

The Decline of the Kingdom / The Prophets pt. 1

Understanding the Old Testament: Part 8

KINGS

(Approximately 400 years)

UNITED ISRAEL

Saul

David

Solomon

God divides Kingdom in the days of Rehoboam, Solomon's son – 1 Kings 12

JUDAH

(southern kingdom)

20 KINGS

Some unrighteous

Some righteous

Examples:

Hezekiah, 2 King 18-19

Josiah, 2 Kings 22:2,23:25-27

ISRAEL

(northern kingdom)

20 KINGS

All unrighteous

Example: Ahab, 1 Kings 18

Israel fall in 722 B.C.

(1 Kings 17)

Judah falls in 586 B.C.

(2 Kings 24-25)

“What massive reversal occurred from the beginning of Solomon’s reign to the destruction of the twin kingdoms! By the end of the book, most kings have been rebellious, the people’s numbers have been greatly reduced, most of those living have been exiled from their land, and the blessings have been removed. There is a covenantal crisis at stake with respect to the earlier promises. However, there is no question as to which of the parties was guilty of covenant violation. It was the north and the south’s sustained failure to follow Yahweh, initiated mostly by their leaders, that brought about their expulsion from the land”

(“What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About” by Jason S. DeRouchie, pg 234)

The Prophets

1) God raised up prophets who spoke his words of judgement and mercy to the people.

Amos: a prophet to Israel

-God will judge but will keep His promise to David (Amos 9:10-11,15)

Hosea: a prophet to Israel

-Hosea’s marriage is a picture of God’s love for unfaithful Israel. (Hosea 3:1,5)

Jonah: a prophet to Ninevah

-You can’t run from the God who is merciful. (Jonah 3:10)

Joel: a prophet to Judah

-The day of judgement is coming; repent & find mercy. (Joel 2:11-13,28-29)