

Jonah 02 – Discovering Jonah’s Israel

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Introduction

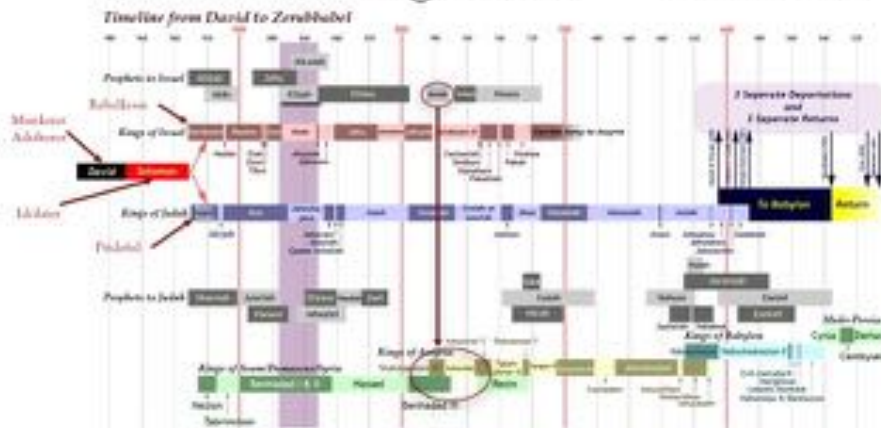
Exodus to Jonah

Last lesson discussed overview of Hebrew
history: Lesson goes more in depth

Understanding Israel’s History

- From Egypt through the Unified Kingdom period
 - Hebrews had left Egypt - 1440 BC
 - Hebrews entered Promised Land - 1400 BC
 - Period of the Judges - 1400-1140 BC
 - King Saul - 1140-1100 BC
 - King David - 1100-1060 BC
 - King Solomon - 1060-1020 BC (All Dates Approximated)

Divided Kingdoms - Timeline



United Davidic Kingdom

- David united the tribes into one kingdom
 - Man after God's own heart though murderer and adulterer because he repented when confronted (2Sa 12:1-15)
- Solomon divided the tribes through pride of riches (1Ki 2:1-11)
 - Though he built the Temple he also built alters for his many wives legitimizing their idolatry practices denigrating God's message of salvation to the nations (1Ki 11)

Rehoboam Held the Key

- Tribes confronted Rehoboam asking him to lift the burden Solomon had placed on the tribes (1Sa 8:10-18; 1Ki 12:1-24)
 - Rehoboam declared he would increase the burdens which divided the kingdom (Judah)
 - Jeroboam, whom Solomon sought to kill, gained the leadership over the northern ten tribes; Ephraim was the largest tribe (Named for Joseph's Egyptian son (Israel))

Jeroboam Faces a Dilemma

- Jeroboam's rebellion extends to God (Solomon's sin)
(2K 17:6-23)
 - His people were Jews and would worship in Jerusalem controlled by Rehoboam (Judah)
 - He believed his people would eventually rejoin Judah to be one nation thus ending his monarchy
 - His solution: Reinvigorate an old religion by building temples for Golden Calf worship: Dan (N) & Bethel (S)
(Ex 32:1-9; 1K 12:25-31)

Northern Tribes Idolic History Os 17:38

- Tribe of Dan relocated its tribal area to the north
 - Stole Micah's idols and obtained a Levite as priest
 - When they conquered their land they set up the idols
 - Jonathon, grandson to Moses, became their high priest
- Dan, choosing idolatry lost its future in Millennial Kingdom (Ge 49:16-27)
 - Dan is not listed in the tribes of Revelation (Re 7:1-8; 21:9-13)

Jeroboam Legitimized Idolatry

- Centers of Idolatry:
 - Dan already an ancient idolic center
 - Bethel, predating the Tabernacle, becomes holy place
 - Abram built an altar there (Ge 12:8)
 - Jacob actually named Bethel after his vision: God's ladder (Ge 28:10-22)
 - Jeroboam legalized the illegal and future kings followed (Is 5:20-21)

Israel Nearly Lost to God

- Ahab and Jezebel introduced Baal national worship
 - God confronts them via Elijah (1K 18)
 - 450 priests of Baal killed breaking its dominance
 - Ahab *sorry* but not repentant - Dies in battle (1K 22)
 - Jezebel unrepentant and killed eventually by Jehu (2K 9:30-37)
- Elijah & Elisha present nearly 100 years (870-790 BC)

Jeroboam II Reigns (2K 14:23-29)

- Israel *enjoyed* a resurgence in prosperity during the reign of Jeroboam II proving prosperity does not mean blessing from God
 - Jonah is mentioned as a prophet from Gath-hepher
 - Appears God used Jeroboam II to keep Israel from annihilation with Jonah's guidance
 - Jonah only true prophet to help Israel - Grace of God

No Northern Kings are *Good*

- None of the northern kings willing to loose power by submitting to God and returning to worship Him at His Temple in Jerusalem
- God preserved them in spite of their willful sinfulness
- Hosea is the last prophet to warn them before they are defeated by Assyria and the upper class transplanted

Jonah's Perspective

- Understanding Jonah's worldview
 - His ministry was to preserve Israel under Jeroboam II
 - Israel enjoyed strong military and prosperous economy
 - Assyria which harassed Israel previously is now stagnant
 - Amaziah king of Judah started well but ended poorly by turning to idolatry and starting a war with Israel which he lost and the Temple sacked - He was assassinated

Jonah's Ministry Unique (Jk 12:38-41; Lk 11:29-32)

- Christ said Jonah's ministry would be the only sign His people would receive as to His ministry
 - As Jonah died in the fish and rose; so Christ died three days and rose also
 - Jonah preached repentance; Christ preached repentance (MR 1:14-15)
 - Jonah's ministry to Gentiles; Christ's salvation Gospel given to Gentiles when rejected by Jews (Ro 5:1-11; 9:11)

Jonah's Divided Loyalties (Jk 1:5-8)

- Jonah's guidance helped Israel become strong again
- God, via Jonah, calls Assyria to repentance
 - Jonah sees Assyria's repentance as threat to his Israel
 - If Assyria stabilizes they will expand, defeating Israel
 - Jonah interested solely in Israel, not in God's salvation
- Jonah *two-souled* between God and man-Unstable

Why Assyria?

- It was the kingdom Israel always wanted to emulate
 - Powerful both economically and militarily
 - Striking fear in its enemies and dominating them
 - Making its culture {truth} the only culture {truth}
- First great empire centered on military technology
- Became the model for those who followed

Mirror to Israel

- If Nineveh, one of the most ancient and great cities of Assyria should repent then Israel would have no excuse for its unrepentant attitude toward God's mercy (Mt 12:41)
- The salvation of every Gentile condemns Jews who reject God's Gospel until the time when they shall return to Him whom they pierced (Rv 11:13-17)

Tribute to Jonah's Faith

- Jonah knew the power of God
 - Realizing Nineveh would repent, and unwilling that it should do so, he refused to do God's will condemning them to eternity in Fire to protect **unrepentant** Israel
 - Even when he grudgingly did God's will he remained angry at God's grace for the Assyrians since he knew Israel would eventually suffer

Divided Kingdoms Mirror Today

Judah

- Smaller
- Temple of God
- Several good kings
- Many idolaters present
- Mirrors True Jews today

Israel

- Much larger
- Centers of False Worship
- No good kings
- Some remain faithful (1K 18:18)
- Mirrors False Jews today

Jonah Mirrors Many Christians

- Christians struggle with the body of flesh and their new nature (Ro 7:1-25)
 - American Christians jingoistically promote unrepentant America at the expense of promoting the Gospel
 - Many Christians see America's period of prosperity as proof of God's blessing rather than a trap of Lucifer to blind them to his ongoing plan of globalization

Nothing New Under the Sun

- Our current history is little different from Jonah's period except for the *window dressing*
- Christians are to live the Gospel before all peoples seeking their benefit in eternity future
- If we have the mind of Christ we will go where He sends us with His joy - Jews will do this in their time (He 12:1-2; Re 7:4f)