

LESSON 10 - 1st & 2nd Kings

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

By Dr. Steven Wood

LESSON 10: 1ST KINGS

- This is the second in the series of three double books. Each pair was originally one book.
- 1st Kings records the division of the kingdom of Saul, David, and Solomon into two kingdoms: Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom).
 - Israel (the Northern Kingdom)
 - Comprised of ten tribes:
 - Asher
 - Dan
 - Ephraim
 - Gad
 - Issachar
 - Manasseh
 - Naphtali
 - Reuben
 - Simeon
 - Zebulun
 - Samaria was the capital.
 - Judah (the Southern Kingdom)
 - Comprised of two tribes:
 - Judah
 - Benjamin
 - Jerusalem was the capital.
- 2nd Kings records the collapse and captivity of both Israel and Judah.

OUTLINE

- King Solomon (chapters 1-11).
 - As King David aged, his health failed, and he was no longer able to keep warm. His attendants brought in a young woman named, *Abishag* to keep him warm and serve as his nurse, *but the king had no sexual relations with her* (1:4).
 - Even though David had already named Solomon as his successor (1 Chronicles 28:5), *Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king"* (1:5).
 - Adonijah was David's fourth son (2 Samuel 3:4).
 - He gathered *chariots and horses... with fifty men to run ahead of him*.
 - Apparently, David knew what Adonijah was up to, but did not rebuke him.
 - Adonijah gained the support of Joab (David's Commander in Chief) and Abiathar (David's priest and advisor).
 - *Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle, and fattened calves... He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of*

Judah, but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon (1:9-10).

- The prophet Nathan went to Bathsheba and advised her to go to David, which she did.
- David instructed *Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, [and] Benaiah* to anoint Solomon king, which they did. The support for Adonijah faded and King Solomon spared his life.
- From his deathbed David charged Solomon, “...*be strong, act like a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses... [deal with] Joab... according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace... show kindness to the sons of Barzillai... and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom... remember, you have with you Shimei... the Benjamite... who called down bitter curses on me... I swore to him by the LORD: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’ But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.*” (2:1-9)
- Shortly after David died, Adonijah sent Abiathar the priest to ask for permission to take Abishag as his wife. Solomon was so offended he had Adonijah executed and banished Abiathar. Then he had Joab executed. Three years later he had Shimei executed, as well.
- Solomon asked God for wisdom. *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” Solomon answered, “...LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties... So, give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this... “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.*” (3:5-15)
- An example of Solomon’s wisdom – the dispute between two women.
...two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us. During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him. So, she got up in the middle of the night and took my son

from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast...” The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.” ...The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’” ...He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.” The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!” Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.” (3:16-27)

- Solomon established his government, delegating certain duties, taking care of his people, and gaining a reputation as the wisest king in the region.
- Solomon secured materials and built the Temple and a palace in Jerusalem (chapters 5-7).
- The Ark was brought to the Temple when it was dedicated, *When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple (8:10-11).*
- Solomon led Israel during its zenith, the most peaceful and prosperous time in their history.
- Solomon’s downfall.
 - NOTE – the instructions of Moses. *When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite. The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:14–20)*
 - *Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter (3:1).*
 - *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he*

kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. (10:26).

- *The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the territories. King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold... He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold... Then the king made a great throne covered with ivory and overlaid with fine gold... All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace... were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days. (10:14-21)*
- *King Solomon... loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter... They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." ...He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines... As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods... Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD... So, the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees... I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David, your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." (11:1-13)*
 - *As a result of his sin, Solomon had to deal with rebellions by Hadad the Edomite and Rezon, king of Aram.*
 - *Jeroboam ...and Ephraimite... also rebelled. Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes. But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe.'" (11:29-32)*

- *Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon's death. (11:40)*
 - *Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. Then he rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David, his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king. (11:42-43)*
- **The Divided Kingdom (chapters 12-22).**
 - **Rehoboam (Judah)**, Solomon's son, *succeeded him as king (11:43).*
 - *When a contingent, led by Jeroboam who returned from Egypt asked Rehoboam to reduce their heavy tax burden, his elders advised him to do so, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants." (12:1-9)*
 - *However, Rehoboam rejected the advice of his elders in favor of the young men who had grown up with him... "...tell them, '...My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'" (12:10-11)*
 - *When... the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they... made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David. When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered all Judah and the tribe of Benjamin... to go to war against Israel... But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: "...Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing." So, they obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered. (12:20-24)*
 - **Jeroboam (Israel)** did not want his people going to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices.
 - *His solution was to build two golden calves. He placed one in Bethel and the other in Dan and instructed the people to make sacrifices there. He established a priesthood and a festival.*
 - *A prophet came from Judah to Bethel... "...This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.' ...This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out." (13:2-3)*
 - *When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD. (13:4-5)*
 - *Because of his sin, God told Jeroboam, "I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I*

tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you... You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself... idols... you have... turned your back on me... I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off... every last male in Israel... I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung... Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam... The LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam... And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.” (14:7-16)

- Meanwhile, Rehoboam (Judah) was no better than Jeroboam (Israel).
 - *Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD... They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles... There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out... (14:22-24)*
 - *Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace... (14:25-26)*
 - *There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. (14:30)*
- Abijah (Judah) succeeded his father, Rehoboam (15:1-8).
 - He reigned for just three years.
 - *He committed all the sins his father had done before him...*
 - *There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam throughout Abijah's lifetime.*
- Asa (Judah) succeeded his father, Abijah (15:9-24).
 - He reigned 41 years.
 - *Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD... He expelled the male shrine prostitutes... and got rid of all the idols... Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life...*
 - *He brought into the temple of the LORD the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated.*
- Nadab (Israel), succeeded his father, Jeroboam (15:25-32).
 - He reigned for two years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the ways of his father and committing the same sin his father had caused Israel to commit...*
 - *Baasha son of Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar plotted against him, and he struck him down at Gibbethon...*
- Baasha (Israel) usurped the throne by killing Nadab (15:33-16:7)
 - He reigned 24 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.*

- *As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family... according to the word of the LORD...*
- Elah (Israel) succeeded his father, Baasha (16:8-14).
 - He reigned for two years.
 - *Zimri, one of his officials... plotted against him... Zimri came in, struck him down and killed him... Then he succeeded him as king.*
- Zimri (Israel) usurped the throne by killing Elah ((16:15-20).
 - He reigned only seven days.
 - *When the Israelites in the camp heard that Zimri had plotted against the king and murdered him, they proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel... [they] laid siege to Tirzah. When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the royal palace and set the palace on fire around him...*
- Omri (Israel) was made king through a military coup.
 - He reigned for 12 years.
 - *Then the people of Israel were split into two factions; half supported Tibni son of Ginath for king, and the other half supported Omri. But Omri's followers proved stronger than those of Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king.*
 - *He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver and built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria...*
 - *But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him.*
- Ahab (Israel) succeed his father, Omri (16:29-22:40).
 - He reigned from Samaria for 22 years.
 - *Ahab... did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam... he also married Jezebel... and began to serve Baal and worship him. He set up an altar for Baal in the temple... he built in Samaria. Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD... than did all the kings of Israel before him. (16:30-31)*
 - The Prophet Elijah (17:1-19:18).
 - *Elijah told Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." (17:1)*
 - *To protect him from Ahab, God told Elijah to hide in the Kerith Ravine... The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. (17:2-6)*
 - Then God sent him to the home of a widow who would feed him.
 - *...When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her... "Would you bring me a little water... and bring me, please, a piece of bread." ...she replied, "I don't have any*

bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” Elijah said... “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD... says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’” She went away and did as Elijah had told her... there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family... (17:10-16)

- *Sometime later the son of the woman... became ill... and finally stopped breathing... [Elijah] carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and... cried out to the LORD... The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him... (17:17-23)*
- *Elijah was not the only prophet in Israel. While Jezebel was killing off the LORD’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.*
- *God sent Elijah to King Ahab.*
 - *...Ahab went to meet Elijah. When he saw Elijah, he said... “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?” “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the LORD’s commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” (18:16-19)*
 - *Then Elijah said to them, “...Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.” (18:22-24)*
 - *So, they took the bull given them and prepared it... they called on... Baal from morning till noon... But there was no response... they danced around the altar they had made. At noon Elijah began to taunt*

them. "Shout louder!" he said... "Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ...they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears... until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response... (18:26-29)

- Then Elijah... repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. [He] took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob... With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs (24 pounds) of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces, and laid it on the wood. Then he said... "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench... Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, 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..." Then the fire of the LORD... burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they... cried, "The LORD—he is God!"
- Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal..." Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain." ...Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. The power of the LORD came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (18:30-46)
- ...Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of [the prophets of Baal]." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life... He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed... "I have had enough, LORD... Take my life..." Then he lay down under

the bush and fell asleep... an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water... Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD..." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks... but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came... When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu... king over Israel... and anoint Elisha... to succeed you as prophet..."
(19:1-18)

- *Elijah found Elisha. Elisha... took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant. (19:21)*
- *A man named Naboth owned a vineyard near the palace and Ahab wanted it. When he would not sell it, Jezebel had him brought up on false charges and stoned. Ahab took the vineyard.*
 - *God sent Elijah to confront Ahab, "[the Lord says] I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants... I will make your house like that of Jeroboam... because you have aroused my anger*

and have caused Israel to sin... concerning Jezebel... Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' (21:20-23)

- Three years later, in spite of being warned not to, Ahab and Jehoshaphat (Judah) attacked Ramoth Gilead. Ahab was killed in battle. *So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there. They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria (where the prostitutes bathed), and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared. (22:37-38)*
- Jehoshaphat (Judah) succeeded his father, Asa (22:41-50).
 - He reigned for 25 years.
 - *In everything he followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.*
 - *Jehoshaphat was also at peace with the king of Israel.*
- Ahaziah (Israel) succeeded his father, Ahab (22:51-53).
 - He reigned for two years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, because he followed the ways of his father and mother and of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin. He served and worshiped Baal and aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, just as his father had done.*

2ND KINGS

- This book continues the sad downward spiral of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom)
- In chapter 17 Israel is conquered by the Assyrians and carried into captivity from which they never returned.
- In chapter 25 Judah is conquered by the Babylonians. The Temple was destroyed and the people carried into captivity.

OUTLINE

- The days of Elisha (Chapters 1-13)
 - Ahaziah (Israel) was still king.
 - But he *“had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself... he sent messengers to Baal-Zebub, ...to see if I will recover from this injury.* However, Elisha sent word to him, *“You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!”*
 - *So, he died, according to the word of the LORD... Because Ahaziah had no son, [his brother] Joram succeeded him as king... (1:17)*
 - Elijah *went up to heaven in a whirlwind (2:11)* and Elisha received his cloak, symbolic of his authority and prophetic power.
 - Joram (Israel) succeeded his brother Ahaziah (3).
 - He reigned for 12 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD...*

- The king of Moab rebelled against Israel and Joram formed an alliance with Jehoshaphat (Judah). Elisha assured them of victory, which God gave them.
- Elisha was approached by the widow of *a man from the company of prophets...* “*my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.*” God miraculously provided an abundance of oil which they sold to pay the debt and live on. (4:1-7)
- Elisha raised the Shunammite woman’s son from the dead (4:8-37)
- When Elisha healed Naaman of leprosy he refused payment of any kind, but Elisha’s servant Gehazi went back and asked for *a talent of silver and two sets of clothing*. When Elisha found out, Gehazi and his family were stricken with the disease. (5)
- The floating axhead (6:1-7)
- Elisha advised Joram (Israel) in the war against Aram (8:8-23)
 - God protected his prophet and blinded the Aramean army.
 - Sometime later the Arameans attacked Samaria and the siege lasted so long people resorted to cannibalism.
 - The Lord *caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots, and horses, and a great army* so that they fled *and abandoned their tents, their animals, and all their supplies*.
- Jehoram (Judah) succeeded his father, Jehoshaphat (8:16-23).
 - He reigned for eight years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. Nevertheless, for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah.*
- Ahaziah (Judah) succeeded his father, Jehoram (8:25-29).
 - He reigned for one year.
 - *...he did evil in the eyes of the Lord as the house of Ahab had done...*
- Jehu (Israel) chosen by God to replace Joram (9-10).
 - Elijah was commissioned by God to anoint Jehu king over Israel (1 Kings 19:16), but the assignment fell to his successor Elisha who delegated it to one of the young prophets. “*...take this flask of olive oil with you and go to Ramoth Gilead... look for Jehu... get him away from his companions and take him into an inner room. Then take the flask and pour the oil on his head and declare, ‘This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.’ Then open the door and run!*”
 - *Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu’s head and declared, “I anoint you king over the LORD’s people Israel. You are to destroy the house of Ahab... and I will avenge the blood of my servants... shed by Jezebel... dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her.”*
 - *When Jehu went out to his fellow officers... Jehu said, “Here is what he told me: ‘I anoint you king over Israel.’” They quickly*

took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

- Jehu carried out everything the prophet told him.
 - *Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah rode out, each in his own chariot, to meet Jehu. They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth... Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders... and he slumped down in his chariot. Jehu said, "Pick him up and throw him on the field that belonged to Naboth..."*
 - *When Ahaziah king of Judah saw what had happened, he fled... They wounded him in his chariot... but he escaped to Megiddo and died there.*
 - *Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she put on eye makeup, arranged her hair, and looked out of a window... Two or three eunuchs... threw her down, and some of her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot... when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands...*
 - *Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria: to the officials of Jezreel, to the elders and to the guardians of Ahab's children... "You have your master's sons with you and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city and weapons. Now as soon as this letter reaches you, choose the best and most worthy of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne. Then fight for your master's house." But they were terrified... [they] took the princes and slaughtered all seventy of them. They put their heads in baskets and sent them to Jehu...*
 - *Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests... At Beth Eked... he met some relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah... they took them alive and slaughtered them by the well of Beth Eked... He left no survivor.*
 - *When Jehu came to Samaria, he killed all who were left there of Ahab's family; he destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD...*
 - *Then Jehu brought all the people together and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much. Now summon all the prophets of Baal, all his servants and all his priests. See that no one is missing, because I am going to hold a great sacrifice for Baal. Anyone who fails to come will no longer live." ...Then he sent word throughout Israel, and all the servants of Baal came; not one stayed away. They crowded into the temple of Baal until it was*

full... As soon as Jehu had finished making the burnt offering, he ordered the guards and officers: "Go in and kill them; let no one escape." ...The guards and officers threw the bodies out and then entered the inner shrine of the temple of Baal. They brought the sacred stone out of the temple of Baal and burned it. They demolished the sacred stone... and tore down the temple of Baal, and people have used it for a latrine to this day...

- *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 descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD... He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam...*
- *Jehu reigned for 28 years.*
- *In those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel. (10:32)*
- ATHALIAH (Judah) usurped the throne after the death of her son, Ahaziah. She was the only queen of either nation.
 - *She reigned for six years.*
 - *When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah... She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide... He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD...*
 - *Jehoiada the high priest assembled the military commanders and the royal bodyguards secretly in Solomon's temple. They were loyalists who did not support the queen. He showed them Joash.*
 - *The commanders... and came to Jehoiada... he gave the commanders the spears and shields that had belonged to King David and that were in the temple of the LORD. The guards... stationed themselves around the king... Jehoiada... put the crown on him... and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king!"*
 - *When Athaliah heard the noise... She looked and there was the king... and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her robes and called out, "Treason!" Jehoiada... ordered the commanders... "Bring her out... and put to the sword anyone who follows her." ...they seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and there she was put to death.*
- Joash (Judah) replaced Athaliah and succeeded his father Ahaziah (11:17-12:21)
 - *He reigned for 40 years.*
 - *The people destroyed the temple of Baal and smashed the altars.*
 - *Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.*

- He instituted repairs on the Temple.
 - *His officials conspired against him and assassinated him...*
 - Jehoahaz (Israel) succeeded his father, Jehu (13:1-9).
 - He reigned for 17 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD by following the sins of Jeroboam... the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and for a long time he kept them under the power of Hazael king of Aram and Ben-Hadad his son.*
 - Jehoash (Israel) succeeded his father Jehoahaz (13:10-25).
 - He reigned for 16 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD...*
 - Elisha died during his reign.
- The fall of Israel (Chapters 14-17)
 - Amaziah (Judah) succeeded his father Joash (14:1-21).
 - He reigned for 29 years.
 - *He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD... In everything he followed the example of his father Joash.*
 - He executed the officials who murdered his father.
 - He was captured in a battle with Jehoash (Israel) who plundered Jerusalem and took hostages back to Samaria.
 - His son, Azariah began to reign when he was captured and Amaziah was executed by some of his officials.
 - Jeroboam II (Israel) succeeded his father Jehoash (14:23-29).
 - He reigned for 41 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - Azariah (Judah) succeeded his father, Azariah (15:1-7).
 - He reigned for 52 years.
 - *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - When he contracted leprosy, he had to move out of the palace and his son, Jotham, ruled in his stead.
 - Zechariah (Israel) succeeded his father, Jeroboam II (15:8-12).
 - He reigned for six months.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He was assassinated by Shallum.
 - Shallum (Israel) assassinated Zechariah and usurped the throne (15:13-16).
 - He reigned for one month.
 - He was assassinated by Menahem.
 - Menahem (Israel) assassinated Shallum and usurped the throne (15:17-22).
 - He reigned for 10 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - Pekahiah (Israel) succeeded his father, Menahem (15:23-26).
 - He reigned for two years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He was assassinated by Pekah.

- Pekah (Israel) assassinated Pekahiah and usurped the throne (15:27-31).
 - He reigned for 20 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - The Assyrians began conquering portions of Israel during his reign.
 - He was assassinated by Hoshea.
- Jotham (Judah) succeeded his father, Azariah, aka Uzziah (15:32-38).
 - He reigned for 16 years.
 - *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...*
- Ahaz (Judah) succeeded his father, Jotham (16).
 - He reigned for 16 years.
 - *He did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He even sacrificed his own son.
 - He formed a foolish alliance with the Assyrians.
- Hoshea (Israel) assassinated Pekah and usurped the throne (17).
 - He reigned for nine years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - When the king of Assyria found out he was sending tribute to the Egyptians, Hoshea was taken prisoner and many of the people were carried away into captivity. Samaria was resettled by *people from Babylon, Kuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim*.
 - He was the last king of Israel.
- The fall of Judah (Chapters 18-25)
 - Hezekiah (Judah) he succeeded his father Ahaz (18-20).
 - He reigned for 29 years.
 - *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for... the Israelites had been burning incense to it... 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.*
 - *In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. Hezekiah attempted to buy him off with all the gold in the Temple, as well as the palace, but the siege continued.*
 - God intervened and Sennacherib withdrew to Nineveh.
 - Menasseh (Judah) succeeded his father, Hezekiah (21:1-18).
 - He reigned for 55 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord... He rebuilt the high places...*
 - He worshiped pagan gods in the Temple itself.
 - Amon (Judah) succeeded his father, Menasseh (21:19-26).
 - He reigned for two years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He was assassinated by his own officials.
 - Josiah (Judah) succeeded his father, Amon (22:1-23:30).
 - He reigned for 31 years.
 - *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord...*

- He instructed the high priest to begin renovation of the Temple. During the renovations, the Book of the Law was found.
 - Josiah led Israel in repentance and restoration of the Covenant.
 - He was killed in a battle with the Egyptians.
- Jehoahaz (Judah) succeeded his father (23:31-35).
 - He reigned for three months.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - Pharaoh took him prisoner and he died in Egypt.
- Jehoiakim (Judah) put in place by Pharaoh (23:36-24:7).
 - He reigned for 11 years.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - During his reign, Nebuchadnezzar invaded, and Judah became a vassal state of Babylon.
- Jehoiachin (Judah) succeeded his father, Jehoiakim (24:8-17).
 - He reigned for three months.
 - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar.
 - He was taken prisoner and carried off to Babylon.
- Zedekiah (Judah) put in place by Nebuchadnezzar (24:17-25:26).
 - He reigned for 11 years.
 - *He did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord...*
 - He led a revolt against Nebuchadnezzar and Jerusalem was destroyed.
 - He was blinded and carried off to Babylon.
 - He was the last king of Judah.

NEXT WEEK: Read 1 and 2 Chronicles.

KINGS OF ISRAEL & JUDAH

