

Lesson #18

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read

BACKGROUND (see Lesson #15)

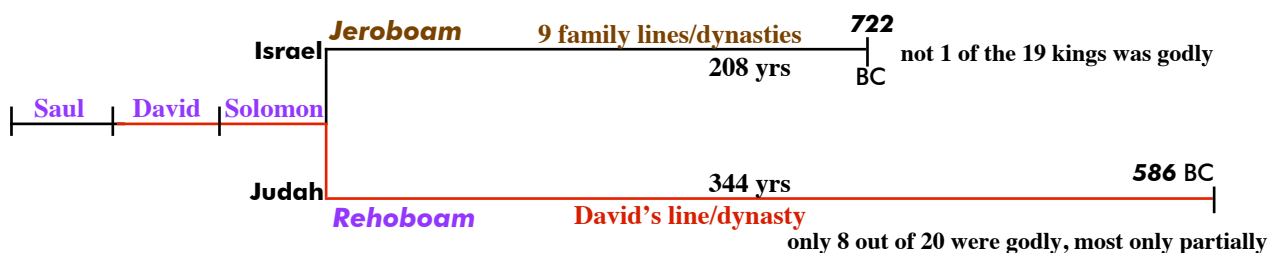
OUTLINE

- I. The reign of Solomon 1 - 11
- II. The division of the kingdom 12 - 16
- III. The ministry of Elijah 17 - 22

CHART OF KINGS and PROPHETS

These are approximate dates - they will vary according to the chronology and scholars that are followed.

Kings of Israel 930 - 722 BC			Prophets		Kings of Judah 930 - 586 BC		
name	date	yrs. ruled			name	date	yrs. ruled
Jeroboam	930-910	22			Rehoboam	930-913	16
Nadab	910-909	1			Abijam	913-911	3
Baasha	909-886	24			Asa	911-870	41
Elah	886-885	2			Jehoshaphat	870-852	25*
Zimri	885	7 days			Jehoram	852-841	8
Omri	885-874	12			Ahaziah	841	1
Ahab	874-853	22	Elijah	873-852	Athaliah	841-835	7
Ahaziah	853-852	2			Joash/Jehoash	835-796	40
Jehoram	852-841	12	Elisha	862-798	Amaziah	796-781	29*
Jehu	841-814	28			Uzziah/Azariah	781-740	52*
Jehoahaz	814-798	17			Jotham	740-736	16*
Jehoash	798-783	16	Jonah	790-755	Ahaz	736-726	16*
Jeroboam II	783-743	41	Amos	773-745	Hezekiah	726-697	29*
Zechariah	743	6 mo	Hosea	745-722	Manasseh	697-642	55
Shallum	743	1 mo			Amon	642-640	2
Menahem	743-738	10 ?			Josiah	640-609	31
Pekahiah	738-737	2			Jehoahaz	609	3 mo
Pekah	737-730	20*			Jehoiakim	609-598	11
Hoshea	730-722	9			Jehoiachin	598	3 mo
					Zedekiah	598-586	11
? - no explanation for difference in dates					kings in red were godly, tho usually only partially		
* - includes yrs. he claimed as king in Gilead					* - includes the yrs. they served as co-regent with their father		
— - marks the end of a dynasty (family line)							



EXPLANATIONS

The Division of the Kingdom – 930 BC Judah's capital is Jerusalem; Israel's capital in the north is Samaria



Scorpions were a type of whip that caused more pain and physical suffering than normal whips.

The ways of Jeroboam refer to the counterfeit religion that he created.

- Golden calves in place of the temple.
- Men chosen as priests in place of those from the tribe of Levi.
- A new holy day in place of the ones created by God.

Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon and priestess for Baal-Melqart, the pagan god of fire and fertility (rain). Her father sent her to Israel to marry the son (Ahab) of Israel's king to confirm a military agreement. When Ahab became king and she became queen in Israel, she made Baal-worship, the religion of Israel.

Elijah's proclamation *there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word* 17:1 cf. James 5:17 In Deuteronomy, God said He would withhold rain if Israel went into idolatry. When Israel became guilty, Elijah prayed that God would withhold rain and believed God would do it.

Elijah's use of water: Even tho there was a drought, Elijah had access to the natural springs at Mt. Carmel. 18:33-35 It was considered a special dwelling place of the gods, so the water was for religious use only.

APPLICATION: Lessons from Jewish history**Solomon's idolatry is a reason for his son's bad choices**

Disobedience can have lasting consequences for others even after we have been completely forgiven.

Elijah looking for the widow who was to help him

If we are unsure of God's exact direction, we should do the most obvious with the opportunity in front of us.

The prophets of Baal

Sincerity does not guarantee truth. A person can be totally sincere and be sincerely wrong.

Elijah's experience with Ahab and Jezebel

When a nation's sin becomes greater, God's grace becomes more greatly evident.

Just because people have right knowledge and facts does not guarantee they will make right choices.

God will not over-ride people's free will. He will show them their choices and consequences and give them a desire for His way. Then He lets each person accept or reject that information.

We can use energy to focus on changing our nation and laws, but when the majority reject God's ways, it is time for us to change our energy and focus. God wants to use us to reach individuals who are open and searching.

We can spend so much effort, concern and tears over a person or situation. If we have done all we can and there still is no change, we must be willing to let go. God will now handle it. We need to separate ourselves to focus on new responsibilities or ministry. When others refuse to respond, we should never let *their* choice keep *us* from being responsive to God. As long as we have life, there are ways He is still able to use us.

