

Stones and Stories #7

King Solomon and His Empire

Summary of Kings I

1-2 David's Last Days, Solomon becomes king

3-5 Solomon's foreign and domestic policy, his wisdom

6-9 Building and dedicating the Temple

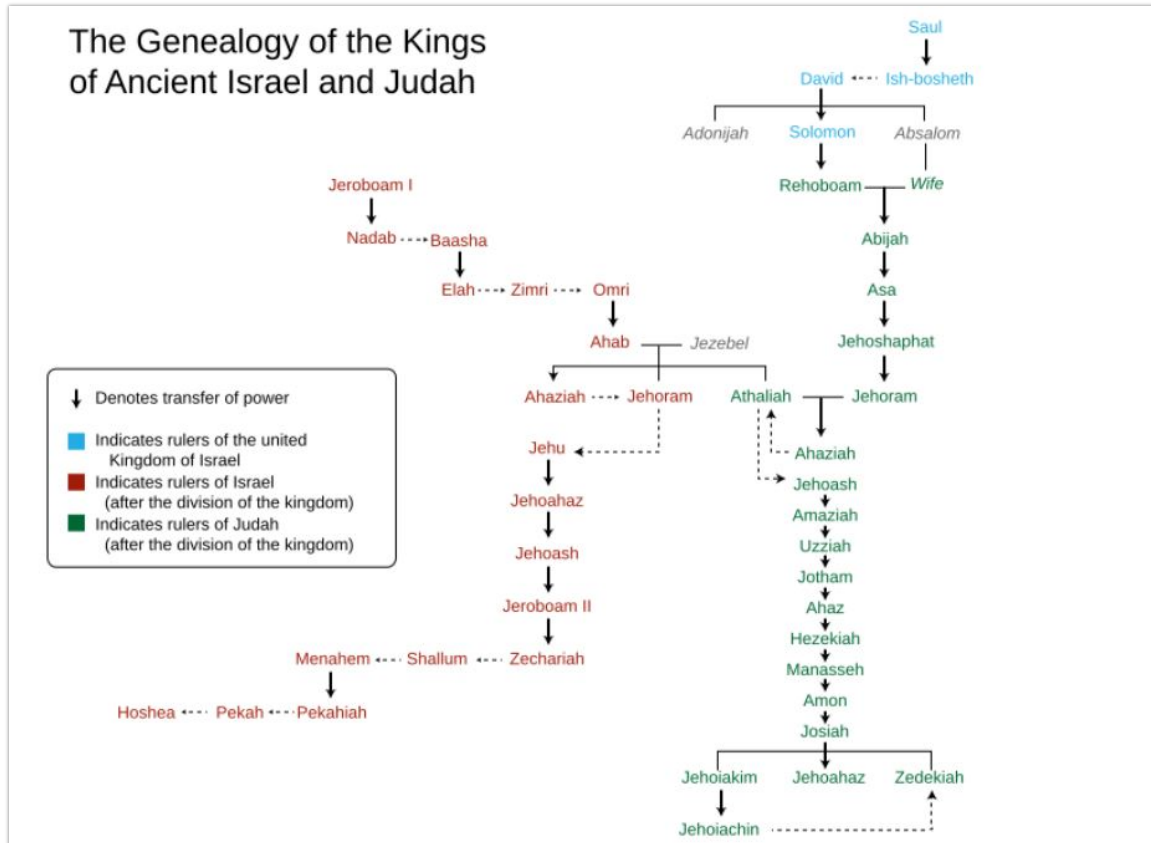
10-11 Solomon's downfall

12 Divided kingdom

13-15 House of Jeroboam, rule of Rehoboam and immediate successors

16 Coups in Kingdom of Israel, Omri comes to power

17 – Kings II 8 House of Omri including Ahab, conflicts with Elijah



“And this is the account of the levy which King Solomon raised to build the house of the Lord and his own house and Millo and the **wall of Jerusalem** and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer.” (Kings I 9:15)

An Expensive Wedding Present

“Pharaoh King of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burnt it with fire. . . and given it for a portion unto his daughter, Solomon’s wife.” (Kings I 9:16)

No Longer United

When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered the king:

“We have no portion in David,
 No share in Jesse’s son!
 To your tents, O Israel!
 Now look to your own House, O David.”

So the Israelites returned to their homes. But Rehoboam continued to reign over the Israelites who lived in the towns of Judah. King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but all Israel pelted him to death with stones. Thereupon King Rehoboam hurriedly mounted his chariot and fled to Jerusalem.

Thus Israel revolted against the House of David, as is still the case. When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent messengers and summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the House of David. (Kings I 12: 16-20)

And No Longer One Temple

Jeroboam said to himself, “Now the kingdom may well return to the House of David. If these people still go up to offer sacrifices at the House of the LORD in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will turn back to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and go back to King Rehoboam of Judah.” So the king took counsel and made two golden calves. He said to the people,^{-d} “You have been going up to Jerusalem long enough. This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!” He set up one in Bethel and placed the other in Dan. That proved to be a cause of guilt, for the people went to worship [the calf at Bethel and] the one at Dan. He also made cult places and appointed priests from the ranks of the people who were not of Levite descent. He stationed at Bethel the priests of the shrines that he had appointed to sacrifice to the calves that he had made. And Jeroboam established a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month; in imitation of the festival in Judah, he established one at Bethel, and he ascended the altar [there]. On the fifteenth day of the eighth month—the month in which he had contrived of his own mind to establish a festival for the Israelites—Jeroboam ascended the altar that he had made in Bethel. (Kings I 12:26-33)