

- I. The Divided Monarchy (**First Kings 12:1** through **Second Chronicles 36:21**)
 - A. Under Solomon's son Rehoboam, the kingdom was divided – the northern tribes (led by Jeroboam I) secede from the house of David (ca. 930)
 - B. The north kingdom is called "Israel"
 1. Ten dynasties rule from 930 to 722 B.C.
 - a. Jeroboam I (930-910 B.C.) was the first king
 - (1) Capital was Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim
 - (2) Jeroboam set up an alternative worship – two calves
 - b. Omri (886-874 B. C.)
 - (1) Capital is moved to Samaria
 - (2) His son is Ahab, married to Jezebel (Phoenician)
 - c. Jehu (841-814 B.C.) – anointed to purge the house of Ahab
 - d. Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.)
 - (1) Great grandson of Jehu
 - (2) Kingdom of Israel reaches its zenith of power
 2. The northern kingdom of Israel is eventually destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
 3. The majority of the population is deported
 - a. The poorest remained in the land and mixed with the peoples that came into the land
 - b. The mixed population was the origin of the Samaritans
 - C. The southern kingdom is called "Judah"
 1. One dynasty – the house of David
 2. The account of the southern kingdom is recorded in both the Book of Kings and Chronicles
 3. The capital was Jerusalem
 4. Good kings from the line of David
 - a. Jehoshaphat (872 to 848 B.C.) [fifth from David]
 - b. Hezekiah (715 to 686 B.C.) [fourteenth from David]
 - c. Josiah (640 to 609 B.C.) [seventeenth from David]
 - (1) Josiah led the nation in reform
 - (2) During repairs to Solomon's temple, the book of Deuteronomy is discovered
 - (3) 2 Kings 23:25 – "...there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him."

5. Eventually, the southern kingdom of Judah was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

Lam 1:1,6,12 – *“How lonely sits the city that was full of people...From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has departed...Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.”*

II. The Rise of the Classical Prophets

- A. During the reigns of Jeroboam II (793 to 753 B.C.) in the north and Uzziah (792 to 740 B.C.) in the south, a new phenomenon came into existence in Israel – the rise of classical prophets
- B. Of the hundreds of prophets in ancient Israel in Old Testament times, only sixteen were chosen to speak oracles (messages from God) that would be collected and written up into books
- C. God will judge His people for their sin; yet, He will also restore a remnant of His people and they would experience His great salvation (future hope)
- D. The classic prophets as they appeared in Israel and Judah

1. **Jonah** (800-750 B.C.)
2. **Amos** (760-750 B.C.)
3. **Hosea** (750-715 B.C.)
4. **Isaiah** (740-681 B.C.)

*“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(7) Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this” (Isa 9:6-7)*

5. **Micah** (735-700 B.C.)

*“But you, O Bethlehem...
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,*

*whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days...*

*(4) And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.*

*And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.*

(5) And he shall be their peace” (Mic 5:2-5)

6. **Zephaniah** (640-609 B.C.)
7. **Nahum** (635-620 B.C.)
8. **Habakkuk** (620-600 B.C.)
9. **Obadiah** (605-585 B.C.)
10. **Joel** (no dates given; linguistic parallels to Amos, Micah, Jeremiah)
11. **Jeremiah** (626-585 B.C.) [also wrote Lamentations]

*“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I
will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to
this place. (11) For I know the plans I have for you...” (Jer 29:10-11)*

III. The Babylonian Exile

- A. There were four deportations of Judeans to Babylonia between 605 B.C. and 582 B.C.
- B. After a long siege, Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C. and Solomon’s temple was destroyed
- C. Most of the exiles were settled in various villages on the Chebar River near Nippur and Babylon (Jer 40:9-10; 25:11)
- D. The Exilic Prophets
 1. **Ezekiel** (593-571 B.C.) lived among the Jews in Babylon
 2. **Daniel** (605-530 B.C.), a youth (at the time of his exile) and member of the Jewish nobility, trained by the Babylonians and rose as a high official in the court of Babylon and the Medo-Persians

IV. Return to the Land and the Reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah

- A. Cyrus, king of Persia, issued an edict in the first year of his reign (538 B.C.) allowing the Jews to return to Judea (2 Chron 36:23; Ezra 1:1-4)

Isa 44:24,28 – *“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”* (prophesied 150 years earlier)

Ps 126:1-3 – *“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. (2) Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad”*

- B. Sheshbazzar “the prince of Judah” (Ezra 1:8,11), Zerubbabel, and Jeshua lead the first return (42,360 people of Israel, plus 7,337 slaves and 200 singers)
 - 1. The altar is built (538 B.C.)
 - 2. Two years later the Temple foundation is laid (536 B.C.)
 - 3. The work is hindered by adversaries
- C. The prophets **Haggai** and **Zechariah** encourage the people
- D. A letter is written to King Darius I who finds Cyrus’ decree and supports the Jews, and the Temple is completed and dedicated in 515 B.C.
- E. **The Book of Esther** (486–464 B.C.)
 - 1. Takes place among the Jews living throughout the Persian empire
 - 2. King Ahasuerus is better known by his Greek name, Xerxes I
- F. In 458 B.C., **Ezra** the priest and scribe arrives in Judea (the community had become discouraged and morally lax)
- G. **Nehemiah** (cupbearer to Artaxerxes I) arrives in 445 B.C. with a vision to rebuilt the walls of the city of Jerusalem and reorganize (with Ezra) the community around God’s law, as well as the temple
 - 1. The Jewish community was recognized by the Persians to regulate its internal affairs in accordance with the Law
 - 2. This arrangement became the norm between the Jewish people in Judean and the nations which dominated the region for the next 500 years
- H. The prophet **Malachi** ministered to this community in 420 B.C.