



KINGS – DIVIDED KINGDOM

Getting our bearings - A Timeline of Events:

- Exodus from Egypt – 1446/1450 BC
- Conquest of Canaan – 1406/1410 BC
- The time of the Judges - ~1380 BC - ~1050 = ~400 years
- Saul's Reign - ~1050 BC
- David's Reign - ~1010 BC
- Solomon - ~970 BC
- Divided Kingdom - ~922/930 BC
- Israel exiled by Assyria – 722 BC
- Judah exiled by Babylon – 586 BC

Solomon- The Golden Age of the Monarchy (with no “Happily Ever After” Ending)

The Temple

Ancient Near Eastern World = the temple was the meeting point of heaven and earth, the place chose by the deity as a connection point

Israelites’ adaption = as the king is enthroned in his kingdom, the Lord is enthroned in heaven and in the temple (and because the temple is in Jerusalem, that is also united with the temple)

Appearances of Solomon’s reign	The Reality
All the promises made to Abraham are now fulfilled; Solomon establishes peace with all the nations around them: A happy ending for Israel and their God (1 Kings 10)	Solomon heavily taxed his people (1 Kings 12); had a huge bureaucracy who he lavished with banquets and handsome compensation; had a massive standing army; built a lavish palace

HANDOUT – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

God promised that if they followed His law, the Israelites would be a light to all nations because they would reflect His character – people from all over the world were flocking to hear God’s wisdom from Solomon: Covenant fulfillment.	Solomon had a massive standing army; many wives: daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites (1 Kings 11)
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None of these realities align with the picture of a king in Deuteronomy 17:14-20

The “heart” of the problem

“...his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been...so Solomon did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.” (1 Kings 11:4-6)

CONSEQUENCES

“The Lord became angry with Solomon...” (1 Kings 11:9)

God’s Pronouncement: “...I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates...I will not do it during your lifetime...” (1 Kings 11:11-12)

What does God ultimately want from us?

God expects Israel to give Him wholeheartedness. He wants an exclusive commitment – like a marriage. (David set the standard for this) Idolatry divides the heart. And for an Israelite king, a divided heart results in a divided kingdom.
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Division into Two Kingdoms

Jeroboam	Rehoboam
One of Solomon's officials, chosen by God	Solomon's son
Became king of ten tribes (Israel) in the North and established Schechem as capital	Became king of one tribe (Judah) in the South, keeping Jerusalem as capital
Made two golden calves and told the people to worship these as gods	Made a foolish judgment call, which resulted in the people not having any trust in him and rebelling, following Jeroboam (was God's will)

Blessing and Curse – Bible Project Video

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