ephesians 4:14-16?
- How would each of our hearts and lives improve if we lived by Philippians 4:6-9?

NEXT STEPS:

- **Place your faith in Christ:** Get a new heart by trusting in Jesus as Savior and turning from your sins to follow Him as Lord.
- **Re-commit your heart to Christ:** Create in me a clean heart O God - Psalm 51
- **Be intentional about developing your spiritual heart:**
 - **Take part in these Calvary ministries to help you grow as a follower of Jesus:** LifeGroup, Discipleship/Mentoring, Alpha Course, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Equipping Class, Spiritual Direction, Prayer, and Care Ministries. For more about these ministries, see details in Today's Current or visit calvarylife.org/grow
 - **Start a Bible reading plan to intentionally read the Bible in 2017.** Recommendations: YouVersion Bible: bible.com; 5 Day Reading Plan at bibleclassmaterial.com, Ligonier Bible Reading Plan: ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans
 - **Receive daily or weekly text message prayer prompters to develop a heart of prayer:** Sign up at echoprayer.com