

LESSON 4

THE STUMP IN PARCHED GROUND

(Samuel, King and Chronicles)

Joshua brought Israel into the land of Canaan and gave them possession. But the task was never fully completed. Each of the twelve tribes were to finish the work begun under Joshua. All was contingent on keeping the covenant of Moses and the covenant made at Shechem (Josh. 24:19-27). But the covenants were broken (Jdg. 2:1-5). A generation had grown up that did not know the Lord (Jdg. 2:10). They would be a people who would do whatever was right in their own eyes (Jdg. 17:6; 21:25), forcing the Lord's hand to start bringing the curses of Deuteronomy 27-28 upon them. When they repented, the Lord would intervene and remove the invading nations through a judge. When they disobeyed, then the invading armies were allowed to return.

Finally, there was a complete rejection of the Lord's judges, and they asked for a king (1 Sam. 8). The request was displeasing to Samuel, the last judge, but the Lord said, listen to the voice of the people...for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them (1 Sam. 8:7; 10:18-19; 12:12-16). So, the Lord gave them Saul. But Saul also rebelled against the commands of the Lord and he and his kingdom were rejected by the Lord (1 Sam. 15:10-28, 35). Consequently, the kingdom was given to a neighbor. That neighbor would turn out to be David, the shepherd king (1 Sam. 16:1, 12-14).

David would foreshadow the coming king of Genesis 49 and Numbers 24 (see 1 Sam. 17:40-47, David's fight with Goliath and then Rev. 19:17-21). It was this same David who was promised an eternal throne and a son who would be seated on it forever (2 Sam. 7:8-29). Hence the future king had to be more than just a man. 2 Samuel 7 gives us the promises made to David.

1. I will make you a great name (9)
2. I will make a place for your people Israel (10)
3. I will give you rest from all yours enemies (11)
4. I will make a house for you (11)
 - a. I will raise up your seed after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom (12)
 - b. He will build a house for My Name (13)
 - c. I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever (13)
 - d. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to me (14)
 - e. I will correct him with the rod of men (14)
 - f. My lovingkindness will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul (15)
 - g. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever (16)
 - h. Your throne shall be established forever (16)

Humbled by the goodness of God, David goes in and sets before the Lord. One of his comments to the Lord was, "Thou hast spoken also of the house of Thy servant concerning the distant future." Consequently, 2 Samuel, Kings and Chronicles are interested in evaluating the kings to see if they have a heart like David. The answer is only a few, and none among the ten tribes of Israel. Israel, the ten, will go into exile in Assyria in 722 BC for their unrighteousness. Judah will go to Babylon in 586 BC. Rulership will go to Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 2:37-38). The tree of Judah will only be a stump (Isa. 6:12-13). And so, during the reign of the kings, the prophets begin to speak. Note when the writing prophets begin to speak in the chart below.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>JUDAH</u>	<u>PROPHETS</u>	<u>ISRAEL (10)</u>	<u>SPOILER NATIONS</u>
<u>Golden Calf</u>	931 909	Rehoboam (-) 931-915 Abijah (-) 915-911 Asa (*) 911-870	Ahijah → ← Shemaiah ← Iddo ← Azariah ← Hanani Jehu →	Jeroboam* 930-910 Nadab 910-909 Baasha* 909-886 Elah 886-885 Zimri* (7 days)	<u>Egypt-</u> <u>Syria-</u> Shishak Rezon
<u>Baal/Asherah Alliance</u>	885	Jehoshaphat (+) 870-848 Jehoram (-) 848-842 Ahaziah (-) 842-841	Elijah → Micaiah → ← Eliezer Elisha → ← Jehoiada	Omri* [Tibni]* 885-874; Ahab 874-853 Ahaziah 853-852 Joram 852-841	885-880 <u>Assyria-</u> <u>Syria-</u> Ashur- Benhadad nasirpal
<u>Golden Calf</u> <u>Mostly</u> <u>hostility</u>	841 752	Athaliah (-) 841-835 Joash (+) 835-795 Amaziah (+) 795-767 Azariah (+) 767-739 (Uzziah) Jotham (+) 750/735-730 Ahaz (-) 735/730-715	← Obadiah? ← Joel? Jonah (Ninevah) Amos → Hosea → ← Isaiah Oded → ← Micah	Jehu* 841-813 Jehoahaz 813-797 Jehoash 797-781 Jeroboam II 781-753 Zechariah 753 (6 mon.) Shallum* 752 (1 mon.) Menahem* 752-741 Pekahiah 741-739 Pekah* 739-731 Hoshea* 731-722	<u>Assyria-</u> Shalmaneser III <u>Syria-</u> Hazael Benhadad Pul Tiglath- pileser III Rezin Shalmaneser V Sargon II
<u>Judah alone</u>	722 586 586 586 520 520 430	Hezekiah (*) 715-686 Manasseh (-) 686-642 Amon (-) 642-640 Josiah (*) 640-609 Jehoahaz (-) 609 (3 mon.) Jehoiakim (-) 609-598 Jehoiachin (-) 598-597 Zedekiah (-) 597-586 FALL OF JERUSALEM [2 Ki. 24/25] * Like David + Half heart - No Heart	Nahum (Ninevah) ← Jeremiah ← Zephaniah ← Huldah ← Habakkuk? ← Ezekiel ← Daniel ← Obadiah? ← Joel? ← Haggai ← Zechariah ← Malachi	FALL OF SAMARIA [2 Ki. 17] 9 Dynasties* Hosea 8:4	Sennacherib Esarhaddon Ashurbanipal <u>Egypt-</u> Necho/ <u>Babylon-</u> Nabopolassar Nebuchadnezzar

THE HEBREW PROPHETS¹

<u>THE PROPHET</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>WORLD POWER</u>
		<u><i>9TH CENTURY PROPHETS</i></u> <u><i>PRE-EXILIC</i></u>	
OBADIAH?	845	EDOM	ASSYRIA
JOEL?	835	JUDAH	
		<u><i>8TH CENTURY PROPHETS</i></u>	
JONAH	780	NINEVAH	
HOSEA	760	ISRAEL	
AMOS	760	ISRAEL	
ISAIAH	740	JUDAH	
MICAH	735	JUDAH	
		<u><i>7TH CENTURY PROPHETS</i></u>	
NAHUM	650	NINEVAH	
ZEPHANIAH	640	JUDAH	BABYLONIA
JEREMIAH	625	JUDAH	
HABAKKUK?	610	JUDAH	
		<u><i>EXILIC</i></u>	
DANIEL	605	EXILES	
		<u><i>6TH CENTURY PROPHETS</i></u>	
EZEKIEL	590	EXILES	
		<u><i>POST-EXILIC</i></u>	
JOEL?	586	JUDAH	PERSIA
HAGGAI	520	JUDAH	
ZECHARIAH	520	JUDAH	
		<u><i>5TH CENTURY PROPHETS</i></u>	
MALACHI	430	JUDAH	

¹ Much confusion prevails concerning the dates of the prophets. The following dates are the more conservative dates even though some disagreement might still exist. The dates are approximate and have been rounded off for memory purposes.

Notice in the first chart that the majority of the writing prophets spoke to Judah, who carried the seed of the royal line. Israel, the ten northern tribes, heard directly the prophecies of Hosea and Amos, but probably would have known what the earlier prophets to Judah spoke. While it is uncertain when Obadiah and Joel ministered, the majority of the prophets to Judah begin to speak with Isaiah, around 754 BC, just before Israel's exile in 722 BC, with Micah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and possibly Habakkuk, ministering in Judah in the 600's, just before Judah's exile in 586 BC. Ezekiel and Daniel both ministered during the exile of Judah, with possibly Obadiah and Joel. The remaining three, Haggai, Zechariah in 520 BC, and Malachi in 430 BC, bringing about an end to the writing prophets.

This means the prophets were speaking mostly in the advancing corruption of Israel and Judah and their kings. King Manasseh sealed the fate of Judah with his wickedness (read 2 Kgs. 21:1-16, *13-15; 2 Chron. 33:1-20, *9-11; Jer. 15:4). The last three, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi spoke after the return of some of Judah, offering a renewed hope.

From 430 BC until the NT, there are no writing prophets. These are often spoken of as the 400 "silent years." Luke indicates, with the naming of Simeon and (H)annah (Lk. 2:22-38), that there were individuals and prophetesses operating on a personal level, looking for the comfort of Israel—a coming king. They were waiting on the fulfillments of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms.

This brings up a question. What about the king Moses foresaw, the book of Ruth and the promises to David? If the Davidic line has gone into exile, and the sovereignty of the kingdom has been given over to the Gentile Nebuchadnezzar, has the Davidic line been cut off forever with the result that the promises of God are not true. To this end the prophets must now speak.

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