

ISAIAH

Week 1: The Prequel – Kings Pre-Isaiah

Winter 2023 w/Wednesday Night Crew

The Split Kingdom – Northern (Israel) & Southern (Judah)



After Solomon's death, his son [Rehoboam](#) was set to become the next king. Jeroboam returned from Egypt and led a group of people to confront Rehoboam with a demand for a lighter tax burden. When Rehoboam refused the demand, ten of the tribes rejected Rehoboam and David's dynasty ([1 Kings 12:16](#)). Only Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam. The northern tribes crowned Jeroboam as their king. Rehoboam made plans to mount an assault on the rebel tribes, but the Lord prevented him from taking that action (vv. 21-24).

- Confused me – Israel is the northern kingdom
- Judah is the southern -but Jerusalem is not in Israel

We will be mainly talking about the Southern Kingdom – the Kingdom of Judah & its rulers

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The Kingdom of Judah

The southern kingdom of Judah arose after the division of the United Monarchy of Israel. It extended over the tribal allotments of Judah, Benjamin, and Simeon. The kingdom existed from 928 until the destruction of the First Temple (in 587). During this period, it was ruled by 20 kings, 19 of them from the House of David. The kingdom of Judah conducted continuous wars with the kingdom of Israel and sometimes even called for the help of foreign states. In general, it lost on the battlefield and, in the days of Amaziah, it even became a subject-nation of Israel. In the days of Jehoshaphat, Jehoram and Ahaziah, a covenant was made between the two brethren kingdoms. Judah reached the height of its greatness in the days of Uzziah, who built roads to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and fortified the land. In 722, Samaria fell to Assyria, marking the end of the kingdom of Israel. Judah too became a subject-nation of Assyria in the days of Ahaz, but rebelled against it in the days of Hezekiah. King Josiah, taking advantage of Assyria's decline in the days of Sennacherib, succeeded in expanding his kingdom northward and possibly even westward. During his rebellion Jerusalem was captured. Jehoiachin was exiled, and Zedekiah was crowned king. Zedekiah also rebelled and in suppressing the revolt, the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple and exiled thousands to Babylonia. The history of the kingdom of Judah is recounted in the Book of Kings and in II Chronicles.

There were 20 kings of Judah, all of whom belonged to a single dynasty—the House of David—with the exception of Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab, king of Israel, who married Jehoram, king of Judah, and seized the throne after the death of his son Ahaziah.

We will be discussing the 8 before the time of Isaiah – a prequel...

The kings in the line of David - Both Rehoboam and Abijah were appointed by God in order to fulfill His promise to David that his line would continue to rule in Jerusalem (1 Kgs 15:4). According to Kaiser, "This is because the promise made to David was based on an unconditional covenant and was unilateral; it did not depend on how faithfully the house of David lived their lives" (Kaiser, *A History of Israel*, 309). The blessing applied to Abijah's reign was, therefore, the result of God's grace and covenant, not the merit of the king himself (House, *1, 2 Kings*, 196).

In contrast to the kings of Israel, who tended to reign in short dynasties punctuated by bloody coups, the kings of Judah were usually succeeded by their sons. Fathers often shared the throne as coregents with their heirs.

Discussion of the kings – see Printed Chart

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The Kings of Judah

The Kings Before Isaiah

The Kings after Isaiah

928–911	Rehoboam	799–786	Amaziah
911–908	Abijah/Abijam	786–758	Uzziah
908–867	Asa	758–742	Jotham
867–851	Jehoshaphat	742–726	Ahaz
851–843	Jehoram/Joram	726–697	Hezekiah
843–842	Ahaziah/Jehoahaz	697–642	Manasseh
842–836	Athaliah	642–640	Amon
836–799	Joash/Jehoash	640–609	Josiah
		609–608	Jehoahaz
		608–597	Jehoiakim/Eliakim
		597	Jehoiachin
		597–587	Zedekiah

Conclusion:

So... the kings – some were good... some were bad... some were both...

What were their motivations?

What does that matter to us?

What is the purpose of knowing this?

Is it just information? Does it impact our lives? How?

What are our motivations? Where will that lead us?

Finishing well...

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Phil 1:3-6

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Col 1:9-14

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and ^[c]conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption ^[d]through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Gal 6:7-9

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Heb 12:1-3

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the ^[a]author and ^[b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

2 Tim 4:1-8

I charge *you* ^[a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ^[b]at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Paul's Valedictory

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.