

I Kings – An Overview

About 117 years covered, in the lands surrounding Israel.

1. David's sickness, and Solomon's ascent to the throne of Israel. (c1)
2. David's advice to Solomon, and Solomon securing the throne. (c2)
3. God grants Solomon wisdom. (c3)
4. Solomon's officers and works. (c4)
5. Solomon prepares to build. (c5)
6. The temple of God built. (c6-7)
7. The temple dedication. (c8-9)
8. A visit from the queen of Sheba, and Solomon's great wealth. (c10)
9. Solomon turns from God, and finds troubles, and God chooses another king. (c11)
10. Israel splits. God gives 10 tribes for Jereboam (Solomon's servant) to rule as king, but leaves the tribe of Judah for king Rehoboam (Solomon's son) Jereboam turns from God, and sets up golden calves to worship. (c12)
8. God rebukes Jereboam (c13)
9. Jereboam dies, and his son Nadab reigns. Rehoboam dies, and his son Abijam reigns. (c14)
10. Kings of Judah: Abijam, Asa, Jehoshaphat. Kings of Israel: Nadab supplanted by Baasha. (c15)
11. Israel: Baasha, Elah, killed by Zimri, killed by Omri, Ahab. (c16)
12. The wickedness of Ahab, and ministry of Elijah. (c17-21)
13. The support of Jehoshaphat for Israel, and the death of Ahab. (c22)

Another Son Tries to Get David's Throne (chapter 1)

- At 70 years old, David was worn out and sick, and unable to get warm.
- His servants brought him a young virgin named Abishag to keep him warm, and though she had the status of a wife or concubine, she only served him as a nurse.
- David's 4th son, Adonijah, was a popular and ambitious man, and he got Joab the general, and Abiathar the high priest, and many other influential people to support his bid to be king after David's death. He avoided informing those who might oppose.



- Nathan the prophet found this out, and instructed Bathsheba to inform David, and he would come in and confirm the news.
- They did this, and David made plans to proclaim Solomon as king immediately.
- Israel rejoiced at Solomon's coronation, and Adonijah and his supporters were afraid he would slay them.
- Solomon stated that if these men, who had planned to gain the throne preemptively, would show themselves worthy, or loyal, that he would be merciful, and they would be safe. He also warned them that disloyalty would be punished severely.

Solomon Secures His Throne (chapter 2)

- David had commanded Solomon to be crowned, and bowed himself to Solomon, and given Solomon the plans revealed to him by God for the temple to be built.
- David instructed Solomon to put Joab to death, because Joab had murdered two men that David wished to spare, and that Solomon should kill Shimei, who had cursed him when he fled from Absalom. Then David died.
- At first, Solomon did not do this.
- Eventually, however, Adonijah asked Bathsheba to appeal to Solomon to give him Abishag as a wife. Solomon saw this as an attempt on the throne, and had him put to death, and executed Joab at the same time.
- Solomon called for Shimei and informed him that he was restricted to stay in Jerusalem.
- Shimei disobeyed this, and Solomon had him put to death.
- In this manner, those who would plot to overthrow Solomon were slain, and Solomon's throne was established securely.



God Offers to Grant Solomon a Gift (chapter 3)

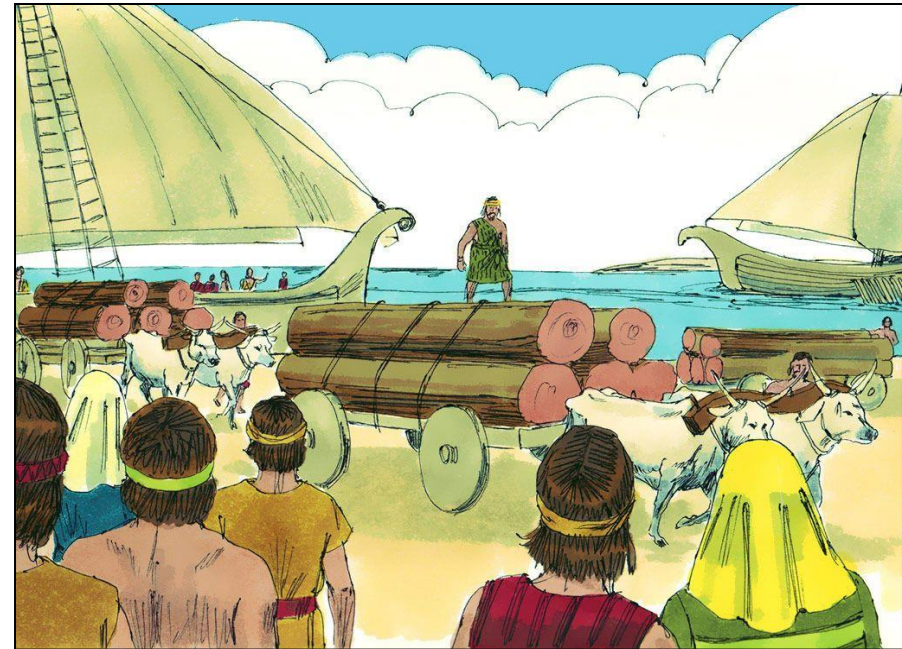
- Solomon loved God, and yet, because the ark was in a tent in Jerusalem, and the tabernacle and its furnishings were elsewhere, Israel worshipped in “the high places”.
- Solomon went to worship at the great high place in Gibeon (probably where the tabernacle and its brazen altar were located) and offered 1000 burnt offerings.



- While he was there, God appeared to Solomon in a night dream, and asked him to make a request.
- Solomon acknowledged God’s mercy to his father and him, and said he felt to be a child, and so asked God for an understanding heart to lead Israel.
- This request pleased God, who granted him wisdom and understanding, and also added riches and honor.
- When he returned to Jerusalem, two harlots came to Solomon for judgment, each claiming the same child.
- One said that the other had accidentally smothered her own child, and then taken her child as she slept.
- The other woman claimed the story was reversed.
- Solomon commanded a sword be brought to divide the child and give each woman a half of the child.
- The false mother approved the judgment, while the other was willing to give up the child to save its life.
- Solomon awarded the whole child to this woman. 85

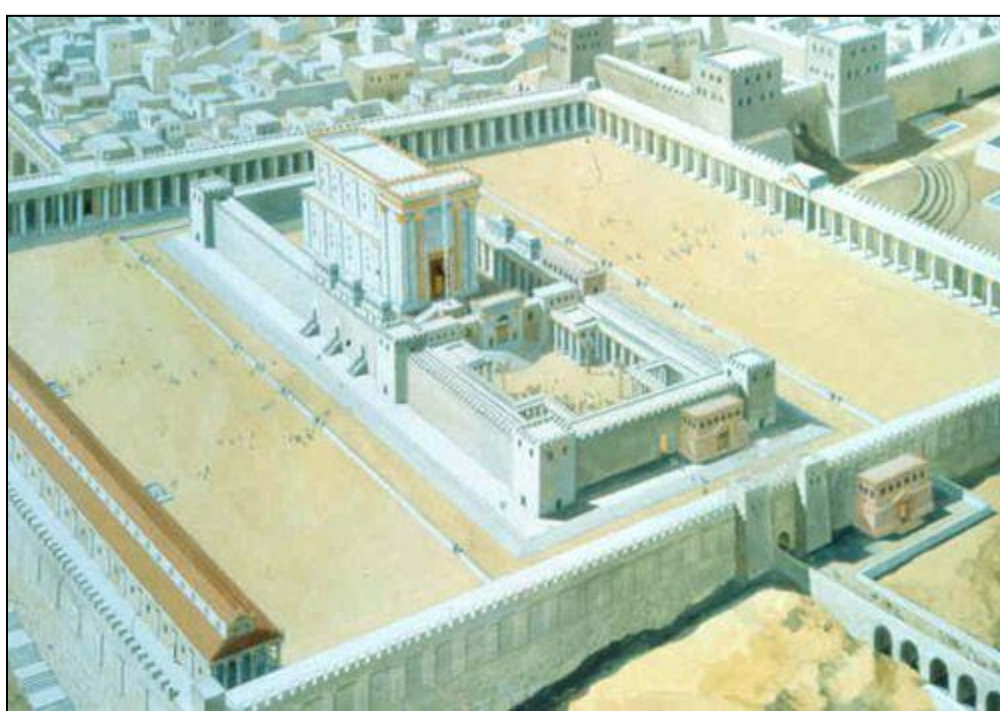
Solomon Prepares Great Works (chapters 4-5)

- Solomon's chief officers appear in I Kings 4:2-19, and Israel had peace and prosperity.
- Solomon had 40,000 horse stalls, and 12,000 horsemen.
- Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs, wrote 1,005 songs, and was expert in botany and zoology.
- God gave Solomon wisdom and largeness of heart.
- Solomon reached out to Hiram, king of Tyre, who had been a friend of David's, and requested a great quantity of cedar wood for building, especially for the temple.
- Hiram was happy to do this, and commended Solomon for his wisdom.
- In exchange, Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 measures of wheat, and 20,000 measures of pure oil, and control over certain cities near Tyre.
- Hiram proposed to cut the timber from Lebanon, and bring it to the Mediterranean.
- From there, the timber would be conveyed by sea to a offloading place chosen by Solomon.
- Solomon drafted Israelites to work with the servants of Hiram.
- There were 70,000 Israelites to carry material, and 80,000 woodcutters, and 3,600 managers.
- Solomon also set stonecutters to preparing large stones and costly stones.



Solomon Builds the First Temple (chapters 6-7)

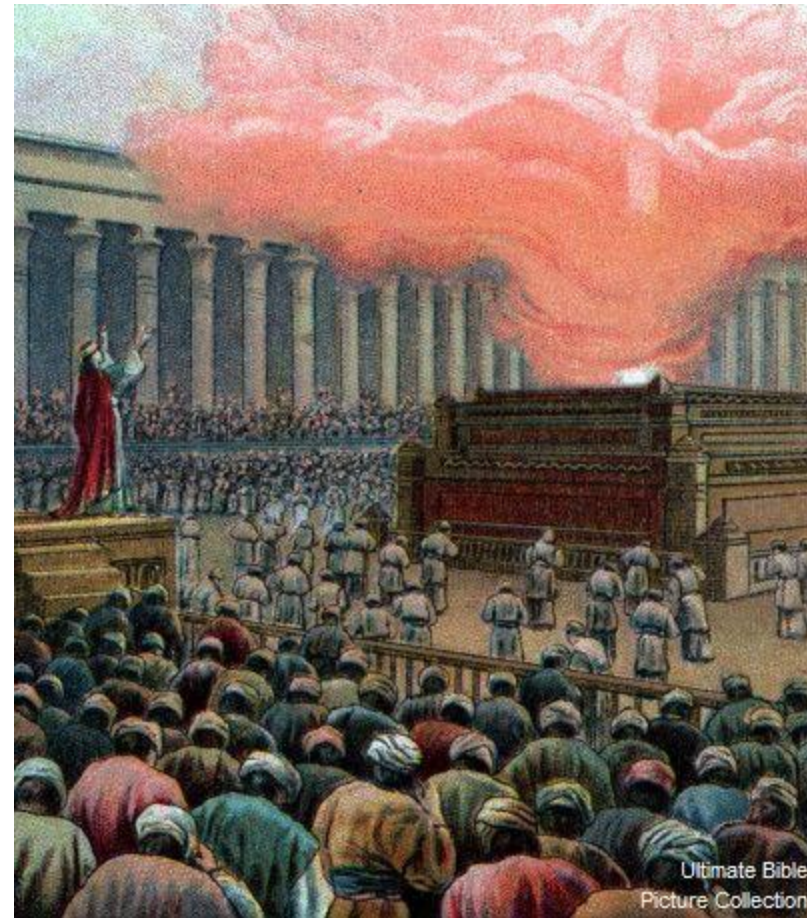
- In the 4th year of his reign, Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord, 480 years after Israel had come out of slavery in Egypt. The temple would take 7 years to build.
- The dimensions of the “house” part of this construction, in cubits, was 60Lx20Wx30H.
- It also had a porch, 20Lx10Wx120H. Stones had been cut so precisely that they fitted without hammer or chisel on the construction site! The stones were covered (probably inside) with cedar, with a fir floor. The wood was overlaid with gold.
- Two cherubs carved of olive wood covered with gold stretched across the Holiest of Holies, and their wings were over the ark of the covenant.



- A man, also named Hiram, who was of the city of Dan, whose mother was an Israelite of the tribe of Naphtali, and whose father was from Tyre, came to oversee the metal work for the temple.
- Hiram made two giant brass pillars, with two brass capitals to top them, with 400 brass pomegranates.
- He made 10 lavers and wheeled bases, 1 molten sea with a base of 12 oxen, pots, shovels, and basins.
- He also made the brass altar, which was 20 cubits by 20 cubits – the same dimensions as the Holiest of Holies.

The Dedication of Solomon's Temple (chapters 8-9)

- When the temple was complete, Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel together in the 7th month, when the Blowing of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles were kept.
- They brought the ark of the covenant from the tent in Jerusalem up to the new temple.
- During this, they sacrificed sheep and oxen.
- When the ark was in place, they drew out its staves, and left the Holiest of Holies.
- Then, the glory of God filled the temple, and the priests left the temple altogether.
- Solomon knelt on a platform, stretched his hands to heaven, and prayed that God's eyes would be upon the place of the temple, that Israel might look toward it, and call upon God, and be heard.
- Solomon then stood and blessed Israel, and offered 22,000 oxen, and 120,000 sheep, and Israel held a 14 day feast.
- God appeared again to Solomon in a dream, and said that he heard his prayer and granted it, but that Israel must still obey him, or he would chastise them even to the destruction of the temple itself.
- Solomon built a navy, and a house for Pharaoh's daughter, and had talks with Hiram.



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The Queen of Sheba Visits Israel (chapter 10)

- The queen of Sheba heard of Solomon, and came to visit, and test him with questions.
- She arrived in Jerusalem with a great entourage, and had long discussions with the king.
- Solomon answered all her questions with his great God-given wisdom.
- She marveled at Solomon's wisdom, and his buildings, and the dignity of his servants.



- The queen of Sheba gave Solomon many precious gifts: 120 talents of gold, and many jewels, and rare spices, and unique almug trees, which Solomon used for pillars in the temple, and for musical instruments.
- King Solomon in return bestowed many treasures upon the queen, and she returned to her home country.
- Israel, and Solomon, grew very wealthy.
- His annual intake of gold was 666 talents.
- He built a throne of ivory, adorned with gold, and his navy brought him gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.
- Solomon also greatly gathered horses and chariots.
- Rulers and people from all over the earth came to Israel to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

Solomon Departs From Serving God (chapter 11)

- Solomon took 700 wives and 300 concubines, and many of them were foreigners.
- In his old age, these women turned Solomon from God, and he built temples for the false gods of his wives and concubines.
- God told Solomon that he would take most of Israel away from the reign of his son, leaving him to rule over one tribe, and giving the rest to another man.
- God raised up adversaries against Solomon: Hadad of Edom, and Rezon of Zobah.
- Solomon had also promoted Jeroboam the son of Nebat to be leader of the tribe of Joseph, because Jeroboam was industrious.
- God sent the prophet Ahijah to tell Jeroboam that he would rule over ten tribes of Israel.
- Ahijah told Jeroboam that all but one tribe, Judah, would be taken from Solomon's son, Rehoboam, because of the idolatry that Solomon had encouraged, and that if Jeroboam would serve the true God, he would make Jeroboam house to endure.
- Solomon then wanted to kill Jeroboam, who fled into Egypt.
- Solomon probably wrote Ecclesiastes as an old man, and he died.
- Solomon was buried in Jerusalem, and Rehoboam ascended to the throne.



The Kingdom Divides (chapter 12)

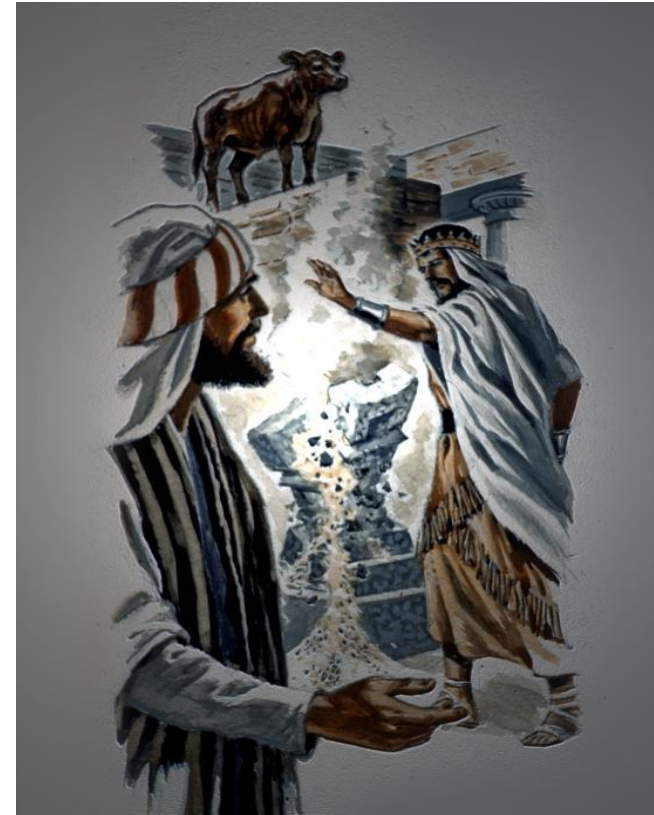
- Israel gathered in the city of Shechem to make Rehoboam king, and Jeroboam returned.
- The people cried unto Rehoboam that he would ease their tax burden, which was high.
- Rehoboam asked the people to wait 3 days for him to answer them.
- Rehoboam's older advisors counseled him to hear the people, and reduce taxes.
- Rehoboam's young advisors, who were his own age, told him to get tough and tell the people that taxes were going to be increased. Rehoboam decided to do this.
- When the people of Israel heard the tough answer from Rehoboam, many decided to rebel from under his rule, and chose Jeroboam to lead them. Judah stayed with Rehoboam.
- Rehoboam sent his head tax collector, and the people killed him, so Rehoboam fled.



- Rehoboam gathered 180,000 soldiers to reassert his rule, but God sent his messenger Shemaiah to tell the king that this was of God. Rehoboam heard.
- Jeroboam became king of Israel, and established his rule.
- He decided that it would weaken his reign for his people to worship the true God, since the temple was in Jerusalem, so he established the worship of two golden calves in the cities of Dan and Bethel.
- He made priests to the calves out of men of low integrity.

God Rebukes Worship of the Golden Calves (chapter 13)

- The Lord sent a man of God from Judah to prophesy against King Jereboam, son of Nebat, in Bethel.
- As Jereboam stood by the altar of incense, the man of God stated that King Josiah, a descendant of David's, would one day burn the bones of the new priests of the golden calves, and that the altar would break and its ashes would spill.
- Jereboam pointed at the man of God to order his arrest, but his hand shriveled up, and the altar broke.
- Jereboam begged the man of God to restore his hands, so the man prayed, and the hand returned to normal.
- Jereboam offered him a reward, but the man of God declined, saying that God had ordered him to return on a different path, and not to eat or drink until he returned to the land of Judah. He then left.
- Some young men who were in Bethel told their father, and old prophet, of these things.
- The old prophet went to meet the man of God, and told him an angel had commanded him to bring him to his house to have a meal. The man of God went, and ate and drank.
- While they ate, God sent his word to the old prophet, who pronounced that death would come to the man of God from Judah, because he had disobeyed the Lord.
- As the man of God rode his donkey home, a lion slew him but left his body alone.
- The old prophet retrieved the body, and bade his sons bury him with the man of God.
- Worship of the golden calves continued in Israel, until the end of the nation.



Jeroboam's Loss; Rehoboam's Loss (chapter 14)

- **In Israel**, King Jeroboam's son Abijah fell sick and Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself and go to the prophet Ahijah, and ask if their son would recover.
- She did this, but God had already told Ahijah of the disguise, and he told her who she was, and that their son would die when she returned to their city.
- As she crossed back into the city, the boy died, and all Israel mourned his loss.



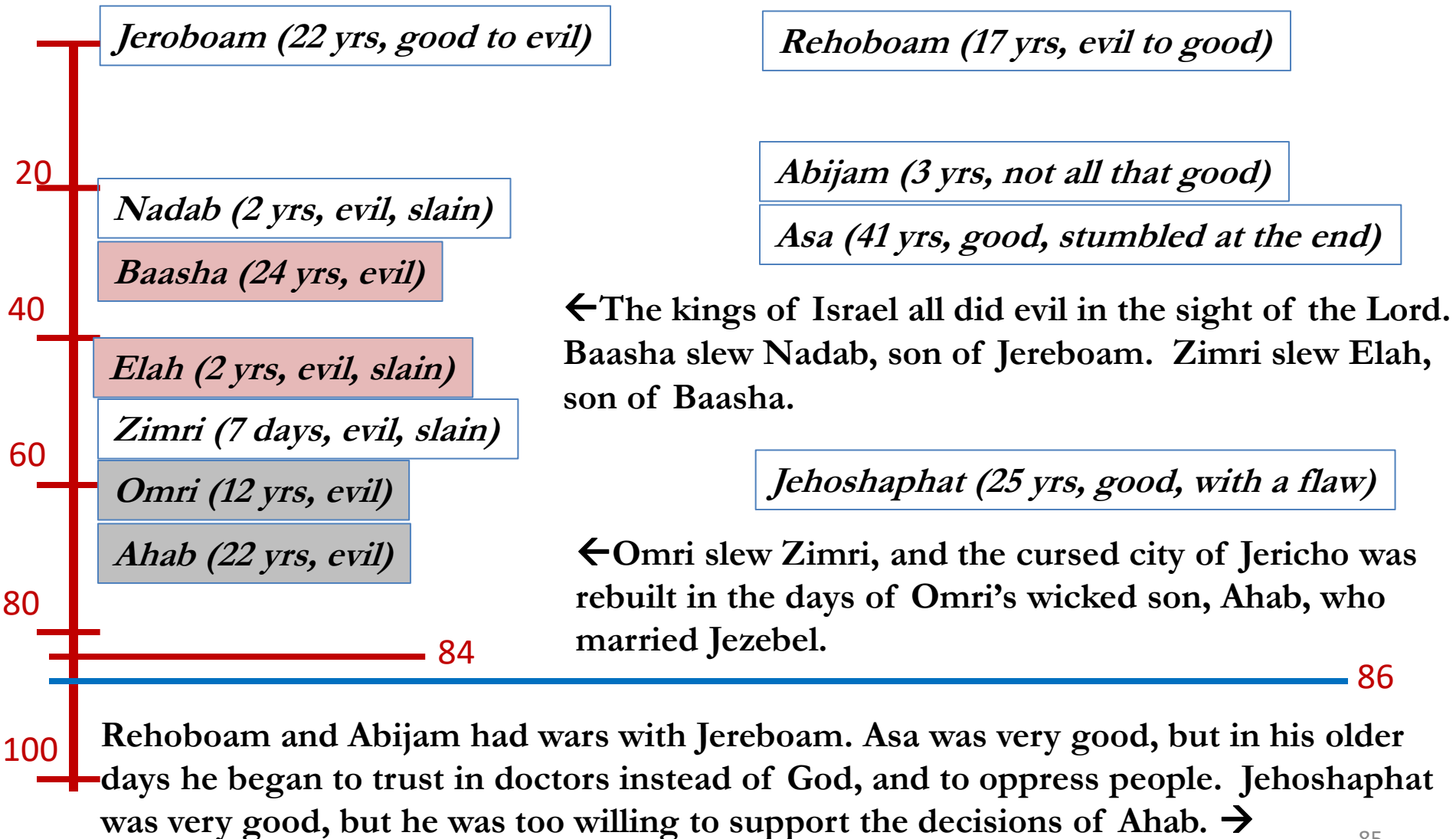
- **In Judah**, King Rehoboam did not follow the Lord well.
- The people practiced idolatry and homosexuality.
- Shishak, the king of Egypt, invaded Judah.
- Shishak took away the valuable gold shields which Solomon had made.
- In their place, Rehoboam used brass shields.
- He had the brass shields displayed when he went into the temple, and then had them put away at other times.
- Jeroboam and Rehoboam fought against each other, and Rehoboam reigned 17 years, and then died.



Early Kings of the Divided Nation (chapters 15-16)

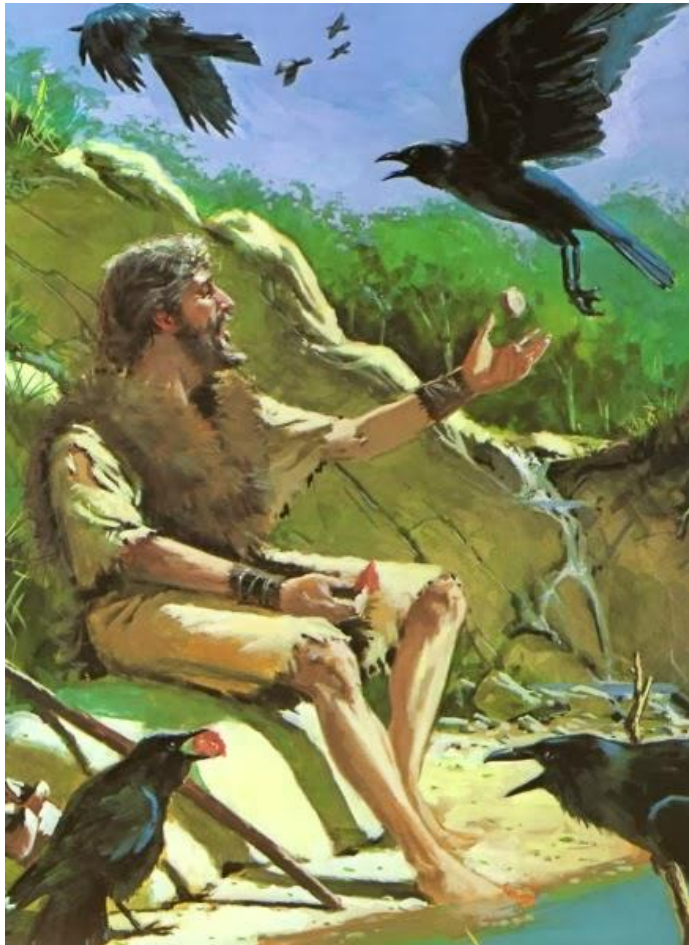
ISRAEL, 10 NORTHERN TRIBES

JUDAH, THE HOUSE OF DAVID



Elijah Begins to Prophecy (chapter 17)

- Elijah appeared before King Ahab, and declared there would be no rain in Israel, but by his word. The drought lasted three years.
- God led Elijah to the brook of Cherith, where he could drink, and ravens brought him bread and meat a couple of times per day. Ahab searched for Elijah.
- When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to Zarephath (or Sarepta), a city of Zidon, to the house of a widow raising a young son.



- Elijah asked her for some water and for a little food.
- She said that all she had was a little of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a bottle, and she was going to cook that for herself and her son before they died of starvation.
- Elijah told her to make him a little cake first, and then that God would refill the barrel and bottle until the drought ended in Israel.
- She obeyed, and God kept his promise.
- During this time, the widow's son died. She grieved, and thought God was using Elijah to manifest her sins.
- Elijah stretched himself over the child's body, and prayed, and God brought the boy back to life.
- The widow then stated that now she knew that Elijah was God's servant, and that his message was truth.

Elijah Confronts Ahab (chapter 18)

- After 3 years of drought, God told Elijah to meet Ahab.
- Elijah first encountered Ahab's steward, Obadiah, who was a faithful and good man, and who was afraid that Elijah would again disappear.
- Elijah told him to not fear, but to have Ahab assemble the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel.
- Ahab gathered 400 prophets.
- Elijah proposed that the men of Baal prepare a bullock upon their altar, and he would prepare one for the Lord, and the god that answered by fire should be worshipped.
- The people, and the men of Baal, agreed to this trial, and the men of Baal went first.
- They sacrificed, and cried, and leapt about, and cut themselves, but nothing happened.
- About 3 pm, Elijah repaired the altar of God, and doused it with water, and called to God.
- God sent fire to consume the bullock, the water, and the stones. The people praised God.
- Elijah instructed them to kill the prophets of Baal, which they did. He waited until he saw a small cloud rise out of the sea, and then bade Ahab hurry into town to beat the rain.
- Ahab rode his chariot, and Elijah outran the chariot into Jezreel.



Syria Attacks Israel and Ahab (chapter 20)



- Benhadad, the king of Syria, asked tribute of Ahab, who agreed to pay.
- Later, Benhadad said he would send his servant to just take things.
- Ahab objected to this, and the leaders of Israel told him to refuse Benhadad.
- Benhadad marched into Israel with a huge army, confident of victory.
- God sent a prophet to Ahab to say God would give him victory for God's glory.

- Ahab sent the princes of Israel forth with a very small army of only 7,000 men.
- Benhadad was drinking in his tent, and instructed his officers to take the men prisoners.
- The princes of Israel began fighting and won a great victory, forcing Benhadad to flee.
- The prophet warned Ahab that the Syrians would return, for Syrians claimed that the God of Israel was only the god of the hills, and not the god of the plains or the valleys.
- Benhadad came back with an army just as great, led by more seasoned warriors.
- Again, God gave Israel a great victory with a very small army, and Benhadad went into hiding, and eventually came out to plead for mercy from Ahab.
- Although God had appointed the destruction of Benhadad, Ahab gave him extravagant mercy, calling him brother and granting him overly lenient terms.
- God sent a prophet to Ahab to tell him that he and Israel would suffer because of Ahab's generosity to Benhadad.

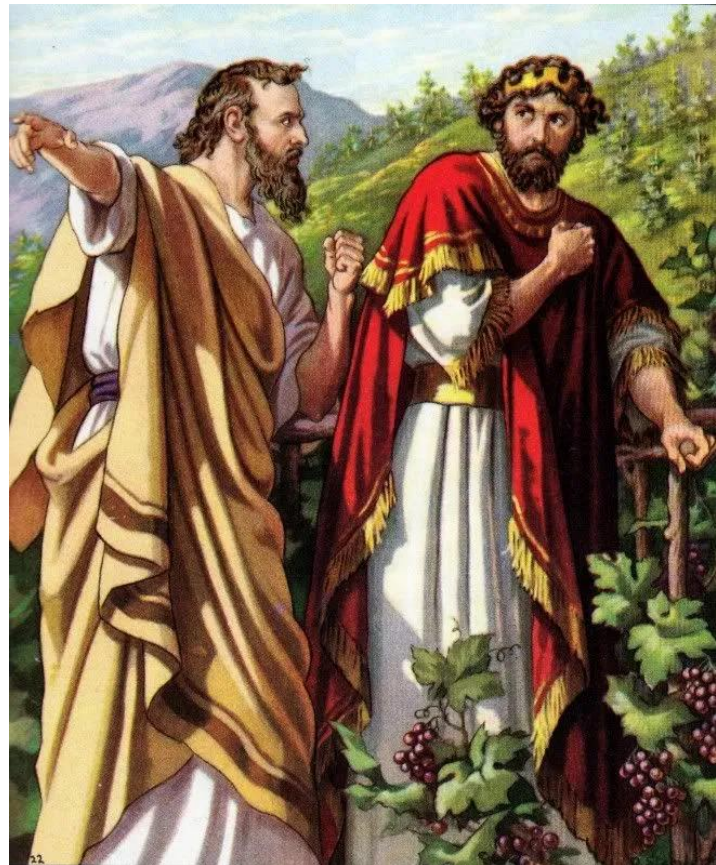
Elijah's Time of Weakness (chapter 19)

- When Jezebel heard that the prophets of Baal were dead, she threatened to kill Elijah.
- Elijah ran out of Israel, through Judah, and into the wilderness. He lay down under a juniper tree, and wished for death, saying he was no better than his fathers.
- An angel of God woke him, and twice refreshed him with a bottle of water and a baked loaf of bread, saying the journey was too much for him. Elijah then traveled 40 days on those meals until he came to Mt. Horeb (or Mt. Sinai) and went into a cave.
- God smote the mountain with a fierce wind, then an earthquake, and then a fire.
- Then God spoke in a still, small voice to Elijah, who went forth to speak unto the Lord.
- He told God that he was the only faithful one left, and that even he was in danger.
- God said he had 7,000 who were still faithful in Israel, and that Elijah was to anoint Jehu to rule over Israel, Hazael to rule over Syria, and Elisha to follow him as prophet.
- Elijah came off the mountain, and went to find Elisha, who was plowing with twelve oxen.
- Elijah cast his mantle around Elisha.
- Elisha killed his oxen, cooked them to feed the people in his town, kissed his mother and father, and followed Elijah to be his servant, and then to serve God as his prophet.



Jezebel Takes Naboth's Vineyard (chapter 21)

- Naboth was a man of Jezreel who owned a vineyard which adjoined Ahab's palace.
- Ahab desired this vineyard to make an herb garden, and offered to trade another vineyard to Naboth, or to purchase this vineyard for money.
- Naboth said he would not consider a sale, for this vineyard was part of his inheritance.
- Because Ahab did not get what he wanted, he went about sad and depressed.
- Jezebel asked him why he was sad, and why he would not even eat, and he told her.



- She was surprised he would not use his royal power to take the vineyard, and said she would act.
- Jezebel wrote letters in the king's name for the leaders of the city to proclaim a fast, and to place Naboth in a place of honor. She also commanded two wicked men to publicly accuse him of blasphemy against God and king.
- They did this, and the people stoned Naboth.
- Jezebel told Ahab to possess the vineyard, and he did.
- God commanded Elijah to confront Ahab in the vineyard, and declare against his wrong, and predict that the dogs would lick Ahab's blood in this vineyard, and that the dogs would eat Jezebel by the city walls.
- Ahab fasted, and put on sackcloth, and humbled himself, so God delayed the judgment upon him.
- God said he would visit the judgment on Ahab's family after Ahab's death.

Ahab and Israel Attack Syria (chapter 22)

- Jehoshaphat, the good king of Judah, came to visit Ahab, and they sat in state.
- Ahab requested help from Judah to attack Syria and take Ramoth-Gilead, and Jehoshaphat agreed.
- Many false prophets foretold Ahab's success, but Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet of the Lord.
- They called Micaiah, and told him to prophesy good. He did so, sarcastically at first, but the king told him to speak the word of the Lord, and Micaiah told him he would lose and die, and that all the other prophets were lying.
- Micaiah was struck in the face, and sent to prison, and the kings went to battle.
- Ahab disguised himself, but asked Jehoshaphat to enter battle wearing his royal robes.
- At first, the Syrians came after Jehoshaphat, who called upon God, and they turned away.
- A soldier drew a bow just to try to hit someone, and it hit the disguised Ahab.
- Ahab stayed alive and up in his chariot until sundown, and then died. The battle ended.
- Ahab's men chose to clean up his bloody chariot in Naboth's vineyard, and the dogs lapped up the bloody water there in the vineyard.
- Ahab's son, Ahaziah, stepped up to rule after Ahab, but he too was wicked.

