

HONOUR OF KINGS ANCIENT & AMERICAN HISTORY II

*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing:
but the **honour of kings** is to search out a matter. Proverbs 25:2*

*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:
Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
We will not hide them from their children,
shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.
For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers,
that they should make them known to their children:
That the generation to come might know them,
even the children which should be born;
who should arise and declare them to their children:
That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments:
And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation;
a generation that set not their heart aright,
and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. Psalm 78: 1 - 8*

Acknowledgements:

This book is dedicated to my first grandchild, Hudson Judah Grape. May he always want to know and study truth.

I would like to thank the following people:

My husband, Matthew Gerwitz, for encouraging me to complete this book.

My three children, Alex Gerwitz, Cati Grape, and Allison Gerwitz, who learned right alongside me as we homeschooled together from 1994 to 2012.

Lastly, I would like to thank my God for His help in studying and writing about world history according to His timeline.

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ANCIENT HISTORY II c. 1000 B.C. to 1 B.C. & American History c. 1776 A.D. to 1850 A.D.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All of the dates given in this curriculum are approximate. It is the author's viewpoint that no time line made by humans can ever be said to be 100% accurate. Data from the King James Version of the Bible was used to create the Bible timeline. The Bible timeline gives us a basic framework of events which can be used to determine the timing of secular events. The Biblical time line is the basis for world history because God created the world and recorded a timeline of events in his Bible. Therefore, all events in history must fit into the Bible timeline.

It is important to know that when determining the dates of world events, most secular historians use the timeline of ancient Egypt as their guideline. This means that the timelines of other ancient nations and events are based on the Egyptian timeline. Some historians would have us believe that the timeline of ancient Egypt is clear and fixed. It is not. There are many unknowns in the Egyptian timeline and therefore it is not reliable as a framework for a world timeline. In fact, even in secular world history, there are four timelines: ultra-short, short, middle, and long. Because of this, the best one can do in determining the dates for secular events before Christ is to make approximate guesses.

The secular dates for this text were determined using synchronisms (events and people that were contemporary). These events and people were then fitted into the Biblical timeline. Overall, the secular timeline used in this book follows the ultra-short timeline, but it does not follow it exactly.

If you choose to supplement this text with outside (and in particular, secular) resources, just be aware that the dates will very likely not match up. This will be less of a problem for dates after 664 B.C. You may find that the extra resources themselves do not agree with each other. The author's recommendation is to focus on the events and their sequence in history, not the exact date they occurred.

HOW TO USE THIS TEXT:

Families with children in grades 1 to 3 are encouraged to read the text to their children and to complete the activities together. Children in grades 4 to 6 may be able to read the text and complete the activities independently. However, parents should review the comprehension questions with them and administer the tests after each chapter.

There are two sections in this text. Section one deals with world history from 1,000 B.C. until 1 B.C. Section two deals with American history from 1776 until 1850. This allows the parent to **teach BOTH world history AND American history in the same school year** without needing two separate texts. There are 36 chapters in this book. Parents can allow approximately one week per chapter, although some will require a little less time and others will require a little more time.

Suggested Schedules

#1 - Teach section one over two quarters, followed by section two over two quarters.

#2 - Teach section two over two quarters, followed by section one over two quarters.

#3 - Teach one chapter of section one, followed by one chapter of section two and so on for 35 weeks.

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I. Eli, Samuel, Saul, & David c. 1090 to c. 966 B.C.



*Stained glass
window - "Hannah &
Little Samuel"
in Zion Reformed
United Church of
Christ
Hagerstown, MD*

In the last chapter of ancient history in book 1, we learned that the children of Israel were led by judges. These judges had the job of helping the Israelites to follow and obey God. We talked about a famous judge named Samson who fought against the Philistines. Let's resume the account near the end of the judges' era. There was a man named **Eli who was serving as a priest in Shiloh**. He had two sons named Hophni and Phinehas who also served as priests. However, these sons of Eli were wicked men who cheated the people and openly disobeyed God's laws.

Every year, the people of Israel came up to worship at Shiloh. One of those Israelites was a man named **Elkanah from the tribe of Ephraim**. Elkanah had two wives - Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had several children, but **Hannah had no children at all**. Every year, being a faithful worshipper and follower of God., Elkanah took his family with him to Shiloh and provided them with everything they needed for their worship. Elkanah loved his wife Hannah so much that he gave her a double portion of food for their celebration meal, but Hannah was not interested in eating or celebrating. That's because Peninnah constantly reminded Hannah that she had no children. All Hannah wanted to do was cry because she did not have a child and Elkanah did not like to see his wife so sad.

One year, after the celebration, Hannah took a walk to the tabernacle after dinner. When she arrived, she cried and silently prayed to God. **She vowed to God that if he would give her a son, she would give that son back to God for his service at the tabernacle**. Eli the priest was there and saw her praying, but he didn't hear any words. He thought that Hannah might have drunk too much wine and told her so. Hannah replied to Eli that she had not drunk any wine, but that she was praying fervently to God. Eli answered by asking God to bless Hannah with what she had prayed for. When Hannah returned to Elkanah, she was no longer sad and was able to eat her food. The next morning, the family returned home to Ramah.

Shortly after they returned home, Hannah found out that she was going to have a baby. **God blessed Hannah with a son whom she named Samuel**. The name Samuel means "His name is El". By giving her son this name, Hannah was telling everyone that God was a strong and mighty God. When it came time for Elkanah and the family to go up to Shiloh to worship again, Hannah chose to stay home with her new son. She informed Elkanah that she and Samuel would stay home every year until he was old enough to be left at the tabernacle forever.

Near the age of three or four, Samuel's mother and father took him up to Shiloh and presented him to Eli the priest. From that point on, Samuel lived in Shiloh and Eli taught him how to serve God in the tabernacle. Elkanah and Hannah brought him a new coat when they came to visit every year. God also blessed Elkanah and Hannah with three more sons and two daughters because they had kept their part of the agreement.

Samuel's service at the tabernacle was pleasing to both God and the Israelites. One night, just after Eli had gone to bed, Samuel got himself settled in his own bed. Soon, Samuel heard someone call his name. He was sure it was Eli. Samuel got up and ran to Eli to find out what he wanted. Eli replied that he had not called him and told Samuel to go back to bed. This happened three more times. On the third time, Eli realized that it was God who was speaking to Samuel. Eli instructed Samuel to go back to bed. He told him that if the voice called his name again, he should answer by saying, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

Samuel obeyed and God did call his name again. Samuel responded to God and found himself hearing **God's plan to punish Eli (and his family) because he had not prevented his sons from cheating the people and sinning openly.** In the morning, Eli asked Samuel what God had told him. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what he had heard God say. Eli warned him that if he did not reveal what God had said, God would punish Samuel in the same way. Samuel decided to tell Eli everything, but Eli was not surprised at the news he heard. This was because another prophet of God had visited him earlier and told him the exact same thing. Eli's response was that God should do what he thought was best. Samuel continued to grow and soon everyone in Israel knew that God intended for Samuel to be a prophet. This was evident because God continued to reveal himself to the Israelites through Samuel in Shiloh.

One day, the Philistines attacked Israel and killed many of their soldiers. The Israelites could not understand why God had not protected them. The Israelites decided to go to Shiloh and **get the ark of the covenant and take it into battle.** They were sure that God would protect them if they had the ark in the camp with them. Hophni and Phinehas, the wicked sons of Eli, were at Shiloh and they went with the ark as it travelled to the battle with the Philistines.

When the ark arrived in the camp of Israel, everyone cheered. The Philistines heard this cheering and were afraid because they were sure that God was going to defeat them. They had heard how God had dealt with Egypt in the past, but they decided to fight anyway so they would not end up as the Israelites' servants. The Philistines fought hard and killed 30,000 Israelite soldiers while the rest ran away in fear. **Hophni and Phinehas were killed** and the Philistines took the ark of the covenant back to their camp. **When the news that the ark had been captured reached Eli, he fell backwards off his chair and died** from a broken neck. This was the beginning of the punishment that God had told Samuel would happen to Eli and his family.

Meanwhile, the **Philistines took the ark of the covenant to a city called Ashdod** and put it in one of their temples for a false god named Dagon. The following morning, the people of Ashdod found the statue of Dagon lying face down in front of the ark. They picked the statue back up and put it back in its place, but the next morning, they found the statue face down again. This time its head and the palms of its hand were cut off.



*Philistines and the Ark, Temple of Dagon
by Rudolf von Ems:
Weltchronik. (1350 and 1375 A.D.)*

Soon, **the people of the town began to get very sick** with hemorrhoids. (Hemorrhoids are painful, swollen veins that cause severe pain on one's bottom.) The people of Ashdod decided to

get rid of the ark and send it to another Philistine city called Gath. **When the ark arrived in Gath, the people there immediately got sick** with hemorrhoids, too. They sent the ark to yet another city called Ekron. When the ark got to Ekron, the people were very afraid because, not only were people developing hemorrhoids, but **many people were now dying**. It had been seven months since the Philistines took the ark in battle, and all that time they had nothing but trouble with it. The Philistines had to do something about this problem.

The five lords (leaders) of the Philistines met together and decided to **send the ark back to Israel**. The leaders were advised to make a new cart that would be pulled by two milk cows. In addition, they were told to include a sin offering to God. This sin offering was rather strange. It was five golden hemorrhoids and five golden mice. The leaders followed this advice and put the ark on the cart along with the offering. Then they let the cows start moving. Without anyone (except God) telling them where to go, the two cows headed straight for Israel. The cows stopped in a field that belonged to a man named Joshua. **The men who were working there were very happy to see the ark and decided to hold a sacrifice to God right in the field**. However, they did something they were not supposed to. They looked inside the ark. Because of this disobedience, God killed many people of that city. The citizens sent a message to another city named Kirjathjearim asking them to come and take the ark away. They did and for the next twenty years, **the ark stayed in the city of Kirjathjearim**.

Meanwhile, Samuel told Israel that they needed to repent of their sin. The people gathered together to fast and pray for their sin. Because they were all together, the Philistines thought it would be a good time to attack Israel again. Just as Samuel was offering up the sacrifice, the Philistines approached the camp. However, God made a lot of loud thunder which disturbed and confused the Philistine army. The men of Israel were able to easily defeat the Philistine army. During the rest of Samuel's life, God continued to protect Israel from the Philistines. Samuel led and judged the Israelites. But, when he was old, he chose to make his sons judges of Israel. These sons were wicked and the people were not happy with them. **The Israelites came to Samuel and asked him to give them a king instead of another judge**.

Samuel was not happy about this request and prayed to God about it. God explained to Samuel that the people were not rejecting having a judge. Instead, they were rejecting God as their leader. You see, God had set up the plan of the judges so that every man would have to be responsible for his own life and the safety of his nation. But, **Israel was tired of having to be responsible for themselves and wanted a king to take care of them**. They wanted to be just like all the other nations. God told Samuel to give the people what they were asking for. He also told Samuel to explain to the Israelites what kind of king they would have.

God explained that **the king would take their children and servants, their fields, their animals, and even their food for his own use**. He told the people that they would be unhappy with this and would ask God to save them. However, God would not hear them. Even after the people were told this, they still wanted a king. Samuel was still very unhappy, but God told him to give the people what they were asking for. God spoke to Samuel and told him that a young man named Saul would be coming to see him. **Samuel was instructed to anoint this young man Saul to be the captain over the Israelites**. Samuel obeyed God and Saul became the captain over Israel and went to war.

After Saul and the Israelites defeated the Amorites, the people held a sacrifice in Gilgal and made Saul their king. Samuel reminded the people that God had been their king up to that point, but they had not been satisfied with this. Now they had the king they had asked for. Samuel warned the people that if they decided not to follow God and obey him, they would be punished. **However, if they did obey and follow God, both their nation and their king would be blessed**. Samuel told them that they had been wicked in asking for a king. God demonstrated his

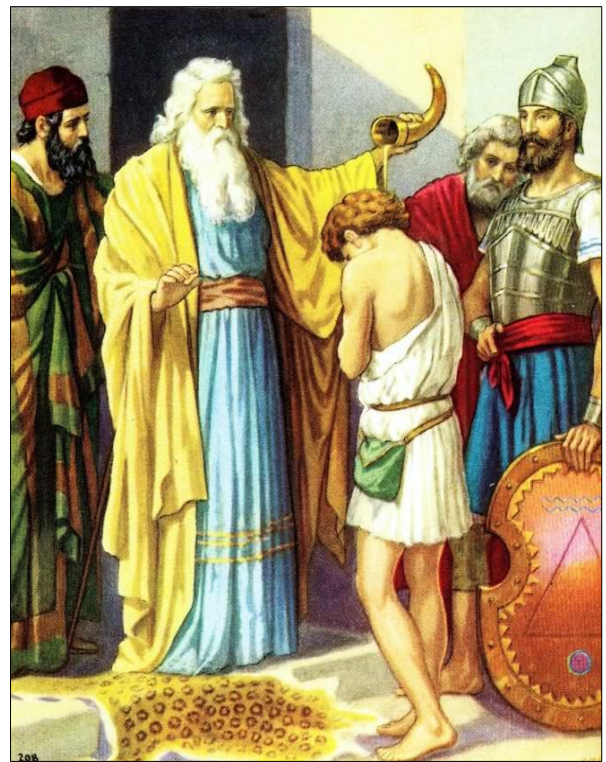
displeasure by sending thunder and rain all day long which caused the Israelites to repent and vow to follow God.

Saul reigned for two years and then assembled an army to attack the Philistines. Samuel told Saul that he would meet him on a specific day to offer a sacrifice before the battle. Saul waited and waited, but Samuel did not come. **Saul decided to go ahead and offer the sacrifice himself .** In doing this, Saul was disobeying God who had made it perfectly clear that Saul's job was to lead the people as a king not as a judge or prophet. That was Samuel's job. Just as Saul finished making the sacrifice, Samuel arrived and asked Saul what he had done. Saul explained that he had been afraid that the Philistines would attack before the sacrifice was made. Samuel replied to Saul that his actions had been foolish. **As punishment for disobeying, God stated that none of Saul's sons would be allowed to lead Israel.**

One would think that Saul learned to obey God, but he did not. God sent Saul specific instructions via Samuel to attack and completely destroy the Amalekites as punishment for attacking the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. God was very clear that everyone and everything was to be destroyed. Saul took his army and went to battle as commanded. They destroyed many of the Amalekite people and their possessions, but Saul decided to keep the Amalekite king alive and also decided to save all of the best animals. When Samuel arrived, Saul informed him that he had obeyed God's instructions.

Samuel asked why he could hear the noise of animals. Saul blamed his people and made the excuse that the animals were for a sacrifice. Saul repeated that he had obeyed God. Samuel answered that **Saul had not obeyed God and that it was much better to obey God's commands exactly than to make sacrifices to him.** Samuel told Saul that God would punish him by removing him as king and choosing a new king to lead the Israelites.

God sent Samuel to visit a man named Jesse because **God was going to make one of Jesse's sons the new king of Israel.** During the visit, Jesse presented each of his sons to Samuel. Samuel was impressed with the oldest son, Eliab, and was sure that he would be God's choice. But, God reminded Samuel that God does not look on the outside. He looks at the inside. God continued to say no to each son that Jesse presented. Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if he had seen all of his sons. Jesse replied that the youngest was missing, but that he was busy with the sheep. Samuel instructed Jesse to call his youngest son, David. **When he arrived, God immediately told Samuel to anoint him because he would be the next king. God's spirit was on David from that point forward.**



*A Bible illustration, picturing David being anointed as King by the prophet Samuel
-Unknown publisher of Bible Card c. 1900*

The Philistine army continued to attack Israel and one day, they sent their champion, **a giant named Goliath**, out to challenge the Israelite army. He was somewhere between nine to ten feet tall and covered from head to toe in strong, heavy armor with a big spear. In front of Goliath was

a man who carried his shield. Goliath challenged the Israelites to send a man to fight him. If that man killed Goliath, then Israel would win. But, if Goliath killed that man, Israel would lose. This challenge continued for forty days. Needless to say, Saul and the Israelites were quite afraid and really worried.

Jesse's three oldest sons (Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah) had joined Saul's army to fight against the Philistines. Their father decided to send them some food and sent David to deliver it. David arrived at the camp and found his brothers. While he was talking with them, Goliath issued his challenge again. **David was amazed that the Israelites would allow someone like Goliath to continue to making threats against God's people.** He spoke to some of the soldiers about this who then told Saul what David had said. This caused Saul to send for David.

When David arrived, he informed Saul that Israel did not have to be afraid of Goliath anymore because he would go out and fight him. Saul told David that he was much too young to be fighting an experienced soldier like Goliath. David's reply was one of complete confidence in God's care and help. He told Saul how God had helped him to defend the sheep against lion and bear attacks. He was confident that God would also help him to defend Israel against Goliath's attack. Saul agreed to let David fight and tried to help him by giving him the use of Saul's kingly armor. However, David was not used to fighting with armor. After taking it off, he took his staff (a strong, wooden pole), five smooth stones, and a slingshot.



David and Goliath. by J. J. Trube - 1877

When Goliath saw David coming, he was not impressed and began to call David names and curse him. **David answered Goliath that God was going to defeat him that very day.** Goliath began to move towards David in order to kill him while David began to run towards Goliath. As he was running, David took out one of the stones, put it in his slingshot, and launched it into the air. The stone flew straight into Goliath's forehead and caused him to fall down. Then David ran up, stood on top of Goliath, and took Goliath's sword out of its sheath. David used the sword to cut off Goliath's head and kill him. The Israelites then began to fight against the rest of the Philistine army and thoroughly defeated them. **God had indeed protected David and the Israelites.**

From that day forward, Saul kept David to lead his army. **David was a very good soldier because he obeyed God and God protected him.** Soon, the people were singing songs about **how much greater David was than Saul.** This **made Saul very jealous** and he decided to get rid of David. First, he tried to kill him with a javelin while David was playing music for Saul. Then Saul told David that he would let him marry his younger daughter, Michal, if he could kill one hundred Philistines. It is likely that Saul was hoping the Philistines would kill David. When that didn't work, Saul sent his soldiers directly to David's house to kill him. However, his wife Michal helped him escape. For many years, Saul chased David and tried to kill him, but David had a band of loyal soldiers who travelled with him and helped him. **David even had several chances to kill Saul, but chose not to because it was God's responsibility to stop Saul from being king.** During this time, the prophet Samuel died and was buried at Ramah.

God did deal with Saul. In another battle with the Philistines, Saul and his three sons were leading the Israelite army at Mt. Gilboa. During the fight, **Saul's three sons were killed and Saul was hit by an arrow.** Saul had an armor-bearer with him whose job was to help Saul during a battle. Saul asked the armor-bearer to kill him so that the Philistines would not capture him, but the armor-bearer refused. So, Saul killed himself with his own sword. **When the other soldiers saw that Saul and his three sons were dead, they ran away and hid.**

David was supposed to become the next king of Israel and God sent him to the tribe of Judah who anointed him as their king in Hebron. But, Abner (who was the head of Saul's army) decided to make another of Saul's sons, Ishbosheth, king over the rest of Israel. Thus began a war between the two kings, but still David refused to take action to kill either Abner or Ishbosheth. David believed that if God wanted him to be king, God would handle those two men. His belief in God was right - both Abner and Ishbosheth were killed.

After the deaths of Abner and Ishbosheth, the Israelites came to David and asked him to be king over the whole nation. David agreed and they anointed him king in Hebron. As king, David led the Israelites to conquer not only the Philistines, but all of their surrounding enemies. He brought the ark back to Jerusalem and set it in the tabernacle. God was with David because David obeyed and followed him. In fact, the Bible calls **David a "man after God's own heart."**

When all the enemies had been conquered, **David thought it would be a good idea to build a permanent building for the ark of the covenant.** God sent word through Nathan the prophet that he had never asked for such a building and he did not need it. However, he promised David that he would establish Israel in a permanent place of its own. God also told David that he would make sure that one of David's sons would rule after he died and God would be with that son. David's own son would build that **permanent home for the ark of the covenant.**

When David heard God's answer, he did not complain. Instead, he thanked God for his goodness and mercy. **David also decided to begin gathering as many supplies as he could so that one day his son would have them to build a house for the ark of the covenant.**

That son was named **Solomon** and when David was an old man, he made Solomon king of Israel. After being the king of Israel for 40 years, David died at age 70 and was buried in Jerusalem.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Who was Eli and what kind of sons did he have?
- 2) What did Hannah ask God for and what did she promise in return?
- 3) What was the name of Hannah's son and where did he grow up?
- 4) What did God tell Samuel about Eli and his family?
- 5) How did Eli die?
- 6) What happened to Eli's sons & the ark of the covenant in the battle with the Philistines?
- 7) What trouble did the ark of the covenant cause the Philistines?
- 8) How did the Philistines send the ark back to Israel?
- 9) What did the Israel ask Samuel to give them and why?
- 10) Who did God send to Samuel to lead the people?
- 11) Was Saul an obedient king?
- 12) How did God decide to punish Saul for his disobedience?
- 13) Who did God appoint to become the new king?
- 14) Why was Israel afraid of Goliath?
- 15) Who fought against Goliath and what weapons did he use?
- 16) Why did Saul want to kill David?

- 17) In what event did Saul and his three sons die?
- 18) Why was God with David?
- 19) What did David want to build for God?
- 20) What was God's answer to David's desire to build God a house?
- 21) Which son did David make king?

Activities:

1) Be a Judge of Israel: role play

Materials needed:

- * Enough chairs for all participants
- *Paper
- *Pen/Pencil

Object - Teach children to identify bad behaviors and remove them

- Make a list of good and bad behaviors
(include children in making this list, but add more of your own if needed)
- Write each behavior on a small piece of paper, fold it up and place it in a bowl.
- Place one chair in front as judge's seat and have the other chairs face it.
- Select one child to be the "head" judge and put him in the judge' seat.
- Let the other children each randomly select three or four papers from the bowl.
- Let the "head" judge choose another child to "co-judge" with him.
- Have the "co-judge" open one of their papers and show it to the "head" judge.
- Have the "head" judge decide if that behavior is good or bad.
- If it is good, the co-judge moves his chair to sit next to the "head" judge.
- If the behaviour is bad, the child sits back down in his chair's current position.
- The original judge then selects another co-judge and repeats the process until all the folded papers are gone or until everyone is sitting up front with him.
- Select a new child to be the judge and repeat the process.

Note: If you only have one child, let him be the judge and you play the role of the co-judge with all the papers. Let your child examine and make a decision for each "behaviour" you show him.

2) Inside/Outside: What's the Difference?

Materials needed:

*Various containers (One container needs to be very desirable - i.e. a cookie jar. One container needs to be very UNdesirable - i.e. a dirty, crumpled, bag or box. The remaining two or three containers need to be average in their desirability. All containers must be NON-transparent.)

*Items to go inside the containers (One really good item that everyone would like, one really bad item that no one would want, and two or three average items. Suggestions for good items would be a favorite candy or toy. Suggestions for bad items would be a hated food or item.)

Object - Demonstrate that we often cannot tell what something will be like on the inside by looking at the outside.

- Place the really good item inside the really undesirable container.
- Place the really bad item inside the desirable container.
- Place the average items inside the average containers.
- Ask the child to decide which container he would choose and why.
- Have the child open it & decide if the object inside is good or bad.

Note: If you have more than one child, you will have to play this "game" several times. Feel free to switch the location of the good and bad items so that the children cannot guess which container they are in ahead of time when repeating the activity.

3) Make Goliath Fall - hands-on with Legos or paper figurines

Materials needed:

*Legos or other building bricks (or paper)

* small stones

Object - To demonstrate the difference in size between Goliath and David and to allow children to re-enact story of David and Goliath.

- Using a scale of approximately one inch being equal to one foot, create a figurine meant to represent Goliath. (This figurine can be as simple or as detailed as you prefer.) However, when complete, it should be around 9 to 10 inches tall.
- Using the same scale, create a figurine to represent David. This figurine should be around 5 to 6 inches tall.
- Using small stones have the child "help" the David figurine to throw the stones at the Goliath figurine until it falls down. See how many stones it takes to knock him down.

Note: If no building bricks are available, give the child two pieces of paper. One paper should be 10" x 8" [Goliath] and the other should be 6" x 8"[David]. The child can then draw pictures of Goliath and David on the sheet. When finished, roll the pictures up into a tube-shape so that they can "stand" on a flat surface. Tape the tubes so that they stay closed.

II. Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam 970 - 909 B.C.

When king David was old, another of his sons named **Adonijah** thought that he would become the new king. He began to gather an army with the help of **Joab** (the captain of the army) and **Abiathar** (the High-Priest). Adonijah held a special party to celebrate his role as the next king and invited all of his brothers except for Solomon. He also chose to not invite any of Solomon's supporters.

When Nathan the prophet heard about this, he went to Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon. Nathan reminded Bathsheba that David had promised her that Solomon would be the next king. Both Bathsheba and Nathan went to David to tell him what was happening. When **David** learned about the situation, he **instructed Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to take Solomon to Gihon and make him king there**. This caused a large celebration among the children of Israel.

The celebration was so loud that it could be heard at Adonijah's party. When the news about Solomon arrived, Adonijah and all of his guests were afraid. The guests fled to their homes, but **Adonijah ran to the tabernacle and begged for mercy**.

King Solomon sent word that Adonijah would be spared as long as he was loyal. After David died, Adonijah went to Bathsheba and asked her for a favor. Bathsheba went to speak to Solomon about this favor, but Solomon realized that his brother was trying to start a rebellion. He ordered that his brother be killed for being disloyal. He also **removed Abiathar from the position of high priest**. Abiathar was the last priest **from the house of Eli**. If you remember, God told Eli that he would punish his family for his disobedience. **That punishment was to completely remove his family from the priesthood and now it had happened**.

Joab also fled to the tabernacle and asked for mercy. However, when King Solomon ordered him to come to the palace, Joab refused. Solomon sent the message again, but Joab said that he planned to die in the tabernacle. **Because of Joab's disobedience, Solomon ordered him to be killed as well**. This left just one potential enemy, a man named Shimei, a Benjamite. Solomon called for Shimei and told him to build a house in Jerusalem and stay there. He warned him that if he left the city, he would be killed. Three years later, Shimei decided to leave the city to retrieve two runaway servants. When Solomon heard about this, he ordered the death of Shimei. **Solomon was now completely in control of the land of Israel**.

The Bible tells us that **Solomon entered into an agreement with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter**. We also learn that this Pharaoh completely conquered the city of Gezer and destroyed all of its inhabitants. He gave this city to his daughter as a present. We do not know exactly which Pharaoh this was, but it might have been Thutmose I of dynasty 18 of Egypt based on the revised Egyptian time line.



*Anointing of Solomon - 1630
by Cornelis de Vos (1584–1651)*

Near the beginning of his reign, Solomon loved and followed the Lord like his father David had done. One night, after worshiping in Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and gave Solomon the chance to ask for anything he wanted. Solomon could have asked for a long life, riches, or military victories. But he didn't. Instead **he asked God for wisdom to judge the people.** God granted his request and added the blessings of riches and honor. He also promised Solomon a long life if Solomon would obey God's commandments.



*Solomon Dedicates the Temple - 1894 by unknown
illustrator of Henry Davenport Northrop's 'Treasures
of the Bible', 1894*

Solomon's father, David, asked God for permission to build the temple, but God had said no. God had told David that his son would build the temple. That son was Solomon. He began working on the temple four years after he became king. **Seven years later, the temple was finished and Solomon placed all the things that both he and his father had made for the temple inside.** The ark of the covenant was brought to the temple in a special ceremony.

God instructed both Solomon and Israel that if they served him, he would bless them. He also warned them that if they disobeyed, he would curse them. Solomon and the children of Israel vowed to follow the Lord. **For most of his reign, Solomon kept this vow and God blessed the nation with great power and riches.**

However when he was old, Solomon began to follow the guidance of his many wives. **He began to worship false gods and build altars to them.** I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that this made **God very angry.** God decided that the punishment would be to **take away most of the kingdom from Solomon's son.**

A man named **Jeroboam (one of Solomon's servants)** ruled over the house of Joseph. One day, while he was traveling, Jeroboam met **the prophet Ahijah** on the road. Ahijah was wearing a new piece of clothing. When he saw Jeroboam, he took the new piece of clothing and ripped it into 12 parts. He gave 10 pieces to Jeroboam and **told him that God was going to take 10 tribes away from Solomon's son.** He told Jeroboam that he would be the new ruler of those 10 tribes. Understandably, this made **Solomon** quite angry and he **tried to kill Jeroboam.** But **Jeroboam left Israel and went to Egypt** to stay with king Shishak until Solomon died.

Many people have tried to figure out who king Shishak was. At first, Jean-François Champollion (the man who figured out how to read the Rosetta Stone) determined that Shishak was Shoshenq I of the 22nd dynasty of Egypt. Other later historians have come to other conclusions: Immanuel Velikovsky said that Shishak was Thutmose III, David Rohl has said that he was Ramesses II, and Peter James has said that he was Ramesses III. The fact of the matter is that **we do not know for sure which pharaoh was Shishak.**

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam took the throne. Jeroboam heard that Solomon had died and returned to Israel. He gathered together with the Israelites and went to speak to the new

king. **They told the king that if he would rule them more gently than Solomon had, they would follow him. Rehoboam rejected this idea** and said he would rule more harshly. This caused a great rebellion and **ten of the tribes of Israel left to follow Jeroboam**. Only Benjamin and Judah remained with Rehoboam. We refer to the **ten tribes as the Northern Kingdom (Israel)** and the **two tribes as the Southern Kingdom (Judah)**.

Rehoboam was an evil king who did not obey God. Instead he began to worship all sorts of false gods and commit all types of wicked sins. In his fifth year as king, Shishak of Egypt came to Jerusalem and took away the treasures of the temple and king's house. Rehoboam continued to rule as king for a total of 17 years before he died. We'll learn about the rest of the kings from the kingdom of Judah in the next chapter.

Jeroboam was not much better. He knew that God had commanded the children of Israel to worship in Jerusalem which still belonged to Rehoboam. He was worried that if his people travelled to Jerusalem to worship, they might stop following him and support Rehoboam instead. So, his solution was to **build two golden calves for Israel to worship**. He placed one of them in Bethel and the other one in Dan. He also established a whole new group of priests which were not from the tribe of Levi and set about worshipping the golden calves.

God sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam to repent of these sins, but he chose not to listen. Because of this, **God decided to destroy Jeroboam's family completely**. His son, Abijah, got sick and died because of Jeroboam's sin. Jeroboam ruled for a total of 22 years before he died. We'll learn about his kingdom, Israel, in chapter four of this book.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Which son of David thought he would be king when his father died?
- 2) Which son did David actually make king?
- 3) What was the name of the priest from the house of Eli that was removed from his position?
- 4) What did Solomon ask God for?
- 5) How long did it take Solomon to build the temple?
- 6) What did Solomon begin to do when he was old?
- 7) What punishment did God give to Solomon and his family?
- 8) Who was Jeroboam?
- 9) Where did Jeroboam flee to for safety?
- 10) What was the name of Solomon's son who became king?
- 11) Why did 10 tribes decide to follow Jeroboam instead of Rehoboam?
- 12) What type of king was Rehoboam?
- 13) What type of king was Jeroboam?

Activities:

1) Build a Model of Solomon's Temple.

Materials needed:

*Legos or other building bricks

OR visit our Pinterest page for a model using popsicle sticks and paper

(<http://www.pinterest.com/honourofkings/ancient-and-american-history-book-2/>)

Object - To help children assemble the supplies needed and then follow the instructions given to build a temple.

- Either obtain a general sketch of the temple or create one of your own design using the description found in I Kings 6 and II Chronicles 3 & 4.
- Have the children do their best to build a temple that follows those instructions as accurately as they can while building.
- Compare the finished products and discuss

2) Divide the kingdom of Israel.

Materials needed:

- *map at right
- *Crayons or markers

Object: To help children practice map reading skills

-Print or photocopy the map of Israel and have the children color the two separate sections in different colors to easily show the division between Judah and Israel.

(Note: This map can be saved to refer to for future lessons referencing Israel and some of its locations.)



Time line of Israel's (green) and Judah's (blue) kings and the corresponding prophets (purple) and secular rulers (red)

	Judah	Prophets	Syria	Israel	Assyria
930					
925	Rehoboam				
920	930 – 913			Jeroboam	
915		Abijam		930 – 909	
910		913 – 910		Nadab 909-908	
905					
900				Baasha	
895	Asa			908 – 886	
890	910 – 869				
885				Elah 886 – 885	Zimri 885
880					Omri
875					885 – 874
870					
865		Jehos haphat	Elijah	Hadad-ezer of Syria	Ahab
860		872 – 848		c. 880 – 842	874 – 853
855					
850	Jehoram			Ahaziah	Joram
845	853 – 841			853 – 852	852 – 841
840	Ahaziah 841	Queen Athaliah			
835		841 – 835			
830			Elisha		Jehu
825					841 – 814
820	Joash				
815	835 – 796				
810				Jehoahaz	
805				814 – 798	
800					
795			Joel		Adad-nirari III Of Assyria
790				Joash	811 – 783
785				798 – 782	
780	Amaziah	Jonah	Ben-Hadad III of Syria c. 796 – 792		
775	796 – 767				
770				Jeroboam II	
765				793 – 753	
760		Uzziah (Azariah)			Zachariah 753
755		792 – 740	Amos		Mena hem
750				Shallum 752	752 - 742
745	Jotham				Tiglath-Pileser
740	750 – 732			Pekah	752 – 732
735					Pekahiah 742 – 740
730					
725		Ahaz			Hoshea
720		735 – 715	Isaiah	Assyrian Captivity of Israel c. 723	732 – 723
715			Micah		EGYPT
710	Hezekiah				Pharaoh So of Egypt (possibly 24th dynasty)
705	(co-reigned with Ahaz 729 – 715)				
700					
695					
690	715 – 686				
685					
680		Manasseh	Nahum		
675		696 – 642			
670					
665					
660					
655					
650					
645	Amon				
640	642 – 640				
635			Zephaniah		
630		Josiah			
625		640 – 609 & son Jehoahaz			
620		609			
615			Jeremiah		
610					Ashur-uballit II of Assyria
605	Jehoiakim	1st attack		BABYLON	612 - 609
600		2nd attack	Habak - kuk		Necho II Of Egypt (26th) 610 – 595
595	Jehoiachin 596			Daniel	
590	3rd attack	Zedekiah		605 – 515	Nebuchad- nezzar II of Babylon 605 – 562
585	Jerusalem Falls		Obadiah		
580			Ezekiel 585 – 565		

III. Judah: the Southern Kingdom and its Prophets 913 - 586 B.C.

Before you begin chapter three, **take a look at the chart that appears on the previous page.** You notice that the chart is divided into sections. The blue letters on the left are the kings of Judah. The purple letters are the prophets that God sent to Judah and Israel to warn them to repent. The green letters are the kings of Judah. The red lettered boxes are those of secular nations and are labeled so you know which nation they come from. The chart does not include every secular ruler. Instead, it only has the ones we can identify and that are referred to in the Bible during this time frame.

As we study through this chapter and the next one, it would be a good idea **to refer back to the chart to see how everything fits together.** For most of the kings, we will simply be giving a short overview of their reigns and recording whether God called them good or evil.

I'd also ask you to remember what we learned in our first book about lists of kings, chronologies, and dates. Although we know that the Bible is accurate, that does not mean that we always have every detail nor that we always understand how they counted their reigns. Sometimes fathers and sons co-reigned which meant that their total number of years overlapped. Sometimes the number of years given for a king described just the years of his independent reign while other figures for other kings describe their total reign. Thus, trying to set exact dates for each king is sometimes difficult to do. The dates on the chart are based on careful study, but they may not be 100% correct.

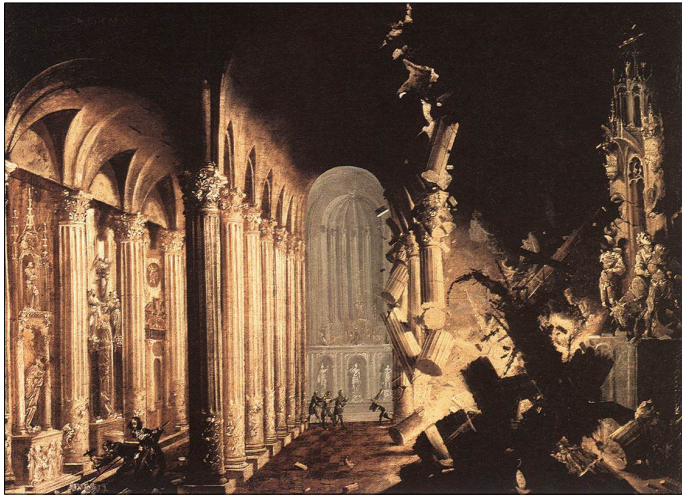
We've already learned a little bit about Rehoboam and the wickedness that he did when he was king of Judah. But, let's take some time to examine his life in a bit more detail. We know that **Rehoboam was the son of Solomon.** Just like his father, Rehoboam had many wives and children. The Bible tells us in II Chronicles chapter 11 that Rehoboam ended up having 28 sons and 60 daughters! It also tells us that several of his wives were from the family of David's father Jesse. (In Bible times, it was considered normal to marry close relatives such as cousins.) Rehoboam married several of his cousins including Maachah who was the daughter of his uncle Absalom. **Maachah had four children and she was Rehoboam's favorite wife. Because of this, he chose to make her oldest son, Abijam (Abijah), the next king of Judah.**

Overall, **Rehoboam is considered by God to be an evil king.** However, he did repent a little after Shishak came and took away the temple and palace treasures. Because he repented a little, God allowed him to remain on the throne for 17 years. However, for his entire reign, he was in **constant battle against Israel and Jeroboam.**

When his son, Abijam (Abijah) became king, that battle continued. In fact, **Abijam went to war against Jeroboam and accused him of being rebellious against God.** This was true and God allowed Abijam to capture several cities of Israel because he had stood for the truth. However, back in his own kingdom, **Abijam did not always obey God himself.** He copied the sins of his father Rehoboam. Because of this, **God only allowed him to remain on the throne for three years** before he was replaced by his son, Asa.

Asa was a good king who obeyed God like David had done. When he became king, he began to remove the idols from the land. **God blessed his obedience and gave Judah ten years of rest.** During this time, Asa began to build cities and the kingdom of Judah was very successful. Sometime between the 10th to 15th year of Asa's reign, Judah was attacked by Zerah from

Ethiopia. The two armies set up in the valley of Zephathah and Asa prayed to God for help. God answered his prayer and the Ethiopian army (which was almost twice as big as Asa's army) was conquered. Asa and his army gained a lot of possessions which were brought back to Jerusalem.



*King Asa of Juda Destroying the Idols -
17th century by François de Nomé*

In his 15th year, **Asa met a man named Azariah who told him that Judah would be blessed if it continued to follow and trust in God.** When Asa heard this, he removed even more idols from the land and restored the altar at the temple. He even removed his own mother from being queen because she had built an idol. **Asa placed new items in the temple and dedicated them to God's use.**

For the next 20 years, the kingdom of Judah under King Asa was generally at peace. But, in Asa's 36th year, **Baasha the king of Israel went to war against Judah.** Baasha had entered into an agreement with Benhadad the king of

Syria. Benhadad agreed to help Baasha to conquer Judah. When Asa heard this, he decided to send a message to Benhadad to ask him to break his agreement with Baasha. Asa also sent along with silver and gold from the temple and the palace to help persuade Benhadad to side with him instead of with Baasha. Asa did this because he was worried that without help, he would lose the war against Baasha. Benhadad agreed and Benhadad not only left Judah alone; he also went and attacked several of Baasha's cities. Asa's behavior in this situation was very different than his behavior in his battle with Zerah the Ethiopian.

Soon, Asa was visited by a man of God. **He told Asa that because he had chosen to rely on Syria and its king to save them instead of God, Judah would have wars for the rest of his reign.** This made Asa quite mad and he put the man of God in prison. Then Asa began to treat some of his other subjects badly, too. Just three years later, Asa developed a disease in his feet. For the next two years, he looked for a cure from the doctors, but **refused to seek God about the problem. He died after 41 years on the throne.**

Asa was succeeded by his son **Jehoshaphat who decided to make peace with the wicked King Ahab of Israel.** While on a visit to Israel, King Ahab persuaded Jehoshaphat **to go to battle with him against Syria** at a place named Ramoth-Gilead. Before going to battle, they asked the advice of many prophets in Israel. Every prophet said the same thing: success was certain. However, these prophets were all lying to make the king happy. Only one prophet (Micaiah) told them **they would not be successful** and that King Ahab would die in the battle.

While in battle, Jehoshaphat wore his traditional kingly clothing and robes, but King Ahab decided to go in disguise. The Syrian king told his soldiers to fight only with Ahab. When the soldiers saw Jehoshaphat in his kingly robes, they thought he was Ahab and tried to kill him. They soon figured out it was not Ahab and stopped chasing Jehoshaphat. Meanwhile, King Ahab was hit and killed by an arrow while riding in his chariot.

After the battle, Jehoshaphat went home to Judah and continued to reign. Despite having made peace with the wicked King Ahab, Jehoshaphat was considered **a good king because he worshiped and obeyed God** for most of his life. Jehoshaphat died after reigning for a total of 25

years. When he died, his son **Jehoram** took the throne.

Unlike his father, **Jehoram was a wicked king**. He married a woman named **Athaliah** who was the daughter of king Omri and sister of king Ahab of Israel. Instead of following God like his father did, Jehoram decided to live like the wicked kings of Israel. As soon as Jehoram became king, he had all of his brothers killed to prevent them from taking the kingdom. Jehoram only reigned for a total of eight years. He was so wicked that the prophet Elijah sent him a letter warning him he would be punished because of his rebellion and because he had killed his brothers. **Elijah told Jehoram that God was going to plague the people and that Jehoram would get very sick.**

The kingdom was attacked by the Philistines who took away all of his possessions and all of his sons except for the youngest one. Two years later, Jehoram became so sick that his intestines fell out. When he died, **the people did not mourn for him like they had for previous kings** because no one had really wanted him to be king in the first place. In fact, although he was buried in Jerusalem, he was not buried with the previous kings. He was followed on the throne by his youngest son who was known by two names: **Jehoahaz or Ahaziah**.

*Before we move on to the next king, let's take a brief moment to talk a little bit about the **prophet Elijah**. This prophet lived in Gilead in Israel. He did not live in Judah. He was called Elijah the Tishbite. The word "Tishbite" means captivity in the Hebrew language. **Most of Elijah's ministry was spent dealing with King Ahab and his son King Ahaziah of Israel.** However, as we just saw, Elijah was instructed by God to write a letter to Ahab's brother-in-law, Jehoram, to warn him of the coming punishment against Judah. We will read more about Elijah in the next chapter.*

The youngest son of Jehoram, known as **Ahaziah or Jehoahaz**, continued in a **wicked ways** of his father Jehoram, his mother Athaliah, his uncle Ahab, and his maternal grandfather Omri. Rather than make his own decisions, **he let his mother tell him how to be king**. He maintained the peace that his paternal grandfather had established with Israel and even helped his cousin (king Joram/Jehoram of Israel - the son of Ahab and Jezebel) fight against Hazael, king of Syria. During this battle, Joram was wounded and went to Jezreel to be treated. Ahaziah traveled there to visit his sick cousin. While he was there, he and Joram made plans to go to battle again against a man named Jehu, the son of Nimshi. When Jehu heard this, he began to conquer king Ahaziah. The king ran away and hid, but **eventually Jehu and his men found him and killed him. Ahaziah had only reigned for one year.**

When his mother, **Queen Athaliah**, saw that her son was dead, she killed everyone she considered an heir to the throne. She did this because she wanted to rule Judah. This meant that **she even had her own grandsons killed!** Clearly, Athaliah was a **very wicked woman**. However, one of Ahaziah's sisters named **Jehosheba** (who was a daughter of Jehoram, king of Judah) **decided to save one of Ahaziah's infant sons**. Jehosheba was married to a priest named Jehoiada. She took the baby home and together they hid him for the next six years. The baby's name was Joash. Meanwhile, queen Athaliah took over the kingdom. During these six years, she did many wicked things including taking all of the things that were in God's temple and placing them in the temple of Baal, a false god.

For six years, **Joash (also called Jehoash) lived hidden away in the temple protected by his aunt and uncle**, Jehosheba and Jehoiada the priest. As the son of the former king and his wife (Ahaziah and Zibiah), Joash was the rightful heir to the throne. **When he was seven years old, Jehoiada contacted the leaders of the army and made a plan with them to make Joash the new king.** Jehoiada made sure to set up a battle plan to safeguard the temple while the priests were anointing the new king. Of course, queen Athaliah heard all of the commotion and noise at the temple. She went to see what was happening. When she arrived, she saw the

new king Joash and accused everyone of treason. However, **Jehoiada told the leaders of the army to kill Athaliah because she was very wicked.** After Athaliah was dead, Jehoiada, the army, and the new king Joash traveled all over Judah and removed the false idols of Baal. Everyone was very happy and there was finally peace in the land because **Joash was a good king who obeyed and worshipped God.**

Joash told the Levites that they should take an offering from the people and use the offering to repair the temple of God. He told them to do this as quickly as possible. However, after a number of years, he discovered that this was not being done. He sent for Jehoiada and instructed him to make a chest and put it by the gate of the temple. King Joash then told the people to bring an offering to the temple just like their ancestors had done when Moses was alive. He used this money to hire workers to repair the temple.

As long as Jehoiada was alive, Joash listened to his instructions and obeyed God. However, when Jehoiada died at age 130, **Joash began to listen to his rulers and to worship false gods.** God sent prophets to Joash to warn him that both he and the people would be punished for this, but they did not listen. One of those prophets was a son of Jehoiada named Zechariah. Joash was now so wicked that he and the people stoned Zechariah to death! He refused to remember the kindness of Zechariah's father, Jehoiada. He even went so far as to say that if he were wrong, then God should punish him.

God did punish Joash. He sent Hazael, king of Syria, to attack Joash and Judah. Syrian soldiers killed all the rulers of Judah and captured much of the army. Joash decided to give Hazael all the gold from the temple and his own house as well as everything that previous kings had made for the temple. He did this so that Hazael would be happy and go home. It worked. However, Joash was not very happy. He had lost all of his money and he had been wounded in the battle. Because Joash had killed the son of Jehoiada, **three of Joash's own servants decided to kill him.** Joash was sick in bed and this made it very easy for his servants to kill him. Joash had reigned for a total of 40 years and when he died, his son Amaziah took over as king.

Amaziah was 25 years old when he became the king of Judah. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. **Amaziah was a righteous king that initially followed and obeyed God.** When he became king, one of the first things he did was to punish the servants who had murdered his father. He ordered the death of these servants, but showed mercy by not punishing their families.

While preparing for a battle against Edom, Amaziah gathered an army of 300,000 soldiers from Judah and decided to hire 100,000 soldiers from Israel. He paid the king of Israel 100 talents of silver for the use of these soldiers. However, God sent a prophet to Amaziah to warn him against taking the Israelite soldiers with him into battle. **The prophet told Amaziah to send the Israelite soldiers away because God was not with them due to Israel's rebellion.** Despite being concerned about losing the money he had paid for the soldiers, Amaziah listened to the prophet and obeyed God. However, being sent away made the Israelite soldiers very angry.

Amaziah took his 300,000 soldiers and fought against Edom. After killing 10,000 Edomite soldiers, Amaziah captured the city of Selah and renamed it Joktheel. While conquering the city, Amaziah found some idols and brought them back to Judah. He began to worship them. God sent a prophet who warned him to stop, but Amaziah refused to listen. **The prophet told Amaziah that God would punish him because of his disobedience.**

Meanwhile, the angry Israelite soldiers who had been sent away attacked several cities in Judah. In these attacks, they killed 3,000 citizens and stole a lot of property. This made Amaziah angry and he decided to go to war against the king of Israel, Jehoash. Amaziah sent a message to Jehoash calling him to battle. Jehoash responded by calling Amaziah's recent victory over Edom a

little battle. He told Amaziah to just stay home and enjoy that victory instead of fighting against Israel. **Amaziah refused to listen and went to war against Jehoash and Israel.** The result for Amaziah was not good. Jehoash and the army of Israel won the battle and took Amaziah captive. They then went to Jerusalem to take all of the gold, silver, and vessels from the temple. They also took hostages and all the treasures from the king's house. Jehoash and his army took all these things and returned back to Samaria.

We know that Amaziah returned to Jerusalem and that he lived another 15 years after the death of Jehoash, king of Israel. Sometime during these 15 years, there was a conspiracy against him. **Amaziah decided to run away and hide in a city named Lachish.** However, he was eventually found and killed there. He had reigned for a total of 29 years as king and was followed by his son, **Azariah** who is also known by the name **Uzziah**.

*Around the time of Uzziah, God sent the prophet **Joel** to the nation of Judah. Joel's message was one of warning. He reminded the people of Judah that if they did not repent, God would judge them. Most of his book speaks about events in the distant future and he even mentions the nations of the Greeks and the Sabeans. Here is a short sample of Joel's message.*

JOEL 2:12 & 13

Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Uzziah (Azariah) became king at age 16 and it is clear that he began reigning while his father was still alive. It is possible that he began reigning when his father ran away to Lachish, but we do not know this for certain. In any case, **Uzziah was a good king who worshiped and obeyed God.** He fought and won many battles against the Philistines, the Arabians, and the Mehunims. He had much cattle and many servants to care for his herds. He provided those servants with watchtowers and wells to help them do their job more easily. He also had servants who managed his large farms. His army was also quite large - the Bible tells us it had 2,600 leaders managing 307,500 soldiers. Uzziah provided this army with shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and slings. It even had machines that could shoot arrows and large stones from towers and other defensive positions. **Uzziah was so powerful and famous** that he was offered gifts by nations such as the Ammonites and even nations as far away as Egypt heard about him.

Things were going very well for Uzziah and the nation of Judah. However, there came a day when **Uzziah wanted to offer incense in the temple.** His high priest, Azariah, told Uzziah that he was not allowed to do that because offering incense in the temple was the job of the priests, not the king. This made Uzziah very angry. **Because of his anger, God caused him to develop a serious disease called leprosy** which destroys the skin. During Bible times, anyone who had it lived apart from the rest of the people and this happened to Uzziah, too. His son, Jotham, was made the new king and Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died.

Jotham became king when he was 16 years old. He was the son of Uzziah and Jerushah and **decided to obey and worship God.** Jotham reigned for 16 years and during that time, he fought against the Ammonites. He successfully conquered them and they paid him tribute (taxes) for three years. This made **Jotham quite a rich king.** However, during his reign, the kings of Syria (Rezin) and Israel (Pekah) began to attack the nation of Judah. When Jotham died, his son Ahaz became king.

Unlike his father, **Ahaz was an evil king who disobeyed God** and worshipped false idols. He was 20 years old when he took the throne and reigned for a total of 16 years. Like his father, Ahaz

was also attacked by Syria and Israel. In these attacks, both Syria and Israel killed a large number of soldiers and took many captives from Judah. (Israel eventually returned the Judean captives they had taken, but Syria did not.) **Ahaz decided he needed help to fight against Syria and his other enemy, the Philistines.** He decided to send a message to Tiglath-pileser of Assyria. **Ahaz offered Tiglath-pileser all the silver and gold from the temple as well as many treasures from his own house.** In exchange for this payment, Tiglath-pileser conquered the city of Damascus in Syria and killed its king, Rezin. Ahaz travelled to this newly conquered city and saw an altar to a false idol that he really liked. He took measurements and made some drawings so that one of his priests back home in Judah could make one just like it. Not only did **Ahaz use his newly-made altar to worship false idols three times a day,** he also took items from the temple and placed them with his altar. He was definitely a wicked king.

After the death of Ahaz, his son **Hezekiah** took the throne. **Hezekiah was a good, obedient king who loved God.** His mother's name was Abijah and he was 25 years old when he began to reign. During the first year of his reign, Hezekiah focused on the task of repairing the temple. After it was fixed, he instructed the Levites to clean and prepare the temple. Hezekiah planned to **hold a big sacrifice to show repentance for the many sins** that the nation Judah had committed. When everything was ready, Hezekiah invited all of Judah and all of Israel to celebrate Passover in the temple. Some people accepted his invitation while others mocked it and refused to come.

When the people arrived at the temple, Hezekiah realized that many of them had not properly prepared themselves to celebrate Passover. Hezekiah knew this was because they did not know how to prepare themselves. (Under normal circumstances, if someone had tried to celebrate Passover without being properly prepared, God would have killed that person.) Hezekiah prayed to God and asked for mercy for the people because they were sincere in their desire to humble themselves and repent. God heard his prayer and accepted the people's repentance. For 14 days, the people sacrificed and feasted. At the end of these 14 days, they went throughout the land and removed all of the false idols and their altars. **Because the nation of Judah was obeying God, it prospered.**

Four years after Hezekiah became king of Judah, the nation of Israel was taken captive by Assyria. Ten years later, Sennacherib of Assyria attacked the city of Jerusalem. Hezekiah tried to stop the attack by offering Sennacherib silver and gold, but that did not work. Sennacherib continued the plan to attack the city. Hezekiah decided to prepare the city for defense and then to trust God to protect them. **Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed for God to save the city and its people. In answer to their prayer, God sent an angel into the camp of the Assyrians.** This angel killed 185,000 soldiers! When Sennacherib realized that he had lost so many soldiers, he decided to return home to Assyria.



*Angel smites the Assyrians Date 1625-30
by Matthaeus (the Elder) Merian*

Shortly after this, **Hezekiah became very sick** and was close to dying. God sent the prophet

Isaiah to Hezekiah to instruct him to prepare to die. Hezekiah was very sad and **asked God for more time**. God heard his prayer and informed Hezekiah that he would live for 15 more years. Hezekiah wanted to be very sure that it was God speaking and so he asked the prophet Isaiah for proof. Isaiah gave him the choice of having the shadow on the sundial move forward by 10 degrees or move backward by 10 degrees. Hezekiah chose to have it move backward by 10 degrees because that was impossible unless God did it. When this happened, Hezekiah knew that God was going to extend his life.



King Hezekiah Showing Off his Riches - 1789 by Vicente López y Portaña (1772–1850); Museu de Belles Arts de València

Because Hezekiah had been sick, Berodach-baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to him. When the princes of Babylon arrived to deliver these letters and the present, Hezekiah decided to accept their present and also to give them a complete tour of the entire kingdom and his house. **He boasted about how great his kingdom was and how great and powerful a king he was.** The prophet Isaiah visited Hezekiah once again and asked about these foreign visitors.

Hezekiah explained who they were and what he had

done. Isaiah replied that God had been testing Hezekiah's humility and faithfulness. Because Hezekiah had been prideful, God would punish him by allowing Babylon to conquer Judah in the future. **Hezekiah was told that his descendants would be taken captive.** Hezekiah died after reigning for 29 years and his son, Manasseh became king.

*The prophets **Isaiah** and **Micah** lived at the same time and both prophesied during the reigns of Manasseh's father(Hezekiah), grandfather(Ahaz), and great-grandfather(Jotham). They continued their work in the early years of Manasseh's reign. Isaiah was active in both Judah and Israel as a prophet. He focused on the fact of God's holiness and the need for repentance. However, Isaiah also seemed to realize that none of the people would actually listen to his warnings. Isaiah spoke about how God would redeem Israel in the end times. He also described God would bless the Gentile nations that blessed the nation of Israel and how he would judge the Gentile nations that cursed Israel.*

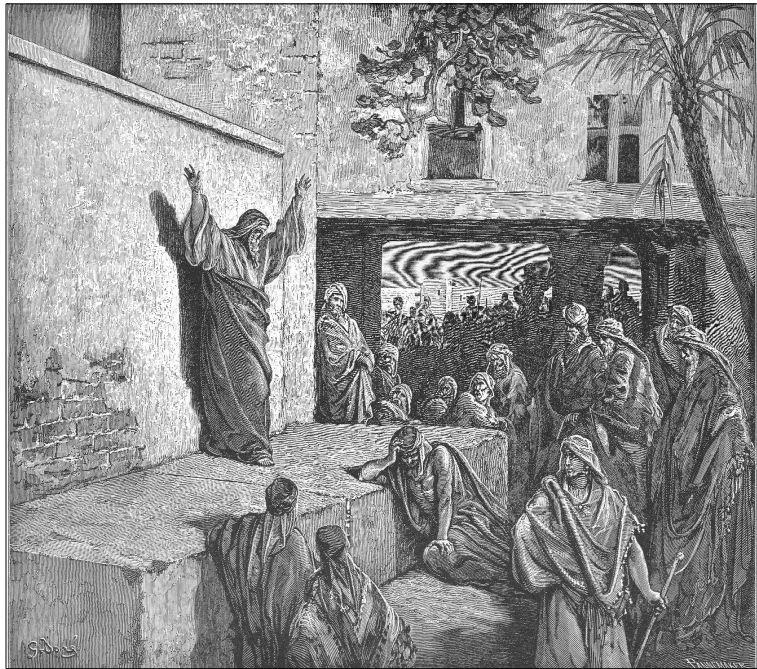
ISAIAH 45:21 - 23

Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Micah spent most of his ministry focusing on the nation of Judah. Some people believe that Isaiah and Micah knew each other because their prophecies were so similar. (See Micah 4:1 and Isaiah 2:2.) We have no way to prove that they actually knew each other, but it is probably safe to say that they had heard of each other. Micah's message to Judah focused on three main points: (1) Judah was full of idolatry and false teaching, (2) the city of Jerusalem would be physically destroyed, and (3) the nation of Israel would eventually be restored both in the near and distant future.

MICAH 1:1-5

The word of the Lord that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place. For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? is it not Samaria? and what are the high places of Judah? are they not Jerusalem?

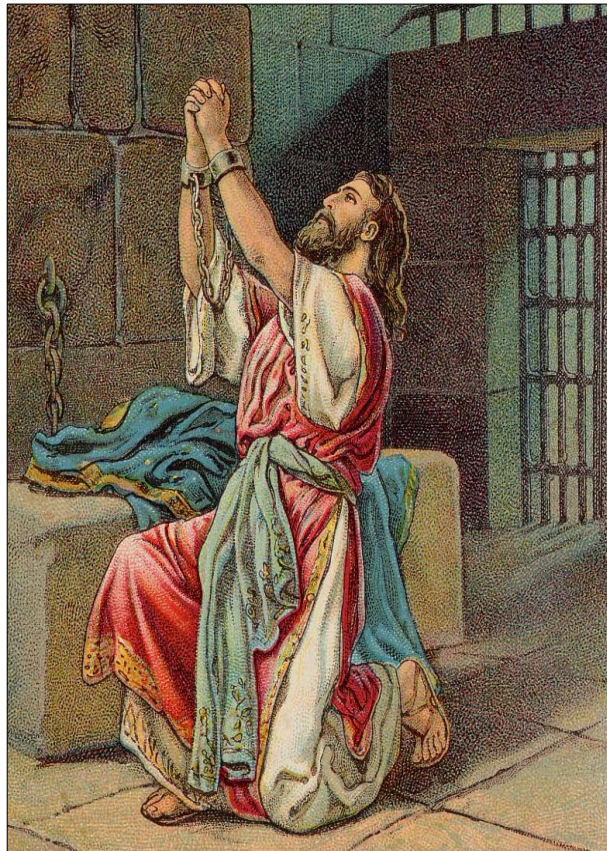


Micah Exhorts the Israelites to Repent (Micah 7:1-20) - 1866
in Doré's English Bible by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Another prophet that lived sometime between Micah and Habakkuk was **Nahum**. This prophet focused on the eventual destruction of the nation of Assyria and specifically their capital city of Nineveh. The nation of Assyria was going to be destroyed because of their evil dealings and treatment of the nation of Israel.

NAHUM 1:2-3

God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.



Manasseh's Sin and Repentance
2 Chronicles 33:1-13
illustration from a Bible card published by
the Providence Lithograph Company - 1904

Going back to the kings of Judah, **Manasseh** was only 12 years old when he began to reign. He was the son of Hezekiah and Hepzibah. **At first, he was an evil king** and caused the nation of Judah to sin so much that the sin was greater than could be found in all the other nations. He killed many of his own citizens. Even worse, he brought back the false idols and their altars. **Because of this wickedness, God sent the nation of Assyria to capture Manasseh.** While in captivity, **Manasseh repented.** Because of this repentance, God allowed him to go back to Judah. The first thing Manasseh did was to remove the false idols and their altars. He then began to repair the temple in order to worship the true God, Jehovah. **Because of his repentance and obedience, God allowed Manasseh to reign for 55 years.** When he died, his son Amon took the throne.

This new king was 22 years old when he began to reign. **Amon** was the son of Manasseh and Meshullemeth. He was **a very wicked king who refused to obey God.** During his short **two year reign**, he did as much evil as he possibly could. He was so evil that his servants killed him and made his son Josiah king instead.

Josiah was only a boy of eight years old when he became king. His mother's name was Jedidah. After reigning for eight years, **Josiah began worshipping God instead of false**

idols. Four years later, he began removing all of the false idols and their altars from the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Six years after this, he sent his scribe Shaphan to oversee the repair of the temple. Josiah ordered a collection of money and offerings to care for the needs of the temple. As the Levites and the priests were cleaning the temple, the high priest Hilkiah found a copy of the book of the law. Shaphan the scribe brought this book to Josiah and read it to him. **When Josiah heard God's words, he was very upset and sad.** He realized that the nation of Judah deserved punishment for all their sins. He sent word to the priests to ask if Judah would be destroyed. They answered him that although Judah would be destroyed in the future, it would not happen during Josiah's reign because he was so humble. **Josiah spent 31 years as king in Jerusalem and dedicated himself to reforming not only the nation of Judah, but also those who remained in the land of Israel.**

*At the beginning of Josiah's reign, God sent a prophet named **Zephaniah** to Judah. Most of his prophecies focus on the large-scale idolatry happening in Judah. He warns the people that if they do not repent, God will send the nation of Babylon to judge them. He gives the people the hope of being spared, but again only if they repent. He closes his book by speaking about God's future salvation of Israel.*

ZEPHANIAH 1:1-6

The word of the Lord which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the

Lord. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked: and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord. I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests; And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the Lord, and that swear by Malcham; And them that are turned back from the Lord; and those that have not sought the Lord, nor enquired for him.

Near the end of Josiah's reign, Pharaoh Necho of Egypt was told by God to attack Assyria at a place called Carchemish. Josiah decided this might be a good time to fight against Egypt. Pharaoh Necho warned him to stay home and not interfere because it was God's plan for Egypt to attack Assyria. However **Josiah did not listen and went out to battle anyway.** Josiah and his army met the Egyptians in a place called Megiddo and the battle began. During the battle, **Josiah was wounded** and was taken back to Jerusalem where **he died.**

*The next prophet, **Jeremiah**, picked up where Zephaniah left off. At first, Jeremiah told Judah that punishment would not come as long as the people repented. Eventually, however, the opportunity to repent passed and then God gave Jeremiah a different message. His job was to inform Judah that they would go into captivity to the nation of Babylon as punishment for their refusal to repent. Jeremiah told the people that it was too late to repent and as such they should not fight against Babylon. Instead, they were to go into captivity and do their best to remain productive wherever God took them because this captivity was going to last for 70 years. Jeremiah did prophesy about the eventual return to the land of Judah at the end of that 70 years.*

JEREMIAH 29:5-10

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.



*Prophet Jeremiah - 1508-1512
Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo
Buonarroti (1475-1564)*

Another prophet that lived sometime before the conquest of Judah by Babylon was **Habakkuk**. He warned the people that the Chaldeans were coming to punish them because they had disobeyed God. A Chaldean can refer to the people from Chaldea, but it can also mean an astrologer or a magician. Both Assyria and Babylon were known to have magicians. Although the Bible does not specifically mention these Chaldeans as being from Babylon, it is fairly safe to assume that since Habakkuk was speaking to Judah and it was going to be Babylon that would destroy Judah that these were indeed Babylonian Chaldeans.

This punishment made both Habakkuk and the people unhappy because in their eyes, the Chaldeans were more wicked than they were. However, God promised that the Chaldeans would also eventually be punished.

HABAKKUK 1:6-10

For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand. And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

The order and relationships of the next four kings after Josiah can be a little confusing. It is important to pay attention to the names of parents in order to understand how they are related.

We know from the Bible that **Josiah** had at least **two wives**. To understand the kings that reigned after Josiah, we will need to look at these two wives and children they produced. One wife was named **Hamutal**. **She and Josiah had two sons: Johanan (Jehoahaz) and Mattaniah (Zedekiah)**. The other wife was named **Zebudah**. She and Josiah had **Eliakim (Jehoiakim)**. Yet, the Bible also tells us that Josiah had four sons. We do not know the mother of Josiah's last son, **Shallum**.

When Josiah died, his son Johanan (Jehoahaz) took the throne. Johanan (Jehoahaz) was **was a very evil king**. After **reigning for only three months**, Pharaoh Necho of Egypt came and took him captive to Egypt. Necho decided to take **another son of Josiah's named Eliakim (Jehoiakim) and make him king** instead.

When Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the new king of Judah, he changed his name to Jehoiakim. He was 25 years old when he was made king and **he was a very wicked king**. He and the nation of Judah were under the control of Pharaoh Necho and Egypt, but **Babylon began to attack the nation in Jehoiakim's third year as king**. It was near the end of this year that **Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon first came and took captives from Judah**. One of those captives was a young boy named **Daniel**. Yes, this is the same Daniel that would one day be in the lion's den.

During the beginning of Jehoiakim's fourth year (and near the middle to end of Nebuchadnezzar's first year), Jehoiakim collected a tax from the nation of Judah in order to send money to the pharaoh of Egypt. However, **Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked again and Jehoiakim decided to serve Babylon instead of Egypt**. As Nebuchadnezzar's new servant, Jehoiakim was taken captive to Babylon. He continued to be considered the king of Judah and is listed as having a reign of 11 total years. The first three of those years were spent in Judah and the last eight were spent in captivity.

Jehoiakim had two sons: Jeconiah (also known as Coniah and **Jehoiachin**) and **Zedekiah**. The Bible tells us that Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) was the son of a woman named Nehusta. Eight years after his father was taken captive to Babylon and **in the 8th year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Jehoiachin takes the throne as king of Judah.**

The Bible gives us two ages for how old Jehoiachin was when he began to reign - 8 and 18. In order to understand why two different ages are given, we need to examine the two viewpoints of the books of Kings and Chronicles. We'll also need to start at the end of Jehoiachin's reign as king and count backwards in order to see how it all fits together.

We know from the Bible that **Jehoiachin only reigned for three months and ten days.** Given such a short reign, if he had begun a solo reign at age 8, there is no way he could still be a king ten years later at age 18 because ten years is much longer than 3 months and ten days. Thus, he must have begun his reign of 3 months and 10 days at age 18. We know that he took the throne during Nebuchadnezzar's 8th year which was also his father's 11th year. This tells us that when his father died in captivity in Babylon, Jehoiachin became a king ruling on his own without his father, but still under Nebuchadnezzar, at age 18.

Working backwards from age 18 to age 8, Jehoiachin could have co-reigned with his father during the 11 years his father was on the throne. If Jehoiachin began that co-reign at age 8, which was ten years before he turned 18, then his father Jehoiakim would have been in his 2nd year as king. Jehoiakim would have been 26 years old at that time and having an 8 year old son would have been possible. Furthermore, it was not unusual for Judean kings to name their sons as co-rulers.



*Zedekiah's Sons Are Slaughtered
before His Eyes (2 King 25:1-7) -
1866 in Doré's English Bible by
Gustave Doré (1832–1883)*

Thus, the Jews in the book of II Kings gave Jehoiachin's age for when he began his independent reign (age 18) whereas the Jews in the book of II Chronicles gave his age when he began his co-reign (age 8) with his father.

In any case, Jehoiachin was a wicked and evil king. After just 3 months and 10 days on the throne, **he was also captured during Nebuchadnezzar's 8th year as king and placed in captivity in Babylon.** Jehoiachin/Jeconiah lived in captivity in Babylon for 37 years before he was eventually released by the Babylonian king Evil Merodach. **Although Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) had many sons, Nebuchadnezzar decided to place Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah, on the throne.**

Mattaniah was another son of Josiah and Hamutal. Mattaniah was 21 years old when **Nebuchadnezzar made him king and changed his name to Zedekiah.** This new king was **another evil and wicked king** who refused to obey God or listen to his prophets. Over and over, Jeremiah the prophet warned Zedekiah to submit to being under Babylon, but Zedekiah refused to listen. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon. **Finally, in the 11th year of Zedekiah and the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian army came and conquered Judah.**

Most of the people were taken to Babylon as captives. Jeremiah told both the king and the people that they were going to remain captives for 70 years in Babylon. After conquering Judah, Nebuchadnezzar took a man named Gedaliah and made him governor of Judah. **The nation of Judah no longer had a king and was now in captivity because of their continued disobedience towards God.**

Three prophets focused their messages on the events that would happen after Babylon conquered Judah. The first one, **Obadiah**, spoke to the nation of Edom. His message to Edom was that they were also going to be destroyed by Babylon. The reason for the punishment was because Edom had helped Babylon when it attacked Judah and it had been unfriendly to Israel. Obadiah reminds everyone at the end of his book that God would eventually deliver Israel and Judah from captivity.

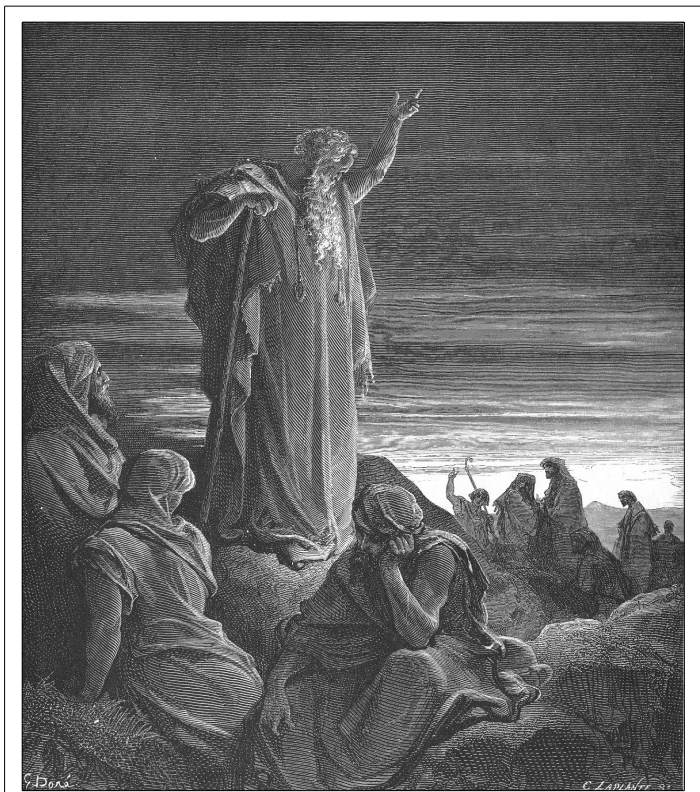
OBADIAH 1:1-4

The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; We have heard a rumor from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle. Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised. The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord.

Living around the same time was the prophet **Ezekiel**. This prophet gives us a detailed description about the idolatry in Judah. He reminded everyone that it was because of this idolatry and their rebellion that they were now in captivity. However, he also encouraged the people of Judah and Israel that their enemies would one day be destroyed. He told them that God planned to bring them back to their land after their years of captivity. He added that God would one day come back to the earth and would establish their kingdom for eternity. Ezekiel continued to prophesy throughout the reign of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

EZEKIEL 36:24-28

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.



The Prophet Ezekiel (Ez. 14:1-21) - 1866 in Doré's English Bible by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Another prophet to the nation of Judah was **Daniel**. He was taken captive as a young boy when Nebuchadnezzar began to attack Judah. The book of Daniel tells us about how Daniel and his friends insisted on obeying and following God no matter what the situation was. Because of this, God blessed both Daniel and his friends. Daniel eventually rose to a place of great importance in Babylon and served under several kings. If you are not already familiar with the story of Daniel and the lion's den, take the time now to read Daniel chapter 6. This event happened near the end of Daniel's life when he was quite an old man. Much of Daniel's prophecy focuses on the rise and fall of nations such as Babylon, Media & Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Roman Empire. He also tells us God's plan for Israel during those kingdoms. We will learn more about Daniel in chapter XI of this book.

DANIEL 6:25-28

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Was Judah the northern or the southern kingdom?
- 2) How many tribes were in Judah?
- 3) Who was the first king of Judah?
- 4) What type of king was Rehoboam?
- 5) Which son of his became the next king?
- 6) How long did Abijam reign before being replaced by Asa?
- 7) What type of king was Asa?
- 8) How did Asa defend Judah against Zerah the Ethiopian?
- 9) Which king of Israel went to war against Asa?
- 10) How did Asa defend Judah against Baasha of Israel?
- 11) What was his punishment for not relying on God's protection?
- 12) Which son of Asa became king?
- 13) Who did Jehoshaphat make peace with?
- 14) What type of king was Jehoshaphat?
- 15) Which son of Jehoshaphat became king?
- 16) What type of king was Jehoram?
- 17) Who was Elijah?
- 18) What was the other name of Jehoram's son, Ahaziah?
- 19) What type of king was Ahaziah?
- 20) Who killed Ahaziah?
- 21) What did Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, do when her son was killed?
- 22) Who was Jehosheba and what did she do?
- 23) How old was Joash when he was made king?
- 24) What type of king was Joash?
- 25) What did Joash do when he was old?
- 26) Who killed Joash?
- 27) Which son of Joash became king?
- 28) What type of king was Amaziah?
- 29) Did he continue to obey God?

- 30) Who was Joel?
- 31) How old was Uzziah when he was made king?
- 32) What type of king was Uzziah?
- 33) Which son of Uzziah became the next king?
- 34) Did Jotham obey and worship God?
- 35) What type of king was Ahaz?
- 36) List some of the wicked things that Ahaz did.
- 37) Who was Hezekiah?
- 38) Who were Isaiah, Micah, and Nahum?
- 39) Why did God allow Manasseh to return as king to Judah?
- 40) What type of king was Amon?
- 41) How old was Josiah when he became king?
- 42) What did Josiah do to restore the worship of God in Judah?
- 43) Who was Zephaniah?
- 44) Which pharaoh of Egypt attacked Judah during Josiah's reign?
- 45) Who were Jeremiah and Habakkuk?
- 46) How long did Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, reign?
- 47) Which brother of his was made king of Judah in his place?
- 48) Who began to attack Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim?
- 49) Who was made king in Judah after Jehoiakim was taken captive?
- 50) How long did Jehoiachin rule?
- 51) Who did Nebuchadnezzar place on the throne to replace Jehoiachin?
- 52) Who were Obadiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel?
- 53) What was the punishment of the nation of Judah for disobeying God?

Activities:

1) Create a Family Tree/Chart for the kings of Judah.

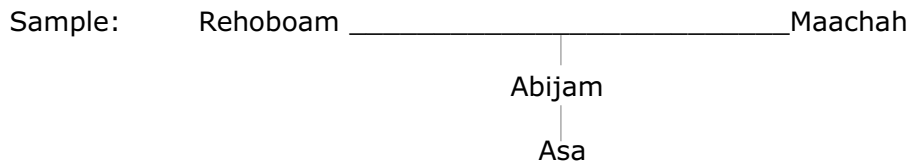
Materials needed:

*Blank paper *Pens, pencils, markers

Object: To visually show the relationships between the kings of Judah and the line of descent in the throne

- Place the names Rehoboam and Maachah in the center at the top of the paper about two inches apart.
- Draw a horizontal line connecting the two names.
- Now draw a single line (about 1/2 inch in length) down from the horizontal line that connects the two names.
- At the bottom of this line, write the name Abijam.
- Because we do not have the name of Abijam's wife, just draw another line of 1/2 inch in length down from under Abijam's name.
- At the bottom of this new line, write the name Asa.
- Continue in this pattern. If you know the name of the king's wife, follow the pattern we used for Rehoboam. If not, follow the pattern we used for Abijam.

NOTE: If you reach a point where the next king is NOT related to the previous king, show this by leaving a space between their names with no line connecting them.



2) Good vs. Evil

Materials Needed:

- *Room in your house
- *Objects (some that belong and some that don't belong in that room)

Object: To understand the constant cycle of allowing sin and evil to exist in Judah followed by repentance and removing those sinful objects and practices.

- Using a room that is fairly durable (i.e. a playroom or family room), place a variety of objects around the room and on the floor. Make sure that some of the objects belong in the room, but are in the wrong place. Make sure that other objects do not belong in the room. If you can arrange it so that some of the objects that don't belong in the room are dirty, smelly, and even actual garbage, that would be best. (Keep the number of objects that need to be dealt with in proportion to the age of the children.)
- Show the children the messy room and ask them to help you to straighten it up. They can place the objects that belong in the room back in their correct location while taking the objects that don't belong in the room to the laundry basket or trash.
- Reward their hard work with a celebration feast. (i.e. a special treat or snack)
- While the children are enjoying their celebration feast, have another adult or an older child go back into the room the children just cleaned and mess it up a bit again.
- After the celebration feast ends, take the children back to admire their work once again. When they see the "undoing" of their hard work, talk to them about the nation of Judah and how they had sinful kings who brought evil things into the kingdom and made it "messy" and righteous kings who would come in and clean things up. Explain that this cycle repeated itself over and over again until they finally went into captivity.