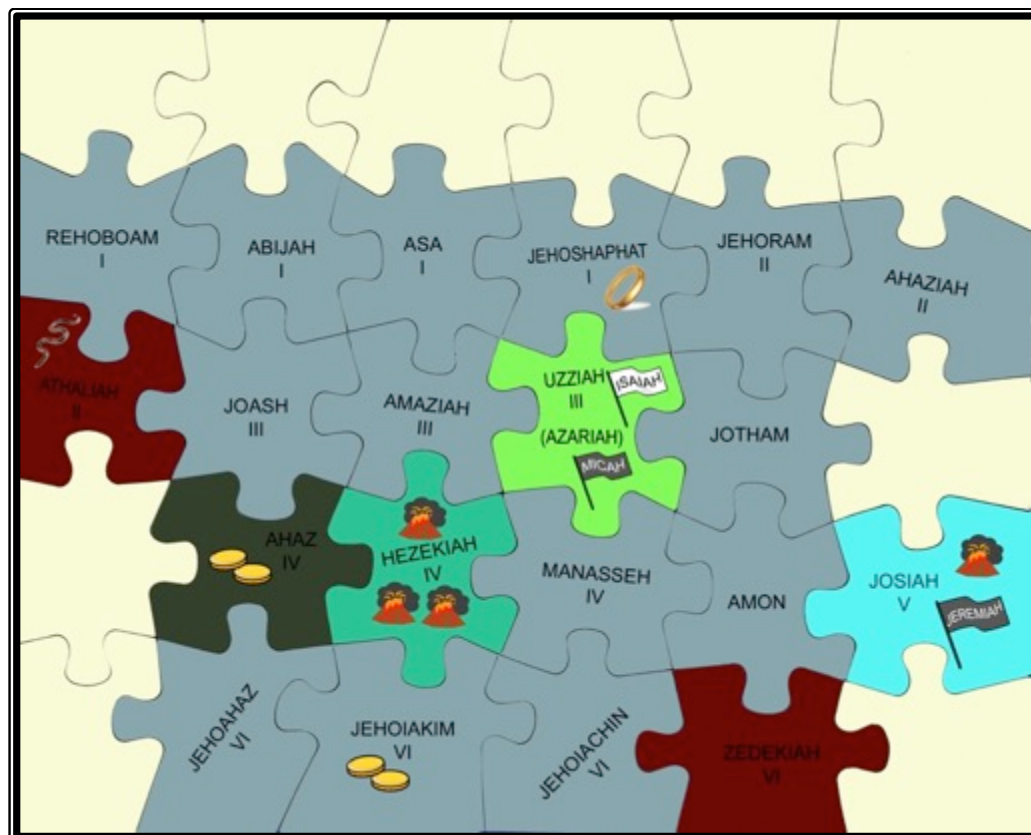


BIBLE PROJECT 2.0

Kingdom Collapse Part 2

Deported South



Six eras in history of Judah before Exile:

1	Civil Strife	Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat	922-849
2	Baalism	Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah	849-837
3	Golden Age	Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham	837-735
4	Decline	Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon	735-640
5	Reform	Josiah	640-609
6	Destruction	Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	609-586

753 BC Rome's mythical founding by Romulus and Remus

722 BC Assyria wipes out Israel

586 BC Babylon deports Judah

Judah is not quite the banana republic that Israel became: Stable monarchical heritage – house of David-- and Temple worship kept Israel closer to original vision for the land.



BIG IDEA 1. Civil Strife:

Egypt a political threat during Rehoboam's reign

Rehoboam [922-915]

Did not try to force Israel back – prophet Shemaiah

Jerusalem on Benjamite border; Therefore Rehoboam fought for and occupied Benjamite territory including Aijalon (2 Chron 11.10)

SHISHAK OF EGYPT INVADES – Shishak had given Jeroboam asylum. Devastated Judah all the way to Edom; destroyed Solomon's copper works.

Rehoboam paid enormous tribute; gold shields in temple went to bronze 1 K 14.25

Egypt became too weak to continue; abandoned posts in Judah, but Egypt forced Judah to defend herself rather than have the opportunity to attack Israel.

Rehoboam was son of Ammonite princess Naamah. Son Abijah was of Maacah of the house of Absalom— Both names suggest pagan background; Maacah was an Asherah worshipper and while these kings were in power, pagan rites, sacred prostitution and homosexual activity were uninhibited.

TOLERANCE FOR INTERNATIONALISM, AND MULTICULTURALISTIC WORSHIP.

Swings between syncretistic & primitive tendencies.

Abijah [915-913] – defeated Jeroboam in Ephraim after appealing to reason [2Chr 13.5-12] and occupied Bethel – seat of Calf.

Asa [913-873]– invaded from Ethiopia – may have been at the behest of Egypt – met by Asa at Mareshah → ended Egyptian/Ethiopian meddling.

Ramah fortified by Baasha – Asa desperate calls on Ben-hadad of Syria to harass Israel from north by gifts

Ben-hadad broke with Israel and attacked Israel

Ramah dismantled and Geba and Mizpah fortified.

Maacah said to be mother both of Abijah and Asa – she was an Asherah worshipper whose influence was cleansed under Asa who burned the Asherah pole in the Kidron Valley – his son Jehoshaphat cleaned out the cult shrines.

Asa & Jehoshaphat made Israel once again officially Yahwist

Peace and Prosperity came to Judah when civil strife ended – Judah controlled trade route south to Aqabah— Red Sea.

Jehoshaphat – [873-849]

Civil war ends under Jehoshaphat

Wedding Ring – Peace brought by marriage alliance between North and South royalty—Marriage brings Baalism—and Ahab in-laws

Jehoshaphat made marriage for his son Jehoram with Athaliah, daughter of Ahab.

Attempted to revive trade out of Ezion-Geber

Edom made province of Judah – controlled trade routes to Arabia

Attacked Philistines and took territory

Jehoshaphat took high places down and Asherah removed.

The Book of the Law was taught throughout Judah—Appointed Judges including an appeals system to represent Yahweh – royally appointed, not just village elders

Established system of justice that prevented the kind of injustice that Amos protested in Israel.

Separated Temple from State

Chief priest Amaziah, Zedadiah over the state.



BIG IDEA 2. Baalism characterizes this period of kings—Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah (snake on Athaliah)

Jehoram – 849-842—began to reign the year after Ahab died in battle with Jehoshaphat escaping – kills brothers –

Jehoram's Wife was Athaliah, who may have had a long range plan to reunite the North and South through Jehoram's dynastic schemes. Athaliah called the shots and led him worship Baal Melqart

Lost Edom to rebellion and with it Ezion Geber port and the overland trade routes to Arabia

Lost Libnah of Philistia

Athaliah introduced cult of Baal to Jerusalem

Jehoram died early of disease to bowels [extreme hemorrhoids?]

'he departed with no one's regret'

Ahaziah [842] – swept away a year later in Jehu's purge, along with 42 princes and kinsmen [2 K10.12ff.]

Athaliah [842-37] – Killed Grandsons – Ahaziah's children and royal seed

Followed pattern of Israel, but less thoroughly.

Socioeconomic tensions between the rich and poor were not so marked at least in part because of Jehoshaphat's judicial reforms.

Athaliah had no real following – considered illegitimate, not of Davidic blood

Joash/Jehoash, 2 years old, at time his father died, was saved by aunt Jehoshabab, the wife of Jehoida the high priest, who presented Joash at age 7 to become KING.



BIG IDEA 3. Golden Age: Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham

Jehoash/Joash [837-800]

Athaliah summarily executed – no other bloodshed.

Joash's main work: Cleansed temple of Athaliah's Baal elements. Influence of Jehoida the High Priest.

FIRST TEMPLE PURIFICATION – the way committees in church have always worked – 2 K 12.6
23 years later not done.

Godliness lasted as long as Jehoida lived – Joash rebelled when Jehoida died.

Stoned Jehoida's son – Zechariah—in court of temple; his last words "May the Lord see and avenge"

Joash defeated by Syria which sacks Jerusalem.

God deserts Joash.

House servants destroy Joash – death of Zechariah

Unpopular because of his apostasy, defeats, murder.

NOTE Matthew 23.36—Jesus seems to be referring to this incident when he talks about stoning the prophets...

Amaziah [800-783] 8th Century prosperity

Good rulers & favorable world situation

802 Adad-Nirari of Assyria crushes Damascus & Benhadad II

Assyrians' existence then threatened by Urartu of Babylon

Quarrels with Israel – had originally hired Israel mercenaries to fight Edom for re-conquest, then decided not to use them – who then sent home go along looting cities as they go home north to "make up" for their losses.

Amaziah beats the Edomites decisively and declares war on Jehoash of Israel who tried to dissuade him.

Fight at Beth-shemesh – Judah defeated, Amaziah captured.

Jehoash takes Jerusalem—loots and breaks down walls, takes hostages, but leaves Amaziah on throne – with what embarrassment?!

Judah could have been annexed, if he had been prepared for guerrilla war.

Plot to kill Amaziah, but he hears and flees to Lachish where he is taken and killed.

UZZIAH – GOLDEN COLOR – PERIOD OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY REACHES HEIGHT

Uzziah/Azariah [783-742] begins reign at 16

Repairs defenses of Jerusalem, reorganizes and refits army; develops siege engines

Controls Edom and Arabian trade routes

Reopens port & industries at Ezion-geber

Late in reign stricken with leprosy 750-42 Jotham becomes co-regent – public king but Uzziah reigns.

Leprosy breaks out when he offers his own incense rather than allowing Azariah the high priest

Kept peace with Israel

Controlled major trade routes and took tolls

Copper industry at Arabah; Red Sea trade.

Tyre drawn into trade by treaty.

Judah extremely prosperous – population reaches greatest density – town overflowed walls.

Negev more intensively settled than at any other time.

Time of great optimism – great confidence in promises of God for the future.

World relative power vacuum for the 500 years of Israel's existence 1250-750.

743 Assyrians advanced & Uzziah at the head of a coalition opposed Tiglath-Pileser III [T-P III] in Syria, but failed; Uzziah died before Assyrians could get him.

Isaiah & Micah banners on Uzziah – prophets speak to historical circumstances from age of Uzziah to Hezekiah

Jotham [742-35] – refused to join Israel & Syria against Assyria. Menahem of Israel had given heavy tribute to Assyria to gain Assyrian power to hold his throne. His son Pekahiah continued this policy which brought his assassination by anti-Assyrian nationalist Pekah who wanted to fight T-P III. Therefore, Israel attacked Judah under Jotham and Jotham died.



BIG IDEA 4. PERIOD OF DECLINE

Ahaz -- [735-715]

Coalition closed in on Jerusalem and intends to put the Syrian, Ben Tabeel (Isaiah 7.6) on throne

At same time Edom revolts & drives Judah out of Ezion-geber; joins coalition

Philistines raid Negev

Ahaz forms alliance with Assyria to ward off threats: Israel, Syria

Ahaz – THOUGH WARNED BY ISAJAH [7.1-8.18] saw no choice but to appeal to T-P III for aid.

Coins on Ahaz – Alliance with Assyria ends in Judah becoming Assyrian vassal

Ahaz incapable of faith – sends enormous gift to T-P III, who probably did not need Ahaz's request to do the obvious in destroying Israel, but because Ahaz had refused to join the coalition, Judah was spared Assyrian conquest.

Ahaz had signed away his freedom by his appeal to T-P III with disastrous consequences. 2 Chr 28.16.

Syncretistic tendencies: In ancient east, political subservience usually involved recognition of the suzerain's gods – not in place of but alongside native religion.

Ahaz has to appear before T-P III at altar in Damascus to pay homage to the Assyrian gods.

He then makes a copy of that altar for installation at the temple at home in Jerusalem. He orders the High Priest Uriah to use that altar for sacrifices rather than the Altar of the Temple. The Priest complies!!!

Without real faith in Israel's God, he did not prevent the inroads of paganism – and he participated 2 K 16.3f, Is 2.6-8;8.19f; Mic 5.12-14; 2Chr 28.3. Burned son in the fire [to Molech]

Social and economic conditions worsened –tribute exacted, heavy taxes, religion at the service of the state. Revenue lost; trade lost.

Rich and poor conflict – rich have no values, poor lose their lawful recourse.

Is 1. 10-17 Official religion fostered the notion that God's demands could be met by ritual and sacrifice.

Hezekiah [713-686]

Reversed all of Ahaz's policies – sought freedom from Assyrians, though doomed.

John Bright: Patriotism was a motivating factor

Paganism attracted a lot of negative reaction in Judah—more than Israel. But with Assyria in charge, paganism could not be removed.

Intense Messianic longing began for better Davidic king – Is 9.2-7, 11.1-9, Mic 5.2-6—ideal Davidic heir.

Three volcanos on Hezekiah—Judah seeks freedom from Assyrian bondage and entertains hopes for alliances with Egypt and Babylon

Assyria weakened by a Babylonian rebellion under Merodach-baladan (2K 20.12, Is 39.10)

After 721, Sargon, son of T-P III conducted no campaign in Palestine at all.

Egypt revived under Ethiopian king after Israel fell.

Egypt wants to attack Assyria through Israel – Is 18: Ambassadors from Ethiopian king wait on Hezekiah
Isaiah opposed – Is 20 symbolically demonstrates the outcome – walks around Jerusalem in only a loin cloth.

Judah apparently did not join Egypt & Philistines and escaped revenge of Sargon in 711.

2nd Temple Purification

Hezekiah introduced religious reform; cleansed temple; gradually to reduce the immediate danger of creating a rebellion—such a hold had paganism on the people of Judah.

Final break 705 swept beyond the neo-paganism of Ahaz to cult objects and places associated with Yahweh worship, including the bronze image of the snake: 2 K 18.4--*Nehushtan*

Closed local shrines.

Later used by Rabshekah to taunt Hezekiah

Hezekiah reached out to native Israelites to join – dynastic claims & dreams of Messianic reunion.

Hezekiah's own son Manasseh was of a Galilean family – but unsuccessful in idea of greater Judah/Israel – United Israel had to be given up.

When Sargon died, **Sennacherib** (705-681) takes Assyria.

Hezekiah makes his break in 705 – so does Merodach Baladan in Babylonia – no coincidence – M-B sent envoys to Hezekiah – 2K 20.12-19, Is 39

Large coalition formed: Tyre, **Philistines, Moab, Edom, Ammon, Egypt**—including Judah.

Hezekiah became ringleader **against Isaiah's advice** (Is 30.1-7; 31.1-3)

Built up defenses and dug Siloam Tunnel (2 Chr 32.30; 2K20.20) See **Siloam Inscription**



Sennacherib's attack 701 **[Northern Kingdom already gone 722]**

- First crushed Tyre – destroys Tyre – Carthage founded—according to John Bright, p. 286
- Revolutionary coalition fell apart after crushing of Tyre – rushed to pay tribute—
- ONLY Judah, Ashkelon and Ekron held out.
- Sennacherib destroyed 42 Judean towns w/ great carnage
- Shut up Hezekiah “like a bird in a cage,” Sennacherib said.
- Isaiah advises Hezekiah to give up. Is 1.5

Hezekiah sues for terms, from Sennacherib at Lachish – great defeat, high tribute; including daughters given as concubines to Nineveh

The deliverance of 2 K 19.35ff was later.

Circumstances repeated; Egypt rises again; Babylon eventually succeeds in revolt.

Hezekiah could have taken back his territory;

Sennacherib was finally free to turn west again in 689—blockaded Hezekiah in Jerusalem.

Tried to intimidate Hezekiah —Isaiah assured him Jerusalem would not be taken – 2K 19.29-34,
Is 14.24-27, 17.12-14

Herodotus says Sennacherib was overrun by plague of mice

Assyrians retired leaving Jerusalem unharmed, but Judah not free. Reinforced the DOGMA that
Jerusalem/Zion could never be taken. Was INVIOABLE.

Hezekiah died 686; sparing Sennacherib the trouble of coming against him because Hezekiah son
Manasseh gave up and made peace – which meant giving up Judah's independence.

Spiritual emergency:

Same internal sickness that destroyed Israel

Socioeconomic ills for which religion had no restraint

Syncretism ran wild under Ahaz' recognition of Assyrian gods

Sinai covenant forgotten

God made into national caretaker who in return for meticulous ritual observance, gave nation protection and
blessing. –Is 1.10-20

National covenant with David replaced obedience with the idea that God and Zion were unconditionally
associated. 8th century challenged this idea: If Assyrian power can challenge and Assyrian gods move
into the temple, where is Yahweh's power to fulfill his promises? Judah's reaction: 2 polar opposites
both destructive: Blind and fanatical overconfidence and a cowardly unfaith—like Ahaz who could see
no way of saving Judah but to make her a willing tool of Assyrian aggression.

Application: Church today, either sing the old time religion – ala Barbara Mandrell—and go on as if God
makes no difference, or like liberal churches mimic the world in order to be relevant.

Manasseh [687-642] gladly surrendered and paid tribute

Assyrians at height of their power

663 Assurbanurpal destroyed Thebes (Nahum 3.8)

Egypt dead—Manasseh had to be quiet – hauled in chains once before Assurbanurpal

Returned to Ahab's policy: high place restored, astral deities, fertility cult & prostitution practiced
inside temple, divination and magic, worshipped Molech, sons passed thru fire;

Primitive Yahwism so forgotten & rites practiced that distinction between God and gods obscured that
they did not realize they were even turning away from God. danger of slippery slope of
polytheism.

God surrounded by heavenly host which were popularly identified with the heavenly bodies. Astral
deities just slipped right in as members of Yahweh's court.

Contempt for law and incidents of violence and injustice.

Hezekiah's reforms completely reversed; prophets silenced, protestors killed;

Chronicles says Manasseh repented; Kings brands him the worst of all.

Assyria reaches Zenith, but overextended, collapses.

Egypt stirring again. Babylon, Medes and Indo-Aryan peoples arising.

Babylon led full scale revolt which Assurbanurpal did finally put down but he could not re-subdue Egypt;

Therefore, it is just possible he did allow Manasseh to refortify Jerusalem as a dike against Egypt.

Assurbanurpal died 627; by 607 Assyrians collapsed.

Amon [642-640] Assassinated by Anti Assyrian Coup d'état.



BIG IDEA 5. REFORM

Josiah [640-609]

Judah again finds herself, by default on the world stage, a free country.

The “people of the land” put down the uprising and put Josiah, age 8 on throne.

By the time he was 16, he launched sweeping reforms and began to move to take in Assyria’s northern Israel provinces.

3rd TEMPLE PURIFICATION – MOST THOROUGH

18th year –Kings; 12th year—Chronicles.

Features of reform:

1. Purge of foreign cults
2. Shrines of Samaria and Temple of Bethel
3. 2 Chr. 34.6 – extended to Galilee

The law book was Deuteronomy

Deut. 13 makes idolatry a capital offense – [AS DOES EXODUS 23]—explains Josiah’s measures against priests and cult practices.

Volcano on Josiah segment – Babylon replaces Assyria as major world power

Prophet Banner on Josiah – Jeremiah speaks...from Josiah’s time through exile

Young Jeremiah – Zephaniah ministered stirrings of repentance

Times troubled:

- Egypt tried to recapture Pyramid religion
- Assurbanurpal had ancient document copied
- Great governing insecurity

John Bright “Into this ferment of resurgent nationalism, and yet of anxiety, the Deuteronomy law fell like the thunderclap of conscience.”

How successful was Josiah’s reform?

- Clergy resisted centralization in Jerusalem
- Class of subordinate clergy created
- Jerusalem center left secular vacuum outside of Jerusalem
- Reform external – false sense of peace – Jeremiah 6.16-21

609 Josiah fought Pharaoh Neco II at Megiddo to stop Egypt from joining Assyria against Babylon. He failed and was killed there.

& AT Carchemish, Egypt & Assyria fought Babylon—was Josiah allied to Babylon? Like Hezekiah? Probably.

BABYLON WON. DEFEATED THE ASSYRIANS who then disappear from power forever.



from Life Application Chronological Bible



BIG IDEA 6. Destruction

Jehoahaz takes kingdom. 3 months, deposed by king of Egypt. Brother **Jehoiakim [aka Eliakim]** replaces him as vassal of Egypt. 609

605 Egypt and ASSYRIA are crushed by Babylon at battle of **Carchemish**. Judah changes masters.

Jehoiakim pays tribute to Babylon

Reform completely collapses

Disaster of Josiah may have even undermined faith in Deuteronomy's promises.

Official Davidic covenant theology triumphed in its most distorted form. [Covenant was guarantee.]

Jehoiakim rebels in **601** against Babylon; Nebuchadnezzar attacks. **First deportation** Includes Daniel and his colleagues (Daniel 1).

Dec **598** Jehoiakim dies (assassinated?)

Jehoiachin placed on throne

598 Babylon comes to Jerusalem, ransacks Temple. **SECOND deportation of Judahites** [NOW CALLED "JEWS"]—leading citizens.

Babylon deports Jehoiachin, his mother & 10,000 to Babylon where he is imprisoned for 37 years. Has heirs who return to lead in the Exile Period to come—see 1 Chr. 3.

Nebuchadnezzar placed uncle **Zedekiah** on throne

Fierce patriotism 589, combined with foolish theology of unconditional confidence

586 Jerusalem taken, walls destroyed, **population deported**, Temple razed. See Jeremiah 7.4—Temple will be no protection. Zedekiah saw sons killed and then blinded and led to Babylon.

The Bible Project 2.0

OT 16

Consider the following if you choose to prepare for next class:

KINGS SONGS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAWu54nhpIM> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sKcnIYRw6Q>

Read and note contents of

Amos 9.10, Micah 2.6, 3.11b, Hosea 8.2; Amos 7. 12-13

Jeremiah 7.1-10;

Amos 5.7; 6.12

Jonah 3.10-4.1

Jeremiah 9. 25

Jeremiah 2.7

Jeremiah 7.4; Isaiah 1. 12-17; Amos 5. 21-24; 8.4-6.

Micah 6.6-8; Hosea 6.4-6

Consider what the prophets say about Israel's "religion". Is it the goal of God's purpose for his people [aka "God's PROJECT] in Genesis 12: 1-3? What is the problem?

Also read and note as many as you can:

- Gen 49.10; Is 6.13, Is. 11.1-10; Jer 23.5-6; Micah 5.2-4
- Is 32. 1-5; Ezek 36.26-27; Joel 2. 28; Jer 31.31-34.
- Is 2.2-3; Zech 8.20-23, Zech 14. 8-9; Joel 3. 16-17; Mic 4. 1-2; Is 60. 1-7.
- Ezek 36.35, 23-28; Mic 4.3-4; Is 11. 6-9; Is 35.1-10
- Is 1. 25-28; Is 10. 20-22; Is 11.11-12; Jer 23.3-4; Jer 29,10-14; Jer 31. 7-9.
- Is 42.1-7; Is 49.1-6; Is 52. 13-15; Is 53.1-12.

Consider: What is the prophetic vision of the future for God's Project.

Add these **Markers** to your list:

- 1 Kings 1: Solomon anointed
- 1 Kings 4: Boundaries of Solomon's kingdom
- 1 Kings 8: Temple dedicated; great prayer
- 1 Kings 11: God's judgment of Solomon
- 1 Kings 12: Northern Kingdom revolts