

Biblical Theology

From Joshua to 2 Kings

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Main themes:

God's covenant: Two kinds of covenants: Conditional and Unconditional

God's chosen leaders: Some came close to expectations, but most were utter failures.

Desire for a perfect leader: Christ

How to properly worship God: Tabernacle to the Temple

God arranges all of world history: God uses world history to bring about His plan.

Chronological Overview

The Conquest of the Land:

God's covenant faithfulness is demonstrated by the successful conquest of the Promised Land. However, Israel did not complete the task. The remaining tribes became a constant irritant for Israel just as God stipulated. Also led to syncretism of foreign religions and practices resulting in the cycle of wars in Judges.

- Joshua, the new leader attested by God – Similarities to Moses
- The promise of the land was renewed on the condition of obedience. Conditional covenant.
- God did the fighting (like Jericho), but the Israelites still had to have faith to show up and face an overwhelming enemy.
- God working through history: Temporarily weakened adversaries.
- Overall message: God is faithful and fulfills His promises.

- But syncretism was an ever present problem.
- At the beginning of Judges it appears that there were still plenty of unconquered land.
- Consequence: Constant fighting with the Philistines.
- The 12 tribes also often fight each other, but unite against external foes.
- Worship: At high places like Shiloh, but unregulated.
- As a result a recurring cycle developed:
 - o Israel sins
 - o God allows enemy to attack as a punishment
 - o Israel cry out to God for help
 - o God graciously sends a leader (judge) to deliver Israel
 - o Israel remembers for a short while, but returns to their previous ways.
- And the cycle repeats.

- The cycles have a downward trend. The conditions and people get a bit worse each time around.
- The 13 Judges are mostly military leaders appointed for a short duration to lead the combined forces against an external enemy.
- Ruth is a welcome change of faith, demonstrating ingrafting into Israel and into the line of Jesus.

The Kingdom – Who shall lead the nation?

The search is on for the promised leader of Israel. David and Solomon unite the 12 tribes and extend the kingdom, but they are flawed leaders demonstrating the need for a sinless king, Jesus.

- Samuel is the last judge and also a prophet, but not a military leader
- Israel wanted a military leader king, just like the other nations around them.
- Saul is selected. (Good military leader but spiritually weak)
- Saul did successfully fight the Philistines, but lost badly at Mount Gilboa. Israel was reduced to a tribute paying nation of the Philistines.
- God selects David who is “according to His heart” and gives him victory over the Philistines and the smaller groups around Israel. God gave rest (shalom).
- God makes a covenant with David, establishing his dynasty.
- But even David was not without big flaws.
- Temple was built and became the center of Yahweh worship.
- Though Solomon was clearly God’s chose son of David and was given unusual level of wisdom, he strayed (many wives and allowing worship of other gods).
- This illustrates that even the best of human leaders are not good enough. Looking forward to Christ.

The Divided Kingdom

The divided kingdoms regularly sinned against God. Israel had no kings that God had approved, and Judah only eight “good” kings. God had raised up kingdoms to punish them (Egypt, Aram, and Assyria) and to remind them of their covenant obligations. The Northern kingdom, Israel ran out time in 722 BC when Assyria destroyed Samaria and scattered its people.

- Solomon’s and Rehoboam’s sins punished. The kingdom is divided.
- God gives a conditional covenant to Jeroboam, but he fails right away.
- The consequence is not just for Rehoboam, but for Israel.
- The kingdom of Judha did not perform much better. -> Egyptian invasion
- 50 years of border skirmishes between North and South.
- Violent changes of kings in Israel, but Judah has a continuous Davidic line.
- Omri and Ahab turn Israel’s fortunes around. Successful political leadership is not equal to a God fearing leadership.
- The black cloud of Assyria starts to roll in.
- The Battle of Qarqar in 853 BC delays the complete destruction.
- Religious crisis due to Jezebel. Elijah’s ministry.

- Violent restoration of Yahwism under Jehu.
- Assyria returns in 841 BC.
- Short-lived emergence of Aram-Damascus
- But Assyria is coming back, first defeating Damascus (802 BC) giving rest to Jeroboam II in Israel and Uzziah in Judah. Joint kingdom almost as large as under Solomon.
- The end starts with Menahem becoming an Assyrian vassal in 738 BC.
- Capture of Samaria in 722 BC, deportation, and end of Israel.

The Fall of Judah

Judah was given another 135 years, but did not repent in spite of the many warnings of prophets. Finally, Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BC and deported many of her people. Just as everything appeared to be lost, Isaiah and Jeremiah gives a hope of return.

- The last century was tumultuous.
- Hezekiah tried to rebel against Assyria, but Assyria was at its peak of power. His son, Manasseh had no choice but to accept subjugation by Assyria. As a price he had to reverse Hezekiah's reforms and accept foreign deities and practices.
- But by 620 BC, the Scythians, Medes and Babylon had defeated Assyria and it was no more.
- As a result Josiah found Judah almost completely independent. He immediately conquered a portion of Israel (Samaria) and introduced significant religious reforms. Found a copy of the law. He purged foreign cults and customs.
- Peace did not last long. With the fall of Assyria and with Babylon not strong yet in Palestine, Egypt had a short resurgence. Neco II in control of Israel. He deposed Jehoahaz (Josiah's son) and sent him to Egypt and made his brother, Jehoiakim a puppet king with very heavy tribute. Judah's independence is once again over.
- Babylon and Egypt jockeying for power in Palestine
- Babylon wins at Charchemish in 605 BC.
- Jehoiakim tried to play both sides.
- After rebelling against Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar started to march against Jerusalem in 598. Jehoiakim mysteriously dies. His son Jehoiachin promptly surrenders.
- King and nobles taken to captivity (597 BC) and Zedekiah made puppet king.
- After multiple rebellions, Nebuchadnezzar, after a year-long siege, destroys Jerusalem and the Temple.
- More deportation, end of Judah in 587 BC.

Egypt	Palestine	Philistines	Hittites/Assyria	
New Kingdom 1550 – 1069 BCE <i>19th Dynasty 1295-1186</i> Rameses I 1295-1294 Sety I 1294-1279 Rameses II 1279-1213 Merenptah 1213-1203 ... Tausret 1188-1186 <i>20th Dynasty 1186-1069</i> <i>Sethnakht 1186-1184</i> <i>Rameses III 1184-1153</i> <i>Rameses IV-Xi</i> <i>21st Dynasty 1069-935</i> <i>22nd Dynasty 935-725</i> <i>Shishak/Sheshonq I 945-924</i>	Hebrews in Egypt Exodus Judges Fall of Shiloh (after 1050) Saul ca. 1020-1000 David ca. 1000-961 Solomon ca. 961-922 Othniel Ehud Shamgar Deborah Gideon Abimelech Tola Jair Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon Samson Eli Samuel Joel & Abiah	Sea People defeated Philistines settle in Palestine	Hittites	Assyria Tiglath-pileser I ca. 1116-1078

Judah 922-587	Israel 922-722/1	Damascus	Neo-Assyria 900-612
Rehoboam 922-915 Abijah 915-913 Asa 913-873 Jehoshaphat 873-849 Jehoram 849-843 Ahaziah 843-842 Athaliah 842-837 Joash 837-800 Amaziah 800-783 Uzziah (Azariah) 783-742 Jotham 742-735 Ahaz 735-715	Jeroboam 922-901 Nadab 901-900 Baasha 900-877 Elah 877-876 Zimri 876 Omri 876-869 Ahab 869-850 Ahaziah 850-849 Jehoram 849-843/2 Jehu 843/2-815 Jehoahaz 815-802 Jehoash 802-786 Jeroboam II 786-746 Zachariah 746-745 Shallum 745 Menahem 745-737 Pekahiah 737-736 Pekah 736-732 Hoshea 732-724 Fall of Samaria 722/1	Rezon Ben-hadad I 885-870 Ben-hadad II 870-842 Battle of Qarqar 853 Hazael 842-806 Ben-hadad III Rezin 740-732	Adad-Nirari II 911-891 Tkulti-Ninurta II 890-884 Ashurnasirpal II 884-859 Shalmaneser III 859-824 Shamshi-Adad V 824-811 Adad-nirari III 811-783 . . . Tiglath-pileser III 744-727 Shalmaneser V 726-722 Sargon II 721-705

Egypt	Judah 722-587	Babylon	Neo-Assyria 900-612
<i>XXIV Dynasty 725-709</i> <i>XXV Dynasty 716-663</i> <i>XXVI Dynasty 664-525</i> Sack of Thebes 663 Neco II 610-594 Nebuchadnezzar invades Egypt 568	Ahaz 735-715 Hezekiah 715-687 Manasseh 687-642 Amon 642-640 Josiah 640-609 Jehoahaz 609 Jehoiakim 609-598 Jehoiachin 598-597 Zedekiah 597-587 Fall of Jerusalem 587	Nabopolassar 626-605 Nebuchadnezzar 605-562 Amel-marduk 562-560 Neriglissar 560-556 Nabodnidus 556-539 Cyrus takes Babylon 539	Sargon II 721-705 Sennacherib 704-681 Esarhaddon 680-669 Assurbanipal 668-631 Fall of Niniveh 612