Understanding Israel’s history

God’s plan for His creation – Salvation

- The Promise to Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:15)
  1. Deliverance from the curse
  2. By the Seed of the woman

- The Promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
  1. Salvation/Blessing
  2. A Great Nation
  3. Blessing to the Gentiles
  4. The Seed of Abraham will fulfill it

- The Promise to David (2 Samuel 7)
  1. An eternal Dynasty
  2. An eternal king

Obstacle to God’s plan – Sin

- The sin of man and the curse of God
- The Law of Moses puts sin in the spotlight
  - The requirement of holiness
  - The requirement of wrath

The hope of the world – the Sovereignty of God

- The character of God
- God has made everything beautiful in its time
  Ecclesiastes 3:11
- Proclaim salvation – Your God reigns
  Isaiah 52:7
The age of the kings

Most of the Old Testament – 23 of 39 books

God’s design – a kingdom without end
- Genesis 49:10 – scepter in Judah
- Deuteronomy 17:14-20 – rules for the king
- 1 Samuel 8:4-9 – a deception
- 1 Samuel 16:1 – the provision of God
- 1 Samuel 7:16 – the eternal king

Man’s devices – a frustrating story
- The bondage of sin
- The curse of the Law

The history of the kingdom
- David & Solomon – Micah 7:4
- The divided kingdom – the judgment of God
  - The northern division of the kingdom
    The sin of Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:9)
    722 B.C. – captivity in Assyria
  - The southern division of the kingdom
    Rebellion and revival (x4) and wrath
    586 B.C. – captivity in Babylon

The last great awakening
- Manasseh and Amon – the apex of evil
- Josiah – the last good king
- Jehoahaz – a shocking collapse
King Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-18)

Began reign at age 12
- Co-regent with father x 11 years
- Reigned for 55 years – longest reign of any king
- Died in peace

He did evil in the sight of the LORD
- According to the abominations of the Canaanites
- Rebuilt high places destroyed by Hezekiah
- Raised up altars to Baal
- Made wooden image as Ahab
- Worshipped all the host of heaven . . . served them
- Defiled the Temple of the LORD
- Sacrificed sons
- Witchcraft
- Seduced the people to do more evil than the nations
- Shed blood in Jerusalem – killed Isaiah?

The LORD spoke by His prophets – grace
- Calamity will come for the sins of Manasseh
  - The measuring line of Samaria (Amos 7:7-8)
  - Wiping Jerusalem like a dish
- Forsake the remnant of My inheritance
  - Deliver to their enemies
  - Sins of history

The repentance of Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:1-9)
- Repentance in Babylon and restoration
- Mini-revival in the land.
- Death in peace
King Amon (2 Kings 21:19-26)

Began reign at age 22
- Reigned 2 years
- Walked in the ways of his father
  - Served idols
  - Forsook the LORD God – not serve Him

Assassinated
- By his servants who were executed
- Succeeded by his son, Josiah
King Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-23:30)

Began reign at age 8
  ▶ Reigned 31 years
  ▶ Did right like David

[Began to seek the LORD at age 16 (2 Chronicles 34:1-7)
  ▶ Age 20, began to purge Judah and Jerusalem
  ▶ Purged in Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, Naphtali]

Began religious reforms at age 26
  ▶ Repair damages of Temple
  ▶ The job was delegated to the high priest

Found the Book of the Law – Amos 8:11-12
  ▶ Fear and dismay
  ▶ Inquired of the LORD (Huldah)

Huldah’s Word from the LORD
  ▶ Wrath – calamity
  ▶ Mercy – death in peace – not see the calamity

Josiah reads the Book of the Covenant
  ▶ to all the people
  ▶ Made a Covenant to obey

Renewal of religious reforms
  ▶ Cleansing of the Temple
  ▶ Defiling of the high places and false religion
  ▶ Cleansing at Bethel
  ▶ Passover celebration (2 Chronicles 35 – v. 18)
  ▶ Keeping the Book of the Covenant (23:24)

Renewal of promise of wrath

Death of Josiah
  ▶ The conflict with Pharaoh Necho
  ▶ An alliance with Babylon?
  ▶ Peace – did not see the coming calamity
King Jehoahaz, (2 Kings 23:31-33)

Second born son of Josiah, age 23
  ▪ Appointed by the people
  ▪ Ruled 3 months

Evil king
  ▪ Imprisoned by Pharaoh Necho
  ▪ Died in Egypt

King Eliakim/Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34-37)

First born son of Josiah, age 25
  ▪ Appointed by Pharaoh Necho
  ▪ Ruled 11 years

Evil king
  ▪ Paid tribute to Egypt and taxed the people
  ▪ In his days, Nebuchadnezzar came up . . .
Lessons from this era of depravity and revival

The wrath of God

- Why the wrath of God?
  - Warning to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:17-18)
  - Warning to Josiah (2 Kings 22:16f)

- The sin of Manasseh
  - 2 Kings 21:11; 2 Kings 23:26; 2 Kings 24:3
  - Jeremiah 15:4

- The curse of the Law
  - 2 Kings 21:15; 2 Kings 22:13;
  - 2 Kings 17:22-23 – the sin of Jeroboam
  - Amos 5:25-27
  - Ezekiel 20:8, 13, 21; Ezekiel 23: 8
  - The iniquity of Israel came to fullness

The blessing of God

- The word
  - The quickening Word
  - Contrast with Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36:23)

- Serving the LORD
  - Purification of worship
  - Defiling the broken cisterns
  - Cleansing of all of Israel

The power of sin

- Josiah’s failure
  - Alliance with Babylon
  - Inability to change the course of the people

- Josiah’s sons – a rapid fall
A Christmas lesson

Waiting for a Son
  ▶ More than a son of David
  ▶ Unto us a Child is born – Isaiah 9:6-7

A continuing hope
  ▶ The Sovereignty of God
  ▶ Hear the Word
  ▶ Serve the LORD

“Go, tell it on the mountains!”