

## # 13 - BIBLE OVERVIEW

1<sup>ST</sup> and 2<sup>ND</sup>  
KINGS

AND

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CHRONICLES

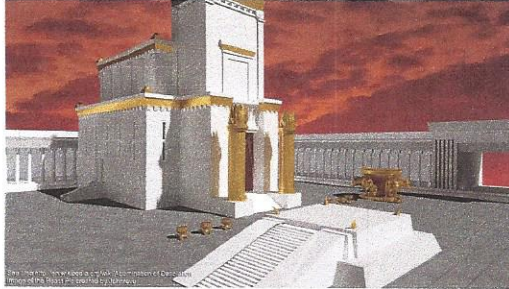
The first 2 kings were Saul and David. We learned about them in 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel. Saul was a good king at first, but started trusting in self rather than God. So God had David anointed King. When Saul died in battle David became king of southern Israel (Judah) and Ishbosheth was king of Northern Israel. In a few years Israel was united under King David.

David had many accomplishments during his reign. He united Israel and had numerous military victories, establishing Israel as a strong and respected nation. He instituted Jerusalem as the capital and brought the Ark of the Covenant (a sacred box that held the 10 Commandments) to Jerusalem. Not only was it the government capital, but it was also the religious center of the country.

Despite his great accomplishments David struggled with sin like the rest of us. He also took a census showing his pride in military strength instead of leaning on God's strength. However, David was "a man after God's own heart." He was faithful and loved God.

1<sup>st</sup> King begins when David dies and his son Solomon ascends the throne. David had united the country of Israel and Solomon rules over the entire land. Solomon started his reign by asking God for wisdom instead of power or riches. God was pleased with his request and not only granted him wisdom, but riches, fame, and power too.

Solomon's accomplishments included building the Temple in Jerusalem and other beautiful structures. He was known and admired throughout the world. Other leaders came to meet with him because of his wisdom and wealth.



The Temple Solomon Built



Queen of Sheba (probably Ethiopia today) visited Solomon to test his wisdom. She was so impressed she gave him money and gifts.

However, the Israelites didn't see their king like the rest of the world. He worked the people very hard and the taxes were high. He also married many women who didn't believe in the God of Abraham. That went against God's commands. Late in life Solomon wrote a book that is also in the Bible. It is called Ecclesiastes. In this book Solomon tells us that not staying close to God was a big mistake and that he had wasted many opportunities.

Towards the end of Solomon's reign, Jeroboam, one of Solomon's officials, revolted and tried to take over. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he escaped to Egypt.

After Solomon died the country was in disarray. Jeroboam returned from Egypt and took over the northern part of Israel. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king of southern Israel called Judah. Unfortunately, both of these men were bad kings.



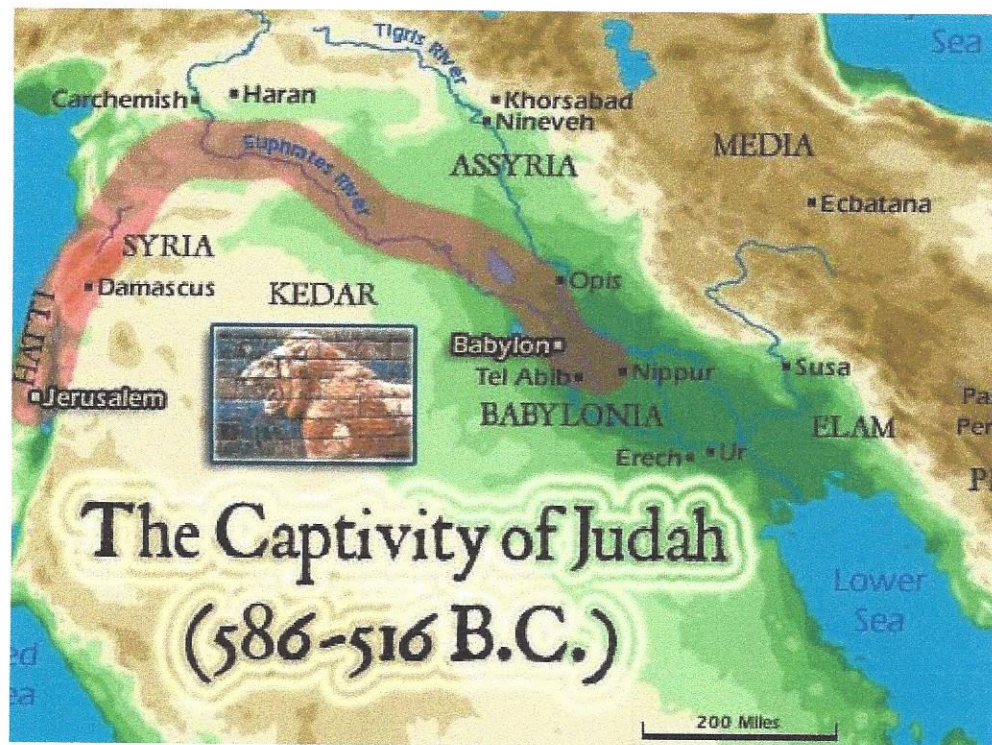
Israel remained divided and there was one king for the north and one king for Judah. This was not what God intended. The king was to come from David's descendants, so the kings that ruled Judah were the rightful heirs to the throne. Although there were good kings of Judah, most did not obey God and all the kings of Israel were evil.

God told the people when they asked for a king they would be sorry. (1 Samuel 8: 4-9) The people didn't listen and the kings led the nation to destruction.



During the time of 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, prophets warned the kings that they were not following God's will, and that God would punish the nation for their sin. Elijah and Elisha are two of these prophets. We will learn more about them and other prophets in future books.

The evil and disobedience continued throughout 1st and 2nd Kings and eventually God's judgment came upon his people and the nation. God allowed Israel (northern kingdom) to be conquered by an evil nation called Assyria. Later Judah (southern Israel) was conquered by another evil nation called Babylon.



For many years the Israelites would be spread out across other lands (in exile) living among people who didn't know God. We will learn about the Israelites time in exile when we study future books of the Bible.

1 Chronicles tells the story about David and his reign. It is a review of what we learned in 2 Samuel. It was written after the people were exiled, probably to remind the people about their heritage.

2 Chronicles tells the story of all the Kings of Israel that followed David. This book covers much of the same information that we find in 1 Kings and 2 Kings.

While all four books tell us the history of God's people; 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings was more about military and government, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles focused more on Israelites religion and spiritual life.

## DEVOTION

Read 2 Kings 4: 8-37 and 8:1-6

A woman lived in Shunem, a city in Israel. She was wealthy and prominent in her community. She was a believer in the God of Abraham and was open to learn more about God.

Elisha was a prophet and often went through Shunem when traveling. Elisha prophesied to the Northern part of Israel during the time of the Kings and before the destruction of the country and exile of the people.

The Shunammite woman knew Elisha was a man of God and one day she asked Elisha to stop by her house for refreshment. Despite her wealth and status in the community, she made this man of God feel welcome.



Elisha must have felt welcomed and relaxed for the Bible tells us he stopped often after that first visit. She even had a room built for him as a place of respite.



When her son died her confidence in the Almighty was evident. She immediately went to Elisha and insisted that this man of God, and not an envoy, come to her aid. She was right, for it was Elisha and not the servant who brought life back into her son's body.



Her confidence in God also shined through when she left her wealth and lived with the Philistines per Elisha's instructions. She was rewarded for she retrieved her property upon her return years later.

Although we don't hear about her much, this woman's confidence in God was admirable. It allowed her to witness many examples of God's power in her life.

What is a prophet?

- a. A person who speaks God's word to the people
- b. Makes instruments
- c. Leads people in music
- d. A government official

What kindness did the woman who lived in Shunem show Elisha?

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Name two times that the Shunnamite woman showed her confidence in God?  
(2 Kings 4: 20 & 30; 8:1 & 2)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have confidence in God to take care of you like the Shunammite woman?

Do you turn to God first when you have a problem?

## PRAYER

Dear God, please strengthen my faith and confidence in You. I want to come to you first when I have a need or problem. Thank you for taking care of me. Amen.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am  
\_\_\_\_\_ years old. I am walking through the Bible with  
\_\_\_\_\_ on this date \_\_\_\_\_.

## FOR A TODDLER

What you need: Nothing extra today.



Have you ever seen a mat like the picture above at someone's house?  
The word on the mat is welcome. Do you know what that means?

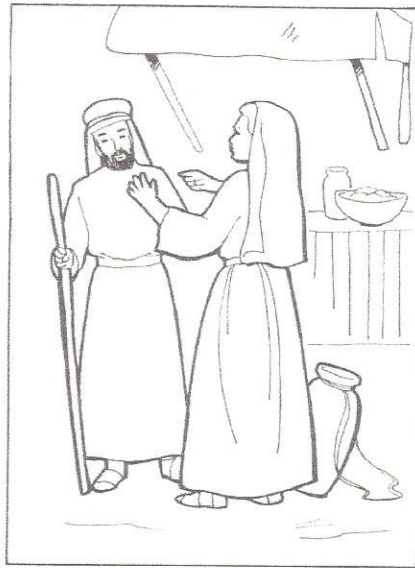
Welcome means to ask people to come in to your house and be nice to them and make them know you are happy to see them.

Did you know the Bible tells us to make others feel welcome? It is called hospitality.

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9 NIV).



There is a woman in the Bible who welcomed a man of God. This man went from place to place telling people about God. The woman even built a room for him to stay in when he came to her house. God was happy that this woman was obedient by welcoming Elisha into her home.



The Woman and the Prophet

When you are playing with other boys or girls God wants you to make them feel welcome. Make sure you allow others to play with you and don't laugh at other children. Share your toys.

Circle the pictures below that show boys and girls not making others feel welcome.



### PRAYER

Dear God, Please help me to always be nice to other boys and girls. I want to obey you and make others feel welcome. Amen.



My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am  
\_\_\_\_\_ years old. I am walking through the Bible with  
\_\_\_\_\_ on this date \_\_\_\_\_