

Read Through The Bible In A Year

Week 23 – Good Kings, Bad Kings, Mostly Bad

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:36

1. Looking Back

How often men fall at the height of their success. So it was with the story of Solomon. Ignoring history, Solomon enters into forbidden marriages with women of foreign extract and is soon influenced to worship their gods. Despite his sin, Solomon gained the most valuable wisdom of all: a full appreciation of the emptiness of all that he had, when compared to things eternal. The premise of Solomon's wisdom is that only the Creator of the universe can know the true needs of his creatures and provide for their fulfillment. With parting advice to those who would follow him in the "days under the sun" Solomon himself falls prey to the "same destiny which overtakes all men." Just as Solomon experienced a rise to unprecedented heights of personal prosperity and security, only to fall victim to moral weakness and political conflict, so to his kingdom, under the leadership of his son Rehoboam.

2. What happened in this week's reading: May 31 – June 6

End of Solomon's Reign 689

The Divided Kingdom - Division between Israel and Judah 690

Two Kingdoms in Contrast 698

Elijah the Prophet (page 704)

Ahab and Jezebel (page 709)

3. What does it mean?

The Kingdom splits due to Solomon's excesses and the people's apostasy. Judah is bad; Israel worse. Typifying the situation is Ahab, Jezebel and Elijah. Ahab and Jezebel promote Baal worship while Elijah opposes the nation's sinking deeper into immorality and godlessness. A confrontation occurs on Mt. Carmel and God wins a short-lived victory. (p. 707) Elisha, the miracle working prophet, replaces Elijah. As one ruling family struggles to retain or gain power, murders and intrigue become commonplace. Israel and Judah are destined to fall and some years later, Assyria and Babylon will accommodate them.

a. We've drawn the parallels between Israel's immorality and America's. What about Disunity? What are the parallels and implications?

b. We've had 3 or 4 "Great Awakenings" in America's past. What does it take for spiritual revival?

- The First Great Awakening (1730s - 1740s) Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield
- The Second Great Awakening (1820s - 1830s) Restoration Movement, Cane Ridge, Campbellites, tent revivals
- The Third Great Awakening (1880s - 1900s) Missionary Awakening, social activism (Salvation Army), revivals, Dwight L. Moody
- The Fourth Great Awakening (1960s - 1970s) ? Charismatic/Pentecostal movement
- The Fifth Revival ?

c. End of Solomon's reign. What can we learn from his life?

- 1) Fame and fortune hurt more than they help
- 2) Where life finds its meaning. (689)
- 3) Intermarriage with non-believers

d. The pernicious effect of national, familial, and church disunity.

e. Cycle of sin and repentance

f. Issue. Page 693 Man of God is killed (silenced). Foreshadowing of 21st C. America?

g. Page 692. Altars at Dan and Bethel. Why does Jeroboam erect altars there? What are the "high places?" What is his stated reason for new altars? What is the real reason? Implications for us?

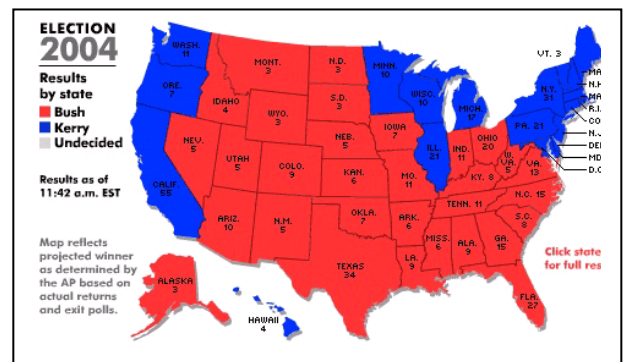
h. Page 706. While Jezebel is killing off the Lord's prophets, what is Obadiah doing? Schindler's List parallels? Application to us today?

i. What do you make of Ahab, Jezebel and Elijah?

j. Elijah bravely opposes Ahab on Mt. Carmel, but gets weak-kneed with Jezebel. WUWT? (708)

k. The "still small voice." (709)

4. Next week – Elisha and other Prophets, Miracles and Massacres



Kings of Israel and Judah

Saul	1050-1010 BC
David	1010-970
Solomon	970-930

Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Abijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
					6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good		13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad	Nahum Habakkuk	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-	2 years	Bad	Zephaniah	18. Pekah	740-	20	Bad	

	640					732*	years		
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad		722 BC Fall of Samaria to Assyria				
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	* Co-regency				
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

The Last Five Kings of Judah

1. Josiah Reigned 31 years (640-609 BC)		
2. Jehoahaz (Shallum) Reigned 3 months (609 BC) Taken prisoner to Egypt by Pharaoh Neco	3. Jehoiakim (Eliakim) Reigned 11 years (609-598 BC) Died in Jerusalem	5. Zedekiah Reigned 11 years (597--586 BC) Taken prisoner to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar
4. Jehoichin (Jeconiah, Coniah) Reigned 3 months (December 9, 598 - March 16, 597 BC) Taken prisoner to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (with Ezekiel)		