

**Divided Kingdom Period:
Judah- Southern Kingdom Until Captivity.
*I Kings 12:1-22:53; II Kings 1:1-17:41; II Chronicles 10:1-36:23***

TWO KINGDOMS:

With the captivity of the Northern Kingdom Israel in 721 BC by the Assyrians the nations of Israel became only one kingdom. The Southern Kingdom will be the only kingdom for another 120+ years. The Southern Kingdom will not be taken captive until 597 BC by the Babylonians.

During this study of the Southern Kingdom we will follow much the same format as STEP 14.

There are two important things that we need to notice concerning the difference between the two nations.

First, there will be only one dynasty as opposed to nine dynasties in the north. The reason for this is the Davidic Covenant where God promised that David would have a kingdom forever. The only reason the kingdom was not completely taken from the lineage of David was this covenant. (See *I Kings 11:9-13*) Therefore there could only be one line to rule the Southern Kingdom, David's.

The second difference is the Southern Kingdom, Judah, has several godly kings who turned the hearts of the people toward God. Many see this as the most important reason the Southern Kingdom stood past the time of the Israel captivity.

Please consult **STEPS IN TIME I, III and IV** for this study.

SOUTHERN KINGDOM:

The Southern Kingdom was known as Judah but at times as Jerusalem because of its capital. There were 2 of the 12 tribes in this kingdom.

The Southern Kingdom had a total of 20 kings. The fate of the kingdom was to be conquered and deported by Babylon in 597 BC. This deportation was a three-fold event.

KINGS OF THE KINGDOM:

We will give a very brief comment on the reign of each king in the order of his rule. You will notice some of the kings rule overlapped others. All dates are from *The Reese's Chronological Bible*. The number following the Kings name is the years he ruled. The scripture is given for your personal study.

**1- Rehoboam I- 17 years: 945-929
*I Kings 11:42-14:31; II Chron 9:31-12:16***

Rehoboam was the son of Solomon who came to the throne after his father's death. He was a very stupid and arrogant king who did not take wise counsel from the old men but followed the brass counsel of the young men. It was his decisions that lead what would become the Northern Kingdom to rebel. He in fact split the kingdom.

He has 18 wives and 60 concubines. During his reign Egypt invaded the capital of Jerusalem under Shishak.

**2- Abijah- 3 years: 929-926
*I Kings 14:31-15:8; II Chron 13:1-22***

Abijah was the son of Rehoboam and ruled after his father's death for three years. During his reign he defeated the Northern Kingdoms king with supernatural help from God. He

was a wicked ruler that did not follow God.

3-Asa- 41 years: 926-886

I Kings 15:8-14; II Chron 14:1-16:14

Asa was Judah's first righteous king who led them to follow God and revival. He saw God deliver Jerusalem from a massive Ethiopian attack. In his later days he backslid and threw a prophet into prison who rebuked him. Asa died of a foot disease that he would not bring to God for a cure.

4- Jehoshaphat- 25 years:886-884

I Kings 22:41-50; II Chron 14:1-16:14

He reigned for 25 years and instituted religion teaching by sending out teachers of the Word of God. He compromised with three northern kings and marred his name. One of these was Ahab. God heard his prayers when the Moabites were invading and supernaturally intervened.

**5- Johoram (a.k.a. Joram): 8 years:
865-858**

II Kings 8:16-24; II Chron 21:1-20

Johoram begins his reign by killing his six brothers. His was a murderous reign. He married Athaliah, who was the daughter Ahab and Jezebel of the Northern Kingdom. He died of a horrible disease and was not even mourned for.

6- Ahaz (a.k.a. Ahaziah): 1 year: 859-858.

II Kings 8:16-24; II Chron 21:1-20

He was the son of Joram and Athaliah and the grandson of Ahab and Jezebel of the Northern Kingdom. Jehu the 10th king of Judah killed him.

7- Athaliah (QUEEN): 6 years: 858-852

II Kings 8:24-9:29; II Chron 22:1-9

Remember whom this girl's mother was, Jezebel. At the death of Ahaz, her son, she took over the throne of Judah by killing all the royal seed. (Or so she thought) After a rule of six years she is executed.

8- Joash (a.k.a. Jehoash): 40 years

II Kings 11:1-12:21; II Chron 22:10-24:27

Joash had been hide in the bedchambers to keep Athaliah from killing him. He was the last of the royal seed alive. He was a good king for a while but allowed and even sanctioned the killing of Judah's high priest by stoning for rebuking the sins of the nation. His own palace guard executed Joash.

9- Amaziah- 29 years: 812-784

II Kings 14:1-20; II Chron 25:1-28

Amaziah killed those who slay his father and was a good king for a while. He led his army in a defeat of Edom after dismissing the mercenary soldiers from Israel. He however brought back some of the Edomites gods to worship. He declared war on Israel and was defeated.

10- Uzziah- 52 years: 799-748

II Kings 15:1-7; II Chron 26:1-23

Uzziah was a very long reigning king. Only one king ruled longer than he. He was a mighty warrior and builder but failed when he intruded into the office of the priesthood and made sacrifices he should not have made. For this he was stricken with leprosy for this sin. He was a good king overall however.

11- Jotham- 16 years: 747-732

II Kings 15:32-38; II Chron 27:1-9

Jotham was a good king who built gates and towers for the temple. He conquered his enemies and received tribute from them.

12- Ahaz- 17 years: 732-717***II Kings 16:1-20; II Chron 28:1-27***

Ahaz had co-ruled with his father Jotham for 7 years. He has been called Israel's second worst king. He sacrificed his own son to the pagan gods. He constructed a pagan altar to appease Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria. It was during the later part of his reign that Assyria took the Northern Kingdom captive.

13- Hezekiah- 29 years 727-698***II Kings 18:1-20:21; II Chron 29:1-32:33***

Hezekiah has been called Judah's second best king and the richest of all. He was very godly minded. He organized musicians and a choir of Levites. He again carried on the Passover celebration, which had not been celebrated since Solomon. Perhaps the greatest dramatic event was when he laid the letter of the Assyrian's before the Lord and saw their army defeated. He was given 15 years to his life when he turned to the wall and cried out to God. Hezekiah is credited with adding 15 psalms to the canon of Scripture. The mistake he made was when he boastfully showed the wealth of the temple to the Babylonians.

14- Manasseh- 55 years: 697-642***II Kings 21:1-18; II Chron 33:21-25***

Manasseh was the longest reigning king of either kingdom. He is said that he was the wickedest king of them all. However, some see him experiencing the new birth while in an

enemy prison. Manasseh was the King who received the news of Judah's ultimate end.

15- Amon- 2 years: 642-640***II Kings 21:19-26; II Chron 33:21-25***

Amon was the son of Manasseh and was as wicked as his father. He did not have any repentance. His own household servants executed him.

16- Josiah- 31 years: 640-609***II Kings 22:1-23:30; II Chron 34:1-35:27***

Josiah was the godliest king to rule during the divided kingdom period. He was also the last godly king of Judah. During his reign the greatest event that took place was the discovery of the Word of God in the house of God. Josiah caused it to be read in public and lead a great national revival with a larger Passover celebration than his great grandfather Hezekiah had lead. He was killed in a battle with the Egyptians.

17- Jehoahaz- 3 months: 608***II Kings 23:31-33; II Chron 36:1-4***

Jehoahaz was the middle son of Josiah and came to the throne after his father was killed. He ruled for only three months and was carried into Egypt by the same Pharaoh who had killed his father. He died in Egypt.

18- Jehoiakim- 11 years: 608-598***II Kings 23:34-24:5; II Chron 36:5-7***

After Jehoahaz was deported Jehoiakim his oldest brother became King. He was placed on the throne by the Egyptians and kept there by Nebuchanezzar after Babylon defeated the Egyptians. He was a very bad King and is said to be third worst. He often persecuted Jeremiah and burned a copy

of God's word. It was Jehoiakim who was reigning for the first of three visits to Jerusalem by Nebuchanezzar from Babylon. Daniel and the other Hebrew children were taken into captivity. (see **STEPS IN TIME IV**) Jeremiah had prophesied that he would receive the burial of an ass, which he did.

19- Jehoiachin- 3 months: 598
II Kings 24:6-16; II Chron 36:8-10

Jehoiachin was the son of Jehoiakim and grandson of Josiah. He incurred a curse from God and was prophesied about by both Jeremiah and Ezekiel. They said his son would never sit on the throne. He was deported along with Ezekiel the second time Nebuchanezzar came to Jerusalem. He died in captivity in Babylon. (see **STEPS IN TIME IV**)

20- Zedekiah- 11 years: 597-586
II Kings 24:17-25:30; II Chron 36:1-21

He was the youngest son of Josiah. Jeremiah was persecuted during his reign also. He rebelled against Babylon with Egypt and was taken into captivity and blinded. Jerusalem was burned and the temple destroyed.

Judah has ceased to be a nation. All that remains are a few scattered people. The southern kingdom has ceased to exist. Dateline: 586 BC.

Application to Life:

- 1- We see with just one dynasty ruling the entire time in Judah that God was true to the Davidic covenant and can be trusted to keep His Word.
- 2- God protected the lineage that would bring forth Messiah. We cannot get God's ultimate program off course.
- 3- Though environment may be blamed for a lot of evil, we see by Josiah

breaking the cycle of evil after some 57 years of evil reign that it is not an absolute fact but a choice.

4- God honored the godliness of the Kings of Judah by not taken the kingdom into captivity until much after the Northern Kingdom. He still honors godly living.

Review of Session:

1- What was the name of the first king of Judah who cause the split of the kingdom? _____

2- What king reigned the longest? _____
shortest? _____

3- Who was the most godly king of the divided kingdom? _____

4- What king was reigning when the northern kingdom was taken into captivity? _____

5- What nation took Judah into captivity and when? _____

6- How many dynasties were there in the Southern Kingdom and why?

