

The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah

A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet

Lesson 11

2 Chronicles 13-16

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
November 15, 2015*

The Chronicles Perspective

- ▶ The course of world history
- ▶ Focus on the nation Israel – 425 years
 - The Davidic Monarchy – David and Solomon
 - Temple worship
 - The decline and fall of the Davidic Monarchy
- ▶ Decree of Cyrus – 70 years later

The Chronicles Perspective

- ▶ Jesus Christ (John 5:39)
- ▶ The Abrahamic Covenant
 - Abraham's family (1 Chron 1:27-28, 32)
 - The Land (1 Chron 16:15-18; 2 Chron 20:7-9)
 - The heart (1 Chron 29:18-19; 2 Chron 30:6-9)
- ▶ The Davidic Covenant
 - Revealed (1 Chron 17) – king over Israel forever
 - David's response (1 Chron 17:27; 29:18-19)
- ▶ The recipients – then and now
 - Reality v. Promise

Review

- ▶ Saul's failed kingdom – “did not inquire of the LORD” (1 Chron 10:14)
- ▶ Grandeur of David and Solomon
 - Temporal – Military power; Administrative wisdom
 - Spiritual – Temple worship; a loyal heart
- ▶ Division: Rehoboam and Jereboam
 - This division is of God (2 Chron 10:15; 11:4) – judgment
 - A dramatic fall – Temple and palace sacked by Shishak
 - A partial reprieve (2 Chron 12:7-8) – blessing!
 - Rehoboam (2 Chron 12:14) – not set heart to seek the LORD

A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet

2 Chronicles 13-16

- ▶ **A strong hand – Abijah – King #4 (2 Chron 13)**
 - 3 years
 - Wicked
 - Delivered by faith
- ▶ **Diseased feet – Asa – King #5 (2 Chron 14-16)**
 - 41 years
 - He did good and right
 - Did not seek the LORD

A Strong Hand (2 Chronicles 13)

- ▶ 1 Kings 15:1-8 (Abijah in 1 Kings – an evil man)
 - Like Rehoboam – heart not wholly devoted to the LORD
 - Not like David
 - Preserved for David's sake (15:4-5)
 - No peace – war with Jeroboam
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 13
 - War with Jeroboam – outnumbered but aggressive
 - Piety of Abijah – challenges Jeroboam
 - Ambushed
 - Divine victory by faith

A Covenant of Salt

- ▶ God's Covenant – "Everlasting Covenant"
 - "Covenant of Salt" (Num. 18:19; 2 Chron. 13:5)
 - "Covenant of Peace" (Isa. 54:10)
 - "New Covenant" (Jer. 31:31)
 - "Covenant of Life" (Mal. 2:5)
 - "Holy Covenant" (Luke 1:72)
 - "Covenants of Promise" (Eph. 2:12)

A Covenant of Salt

- ▶ First mentioned by Abijah (2 Chronicles 13:5)
- ▶ Leviticus 2:13 - salt of the covenant
- ▶ Numbers 18:19 – an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD

A Covenant of Salt

- ▶ 2 Kings 2:20 Elisha purified the water with salt
- ▶ Job 6:6 – Can something tasteless be eaten without salt?
- ▶ Matthew 5:13 – You are the salt of the earth . . ."
- ▶ Mark 9:49-50 – salted with fire – be at peace
- ▶ Luke 14:34 – tasteless salt is useless
- ▶ Colossians 4:6 – speech with grace, seasoned with salt

A Covenant of Salt

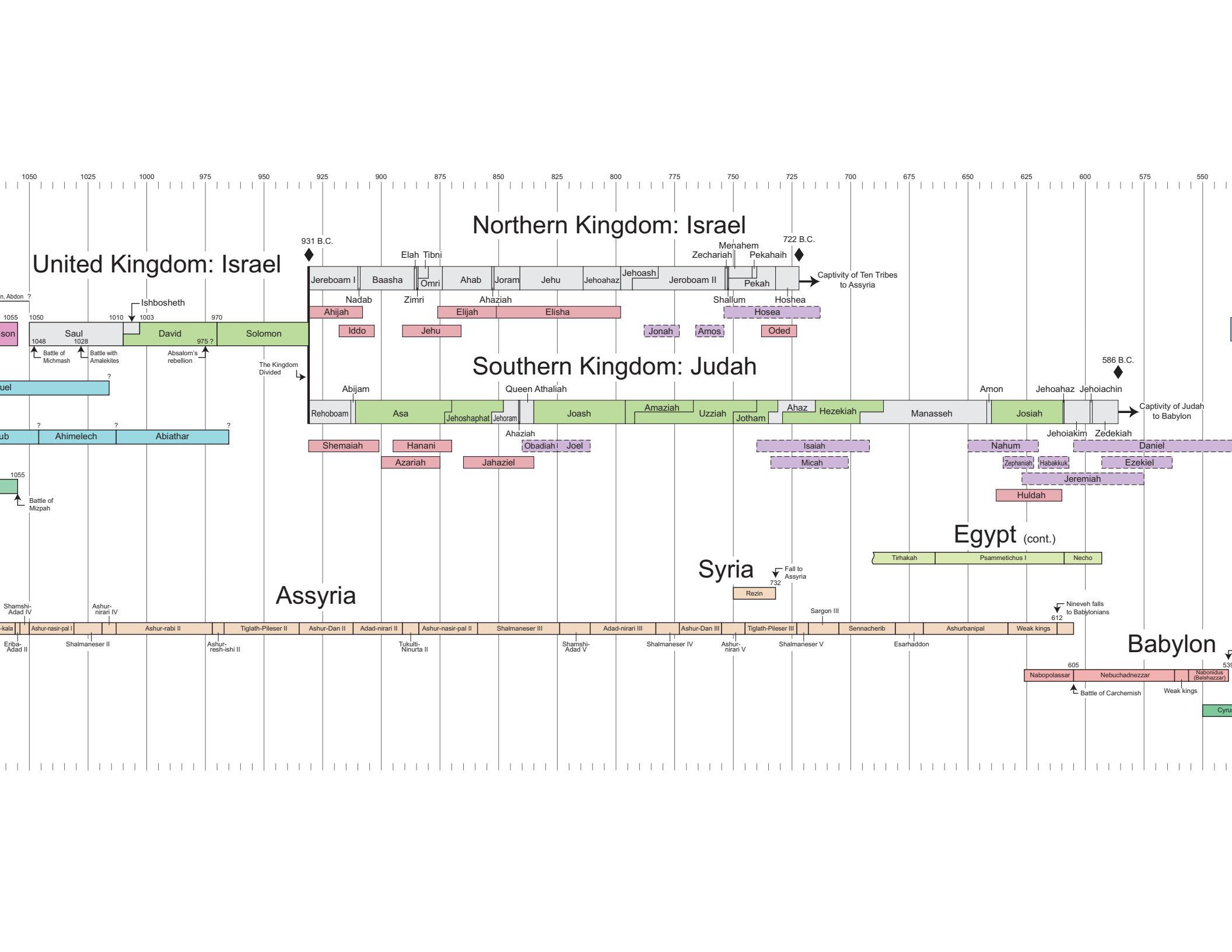
- ▶ Salt makes the offerings acceptable to God
- ▶ 1 Peter 2:4-5 – Jesus Christ is precious to God and our spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God through Him
- ▶ 1 Peter 2:7 – “this precious value is for you who believe”
- ▶ Christ is the salt of the earth – we are acceptable in Him
- ▶ Covenant of Salt brings a King Who propitiates
- ▶ Illustration – victory over Jeroboam
 - Wicked King – appealed to sacrifices (see Isaiah 1)
 - Sovereign grace – based on the work of Christ
 - Faith – the gift of God
- ▶ The strong hand is Christ’s

Dates in Kings and Chronicles

- ▶ Jerome (347-420): "Read all the books of the Old and New Testament, and you will find such a discord as to the number of the years, such a confusion as to the duration of the reigns of the kings of Judah and Israel, that to attempt to clear up this question will appear rather the occupation of a man of leisure than of a scholar."
- ▶ Driver (1948): "The presence of errors in the Biblical Figures is patent, but it is not equally clear where the errors lie."
- ▶ Gordon (1958): "The numerical errors in the books of Kings have defied every attempt to ungarble them."

Dates in Kings and Chronicles

- ▶ Edwin R. Thiele
 - The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings (1951)
 - A Chronology of the Hebrew Kings (1977)
- ▶ Issues for dating the kings in Israel and Judah
 - Year counted from Nisan (Israel) or Tishri (Judah)
 - Accession year v. Non-accession year
 - Co-regencies



Diseased Feet (2 Chronicles 14-16)

▶ 1 Kings 15:8-22

- Asa reigned 41 years
- He did right in the sight of the LORD
- Heart wholly devoted to the LORD
- Wars with Baasha
- Death of Asa – disease in his feet

Diseased Feet (2 Chronicles 14-16)

- ▶ 2 Chronicles 14-16 – Good and right in the sight of the LORD
- ▶ Initial reforms (14:1-8)
- ▶ Zerah's million man army (14:9-15) – 15th year
- ▶ Azariah's exhortation (15:1-7)
- ▶ Later reforms (15:8-19) – death penalty for not seeking the LORD
- ▶ Treaty with Ben-hadad (16:1-6) – 16th year
- ▶ Rebuke by Hanani (16:7-9)
- ▶ Asa's sin (16:10-14)

Tested Faith

- ▶ The deception of peace – Azariah spoke of the blessing of tribulations
- ▶ The solution: “Seek the LORD” – in peace even more than in trials
- ▶ A blameless heart (15:17) – not overt sin, but overconfidence in self
- ▶ The need for a heart that is "completely His" (16:9)

A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet

- ▶ The Everlasting Covenant of Salt
- ▶ The deception of prosperity
- ▶ The prayer of David – 1 Chronicles 29:18-19