

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Week 16

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - What happened to the northern kingdom of Israel and why?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

Review of Last Week - *The Crumbling North*

How did Solomon's unfaithfulness lead to a split kingdom? = Foreign wives & gods

How did Jeroboam learn he would become king of Israel? = Prophet Ahijah

Why didn't Rehoboam become king over all of Israel? = Wouldn't lessen load

Why didn't Rehoboam stop the revolution by force? = God said it was His doing

Where did Israel set its political capital? = Shechem, Tirzah, Samaria

Did Jeroboam "walk with the Lord"? = No. Made calves, created festivals, appointed priests

Golden calf on Jeroboam = Jeroboam established religious shrines at Dan & Bethel

How faithful were the other kings of Israel? = Evil in God's eyes like Jeroboam

How was Israel affected by its faithlessness to God? = Exiled & eliminated

Who were the Samaritans and why were they despised? = Aliens imported by Assyria

Dark section of crumbling earth = Age of Civil Strife

Who were Israel's enemies during the first period? = Judah, Syria (Ben-Hadad)

What happened to Jeroboam's dynasty & why? = Eliminated, made other gods

What happened to Baasha's dynasty & why? = Eliminated, evil in God's eyes

What happened to Omri's dynasty & why? = Eliminated. He & son, Ahab, most evil

Volcano on Omri = Israel threatened by Syria in reigns from Baasha to Omri

Snake on Ahab = Baalism cult gained solid foothold during Ahab's reign

Elijah & Elisha banners = Prophets denounce Israel's Baalism

Why are the prophet banners black and white? = Black - doom, White - hope

How did Ahab improve relations with Judah? = Gave Athaliah to Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram

Golden section of crumbling earth = Age of Wealth and Prosperity

Who were Israel's enemies during this period? = Syria (Ben-Hadad, Hazael, Ben-Hadad)

How was Jehu the best of Israel's evil kings? = Purged Baal worship, left calves

How long did Jehu's dynasty remain? = God promised 4 more generations

Amos & Hosea banners = Prophets warn against spiritual laxness during Golden Age

Orange and red section of crumbling earth = Age of Rapid Decline

Erupting volcano on Menahem = Assyria becomes a violent threat to Israel's freedom

Two coins at base of volcano = Israel forced to pay tribute to Assyria

Manuscript peg on Pekah = Pekah aligned himself with Aram (Syria) against Judah & Assyria

Isaiah banner = Isaiah prophesies destruction of northern kingdom

Manuscript peg on Hoshea = Hoshea attempts military alliance with Egypt against Assyria

Dark red color of Hoshea = Full-scale destruction comes to North during Hoshea's reign

Overall portrayal of crumbling kingdom = Assyria destroys Northern Kingdom in 722 BC

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 2

Lesson - The Crumbling South

The Southern Kingdom - Comparisons with North

Geography

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Judah | - | Less fertile, less rain, poorer crops, poorer livestock
Less attractive to outsiders
Only nearby major power was Egypt |
| Israel | - | Center of major trade routes, Attractive to outsiders
More exposed geographically, Influenced by other nations
In line of Assyrian expansion |

Dynasties

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Israel | - | 9 ruling families in its 200 year history
Only 2 families lasted over 2 generations |
| Judah | - | All kings were from David's line
1 Kings 11:34-36 = David always have a lamp in Jerusalem |

Faithfulness to God

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Israel | - | All kings were bad and followed the way of Jeroboam |
| Judah | - | Periodically returned to the Lord |

Eras

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Israel | - | Civil Strife, Wealth & Prosperity, Rapid Decline |
| Judah | - | Same eras as Israel around the same times |

Six Periods of Judah's History

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Civil Strife | Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat |
| Baalism | Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah |
| Golden Age | Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham |
| Decline | Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon |
| Reform | Josiah |
| Destruction | Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah |

Standard Format in 1st & 2nd Kings for Judah

*In the _____ year of _____, king of Israel,
_____, king of Judah, began to reign.*

Details about his age, length of reign, name and queen mother.

His reign is evaluated in relation to that of *David his father*.

*Now the rest of the acts of _____, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?*

A final statement that he slept with his fathers, and that _____ reigned in his stead.

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 3

The Period of Civil Strife

Rehoboam (17 yrs)

Who was Rehoboam and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 14:21-24 = Son of Solomon & Naamah (Ammonite), had other gods

Why didn't Rehoboam fight Jeroboam to recapture the northern ten tribes?

2 Chronicles 11:1-4 = Initially wanted to but was stopped by God

Did the two kingdoms become peaceful neighbors?

1 Kings 14:30 = *There was continual warfare between Rehoboam & Jeroboam*

What was Rehoboam's top project as king of Judah?

2 Chronicles 11:5-12, 22-23 = Built fortified cities for defense & staffed with his family

How did God punish Judah for Rehoboam's unfaithfulness? = Humbled himself so not destroyed

2 Chronicles 12:1-12 = Jerusalem was attacked & raided by Shishak of Egypt

Volcano = Egypt becomes a political threat to the South during Rehoboam

How could Shishak have learned about Judah's weaknesses?

1 Kings 11:40 = Jeroboam had fled from Solomon to Shishak in Egypt

Abijah (3 yrs)

Who was Abijah and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 15:1-3 = Son of Rehoboam & Maacah (Absalom's granddaughter), evil like his father

Were the two kingdoms more friendly during Abijah's reign?

1 Kings 15:6 = *There was war between Rehoboam & Jeroboam throughout Abijah's lifetime*

How did Abijah try to stop Jeroboam from fighting him on Mount Zemaraim?

2 Chronicles 13:3-12 = God is with us, you have rejected Him, you will lose

Was Abijah's warning effective?

2 Chronicles 13:13-19 = J. sent ambush, Abijah attacked & won, took Bethel+ from Israel

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 4

Asa (41 yrs)

Who was Asa and how faithful was his reign? = Abijah's son; Good

2 Chronicles 14:1-5 = Removed altars, high places, sacred stones, Asherah poles

How extensive were the reforms that Asa put into place?

1 Kings 15:11-15; 2 Chronicles 15:8-18 = Even deposed grandma Maacah for Asherah pole

How did God bless Asa for his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 14:9-15 = Was given success over Cushites

2 Chronicles 15:19 = Was given peace on all sides until 35th year

How did Asa respond to Baasha's threat of closing Israel & Judah's border?

2 Chronicles 16:1-6 = Entered treaty with Syria (Ben-Hadad) to fight Israel

How did God respond to Asa looking to Syria for help instead of the Lord?

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 = Continual war returned as a result of not trusting God

Jehoshaphat (25 yrs)

Who was Jehoshaphat and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 17:1-4 = Asa's son, *walked in the ways of his father David*

How did Jehoshaphat further the reforms of his father Asa?

2 Chronicles 17:6-9 = Sent leaders throughout Judah to teach God's Law

2 Chronicles 19:4-11 = Appointed judges and commanded them to be faithful

How did God bless Jehoshaphat for his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 17:5, 10-19 = Was given peace, wealth (tribute from Philistines & Arabs) & power

How did Jehoshaphat end the civil strife with Israel?

2 Chronicles 18:1 = Married son (Jehoram) to Ahab's daughter (Athaliah)

2 Chronicles 18 = Joined Ahab in battle against Aram at Ramoth Gilead

2 Kings 3 = Joined Joram in battle against Moab in the Desert of Edom

How did God feel about Jehoshaphat's alliance with Israel?

2 Chronicles 19:2 = *Should you help the wicked & love those who hate God?*

2 Chronicles 20:35-37 = Fleet of trading ships Jehoshaphat built with Ahaziah were wrecked

Peace flag = Civil war between north & south end during Jehoshaphat

Wedding ring = Peace is brought about by marriage between North & South royalty

Smudge on wedding ring = Marriage brings Baalism to Southern kingdom

How did Jehoshaphat react when he learned of a vast army marching to Judah?

2 Chronicles 20:1-4 = He inquired of God, called a fast for all of Judah

How did God reward Jehoshaphat's and Judah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 20:15-30 = Had Ammonite & Moabite armies kill themselves

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 5

The Period of Baalism

Jehoram (8 yrs)

Who was Jehoram and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 8:16-18 = Jehoshaphat's son, Walked in ways of Israel since married Ahab's daughter

2 Chronicles 21:11 = Built high places in Judah, led Judah astray

Snake = Baalism was embraced during Jehoram, Ahaziah and Athaliah reigns

How did Jehoram show his faithlessness at the beginning of his reign?

2 Chronicles 21:4 = Killed his brothers to protect his throne

How did God punish Jehoram for his faithlessness?

2 Chronicles 21:8-10 = Rebellion from Edom & Libnah

2 Chronicles 21:16-17 = Attacked by Philistines & Arabs; treasures, sons & wives taken

2 Chronicles 21:12-15, 18-19 = Died painfully from bowel disease – Prophesied by Elijah

Ahaziah (1 yr)

Who was Ahaziah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 22:1-2 = Son of Jehoram & Athaliah (daughter of Ahab & Jezebel)

2 Chronicles 22:3-4 = Walked in ways of the house of Ahab, looked to Ahab's house for advice

Why was Ahaziah's reign so short?

2 Chronicles 22:5-9 = Killed by Jehu in purge of Ahab's family (visiting Uncle Joram)

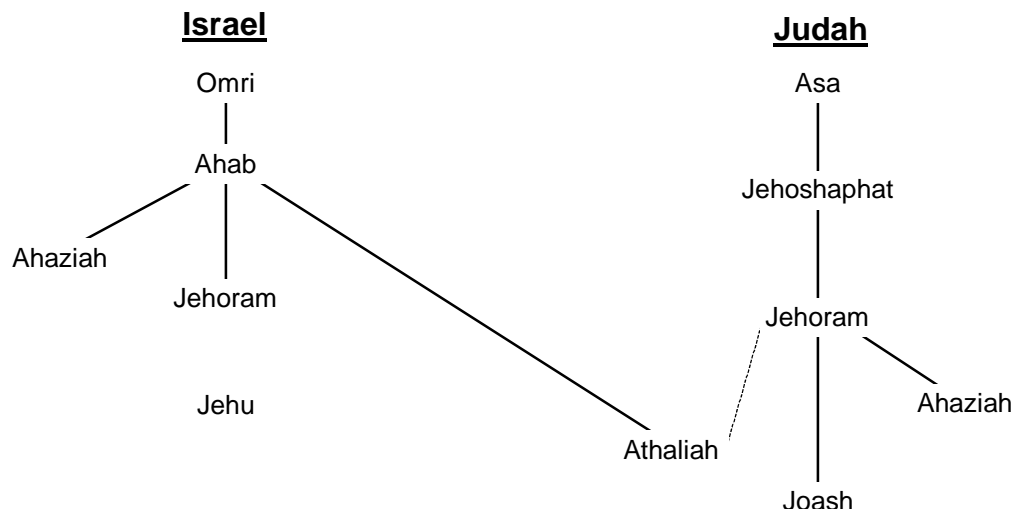
Athaliah (6 yrs)

Who was Athaliah?

2 Chronicles 22:2 = Daughter of Ahab & Jezebel (Israel), Jehoram's wife, Ahaziah's mom

What was Athaliah's top priority when she took rule?

2 Chronicles 22:10 = To purge David's line (killed off Judah's royal family)



Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 6

The Golden Age

Joash (40 yrs)

Who was Joash and how was he saved from Athaliah's purge? = Jehoida was priest

2 Chronicles 22:11-12 = Ahaziah's son, Hidden by Jehosheba (Jehoram's daughter, Jehoida's wife)

How did Joash become king? = Joash was only 7 years old (2 Chronicles 24:1)

2 Chronicles 23 = Put in power by priest Jehoida in coup against Athaliah (Athaliah killed)

How faithful was Joash's reign?

2 Chronicles 24:2 = *Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years of Jehoida*

2 Chronicles 24:4-14 = Repaired the temple with money donated by the people

How faithful did Joash remain after Jehoida died?

2 Chronicles 24:17-22 = Abandoned the Lord & killed Jehoida's son Zechariah

How was Joash punished for his faithlessness?

2 Chronicles 24:23-27 = Defeated by Syrians & assassinated by officials

Amaziah (29 yrs)

Who was Amaziah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 14:1-4 = Joash's son, Did right in God's eyes like Joash, not like David

2 Chronicles 25:3-4 = Executed officials who had assassinated Joash

How did God reward Amaziah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 25:5-12 = Victory over Edom, even without 100K hired Israelites

How did Amaziah lose faith and how was he punished?

2 Chronicles 25:14-28 = Kept Edomite gods, challenged Israel & lost, assassinated by leaders

Uzziah, or Azariah (52 yrs)

Who was Uzziah (also called Azariah) and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 26:3-5 = Amaziah's son, did right like Amaziah, sought God

How did God reward Uzziah's faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 26:6-15 = Victories over Philistines & Arabs, became wealthy, powerful & famous

Golden color = Period of wealth & prosperity reaches peak under Uzziah

Isaiah & Micah banners = Isaiah & Micah prophesied to Judah during Uzziah to Hezekiah

How did Uzziah lose faith and how was he punished?

2 Chronicles 26:16-20 = Became proud, Entered temple to burn incense, Punished with leprosy

How were Uzziah's last years spent?

2 Chronicles 26:21 = Quarantined due to leprosy, Jotham ruled in his stead

Jotham (16 yrs)

Who was Jotham and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 27:1-2 = Uzziah's son, did right like Uzziah

How did God bless Jotham because of his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 27:3-6 = Defeated Ammonites & became powerful

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 7

The Period of Decline

Ahaz (16 yrs)

Who was Ahaz and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 27:9-28:2 = Jotham's son, Walked in ways of Israel, made Baal idols

2 Chronicles 28:3-4 = Sacrificed sons, worshipped Baal at high places & everywhere

2 Kings 16:7-18 = Paid tribute to Assyria, Copied Syrian altar

2 Chronicles 28:22-25 = Worshipped Aram gods, closed temple, set altars at every street corner

How did God punish Ahaz's unfaithfulness?

2 Chronicles 28:5-21 = Heavily defeated by Syria, Israel, Edom, Philistia & Assyria

Manuscript peg = Ahaz formed alliance with Assyria to ward off threats from Syria & Israel

Coins = Alliance with Assyria results in Judah becoming vassal to Assyria

Hezekiah (29 yrs)

Who was Hezekiah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 18:1-8 = Ahaz's son, Did right like David, none others like him

What reforms did Hezekiah put into place?

2 Chronicles 29-31 = Purified temple & priests, Dedicated people, Celebrated Passover

How did God bless Hezekiah for his faithfulness?

2 Chronicles 32:1-31; 2 Kings 18-19 = Angel defeated attacking Assyrians, Wealth & success in all

2 Kings 20:1-11 = Healed from terminal illness, Sun's shadow backwards 10 steps as sign

What was Hezekiah's biggest mistake and what was God's punishment?

2 Kings 20:12-19 = Showed Judah's treasures to Babylonians, They would be taken to Babylon

Three volcanos = Judah seeks freedom from Assyrian bondage through alliances with Egypt & Babylon

Manasseh (55 yrs)

Who was Manasseh and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 33:1-9 = Hezekiah's son, reversed the good his father had done:

2 Kings 21:1-9 = Altars to Baal, worshipped stars, sacrificed son, practiced occult, pole in temple

How did God plan to punish Manasseh for his evil?

2 Kings 21:10-15 = God decided to wipe out Jerusalem, hand over Judah to enemies

What happened to Manasseh?

2 Chronicles 33:10-13 = Taken captive to Babylon, Was returned after repenting to God

What did Manasseh do after returning to Judah?

2 Chronicles 33:14-17 = Cleaned house of foreign gods, idols, altars; restored altar

Amon (2 yrs)

Who was Amon and how faithful was his reign?

2 Chronicles 33:21-23 = Manasseh's son, Worshipped idols like his father, never repented

What happened to Amon?

2 Chronicles 33:24-25 = Was assassinated by officials

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 8

The Period of Reform

Josiah (31 yrs)

Who was Josiah and how faithful was his reign? = Became king at 8 yrs old

2 Kings 22:1-2 = Amon's son, Did right in the ways of David, not turning left or right

What reforms did Josiah put into place?

2 Chronicles 34:2-7 = Purged Judah & Samaria of foreign gods, high places,

2 Kings 23:4-25 = Baal priests, Asherah poles, altars, mediums, etc

2 Chronicles 34:8-13 = Repaired the temple

2 Chronicles 34:14-33 = Found & read the Book of Law to all people, had everyone pledge to it

2 Chronicles 35:1-19 = Celebrated Passover

What prophesy did Josiah fulfill?

1 Kings 13:1-2 = Jeroboam's altar in Bethel would be defiled by Josiah

Did Josiah's good turn God's wrath away from Judah?

2 Chronicles 34:23-28 = No. It did postpone it until after Josiah's reign

What was Josiah's biggest mistake?

2 Chronicles 35:20-24 = Killed in battle when he fought Egypt against God's will

Volcano = Babylon replaced Assyria as world power (Ninevah fell to Babylon)

Jeremiah banner = Jeremiah speaks to Judah from Josiah through the exile

The Period of Destruction

Jehoahaz (3 months)

Who was Jehoahaz and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 23:30-32 = Josiah's son, evil in eyes of the Lord as his fathers

What happened to Jehoahaz?

2 Kings 23:33-34 = Deported to Egypt by Pharaoh Neco

Jehoiakim (11 yrs)

Who was Jehoiakim and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 23:36-37 = Josiah's son, evil in eyes of the Lord as his fathers

How did Jehoiakim get his name and become king? = Eliakim – *God has established*

2 Kings 23:34 = Put in power by Pharaoh Neco, Renamed Jehoiakim – *Yahweh has established*

"E" Coin = Judah becomes vassal of Egypt

2 Kings 23:35 = Taxed land to pay tribute to Egypt

"B" Coin = Babylon defeats Egypt at Battle of Carchemish, Judah becomes vassal of Babylon

What happened when Jehoiakim stopped paying tribute to Babylon?

2 Kings 24:1-4; 2 Chronicles 36:6-7 = Deported to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling South

Page 9

Jehoiachin (3 months)

Who was Jehoiachin and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 24:8-9 = Jehoiakim's son, Evil in Lord's eyes just as his father

What happened to Jehoiachin?

2 Kings 24:10-16 = Surrendered to Babylon, Deported with all but poorest of the land

Battered sword = Surrendered to Babylon and taken with important people in First Exile

Zedekiah (11 yrs)

Who was Zedekiah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 24:18-19 = Josiah's son, Jehoiachin's uncle, evil like Jehoiakim

How did Zedekiah get his name and become king?

2 Kings 24:17 = Put in power by Nebuchadnezzar, Name changed from Mattaniah

What was Zedekiah's biggest mistake?

2 Chronicles 36:13-14 = Rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar & God, Oath was in God's name

How did Judah respond when God gave them one more chance?

2 Chronicles 36:15-16 = They mocked God's messengers & scoffed at His prophets

What happened as a result?

2 Chronicles 36:18-19; 2 Kings 25:1-17 = Jerusalem besieged, destroyed, all valuables taken

What happened to Zedekiah and the rest of Judah?

2 Chronicles 36:20; 2 Kings 25:6-7, 11, 18-21 = Exiled to Babylon, Z's sons killed then Z blinded

Deep red color = Final captivity occurs in 586 BC when Zedekiah revolts

Great hands crush the kingdom = Southern kingdom is destroyed by Babylonian hordes

Summary

Volcano on Rehoboam = Egypt becomes a political threat to the South during Rehoboam

Peace flag on Jehoshaphat = Civil war between north & south ends during Jehoshaphat

Wedding ring under flag = Peace is brought about by marriage between N & S royalty

Smudge on wedding ring = Marriage brings Baalism to Southern kingdom

Snake on Jehoram, Ahaziah & Athaliah = Baalism was embraced during these reigns

Golden color of Uzziah = Period of wealth & prosperity reaches peak under Uzziah

Isaiah & Micah banners = Isaiah & Micah prophesied to Judah during Uzziah to Hezekiah

Manuscript peg on Ahaz = Ahaz became ally with Assyria to stop threats from Syria & Israel

Coins on Ahaz = Alliance with Assyria results in Judah becoming vassal to Assyria

Three volcanos on Hezekiah = Judah seeks freedom from Assyrians as ally to Egypt & Babylon

Volcano on Josiah = Babylon replaced Assyria as world power (Ninevah fell to Babylon)

Jeremiah banner on Josiah = Jeremiah speaks to Judah from Josiah through the exile

"E" Coin on Jehoiakim = Judah becomes vassal of Egypt

"B" Coin on Jehoiakim = Babylon defeats Egypt at Battle of Carchemish, Judah becomes vassal

Battered sword = Surrendered to Babylon and taken with important people in First Exile

Deep red color of Zedekiah = Final captivity occurs in 586 BC when Zedekiah revolts

Great hands crush the kingdom = Southern kingdom is destroyed by Babylonian hordes

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 16 and Assignment 17

Next Week - *Pointing Ahead*