

HISTORICAL BOOKS & MONARCHY IN ISRAEL

DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

NORTH (I KINGS Ch. 12 to II KINGS Ch.17)

SOUTH (I KINGS Ch. 12 to II KINGS Ch.25)

Divided Monarchy and the Establishment of Northern Kingdom (922 B.C.) - (I Kg Ch. 12:1-24)

- ❑ Rehoboam, son of Solomon Crowned at Shechem**
- ❑ Jeroboam with the assembly of Israel met Rehoboam and requested him to lighten the hard labour of his father on the tribes**
- ❑ Reply by Rehoboam:** Solomon made your yoke heavy. But I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips. But I will discipline you with Scorpions.
- ❑ Reply of Jeroboam:** “What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tent! Oh! Israel! Look now to your own house, O David” (I Kg 12:6; II Sam 20:1).
- ❑ The Nation got divided.**
- ❑ Jeroboam became king for the ten tribes other than Judah and Benjamin.**
- ❑ Rehoboam remained the king of Judah and Benjamin.**

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

I Dynasty - Jeroboam I (931-910 B.C.): He was the first king of Israel and from the house of Ephraim. The name means “May God increase the nation”. He was the one who led the tribes against forced labour during the reign of Rehoboam. He first built Shechem and made it as capital. Then he built Penuel for military purposes. It could be possible that he ruled at Tirzah (delight) since his house was in this city (I Kg 14:17). **Jeroboam I** ruled Israel for **22 years**.

The reigning period of the kings of the kingdoms are followed from **Thiele** among the four scholars **Hayes and Hooker, Thiele, Bright and Cogan and Tadmor**.

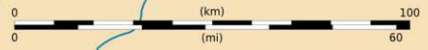


The 12 Tribes of Israel

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Around the time of SAUL AND DAVID

EDOM Vassals and defeated peoples



Kingdom of Israel and Judah
ca. 1030 - 930 BC



THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1 KINGS 12



Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

The Sins of Jeroboam (I Kings 12:28-33)

- 1. He made two young golden calves to represent the fertility cult.**
- 2. Created shrines, one at Bethel (South border) and another at Dan (North border)**
- 3. Built houses on high places**
- 4. Appointed priests from among all Tribes**
- 5. He changed religious Calendar**

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

The Punishment of JHWH to the sins of Jeroboam:

❑ Curse of the Man of god from Judah against the Altar at Bethel.

❑ Ahijah (Shiloh) prophesied the death of the Son (Abijah) of Jeroboam to the wife of the king who went to inquire the prophet. The prophet also told that evil will fall on the house of Jeroboam. Anyone who would die from the house of Jeroboam with in the city the dogs shall eat. Anyone who would die in the open country the birds of the air shall eat.

❑ The enmity between the house of Jeroboam & the male of Israel.

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Nadab (910-909 B.C.): House of Ephraim. The changing of guards from one dynasty to another occurred with the murdering of its last king. He ruled Israel for 2 years.

II Dynasty - Baasha (909-886 B.C.): House of Issachar. Prophet Jehu, son of Hanani, appeared. He ruled Israel for 24 years.

Elah (886-885 B.C.): House of Issachar. he ruled Israel for 2 years.

III Dynasty - Zimri (885 B.C. -7days): Zimri burned down the citadel and himself.

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

IV Dynasty - Omri (885 – 874 B.C. -12 Years): Ruled 6 Years in Tirzah and 6 Years in Samaria, the new Capital. He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver. He then fortified the city and called the city Samaria, after the name Shemer, the owner of the hill.

Ahab (874-853 B.C. - 21 Years): Ahab married Jezebel, the Phoenician queen and brought Baal worship in the land of JHWH. He also built a House for Baal at Samaria and erected a sacred pole. To get back Ramoth Gilead from the Syrians, Ahab of Israel went jointly with Jehoshaphat of Judah for a war against Aram. Michaiah, the prophet, predicted failure. Ahab killed in the battle against Aram.

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Ahaziah (853-852 B.C.– 2 Years)

- ❑ Son of Ahab**
- ❑ Fell from upper chamber in Samaria and laid in bed.**
- ❑ It appears that he did not know about Elijah, the prophet (II Kg 1:5-8).**
- ❑ King sent messengers to the god of Ekron, Baalzebub, to inquire whether he would survive.**
- ❑ Elijah stopped them to tell the king that he would die. The king sent 3 times the captains with fifty men to capture Elijah. 2 groups were swallowed by Fire. Elijah went to the king with the 3rd group and proclaimed the death of Ahaziah. Ahaziah died.**

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Jehoram (852-841 B.C. – 11 Years)

Son of Ahab

Removed the pillar of Baal at Samaria

War with Moab, King Mesha.

V Dynasty – Jehu (841-814 B.C. – 28 years)

Jehu was anointed as king in Israel by a prophet sent by Elisha.

At Ramoth – Gilead, Jehu was made the king of Israel.

Jehoram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah (Megiddo) were killed in the battle against Jehu.

Death of Jezebel, the descendants of Ahab & the worshipers of Baal

Death of Jehu

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Jehoahaz (814-798 B.C.- 16 years)

Jehoash (798 – 782 B.C. - 16 years)

Jeroboam II (793 – 753 B.C. - 40 years)

Zechariah (753 –752 B.C. - 6 months)

VI Dynasty - Shallum (752 B.C. - 1 month)

VII Dynasty- Menahem (752–742 B.C. - 10 years)

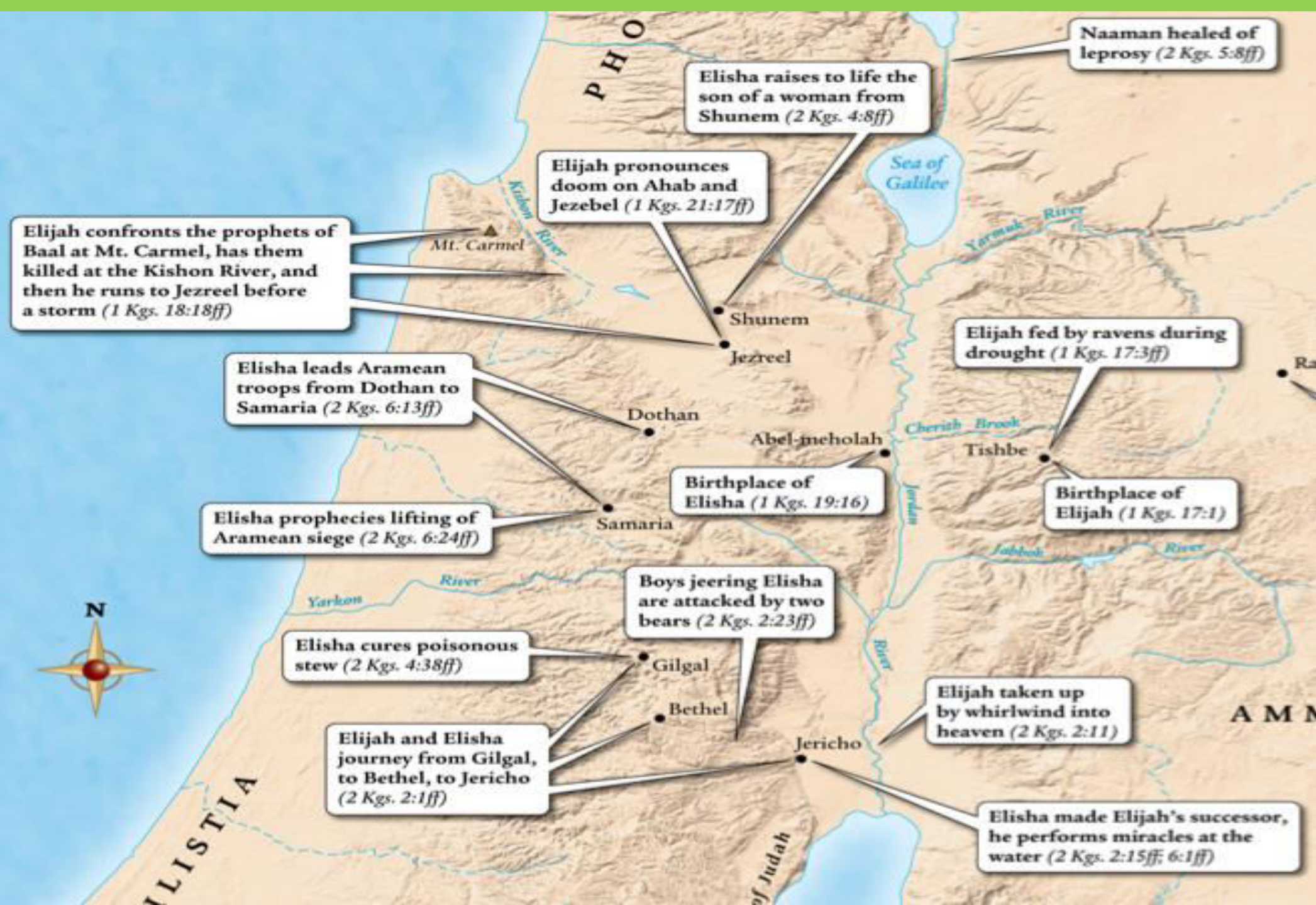
Pekahiah (742– 740 B.C. - 2 years)

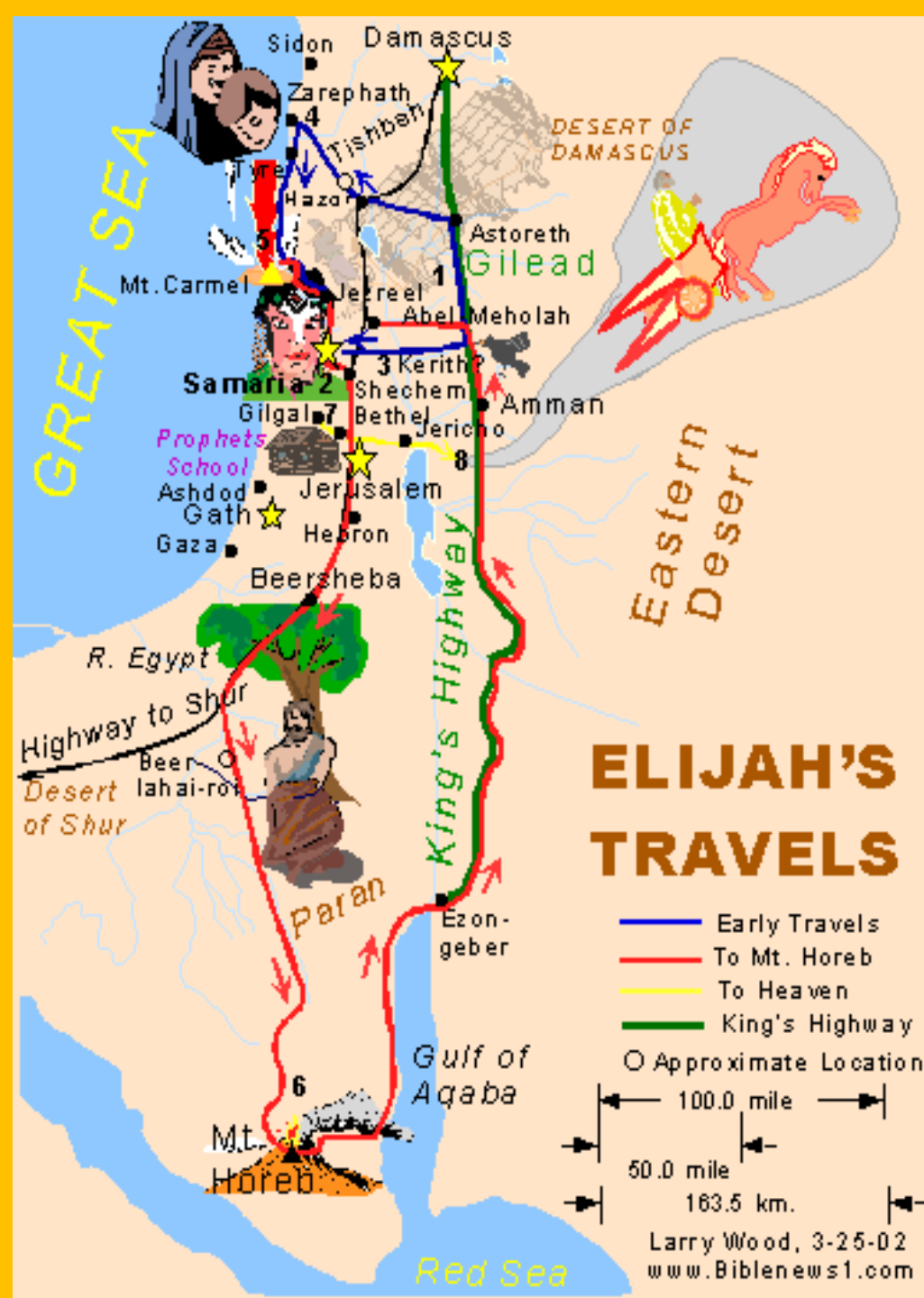
VIII Dynasty - Pekah (752 – 732 B.C. - 20 years)

IX Dynasty - Hoshea (732 –722 B.C. - 9 years)

Elijah







Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elijah & his Ministry (I Kg Ch. 17- II Kg Ch. 1)

- Elijah of Gilead predicted drought in Samaria**
- Hid himself in Wadi Cherith**
- Miraculously fed by Ravan – bread & meat and drank from wadi: - wadi dried up**
- To Zarephath in Phonicia**
- He helped the poor widow by increasing the flour & oil**
- Revived the dead son of the widow**
- 3rd year of drought went to meet Ahab - met Obadiah, one in – charge of the palace–challenged the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel.**
- Drought ended**

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elijah & his Ministry (I Kg Ch. 17- II Kg Ch. 1)

- Jezebel sought to kill Elijah
- He fled to Beersheba
- Angel of the Lord met him as he was sleeping under a broom tree and gave him to eat.
- Went to Horeb, the mount of God; great wind – earthquake – fire - sound of sheer silence – voice of God.
- Voice of God commissioned him to anoint: 1) Hazael - King of Aram at Damascus; 2) Jehu as king of Israel; 3) Elisha at Abel – Meholah.
- Elisha became disciple of Elijah.

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elijah & his Ministry (I Kg Ch. 17- II Kg Ch. 1)

❑ Ben-Hadad - king of Aram was defeated miraculously by the Israelites twice because of the word from the mouth of Elijah in the plain & in the hill

❑ Naboth's vineyard - Jezebel plotted to possess the vineyard with the help of the Elders. Naboth stoned to death. Jezebel took possession of the vineyard

❑ Elijah pronounced God's sentence

House of Jeroboam

House of Baasha

Jezebel & Ahab

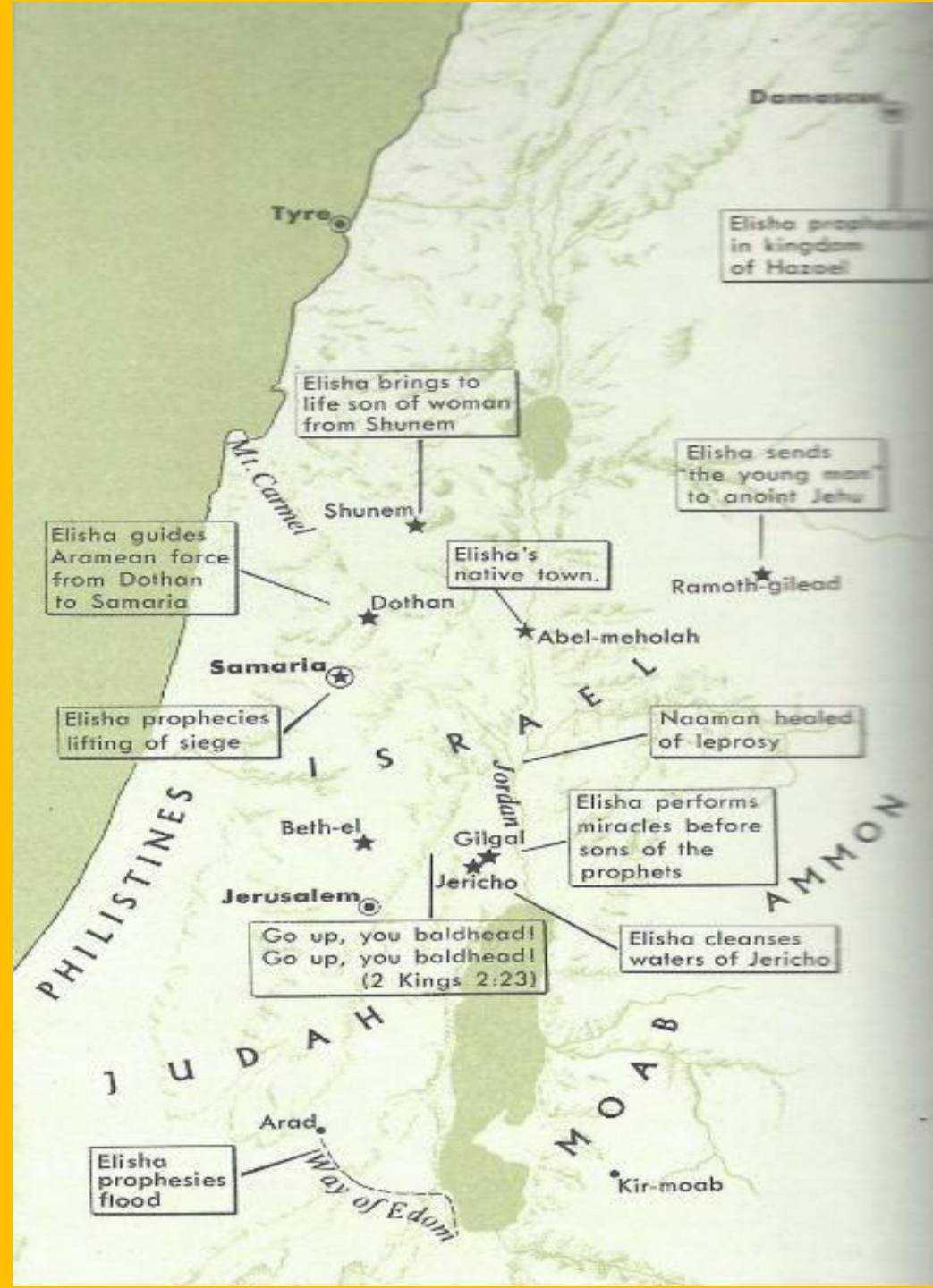
to be eaten by dogs & birds



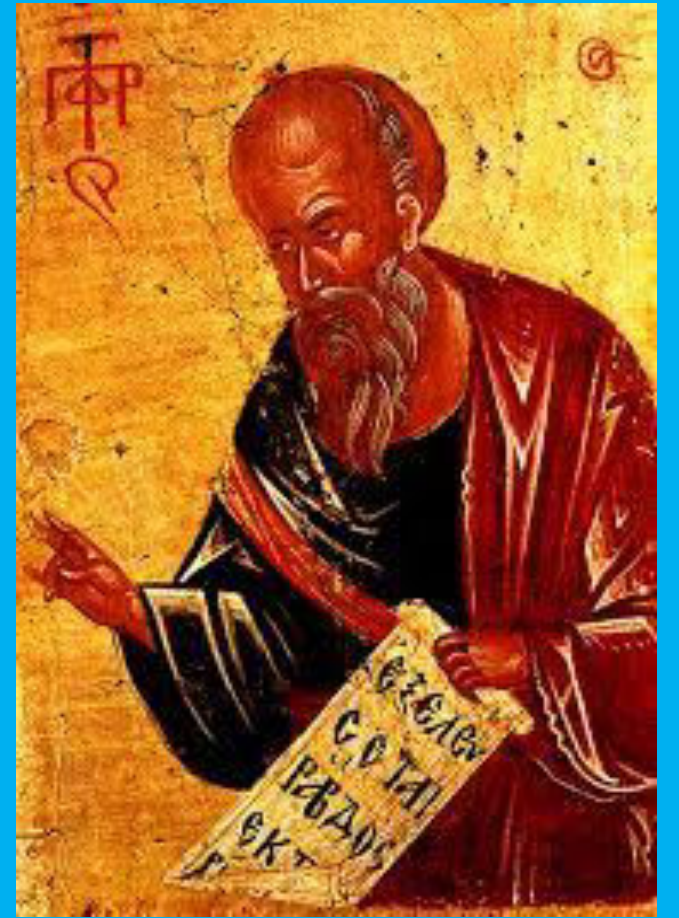
Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elijah & his Ministry (I Kg Ch. 17- II Kg Ch. 1)

- Elijah then went with Elisha to Gilgal → Bethel → Jericho → Jordan**
- Struck the water of Jordan. It parted and gave way to the prophets**
- Elijah & Elisha walked through**
- Elisha wished double share of the spirit of Elijah to him**
- Chariot of fires and horses of fire separated the two prophets**
- Elijah taken into heaven in a whirl wind**



Elisha



Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elisha and his Ministry (II Kings Ch. 2-13)

- Elisha picked up the mantle of Elijah.**
- Elisha succeeded Elijah as prophet**
- Elisha performed miracles**
- At Jericho Elisha turned bad water to good by throwing salt (1)**
- 42 boys were mauled by 2 she bears as they ridiculed Elisha telling “Baldhead” (2)**
- Edom-Israel-Judah went for war. No water – Elisha provided water. The three kings defeated Moab as it was prophesied by Elisha (3)**
- Elisha increased oil in the house of the widow (4)**

Kings of Israel (I Kg Ch. 12 –II Kg Ch. 17)

Elisha and his Ministry (II Kings Ch. 2-13)

- ❑ Elisha promised a son to a Shunammite woman and when the son died he raised him (5)
- ❑ Elisha purified the pot of poisoned stew belonging to the prophets to eatable stew (6)
- ❑ Elisha fed one hundred men with 20 leaves of barley (7)
- ❑ Healing Naaman, Commander of the king of Aram (8)
- ❑ Miracle of Axe head. Elisha made the iron axe float on water when it fell in the water as a prophet was cutting a tree for log (9)
- ❑ Blinding the Arameans who came to capture Prophet Elisha (10).
- ❑ Army of Aram deserted the camp and people plundered the camp (11)
- ❑ The Land of Shunammite woman restored (12)
- ❑ Death of Elisha

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Rehoboam (931-913 B.C. –17 years)

Sacred pole – pillars & high places on every hill & under every tree and male temple prostitutes

Shishak of Egypt looted the Temple

Abijah (913-911 B.C. – 3 years)

Asa (911-870 B.C.- 41 years)

Removed Male Prostitutes

Removed all idols

Removed his mother as queen mother because of an abominable image she made for Asherah

But high places were not removed

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Jehoshaphat (872-848 - 25 years)

Jehoram (853-841 B.C.- 8 years)

Ahaziah (841 B.C. –1 year)

Athaliah (841-835 B.C.- 6 years) – Only woman who came to power in both the kingdoms. Athaliah killed all in the royal family. Only Joash could escape because of the sister of Ahaziah.

Joash or Jehoash (835-796 B.C. – 40 years)

Amaziah (796-767 B.C. – 29 years)

Azariah or Uzziah (992-740 B.C. - 52 years) - He lived as a leper till his death.

Jotham (750 – 732 B.C. – 18 years) - Prophets Amos and Micah were active during his reign.

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Ahaz (735-716 B.C. – 19 years)

❑ Syro-Ephraimite war. Ahaz sought the help of the Assyrians to defeat the combined forces of Israel (Pekah), of Syria (Rezin of Aram) and Egypt who waged war against Ahaz, the king of Judah in order to replace him with another king in Judah who would support the combined army against the Assyrians. Isaiah advised Ahaz to believe in JHWH. He warned him neither to support the combined army or the Assyrians. Ahaz went with the Assyrians. **Tiglath Pileser III** (744-727 B.C.), **Shalmaneser V** (727-722 B.C.), **Sargon II** (722-705 B.C.) were the Assyrian kings who masterminded the defeat of the combined army of Israel, Syria and Egypt. It resulted in the destruction of the N. kingdom and the S. kingdom becoming the vassal to Assyria.

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Ahaz (735-716 B.C. – 19 years)

- ❑ Alliance with and submission to Assyria. Samaria captured by Assyria taken as deports. Assyrians brought people from Babylon and others cities to resettle in Samaria (II Kg 17:24).**
- ❑ Followed the practices of the kings of Israel rather than his ancestor David (II Kg 16:2-6)**
- ❑ Constructed an Assyrian type altar in the Temple**
- ❑ Syncretistic practices (using borrowed cultural ideas) II Kg 16:1-18**
- ❑ Adapted Assyrian sacrificial type of rituals; removed cult objects previously used in the worship of JHWH from the Temple.**

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Hezekiah (716-687 B.C. – 29 years)

- ❑ Attempted to free Judah to free from the control of Assyrians (II Chr 32:3-6, 28-29).**
- ❑ Motivated the religious and political movement that tried to strengthen Jerusalem as power centre.**
- ❑ Reinforced the defences of Jerusalem.**
- ❑ Constructed the Tunnel that led water from Gihon spring to the inner city and built the Siloam pool inside city wall to store the spring water.**
- ❑ Attempted to unite the neighbouring nations against the Assyrians.**

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Hezekiah (716-687 B.C. – 29 years)

- ❑ Destroyed High places and the altars dedicated to Baal.**
- ❑ Sennacherib (705-687 B.C.), the king of Assyria destroyed the plan of Hezekiah and made a siege in the city. In 701 B.C. Sennacherib captured 46 cities belonging to Judah and enslaved 200,000 of the people of Judah.**
- ❑ The survival of the city after the siege was reported as miraculous and attributed to the divine intervention even though Sennacherib had to bring the siege to an end because of the political crisis in his country (II Kg 19: 32-37; Is 37:36-38).**

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Manasseh (697-643 B.C. – 55 years)

❑ Recorded as a bad king of Judah in the annals of the kings. Since he was completely against the traditions of the North and the Elohim that entered in the Southern kingdom after the Assyrian exile, for the fear of the king they were deposited in the treasury of the Temple.

❑ The legends tell that he also masterminded the killing of the prophet Isaiah.

Amon (643-641 B.C. – 2 years)

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Josiah (641-609 B.C. - 31 years)

- Temple repaired by Josiah.**
- The attack of Hazael of Aram averted by sending him gifts.**
- Prophet Jeremiah was active during his reign.**
- Priest Hilkiah found the book of the law (Deuteronomy) in Temple treasury.**
- Religious and political Reformation initiated.**
- Removed all the altars of the foreign gods**
- The Passover, which was celebrated during the time of Judges was once again introduced and celebrated.**

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Josiah (641-609 B.C. - 31 years)

- ❑ Centralized the power and authority and Jerusalem once again became the power centre.**
- ❑ The priests Hilkiah, Shaphan and Ahikam, all from Anathoth and the prophetess Huldah backed his reforms.**
- ❑ Killed in a war at Megiddo against the Egyptian king Neco II when he intercepted the Egyptian army that went to help the Assyrians in their war against the Babylonians.**

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Josiah (641-609 B.C. - 31 years)

The book of Chronicles speaks of three stages in the reforms initiated by Josiah. 1) Beginning of seeking JHWH, the supreme God of David (632 B.C.); 2) Destroying the altars and High places belonging to Baal and Asherah (628 B.C.); 3) During the renovation of the Temple priest Hilkiyah found a biblical like scroll which contained the Laws of Moses. The king read the book of the Covenant in the Temple and accepted that Law as the one that would govern his country.

Kings of Judah (I Kg Ch. 12 – II Kg Ch. 25)

Jehoahaz (609 B.C. – 3 months) Deported to Egypt.

Jehoiakim (609-598 B.C. – 11 years)

Jehoiachin (598 B.C. – 3 months) He was deported to Babylon along with Ezekiel, the prophet.

Zedekiah (598-587 B.C. – 11 years) The Temple was burned. He was blinded and taken to Babylon as captive along with the people of Judah. He was imprisoned there.

The Analysis of the Kingdoms:

- 1) The emergence of prophetism.** They become the conscience of the people and the king. The prophet is associated with the voice of God.
- 2) But for a few kings all others went in the way of the Canaanites, worshiping Baal and Asherah.**
- 3) A shift from the egalitarian society (nomadic life) to the possession of private property and the city-state culture (Settling in one place).**
- 4) As far as the Northern kingdom it was anarchy that became the rule of the nation.**
- 5) The Canaanites and the Philistines were no more powerful nations.**

The Analysis of the Kingdoms:

6) The comparison between the N. Kingdom and the S. Kingdom shows the reality of both the powers.

❑ **N. Kingdom (Israel) 19 kings from 9 dynasties belonging to the 10 tribes ruled for 200 years.**

❑ **S. Kingdom (Judah) 20 kings from one tribe (Judah) ruled for 335 years.**

❑ **There was always stable kingdom in the south than the north.**

7) The functions of three important figures in the life of Israel - king, priest and prophet - step by step get clarified.

8) Jahwehism slowly drifted away from its original concept as a religion of the exodus people. The formalism of religion dominated in the piety and ritual practices of the religion. It lost its root meaning as a religion of the Habiru.