

THE DIVIDED MONARCHY

I. SOURCES FOR STUDY OF THE DIVIDED MONARCHY

- A. 1 & 2 Ki: History of both kingdoms from a theological perspective
- B. 1 & 2 Ch: Judean history from a Levitical perspective
- C. The writing prophets (prophetic books)
- D. Egyptian, Assyrian, and Babylonian records; archaeology

II. SPLIT OF THE KINGDOM

- A. Conference held at **Shechem**
 - 1. Rehoboam: continuation of Solomon's policy
 - 2. Northern tribes broke away as kingdom of Israel (Northern kingdom)
 - a. Jeroboam elected king of Israel (1 Ki 12:20-33)
 - b. Capital at Shechem; moved to Tirzah
 - 3. Rehoboam remained king of Judah (Southern kingdom [Judah, Simeon])
- 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** (Shosheng) 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)

- * Jezebel promoted worship of Tyrian **Baal** Melqart
 - 2. Ahab built a sanctuary of Tyrian Baal in Samaria (16:31-33)
 - 3. Ahab & Naboth's vineyard; Elijah's rebuke & prophecy (1 Ki 21)
- C. **9th Century prophets** dealt with Baal crisis 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
- 1. Arameans: Semitic tribes settled throughout Fertile Crescent
 - 2. Locally: city state **Aram-Damascus** = **Syria** in most 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
 - 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 kingdoms in the Transjordan
- 1. **Moab** rebels against Israel
 - a. **Mesha**: king of Moab (2 Ki 1:1; 3:4-27)
 - b. His version found in **Moabite Stone** (Mesha Stele)
 - 2. **Edom** revolts from Judah (2 Ki 8:20-22)

IV. THE DYNASTY OF JEHU IN ISRAEL

- A. **Jehu** establishes new dynasty in Israel
- 1. Royal family and Jezebel killed -- Phoenician ties lost
 - 2. Ahaziah of Judah killed -- Judean alliance (military) destroyed
- B. Israel enters a period of weakness
- 1. 841 BC: Jehu paid tribute to Shalmaneser III of Assyria
 - 2. Aram-Damascus oppresses Israel (2 Ki 8:7-15; 10:32-33; 13:3-5)
 - a. **Hazael** anointed king of Damascus by Elisha
 - b. Israel comes under Syrian domination; loses territory
 - 3. "The Lord gave Israel a savior . . ." (2 Ki 13:5)
 - a. Brief resurgence of Assyria under Adad-nirari III
 - b. Adad-nirari III conquered Damascus & required heavy tribute
- C. The "Golden Age" of Israel and Judah
- 1. Assyria, Aram-Damascus preoccupied by war
 - a. Israel regained territory from Aram
 - b. Trade from King's Highway increased income
 - 2. 1st half of 8th c. -- very prosperous for Israel and Judah
 - 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)

V. INTRODUCTION TO PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

- A. Prophet = “One who speaks for God and interprets his will to man”
- B. Characteristics
 1. Ecstasy
 2. A “Call”
 3. Character: total commitment to the Lord
- C. Frequently involved in political dealings
- D. Prophecy
 1. Pronouncements for present situation, “forthtelling”
 2. Pronouncements for the future, “foretelling”

VI. THE EIGHTH CENTURY PROPHETS IN ISRAEL

- A. **Amos**
 1. **8th cent BC**: Assyrian crisis
 2. Setting: the Northern nation of **Israel**
 3. Amos is a layman (7:14) of Tekoa in Judah
 - a. Delivers his message at sanctuary in Bethel (4:4)
 - b. Opposed by Amaziah, priest of Bethel (7:12-13)
 4. Denounces social evils; oppression of the poor (5:10-12)
 - a. Rich had multiple, expensive homes of ivory (3:15; 6:1)
 - b. “Cows of Bashan” in Samaria (4:1): wealthy women in luxury
 5. Jeroboam will die, Israel will be exiled (7:11)
- B. **Hosea**
 1. **8th cent BC**: Assyrian crisis, Northern nation of **Israel**
 2. Hosea’s marriage (1-3) depicts Israel as faithless wife
 - a. Marries **Gomer**, who leaves to become a temple prostitute
 - b. Hosea goes and buys her back: God will buy back Israel
 3. Emphases of Hosea’s message (4-14):
 - a. Knowledge of God (4:1f, 6; 5:4; 6:6)
 - b. Ingratitude (13:4-8)
 - c. Futility of mere religion (10:1; 13:2)
 - d. God’s changeless compassion (11:1-6)

VII. THE EIGHTH CENTURY PROPHETS IN JUDAH

- A. **Isaiah** (Introduction)
 1. Setting
 - a. **8th cent BC**: “The year King Uzziah died” (Is 6:1) = 740 BC
 - b. Southern kingdom of **Judah**; the Assyrian crisis
 2. Isaiah a Judean; possibly royal blood; had easy access to king

3. The book: 2 main sections
 - a. Judgment (1-39)
 - b. Comfort (40-66)
4. Critical issues: Deutero and Trito Isaiah; Ch 40-66; Cyrus (44:28)
5. Message
 - a. **Trust God, not man's devices** (see historical situations below)
 - b. The servant songs
 - 1) Is 42:1-4: the nation Israel
 - 2) Is 49:1-6 (cf. 49:14)
 - 3) Is 50:4-11
 - 4) Is 52:13-53:12: the suffering servant

B. Micah

1. Setting (see Isaiah)
 - a. **8th cent BC**; Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah (Mic 1:1) = ca. 735-700 BC
 - b. Southern kingdom of **Judah** (of Moresheth-Gath [Mic 1:14])
 - c. During Assyrian invasions (Mic 5:5f)
2. The prophet
 - a. A younger contemporary of Isaiah
 - b. Peasant farmer; not professional prophet (Mic 3:5, 11)
3. Message
 - a. Doom (1:2-2:11; 3; 6:1-7:7)
 - b. Hope (2:12-13; 4:1-5:15; 7:8-20)
 - 1) The Messianic kingdom (4)
 - 2) The Messianic king (5:1-15): born in Bethlehem (5:2)

VIII. THE ASSYRIAN CRISIS: THE FALL OF ISRAEL (735-722 BC)

- A. 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 to join revolt against Assyria (2 Ki 16:5-6)
 2. **Isaiah's Message to Ahaz** (Is 7-8): trust God
 - a. Isaiah's signs: his sons
 - b. Emmanuel: immediate and future (Messianic) fulfillments
 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 (2 Ki 16:9)
 - a. 734: against coastal plains; Philistia
 - b. 733: Israel reduced to Samaria and surroundings
 - c. 732: Damascus destroyed
 5. Results: Ahaz (Judah) becomes Assyrian vassal (2 Ki 16:10-18)
- B. 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
 3. **722 BC**: Samaria falls; Sargon II deports people