

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
- ▶ Worshiped 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!”