

Bethel Bible Series

The Crumbling North

Study 15

*As long as men take on the character of the gods they serve,
so long does it greatly matter who those gods may be. John Bright - PK*

Welcome

Opening - Why was it important for God to raise prophets during the period of the kings?
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer
InDepth Concept Review
InDepth Presentation: Karen Ziehr - *What were the times and key messages of the OT prophets?*

Review of Last Week

Recalling a Destiny - InDepth by Deb Hale

Figure in red robe = The prophet
Second figure = Israel
Darkening sky in background = Prophets were sent during age of decline, preceding exile
Israel focused on "I Will Bless You" = Israel felt secure in God's promises
Torn manuscript on the ground = Israel forgot responsibility *to be a blessing*
Prophet holds fragments before Israel's eyes = Prophet reminded Israel of destiny
Israel clasps mortar bowl and pestles to bosom = Traditions became *ends in themselves*
Tent of tabernacle symbol = Temple made reason for false security
Law symbol = Law became a stumbling block to justice
Separation symbol = Separation turned into a curse
Sharp rock symbol = Circumcision became a fetish
Mirror symbol = Holy land put to unholy use
Yoke symbol = Past was glorified at expense of present and future

Lesson - The Crumbling North

Solomon's Unfaithfulness and God's Judgment

How well did Solomon emulate the faith of his father David?

1 Kings 11:1-6 = His foreign wives led him to worship other gods

How did God respond to Solomon's faithlessness?

1 Kings 11:9-13 = He decided to take Israel (except Judah) from Solomon's family

To whom did God choose to give the rest of Israel? = 10 to Jeroboam, 1 to Rehoboam (Judah/Simeon)

1 Kings 11:28-32 = Ahijah, the prophet, gave Israel to Jeroboam (led labor force)

What instructions were given to the king-elect?

1 Kings 11:38 = Follow Me like David and I will bless you and build dynasty

What happened to Jeroboam after Solomon heard what happened?

1 Kings 11:40 = Fled to Egypt (under Shishak) until Solomon died

Who took over the United Kingdom after Solomon died?

1 Kings 11:42-43 = His son Rehoboam succeeded him as king

What did Jeroboam and Israel ask of Rehoboam before making him king?

1 Kings 12:2-4 = Asked him to lighten the load of labor and taxes

How did Rehoboam respond to the request? = Solomon's advisors told him to honor request

1 Kings 12:13-14 = Took poor advice of young aides and said he'd add load

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The Nation Splits

How did the northern tribes handle Rehoboam's response?

1 Kings 12:20 = Made Jeroboam king of Israel, Judah stayed with Rehoboam

What did God do when Rehoboam tried to take back the 10 tribes by force?

1 Kings 12:22-24 = Sent prophet to stop them by saying it was His doing

Capitals of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

What city had God chosen to be His capital?

1 Kings 14:21 = Jerusalem, the capital of Judah

Where did the northern nation of Israel settle its capital?

1 Kings 12:25 = Shechem (Jeroboam) – in hill country of Ephraim

1 Kings 14:17; 15:33 = Tirzah (Jeroboam)

1 Kings 16:23-24, 29 = Samaria (Omri)

What did the Assyrians later do to the region of Samaria? = They worshipped their own gods

2 Kings 17:22-24, 29, 41 = Exported Israelites, Imported other peoples, made melting pot

How were the Samaritans later viewed by "pure" Jews?

John 4:9 = They were despised and considered unclean

Temples in Israel

How did Jeroboam keep Israelites from going to Jerusalem for worship? = Could turn toward Rehoboam

1 Kings 12:26-30 = Made golden calves and set them in Dan and Bethel

1 Kings 12:31-33 = He built shrines on high places and created festivals

1 Kings 13:33-34 = He appointed all sorts of people as priests, led to downfall of Israel

What happened to the priests, Levites and devout people in Israel?

2 Chronicles 11:13-17 = They left Israel and went to Judah, strengthened Judah

What kind of precedent did Jeroboam set for the kings of Israel?

1 Kings 15:26, 34; 16:19, 26, 31; etc = Others followed Jeroboam's evil ways

The evil ways of Israel led to exile and the elimination of Israel

2 Kings 17:21-23 = God removed them from His presence into exile into Assyria

Standard Format in 1st and 2nd Kings for Israel

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

Details about the length and location of his reign.

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam

and his sin which he caused Israel to commit.

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

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

Three Periods of Israel's History

Dark section of crumbling earth = Age of Civil Strife

Golden section of crumbling earth = Age of Wealth and Prosperity

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

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The Period of Civil Strife

Jeroboam (22 yrs)

Golden calf = Jeroboam established religious shrines at Dan and Bethel

What did the man of God prophesy to Jeroboam about the altar at Bethel?

1 Kings 13:2 = A descendant of David named Josiah will defile it

Did this prophecy come true?

2 Kings 23:15-20 = Josiah, king of Judah, sacrificed priests and burned human bones

What did the prophet Ahijah give as God's judgment for Jeroboam's sins?

1 Kings 14:10 = Disaster on Jeroboam's house, Cut off all males

What was the relationship between Israel and Judah during Jeroboam's reign?

1 Kings 14:30 = Continual warfare with Rehoboam (Judah) – Lost Bethel to Abijah (2Ch13:19)

Nadab (2 yrs)

Who was Nadab and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 15:25-26 = Jeroboam's son, Did evil in eyes of Lord...in ways of his father

Baasha (24 yrs)

How was Ahijah's prophesy to Jeroboam fulfilled by Baasha?

1 Kings 15:27-29 = Baasha killed Nadab during siege of Gibbethon, Killed J's whole family

How faithful was Baasha's reign?

1 Kings 15:34 = He did evil in the eyes of the Lord (All of Israel's kings did evil)

What did the prophet Jehu give as judgment for Baasha's sins?

1 Kings 16:3-4 = Destroy Baasha and his house just like Jeroboam's

What was the relationship between Israel and Judah during Baasha's reign?

1 Kings 15:16 = War between Asa and Baasha throughout their reigns – Retook Bethel now(?)

What significant loss did Israel experience because of this civil strife?

1 Kings 15:20 = Lost Naphtali (including Dan) to Ben-Hadad of Syria (Aram), Judah's ally

Elah (2 yrs)

Who was Elah and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 16:8, 13 = Baasha's son, Committed sins and caused Israel to commit, like his father

Zimri (7 days)

How was Jehu's prophesy to Baasha fulfilled by Zimri?

1 Kings 16:9-12 = Zimri killed Elah during party, Killed Baasha's whole family

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Omri (12 yrs)

How did Omri become king of Israel?

1 Kings 16:16 = Commander of army chosen by people to succeed Elah

1 Kings 16:17-18 = Besieged Tirzah, Zimri killed self by burning palace around him

1 Kings 16:21-22 = Stronger than Tibni, picked by other half of people – “So Tibni died”

How faithful was Omri's reign?

1 Kings 16:25 = Sinned more than all those before him

What did Omri change that led to a name given to the northern kingdom?

1 Kings 16:24 = Relocated capital to Samaria

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

Ahab (22 yrs)

Who was Ahab and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 16:29-30 = Omri's son, Did more evil than any before him

How extreme did Ahab's evil get? = Darkest segment on picture

1 Kings 16:31-33 = Married Jezebel (princess of Sidon) and served Baal

1 Kings 18:3-4 = Obadiah (palace chief) hid 100 prophets from Jezebel

1 Kings 21:25-26 = Never anyone as evil in God's eyes as Ahab

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

Elijah and Elisha banners = Prophets denounce Israel's Baalism (black-doom, white-hope)

What significant reconstruction fulfilled earlier prophesy?

1 Kings 16:34 (Joshua 6:26) = Jericho rebuilt by Hiel at cost of sons

How did God support Ahab?

1 Kings 20:1, 13, 21 = Provided victory at Samaria over Ben-Hadad of Syria (Aram)

1 Kings 20:26, 28-29 = Provided second victory at Aphek over Ben-Hadad

How did Ahab interfere with God's plan for these victories?

1 Kings 20:34, 42 = God wanted Ben-Hadad killed, Ahab set him free

How was Ahab involved with the end of the strife between the two kingdoms?

1 Kings 22:4-5, 29 = Had Jehoshaphat (Judah) join with him in battle against Syria (Aram)

2 Kings 8:18 = Gave daughter in marriage to Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram

How was the evil of Ahab and Jezebel revealed through Naboth's vineyard?

1 Kings 21:2-3, 11-16 = Had Naboth killed to get vineyard for garden

What word from God did Elijah bring to Ahab?

1 Kings 21:17-24 = Dogs lick up his blood, cut off all males, dogs eat Jezebel

How was this prophesy fulfilled?

1 Kings 22:37-38 = Dogs licked up blood from chariot after Ahab died in battle with Aram

2 Kings 9:24-26 = Jehu kills Joram (Ahab's son), body thrown in Naboth's field

2 Kings 9:30, 33, 35-37 = Jezebel killed, body eaten by dogs

2 Kings 10:7, 10-11, 14 = Jehu has rest of Ahab's family destroyed

What other prophesy was fulfilled with Ahab's death?

1 Kings 22:12, 19-22, 34, 37 = Micaiah prophesied Ahab's death in war with Syria

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Elijah and Elisha

Elijah (*Prophet to Ahab, Ahaziah*)

What judgments did Elijah give to Ahab and Ahaziah for their evil?

- 1 Kings 17:1 = Years of drought - Baal was lord of the rain clouds
- 1 Kings 18:40 = Slaughtered the 450 prophets of Baal
- 1 Kings 21:19-24 = Dogs lick up Ahab's blood, cut off all males, dogs eat Jezebel
- 2 Kings 1:16-17 = Ahaziah would die from injuries since he sent to consult Baal, not God

What miracles did God produce through Elijah?

- 1 Kings 18:1, 41-45 = Sent rain after 3 years of drought
- 1 Kings 17:11-16 = Everflowing oil and flour for widow in Zarephath
- 1 Kings 17:17-24 = Resurrected widow's son
- 1 Kings 18:25-26, 33-35, 38 = God sent fire for sacrifice, Baal's 450 prophets couldn't
- 2 Kings 1:9-15 = Sent fire from God on two companies from Ahaziah
- 2 Kings 2:8 = Parted Jordan River by striking with his cloak

How did God take care of Elijah?

- 1 Kings 17:2-6 = Hid him from Ahab during drought and had ravens bring food
- 1 Kings 19:1-8 = Sent angel to feed him as he fled to Sinai from Jezebel
- 1 Kings 19:11-13 = Came to Elijah in a whisper on Sinai – not in wind, earthquake or fire
- 2 Kings 2:11 = Took him alive to heaven in a whirlwind

Elisha (*Prophet to Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash*)

How did Elisha become the successor to Elijah?

- 1 Kings 19:16, 19 = God sent Elijah to call Elisha as prophet

What did Elisha inherit from Elijah?

- 2 Kings 2:9-10 = A double portion of Elijah's spirit – rights and privileges of first-born

How was this inheritance evident during Elisha's life?

- 2 Kings 6:15-18 = Sent horses and chariots to protect from Syrian army

How was this inheritance evident even after Elisha's death?

- 2 Kings 13:20-21 = Man resurrected when dead body touched Elisha's bones

What miracles and prophesies did God produce through Elisha?

- 2 Kings 2:13-14 = Parted Jordan River with Elijah's cloak, just like Elijah had done
- 2 Kings 2:19-22 = Healed bad water of Jericho
- 2 Kings 2:23-24 = Bears mauled youths after teasing Elisha's bald head

- 2 Kings 3:9, 16-17, 20 = Produced ditches of water in Edom desert for thirsty army
- 2 Kings 3:22-24 = Ditches of water looked like blood to Moab, Israel slaughtered Moabites

- 2 Kings 4:2-4, 7 = Oil into empty jars for prophet's widow to pay debts
- 2 Kings 4:14-17 = Son to Shunammite woman who gave him a place to stay
- 2 Kings 4:32-35 = Resurrected Shunammite woman's son

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Elisha (*Prophet to Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash*)

What miracles and prophecies did God produce through Elisha?

2 Kings 4:39-41 = Healed poisonous *death in the pot* for prophets to eat

2 Kings 4:42-44 = Fed 100 men with 20 loaves

2 Kings 5:1, 10, 14 = Cured Naaman (Syrian commander) of leprosy (washed in Jordan)

2 Kings 5:20, 26-27 = Put Naaman's leprosy on Gehazi for taking payment for cure

2 Kings 6:5-6 = Caused borrowed axhead to float

2 Kings 6:8-12 = Warned king of Israel of Syrian private plans

2 Kings 6:19-20 = Led Syrian army into capture, ended Syrian raids

2 Kings 6:24-25; 7:1-2, 16-17 = Prophesied miraculous end of famine from Syrian siege

2 Kings 8:1-2, 6 = Protected woman of Shunem from famine

2 Kings 8:9-10, 13, 15 = Prophesied that Hazael would replace Ben-Hadad as Syrian king

2 Kings 9:1-3 = Had Jehu anointed king over Israel (to replace Joram, son of Ahab)

2 Kings 13:15-19 = Prophesied Jehoash successes against Syrians (arrows strike ground)

The Period of Wealth and Prosperity

Ahaziah (2 yrs)

Who was Ahaziah and how faithful was his reign?

1 Kings 22:51-52 = Ahab's son, Did evil, worshipped Baal

Why didn't God heal Ahaziah from injuries from falling through lattice?

2 Kings 1:16 = Consulted Baal when injured, Death prophesied by Elijah

Joram (12 yrs)

Who was Joram (Jehoram) and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 3:1-2 = Ahab's son (Ahaziah's brother), Did evil but removed sacred stone of Baal

2 Kings 8:18 = His sister, Athaliah, married Jehoram, who became king of Judah

2 Kings 8:26 = His sister's son was Ahaziah, who became king of Judah

How did he respond to Moab's refusal to pay tribute when he took over?

2 Kings 3:4-9 = Mobilized army, enlisted Jehoshaphat (Judah) and Edom

Why was Joram given success by God over Moab?

2 Kings 3:13-14 = Because of the presence of Jehoshaphat (Judah)

How was Joram helped by God through Elisha?

2 Kings 6:19-20 = Elisha led Syrian army into capture, ended raids

2 Kings 6:24-25; 7:6-7, 16-17 = Miraculous end of famine from Syrian siege

What other help did Joram receive and how did it turn out?

2 Kings 8:28-29 = Ahaziah (Judah) joined him against Hazael of Syria, Joram wounded

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Jehu (28 yrs)

Who was Jehu and how was he chosen to become king?

2 Kings 9:1-6 = Israel army commander anointed by a prophet from Elisha

What was Jehu's first responsibility and how successful was he?

2 Kings 9:7-10 = To destroy the house of Ahab, fulfill Elijah's prophesy

2 Kings 9:24, 27 = Jehu kills Joram (Ahab's son) and Ahaziah (Ahab's grandson, king of Judah)

2 Kings 9:30, 33 = Jezebel killed

2 Kings 10:7 = Jehu has Ahab's 70 sons beheaded

2 Kings 10:12-14 = Jehu has 42 relatives of Ahaziah killed

What did Jehu do to eliminate the prophets and priests of Baal?

2 Kings 10:19, 25 = Gathered all Baal prophets and priests for great sacrifice, killed them

What did Jehu do with the temple of Baal?

2 Kings 10:26-27 = Destroyed sacred stone, turned temple into a latrine

How did God bless Jehu in response to the purge of Ahab and Baal?

2 Kings 10:30 = Promised descendants would sit on throne 4 generations

Why was Jehu still considered evil in the eyes of the Lord?

2 Kings 10:29 = Didn't stop worship of the golden calves at Dan and Bethel

What significant loss occurred during Jehu's reign?

2 Kings 10:32-33 = Lost land east of Jordan River (Reuben, Gad, Manasseh) to Syrians (Hazeal)

Jehoahaz (17 yrs)

Who was Jehoahaz and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 13:1-2,6 = Jehu's son, Evil in God's eyes, Kept Asherah pole in Samaria

How did God respond to Jehoahaz's unfaithfulness?

2 Kings 13:3, 7 = Kept under power of Aram (Hazeal and Ben-Hadad), most of army destroyed

Jehoash (16 yrs)

Who was Jehoash and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 13:10-11 = Jehoahaz's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

How was Jehoash helped by Elisha?

2 Kings 13:15-19, 25 = Shot arrows into ground for victories over Syria

How did Jehoash respond to Amaziah's (king of Judah) challenge to fight?

2 Kings 14:10-14 = Tried to avoid it, when pushed he fought and won, looted Jerusalem

Jeroboam (41 yrs)

Who was Jeroboam (II) and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 14:23-24 = Jehoash's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

How did Jeroboam fulfill a prophesy by Jonah? = Gained control over Aram

2 Kings 14:25 = Restored Israel's boundaries from Lebo Hamath to Dead Sea

Amos and Hosea banners = Prophets warn against spiritual laxness during golden age

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The Period of Rapid Decline

Zechariah (6 months)

Who was Zechariah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:8-9 = Jeroboam's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

How did Zechariah's short reign fulfill a promise of God?

2 Kings 15:12 = God had promised to Jehu 4 generations of descendants on throne

Shallum (1 month)

Who was Shallum and how did he become king?

2 Kings 15:10 = Son of Jabesh (?), Assassinated Zechariah in public

Menahem (10 yrs)

Who was Menahem and how did he become king?

2 Kings 15:14 = Son of Gadi (?) from Tirzah, Assassinated Shallum

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

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

2 Kings 15:19-20 = Tribute to Assyria (Tiglath-Pileser III, or Pul) taken from people

Pekahiah (2 yrs)

Who was Pekahiah and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:23-24 = Menahem's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

Pekah (20 yrs)

Who was Pekah and how did he become king?

2 Kings 15:25 = Chief officer of Pekahiah, killed Pekahiah at Samaria

What territory did Pekah lose to Tiglath-Pileser (Pul) of Assyria?

2 Kings 15:29 = Lost Naphtali, Galilee and Gilead, Residents deported

Manuscript peg = Pekah allied himself with Aram (Syria) against Judah and Assyria

2 Kings 15:37; 16:5-9 = Attacked Judah with Syria (Rezin), Assyria came to Judah's rescue

Isaiah banner = Isaiah prophesies destruction of Northern Kingdom

Isaiah 7:1-9 = Prophecy to Ahaz (Judah) during attack by Pekah, Foretold Israel's destruction

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Hoshea (9 yrs)

Who was Hoshea and how did he become king?

2 Kings 15:30 = Son of Elah (?), Assassinated Pekah

Manuscript peg = Hoshea attempts military alliance with Egypt against Assyria

2 Kings 17:3-4 = Hoshea stopped paying tribute to Assyria and sent envoys to Egypt

What did Assyria (Shalmaneser) do in response to Hoshea's actions?

2 Kings 17:4-5 = Imprisoned Hoshea and besieged Israel for 3 years

2 Kings 17:6 = Deported Israelites to Assyria

2 Kings 17:24 = Resettled Samaria with foreigners

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

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

Summary - *The Crumbling North*

Dark section of crumbling earth = Age of Civil Strife

Golden section of crumbling earth = Age of Wealth and Prosperity

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

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

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

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

Elijah and Elisha banners = Prophets denounce Israel's Baalism (black-doom, white-hope)

Amos and Hosea banners = Prophets warn against spiritual laxness during golden age

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 allied himself with Aram (Syria) against Judah and Assyria

Isaiah banner = Isaiah prophesies destruction of Northern Kingdom

Manuscript peg on Hoshea = Hoshea attempt 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

Why did all of this happen?

2 Kings 17:7-23 = Tell everyone to read this at home

InDepth Research:

Find examples where the Bible points out that the spiritual life of the people followed that of the king.

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 15 and Assignment

Next Week - *The Crumbling South*

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Kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms

Judah (South)		Israel (North)		Yr	Rule	Prophets	Eras	King	Yr	Rule	Prophets	Eras
Yr BC	King	King	King									
931	Rehoboam		Solomon Dies									
913	Abijah	17	Bad Mostly	Jeroboam	22	Bad						Civil Strife
911	Asa	3	Bad Mostly									" "
910		41	Good									" "
909				Nadab	2	Bad						" "
888				Baasha	24	Bad						" "
887				Elah	2	Bad						" "
886				Zimri	7d	Bad						" "
876				Omri	12	Extra Bad						" "
871	Jehoshaphat	25	Good	Ahab (Jezebel)	22	The Worst						" "
853				Ahaziah	2	Bad			Elijah			" "
853				Jehoram	12	Bad Mostly			" "			Wealth & Prosperity
851	Jehoram	8	Bad						" "			" "
843	Ahaziah	1	Bad						" "			" "
842	Athaliah	6	Devilish	Jehu	28	Bad Mostly			Elisha			" "
837	Joash	40	Good Mostly						" "			" "
816									" "			" "
800									" "			" "
798	Amaziah	29	Good Mostly	Jehoahaz	17	Bad			" "			" "
785				Jehoash	16	Bad			" "			" "
780	Uzziah	52	Good						" "			" "
744				Jeroboam	41	Bad			Amos			" "
736	Jotham	16	Good						Hosea			" "
735	Ahaz	16	Wicked	Zechariah	6m	Bad			" "			Rapid Decline
734				Shallum	1m	Bad			" "			" "
732				Menahem	10	Bad			" "			" "
721	Hezekiah	29	The Best	Pekahiah	2	Bad			& Micah			" "
693	Manasseh	55	The Worst						" "			" "
640	Amon	2	The Worst						" "			" "
638	Josiah	31	The Best						" "			" "
609	Jehoahaz	3m	Bad	Pekah	2	Bad			" "			" "
608	Jehoikim	11	Wicked	Hoshea	9	Bad			" "			" "
598	Jehoiachin	3m	Bad						" "			" "
597	Surrender to Babylon		" "						" "			" "
	Zedekiah	11	Bad						" "			" "
586	Gedaliah								" "			" "
561	Jehoiachin Freed								" "			" "
												Haggai & Zechariah