



# ***Introducing the Old Testament***

Week 5

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## ***Overview of this week***

- ❖ Psalms
- ❖ Continuing the story
  - Kings
  - Chronicles

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## ***The Psalms (Fee & Stuart)***

- ❖ How are we do find God’s word *for* us in these words spoken *to* God?
- ❖ They are poetry! – Psalm 19:1-2

Poetry

Prose

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  Day to day pours forth speech,  and night to night declares knowledge.	God is revealed in his creation, especially in the heavenly bodies.
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## ***The Psalms – a covenantal prayerbook***

- ❖ These are musical poems!
  - Psalm 51:5 – “in sin did my mother conceive me”
- ❖ Poetry is metaphorical – look for the intent
  - Does the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm want us to act like sheep?
  - Many metaphors for God’s relationship with us!
    - Judge
    - King
    - Redeemer
    - Rock
    - Shepherd
    - Fortress
    - Warrior



## ***Psalms***

- ❖ There are different types of Psalms – here are four
  - Psalm 12 – lament (60 or so!)
  - Psalm 8 – praise (18 or so)
  - Psalm 37 – wisdom (8 or so)
  - Psalm 67 – thanksgiving (16 or so)
- ❖ Remember that the Psalms were used in worship!
  - By individuals and the community
- ❖ The Psalms demonstrate that we can be completely honest with God.
- ❖ The Psalms show us the importance of reflection and meditation on God and our relationship with him.



## ***Back to the Story! – The United Kingdom***

- ❖ Saul
- ❖ David
  - Ruled Israel for 40 years!
  - Makes Jerusalem the capital (2 Sam 5:6-10)
  - David’s “journey of the inside”
- ❖ Solomon
  - David’s son
  - Builds the temple in Jerusalem
- ❖ A story of growth and consolidation
- ❖ God is the key driver in the story
- ❖ Geography and timelines!

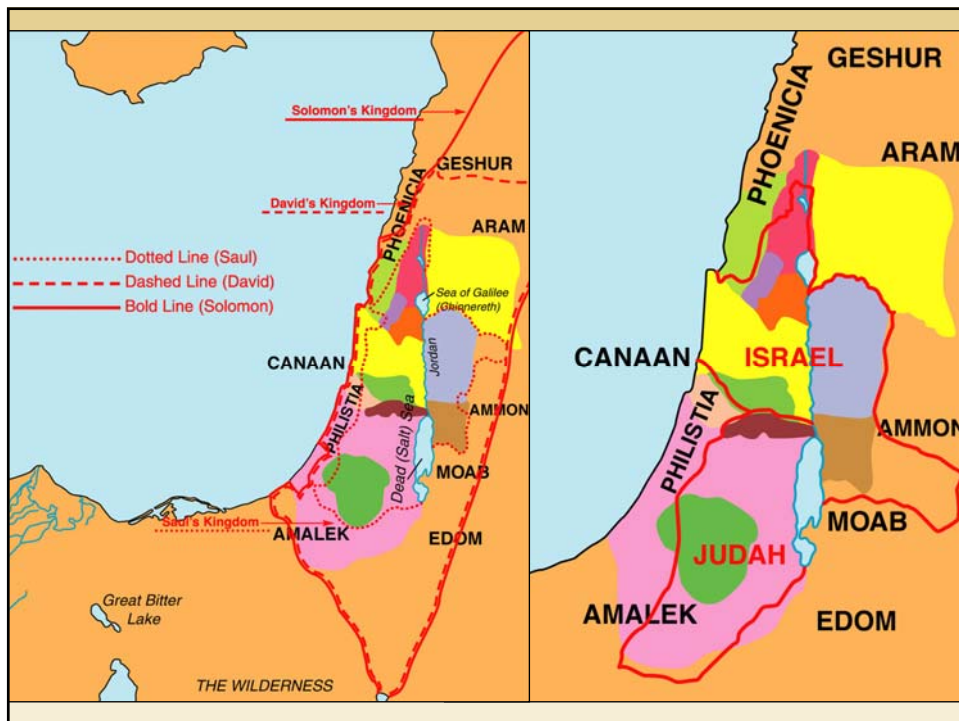


## I Kings

- ❖ Solomon & the united kingdom – Chapters 1-11 (30 yrs or so)
  - Solomon begins well, asking God for wisdom (chapter 3)
  - The kingdom grows and reaches its peak of political power
  - The temple is built (chapters 5-8)
  - Solomon's decline
    - Disobedience
    - Inter-marriage
- ❖ The Kingdom Divides! (90 years covered in I Kings)
  - Solomon's son Rehoboam succeeds him and provokes a revolt in the northern tribes (chapter 12)
    - 10 tribes in the north => The Kingdom of Israel ruled by Jeroboam
    - Tribes of Judah & Benjamin in the south => The kingdom of Judah ruled by Rehoboam

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**Relentless Pressure on Israel and Judah – from without and within**



***The Kings of Israel & Judah***

- ❖ Generally, a sad tale!
- ❖ Ahab & Elijah
  - Ahab did evil in the Lord's sight (1 Kings 16:29-33)
  - God raises up one of Israel's greatest prophets – Elijah
    - Predicted drought as a punishment
    - Elijah brings back to life a young, gentile boy
    - Elijah challenges 450 priests of Baal at Mt. Carmel
    - Elijah is hunted by Jezebel!
  - God tells Elijah to anoint new kings and his own successor
  - Ahab dies in battle and is succeeded by his son, Ahaziah
    - Ahaziah also did what was evil in God's sight!



## 2 Kings

- ❖ Divided Kingdom (chapters 1 – 17) – another 130 yrs
  - Elijah is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2)
  - Elisha carries on Elijah’s ministry – miracles
  - In 722 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel is carried into exile by Assyria
    - Why? – Chapter 17:7-23
- ❖ Surviving Kingdom (chapters 18 – 25) – 155 years
  - King Hezekiah (around 700 BC) – “did what was pleasing in God’s sight”
    - Isaiah is a prophet in Judah during the reign of Hezekiah
    - Isaiah predicts Judah’s exile
  - King Josiah (around 600 BC) -- “did what was pleasing in God’s sight”
    - Repairs the temple and rediscovers the Law (22: 8-13)
- ❖ Judah taken into exile by Babylon – 586 BC



## 1 and 2 Chronicles

- ❖ Tells much the same story as 2 Samuel through 2 Kings
  - David, Solomon, and the Kingdom of Judah
- ❖ But from a different perspective!
- ❖ Written to encourage those returning from exile
  - 9 chapters of genealogies!
    - Showing them that they are the people of God!
  - The story of David & Bathsheba is omitted
    - More emphasis on the devotion of David
  - Much more attention to priests, prayers, and worship
  - The stories of the kings are told to show that Judah is a covenant nation called to bring others to YHWH.



## **Closing Thoughts on the Kings**

- ❖ God never intended that his people should be a nation like all the nations around them.
  - Israel was called to a covenant relationship with God himself!
- ❖ Israel was called to obedience!
  - Apostasy (turning from God) shaped Israel's history – turning to other gods
- ❖ Prophets enter Israel's story in a big way!
  - Not only will they call Israel back to God, but they will begin to paint pictures of hope for the days after Israel's destruction.



## **Next week**

- ❖ Ecclesiastes
  - Proverbs
  - Song of Solomon
- ❖ The Prophets before the exile
  - To Israel: Amos & Hosea
  - To Nineveh: Jonah & Nahum
  - To Edom: Obadiah
  - To Judah
    - Joel
    - Isaiah
    - Micah
    - Zephaniah
    - Jeremiah
    - Habakkuk



# Old Testament Timeline

