

# **From Judges to Malachi: Preparation for the Coming of the Savior-King**



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## Syllabus for BIBL204 - Judges to Esther

### Certificate Level

#### Course description

After a brief review of the history of Israel before the monarchy began, this course surveys the establishment of the monarchy and its gradual fall into decadence which eventually led to the destruction of the northern kingdom and exile of the southern kingdom of Judah. This series of events helped forge the messianic expectations of the people of Israel. The course demonstrates how David exemplified Christ the King through a new covenant and later illustrates the terrible wages of sinful living. It ends by showing how God still had a plan for rescuing the faithful few under the old covenant, but all the time was preparing the way for Christ's coming to redeem the whole world.

#### Course objectives

To give the students a deeper appreciation of the preparation for the gospel message, which has its roots in the Old Testament, so they will apply the principles of spiritual lostness, repentance, and transforming faith in the Redeemer to their lives and witness about salvation in Christ.

#### Learning Outcomes

**Content:** By the end of the course, the student will:

- Better understand the original context (biblical, historical, cultural and linguistic) of these books.
- Understand God's dealings with his people in this historical period within the overall context of the development of the plan of salvation.
- Study the whole of the history of Israel, especially as it concerns their relationship with God.

**Character:** By the end of the course, the student will:

- Resolve to never allow any "high places" and "idolatry" to develop in his or her life.
- Diligently seek to emulate the positive aspects of the godly prophets and kings.
- Reflect the love of God which led him to do everything possible to rescue mankind from their sin and lostness.

**Competency:** By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify the purposes of the authors at the time of writing and be able to apply their messages to today.
- Describe the major characters and place them in their historical context.
- Explain the place of Jesus Christ in these books, especially the allusions to and types of Christ.

#### Course requirements

##### Certificate Level

- To demonstrate knowledge of course material through
  - answering questions at the end of each section
  - completion of the final exam
- To attend 18 of 20 instructor-led sessions (27 contact hours minimum).
- To participate in discussions by listening, contributing as appropriate, and responding when asked a specific question.
- To briefly outline each biblical book covered in this course, including the apparent purpose for its writing and one to four applications today.

- To make a chart of the kings of Israel and Judah, whether the king followed the Lord or not, and giving a few key details about the king's activities, if any are given in the text.
- To make a chart of the parallels between the events of these books and message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

### **Evaluation methodology and scale**

- Student performance and mastery will be assessed according to the following scale:
  - 40% on completion of reading, of questions, and of assignments (10% outline of books, 5% chart of kings, 5% parallels with gospel message)
  - 10% on student participation and attitude in discussions
  - 10% on attendance (percentage equals number of classes attended, divided by number of classes held, times ten)
  - 40% on the final written, or oral, exam.
- The evaluation scale is as follows
  - passing grade - 70-79%
  - good grade – 80-89%
  - excellent grade – 90-100%

### **Course schedule**

To be announced.

### **Credits earnable**

- 2 hours of credit towards a Certificate in Christian Studies

### **Prerequisites**

(Progressing Together BIBL201, BIBL202, and BIBL203, or equivalent)

### **Textbook and related materials**

- Required - Progressing Together Manual for BIBL204
  - Additional readings may be required at the instructor's discretion
- Recommended - Books or articles dealing with the period under study and related subjects

### **Course methodology**

The student will work inductively, reading texts, answering questions concerning knowledge, application and analysis, and drawing conclusions which will be applicable to local context. After answering the questions in each lesson, students will gather to discuss answers and practical application. When possible, the course leader will give additional talks to reinforce what the students are learning through the lessons.

### **Policies**

- Cheating (copying another student's exam answers) and plagiarism (quoting another individual's material without acknowledging that person's work) will not be tolerated, because it is deemed contrary to Christian teaching and academic integrity.
- Absences in excess of 3 class hours will lead to a reduced grade; no student missing more than 6 class hours will receive credit for the course. Students who show little or no interest in

completing course work will first be warned, then asked to leave the course if they do not change their conduct.

## Bibliography

- Arnold, William. *Encountering the Old Testament*. London: Baker Books. 1999.
- *Guide to the Bible* (المرشد إلى الكتاب المقدس). Beirut, Lebanon: Lebanese Bible Society. 1996. Also available in English from Lion Publishing in London, England.

Lesson 1: Review, Genesis to Joshua

Introduction

When we undertake a study of history in the Bible, we need to understand that the history itself is part of the divine revelation. This is because God is directing history towards a goal, and that goal is man's salvation. The “guided” history described in the Old Testament thus prepares the ground for the coming and work of Christ. God led the prophets to write down the historical events and prophecies that were related to his final plan of salvation in Christ. We can thus talk of the history of salvation. Jesus maintained that all the Scriptures spoke of him (Jn 5.39). “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Lk 24:27).

Review of Genesis to Joshua

In order to understand the part of the divine history that we are going to study, it will be necessary to review some key elements of earlier historical times. In Genesis (BIBL 202), the first course of this Bible survey series, we learnt how sin came into the world, bringing death and separation between man and God. But we also saw how God began to reveal a plan of salvation for man, beginning with the patriarch Abraham. From this beginning with just one man, the plan of salvation would ultimately be offered to all people.

God told Abraham to leave his country and his people to go to another country, Canaan (Gn 12.1). God promised Abraham that He would be his God, that He would bless him, that He would make him the father of a multitude of nations, that He would bless all the nations through him, and that He would give the land of Canaan to his descendants (Gn 12.2-3). We call these promises the promises of the Covenant.

A. Promises of the Covenant

The covenant promises that God gave to Abraham were repeated to his son Isaac, and then to Isaac’s son, Jacob. Complete this table by looking up the verses below and noting the promises given, starting with Abraham. Following the examples given, note the verses in which the different promises are found. *Note: A single verse can contain several promises.*

Promises given to Abraham: Gn 12:1-3, 7; Gn 13: 14-17; Gn 15:1, 5, 18; to Isaac: Gn 26:2-5, 24; to Jacob: Gn 28:13-15; Gn 35:9-12

Covenant promises given to...	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob
Promise to be with the patriarch and to protect him	Gn 12:3; 15:1	Gn 26:3; 26:24	Gn 28:15
Promise of numerous offspring			
Promise to bless all the nations of the earth through him			
Promise of a land			



## B. A Covenant Treaty: What is it?

Abraham's grandson, Jacob, had twelve sons. Threatened by a famine in Canaan, the whole family left for Egypt. It was there that God started to fulfil one of the promises given to the patriarchs: that of numerous offspring. Jacob's family became so numerous that the Egyptians feared them and enslaved them. Responding to his chosen people's cries of distress, God miraculously liberated them. But He redeemed them for a special reason: so that they would become his own people and He would be their God (Ex 6:6-7). To help the Israelites understand the unique and special relationship that He would have with them, God established a covenant treaty with them.

Making covenant treaties was common practice in the Middle East in the days of Moses (1500 BC). **One type of covenant treaty was made between a powerful king and a weaker people when the king was in a position to protect them from their enemies.** The powerful king offered to protect the weaker people and be faithful to them, **on the condition that the people obey the requirements (commandments) of the covenant and swear exclusive loyalty to the king.** Regarding Israel, the great and powerful king, God, offered to protect the people of Israel and to bless them, as long as Israel would keep his commandments and remain faithful to him.

**It is essential that we understand the importance of this covenant treaty between God and Israel, because all of the history that we are going to study is based on this treaty and has been written with this treaty in mind.**

Covenant treaties of the era followed a pattern which included the following key elements:

<b>Presentation of the king</b>	<i>Where the king identifies and presents himself</i>
<b>History of their relationship</b>	
<b>Requirements</b>	
<b>Blessings and curses</b>	

## C. The Covenant Treaty at Sinai

In the Exodus to Joshua course (BIBL 203), we saw that the Ten Commandments represent a simplified form of a covenant treaty. The Ten Commandments form the core of a longer treaty which begins in Genesis. In Genesis we find a historical review where God presents himself and summarises all that he has done for the Hebrew people, including Noah and the patriarchs. The history of his beneficial acts continues in Exodus with the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt up until their arrival at the foot of Mount Sinai where Moses receives the Ten Commandments and other treaty requirements. The rest of Exodus describes some of these other laws. More are found in the book of Leviticus, including the rules concerning the priests and the sacrificial system. The blessings and curses mentioned in the Ten Commandments are also more thoroughly explained.

1. In the shortened version of the Ten Commandments found on the next page, note which element of a covenant treaty mentioned above best describes the phrase on the left. For the consequences, note if it is a blessing or a curse. (An example is given). **Note:** Normally in a covenant treaty, the blessings and curses are listed after the treaty requirements, but here they are interspersed with the requirements.

v.2 I am the Lord your God	The king presents himself
v.2 who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery	
V.3 You shall have no other gods before me	
v.4 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything	
v.5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them	
v.5 I will punish the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me	
v.6 But will show love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments	
V.7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God	
v.7 For the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name	
v.8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy	
v.12 Honour your father and your mother	
v.12 So that you may live long in the land	
v.13 You shall not murder	
v.14 You shall not commit adultery	
v.15 You shall not steal	
v.16 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour	
v.17 You shall not covet	

2. **Read Ex 19:3-6** and describe what God wanted the nation of Israel to be.

#### D. Deuteronomy

In the course on Exodus to Joshua we also saw that the book of Deuteronomy was a renewal of the covenant treaty between God and the people of Israel. This renewal took place just before they entered the promised land of Canaan. All the elements of a typical covenant treaty are found in this book. (The book of Numbers, which precedes Deuteronomy, contains the beginning of the historical summary that we find in Deuteronomy).

1. **Read Dt 29:12-13** and note the reason for the renewal of the covenant.

2. It is important to realise that God promised Israel the land of Canaan so that the land would become a sort of “earthly kingdom of God,” where God would be especially present on earth. The nation of Israel would thus become a beacon reflecting God's light to other nations. **Read Dt 4:4-8** and explain two ways in which Israel was to be a witness.

a)

b)

3. Read Dt 6:4-6 and Lv. 19:18 and note what God asks the people to do, which summarises all the other commandments. (Mt 22.37-40)

4. In order to understand the history that is to come, we need to be familiar with the blessings and curses promised to Israel according to her faithfulness or unfaithfulness to the covenant. Look up the verses in Dt 28, and write in the table the blessings and curses mentioned.

Subject	Verses	Blessings	Verses	Curses
Enemies	Dt 28:7		Dt 28:25	
Crops	Dt 28:4,11	<i>He will give you abundant crops</i>	Dt 28:42	
Livestock	Dt 28:4,11		Dt 28:31	
Offspring	Dt 28:4,11		Dt 28:32,53	
Rain	Dt 28:12		Dt 28:23-24	
Holy people of God	Dt 28:9-10		Dt 28:36-37	

5. The people of Israel entered Canaan, and God gave them enough victory over their enemies that Joshua was able to give land to each of the twelve tribes. However, each tribe still needed to drive out the enemies that remained in their territory. Read the farewell speech that Joshua addressed to the people in Jos 23:4-9. What did the people need to remember from this speech?

## The Book of Judges

In the book of Judges we read what happened after the time of Joshua. The word translated as “judge” in the Bible includes the idea of “leader.” These “leader-judges” were raised up by God over a period of 350 years (1400-1050 BC) to govern the Israelites and to free them from their enemies. Each of these “leader-judges” was responsible for a region, so in fact there were often several who governed in Israel at the same time. This was not a very glorious period in Israel’s history. Let us discover why.

### E. An Infernal Cycle

Read Jgs 2:6-7, 10-19

1. In what way did the Israelites violate the covenant?

2. How did God react to this treason?

3. Actually the last two answers represent the first two stages of a cycle which will be repeated all through the book of Judges. What are the other stages that followed?

### **F. Gideon**

The book of Judges describes twelve judges and goes into detail regarding six of them. Judges starts with the story of Othniel, an “ideal” judge, followed by the story of Ehud, then by that of Deborah and Barak, the commander of her army. After that we come to the central part of the book, the story of the leader-judge Gideon.

1. **Read Jgs 6:1-6** and describe the problem.

2. **Read Jgs 6:11-13**

a. According to Gideon, who is responsible for the oppression of the people of God?

b. But in reality, why have they been delivered up to oppression by the Midianites? (Jgs 6:1,10)

c. Are you sometimes tempted to accuse God of negligence as Gideon did?

d. And when you face problems which are not a direct consequence of your own sin, in which Biblical truths can you find comfort? (ex. 1 Pe 1:6-7; Ja 1:2-3; Heb 12:7; 2 Co 12:9-10)

3. **Read Jgs 6:14-16, 25-32**

a. When Gideon destroyed the altar to Baal, which commandment was he obeying? (Dt 7:5-6)

b. Explain why the Israelite villagers themselves deserved the punishment that they wanted to mete out to Gideon. (Jg 6:30; Dt 13:13-16)

c. How can Joash's response inspire you when, because of your testimony, you are accused of wanting to destroy or betray your parent's religion?

4. **Read Jgs 7:1-8.** What did God want Israel to understand by his selection?

5. **Read Jgs 7:9-14**

a. How did God show his grace to Gideon?

b. Can you describe an occasion when you were worried and God encouraged you?

6. **Read Jgs 7:15-22** and summarise the "battle."

7. **Read Jgs 8. 22-27**

a. What reason does Gideon give for refusing to become king?

b. Despite this great confession and despite the great military victory that God had given him, Gideon ends up by "replacing" the altar of Baal that he had destroyed. What did he replace it with?

**A statue (an ephod) made out of gold earrings**

c. Why do you think that this ephod (statue) turned out to be a stumbling block for Israel and Gideon's family?

d. What must we remember in order to avoid "adoring" God's blessings rather than adoring God Himself?

### G. Samson

After Gideon, the leader-judges become more and more morally corrupt, right up to Samson. God had set him apart even before his birth to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. For this task he was given exceptional strength. And yet the life of Samson was not typical of a true man of God. First, he became engaged to a pagan woman, a Philistine. Then to pay a debt, he killed 30 men. When his fiancée was given to another man, he took revenge by setting fire to a Philistine's field by tying torches to the tails of foxes. Once when he was captured by the Philistines, he broke his ropes and killed a thousand Philistine men with a donkey's jawbone. He associated with prostitutes. He told his Philistine mistress, Delilah, the secret of his strength, explaining that his strength came from his uncut hair. So Delilah cut his hair and Samson lost his strength. The Philistines put him in prison and gouged his eyes out. To find out how Samson ended his life, **read Jgs 16:22-31** and describe what happened.

### H. Leader-Judges as Types of Christ

We notice that God did indeed use Samson, despite his sin, to judge Israel's enemies. This was due to the fact that all of Samson's acts of personal vengeance were carried out on the Philistines. But he was far from being the ideal redeemer that Christ would be. And yet the leader-judges did prefigure Jesus Christ.

1. To understand how these leader-judges foreshadowed Christ, fill in the table by summarising the relevant part of the verses for each section. (*Examples are given*).

Description	Verses	Leader-judges	Verses	Jesus Christ
<b>Raised up by God</b>	<b>Jg 2:18</b>	<i>Whenever the Lord raised up a judge..</i>	<b>Jn 9:4</b>	
<b>Anointed by the Holy Spirit</b>	<b>Jg 3:10</b>		<b>Lk 3:21-22</b>	
<b>To deliver</b>	<b>Jg 3:9</b>		<b>1 Ti 1:15</b>	
<b>A sinful people</b>	<b>Jg 3:7</b>		<b>Mt 9:13</b>	
<b>An oppressed people</b>	<b>Jg 2:14</b>	<i>The Lord handed them over to raiders</i>	<b>Ro 7:23-25a</b>	
<b>By defeating his enemies</b>	<b>Jg 3:28</b>		<b>1 Co 15:25-26</b>	<i>He will put all his enemies under his feet, the last will be death</i>
<b>In order to give peace to the people</b>	<b>Jg 3:11</b>		<b>Eph 2:16-17</b>	<i>Jesus gives us peace by reconciling us with the Father and with our brothers in Christ</i>

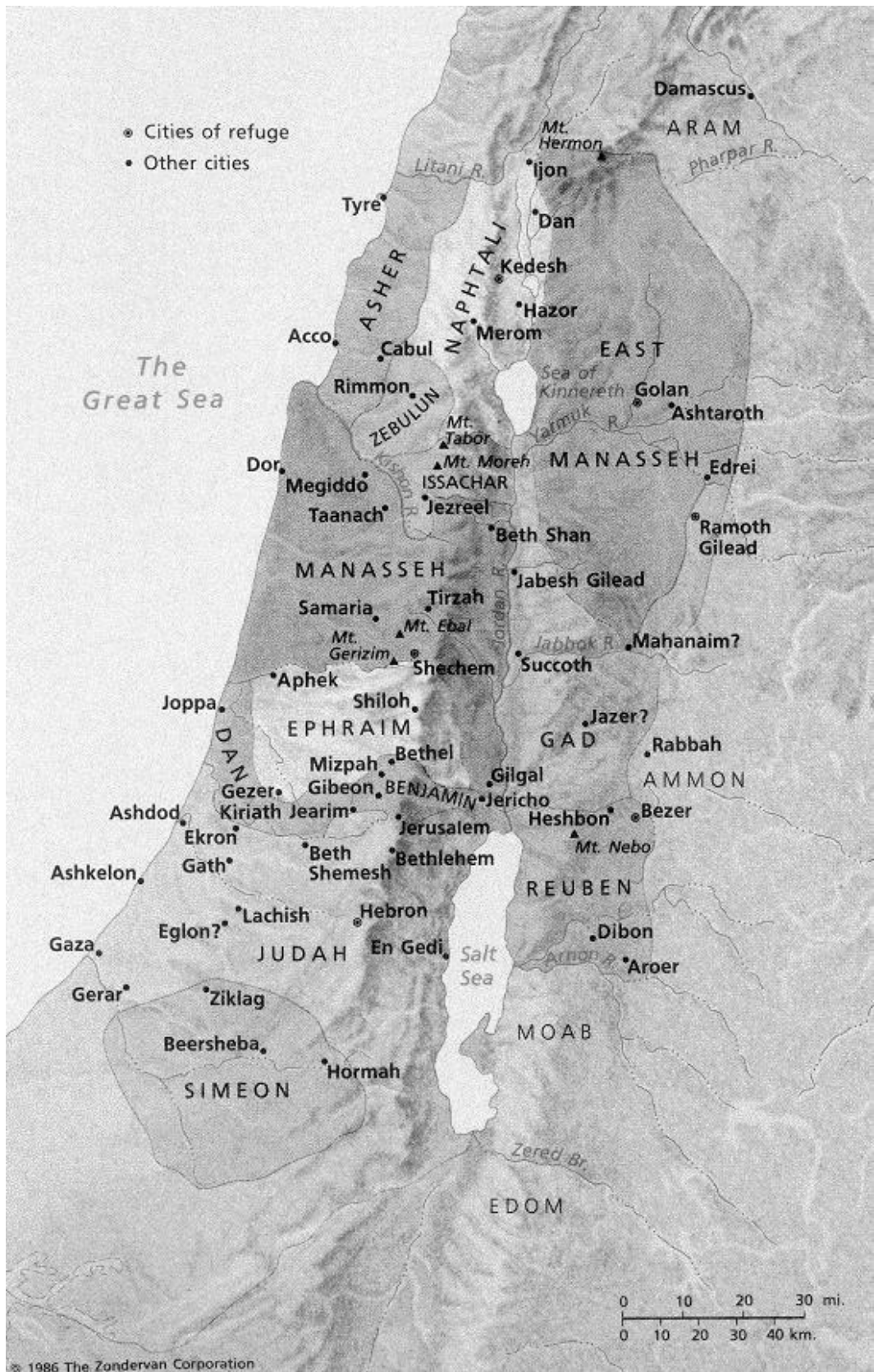
2. The moral and spiritual decay of the leader-judges towards the end of the time of the judges reflected that of the people of Israel. Perhaps the judges themselves were partly responsible for this decay by setting a bad example. The book of Judges ends with this remark: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (Jg 21:25). There are two ways we could interpret the remark: "Israel had no king". What are the two possible interpretations? (Recall the covenant treaty and Jg 8:23).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_



2. At this time the Israelites were particularly afraid of the Philistines who were encroaching upon their territory. Circle the names of the 5 largest Philistine cities on this map: *Gath, Ekron, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Gaza*.



**The Land of Israel**



3. Why didn't God give the Israelites the promised victories over their enemies? (Dt 28:15, 25)
4. According to God, what is the real reason behind Israel's request for a king?

## J. A King for Israel

### 1. Read 1 Sa 10:17-25

- a. Who was chosen as king?
  - b. Which tribe did he belong to?
  - c. Underline the name of his tribe on the map on the previous page.
  - d. What was the ill omen concerning this king?
  - e. What did Samuel do before dismissing the people?
2. To understand some of the rights that the king had, **read 1 Sa 8:11-18.**
    - a. How much tax was he entitled to?
    - b. What else did he have the right to take?
  3. Samuel would also have communicated the conditions that the king himself would have to submit to. **Read Dt 17:14-20.**
    - a. Note the most important requirements.
    - b. In the monarchy that God had planned for Israel, God would remain the great King of the covenant treaty and the human king would serve as his lieutenant. Contrary to "the kings of the other nations,"

the king of Israel did not have absolute authority. What requirement in particular shows that the king had to rule in submission to God?

4. We notice here that God had anticipated that Israel would one day have a human king, that this was part of his plan for Israel. However the book of Samuel shows us that Israel's request for a king did not meet with God's approval. Why do you think God was displeased? (1 Sa 8.7)

### **K. Saul Rejected as King**

1. Since the king was to rule in accordance with God's will, he was also to listen to the prophets and priests sent by God as advisors . On one occasion, Samuel told Saul to wait for 7 days at Guilgal with his warriors. While they waited, the Philistines mobilised their very powerful troops to fight Israel, and Israel's troops "quaked with fear" and began to scatter. What happened next had severe consequences.

**Read 1 Sa 13:8-14.**

a. What was the consequence for Saul?

b. After having given the Israelites a king according to their desires, what type of king will God replace him with?

2. On another occasion, Saul disobeyed another order from God conveyed to him by Samuel. He spared the sheep and cattle that he was supposed to put to death when he destroyed the town of the Amalekites. He excused his behaviour by saying that he had wanted to sacrifice them to God. **Read** God's reply in **1 Sa 15:22-23**. How can these verses apply to you personally? (see also Ps 51:18-19)

### **L. Choosing a New King**

**1. Read 1 Sa 16:1-5**

a. Find the town of Bethlehem on the map on page 11 and underline it.

b. In which tribe's territory is it located?

c. Who had predicted almost eight centuries earlier that Israel's kings would come from this tribe (Gn 49:1,10)?

- d. Why did God send Samuel to Bethlehem?
- e. Which other king was born in Bethlehem (Mt 2:1-2)?
- f. What reason did Samuel give for coming there?
  - i. Did he lie? Explain your answer.
  - ii. Is it always necessary to tell the whole truth when there might be excellent and holy reasons not to reveal all?
  - iii. If, for selfish reasons, we hide the truth that others need to know or have the right to know, this is a sin. But can you describe some occasions when it would be better or necessary to be discreet?

## 2. Read 1 Sa 16:6-13

- a. Who is appointed as successor to Saul?
- b. In what way does God not judge as men judge?

### M. David, a Distinguished Warrior and Musician

At the time of David, it was common for enemies who were at war to each designate a single man to fight each other rather than for the two armies to engage in battle. The victor was said to represent the choice of the gods. The young David, who had come to bring food to his brothers on the battlefield, learned that the Israelite camp was being intimidated by the Philistine champion, the giant Goliath. Since nobody would take up his challenge, David offered to do so.

#### 1. To find out what happened next, read 1 Sa 17:31-52.

- a. What are the two sorts of “arms” which David is counting on to do battle? (vv 37, 40, 45)

- b. What does God want to show by this confrontation? (v 47)
- c. What does he want the world to know? (v 46)
- d. Explain how David prefigures Christ in this battle. (See Jn 12:31; Col 2:15)

2. Because of his musical talent (which he possessed in addition to his talent as a warrior), David becomes musician in Saul's court (1 Sa 16:17-23). He also eventually becomes Saul's son-in-law, but Saul becomes jealous of him and tries to have him killed. David flees and hides in a cave in the desert where he may well have written and prayed **Psalms 142**.

- a. **Read Psalm 142** and note which truths comfort him.
- b. How can these same truths comfort you when you are in difficulty?

3. The discontented men in David's tribe (Judah) began to gather around David, and he found himself the leader of a band of several hundred men. He led these men into battle against the Philistines, and he became more and more popular. Meanwhile, Saul continued to try to get him killed. Twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul, but he refused. **Read 1 Sa 24:1-7** and note why.

#### **N. The Death of Saul - Read 1 Sa 28:4-19**

- 1. What law did Saul break by consulting this woman? (Lv 19:31; Dt 18:10-12)
- 2. What was to be the consequence? (Lv 20:6)
- 3. What did God predict would happen to Saul, his sons, and to Israel?

*They would be delivered up to the Philistines. Saul and his sons would die the next day.*

- 4. Describe the difference between the actions of Saul at the beginning of his reign and those at the end.

(v4) (v9)

5. What lesson can you draw from his example? (1 Co 10:11-12; 2 Pe 3:17)

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

#### **The Story of Ruth**

4. **Read Ruth 1:1-17** – Ruth leaves her people

a. **Read** the law of Moses in **Dt 25:5-6**. Why does Naomi try to persuade the young widows to stay in Moab?

b. What will be the consequences of Ruth's choice to stay with Naomi?

5. **Read Ruth 2:1-12** – Ruth gleanes in Boaz's field

6. Arriving home from Moab, Naomi is totally destitute. But without waiting for her to get in touch with Boaz, Ruth finds a way to meet their needs. **Read Lv 19:9-10** and **Dt 24:19**. How does this divine law contribute to the first meeting between Ruth and Boaz?

7. **Read Ruth 3:1-9** – a marriage proposal

a. By her actions, Ruth asks Boaz to marry her. How does she explain her initiative? (v 9)

b. The law found in Dt 25 which requires a dead man's brother to marry his widow in order to continue the family name, does not apply to other close relatives. However these relatives could help needy family members in other ways (nothing was obligatory). **Read Lv 25:25** and describe one of the means that will play a role in our story.

8. **Read Ruth 3:10-11; 4:9-10** – Boaz's response

a. What does Boaz do that goes beyond the requirements of the law of redemption?

b. Which family will “live” thanks to the generosity of Boaz and, in addition, will inherit the land that he has just bought?

c. In this table note how Boaz prefigures Christ. Read the verses and summarise them to explain how the person and work of Christ correspond to Boaz’s situation.

Boaz	Verses	Jesus Christ
A relative	Heb 2:11	Jesus is our brother. He shared our humanity
Gave himself up to redeem	Eph 5:25	
Gave himself willingly	Jn 10:17-18	
Gave life to the dead	Eph 2:4-5	
Gave an inheritance	Mt 25:34	

9. Read Ruth 4:13-17

a. Who took care of Boaz and Ruth’s first child?

b. Whose grandfather was he?

10. To find out where we meet Ruth again, read Mt 1:1, 5-6. How do you explain the presence of this non-Jewess in the line of Christ?

## Lesson 3: The Reign of David and a New Covenant

### A. David Becomes King After the Death of Saul (1011 B.C)

Read 2 Sa 2:1-4; 8-11

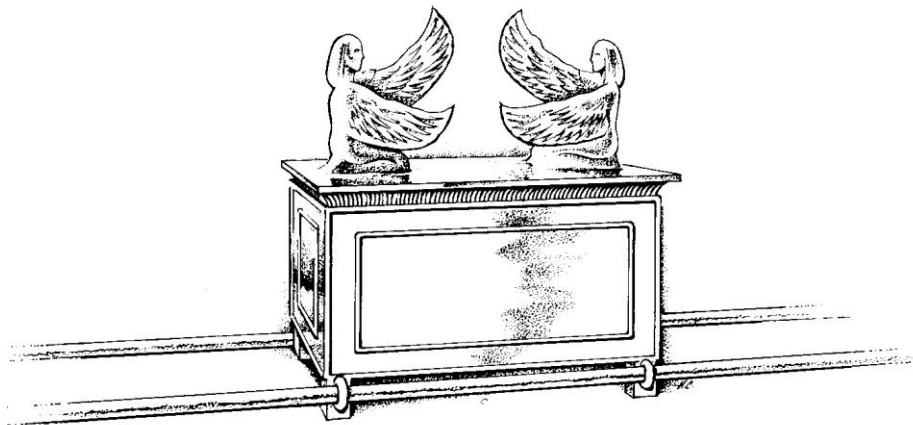
1. In which town did God tell David to settle?
  
2. Underline the name of this town on the map on page 11.
  
3. Who established/anointed him as king?
  
4. Using a pen, outline the frontiers of Judah on the map on page 11.
  
5. Which tribe had its territory in the midst of Judah's territory?
  
6. The other 10 tribes to the north of Judah were often grouped together under the name of Israel. Was David king over all of Israel?
  
7. After 7 years punctuated with conflicts between Judah and Israel, Saul's son was assassinated by traitors and David became king of all of Israel. **Read** how in **2 Sa 5:1-4**.
  - a. What did the representatives of the tribes of Israel acknowledge concerning David? (v 2)
  
  - b. What did David do with them so that they would officially anoint him as king? (v 3)

### B. The Taking of Jerusalem - Read 2 Sa 5:6-12

1. Find the town of Jerusalem on the map on page 11 and underline the name.
  
2. Why do you think that David chose this place for his capital city instead of staying in Hebron? (Study the map to help yourself understand his strategy).
  
3. Who was the first foreign king to recognise David's kingship?

4. Underline the name of his town on the map on page 11.
5. Why did God bless David in this way?

### C. The Ark of the Covenant Taken to Jerusalem



### The Ark of the Covenant

1. Recall what the ark of the covenant represented. (Ps 99:1; Ex:25:22)
2. **Read 2 Sa 6:1-11 – Transporting the ark**
  - a. How is the ark of the covenant described in this passage? (v 2)
  - b. To show that he was reigning as a regent under the reign of God, David wanted the throne of God, which was symbolised by the ark of the covenant, to be associated with his throne. He therefore wanted to bring the ark to Jerusalem. What unfortunate event took place during the transportation of the ark?
  - c. How should the ark have been transported (Ex 25:13-15; Nb 4:2,15)?
  - d. What did David realise that frightened him? (Lv 10:3; Dt 5:24-25)



3. **Read 1 Ch 15:1-4, 11-14, 25-29; 16:1-3.** (The writer of Chronicles adds more details to the information already given in the texts of Samuel and Kings.)

- a. We learn from this account why God struck down Uzzah. Explain why.
- b. Describe the celebration as the ark was transported.
- c. Why do you think that there were such huge celebrations?

#### **D. David, the Victorious Warrior**

After this, David began a military campaign with his army commanded by Joab, against all the peoples that God had ordered Israel to defeat: the inhabitants of Moab, Edom, Aram, Ammon, and Philistia (2 Sa 8:1-14), and he vanquished them. “The Lord gave David victory wherever he went” (2 Sa 8:6). Moreover the King of Hamath that David did not fight against, paid him a tribute. After years of war, Israel was at last at peace.

1. For the countries underlined> above, find them and circle them on the map.



**The Kingdoms of Israel from Saul to Solomon**



Promises	Verses	Given to David	Verses	Accomplished in Christ
A royal offspring	2 Sa 7:12		Mt 1:1 Lk 1:32	
Builder of the Temple	2 Sa 7:13		1 Pe 2:5 Eph 2:20-22	
Son of God	2 Sa 7:14	<i>I will be his father and he my son</i>	Mk 1:11 Lk 1:32	<i>Jesus the Son of God Jesus Son of the Most High</i>
Punished when he does wrong	2 Sa 7:14		Is 53:5 1 Pe 3:18	<i>But He was pierced for <b>our</b> transgressions, crushed for <b>our</b> iniquities.. righteous, He died for the <b>unrighteous</b></i>
Eternal throne	2 Sa 7:13		Hb 1:8	
Eternal reign	2 Sa 7:16	<i>His kingdom shall endure for ever</i>	Lk 1:33 Re 11:15	<i>His kingdom will never end He will reign for ever and ever</i>
Forever loved by God	2 Sa 7:15		Jn 17:24	
Glorious name	2 Sa 7:9		Ph 2:9	

2. “I will be his father, and he shall be my son.” Since the kingdom of Israel was considered to be God’s earthly kingdom, the king of Israel inherited it, as it were, by becoming the adopted son of the Lord, just as a prince would inherit from his father. The king of Israel was “adopted” as a “son of God” at the time of his accession to the throne. Compare what God says in **Ps 2:6-7** with **Eph 1:5** and **2 Ti 2:12**. What are the implications for believers?

### G. David and Bathsheba

#### 1. Read 2 Sa 11:1-11.

a. Explain how David tries to hide the sin he committed with Bathsheba.

b. Why does Uriah refuse to go home?

c. Compare the devotion to God exhibited by Uriah, a non-Israelite, with the behaviour of David, the leader of God's people.

**2. Read 2 Sa 11:12-27 – From bad to worse**

- a. What is David's "plan B" for hiding his sin with Bathsheba?
- b. Who else ended up dying because David tried to hide this second sin against Uriah? (vv 17,24)
- c. What lessons can you personally learn from this tragic story?

**H. God's Reaction – Read 2 Sa 12:1-13**

1. Explain why David's crimes were particularly odious in the eyes of God. (v 8)
2. According to God's Law (Lv 20:10; 24:17), what did David deserve for his crimes?
3. Did God carry out this sentence?
4. Why? (v 13)
5. What will be his punishment?
6. What do you suppose the people will think when they see God punishing even his "beloved" king?
7. **Read 2 Sa 12:14-16 – An added punishment**
  - a. Why will Bathsheba's son die?
  - b. Explain how David failed in regard to Israel's calling. (Dt 4:5-7)

8. **Read Ps 51**, a psalm that David may have written when he was lying on the ground praying for his dying son, or perhaps at another moment after his talk with Nathan.

- a. What strikes you personally in this Psalm?
- b. What had David learnt, perhaps because of Saul's experience? (v 18-19 ; 1 Sa 15:20-23)
- c. Why do you think that God forgave David his sins while He did not forgive Saul?
- d. Was David more deserving of the promise of a lasting dynasty than Saul? Explain your answer.

### **I. Intrigues in David's Family (2 Sa 13-19)**

Just as Nathan had predicted, violence did indeed reign in David's family. One of his sons, Amnon, rapes one of his half sisters, Tamar. David does nothing, perhaps because of his own sexual sin. So Absalom, her brother, revenges his sister by killing Amnon, their half-brother. Later on, Absalom leads a rebellion against his father and briefly seizes the throne. David has to flee from Jerusalem with his wives and his officials. To show that he has replaced his father as king, Absalom, following the custom of the other conquering kings of the time, takes over the defeated king's harem. A tent is pitched for Absalom on the roof of the palace and he lies with this father's concubines "in the sight of all Israel," just as Nathan had predicted. Through God's intervention, David manages to take back his throne, but to his bitter regret, it is at the cost of Absalom's life. Later on, when David is old, another one of his sons, Adonijah, declares himself the successor to the throne, and organises his own enthronement. David narrowly succeeds in putting Solomon, Bathsheba's second son, on the throne. He was God's chosen successor.

1. How many pretenders to the throne were there?
2. What were their names?

## Lesson 4: The Reign of Solomon and Building the Temple

### A. Solomon's Wisdom – Read 1 Kings 3:4-15

1. Why does Solomon ask for wisdom?

2. What else will God give him?

### B. Promises Fulfilled – Read 1 Kg 4:20-21

1. Go back to the map on page 18. Using a pen outline the frontiers mentioned in this passage. (N.B. The river = the Euphrates, border of Egypt = wadi).

2. Now outline the frontiers of the area shown to Moses and then promised to Joshua in Jos 1:3-4. (N.B. Lebanon = Phoenicia) What do you notice?

3. These verses remind us of two of the covenant promises given to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (p 2). Other promises are also being fulfilled, at least partially. To complete the table, read the verses listed, and summarise the parts of the verses which correspond to these promises. (An example is given).

Verses	Promises	Verses	Fulfilled in the time of Solomon
Gn 17:7	To be the God of his descendants	1 Kg 3:5	
Gn 13:16	To have numerous descendants	1 Kg 4:20a	
Gn 15:18	To possess a land	1 Kg 4:21	
Gn 12:3	To bless all other nations through him	1 Kg 4:34	
Gn 17:6	To give kings as offspring	1 Kg 3:7	<i>God chooses Solomon as king to succeed David, descendant of Abraham</i>

4. Read 1 Kg 4:24-25 and note how the promises given to David (2 Sa 7:10-11) were fulfilled.

### C. Building the Temple

Following the instructions that David had received from God, Solomon began to build the Temple. The design was similar to that of the tabernacle where there had been two main rooms: a large hall, called

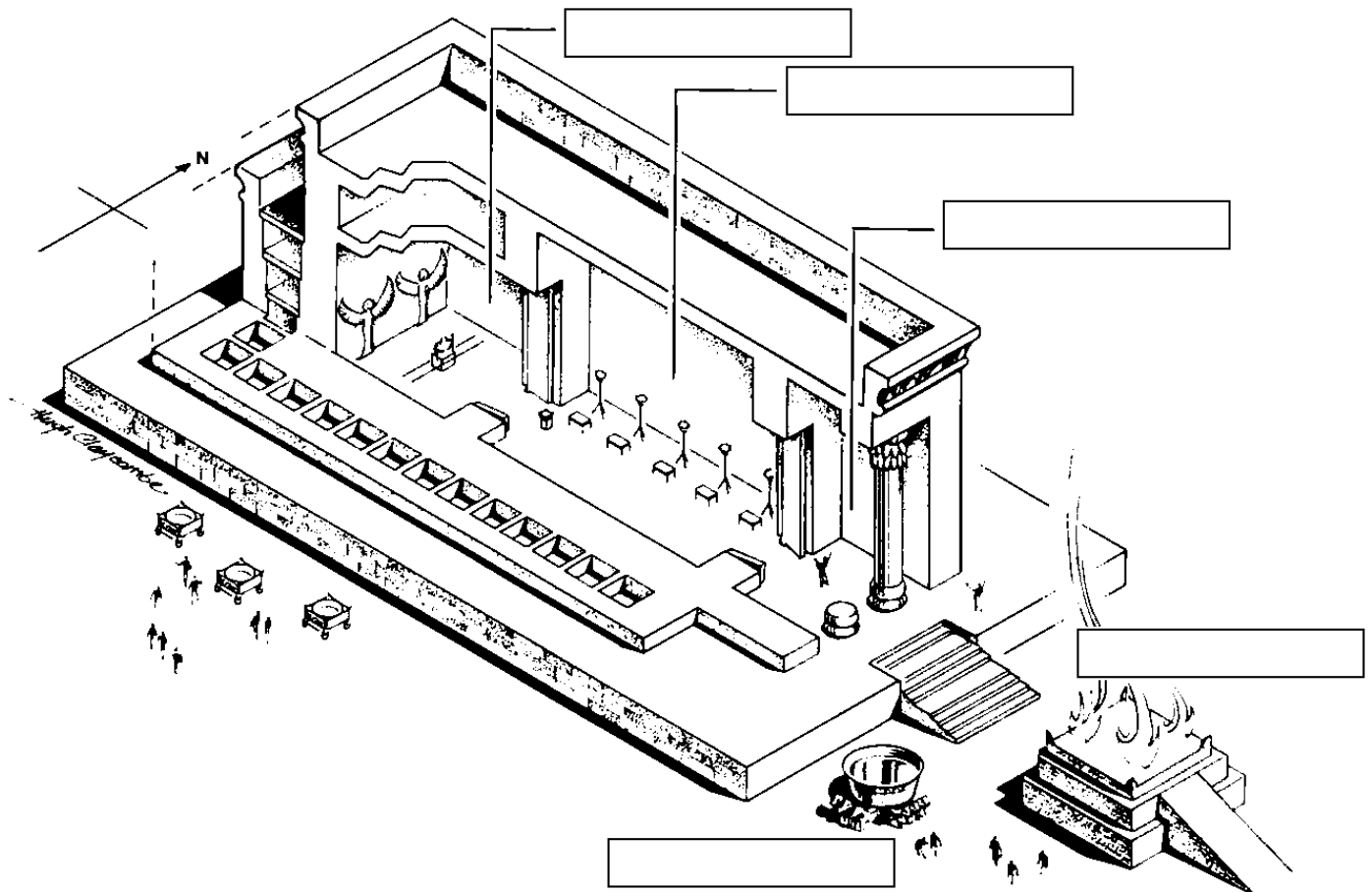
the "Holy Place," which was separated from a smaller cube-shaped room, the "Most Holy Place." The ark of the covenant was to be put in the Most Holy Place. Outside, in the courtyard was a huge altar made of bronze which measured ten metres by ten and stood five metres high, as well as a large basin of water five metres in diameter, standing two and a half metres high, which was used to purify the priests.

**1. Read 2 Ch 3:1-17**

- a. What would have struck you upon entering this Temple?
- b. What is significant about the site of the temple? (v 1; Gn 22.2)

**2. Identify these parts of the Temple in the picture:**

*The portico, The Most Holy Place, The Holy Place (the main hall), the altar, the water basin*



**The Temple of Jerusalem**

**D. Installing the Ark of the Covenant - Read 1 K 8:1-13**

1. What happened just after the ark was installed in the Most Holy Place?



2. The Israelites had already met this glory cloud several times in the past. It sometimes appeared as a fire, sometimes as an enormous cloud. One can imagine a fire burning and creating its own cloud of smoke around it. Retrace the history of this “burning cloud” and note the circumstances of some of its previous appearances.

- a. **Ex 3:2**
- b. **Ex 13:21**
- c. **Ex 24:15-17**
- d. **Ex 40:34-35, 38**

3. What is the significance of the presence of this glory cloud in the Temple?

4. These appearances of God in the form of a fire-cloud foreshadow an important event in the New Testament. Explain which one by noting the relationship between **Eph 2:20-22** and **Acts 2:1-4**.

5. That does this mean for you personally? (1 Co 6:19-20)

### **E. The Prayer of Dedication of the Temple**

**Read 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30**

1. Explain why 1 Kings 8:13 and 8:29 do not contradict 8:27.
2. **Read 1 K 8:41-43.** Explain how these verses show that God’s plan of salvation is open to all peoples.
3. **Read 1 K 8:46-53.** What are the essential aspects of sincere repentance?

### **F. Solomon’s Kingdom Foreshadows the Future Kingdom of God**

God blessed Solomon’s kingdom. It prefigures in many ways the future kingdom of God (that would be brought in by the Messiah). Remember that Solomon’s kingdom represented God’s earthly kingdom, where Solomon was to reign as a lieutenant, the “prince” of the real king, God. Note the multiple ways in which Solomon’s kingdom foreshadowed the ultimate kingdom of God by selecting or summarizing the parts of the verses which correspond to the different aspects of the coming kingdom. (Examples are given).

Aspect	Verses	Solomon's kingdom	Verses	The coming kingdom of God
Countless people	1 Kg 3:8		Re 7:9	
Enemies subjugated	1 Kg 21b		1 Co 15:24	
A people living in security	1 Kg 4:25		Hb 12:28	
A well-fed people	1 Kg 4:20b		Re 7:16	
A happy people	1Kg 4:20b		Re 19:7	
Co-reign of God the Father with the son	2 Sa 7:14	<i>God will be for the king a father and he will be his son</i>	Re 22:3	
Ruling over all the other kingdoms	1 K 4:24		Re 11:15	
The other nations bring their riches	1 K 10:14-15, 25		Re 21:24-25	<i>The kings of the earth will bring Him their splendour.</i>
Temple present	2 Ch 3:1		Re 21:22	
God especially present with his people	1 R 8:10-11		Re 21:3	

### G. The Sins of Solomon

1. Read 1 Kg 10:26-28; 11:1-8. Explain Solomon's sins in the light of Dt 17:16-17.
2. Read 1 Kg 11:9-13. Note God's punishment

### H. The Succession to Solomon

At the death of Solomon after a reign of forty years, his son Rehoboam succeeded him. The ten tribes of the North who had signed a treaty with David (to be their king) asked Rehoboam to lighten the harsh labour that Solomon had put on them. When Rehoboam threatened to make their yoke heavier rather

than lighter, the ten tribes refused to recognise him as king. They proclaimed Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim, as king in his place.

1. Read 1 Kg 12:25-33 and describe the sins of Jeroboam which would haunt the ten tribes of the North for centuries.

2. On this map, circle the names of the towns mentioned in this passage.



**The Divided Kingdom**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

**Read 1 Kings 8:33-40** – Mercy is asked for should curses come as mentioned in the covenant

Solomon knows that the Israelites will sin by not obeying the covenant treaty. He therefore asks God to pardon them their future sins. His prayer speaks of the curses mentioned in the covenant treaty, some of which we have seen in Dt 28. In this exercise, match the subjects of his prayer with the curses mentioned in Dt 28, here on the right in jumbled order.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Curse</u>	<u>Reference in Dt</u>	<u>References out of order</u>
1 K 8:33	Defeat by enemies	<u>Dt 28:25</u>	Dt 28:21
1 K 8:34	Exile		Dt 28:23-24
1 K 8:35	Lack of rain		Dt 28:42
1 K 8:37	Famine		Dt 28:41
1 K 8:37	Plague		Dt 28:52
1 K 8:37	Blight or mildew		Dt 28:48
1 K 8:37	Invasion of grasshoppers		Dt 28:22b
1 K 8:37	Cities besieged		<del>Dt 28:25</del>

## Lesson 5: The Prophets Elijah and Elisha

### The History of the Northern Kingdom

#### Introduction

With the division of the kingdom, Judah and Israel will both have a succession of kings. The kingdom of Judah will remain faithful to the dynasty of David, whereas the kingdom of Israel will have a series of different dynasties. The town of Samaria will become the capital of Israel, and will give its name to the whole region. **Circle the town of Samaria on the map on the previous page.**

Most of the kings of Judah will remain more or less faithful to God, whereas no king of Israel will do so. Describing the kings of Israel, a refrain will be repeated: “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in his sin which he had caused Israel to commit.” Despite the stubbornness of these kings, God sent them prophets to call them to the obedience required by the covenant treaty. Let us take the example of Ahab, one of the worst kings of Israel.

#### A. King Ahab

1. Read 1 Kg 16:29-33 and describe the sins of Ahab.

2. Read 1 Kg 17:1; 18:1-15.

- a. Who is Obadiah?
- b. Explain the risk and the generosity involved in his deeds done for the prophets.
  - i. Risk:
  - ii. Generosity:
- c. What parallels do you see with your own situation? How does his example encourage you?

**B. The Prophet Elijah and the Duel Between God and Baal****1. Read 1 K 18:16-40** – Elijah's challenge : God versus Baal

a. Note the important elements in this story in the table on the following page.

Element	Baal	God
Number of prophets		
State of the sacrifice (dry or wet)		
Efforts made by the prophet to provoke a divine response		
Length of time given to the divinity to act		
Response of the divinity		
Number of prophets alive at the end		

b. The putting to death of God's enemies on this occasion foreshadows the final judgement of God which will take place at the end of time when all of God's enemies will be destroyed. Explain how the participation of Elijah in the death of the false prophets was laudable (Dt 18:20).

**2. Read 1 Kg 18:41-46** – God's response (continued)

a. In Canaanite mythology, Baal was a god of fertility and life, since he was first of all the god of rain and storms. From the clouds on which he was said to ride, he could have sent a bolt of lightning to burn up the sacrifice, but in fact he couldn't because he didn't exist! Remember that it was God who had sent the three-year-long drought that had stricken Israel. When he now sends the rain what does he want to make clear?

b. What was God's second goal in the confrontation with Baal and the sending of rain according to 1 Kg 18:37?

c. With this goal in mind, Elijah foreshadows another prophet who will have the same objective. Find out who by **reading Mal 4:5-6** followed by **Luke 1:13-17**.

### C. The Prophet Elisha

Just as the person spoken of in the question above preceded somebody greater than he, so Elijah preceded somebody greater than he: the prophet Elisha. When Elisha succeeded Elijah, he received “a double portion” of the Spirit as compared to Elijah. Because of this fullness, Elisha would work many miracles. **While the destruction of God’s enemies in the story of Elijah foreshadows the final judgement, the miracles performed by Elisha foreshadow the final restoration, the new earth to come**, where the effects and consequences of sin will be no more.

Complete the table below to see how Elisha prefigured Jesus by working miracles similar to his. Match the texts concerning Elisha with the miracles mentioned. (**FOR FURTHER STUDY**, do the same with the texts concerning Jesus). (*An example is given*).

#### Elisha

2 Kg 2:19-22      2 Kg 4:17  
2 Kg 4:32-37      2 Kg 4:42-44  
2 Kg 5:1-3, 9-14      2 Kg 6:1-7  
2 Kg 6:15-20      2 Kg 13:20-21

#### For Further Study: Jesus

Mk 4:39; 6:48      Mk 1:40-42  
Mk 6:39-44      Lk 7:12-15  
Ac 2:33      Jn 4:13-14  
Mk 8:22-25      Ro 6:3-4

Miracle	Elisha	Jesus
He heals a leper	2 K 5:1-3, 9-14	
He feeds a multitude		
He gives life-giving water		
He gives the Spirit generously (symbolised in the O.T. by oil)		
He heals a blind man		
He rules over the waters		
He resurrects a dead person during his lifetime		
He resurrects a dead person after his own death		

### D. King Jeroboam II and the Prophet Jonah – Read 2 Kg 14:23-29

1. In 782 B.C. Jeroboam II came to the throne of Israel. A hundred and thirty years had passed since Israel had separated from Judah after the death of Solomon. Because of her almost incessant wars with her neighbours, Israel had gone through many ups and downs, and at the accession of Jeroboam II, she was in danger of ceasing to exist. However, under the reign of Jeroboam II, Israel was able to reconquer almost all the territories that she had possessed in the time of Solomon. Who had foretold these events?

2. Why did God allow the reconquest? (v 26-27)

3. Did the people of Israel deserve this? Explain your answer.

4. Jonah was probably pleased to announce this good news to Israel. But how did he react when God sent him to bring his word to Israel’s enemies? **Read Jonah 1.1-3.**
5. **Read Jonah 4:2.** Why didn’t Jonah want to go to Nineveh? In other words, what had Jonah understood about God through the way He had acted towards Israel?
6. Note the reason why God had sent Jonah to Nineveh (**Jon 4:11**), and compare that with the reason given for saving Israel. What do you learn about the scope of God’s plan of salvation?

**E. The Prophet Amos**

1. The reign of Jeroboam was a time of prosperity, but this prosperity led to even more sin. God called the prophet Amos to warn Israel of his judgement. **Read Amos 2:6-8; 5:12; 6:4-6; 8:4-6** and note the sins of the ruling class of Israel.
2. **Read Amos 3:1-2, 11, 13-15; Amos 6.14; Amos 7:10-11** and describe the punishment in store for Israel.
3. To warn Israel, God had already sent several prophets to her, and had brought upon her the curses foreseen in the covenant. **Read Am 4:6-11.**
- a. Note which verses from this passage in Amos correspond to these curses mentioned in Dt 28.

Dt	Curse	Amos	Dt	Curse	Amos
28:17	Famine	4:6	28:42	Crops devoured by locusts	
28:23	Drought		28:21	Diseases	
28:22	Blight and mildew		28:25	Defeated by enemies	

- b. Why did God send these curses?
- c. How did Israel respond?



## F. The Prophet Hosea

God therefore sends yet another prophet just after Amos, the prophet Hosea. God asks him to love and marry an adulterous woman. This love and marriage represent the love and the relationship that God has for and with Israel. Israel is God's "bride" by covenant, but she has become adulterous. As an emissary of the King-Husband of Israel, Hosea brings charges against Israel. Read the passages in the table on the next page, and note the actions of Israel and their consequences

Texts	Unrighteous actions	Consequences
Hos 4:1-3		
Hos 8:1-6		
Hos 11:1-7	<i>They sacrifice to the Baals. They refuse God's love and refuse to repent. They turn away from Him</i>	<i>Assyria will rule over them. They will be destroyed by the sword</i>
	Righteous actions that God desires	Consequences
Hos 14:2-9		

## G. King Ahaz of Judah Gets Involved in the History of Israel

Despite Hosea's exhortations, Israel did not repent and the end of the kingdom was near. King Pekah, Israel's next-to-last king, allied himself with King Rezin of Aram (Syria) in order to resist a possible Assyrian invasion. The two kings wanted the king of Judah, King Ahaz, to join their alliance. When he refused, the two kings attacked Jerusalem. It was the year 734 B.C. Lacking faith in God, Ahaz considered calling on the king of Assyria for help. So God sent the prophet Isaiah to speak to Ahaz.

1. **Read Is 7:1-9** (Remember that "Ephraim" is another name for Israel).

a. What is God's message of exhortation for Ahaz?

b. What future is predicted for the Northern Kingdom, Israel (Ephraim)? (v 8)

2. God wants to confirm his word by a sign. He sends Isaiah a second time to see Ahaz. **Read Is 7:10-16** and describe the sign.

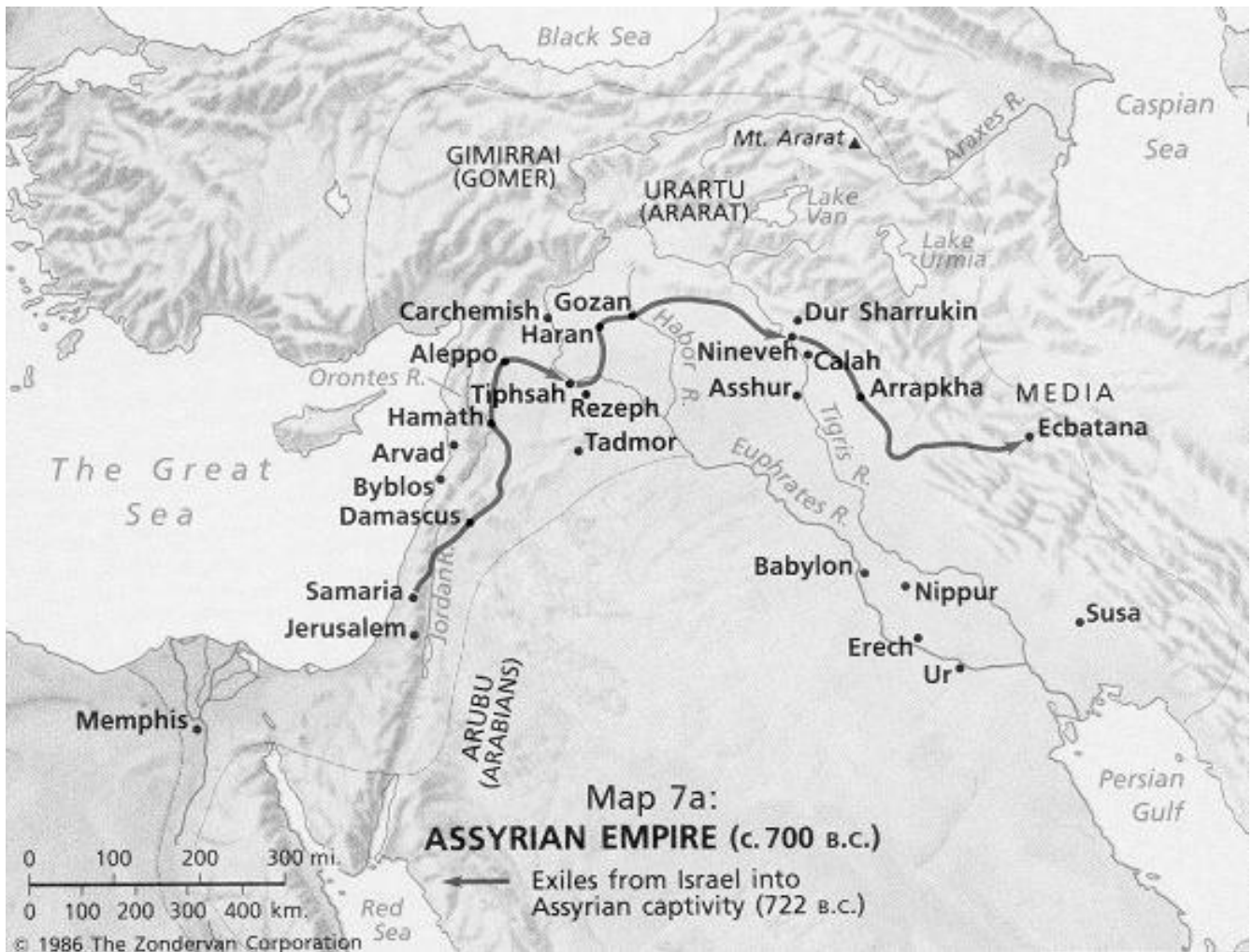
3. But Ahaz did not listen to Isaiah's exhortation. **Read 2 Kg 16:7-8** and comment on Ahaz's decision.

4. **Read 2 K 16:9 and 15:29** and describe the consequences of this initiative.

### **H. The End of the Kingdom of Israel**

This Assyrian invasion in 733 B.C. was followed by a second, more serious one eight years later in 725 B.C. This invasion, which turned out to be fatal for Israel, occurred because the last king of Israel had refused to pay tribute to Assyria. A new Assyrian king, Shalmaneser, came to attack Israel. After three years of siege, the city of Samaria fell, and the last king of Israel was imprisoned. There was a second deportation, which included primarily the country's ruling class. The Assyrian annals note that in the year 722 B.C., 27,290 Israelites were deported.

1. "...the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of Media." (2 Kg 17:6). Find these three places on the map below and circle them.



## The Exile

2. Thus ends the history of the kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. As the prophet Isaiah had predicted 12 years earlier in 734 B.C. (Is 7:14-16), the two countries that Judah feared were abandoned before the child, Immanuel, born to the virgin, learned to reject the wrong and choose the right (considered at the time to be around the age of 12 or 13). As with many prophecies, this one was fulfilled in the near future, and then again (in part) in a farther flung future. Note its second fulfilment. (Mt 1:20-23)

3. Could this really be the end of the Kingdom of Israel? How could God allow such a tragedy? Was He unfaithful to his covenant? **Read 2 K 17:7-18 and Dt 28:36-37** and explain how the writer of the book of Kings justifies God's action.

## Lesson 6: The History of the Kingdom of Judah

### Introduction

As we already observed, almost every king of Israel was described by the same refrain, “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his fathers had done” (2 K 15:9). This was not the case for the kings of Judah. A good number of them did try to follow the Lord, even if most of them turned away from Him towards the end of their life as Solomon did. However, even these “faithful kings” did not have the courage to destroy the sacrificial high places, and this was the refrain that described them, “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord....The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there” (2 K 15:3-4). (The high places in this context refer to the places where the Israelites had the habit of sacrificing to God before the Temple was built. Once the Temple was built, it became the only place authorized by God for sacrifices.)

### A. King Ahaz

We just met king Ahaz. Despite the fact that his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather had all been faithful to God, Ahaz was one of the most notorious kings of Judah. **Read 2 Ch 28:1-4, 22-25** and describe his sins (in addition to those we just studied in the last lesson).

### B. Hezekiah, Son of Ahaz, an Exemplary king

#### 1. Read 2 Kg 18.1-8

a. Despite the very bad example set by his father, Hezekiah was one of the best kings of Judah. How do you explain that?

b. Discuss how you were influenced by the way your parents brought you up, including the area of religion. What is your share of responsibility for the way you now live your life and for the way you bring up any children you may have?

#### 2. Read 2 Ch 29:3-10, 15, 18, 27, 35 – Purifying the Temple

a. At what moment in his reign did Hezekiah start cleansing the Temple?

b. What did he say had motivated him to do this?

c. When Hezekiah talked about making a covenant with the Lord, it was in fact just a renewal of an already existing one. Note which covenant Hezekiah is talking about. (v 10; see also Dt 29:12-15; Jos 24:25).

### C. An Unforgettable Passover

#### 1. Read 2 Ch 30:1, 5-9

- a. Who was invited to celebrate the Passover?
- b. Find the towns of Dan and Beersheba on the map on page 27 and circle them.
- c. What was Hezekiah's exhortation to his guests?

#### 2. Read 2 Ch 30:10-11.

- a. Describe the two reactions of the inhabitants of the northern Kingdom of Israel.
- b. Why do you think it was necessary for the people of the North to humble themselves in order to go to Jerusalem? (Recall where the people of the North made their sacrifices or look on page 27).
- c. When God the King sends us as his messengers to invite sinners to come to the "sanctuary" Jesus, what sorts of reaction should we expect (1 Co 1:18, 23-24)?

#### 3. Read 2 Ch 30:21-27 and describe this great celebration.

### D. Jerusalem Under Threat

#### 1. Read 2 Ch 32:1-8

- a. On what/whom did Hezekiah count for the protection of Jerusalem?
- b. Did his trust in God prevent him from taking other measures for the defence of the city?
- c. Did God find fault with him for that?
- d. What personal lesson can you learn from that?

e. However, in other cases where the kings of Israel and Judah took measures which included forming alliances with kings of other countries, God often chastised them. Explain why by referring to **Dt 7:17-19** and to the exclusive loyalty demanded by the covenant treaty (see page 3). (See also Is 31:1).

f. What other lesson can you learn from this for your personal life?

2. **Read 2 Ch 32:9-19.** How did Sennacherib insult God?

3. **Read 2 Kg 19:14-19** – Hezekiah's prayer

a. Why did Hezekiah choose the temple as the place to go to pray? (v 15; see also 1 K 8:29-30)

b. What would be the result of his prayer being answered ? (v 19)

#### **E. God's Answer**

1. **Read 2 Kg 19:20-24**

a. Note who brings God's answer to Hezekiah.

To what does the king of Assyria attribute his victories?

2. **Read 2 Kg 19:25-27.** Who was really behind the Assyrian victories?

3. **Read Is 10:5-7.** Note how God describes his relationship with Assyria.

4. **Read 2 Kg 19:27-28, 32-34.**

a. What is God going to do to the Assyrians?

b. Why is he going to do this?

5. Read **2 Kg 19:35-37** and describe the deliverance.

6. A short time after this miraculous deliverance, Hezekiah was struck by a deadly illness. Read **2 Kg 20:1-6** and note God's response to his prayer.

### F. Christian Deliverance

When God protects his people from their physical enemies and illnesses in the OT, he does it to show and to teach that he is able to deliver them from their real enemies: those that are **spiritual**. Remember that God reveals himself progressively as his plan of salvation unfolds in the Bible. God delivers his people from physical dangers to show that he is also able to deliver them from spiritual dangers.

1. But does God protect believers today from all of their physical enemies? (Ac 7:59; 8:1; 2 Co 6:4-5)

2. Did these New Testament people lack faith?

3. What does God want to teach Christians? (Mt 10:28)

4. Who are the real enemies that God wants to protect his children from?

a. **Ro 6:12; 1 Pe 2:11** -

b. **1 Pe 5:8** -

c. **1 Co 15:26** -

5. Explain what Jesus did to emphasize this teaching (Mk 2:9-11).

6. Why doesn't God deliver all Christians from sickness and physical enemies (2 Co 4:7-11; 2 Co 12:8-10)?

**G. The Future of Jerusalem**

1. **Read 2 Kg 20:12-18.** Even if God protected Jerusalem from her enemies this time round, Isaiah foretells that this will not always be the case. What future does he prophesy for Jerusalem?

2. **Read Is 1:1-4, 13-20.**

a. Why does God refuse to accept the worship and to listen to the prayers of his people?

b. What does he want of his people?

3. The prophet Micah also prophesied at the time of Isaiah. **Read Mi 3:9-12**, and note what he adds to what Isaiah has said.

**H. Hezekiah as a Type of Christ**

**Reread 2 Kg 18:3-7.** Complete the table to discover how King Hezekiah foreshadowed the King Jesus Christ. To do this, select or summarise the parts of the NT verses given which correspond to the descriptions of Hezekiah. *(An example is given)*

Verse	Description of Hezekiah	Verse	Jesus Christ
<b>2 K 18:3</b>	A righteous king	<b>Rev 15:3</b>	
<b>2 K 18:3</b>	In the line of David	<b>Rev 22:16</b>	<i>Jesus is the Root and the Offspring of David</i>
<b>2 R 18:4</b>	Destroyed the false gods	<b>1 Co 15:24</b>	
<b>2 K 18:5</b>	Trusted in the Lord God	<b>Jn 11:41-42</b>	
<b>2 K 18:6</b>	Held fast to the Lord God without turning away	<b>Mt 26:39</b>	<i>May things be done not according to my will but according to yours</i>
<b>2 K 18:6</b>	Kept God's commandments	<b>Jn 15:10b</b>	<i>I have obeyed my Father's commands</i>
<b>2 K 18:7</b>	God was with him	<b>Jn 10:30</b>	
<b>2 K 18:7</b>	Was successful in whatever he undertook	<b>Hb 7:25</b>	
<b>2 K 18:7</b>	Refused to submit to a foreign power	<b>Mt 4:8-10</b>	



## I. Manasseh, Son of Hezekiah, the Most Notorious of Judah's Kings

1. Manasseh committed the same sins as Ahaz and even worse. **Read 2 Kg 21:1-9, 16.** Note the sins that he added to those of his grandfather.

## 2. Read 2 Kg 21:10-15

a. Describe the judgement that God pronounced.

b. What words does He use to describe the destruction of Jerusalem (v 13)?

3. **Read Lv 18:24-30** and note how God had warned the Israelites. What words does He use here?

4. **Read 2 Ch 33:10-13, 15-16** – The repentance of Manasseh, the most notorious king of Judah

a. What personal lesson can you draw from this surprising turn around?

b. We don't always respond well to God's discipline. In what other ways could Manasseh have reacted to this humiliation?

c. What did Manasseh do to show the sincerity of his repentance?

**J. Josiah, Son of Manasseh, a Great Reforming king**

1. Josiah, one of the last kings of Judah, was one of the best. There are many parallels to be drawn between his reign and that of Hezekiah. Just like Hezekiah, he reigned after one of the worst kings of Judah. To find other parallels between the two kings, complete the table on the following page. Read the passages which are listed in the biblical order and match them to the events in the table listed out of order.

- 1) 2 Ch 34:3-4      3) 2 Ch 34:8      5) 2 Ch 34:29-32      7) 2 Ch 35:17-18  
 2) 2 Ch 34:6-7, 33      4) 2 Ch 34:9      6) 2 Ch 35:1, 16

Hezekiah	Event	Josiah
<b>2 Ch 31:3</b>	Temple repaired	<i>2 Ch 34:8</i>
<b>2 Ch 29:10, 31</b>	Covenant treaty renewed	
<b>2 Ch 31:6</b>	Contributions towards the temple from Judah and Israel	
<b>2 R 18:4</b>	Idols destroyed in Judah	
<b>2 Ch 30:2</b>	Memorable Passover celebrations organised by the king	
<b>2 Ch 31:1</b>	Idols destroyed in the Northern kingdom (Israel)	
<b>2 Ch 30:1</b>	The peoples of Judah and Israel celebrate Passover together	

**2. Read 2 Ch 34:14, 19-28 – The Book of the Law found**

a. How did Josiah react at the reading of the Law of God?

b. What grace is granted to Josiah despite the judgement pronounced on Judah?

3. In the year 609 BC, Josiah dies during a battle he was waging against the pharaoh of Egypt. The pharaoh was passing through Judah on his way to bring help to the Assyrians who were fighting against the Babylonians. **Read 2 Ch 35:25** and note who wrote laments in his honour.

## Lesson 7: Beginning of the End of the Kingdom of Judah

### Introduction

With the death of Josiah, the fate of the kingdom of Judah was sealed. In less than 25 years, Jerusalem would be destroyed. The details of the events that took place during this period were recorded in the writings of the prophets who lived at the time, especially by Jeremiah. After the death of Josiah, one of his sons succeeded him. But after just three months, he was taken captive to Egypt by the same pharaoh that Josiah had fought against. A second son, Jehoiakim, was put on the throne by the pharaoh. We will study primarily the writings of Jeremiah to find out what happened next. (N.B. The book of Jeremiah was compiled following a thematic order and not a chronological one. So to follow the historical thread, we will need to read the texts of Jeremiah out of order.)

### A. A Word of Warning Early in the Reign of Jehoiakim

#### 1. Read Jr 26:1-6 – Jeremiah to preach

a. Where does God send Jeremiah?

b. What does God hope for?

#### 2. Read Jr 7:1-15 - Preaching in the Temple

a. Note all the sins mentioned in the verses 6-9

b. What gave them a false sense of security when they committed these sins? (v 4, 10)

c. What structure at Shiloh could have given a false sense of security to their ancestors? (Jos 18:1)

d. What happened at Shiloh which will also happen to the Temple? (Ps 78:59-61)

#### 3. Read Jr 26:7-9, 16-19

a. Describe the two reactions of the people to this preaching.

- b. Some of the elders quote the prophet Micah who had prophesied a hundred years before at the time of Isaiah. **Read** the verses which precede their quotation in **Mi 3:9-12**. What similarities do you see in the present situation of Jeremiah and that at the time of Micah?
- c. By the grace of God, Christians form a spiritual temple. In what way can that give them a “false sense of security” concerning sin? (Ro 6:1-2, 15; Hb 10:26-27)

**B. God Accuses his People**

Throughout his book, Jeremiah describes the faults committed by the people against God. Read the following texts and match them to the grievances in the table.

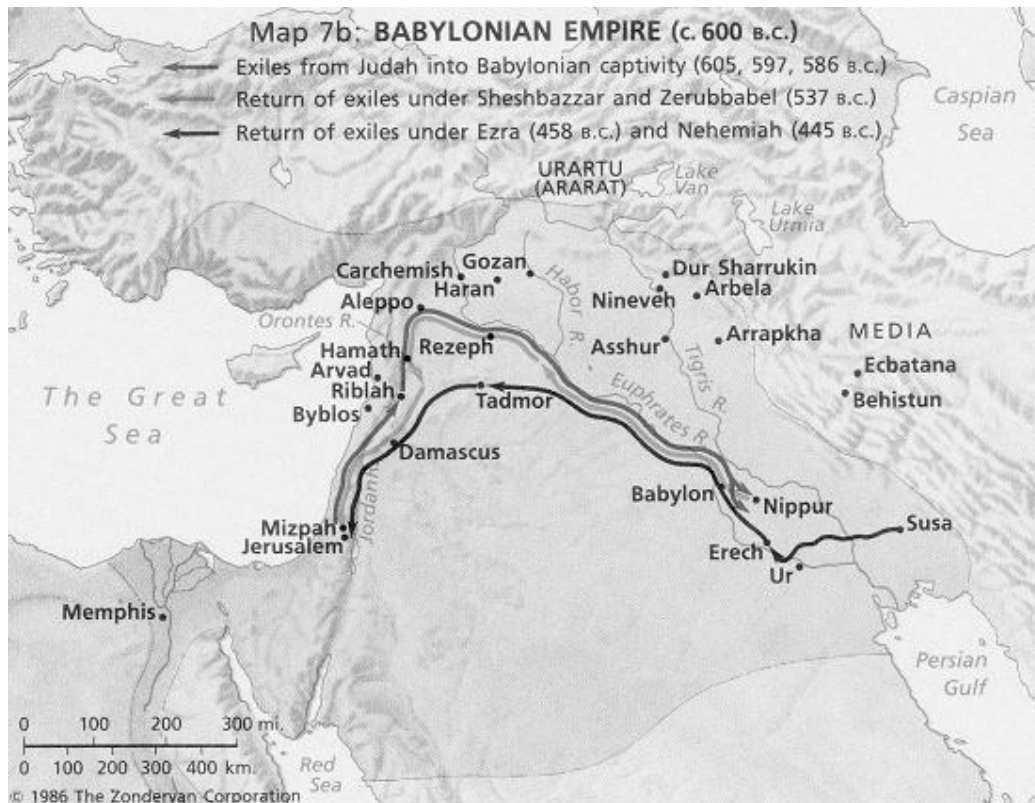
- 1) Jr 2:11
- 2) Jr 2:12-13
- 3) Jr 2:27
- 4) Jr 2:32
- 5) Jr 2:34
- 6) Jr 5:3
- 7) Jr 5:28
- 8) Jr 6:10
- 9) Jr 8:8
- 10) Jr 9:6
- 11) Jr 11:10
- 12) Jr 32:35

Sin	Verses	Sin	Verses
They do not administer justice to the poor	Jr 5:28	They are deceitful	Jr 9:6
They kill the innocent		They have forsaken the spring of living water	
They have broken the covenant		They have forgotten God	
They have falsified the Law		They have sacrificed their children by fire	
They have turned away from God		They scorn the word of God	
They have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols		They have refused to repent	

**C. The First Deportation from Judah**

**1. Read Daniel 1:1-3, 6**

- a. Which social class of people was targeted by this first deportation in the year 605 B.C.? **Note:** *The prophet Daniel was in this first group of exiles.*
- b. Underline the city of Babylon on the map on the following page.



## The Exiles of Israel

### D. King Jehoiakim and Jeremiah

#### 1. Read Jr 36:1-4, 21-31 – Jehoiakim and the scroll

a. Why did God ask Jeremiah to write down all his prophecies?

b. What was Jehoiakim's response?

c. What would be the consequences of his reaction?

#### 2. Read Jr 22:13-19 – Other reproaches made to Jehoiakim by Jeremiah

a. Compare Jehoiakim's behaviour with that of his father Josiah.

b. What would be the consequences of his behaviour?

In the year 597 B.C., Jehoiakim refuses to pay the tribute to the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. By the time the latter arrives with his army to lay siege to Jerusalem, Jehoiakim dies and his son Jehoiachin succeeds him.

### **E. A Second Deportation**

#### **1. Read 2 Kg 24:8-17**

- a. Who was deported this time?
- b. How many people were deported? (v 14) (N.B. the prophet Ezekiel was in this group).
- c. A third son of Josiah was put on the throne in the place of Jehoiachin. Who?

#### **2. Read Jr 29:1-14 – A letter from God to the exiles**

- a. Who was responsible for the deportation? (v 4, 14)
- b. What exhortations did God give to the exiles?
- c. How did he console them?

#### **3. Read Jr 27:1, 12-15 and note the exhortations given to King Zedekiah.**

## F. Judgement is Announced

During the whole of his ministry Jeremiah announced God's coming judgement. Match the following texts to the descriptions of judgement given in the table.

- |             |             |               |               |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) Jr 4:6-7 | 2) Jr 4:16  | 3) Jr 5:15-17 | 4) Jr 6:22-23 | 5) Jr 9:11    |
| 6) Jr 12:7  | 7) Jr 14:12 | 8) Jr 15:3-4  | 9) Jr 17:4    | 10) Jr 25:8-9 |

Judgment	Verses	Judgment	Verses
God's beloved people will be handed over	<i>Jr 12:7</i>	A lion will lay waste to the land	<i>Jr 4:6-7</i>
Because of the evil Manasseh did		The enemy will devour everything	
Nebuchadnezzar will come to destroy		Jerusalem will be a heap of ruins	
A besieging army is coming		They will serve their enemies in a foreign land	
The enemy is cruel and merciless		Sword, famine and plague will destroy them	

## G. Jeremiah is Persecuted

1. Announcing all these words of God's judgement had severe consequences for Jeremiah. Read the following texts and describe each type of persecution he suffered.

- Jr 20:1-2:**
- Jr 20:7-8:**
- Jr 20:10:**
- Jr 37:14-16:**
- Jr 38:6:**

2. Despite the persecution, Jeremiah was not indifferent to the judgements that he prophesied. **Read Jr 4:19-21; 13:17; 23:9** and describe his emotions.

3. Perhaps you do not have a ministry like Jeremiah's, but we are all called to be witnesses for Christ. When confronted by opposition, however great or small, how should you react? (1 Pe 3:14-17)

## H. Ezekiel's Ministry

The prophet Ezekiel, who had been deported to Babylon in the year 597 B.C., also announced the coming destruction of Jerusalem and Judah. While Jeremiah was prophesying to those living in Judah,

Ezekiel was prophesying to the exiles in Babylon. One of his prophecies took the form of **an allegory**, where he recounted the history of the relationship between God and Jerusalem to explain the coming judgement.

## 1. Read Eze 16:1-14

- a. What figure is used to represent the city of Jerusalem in this allegory?
- b. What was the relationship between God and Jerusalem that had been sealed by a covenant? (v 8, see also Is 54:5)
- c. At what moment of her history was Jerusalem's beauty "perfect?" (1 Kg 10:14-15 , 27)

## 2. Read Eze 16:15-34

- a. How did she use her beauty?
- b. What did she do with her children?
- c. What is so surprising about her behaviour? (v 33)

### 3. Read Eze 16:35-43 – The consequences

- a. How will God judge Jerusalem? (v 38)
- b. What did those guilty of such crimes deserve? (See Lv 20:10; 21:9; Ex 21:12)
- c. What do those who are unfaithful to their husband, Christ, deserve? (Hb 10:26-27)



## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

### **A Dialogue Between the Prophet Habakkuk and God**

Habakkuk lived in Judah at the same time as Jeremiah. His book is written as a dialogue between the prophet and God. Read the following texts and summarize them in order to follow their conversation.

4. **Habakkuk** – question about the conduct of the inhabitants of Judah (**Hab 1:2-4**):

5. **GOD** – his answer (Hab 1:6-7, 11):

6. **Habakkuk** – question about this instrument of judgment (**Hab 1:13**):

7. **GOD** – his answer (addressed to the Babylonians) (**Hab 2:8, 16-17**):

8. **Habakkuk** – his response (**Hab 3:16-18**):

## Lesson 8: The Fall of Jerusalem, Exile, and Return

### A. The Promised Judgement Begins

#### 1. Read Jer 21:1-2

- a. What was Zedekiah hoping for?
- b. Give one of the reasons why Zedekiah (of the line of David), and even all of Judah, probably found it hard to believe the bad news being announced by Jeremiah. (2 Sa 7:12-16)
- c. Furthermore, David's dynasty had lasted for more than 400 years at a time when a dynasty of 100 years was considered exceptional in the region. What had Zedekiah forgotten? (1 Kg 9:5-7)
- d. It had been more than a hundred years since Isaiah and Micah had predicted the destruction of Jerusalem. Note why God had waited (Ex 34:6).

#### 2. Read Jer 21:3-10 – Jeremiah's response to Zedekiah

- a. Who is fighting alongside the Babylonians against Jerusalem?
- b. Describe the choice that God offers his people.
- c. Compare this choice with that given by Moses when the covenant treaty was renewed, just before the Israelites entered the promised land. **Read Dt 30:15-20.**

### B. The Fall of Jerusalem in 587-586 B.C.

#### 1. Read 2 Kgs 25:1-7

- a. How long did the siege last?
- b. What happened to Zedekiah?

## 2. Read 2 Kgs 25:8-15 – The destruction of Jerusalem

- a. What is the saddest thing about this destruction?
- b. Ezekiel had had a vision of the glory of God leaving the Temple (Eze 10:4, 18-19). What do you think this departure meant?
- c. What was the fate of the people that survived?
- d. Which of the prophecies given to Hezekiah were fulfilled? (2 Kg 20:16-18)

### FOR FURTHER STUDY

## Lamentations

3. After the fall of Jerusalem, the prophet Jeremiah wrote five laments to express his suffering and that of other Jews. Read Lam 2:5-7 and note what Jeremiah is mourning for in these verses.
4. In these five poems, Jeremiah describes several situations which recall the curses mentioned in Dt 28. Read the following verses and match them to the curses in the table below.

- 1) Lam 1:16 (1:5a)    2) Lam 1:18    3) Lam 2:15    4) Lam 4:4    5) Lam 4:10  
6) Lam 4:14    7) Lam 4:17    8) Lam 5:2    9) Lam 5:8

Verses	Curses/Judgements	Verses
Dt 28:25	He will cause you to be defeated by your enemies	<i>Lam 1:16</i>
Dt 28:29	You will grope around like a blind man in the dark	
Dt 28:30	You will build a house but you will not live in it	
Dt 28:31	Nobody will come to your aid	
Dt 28:37	You will become an object of scorn and ridicule	
Dt 28:41	Your sons and daughters will go into captivity	

Dt 28:48	You will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you	
Dt 28:48	You will be hungry, thirsty, naked and poor	
Dt 28:53	You will end up eating your own children during the siege	

### C. Deportation

The third group of exiles joined Daniel, Ezekiel and the others exiled in Babylon. Daniel had been named governor in a foreign kingdom, just as Joseph had before him (Gn 41:39-41). Because of Jeremiah's letter, the exiles knew that the exile would last 70 years.

1. **Read Lev 25:1-5 and Lev 26:27-28, 33-35** and explain what purpose the period of exile was to serve.
  
2. **Read Lev 26:40-45** – A possible return for the exiles
  - a. What must the exiles do in order for God to allow them to return home?
  
  - b. For the sake of which covenant would God act?
  
  - c. Look back and note the promises of this covenant by referring to page 2.

### FOR FURTHER STUDY

3. When the Sinai covenant was renewed just before entering into the promised land, Moses mentioned the possibility of a return from an exile that God had already warned the people about. **Read Dt 30:1-3** and note how he described the conditions of such a return.
  
4. Later on, Solomon also mentioned the possibility of an exile in his prayer of consecration of the Temple. **Read 1 Kgs 8:46-51**. What must the exiles do?
  
5. **Read Dan 9:1-19** – A prayer of repentance  
 In the columns below, note how Daniel describes God and how he describes his people. Give three or four examples for each column along with the references. (*One example is given.*)

Verse	God	Verse	The people
4	Great and awesome,		

#### D. Return From Exile

1. When Daniel prays in the year 538 B.C., 67 years have passed since he was deported as a young man. The kingdom of Babylon has just fallen under the control of the Persian king Cyrus. Thanks to one of Isaiah's prophecies, Daniel knows that God has a mission for Cyrus. **Read Is 44:26-28** and note what God has planned for Cyrus.

#### 2. Read Ezra 1:1-8 – Cyrus' surprising proclamation

- Summarise his proclamation.
- What gesture does he add to his proclamation?

After Cyrus' proclamation, it probably took the Israelites some time to organise their return home. They probably left in 537 B.C., and took about four months to make the journey. The leaders of the expedition were Zerrubbabel, from David's royal family, and Joshua, a high priest.

#### 3. Read Ezra 2:64-70 and 3:1-6

- What was the total number of persons who made the journey?
- Where did they settle once they arrived? (v 70)
- What did they do in the seventh month? (v 1, 6)

### **E. The Rebuilding of the Temple Begun in 536 B.C**

**Read Ezra 3:7-8, 10-13; 4:1-5, 24**

1. What are the two reactions of the people of Israel during the celebration for the laying of the foundation of the Temple?
2. How did the other inhabitants of the country react?
3. What was the consequence?
4. The second year of Darius (not the same Darius that we find in the book of Daniel) (Ezra 4:24), was the year 520 B.C. How long was the work interrupted for?

### **F. The Prophet Haggai**

1. That year God spoke to his people through his prophets Haggai and Zechariah. **Read Hag 1:1-11.**
  - a. Note a second reason why the work on the Temple had ceased.
  - b. What was the consequence?
2. **Read Hag 1:12-15**
  - a. Note the peoples' reaction to Haggai's exhortation.
  - b. How much time passed between Haggai's announcement and the return to work? (1:1,15)
3. Less than one month later, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, God spoke again to his people through Haggai. **Read Hag 2:1-5.**
  - a. Note what is at issue here. (see also Ezra 3:12)

b. What was his exhortation?

c. How does God reassure those who were perhaps thinking about the Ark of the Covenant, the earthly “throne of God,” that no longer existed?

4. **Read 1 Ch 28:20** and note the similarities with this passage.

5. **Read Hag 2:6-9**

Note the two promises regarding the Temple and its glory. (v 7, 9)

The fulfilment of the promise—in 2 or 3 ways! :

The temple of Herod

This prophecy was literally fulfilled at the time of Christ when King Herod expanded and restored Ezra’s temple (begun in 19 BC and completed in 64 AD) which surpassed Solomon’s temple in splendour and provided the Gentiles with a place to worship.

Jesus, the Son of God

Some Bible scholars have suggested that when Jesus, who is the glory of his Father, entered the temple in Jerusalem, He “filled” it with a glory greater than that of the cloud in the temple of Solomon. Indeed God had come “in person” so that all may see Him and touch Him.

The Holy Spirit

Haggai’s prophecy has a greater fulfilment in that God filled the Church of Jesus Christ, the new temple, with his glory by the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:19-22).

**G. The Prophet Zechariah**

1. Zechariah prophesied about the Temple at the same time as Haggai. **Read Zec 6:9-13.**

a. Who is designated to build this second temple?

b. What was normally his role?

c. Recall who had been designated to build the first Temple. (1 K 8:19-20)

d. What had been his role?

2. This second role was given symbolically to Joshua so that he would prefigure in a more complete way the last builder of the temple who was to come (a good example of the progression in divine revelation). Explain how this last builder of the temple fulfilled these two roles. (Heb 7:24; 8:1; Rev 22:3)

#### **H. The Temple is Completed**

1. **Read Ezra 5:1-5.** What happens when the Jews get back to building the Temple?

2. **Read Ezra 6:1-12** – King Darius gives a surprising response

a. What is so surprising about his response?

b. Which of Haggai's prophecies is partially fulfilled by this decree (while waiting for a more glorious fulfillment later on)? (Ha 2:7-8)

3. **Read Ezra 6:13-16, 19-22** – The Temple is completed

a. How long did the Jews take to complete the work? (4:24; 6:15)

b. It is now 516 B.C. How much time has passed since the destruction of the first Temple (page 48)?

c. Given this time span, one could say that there had been another "exile" from the promised land. Who?

d. What was missing at the inauguration of the new Temple (Ex 40:34; 1 K 8:10-11)?

e. Recall why (See question F 5).



## Lesson 9: Ezra and Nehemiah

### The Kingdom Restored

### A. Ezra

In the year 458 B.C., nearly 60 years after the completion of the building of the Temple, Ezra, a specialist in the Law of Moses, with the support of the Persian king, leaves Babylon for Jerusalem with a second group of exiles. As soon as he arrives, Israel's leaders come to speak to him.

**1. Read Ezra 9:1-7, 13-15 – Anguish and Ezra's prayer**

- a. What is the bad news that overwhelms Ezra?
- b. What is he afraid of? (v 14-15)
- c. What attributes of God does Ezra highlight in his prayer?

## 2. Read Ezra 10:1-5

- a. Note the people's response.
- b. Are you surprised to see these Israelites, who were supposed to be "the faithful remnant," fall into the same sins a second time? Explain your answer.
- c. What assurance do you cling to when you commit a particular sin again?

## B. Nehemiah

Twelve years later, Nehemiah, a highly placed Jewish official in the Persian court, receives a report describing the dreadful state of Jerusalem's city walls. Nehemiah prays to God, and then requests permission from the king to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. His request is granted. So in 445 B.C. Nehemiah leaves for Judah where he becomes governor.

**1. Read Neh 4:1-14** –Reconstruction of the city wall

- a. Three sources of discouragement are mentioned. Describe them (v 10-12).
- b. What was the solution?

c. What do you learn personally from this? (ex Ga 6:2)

2. Read Neh 8:1-3, 8-12 – The reading of the word of God

- a. Why do you think the people reacted like this to the reading?
- b. Given the circumstances, can we understand their joy?

3. Read Neh 9:1-3; 9:38; 10:28-29. Covenant renewal: What aspects mentioned here indicate the seriousness of the commitment made?

C. Observation of Unfaithfulness Made by Malachi

Twelve years later, in 432 B.C., Nehemiah is recalled to the court by the Persian king. When he later returns to Judah, he discovers that the Israelites have once again fallen into sin. It is probably during this period that Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet, prophesied, exhorting the Jews to return to God. In the following table, match the verses on the right with the sins listed.

Sins	Verses		Verses
Marriage with pagan women	Mal 2:11-12		Neh 13:15
Unfaithful priests			Mal 1:13-14
Divorce			Mal 2:7-8
Defective sacrifices			Mal 2:11-12
Breaking the Sabbath			Mal 2:14-16
Stealing from God			Mal 2:17
Lack of faith in God and in his justice			Mal 3:8-10

D. Disappointment

1. It is said that the Israelites became unfaithful to God because they had begun to lose hope. It is true that the prophets, who had announced God’s judgement on Israel and Judah, had also announced a marvellous restoration which would follow the judgement. However, the Jews who had returned home to the Promised Land found themselves in a small province of a huge empire governed by foreigners. Since the renewed greatness of Israel predicted by the prophets was not coming to pass, the people began to lose confidence in God and in his word. Let us try to understand their disappointment. In the table on the next page, summarise each promise of restoration described by the verse on the left. Then note its fulfilment or its failure, recalling what we have already studied. (An example is given.)

Subject	Verses	Promise of restoration	Fulfilment/Failure
Return	Jer 12:15	<i>God will bring back each of them to his own country</i>	
Jerusalem	Jer 30:18		
Temple	Is 44:28		
King	Jer 33:17		<i>Not so. Nehemiah was not from the family of David and was not a king</i>
Leaders	Jer 23:4		
Safety	Is 54:14		<i>Those who tried to rebuild the wall were harassed</i>
Crops	Eze 34:29		<i>They went through a drought (reminder Haggai)</i>
Riches	Hab 2:7		<i>Yes concerning the temple. No concerning Jerusalem</i>
Prosperity	Eze 36:11		
Israel righteous	Zep 3:13		
Israel consecrated	Jer 32:39		

2. Try to put yourself in the place of the Jews of that time. How would you have felt?
3. Discuss moments in your life as a Christian when God seemed far away or “slow” to answer your prayers.
4. How have you reacted at times like that?
5. How can we remain faithful to God when it seems there is no more hope? (2 Peter 3.9; Heb 10.37)

### E. Had God’s Plan Failed?

Did God’s plan fail? Was there really no more hope? As we have seen, the history of the kingdom of Israel was not very glorious. The nation that should have been a holy nation, “a kingdom of priests” (Ex 19:6), led by a righteous king submitted to God the great King, had not fulfilled its mission. However, we shall see that the failure of this “earthly kingdom of God” was not a definitive failure. It served to

prepare the way for another kingdom that would come, an infinitely greater earthly kingdom. Indeed, the failure of the kingdom of Israel opened the way for the creation of a new kingdom, a new start. For this new start, the prophets took up the original promises that God had given to his people: the promises given to the patriarchs and to David, the covenant promises that had been given unconditionally. Even if his people were unfaithful, God would remain faithful to his people.

1. Read the verses of these renewed promises and summarise the part of each verse which corresponds to the earlier promise.

Reference	Original promises	Reference	Summary of the renewed promises
<b>Gn 17:7</b>	Promise to be the God of the patriarchs and their descendants	<b>Zechariah 2:10</b>	
		<b>Jeremiah 31:33b</b>	
<b>Gn 15:5</b>	Promise of numerous descendants	<b>Hosea 1:10</b>	
		<b>Isaiah 49:19-20</b>	
<b>Gn 17:8</b>	Promise to possess a land forever	<b>Isaiah 60:21</b>	
		<b>Joel 3:20</b>	
<b>Gn 12:3</b>	Promise to bless the other nations	<b>Micah 4:1-2</b>	
		<b>Jeremiah 3:17</b>	
<b>2 Sa 7:16</b>	The throne of David shall be established for ever	<b>Isaiah 9:6-7</b>	
		<b>Jeremiah 33:15,17</b>	

2. Other prophecies were added to these to describe this future kingdom in more detail. Match the following verses (here in biblical order) to the prophecies in the table.

- |                    |                   |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Isaiah 25:8     | 4) Isaiah 61:6    | 7) Jeremiah 31:34 | 10) Daniel 2:44    |
| 2) Isaiah 54:11-12 | 5) Isaiah 62:12   | 8) Jeremiah 33:8  | 11) Hosea 2:19-20  |
| 3) Isaiah 60:19    | 6) Jeremiah 31:31 | 9) Ezekiel 36:27  | 12) Zechariah 14:9 |

Prophecy	Verse(s)	Prophecy	Verse(s)
A new covenant	<i>Jr 31:31</i>	All shall be saints	<i>Is 62:12</i>
All shall know the Lord		All shall be forgiven of their sins	
The kingdom will be eternal		The Lord will be king over the whole earth	
All shall be priests		Jerusalem will be built with precious stones	

There will be no more death or suffering		The light of the Lord will replace the sun	
The people shall be betrothed to God		All shall receive the Spirit of God	

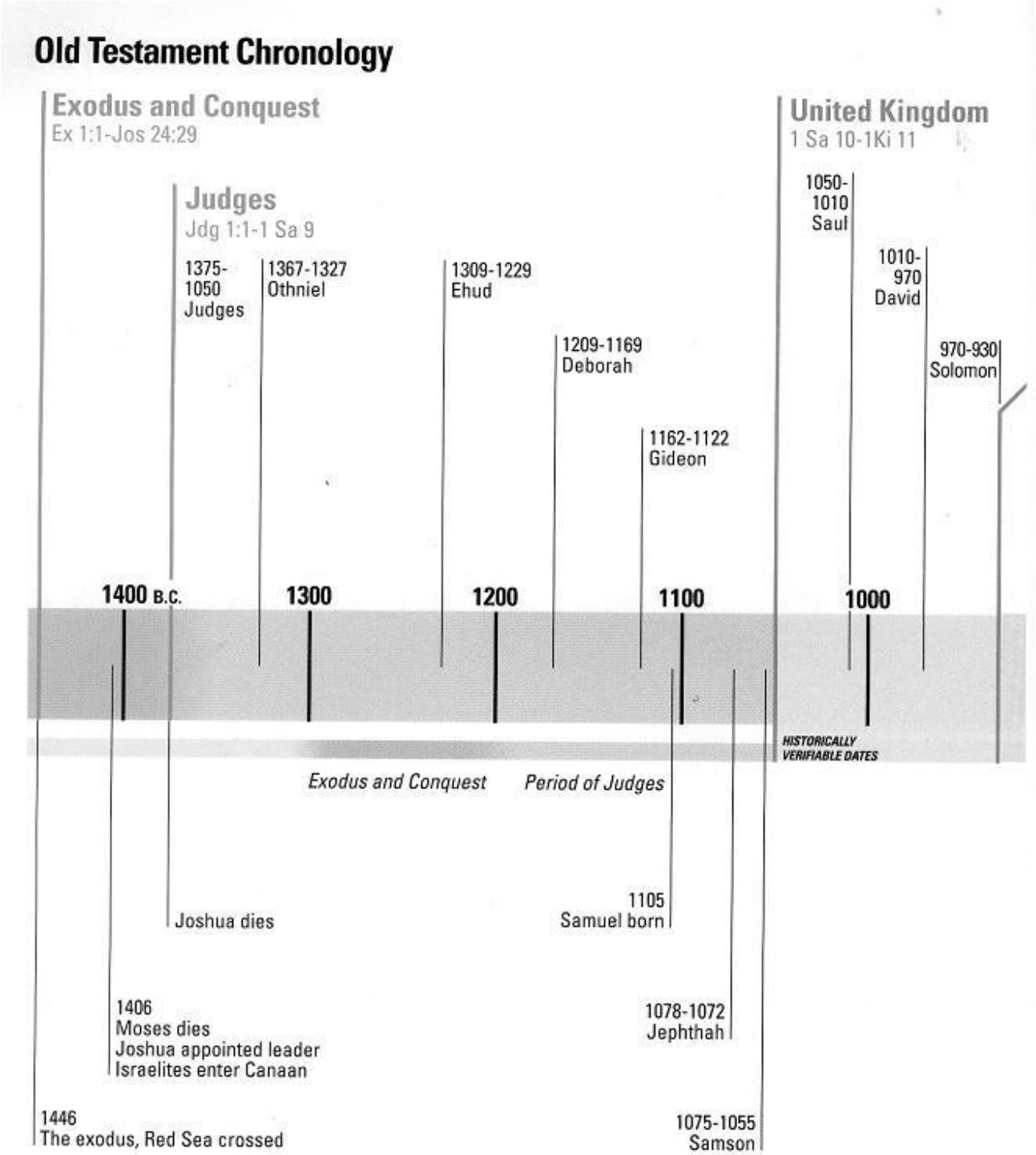
## F. Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

1. We notice here that most of the prophecies which spoke of the new kingdom to come were not fulfilled at the time of the return from exile, nor during the five centuries which followed this return. This is because most of the prophecies looked forward to the kingdom of God that would be established by Jesus Christ, the kingdom that the nation of Israel was to foreshadow. Many of these prophecies began to be fulfilled with Jesus' first coming but others will not be fulfilled until his return and his creation of a new earth. Let us take another look the prophecies we studied in order to understand how they are fulfilled in the kingdom of Jesus Christ. We will put them into three categories: 1) already fulfilled, 2) already fulfilled but not completely, 3) not yet fulfilled at all. Look up the verses and summarise the part which applies to the prophecy given.

Prophecy	Verse(s)	Already	Verse(s)	
New covenant	Lk 22:20			
All shall be forgiven of their sins	Eph 1:7			
		Already but not yet		Not yet
Land in permanent possession			Rev 21:1	
God specially present with his people	2 Co 6:16		Rev 21:2-3	
All nation blessed	Ac 10:45		Rev 5:9	
Numerous offspring	Ac 2:41, 47		Rev 7:9	
Throne of David established	Lk 1:31-32		Rev 22:16	
Eternal kingdom	Lk 1:31, 33		Rev 11:15	
All shall know the Lord	Jn 10:14		1 Co 13:12	
All shall be holy	Col 1:22		Rev 21:27	
All shall be priest-kings	1 Pe 2:9		Rev 5:10	
A consecrated people	Ro 12:1		Rev 7:15	
A people betrothed to God	Eph 5:23	Christ is the head of his bride, the Church	Rev 19:7	
All nations on earth	Mt		Rev 21:24	

will serve God	28:19-20			
Death and suffering will be no more	1 Jn 5:11		Rev 21:4	
Jerusalem will be built with precious stones			Rev 21:19	
The glory of God will replace the sun			Rev 21:23	No need for the sun for God will be our light

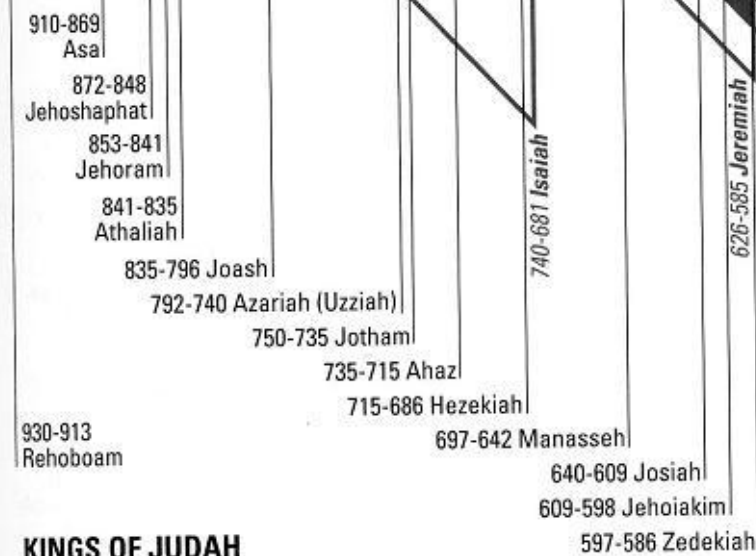
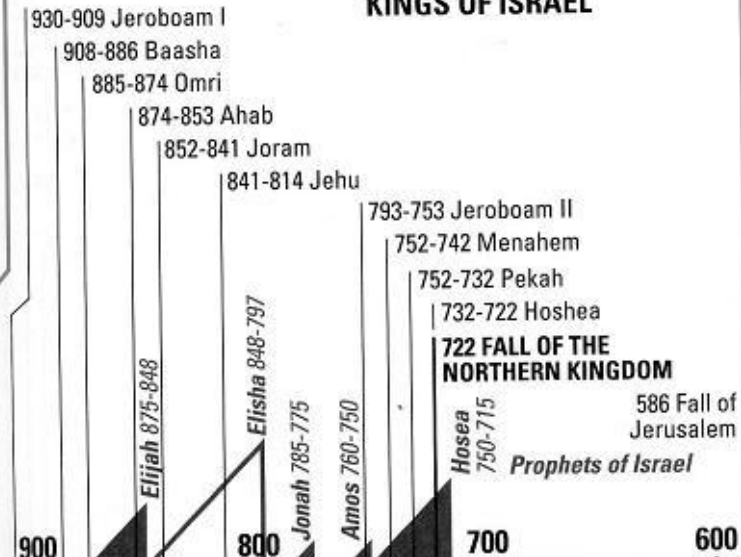
2. How can these prophecies encourage you today? (1 Pe 1:4-6; 1 Pe 2:11; Heb 11:13, 16; Ph 3:20-21, Jn 14:1-4; Heb 13:14)



## Divided Kingdom

1 Ki 12-2Ki 17

### KINGS OF ISRAEL



### KINGS OF JUDAH

## Exile

Daniel

## Restoration

Ezra-Esther

538 First group returns under Zerubbabel

## Between the Testaments

432-5 B.C.

458 Second group returns under Ezra

432 Last group returns under Nehemiah

500

400 B.C.

Lines to timeline denote last year of reign or life  
co-regencies and short reigns omitted