

THE ISRAELITE KINGDOMS

I. THE ISRAELITE UNITED MONARCHY

II. DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

A. Conference held at **Shechem**

B. Characteristics of the two kingdoms

1. **Judah**

- a. Smaller, poorer
- b. More homogenous population
- c. Isolated from outside forces
- d. Stable dynastic tradition (Davidic line)
- e. Held Jerusalem and the temple complex

2. **Israel**

- a. Larger, wealthier
- b. Mixed population (ethnically and therefore religiously)
- c. More exposed to outside forces
- d. Had many unstable dynasties

C. Events in the early years of the divided monarchy

1. Jeroboam's **Golden Calves** at **Dan** and **Bethel** (1 Ki 12:26-13:34)
→ On borders; a syncretistic worship of the Lord
2. Invasion of Egyptian pharaoh **Shishak** (Shoshenq) in 918 BC
(1 Ki 14:25-28; 2 Ch 12:1-2; inscriptions at Karnak)
3. Border conflicts between Israel and Judah (1 Ki 15)

III. THE DYNASTY OF OMRI IN ISRAEL (c. 878-842 BC)

A. **Omri** seized throne from Zimri who had killed Elah (1 Ki 16:8-20)

1. Omri moved the capital from Tirzah to **Samaria** (1 Ki 16:21-28)
2. Politically strong
 - a. Moab regained as a vassal by Omri (lost by Ahab)
 - b. Alliances with Tyre (Jezebel married to Ahab) and Judah

B. **Ahab**: Omri's son (1 Ki 16:29-34)

1. Married to **Jezebel**, daughter of Ethbaal king of Tyre (16:31): promoted Tyrian **Baal** Melqart
2. Ahab built a sanctuary of Baal in Samaria (16:31-33)
3. Ahab & Naboth's vineyard; Elijah's rebuke & prophecy (1 Ki 21)

C. **9th Century prophets** in Israel

1. **Elijah** vs. prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Ki 17-19)
2. **Elisha**: anoints Jehu (Israel) & Hazael (Damascus) (2 Ki 8-9)

D. **Aramean Crisis**: conflict with Aram-Damascus over trade route in Transjordan

1. Arameans: Semitic tribes settled throughout Fertile Crescent
2. Locally: city state **Aram-Damascus** (= "**Syria**" in LXX & some English Bibles)
3. Syrians temporarily defeated by Ahab (1 Ki 20:1-21; 20:26-34)

- E. Ahab and Aram-Damascus made an alliance to face an Assyrian threat
 1. **Assyria**: warlike superpower empire based in N. Mesopotamia (Iraq)
 2. The **Battle of Qarqar**, 853 BC (*CBA*, map 127)
 - a. Assyrian king **Shalmaneser III** met a coalition of kings
 - b. Assyrian records mention coalition of Ahab & Ben-hadad
 - c. Temporarily halted Assyrian advance in North Syria
 - d. Not mentioned in the Bible, except a hint in 1 Ki 22:1
- F. Hostilities renewed between Israel and Aram-Damascus
 1. Involves **Jehoshaphat**: righteous king of **Judah** (2 Ch 17-20)
 2. Ahab killed in battle at Ramoth-gilead (1 Ki 22; 2 Ch 18)
- G. Rebellions by subject (vassal) kingdoms in the Transjordan (*CBA*, maps 128-30)
 1. **Mesha**, king of **Moab** rebels from Israel (2 Ki 1:1; 3:4-27); **Moabite Stone** (Mesha Stele) = his version
 2. **Edom** revolts from Judah (2 Ki 8:20-22)

IV. THE DYNASTY OF JEHU AND FALL OF ISRAEL

- A. **Jehu** establishes new dynasty (2 Ki 9-10; *CBA*, map 131)
Omride Royal family, Jezebel, & Ahaziah of Judah killed—Phoenician, Judean ties lost
- B. Israel enters a period of weakness
 1. 841 BC: Jehu paid tribute to Shalmaneser III of Assyria (*CBA*, map 132)
 2. oppressed by **Hazael** and **Ben-Hadad** of Aram-Damascus (2 Ki 8:7-15; 10:32-33; 13:3-5; *CBA*, map 133)
 3. “The Lord gave Israel a savior . . .” (2 Ki 13:5): = Assyrian **Adad-nirari III** vs. Damascus (*CBA*, map 136)
- C. The “Golden Age” of Israel and Judah
 1. Assyria, Aram-Damascus preoccupied by war; trade from King’s Highway increased income
 2. 1st half of 8th c. -- very prosperous for Israel and Judah (*CBA*, map 142)
 - a. Israel under **Jeroboam II** (2 Ki 13:10-14:29)
 - b. Judah under **Uzziah** (2 Ki 14:1-15:7)
 3. Ended with renewed Assyrian power
 - a. Under King **Tiglath-pileser III (Pul)**; 745-727 BC)
 - b. Damascus, Israel, Judah became vassals of Assyria (2 Ki 15:17-22)
- D. The **Syro-Ephraimite War** and its aftermath (2 Ki 16; 2 Ch 28)
 1. **735 BC**: Aram Damascus & Israel attack Jerusalem to force Ahaz of Judah into anti-Assyrian coalition; Philistines and Edom make advances (2 Ki 16:5-6; *CBA*, maps 144-45)
 2. **Isaiah** (Is 7-8): trust God
 3. Ahaz instead calls on Assyria for aid (2 Ki 16:7-8; 2 Ch 28:16-20)
 4. Tiglath-pileser III campaigns to area (Assyrian annals; *CBA*, map 146)
 - a. 734: against coastal plains; Philistia
 - b. 733: Israel reduced to Samaria and surroundings
 - c. 732: Damascus destroyed (2 Ki 16:9)
 5. Results: Ahaz (Judah) becomes Assyrian vassal (2 Ki 16:10-18)
- E. Fall of Samaria and the Northern kingdom of Israel (2 Ki 17)
 1. Tiglath-pileser III dies in 727; Israel revolts
 2. Shalmaneser V besieges Samaria 3 years, dies (*CBA*, map 149)
 3. **722/1 BC**: Samaria falls; Sargon II deports population (*CBA*, map 150)

V. JUDAH AND ASSYRIA (722-612 BC)

A. Hezekiah (715-686 BC) and the Invasion of Sennacherib

1. Hezekiah's cultic reforms (2 Ki 18:1-8; 2 Ch 29-31)
 - a. Initiates cultic reforms: limited sacrifice to Jerusalem
 - b. **High Places** (cult centers) outside Jerusalem remained
2. Hezekiah desired to rebel from Assyrian domination
 - a. Warned against joining Ashdod rebellion by Isaiah (Is 20); rebellion crushed by Sargon of Assyria (714)
 - b. Revolts at Sargon's death (705) against Isaiah's advice
3. Sennacherib ascends Assyrian throne amid major revolts
4. Hezekiah prepared for invasion (Jerusalem tunnel; fortifications) (2 Ki 20:20; Is 22:8-11; Siloam inscription)
5. **701 BC** - invasion of Sennacherib (2 Ki 18:13-19:37; 2 Ch 32:1-23; Is 36-37; Assyrian texts)
 - a. Sennacherib defeats Egyptian army; ravages Judah
 - b. 46 fortified cities taken (Assyrian texts; 2 Ki 18:13-14a; Is 36:1; 2 Ch 32:1; Micah 1:8-16)
 - c. Jerusalem spared, but Hezekiah pays heavy tribute
 - d. Miraculous deliverance (2 Ki 19:32-37; Is 37:33-38)
6. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery (2 Ki 20:1-11; 2 Ch 32:24)
7. Hezekiah receives an embassy from Babylon (2 Ki 20:12-21)

B. Manasseh (686-642)

1. Bible: most evil king of Judah
2. Loyal vassal to Essarhaddon, Assurbanipal of Assyria

VI. JOSIAH'S REFORMS

A. Josiah (640-609 BC)

1. Religious reforms
 - a. Book of the Law found in the temple (2 Ki 22)
 - b. Removed high places outside of Jerusalem (2 Ki 23:4-20)
 - 1) High places destroyed
 - 2) Priests of high places deposed
 - c. Passover kept (2 Ki 23:21-23)
 - d. Mediums and wizards "put away" (2 Ki 23:24-26)
2. Territorial advances
3. Bible: the most righteous king since David

B. The Rise of Babylon (Neo-Babylonian Empire)

1. Babylon moves to claim territory formerly held by Assyria
2. Egypt tries to reestablish supremacy in the Near East
3. **609 BC: Josiah killed at Megiddo** trying to stop Necho II of Egypt (2 Ki 23:29-30; 2 Ch 35:20-27)
 - a. **Necho** going to N. Syria to oppose the Babylonian advance
 - b. Defeated and returning home to Egypt, Necho deposes Jehoahaz; replaces him with **Jehoiakim**, who rules as an Egyptian vassal (2 Ki 23:30-35; 2 Ch 36:1-4)
4. **605 BC: Battle of Carchemish** (Jer 46:2-12)
 - a. Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar soundly defeats Egyptians
 - b. Nabopolassar dies; **Nebuchadnezzar** (crown prince and general of army) went back to Babylon to claim his throne
 - c. Jehoiakim of Judah becomes a Babylonian vassal (2 Ki 24:1)

VII. THE BABYLONIAN CRISIS: LAST DAYS OF JUDAH (612-587 BC)

- A. **Jehoiakim** rebels against Babylon (c. 601 BC; 2 Ki 24:1)
 - 1. Relied on Egyptian help (2 Ki 24:7)
 - 2. Local Babylonian vassals harass Judah (2 Ki 24:2)
 - 3. Babylon invades (Dec. 598 BC)
 - 4. Jehoiakim dies, succeeded by **Jehoiachin** (2 Ki 24:6-10)
 - 5. 16 March **597 BC**: Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem
 - a. **Jehoiachin** surrenders city (2 Ki 24:10-16; 2 Ch 36:9-10)
 - b. 1st deportation (upper class) to Babylon (2 Ki 24:14-16)
 - c. **Zedekiah** placed on throne (2 Ki 24:17; 2 Ch 36:10)

- B. Destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
 - 1. **Zedekiah rebels** against Babylon c. 589 BC (2 Ki 24:18-20)
 - 2. **Jeremiah opposed the rebellion** (2 Ch 36:12)
 - 3. Judah ravaged (Lachish letters); Jerusalem besieged
 - 4. **587/586 BC: Fall of Jerusalem / Destruction of the temple** (2 Ki 25:3-10)
 - a. Zedekiah and the army fled the city; captured in Jericho
 - b. Jerusalem and the temple systematically looted, burned
 - 5. 2nd deportation in 586 BC (2 Ki 25:11-21; Jer 52:15-30)

- C. **Gedaliah** governed from Mizpah (2 Ki 25:22-26)
 - 1. Gedaliah assassinated by Ishmael (2 Ki 25:25; Jer 40-41)
 - 2. many Jews fled to Egypt (2 Ki 25:26; Jer 41:17-43:7)
 - 3. 3rd deportation in 582 BC