Family Bible Studies Stage 3

Dear Teacher/Parent,

We are grateful for the opportunity to present these family Bible studies and would like to express our thanks to many brethren and sisters for their substantial help and input.

Our aim in presenting these Bible studies is to reinforce the material in the lesson notes and provide interesting studies for young people aged 13 years old and upwards.

Our prayer is that Yahweh will bless the endeavours of young minds to grow in an appreciation of His ways.

In the Master's service,
The Christadelphian Sunday School Association Committee

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All Bible references are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise specified.

"We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done." *Psalm 78:4*

"He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children." *Psalm 115:13-14*

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THE PROGRESS OF THE ARK

With the help of a concordance follow the movements of the Ark from its first occurrence in the scriptural record. You will discover a remarkable sequence of events - note how Israel prospered with it at their side. It is also useful to draw a map in your margin showing the movements of the ark. The following notes may help you in this study but note they don't begin at the first occurrence.

MOVEMENT OF THE ARK

- Ark established at Shiloh (Josh 18v1)
- Ark removed from Shiloh to Eben-ezer at Israel's side (1 Sam 4:3)
- Captured by Philistines (1 Sam 4:11)
- Removed to Ashdod (1 Sam 5)
- Sent to Ekron (1 Sam 5:10)
- Philistines return Ark to Israel (1 Sam 6)
- Set down in the field of Joshua in Beth-shemesh (1 Sam 6:18)
- Ark taken to house of Abinadab in Kirjath-jearim (1 Sam 7:1) for 20 years
- Ark moved on cart from Gibeah. Uzzah smitten at Perez-Uzzah (2 Sam 6:8)
- Spends 3 months with Obed-Edom and Yahweh blesses his house (2 Sam 6:11)
- David removes Ark to City of David (2 Sam 6:16)

LESSON OF UZZAH'S DEATH

Mark up the main lessons we learn from this tragic event at the top of 2 Samuel 6. Remember to also compare the record in 1 Chron 15 for reference. Your lesson notes will help you with this.

THE PROCESSION OF THE ARK

Carefully read 1 Chron 15 & 16 and detail the order of the march to bring up the Ark to Zion. Who went and in what order did they go? Mark this up in your Bible for reference.

DAVID THE PRIEST

What are the prerequisites for a priest? Look up your concordance and trace this theme in your Bible to find them and then compare this to David as he brought the Ark up to Zion. David prefigures a great priest - who is it?

BACKGROUND TO PSALMS

2 Samuel 6 contains the background to a number of Psalms. You will find v10 is the background to Psalm 15 and v14 to Psalms 87, 110, 68, 132. Note these references in the margins of 2 Samuel 6 and also the relevant Psalms. See if you can find other backgrounds to different Psalms in your Bible. Sometimes the superscription above each Psalm can help you find the background.

DAVID'S CAMPAIGNS

Draw a map in your margin depicting the seven campaigns of David. There is one on the following page which you may like to copy. It may also be helpful to draw local maps of each of the campaigns in your margin adjacent to the respective verses. Also make a summary of each of the campaigns in your margin by condensing the notes in Lesson 1. Eg:
2 Sam 8:1 Campaign #1 Philistines
2 Sam 8:2 Campaign #2 Moabites

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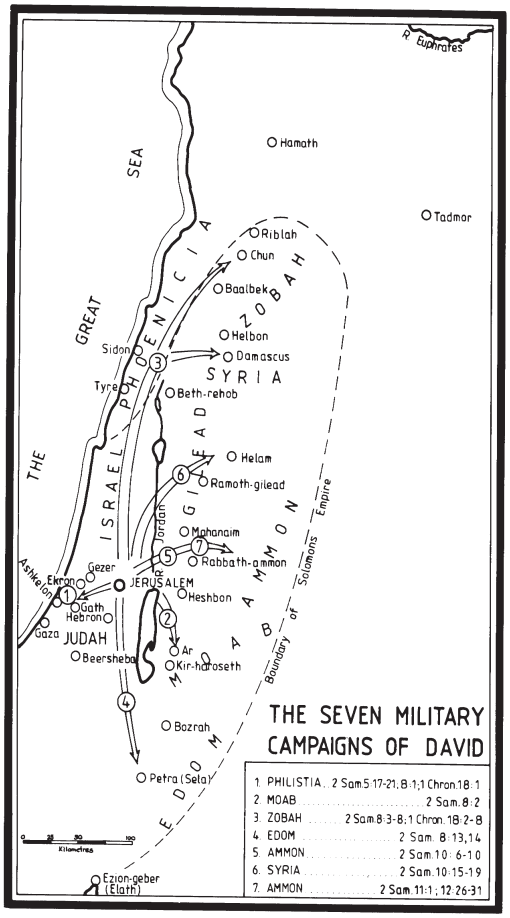

DAVID'S GREAT SIN

The tragic circumstances and events that transpired in 2 Samuel 11 show us just how easy it is for any of us to fall. David broke 3 of the 10 commandments listed in Ex 20:13-17. What were they? Lev 20:10 tells us what David's punishment should have been under the Law, yet God's mercy rested on David. This is an outstanding section on Yahweh's forgiveness. The following notes are a starting point to add to and are suitable for marking in 2 Samuel 11.

ADULTERY Matt. 5:28
MURDER 1 John 3:15
LUST EXERCISED 1 John 2:16

Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall 1 Cor 10:12

LESSONS FROM THE SIN OF DAVID

The following points are a good summary for all of us and need to be carefully considered in our lives. Add a quote to support each of the following points and mark them up at the top of 2 Samuel 11.

- Be involved in the Truth
- Avoid difficult circumstances
- Adultery can be in the heart
- Confess your sins
- Hiding sin will cause suffering
- Ultimately to be exposed

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Bible names not only depict who the person was but also provide an insight into the character, or their purpose, or can act as a contrast. The following indicates the significance of the meaning of these people's lives::

DAVID = Beloved
URIAH = The light of Yahweh
BATHSHEBA = Daughter of an oath, also known as Bathshua (1 Chron 3:5) = Daughter of prosperity

The beloved of Yahweh extinguished the light of Yahweh thus dispensing the oath of fidelity to Yahweh in his lust for the prosperity or beauty he saw with his eyes.

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ADULTERY

Determine a definition and mark up a table in 2 Samuel 11 on this theme. The following notes will assist. This is an important principle to learn and have as a reference.

ADULTERY: to cause a breach of two parties - to introduce a foreign matter or body.

A consequence of 1. THOUGHT Matt. 5:28
2. DEED 2 Sam 11-12
Adulterers shall not enter the kingdom
1 Cor 6:18

See Prov 6:32-33

DAVID CONFESSES & IS PUNISHED

Note the progression of events.

DAVID'S CONDEMNATION v6-9
- Despised the commandments
- Did evil in his sight
- Caused Uriah's death
- Took his wife

DAVID'S CONFESSION v13
- I have sinned against Yahweh
- Psa 51, 32, 130

DAVID'S PUNISHMENT v6
- Ex 22:1-4 Fourfold repayment for a stolen sheep
- David repaid
  1. Child of sin
  2. Amnon
  3. Absalom
  4. Adonijah

DAVID'S CONSEQUENCES v10-12
- Sword to come upon house
- Evil against David from his own house
- Wives given to neighbours
- To be made open to all

SIN TO REPENTANCE

The principles in this section are important in understanding God's mercy towards us all. Take the time to study them and add to them. You should mark these up adjacent 2 Sam 12.

1. Open (total) confession (v13) - "If we confess our sins..." 1 John 1:9
2. Acceptance of consequences (v20)
3. Restoration to those who are affected (v24)
4. Restoration to God Himself (Ps 51)
5. Teach others of grace of God (Ps 51:13-14)
6. Lift minds to the future (Ps 51:18-19)

CHARACTER SKETCH OF NATHAN

Look up concordances and Bible dictionaries and prepare some notes on the man Nathan. Summarise all you know about this man and mark it in your margin. You may find the following notes useful.

- Name means "God has Given"
- Prophet during David and Solomon's reign
- No mention of his family
- An astute man who used his initiative
- Didn't hesitate to rebuke
- First appearance 2 Sam 7
- Rebuked David re Bathsheba 2 Sam 12
- Appears in relation to Solomon 2 Sam 12:24-25
- Worked with David in arranging musical services 2 Chron 29:25
- He recorded the acts of David 1 Chron 29:29 and helped record the life of Solomon 2 Chron 9:29

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PSALMS

The study of the Psalms is a huge study on its own. There are a number of key activities which you will find easy to do and extremely useful. These will enhance the Psalms and your understanding of this book.
Listed below are several ideas which you can use for your personal study.

1. SUPERSCRIPTIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
Using a colour for each type, colour them in thus helping you to identify the correct parts to each Psalm. Thirtle's work on the "Titles to the Psalms" is a useful book.

2. BACKGROUND TO ALL PSALMS
This is a real challenge to see if you can position each Psalm correctly. Many are indicated in the Titles, however there are a number you will find difficult so don't spend too much time. Use books on the Psalms are to assist in this exercise. There are a number of these works available in ecclesial libraries.

3. AUTHORSHIP
Not all the Psalms were written by David. In fact there are many other authors who wrote a large number of the Psalms. So try your hand at working out who wrote each Psalm and then mark these in adjacent to each Psalm.

4. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
There are many instruments mentioned throughout the book of Psalms. This is an exhaustive study but one which is well worth your effort.

5. TITLES OF PSALMS
Each Psalm has a title and you will find it useful to know the meaning of each Title - Thirtle's work on "Titles to the Psalms" is useful to assist in this work.

6. MESSIANIC PSALMS
Many of the Psalms are Messianic i.e. pointing forward to Christ and prophesying of actual events in the life of the Lord. See if you can compile a list and mark up in your Bible.

STUDY PSALM 110

Psalm 110 is the most cited of all the Psalms. Take the time to explore below the surface of the Psalm and try your hand at an in-depth study that's not too long. Take a page per verse for your notes and break it up into phrases (see example below). Look up the words for occurrences and meanings in a concordance. Look up other translations and see if you can unlock the beauty of this Psalm. Once you have completed your notes copy them into your Bible.

.....

Example of Study Notes:
Psalm 110
A Psalm of David

v1 The LORD said unto my Lord	Cited Acts 2v34, Luke 20v42 Christ, though son of David, also son of God, making him David's Lord.
sit thou at my right hand	Christ seated at God's right hand - Heb 1v3, Col 3v1
until I make thine enemies thy footstool	

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MESSIAH IN THE PSALMS

The following table is useful to mark up in your Bible as a reference to the prophetical import of the Psalms. This list is by no means exhaustive so try and extend it.

Psalm	Reference	N.T. Application
2:7	Acts 13:33	Thou art my son
8:5	Heb 2:6-8	A little lower than the angels
8:6	1 Cor 15:27	All things under his feet
16:8-11	Acts 2:22-24	Will not leave my soul in hell
18:2	Heb 2:13	I will put my trust in him
22:1	Matt 27:46	My God... hast thou forsaken me
22:18	John 19:23-24	Parted my garments
22: 22	Heb.2:12	Declare thy name unto my brethren
22:31	John 19:30	It is finished
34:20	John 19:36	Bone not broken
35:19, 69:4, 109:3,16	John 15:25	Hated without a cause
40:6-8	Heb.10:5-7	Sacrifice & offering ... wouldest not
41:9	John 13:18	Lifted up his heel against me
45:6-7	Heb.1:8-9	Thy throne is forever
69:9	John 2:17	Zeal of thine house...eaten me up
69:9	Rom.15:3	Reproaches...fallen upon me
78:2	Matt.13:35	Open my mouth in parables
89:20-27	Acts 13:33	This day have I begotten thee
97:7	Heb.1:6	Worship him all ye gods
102:25-27	Heb.1:10-12	Laid the foundation of the earth
110:1	Acts 2:34-35, Heb.1:13	Sit on my right hand
132:11	Acts 13:21-24	Of David's seed a saviour
132:17	Luke 1:69	Horn of Salvation

SOLOMON

What an amazing character. Compile your own notes and prepare a summary of this important man. What books did he write? And what was his conclusion at the end of his life? Do you know just how many wise sayings he wrote?

PARABLE OF SOLOMON'S REIGN

Solomon's reign contains some gems outlining aspects of the future age. Read your lesson notes and condense those points related to the future. You may find the following notes are handy in this review and are suited to marking up.

1. A time of peace preceded by great wars. 1 Kgs 5:4
2. Jerusalem the throne of Yahweh. 1 Chron 29:23; 28:5, 1 Kgs 11:42
3. One king over a united Israel. 1 Kgs 4:21
4. Israel a multitudinous and powerful nation. 1 Kgs 4:20
5. Israel secure and at peace. 1 Kgs 4:25
6. Israel the chief of the nations. 1 Kgs 4:24
7. Israel the principal third with Egypt and Assyria. (Kings of north and south Dan 11:40) 2 Chron 9:26; 1 Kgs 10:29
8. Israel the heart of the nations. 2 Chron 1:17
9. Wealth of the Gentiles flows to Jerusalem. 1 Kgs 4:21; 2 Chron 9:23-24
10. Surrounding nations submit to Israel's power. 1 Kgs 4:21
11. Fabulous wealth in Jerusalem. 2 Chron 1:15
12. A time of great fertility in the land. 1 Kgs 4:22-28; 5:11
13. A period of tremendous building activity. 1 Kgs 9:10-20
14. Gentiles assist in building of Israel. 2 Chron 2:2,17
15. Glorious temple built in Jerusalem. 1 Kgs 6
16. God provides plans for Temple construction 1 Chron 28:11-19
17. Temple built by prince of peace. 1 Kgs 5:3-5, 1 Kgs 6
18. Solomon known as prince of peace. 1 Kgs 5:12
19. The king noted for wisdom, enlightenment. 1 Kgs 4:29-34
20. The king known for his judgment. 1 Kgs 3:28
21. Jerusalem the centre of world-wide pilgrimage to hear wisdom of king. 2 Chron 9:23; 1 Kgs 4:34
22. Tyre (Tarshish) the great friend of Israel. 1 Kgs 5:1
23. Zadok the High Priest. 1 Kgs 1:34; 2:35
24. Priests serve day and night in temple. Psa 34 fig. Immortality Isa 40:28-31
25. Full order of divine worship established for first time. 1 Kgs 9:25; 2 Chron 8:12-16
26. Satan bound 1 Kgs 5:4

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JOAB

Mark up these notes in your Bible as a summary of his life. See if you can add some additional notes.

- Together with Asahel and Abishai, were nephews of David, being sons of Zeruiah, David's sister. 2 Sam 2:18; 1 Chron 2:16
- All exhibited the same activity and course of David but never the same spiritual characteristics.
- Joab first appeared after David became king in Hebron and he became involved in a bitter feud with Abner (2 Sam 2:12-17) and more so after he slew Asahel.
- Joab did not rest until he had obtained revenge on Abner and ultimately slew him in a deceitful manner 2 Sam 3:22-27
- Joab was a strong, ruthless, ambitious man of great courage - he failed in that he did not even fear Yahweh. He was brave because he was motivated by his own interests.
- Greatest act of bravery was the capture of Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:6-8; 1 Chron 11:4-9). From this he desired to become a commander in chief.
- He was an ecclesial politician, who desired victory but never understood the cause for which he was fighting.
- David's assessment of Joab and his brothers is noted in 2 Sam 3:39; 16:9-10; 19:21-23
- David ordered his death 1Kgs 2:5-8

BENAIAH

Another character to note in your margin. Look up his name in a concordance and trace his life in your Bible.

The following notes will help in your study. Mark your notes into your margin for future reference.

- A Levite - the son of Jehoiada of Kabzeel in Judah. 2 Sam 23:20
- His father was a priest (1 Chron 27:5), probably the leader of the priests who joined the army which placed David on the throne. 1 Chron 12:27
- A valiant man - killed a lion on a snowy day - slew 2 lion-like men of Moab - met an Egyptian giant. 2 Sam 23:20-21; 1 Chron 11:22-23
- In charge of Cherethites and Pelethites. David's body guard (2 Sam 8:18) and commanded the military division 1 Chron 27:5-6
- Remained faithful to David. 2 Sam 15:18; 20:23; 1 Kgs 1:10 (commander); 1 Kgs 2:35

SOLOMON'S WISDOM IN TYPE 1 KINGS 3:16-28

The following notes can be condensed and noted in your margin. You should note the parallels, add to them and create your own table to mark in your Bible.

1. Two harlots living in one house v16-17
2. One delivered of a child 3 days after the other v18
3. Younger child dies due to fault of mother v19
4. At midnight she tries to acquire the living child v20

1. Israel's house contained 2 harlots, Rehoboam and Jeroboam - who served their own interests. Jer 31:31-32; Isa 54:5; Ezek 23:2-11
2. Jeroboam "gave" birth to his illegitimate child - divided kingdom. 2 Chron 10
3. Jeroboam's child dies (v.12). Israel - child in the night of Gentile darkness because of Jeroboam's sin. 1 Kgs 14:16
4. Israel made many attempts to acquire the kingdom of Judah (Rehoboam's child) Isa 7:1-6

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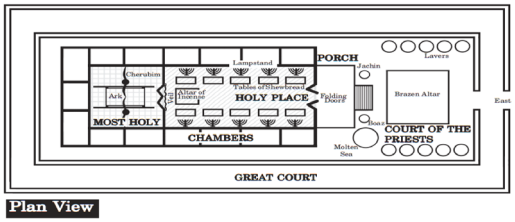
DETAILS OF THE HOUSE

The Temple of Solomon is an amazing building. Note the details presented in your Bible in 1 Kings 6 & 7 and 2 Chron 3 & 4 and consider the emphasis given. It is a great idea to draw margin diagrams of the Temple for easy reference.

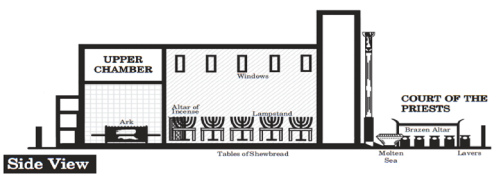
1 Kings 6-7	
6:1-22	The construction
6:29-36	Building the house
6:23-28	Describes the Cherubim
7:1-12	Describes the palace complex
7:13-22	Describes the pillars
7:23-50	Describes the furniture
2 Chron. 3-4	
3:1-9	The construction
3:10-4:10	Describes the furniture and the holy utensils
3:15-17	Describes the pillars
4:11-22	Describes the furniture

Note: Ezra, the author of 2 Chron, highlights the furniture and utensils at the expense of omitting details of the structure itself.

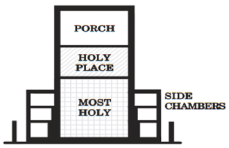
Trace the following drawings into your margin for reference.



Plan View



Side View



End View

NUMBERS INVOLVED IN HOUSE

Pause and consider the numbers involved in the construction of the Temple. Can this be compared to any construction sites of today? Examine the following details and mark them into your Bible to give you some idea of the magnitude and beauty of the temple.

30,000	labour force for removal of trees from Lebanon (10,000 at a time per month).
70,000	involved in bearing various burdens
80,000	engaged in hewing stone out of the mountains near Jerusalem.
3,300	overseers were Solomon's own officers 1 Kgs 5:16

The 70,000 and 80,000 above labourers came from strangers dwelling in the nation cp.2 Chron.2:17

DAVID'S ORGANISATION

Stop and consider also the numbers involved in the organisation of the temple that David set up. Mark this up in your Bible.

38,000 Levites
24,000 were to work in Temple and its precincts assisting the priests
6,000 were to be officers and judges
4,000 were to be porters
4,000 were to form the temple choir

2 priestly lines divided in 24 courses each taking turns to minister the three great feasts in Israel were given varying musical responsibilities and responsible Levites had control over temple decorum and temple finances.

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TEMPLE TYPICAL OF FUTURE

The temple worship in Solomon's day is particularly significant and is an excellent study to develop as it points forward to the future. The following notes are intended to be marked in your Bible.

1.	Stone quarried and shaped away from temple. 1 Kgs 6:7	Saints to be prepared prior age to come 1 Pet 2:5; Eph 2:19-22
2.	Three timbers used:	
	a) Cedar = durable	Incorruption Psa 92:12
	b) Fir = very strong	Strength from God Hab. 3:19
	c) Olive = produces oil	Sym. of Divine enlightenment Zech 4:3; Matt 25:4
3.	Both Israelites and Gentiles involved.	Both strangers and glory of Lebanon will assist in future Isa 60:10
4.	Tyre assisted Solomon.	Modern day Tyre will be first Psa 45:12
5.	Solomon not only built the temple but also a house (1 Kgs 7:8).	A similar dwelling place awaits those 'who come out of Egypt' to be his bride Psa 45:10-11,14-15
6.	Glory of Yahweh fills temple	Also in age to come Ezek 43:4
7.	Solomon desired it to be a house of prayer for all the earth 2 Chron 6:33	House of prayer for all nations Isa 55:6-8
8.	The opening was during the feast of Tabernacles	From year to year there will be a pilgrimage Zech 14:16

SOLOMON AND CHRIST

One of the great types in your Bible is that of Solomon and Christ. Check the following points out and mark them up in your Bible.

- Solomon reigned over united Israel. Christ to reign over all Israel. Ezek 37:20-24
- Solomon's temple a house of prayer for all nations. Christ to build a temple Zech 6:12-13; Isa 56:7
- Under Solomon Israel prosperous and happy. So under Christ. Zech 8:13
- Solomon enters league with Tyre. Christ will do also with English speaking countries. 1 Kgs 10:22-23; 2 Chron 9:10-22; Isa 23:17-18
- Solomon divided nation into 12 districts and placed 12 princes 1 Kgs 4:7. So Christ will do with land Ezek 48 and princes Matt 19:28
- World's wealth flowed into Israel. So under Christ 2 Chron 9:13-14; Hag 2:8-9; Isa 60:11 cp. AV mg.
- People from all parts to flock to hear wisdom. 1 Kgs 4:34; 10:23-25 Under Christ everyone will hear his wisdom Zech 14:16; Isa 2:2-4; Jer 16:19
- Solomon was a man of peace. Christ is the Prince of Peace Isa 9:6 cp. Psa 72:7
- The world admired the glory of Solomon. Under Christ the world shall be full of his glory Psa 72:19

SOLOMON'S DECLINE

Why did Solomon fail? There are some very important principles to consider in this section and are excellent for reference if marked up in your Bible.

Solomon failed in terms of Deut.17:16-17

1. He gathered horsemen, horses and chariots. Deut 17:16. We must rely on God Mk 4:19
2. He multiplied riches 1 Kgs 10:29; Deut 17:17. We must not rely on treasures but on God. Matt 6:19-20; Rev 3:18
3. Traded with Egypt 1 Kgs 10:28; Deut 17:16. We must stand aside from the darkness of the world. 1 Jn 2:15-17
4. He loved strange women (1 Kgs 11:1). See Deut 17:17; Ex 34:16. Friendship must be in the bonds of the Truth. 2 Cor 6:14; Rom 12:2

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DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

You would be surprised how often we get mixed up with the details of the division. Take the time to memorise and even mark up this simple but effective chart for reference.

	North	South
Who	Ten tribes	Judah & Benjamin
Called	"Israel"	"Judah"
Lasted	200 years	Lasted 300 years
Destroyed by	Assyria	Babylon
Destroyed in	721BC	600 BC
First King	Jeroboam	Rehoboam

REHOBOAM

The following notes are a useful set to include in your margin adjacent 1 Kings 12. Take the time to look up the passages and condense if necessary.

- Hebrew: Rechabam from a prime root Rechab 'to broaden' and Am 'a people'. Sig. 'a people has enlarged'
- First Mention: 1 Kgs 11:43
- Last Mention: 2 Chron 13:7
- Age at Accession 41 years
- Age at Death: 58 years
- Length of Reign: 17 years from BC 930-914
- Mother: Naamah an Ammonitess. 1 Kgs.14:21, 2 Chron.12:13. Her name means 'pleasantness'. The fact that Rehoboam's mother was an Ammonitess is twice emphasised. Appears to be an allusion to Deut 23:3 and a hint to one of the factors contributing to his apostasy.
- Contemporary King: Jeroboam BC931-910

REHOBOAM - HARMONY OF THE RECORDS

It is a useful tool to have a comparison between the records in the life of this man. Mark up this table at the top of your page adjacent 1 Kings 11.

	1 Kings	2 Chron.
Began to reign aged 41	11:43	9:31
Journey to Shechem for coronation	12:1	10:1
Jeroboam leads a delegation to him	12:2-5	10:2-5
The counsel of the old and the young	12:6-11	10:6-11
Rehoboam's foolish reply to people	12:12-15	10:12-15
The revolt of the ten tribes	12:16-17	10:16-17
Adoram stoned - Rehoboam flees	12:18-19	10:18-19
Retaliation prevented by Shemaiah	12:21-24	11:1-4
Fenced cities of Judah fortified		11:5-12
Levites migrate from Northern Kingdom		11:13-17
Rehoboam's family - wisely ordered		11:18-23
His idolatry & Judah's apostasy	14:22-24	12:1
Invasion of Shishak king of Egypt	14:25-28	12:2-12
Final summary & obituary	14:29-31	12:13-16

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JEROBOAM

Again another useful set of notes to include in your margin adjacent 1 Kings 12.

- Hebrew: YAROAM 'the people will contend' from root. 'to toss' ie. grapple fig. 'to wrangle or hold a controversy'
- First Mention: 1 Kgs 11:26
- Last Mention: 2 Chron 13:20
- Length of Reign: 22 years 1Kgs 14:20 from BC 931-910
- Origins: 1 Kgs 11:26
- Father: Nebat 'regard'
- Mother: Zeruah 'leprous'
- Place of birth: Zereda 'to pierce or puncture'
- Tribe: An Ephrathite
- Contemporary Kings: Rehoboam BC 931-914
  Abijah BC 913-911
  Asa BC 911-871

JEROBOAM - HARMONY OF RECORDS

It is a useful tool to have a comparison between the records. Mark up this table at the top of your page adjacent 1 Kings 11.

	1 Kings	2 Chron.
Emerges as champion of Israel	11:26-28	
Ahijah's prophecy & instructions	11:29-39	
Flees from Solomon into Egypt	11:40	
Leads delegation to Rehoboam	12:2-5	10:2-5
People appoint him as king	12:20	
Jeroboam's apostasy - the golden calves	12:25-33	
Rebuked by the man of God from Judah	13:1-32	
His persistence in idolatry	13:33-34	
Abijah his son falls ill	14:1-4	
Ahijah condemns Jeroboam's house	14:5-16	
The death of Abijah	14:17-18	
The death of Jeroboam	14:19-20	

ELIJAH

Who is this man who played such an important role in Israel's history? Look up Bible dictionaries and concordances and add to the following points. Mark this up adjacent 1 Kings 17.

- Appears abruptly upon the scene 1 Kgs 17:1
- His parents and childhood is unknown
- A man of exceptional character and his love of God was notable in the days of wickedness. He describes himself as "standing before Yahweh" 1 Kgs 17:1; 18:15
- His work begins abruptly in Ahab's court with a stern warning
- Elijah - a great prophet sent to the northern 10 tribes - Israel
- He is rough, abrupt, hardened as a result of his environment 2 Kgs 1:7-8
- Elijah brought the wilderness with him
- His appearance commanded attention - long shaggy hair hung about him with a girdle of hide. 2 Kgs 1:8
- Name means "My El is Yahweh". Note the people's response "Yahweh, He is the God" 1 Kgs 18:39
- Elijah's life is
  1. A wonderful example of faith and courage
  2. A type of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ
  3. A prophecy of work yet to come

AHAB

What a weak individual this man was. Who really ruled the throne at the time of Ahab? Add to the following points to prepare a summary of this king.

1. 1 Kgs 16:30 Evil in sight of Yahweh
2. 1 Kgs 16:31 Walked in sins of Jeroboam
3. 1 Kgs 16:31 Married Jezebel Rev.2:20-22
4. 1 Kgs 16:31 Married into Zidonians Judg 18:7-10
5. 1 Kgs 16:31 Served Baal
6. 1 Kgs 16:31 Worshipped Baal
7. 1 Kgs 16:32 Established altar in house of Baal
8. 1 Kgs.16:33 Made a grove. Heb Asteroth
9. 1 Kgs.16:33 Provoked Yahweh to anger

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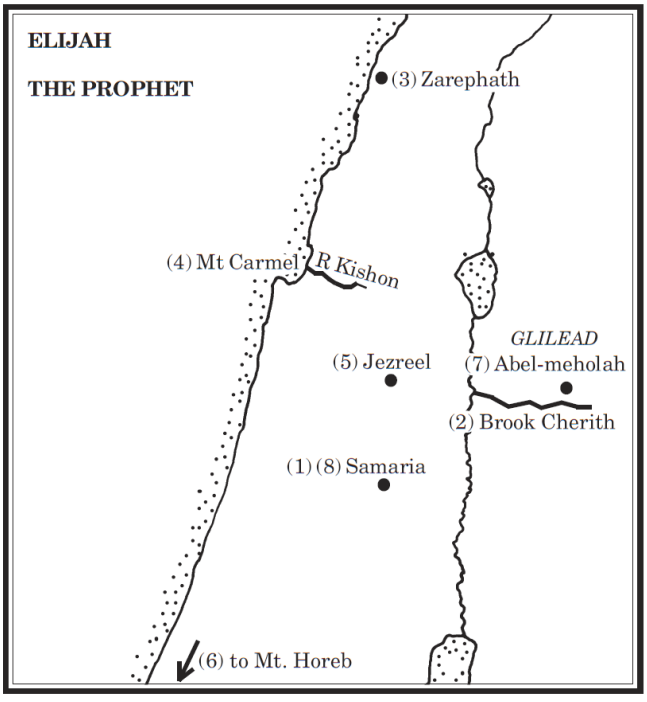
OBADIAH

Another insight into a character of Elijah's days from 1 Kgs 18. See if you can add points.

1. He lacked a full knowledge of the fullness of God's character. v.7
2. His understanding of God's ways was faulty and inaccurate. v.12
3. He refused at immediate obedience
4. He had a stedfast faith from his youth. v.12
5. When opportunity arose he courageously faced it and risked his life.

MARGIN MAP ON ELIJAH

The following map is useful in highlighting the life of Elijah.



1 Elijah comes from Gilead and prophesies before Ahab that there would be no rain (1 Kings 17: 1).
2. He retires to the Brook Cherith where he is fed by ravens (17:5-6).
3. When the brook dries up, Elijah is sent to a widow of Zarephath (17:9-10).
4. Elijah contests 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. The prophets of Baal are slain by the river Kishon (18:19, 38-40).
5. Elijah runs before the chariot of Ahab from Carmel to Jezreel (18:45-46).
6. Under the threat of revenge from Jezebel, Elijah flees to Horeb (19:1-3, 8).
7. He calls Elisha of Abel-meholah to take over his role (19:16, 19).
8. He confronts Ahab in the vineyard of Naboth, who was stoned at the instigation of Jezebel (21:17-19).

TERMS OF CONTEST

The challenge was, on the surface, an impossible victory. Note the contrasts in this contest and try and add to the following points.

1. Outnumbered him by 450 to 1.
2. Had the choice of a bullock. v.25
3. They go first. v.25
4. He pours water on his sacrifice. v.32
5. Baal was thought to control sun and lightning as well as fire - he claimed his power

ELIJAH'S PREPARATION

Below are some notes to mark in your Bible adjacent the incident in 1 Kings 18.

1. He repaired an old altar - symbolic of what he was trying to do with Israel - to restore fear of Yahweh. v.30-37 cp.19:10
2. 12 stones rep. 12 tribes who would be one in spirit and truth when Messiah appears. v.31 cp.Ezek 37:22
3. Required more difficult conditions - a trench with water. v.33-35
4. At time of evening sacrifice - time of prayer. He called upon the God of Israel by His Covenant Name. v.36 cp.Ezra 9:4-5

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ELIJAH'S FUTURE WORK

The work of this great man is highly typical. Take the time to consider the future work of Elijah and see if you can add to the following points and then mark these up in your Bible.

- Elijah to prepare the way. Mal 4:5-6. The day when the children of Israel will be gathered together and appointed to themselves 'one head'. Hosea 1:11
- Elijah forerunner as John Baptist. Mal 3:1 Lk 1:17. Nt. John Baptist = Elijah Matt 11:44
- At Christ's second coming Elijah will 'first come' and prepare the hearts of his people to receive the Messiah. Mal 4:5-6 Matt 17:11

HAZAEL - JEHU - ELISHA

3 men of contrast. See if you can add to the list below as you consider these men of contrast.

Hazael

Began attacking Israel in region of Ahab's son Jehoram (2 Kgs 8:29) and continued to cut off northern sections of the nation (2 Kgs 10:32; 13:2-4) of covenant-breaking people.

Jehu

Slew Jehoram, Jezebel, Ahab's family, all Ahab's relatives and all worshippers of Baal. 2 Kgs 9:24, 30-33; 10:6-7, 23-25

Elisha

Brought death to 42 young men (2 Kgs 2:24). Opposed Syrians to siege Samaria (2 Kgs 6:22-31), but performed miracles showing God's saving hand.

8 MIRACLES OF ELIJAH

The following is a list of miracles performed by Elijah. Mark them up in your Bible as a reminder of the work of this man.

THE EIGHT MIRACLES OF ELIJAH

No.	Miracle	Reference	Spiritual Significance
1.	The shutting of heaven	1 Kings 17:1	Spiritual drought (Amos 8:11).
2.	Multiplication of oil	1 Kings 17:14	Food for the godly amidst drought.
3.	Widow's son raised	1 Kings 17:22, 23	The resurrection.
4.	Fire from heaven	1 Kings 18:38	Vindication at judgment.
5.	Rain	1 Kings 18:45	Outpouring of Spirit (Joel 2:23).
6.	Destruction of fifty	2 Kings 1:10	Rejection at judgment.
7.	Destruction of fifty	2 Kings 1:12	Rejection at judgment.
8.	Waters divided	2 Kings 2:8	Dominion over symbolic water (cp. Rev. 17:15).

16 MIRACLES OF ELISHA

The following is a list of miracles performed by Elisha. Mark them up in your Bible as a reminder of the work of this man.

THE SIXTEEN MIRACLES OF ELISHA

No.	Miracle	Reference	Spiritual Significance
1.	Waters divided	2 Kings 2:14	The mantle of Elijah rests on Elisha.
2.	Waters healed	2 Kings 2:21	Healing through "the salt of the covenant" (Lev. 2:13; Num. 18:19).
3.	Bears destroy mockers	2 Kings 2:24	Punishment of all mockers and rejecters of God.
4.	Water in a barren land	2 Kings 3:20	God's providential care amidst a barren world.
5.	Oil for the widow	2 Kings 4:1	An unending supply of God's Word to sustain those who trust in Him.
6.	The gift of a son	2 Kings 4:16	Loving service yields a Divinely-given seed.
7.	Raising the dead son	2 Kings 4:35	Resurrection of the God-given seed.
8.	Healing the food	2 Kings 4:41	To add to God-given food results in "death in the pot", but contentment with "our daily bread" gives health.
9.	Bread multiplied	2 Kings 4:43	Even amidst drought, God will supply "the bread of life" to all who come to Him.
10.	Naaman healed	2 Kings 5:10	Belief and burial in water cleanses from sin and leads to newness of life.
11.	Gehazi smitten	2 Kings 5:27	To covet the riches of this world is to court the judgment of God.
12.	Iron made to float	2 Kings 6:6	Those who are lost (the iron) can be recovered through the impact of the Cross (the stake cut down and cast into the water).
13.	Sight to the blind	2 Kings 6:17	Faith enables God's people to see His providential care of them.
14.	Syrians smitten with blindness	2 Kings 6:18	The same Providence operates to protect God's people from those who would destroy them.
15.	Restoration of sight	2 Kings 6:20	It is only when we are led captive by God that wars will cease and we will find true peace.
16.	Life through death	2 Kings 13:21	Jesus Christ "through death, destroyed him that had the power of death" (Heb. 2:14) and contact with him results in resurrection.

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JEHU'S REMOVAL OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB

The following notes are suitable for marking in 2 Kings 9 - 10.

- 2 Kings 9:26 slew Jehoram son of Ahab - cast into Naboth's field. 1 Kings 21:29
- 2 Kings 9:27 ordered slaying of Ahaziah King of Judah, son of Athaliah.
- 2 Kings 9:30-37 slew Jezebel in Jezreel
- 2 Kings 10:1-10 terrified the men of Samaria killing 70 sons of Ahab.
- 2 Kings 10:12-14 killed 42 princes of the court of Ahaziah King of Judah. All relatives of Ahab through Athaliah who had married the King of Judah.
- 2 Kings 10:17 He slew all those in Samaria connected with Ahab.
- 2 Kings 10:18-28 He completely wiped out the worshippers of Baal in Israel.

JEZEBEL

This wicked woman caused great havoc in Israel. Take the time to read and study this woman and note the lessons which can be drawn from her. Prepare some notes and mark this up in your Bible.

- Murdered the servants of God
- Brought life-giving Truth to ruin
- Persecuted the prophets
- Brought suffering upon all
- Her destruction typical of that to be brought upon apostate religious systems. Rev 2:20-23
- Jezebel - a religious system - nothing of her to remain Rev 18:21
- Represents 'that great city which reigns over the earth' - this woman = Roman Catholicism

COMPARISON BETWEEN ELIJAH, ELISHA, JOHN BAPTIST & JESUS CHRIST

This exercise is a rewarding activity to note and mark in your Bible.

1. Elijah came at a time of extreme wickedness in Israel. (2 Kgs 16:21) So did John (Matt 3:7)
2. John not only came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Lk 1:17) but also resembled that great prophet. (2 Kgs 1:8 cf. Matt 3:4)
3. Both pronounced judgments on Israel. (1 Kgs 18:18, Matt 3:7,12)
4. After slaying the prophets of Baal on Carmel, Elijah races before Ahab's chariot to show that the throne was to be restored on the basis of Truth. (1 Kgs 18:46) John also was a forerunner to proclaim the coming of the Royal Majesty. (Mal 3:1; Jn 1:15; 29-34; Lk 1:76-79)
5. Elijah gave way to the gentler Elisha as John also had to decrease to make way for the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Kgs 19:19; Jn 3:30; 10:16; Matt 11:28-30)
6. Elijah's mantle changed hands at the bank of Jordan. (2 Kgs 2:7,13). So the Lord Jesus Christ was manifested in the baptism of John on the banks of Jordan from which moment he began to take over the work from John. (Matt 3:6,17)
7. Elisha means 'salvation of God', Jesus 'the salvation of Yahweh'.
8. Upon Elisha's taking up of the work, he became recognised as occupying the first-born position (2 Kgs 2:9). Jesus was the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:27)
9. Elisha's work extended beyond the confines of Israel and was found among the Gentiles (2 Kgs 5). Although Jesus did not go outside of the confines of Israel yet it was through his sacrifice that salvation was extended to the nations. He himself also indicated that this would be the case by the contact which he had with those other than Israel. (Matt 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30)
10. Elisha became accepted by the kings of nations (2 Kgs 8:7-8). So too will the Lord Jesus Christ at his appearing (Psa 72:8-11,17).

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ELIJAH THE TISHBITE - ISRAEL'S GREATEST PROPHET

Prepare some notes and mark up a character sketch of this dynamic individual.

- Name means "Yahweh, He is God".
- The Hebrew name for God contained in the word 'Elijah' is "El" which mean "strength" or "might". Elijah's name therefore means that Yahweh will reveal Himself in power and might.
- 'Tishbite' shows the place from whence he came. It was in Gilead, the rough, wild country east of Jordan.
- Tishbite means 'stranger' or 'sojourner' and Elijah was such to the rest of Israel.

NAAMAN AND LEPROSY

What is leprosy? Look up a dictionary and find out what the disease is like and how it affects the person with it. You will also find by looking up the occurrences of this word in the Bible and by the use of a concordance, that you will learn just how terrible this disease is. It also relates to a condition of man. Do you know what that might be? Summarise your notes and mark up a chart in your Bible for reference on this subject. The following notes may be useful to assist you.

- An infectious disease of skin, nerves, muscles and bones.
- Arises from poor nutrition, overcrowding and lack of hygiene.
- It disfigures and cripples.
- Takes some years to reveal itself.
- Today treated by drugs.

SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE of LEPROSY

1. Considered hereditary - Nature of sin hereditary Rom 5:12
2. Disease preceded by months, years of physical lassitude - "A little folding of the hands" Prov 6:10. "For this cause many are weak and sickly" 1 Cor 11:30
3. It is deep seated and works from within - The heart is 'desperately sick' Jer 17:9 RV. "out of the heart of man proceeds evil thoughts" Mk 7:21
4. Does not become manifest before age of puberty - "I was alive without the law once - but when the commandment came sin revived and I died" Rom 7:9
5. It has almost imperceptible beginnings - "lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" Heb 3:13
6. Progressive in nature - "Evil men shall wax worse" 2 Tim 3:13
7. Finally affects the body (all) - "defiles the whole body" James 3:6; Matt 23:32
8. In its progress it affects parts in differing degrees - "there is none that doeth good" Rom 3:12-15
9. Victim becomes insensible to pain - "Having their conscience seared" 1 Tim 4:2; Eph 4:19
10. It is contagious - "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" 1 Cor 5:6
11. It is incurable - "Who shall deliver from this body of death" Rom 7:24

CHARACTER SKETCHES

Summarise what you know of the characters in 2 Kings 5. You may also find it useful to look up a Bible dictionary to add to the following points.

NAAMAN

- A Gentile highly respected by his fellows v1.
- An acknowledged leper - (symbolises a sinner who recognises his need of a covering for sin v1).
- One who is seeking the help of God with preconceived ideas v11.
- Became a man humbled by knowledge - acted in obedience v15.
- As a forgiven sinner v18.

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THE ISRAELITISH MAID
- A humble instrument who preached the gospel
- A courageous advocate who pointed out the way of salvation

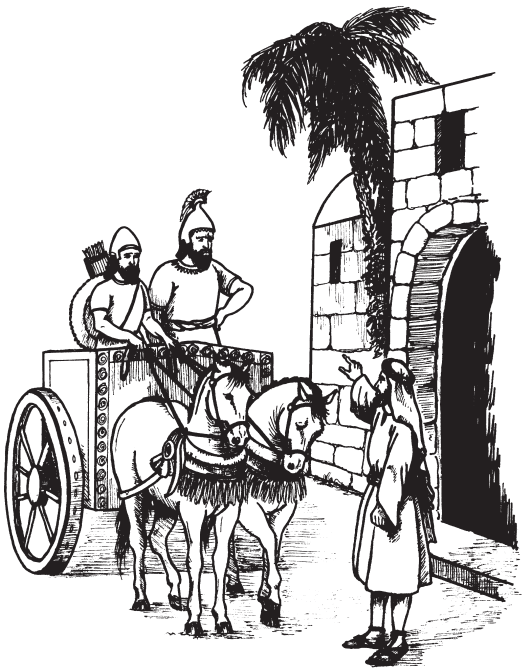
GEHAZI REMINDS US OF
- The Jew resting in the law
- Hating the Gospel being preached to the Gentiles

ELISHA REPRESENTS
- Christ, who provides instruction and direction to those in need, who has the power to save from death

CHAPTER BREAK-UP

Read 2 Kings 5 and see if you can create your own chapter break-up. The following is a possible one but see if you can attempt your own first and then compare the suggested one as follows.

v1-5 Naaman sent by the king
v6-7 Letter from Benhadad sent with Naaman but Jehoram refuses
v 8-9 Naaman sent to Elisha
v10-19 Naaman's pride and humility
v 20-27 Gehazi's folly and judgement



JONAH - THE IMPACT OF JONAH UPON THE PROPHETS

Consider the following notes and condense them for a background to the Prophet Jonah.

- Jonah was among the first of the prophets whose commission was memorialised in the canon of Scripture.
- A prophet of the Northern Kingdom, following the work of Elijah and Elisha 793-753BC.
- His amazing story entered into the heart of the prophets, who speak of wayward Israel as being swallowed up of the Gentiles in the storm of divine judgment, later to be disgorged from their captivity.
- Hosea 8:8 "Israel is swallowed up; already they are among the nation" RSV
- Jer 51:34 "Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon has devoured me... he has swallowed me like a monster, he has filled his belly with my delicacies, he has rinsed me out" RSV v44 "I will punish Bel in Babylon, and take out of his mouth what he has swallowed."
- Isa 65:1-5 "I am sought of them that asked not for me" v8-10 "As new wine is found in the cluster" so Yahweh destroyed not Israel.
- Hosea speaks of wayward Israel as the "dove" (Jonah) Hos 7:11

JONAH THE AUTHOR

What do you know about this man? Look up a concordance and research the man and his mission.

- Jonah 1:1 "Jonah the son of Amittai" from Gath-Hepher 4.5kms N.E. of Nazareth.
- Encouraged his own people to return to God 2 Kgs 14:25-27
- 2 Kgs 14:25 - identical expression, nowhere else mentioned. Must be the same man as in Jonah 1:1. The only other direct information outside the prophecy regarding Jonah.
- Jonah Heb. Yonah = Dove
- Amittai = Truth or true from the Heb. root. 'Emeth' .
- Jonah was therefore - 'the Dove - Son of Truth', even as the Lord Jesus upon whom the spirit descended in the form of a dove, was introduced by the "God of Israel" Isa.65:16 as "this is my beloved Son" Lk.3:22
- Sent to preach to Gentiles Jonah 1:2

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JONAH - THE DOVE

The Dove has many characteristics well worth researching. Look up Bible dictionaries and encyclopaedias and detail out all the characteristics you can find. Then note the parallels to the Prophet. The following notes may help.

- A bird with a tremendous homing instinct.
- "Silly bird" given to foolishness in moments of panic.
- Only bird offered under law. Lev 1:14
- Offered with a lamb after childbirth. Lev 12:6
- The poor could offer two doves. Lev 12:8
- Used in sacrifice for cleansing of a leper. Lev 14:21-22
- Deut 14:11 clean animal, dainty and homely habits, used for food.
- Harmless and delicate of spirit. Matt. 10:16
- Gen 15:9; Lev 1:4 Offered in sacrifice (denoted innocence or perfection of character).
- Matt 10:16 Simplicity and harmlessness.
- Song of Sol 2:14 Comeliness of countenance
- Song of Sol 2:14; Jer 48:28 Dwells in the rocks
- Song of Sol 1:15 Softness of eyes.
- Psa 68:13 Richness of plumage - silver and gold.
- Nah 2:7 Mournful.
- Song of Sol 5:12 Frequents streams and rivers.
- Gen 8:11 Dove with the olive branch - emblem of peace
- Strictly vegetarian, feeding on greens and seeds

THE DOVE - SYMBOL OF ISRAEL

Reference to this theme is scattered throughout the Bible. Take the time to develop this theme with the following notes.

- Hos 7:11 like a 'silly dove', Israel fluttered between the nations (her enemies) looking for deliverance.
- Hos 11:11 They will return as a dove out of the land of Assyria, ie. they are coming home
- Isa 60:8 "As the doves to their windows". Natural Israel returning homeward.
- Gen 8:9 The dove was helpless outside the ark (could find not rest for the soles of its feet). Israel among the nations fluttered fearfully and afraid. True rest will only come with the truth of Christ and the Ark he can provide.
- Matt 3:16-17 The spirit descended upon the Lord in the form of a dove.
- This man was the 'ideal Israel' - Yahweh's true dove. He manifested to perfection the divine attributes that Israel failed to reveal.
- To the spiritually alert, this was 'the spirit of the prophet Jonah' descending on the Lord Jesus - he was to be the antitype of the prophet, about to fulfil the typical significance of his mission.

JONAH'S MISSION ILLUSTRATES THE PURPOSE OF YAHWEH WITH HIS PEOPLE

See if you can develop this theme a little more.

1. Yahweh intended Israel to be the medium of His glory and grace to the nations Deut 4:5-8; 28:9-10
2. Israel failed to fulfil this glorious purpose Jer 13:11 Yahweh allowed the nation to be swallowed up of the Gentiles (Jer 51:34,44; Hos.8:8), like Jonah was swallowed by the fish.
3. To accomplish His purpose Yahweh has preserved the nation. Hos 11:9
   - He will bring them forth from their national grave by a political resurrection.
   - She will be vomited from the stormy waters of Gentile politics like Jonah from the belly of the fish.
4. After this political resurrection, Israel will prove a blessing to the Gentiles Zech 8:3. The Gentiles will respond with true repentance. v22-23; Jer 16:19

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Backgrounds to prophets are extremely important. You should always investigate them when considering a book. The following notes are intended to guide you in studying the background of the book of Jonah.

- 2 Kgs 14:23-26 shows that Jonah lived and served as a prophet in the time of Jeroboam II 793-753 BC = 14 years
- Jeroboam II was the most prosperous and longest reigning king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- He recaptured, according to the prophecy of Jonah, sovereignty from Hamath in the North to the Dead Sea (Sea of Arabah) in the South.
- In his reign the Northern Kingdom had experienced extreme hardship 1 Kgs 14:26 which may have been due to:-
  1. The previous affliction of the Syrians. 2 Kgs 13:1-7
  2. The consequences of wickedness and corruption into which the nation had become submerged.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JONAH

Why was the prophet so suited to the task of preaching in Nineveh? Consider the following notes and condense them into your Bible next to Jonah.

- The obvious silence upon Jonah's ministry in the Northern Kingdom of Israel serves to focus attention upon the sign of his amazing experience.
- To introduce his encounter among his fellow country men would serve to detract from the power of his typical death, burial and resurrection.
- Jonah's book among the prophets is one of sign, while John's record among the Gospels is also of sign.
- In Jn 21:25 much of Jesus' words and works are not recorded for the same reason - that emphasis may be given to the important issues of the eight signs.
- Hosea and Amos were contemporary prophets with Jonah and both directed their works to the Northern Kingdom.
- From these prophets we can construct a graphic picture of the circumstances out of which Jonah would have come.

BREAKUP OF PROPHECY OF JONAH

This book is suited to a personal study. Take the time to break up the chapters and prepare a verse by verse breakdown. The following is provided as a suggestion only and needs your own checking, or better still for you to develop your own.

CHAPTER ONE:	Jonah's commission, evasion, correction
CHAPTER TWO:	Jonah's prayer and deliverance
CHAPTER THREE:	Proclamation to Nineveh - Repentance
CHAPTER FOUR:	Jonah's Displeasure - Education by Reproof

CHAPTER ONE	
vv1-3	Jonah flees to avoid his duty
vv4-5	The great storm
vv6-9	Jonah's trial and confession
vv10-16	Jonah's sacrifice - the sailors converted
v17	The fish and Jonah's burial
CHAPTER TWO	
v1	Jonah prays in the fish's belly
vv2-9	Jonah's psalm of thanksgiving
v10	Jonah's miraculous deliverance
CHAPTER THREE	
vv1-3	Jonah goes to Nineveh
v4	The message from God
vv5-9	The Ninevites repent
v10	Yahweh's mercy extended
CHAPTER FOUR	
vv1-3	Jonah's displeasure and anger
v4	Yahweh's reproof
vv5-9	The lesson of the gourd
vv10-11	Conclusion - Yahweh is just

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THE CAUSE OF DECLINE

Israel failed - why? Read 2 Kings 17 and see if you can list the reasons why they failed. The following notes will help you but first try and list your own points.

- v7-8 - They walked in statutes of the gods of the other nations and not in the Law of Yahweh.
- v9 They secretly and openly performed abominations against God.
- v10-12 - They set up groves and burnt idols to worship in defiance of God's laws.
- v13-14 - They refused God's prophets, hardened their necks and would not believe in Yahweh.
- v15-16 - They followed vain things, worshipping the 2 calves and served Baal.
- v17 - They caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire.

HEZEKIAH - A TYPE OF CHRIST

Types - what are they? Take the time to consider this remarkable man and what he prefigures.

1. The sweeping reforms introduced divine worship at the inception of his reign - The work of Christ at his 1st advent.
2. The invasion of Sennacherib and the threatening challenge of his officers - the opposition received by the Lord. Acts 4:26-27
3. The terrible infliction of leprosy - the teaching of Paul 'Christ was made sin for us who knew no sin'. 2 Cor 5:21
4. His remarkable recovery - the resurrection and glorification of the son.
5. The destruction of Sennacherib - the coming overthrow of Gog.
6. The completion of his work of restoring divine worship and the peaceful and prosperous conditions of his reign - the setting up of the millennium under Christ.

HEZEKIAH

This great man is a worthy character to follow. Study his life and character. The following notes will assist.

Hebrew: 'Strengthened of Yahweh'
Length of Reign: 29 years BC 714-686
Age at Accession: 25 years
Age at Death: 54 years
Father: Ahaz 'Possessor' - from root. 'to seize'
Mother: Abijah "Yahweh his father"
Contemporary King: Hosea BC 731-723

- General estimate of his character (2 Chron 31:20-21; 2 Kgs 18:13).
- He opened the house of Yahweh after it had been closed (2 Chron 29:3) and cleansed it.
- Restored services according to David's instructions (2 Kgs 18:3).
- Organised the songs of the temple (Isa.38:20).
- Conducted a widespread revival of all Israel (2 Chron 30:26).
- Engaged in literary work for the benefit of the people (Prov 25:1).
- His grief at the prospect of death was because he would be cut off from his work (2 Kgs 20:8)
- The drama of his life is expressed in songs (Isa 38:20; Psa 120-134).
- Hezekiah's piety covered Judah and saved it from Sennacherib. His sickness and recovery gave the people hope in that an heir was provided for the throne.
- Through his experiences he led the people to God and succeeded in a prosperous reign.

"He trusted in Yahweh God of Israel so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah nor any that were before him."

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HARMONY OF THE RECORDS

This chart is a summary on the life of Hezekiah. It is useful to compare the two records and mark this up in 2 Kings 18.

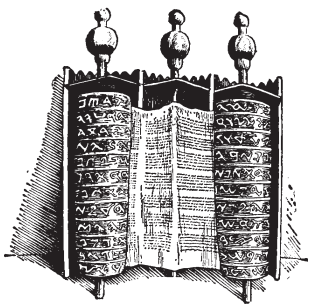
	2 Kgs	2 Chr
Began to reign at 25	18:1-3	29:1-3
Commands to cleanse temple		29:3-11
Levites cleanse themselves first	29:12-15	
Temple cleansed in 16 days		29:16-19
Sevenfold sacrifices offered		29:20-30
People make personal offerings		29:31-36
Hezekiah invites all Israel to Passover	30:1-12	
The land cleansed of idolatry	18:4	31:1
Establishes course of priesthood	31:2-4	
People bring tithes		31:5-10
Officers to dispose of tithes		31:11-19
Yah. pleased with Hezekiah	18:5-6	31:20-21
He rebels against Assyria	18:7	
He attacks Philistia	18:8	
4th yr Shalmaneser besieges Samaria	18:9	

JOSIAH'S COMPANIONS

Friends are an important aspect of our life in the Truth. It is important to have the best. Note the companions of Josiah as listed below.

The Faithful Elders

- Hilkiah - The High Priest 2 Kgs 22:8
- Shaphan - The Scribe Jer 26:24 29:3
- Asahiah - The King's Servant 2 Kgs 22:12
- Maaseiah - The Governor 2 Chron 34:8
- Voice of Prophets Jer 1:2
- Zephaniah Zeph 1:1
- Huldah the Prophetess 2 Chron 34:22



JOSIAH

Consider this remarkable young king. See if you can develop some more extensive notes and mark in your Bible.

Hebrew: "Yahweh his foundation"
First Mention: 1 Kgs 13:2
Last Mention: Zeph 1:1
Length of Reign: 31 years From BC 639-609
Age at Accession: 8 years
Father: Amon "to train, to be skilled"
Mother: Jedidah "beloved"

SIGNIFICANT REFERENCES

1 Kgs 13:2 - Josiah was named in a prophecy 340 years before his birth as being one who would cleanse the land of the idolatry of Jeroboam.

Jer 1:2 - Jeremiah commenced to prophesy as a young man in the 13th year of Josiah's reign when Josiah was 21. They were mutually sympathetic over the parlous state of the ecclesia and were companions in the work of reformation.

Zeph 1:1 - Zephaniah was a fourth generation descendent of Hezekiah and therefore a kinsman of Josiah in whose reign he prophesied. His influence and prophecies had an important effect on the young king.

Jer 22:15-15 - Josiah's character was patterned upon Yahweh's character. He did "judgment and justice" and "judged the cause of the poor and needy".

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HARMONY OF THE RECORDS OF THE REIGN OF JOSIAH

This chart is a summary of the life of Josiah. It is useful to compare the two records.

	2 Kings	2 Chron
Accession aged 8	21:24-26	33:25
Divine estimation ofhis reign	22:1-2	34:1-2
Seeks Yah aged 16		34:3
Purges idolatry aged 20		34:3-7
Repairs temple aged 26	22:3-7	34:8-13
Book of the Law found - is greatly moved	22:8-11	34:14-19
Sends for Huldah the prophetess	22:12-14	34:20-22
Yahweh replies thru Huldah	22:15-20	34:23-28
People gathered - reads Law to them	23:1-2	34:29-30
Makes a covenant to serve Yahweh	23:3	34:31-32
Institutes another purge of idolatry	23:4-14	34:33
Fulfils prophecy at Bethel	23:15-20	
Keeps the great Jubilee Passover	23:21-23	35:1-19
Another purge of idolatry in Judah	23:24	
Divine estimation of his greatness	23:25	
Yahweh's wrath against Judah remains	23:26-28	
Slain by Necho of Egypt at Megiddo	23:29-30	35:20-23
Buried in Jerusalem - people mourn		35:24
Jeremiah laments for Josiah		35:25
Final summary		35:26-27

CHART ON KINGS OF JUDAH & ISRAEL

The following chart is useful as a Bible insert to outline the order of the kings.

Kings of Judah and Israel

Judah	*Period of Reign*	*Israel*	*Period of Reign*	*Prophet*
Rehoboam	17 yrs	**Jeroboam I**	22 yrs	Shemaiah
				Ahijah
Abijam	3 yrs			
		Nadab	2 yrs	
Asa	41 yrs			Hanani
		Baasha	24 yrs	Oded
				Azariah
		Elah	2 yrs	
		Zimri	1 week	
		Omri	12 yrs	
		Ahab	22 yrs	Elijah
Jehoshaphat	25 yrs			Micaiah
		Ahaziah	2 yrs	Jehu
		Jehoram	12 yrs	Elisha
Jehoram	8 yrs			Eliezer
Ahaziah	1 yr			Jahaziel
Athaliah	6 yrs	**Jehu**	28 yrs	
Joash	40 yrs			
		Jehoahaz	17 yrs	
		Jehoash	16 yrs	
Amaziah	29 yrs			Jonah
		Jereboam II	41 yrs	Hosea
Azariah or				Isaiah
Uzziah	52 yrs			Amos
		Zachariah	6 mths	
		Shallum	1 mth	
		Menahem	10 yrs	
		Pekahiah	2 yrs	
Jotham	16 yrs			Micah
		Pekah	20 yrs	
Ahaz	16 yrs			
		Hoshea	9 yrs	
Hezekiah	29 yrs	*Taken into captivity*		Nahum
Manasseh	55 yrs			
Amon	2 yrs			Zephaniah
Josiah	31 yrs			Joel
Jehoahaz	3 mths			Jeremiah
Jehoiakim	11 yrs			Habakkuk
Jehoiachin	3 mths			
Zedekiah	11 yrs			*Some of the prophets ministered during several reigns*
Taken into captivity				

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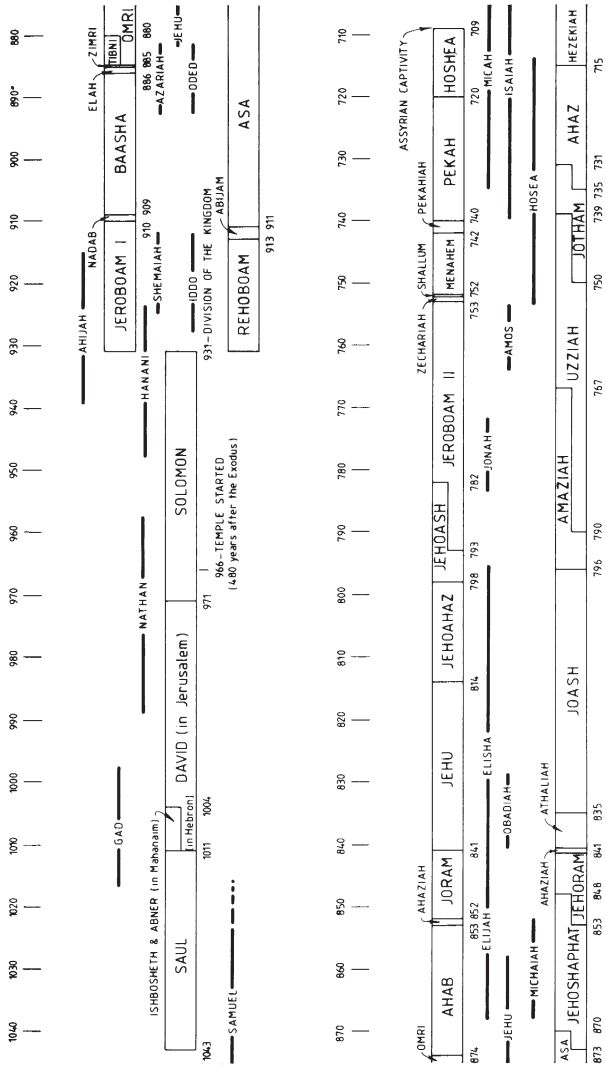
THE RELATIONSHIP OF KINGS AND PROPHETS OF JUDAH & ISRAEL

The following charts are extremely important to study and understand the timing and relationship between the characters. It is an excellent chart to mark and keep in your Bible for reference.



THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF JUDAH & ISRAEL

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JEREMIAH - HISTORICAL SETTINGS OF PROPHECIES IN JEREMIAH

It is difficult to date all of the prophecies and events in Jeremiah exactly. The following is a suggested chronology only. It would be useful to mark this on an insert sheet at the beginning of the book of Jeremiah or even to mark as subheadings throughout the book.

PROPHECIES DURING JOSIAH'S REIGN

1:1-3	Introduction
1:4-10	Call and commission
1:11-12	1st Prophecy: Almond tree
1:13-19	2nd Prophecy: Boiling Cauldron
2:1-3:5	3rd Prophecy: Unfaithful wife
3:6-4:2	4th Prophecy: Backsliding children
4:3-6:30	5th prophecy: Foolish nation
7:1-10:25	6th Prophecy: Temple prophecy
11:1-12:17	7th Prophecy: Conspiracy in Judah

PROPHECIES DURING JEHOIAKIM'S REIGN

26:1-24	Jeremiah appeals to Judah
14:1-22	Pray not for this people
15:1-21	Death, sword, famine, captivity foretold
16:1-17:18	Jeremiah - a man apart
17:19-27	Jeremiah rebukes the king
18:1-23	Jeremiah rebukes the people
19:1-20:18	Jeremiah rebukes the priests
22:1-30	Jeremiah rebukes the whole nation
23:1-40	Prophecy of "Yahweh our Righteousness"
25:1-38	Prophecy of 70 years captivity
35:1-10	Faithful example of Rechabites
36:1-32	Jehoiakim burns the scroll

PROPHECIES DURING JEHOIACHIN'S REIGN

13:1-27	The unwashed girdle by the Euphrates
24:1-32	The good and bad figs

GENERAL AND UNDATED PROPHECIES REGARDING ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

30:1-24	"I am with thee to save thee"
31:1-20	He that scattered Israel will gather him

PROPHECIES DURING ZEDEKIAH'S REIGN

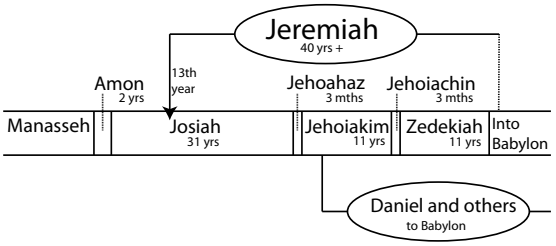
29:1-32	Letter to the captives in Babylon
27:1-22	Bonds and yokes for the nations
28:1-17	Hananiah's challenge: Yokes of iron & wood
51:59-64	Message sent to Babylon
21:1-14	Another message from Pashur (cp.ch.20)
34:1-7	Message as Neb. sweeps south
37:1-5	Jerusalem besieged, Egypt advances
34:8-22	The broken covenant
37:6-20	Jeremiah imprisoned, siege renewed
37:21	Jeremiah removed from dungeon
32:1-44	Jeremiah purchases field of Hanameel
33:1-26	2nd message to Jeremiah in prison
38:1-28	Jeremiah in dungeon, Ebed-melech intervenes
39:1-18	The fall of Jerusalem
40:1-16	Gedaliah at Mizpah
41:1-18	The murder of Gedaliah
42:1-22	Jeremiah's help is sought
43:1-13	Further warning in Egypt
44:1-30	A last prophecy: "Queen of Heaven"

PROPHECIES AGAINST THE GENTILES

45:1-5	Baruch in the time of trouble
46:1-28	Prophecy against Egypt
47:1-7	Prophecy against Philistia
48:1-47	Prophecy against Moab
49:1-6	Prophecy against Ammon
49:7-22	Prophecy against Edom
49:23-39	Prophecy against Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam
50:1-51:58	Prophecy against Babylon
52:1-34	Appendix to the Book : Historical Summary

JEREMIAH'S PERIOD

The following chart is useful in placing the book.



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JEREMIAH - A CHARACTER STUDY

The following notes may help you to unlock one of the largest books of the Old Testament. Consider the man and his message.

- He was a timid, retiring man
- Deeply sympathetic and with such an intensity of feeling, that he lived, felt and suffered the message he delivered cp. 9:14; 15:10,18
- He entered into the feelings of both Yahweh and the people
- He pleaded with God, almost suggesting that the chastisement was too severe 4:10,19-20; 10:23-25; 14:7-13
- There came a change as he found the people refused to respond to his message. He found them stubborn, he suffered their mockery, he heard them proclaiming lies in the name of Yahweh, he discovered their thankless plots against his life, he endured their degrading persecution and cruel treachery. Caused to cry out that Yahweh punish them - he could see that justice demanded it and kindness required it. 11:19-20, 18:18-23. 20:10-12, 42:20-22
- He bravely persisted despite the humiliation heaped on him by an unheeding people
- He was completely faithful
- Though his sensitive nature shrank from the task set him, he continued to the bitter end
- Feeling the pain of his message, yet determined to do the bidding of Yahweh though none should take heed 1:19, 7:27

JEREMIAH AS A HISTORIAN

This prophet had a message which is applicable to our times as well. Mark these up on a insert at the beginning of the prophecy of Jeremiah.

- He lived at a time when all Judah were rushing down to the final and mournful catastrophe of national destruction
- Political excitement was at a peak, the most fatal and foolish counsels prevailed
- It was Jeremiah's lot to see his own people plunge over the precipice in complete and utter national ruin
- His writings are interspersed with references to the times
- He is like a reporter, telling the story of Judah's disgrace from God's standpoint
- Lived through the reigns of Josiah, Shallum (Jehoahaz), Jehoiakim, Coniah (Jehoiachin), Zedekiah - being the dominant figure of them all
- Portrays himself more completely on the historical background of the times than any other prophet
- He tried by every possible means to stem the tide of folly that was sweeping the nation to disaster

JEREMIAH AS A PROPHET

These notes will help you in this remarkable study.

- The Book of the Law had been recently discovered in the days of Josiah
- Huldah the prophetess had proclaimed the decree that the judgements threatened therein would be carried out
- Jeremiah's prophecy is an interpretation of that book. He makes scores of references to Deuteronomy
- He expands the Law, shows what it means, reveals the outworking of its judgements, proclaims the significance of the blessings and cursings it sets before the people
- He shows that the drought, famine, invasion, war, captivity, destruction, scattering and rebukes outlined in Deut. 28 would be experienced by that very generation
- There is promise of restoration "I will punish... I will restore"
- The prophet who indicted Judah so completely, is the prophet who proclaims the promise of the New Covenant whereby both Israel and Judah will be saved Jer 31:31
- "Thus saith Yahweh" said 157 times

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DANIEL - BACKGROUND

Have you a clear understanding of the background to the book of Daniel? This book is the basis of all prophetical sections of your Bible.

Take the time to consider the background of this book and mark this up. You should check these points before you mark these up.

- BC 726 - Sixth of Hezekiah King of Judah
  Isaiah proclaimed doom of the 10 tribes of Ephraim Isa 7:8. *Also prophesied that Judah's days would be limited Isa 39:3-8
- BC 628 - Thirteenth of Josiah.
  Book of Law discovered. Jeremiah commences to prophesy.
- BC 623 - Eighteenth of Josiah
  2 Chron 35:18,25. Great Passover celebrated surpassing all since days of Samuel. Time for Judah to enter covenant. Birth of Daniel.
- BC 609 - Josiah's death after 31 years slain by Pharaoh Neco 11. Three months reign of Jehoahaz. Daniel aged 13 years.
- BC 608 - Jehoiakim commences to reign.
- BC 605 - Third year of Jehoiakim.
  Having taken over from Jehoahaz his brother by issue of Pharaoh Necho II. 2 Kgs 23:34-36. Required to continue to pay tribute. Nebuchadnezzar (in co-rule with Nabopolassar) sets out in 3rd year but delayed by battle of Carchemish against Pharoah Necho II. Jer 46:2. Acting as tool of Yahweh. Jer 25:9-11. Didn't arrive in Jerusalem until 4th year.
- BC 604 - Fourth year of Jehoiakim.
  Nebuchadnezzar having been interrupted by death of his father thus commences sole reign. First of Nebuchadnezzar. Jer 25:1. Attacks Jerusalem fulfilling curse of Deut 28:15-68 cp.v.36. Jehoiakim thus required to submit to Neb. 2 Kgs 24:1. First phase of 70 years captivity of which Daniel was amongst them. Dan.1:1. Daniel approx. 17 years. Jeremiah had prophesied of this doom. Jer 25:8-11

- Daniel's life in Babylon
- BC 604 - Daniel in Babylon aged 17 years.
  Defies the king's decree ch.1. He interprets the dream ch.2.
- BC 602 - At approx. 20 years he demonstrated the power of faith. Ch.1:5,18
- BC 569 - As a mature man of 53 he pleads with the king to change his ways Dan 4:27. This inference is based upon the fact that Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years and presumably the 7 years of Dan 4:33-36 took part in the last years of his life.
- BC 562 - As a man of 60 Daniel learned of the death of Nebuchadnezzar and the accession of Evil-Merodach who honoured Jehoiachin. Jer 52:31-34. Some Jews must have viewed him as a good man but Daniel knew better, for two years later Jehoiachin's supporter was dethroned.
- BC 560 - Daniel now 62 when Neriglissar seized the throne in Babylon. He only reigned 4 years.
- BC 556 - Daniel at 66 Labashi-Mar-Duk obtains the throne but is replaced by Nabonidus - a Babylonish lord who married Nebuchadnezzar's daughter to secure his position.
- BC 553 - Belshazzar made joint ruler with his father Nabonidus - Daniel now about 69 receives the vision of the four beasts. Ch7:1.
- BC551 - At 71 years of age Daniel sees the vision of the Ram and He Goat. Ch.8:1
- BC 539 - Daniel prays for Jerusalem Ch.9:1. At 83 he defies Belshazzar who was slain that night. Ch.5.
- BC538 - Daniel now 84 is made president by the Persian Darius and passes a future test of faithfulness by defying the lions. Dan.6:1
- BC 536 - Daniel now 86 mourns the delay of the regathering and receives the consolatory vision of Ch.10-12. In this year Cyrus made his decree calling upon Israel to return. Ezra 1:1-3. With Zerubbabel and Joshua led the people back to the land to commence the work of the temple. The seventy years captivity Jer 27 stretching from 605-536 was at an end and Daniel's life had bridged it. In the closing vision he was told that he would die (as he probably did that year) Ch.1:21 but he would stand in his lot at the end of the days.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF DANIEL

The following chart illustrates the life of Daniel. Check out the order of events and mark this up at the beginning of Daniel.

Verse	Event	Age	Event in Yr. of
1:1	Daniel taken captive	17	Neb's. first year
2:1	The king's dream	18	Neb's. second year
3:1	Fiery furnace	18	Possibly Neb's. second year
4:30	Fall of Nebuchad-nezzar	54	Towards end of his reign
7:1	Vision of Daniel 7	66	1st year Belshazzar
8:1	Vision of Daniel 8	68	3rd year Belshazzar
5:31	Overthrow of Belshazzar	87	
9:1	Daniel's prayer for restoration		
11:1	Prophecy of 11-12:24		1st year Darius
6:28	Daniel in lions' den	88	During 2nd yr Darius
10:1	'Vision Man of One'	90	1st year Cyrus
1:1-2	Decree of Cyrus	90	1st year Cyrus
12:5-13	Final message to Daniel.	91	1st year Cyrus

THE MAN DANIEL

This remarkable man is an outstanding example. Consider the following notes and use these as a background to the book.

1. A man of high social position. Dan 1:3
2. Well known for his wisdom and righteousness by his contemporaries. Ezek 14:14,20; 28:3
3. His attitude to prayer was an example of a faithful commitment to God. 6:10 (90 yrs).
4. Always acknowledges Yahweh's wisdom. 2:20-23
5. His integrity to Yahweh is seen in his relations toward men. Dan 6:4-5
6. Categorised as a "good fig" in Jer 24:5 who went into captivity for good.
7. He would have been cognisant of Jeremiah's letters to the exiles. Jer 29
8. Heard the Book of Babylon read in the midst of the city. Jer 51:59-64
9. An avid student of Jeremiah's prophecies. Dan 9:1-3
10. Played an important part with Ezekiel in turning a hopeless nation addicted to idolatry (Ezek 14:3) to a fiery, monotheistic community and ready to return under the decree of Cyrus Ezra 1.
11. Held the honour of being called 'greatly beloved' with David and Christ (Matt 3:17) and with John John 13:23
12. Import of his book is seen by fact that Revelation builds directly upon it.
13. Daniel foretold of future things and showed also their fulfilment.
14. Daniel related himself to the nation Dan 9:4-19
15. He showed a learner attitude to Yahweh but resisted the teaching of Babylon. He was termed a master of the wise Dan 2

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CITY OF BABYLON

Babylon was the greatest city and empire of all times. Look up Bible dictionaries and general encyclopaedias to investigate this great nation and city. Prepare some notes and summarise these by marking them up into your Bible.

6 REASONS FOR THE REVELATION

The following points outline the reasons for the prophecy. It is worth noting this next to Daniel chapter 2.

1. To tell the king about the future.
2. To save Daniel and his three friends.
3. To make known the true God to the Babylonians.
4. To show that the wise of Babylon were not wise at all.
5. To show that God is in control of all the nations and sets up whom He will.
6. To tell what will happen at the end of all things.

THE WISE MEN OF BABYLON Daniel 2:2

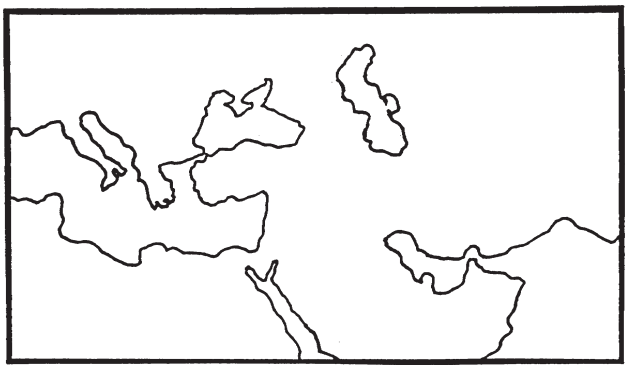
Concerning the astrologers, magicians, sorcerers and Chaldeans, do you know who these people were and what type of background they held? Look up the names and establish the background to these classes of people.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE

Draw the image of Nebuchadnezzar in your margin and note the empires and dates. Colour in the image depicting each empire in its respective colour.

MAP OF EMPIRES

Draw a margin map and depict the extent of each of the empires. You will need to depict these in different colours to differentiate each empire. Alternatively draw each empire on a separate map.



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DANIEL REPETITION OF PHRASES IN CHAPTER 3

There are an amazing number of phrases that are deliberately repeated over and again in this chapter in order to highlight the issues facing Daniel's friends.

Colour each of these with different colours in your Bible.

- "Nebuchadnezzar the King" 9 times (including chpt. 4) - everywhere else in Daniel, he is called either Nebuchadnezzar OR the king
- "hast set up" OR "have set up" - 9 times
- "image of gold" OR "golden image" - 7 times
- "burning fiery furnace" - 8 times
- all the instruments of music - 4 times in detail v5, 7, 10, 15
- "serve" OR "servants" - 7 times
  This is the real issue of this chapter - whom do WE serve? Yahweh or King Sin (see Rom 6:12-16)
- "fall down" OR "fell down" - 6 times (+1 they "fell down" in the furnace)

PARABLE OF DANIEL 3

What is a parable? Once you know what it is, take the time to discover this remarkable chapter and how it has a parabolic application. The following chart will assist you.

FAITHFUL IN BABYLON	FAITHFUL TODAY
King Nebuchadnezzar	"King Sin" (Roms.6)
Babylon	The World
Image of gold	Pleasures/Flesh
Invitation	Pressure to submit
Three Friends	Faithful saints
Chaldeans	People of the world
Fiery Furnace	Trial, persecution
Fully clothed	"Put on Christ"
Bound	Bound by sin/mortality
One like Son of God	Jesus Christ
Deliverance/"No hurt"	Freed from sin/death
Nebuchadnezzar's decree	All will acknowledge God
Promotion to honour	"Kings and Priests"

BABYLON'S TACTICS TO FORCE CONFORMITY

The world is out to press conformity at all levels. Consider just how Babylon placed these young captives under pressure. Mark up these points and see if you can find a suitable quotation to support each point.

- Use of impressive images. What looks good. Fleshly apparel v1
- Use of big names, involve important people V2-3
- Use of peer pressure - do what everyone else does V7
- Use of music - powerful medium to influence mind V4, 7, 10, 15
- Use of personal threats and antagonism if refuse to conform V6,15

The world today uses exactly the same tactics to gain conformity to its ways. LESSON: Rom 12:1-2

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WHOSE SERVANTS ARE WE?

What is a servant? List all the characteristics of a servant. Now consider whose servants we are. Compare Daniel 3 and Romans 6 to consider whom we should serve.

(PUT A NOTE ALONGSIDE V28)

- One of the main themes of chapter 3 is "Whom do we serve?" See v12, 14, 17, 18, 26, 28
- Our Master is the one to whom we "yield ourselves" or give our allegiance to (see v28 cp. Rom 6:16) not necessarily who we SAY we serve
- We can only serve ONE master at any time (Matt 6:24)
- See N.T. teaching: Rom 6:12-22; 1 Cor 7:23; Gal 1:10; 2 Pet 2:19

NEHEMIAH'S CHRONOLOGY

The identity of the titles 'Artaxerxes' of Nehemiah and the 'Ahasuerus' of Esther and the 'Darius' of Ezra, are worthy to note. Two kings have been suggested:-

Darius Hystaspes BC 521-485
Longimanus BC 464-424

'Artaxerxes', 'Ahasuerus', 'Darius' identified with Darius Hystaspes

a) According to the chronology of Neh 5:14; 13:6 'Artaxerxes' reigned at least 36 years. Darius Hystaspes is the only Persian king before Longimanus to reign for this number of years.

b) The Aprocryphal Book 'The Book of Esdras' identifies Darius Hystaspes with Artaxerxes.

c) The extent of Persian rule under Ahasuerus Esth 1:1 also agrees with that under Darius Hystaspes.

BACKGROUND TO BOOKS

The following are overviews of these books - you may use them as introductions to these books.

HAGGAI: A prophet whose prophecies (carefully dated) were designed by God to rebuke and encourage the returned exiles to overcome the discouragement of Samaritan opposition and lethargy in things divine, to rebuild the Temple.

ZECHARIAH: He prophesied contemporary with Haggai (Ezra 5:1-2) and encouraged Zerubbabel (the Governor) and Joshua (the High Priest) in the work of rebuilding the Temple.

NEHEMIAH: A diary account of Nehemiah's work in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

CONDITIONS IN JERUSALEM

When studying a book it is always important to understand the conditions and background to the book. The following notes may be condensed and marked as a background to the Book of Nehemiah.

- The Temple foundations were completed through the earlier work of Joshua and Zerubbabel. Ezra 3:12-13
- The survivors who had escaped exile (when Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian, sacked the city 586BC) were suffering 'great affliction and reproach'. Neh 1:3
- The walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates destroyed by fire. This was done by Nebuchadnezzar. (2 Chron 36:17-19; Neh 1:3) It is also possible that the short-lived programs of Haman had effected additional suffering and destruction. Esth 3:8-11; 9:15-16
- The city itself had almost no houses or inhabitants Neh 7:4 cf. 11:1. It was strewn with rubble and stones. Neh 2:13-15
- The towns and villages around Jerusalem to which the exiles returned were occupied by aliens who often spoke languages other than Hebrew and held abominable practices which continually provided a source of contamination of Israel's worship cf.Neh.13:13. Edomites held dominance in the south, Philistines in the west, Samaritan apostates in the north and Moabites in the east.

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WHO WAS NEHEMIAH?

Who was this man? You will find he has many desirable characteristics. Consider the following list.

as a born LEADER	Neh.2:18
as a man of PRAYER	1:5-11; 2:4; 4:4-5 5:19
as a man of OPPORTUNITY	2:1-5,7
as a man of ACTION	2:12-16; 4:6; 5:6-7
as a man of LIBERALITY & KINDNESS	5:14-18
as a man of FAITH	4:20
as a man of COURAGE	4:14
as a man who was CLEAR-SIGHTED	6:2
as a man who was PLAIN SPEAKING	6:3
as a man who was FIRM DEALING	13:25,28
as a man who was GOD HONOURING	7:5.

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

The book is a collection of personal memoirs, lists and records. Ezra and Nehemiah constitute a historical unit, and in the Hebrew Bible the books of Ezra and Nehemiah are counted as one.

The following notes are a chapter and verse breakdown.

RECONSTRUCTING THE WALL - CHAPTERS 1-6

Enquiry into the state of Jerusalem	1:1-3
Pleading God's help	1:4-11
Nehemiah's expedition to the land	2:1-16
Nehemiah's exhortation to the people	2:17-20
Rebuilding of the city walls is commenced	ch 3
The rebuilding of the walls is obstructed	4:1-6:14
The rebuilding is successfully completed	6:15-19

REINSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE - CHAPTERS 7-13

Registration of the remnant	ch 7
Introduction of the Law	ch 8
Consecration of the people	ch 9-10
Populating the city	ch 11
Dedication of the walls	ch 12
Elimination of abuses	ch 13

PRAYERS OF NEHEMIAH

Prayers in the Bible are extremely important to consider. It is worth your effort to follow through both the Old and New Testaments and list all the prayers and to place a colour code down your margin.

Consider Nehemiah's prayers. The following notes will help.

- He prayed when learning of the state of the Ecclesia and Jerusalem Neh.1:4-11
- Before speaking to the king for leave. 2:4
- Counters mocking, insults with prayer. 4:4
- Answers conspiracy and threats with prayers. 4:8-9
- When exercising wisdom - prayed 5;9; 13:14, 22, 31
- Meets faithlessness in household with prayer. 13:29

PRAYER OF NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 1

V5. An acknowledgement of the character of God
v6. A humble petition for God to hearken
v7. A confession of national sin
vv8-9 A remembrance of Divine promises
v10. A declaration of faith in the unlimited power of God with a reference to the status of the people for whom he prayed.
v11. An impassioned plea for help in time of personal need when actions are designed to glorify God.

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Family Bible Studies
Stage 3

NEHEMIAH - UNDER TRIAL

Consider the trials that came upon the work of this man. It is through much tribulation that God's servants will enter the Kingdom of God.

1. Derision - 'they derided and despised us'. 2:19
2. Half-hearted brethren - 'the nobles put not their necks to the work'. 3:5
3. Contempt - Jews ridiculed, work despised. 4:1-3
4. Open Opposition - 'they plotted to fight'. 4:8
5. Discouragement - 'We are not able to work'. 4:10
6. Sabotage - "we will come and kill them'. 4:11
7. Internecine strife - nobles exploit poor. 5:7
8. False friendship - 'come meet us'. 6:2
9. Scandal - an open letter. 6:5
10. Fear - 'they are coming to kill you'. 6:13
11. Treason - marriages with the alien. 6:18-19; 13:23-29

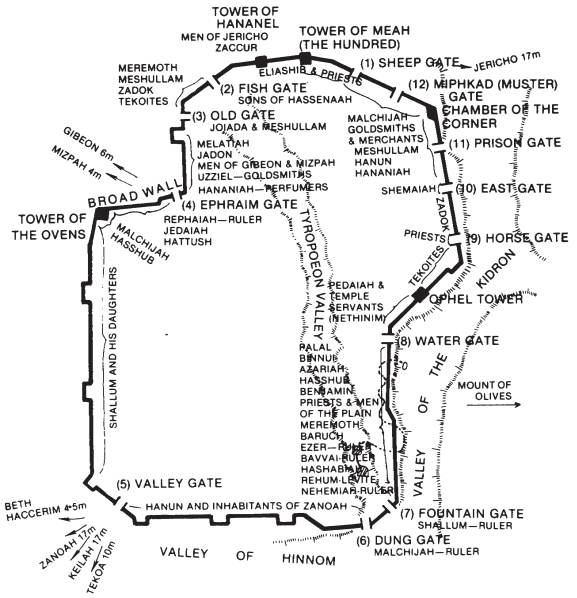
PERIOD OF WRITING

The setting of the Book of Malachi is helpful in understanding the prophet's message.

- Prophet after the exile.
- Prophesied at a time when apostasy had again taken place.
- Contemporary with Nehemiah.
- Prophecy, chronologically between 12th and 13th chapters of Nehemiah:
  1. Edom had recently returned from captivity 1:4
  2. Temple services were in full operation 1:7,14
  3. Israel was under a governor (Heb. 'pasha' = Persian ruler
  4. One styled messenger of Covenant absent - to reappear soon 3:1
- Time of brief period when Nehemiah returned to Persian capital and returned some time afterwards.

JERUSALEM IN NEHEMIAH'S DAY

The family groups involved in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.



"SO WE BUILT THE WALL
FOR THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK"

STYLE OF PROPHET

These notes are a good background to the Prophet Malachi.

- Prophet's admonitions constantly countered by the people with queries and questions. Method is to make his declaration, state the objection of the people, then to expose their error.
- Prophecy is spent awakening the people to their sins.
- Ecclesia found guilty of 3 great sins:-
  1. of ignorance 1:6
  2. of indifference 1:13
  3. of self-seeking 3:8
- Book begins with "I have loved you" and ends with a curse. Yahweh offers to extend His love to His people but they should understand that rejection of His love will bring a curse.
- Ecclesia failed to appreciate that the Word of God must be known and manifested:
  1. mentally 3:16
  2. morally 3:16 cp. 1 John 2:3-6
  3. physically 3:17 cp.1 John 3:2

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Family Bible Studies Stage 3

ISSUES OF MALACHI

The Prophet had to contend with a nation who had lost its way. Consider these notes and mark them up as a background to Malachi. Note how we can read and learn so much.

1. Failure to appreciate love of God towards them. 1:1-5
2. A total disregard for honouring and fearing Yahweh, particularly in sacrificial code. 1:6-12
3. Apathy towards serving the King of Israel. 1:13-14
4. Departure by the priesthood from educating the people in Divine principles. 2:1-9
5. Beginning of idolatry. 2:10-11
6. Intermarriage with Gentiles and separation from their Hebrew wives. 2:12-16
7. A misunderstanding of Yahweh's character. 2:17
8. A prevalence of sorcery, adultery, false swearing and oppression. 3:5
9. Robbing God in tithes and offering. 3:8-10
10. Famine and curse. 3:11
11. A philosopy which said there is no purpose in serving God. 3:14-15

MALACHI

This little prophecy is short but extremely helpful. Take the time to study the background and characters involved. The following notes are useful in setting the background to the book.

- Malachi Heb. 'My Messenger'
- Name appropriate to the character of the message concerning God's preeminent messenger
- 5 Malachi's (messengers) sent forth by Yahweh to His people. No. of grace and restoration
    1. 1. Malachi 1:1
    2. 2.The Priests 2:7
    3. 3. John the Baptist (my messenger) 3:1
    4. 4. Lord Jesus Christ (messenger of Covenant) 3:1
    5. 5. Elijah 4:1

EIGHT IGNORANT QUESTIONS

Colour these recurring themes in the Book of Malachi. Notice that the nation did not realise just how far they had fallen.

1. *Wherein hast thou loved us? 1:2*
   Yahweh will be manifested from the borders of Israel. *1:2-5*
2. *Wherein have we despised thy Name? 1:7*
   Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar. 1:7
3. *Wherein have we polluted thee?*
   In that ye say the table of Yahweh is contemptible. 1:7
4. *Wherefore? 2:14*
   Because Yahweh hath been witnesses between thee and the wife of thy youth. 2:14
5. *Wherein have we wearied thee? 2:17*
   When ye say, where is the God of judgment? 2:17
6. *Wherein shall we return? 3:7*
   Then shall ye return. 3:18
7. *Wherein have we robbed thee? 3:8*
   In tithes and offerings 3:8
8. *What have we spoken so much against thee?* 3:13
   Ye have said it is vain to serve God. 3:14

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Family Bible Studies Stage 3

PHARISEES, SADDUCEES, ESSENES, ZEALOTS, SCRIBES

Consider the life and times of Jesus. The following notes are excellent historical notes to assist you in understanding the classes of people in those days.

THE PHARISEES

- One of the three major sects - "Pharisees" from an Aramic word "Peras" Dan.5:28 sig. to separate - this they did owing to their different lifestyle.
- Group originated out of period of Maccabean war in reaction to the Jews adopting Grecian customs.
- Their doctrine:-
  1. Foreordination - considered it consistent with the free will of men
  2. Immortality of the soul
  3. The resurrection of the body
  4. In the existence of the spirits
  5. Men are rewarded and punished in this life.
  6. Souls of wicked to be detained in prison under the earth
  7. Souls of righteous rise and live again removing into other bodies.
- Pharisaism is the final and necessary result of the religious concept which makes religion consist in conformity to the law, and promises God's grace to the doers of the law only. Religion therefore becomes external
- Their interpretation of the law and traditions prescribed down through the ages made them 'more skilful than others' Josephus
- The Lord denounced them. Matt.15:2,3,6,

THE SADDUCEES

- Opponents to Pharisees - comparatively few in number but educated and mostly wealthy and of good position.
- Held more prominent positions compared to Pharisees such as high priests. They became politically orientated.
- Name comes from 'Zadok' who the Raibins claims lived 300BC
- In opposition to Pharisees who laid great creed on traditions, the Sadducees limited their creed of doctrines to that in the sacred text.
  1. Word of written law was alone binding
  2. Maintained right of private interpretation
  3. Held to the letter of scripture even in respect to administration of duty and justice.
  4. Denied resurrection and future retribution in sheol ascribing the soul dies with the body. Matt.22:23-33 Acts 28:8 Note: Lk.20:27-28
  5. The denial of the existence of angels and spirits
  6. Claimed that we ourselves cause both good and bad and receive folly from within. Affirming that God is not concerned in us doing good or bad.

THE ESSENES

- An order of men who in the time of Christ numbered about 4000 and devoted to a more or less ascetic life.
- By their isolation they sought to escape ceremonial defilement and formed in colonies to protect themselves.
- Their habits were simple, food and clothing plain.
- Although they did not deny the fitness of marriage they abstained from wedlock.

THE ZEALOTS

- A Jewish Patriotic group.
- Note Simon Zelotes "A zealous one" Lk.6:15 Acts 1:13
- The party started by Judas the Galilean in the time of Cyrenius to resist Roman aggression.
- Their fanaticism contributed to provoke the Roman war.
- They ultimately degenerated into a body of Assassins called 'Sicari"

THE SCRIBES

- Gk. Grammateus from "Gramma" - a writing - men of much letters - teachers of the law.
- Mentioned frequently with the Pharisees with whom they were closely aligned. Lk. 5:21 Sometimes were the chief priests Matt.2:4 Mk.8:31 10:31 11:18,27 Lk.9:22 Jn.8:3
- Considered to teach in the Synagogues Mk.1:22 Ambitious of honour Matt.23:5-11 especially from their pupils and the public.
- Their own precept became a burden so much so that they ended up avoiding their own precepts. Matt.23:16 Lk.11:46 - it prevented them. Lk.11:52

THE LAWYERS AND DOCTORS

- Lawyers Gk. 'Nomikos' "learned in the law". Doctor Gk. 'Nomodidaskalos' "a teacher in the law" Cp. Lk 5:17 with v.21 and Mk 2:6 and
- Simple men who devoted themselves to the law became jurists than theologians. Some branched off as Gamaliel who was a doctor and a member of the Sanhedrin. Acts 5:34

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Family Bible Studies Stage 3

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF NO OPEN VISION

The following notes describe what historically took place between the Old and New Testaments.

- Persians defeated by Greeks under Alexander the Great.
- Antiochus Epiphanes repression of worship - lead to revolt of Macabees
- BC 165 Judas Maccabeus recaptured Jerusalem and rededicated it. Nt Jn 10:22
- 100 years of independence via Maccabee dominion.
- BC66 Roman takeover by Pompey.
- Julius Ceasar rival takeover of Pompey - Julius assisted by Antigonius rewarded with procurator of Judea.
- Then Parthians took Jerusalem and placed Antigonus (a Macabee) on throne.
- Herod the Great took Jerusalem with help of Romans - placed on the throne
  - He slew Antigonus
  - Married 10 wives including Mariamme a Maccabeen
  - Became suspicious and slew Marriamme and her sons
  - Began building the temple in honour of Ceasar Augustus.
  - He slew the baby boys at time of Christ
  - Kingdom given to three sons

HEROD

Gk. "Glory of the skin" = flesh.

- He was an Idumean, therefore a descendant of Esau Gen.25:25
- As a Jewish proselyte he was a foreigner by birth therefore fulfilled. Deut 28:43
- His father Antipater gave him the government of Galilee.
- He cleared it of the thieving bandits.
- Romans appointed him a king of Judea.
- He rebuilt the temple at great expense.
- At birth of Jesus he had reigned 36 years and was hated by patriotic Jews.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Look up a Bible dictionary and see if you can prepare some notes on this important forerunner concerning his life and character. Prepare a life chronology of this important man.

LUKE 1

Try your hand at preparing a chapter breakup. The following is a suggested one.

1:1-4	Introduction to whom
v5-10	John Baptist parents introduced
v11-14	Drama in Holy place "Thou shalt have a son"
v15-17	John's ministry foretold
v18-23	Zacharias demands a sign
v24-25	The conception of John
v26-33	The birth of Jesus predicted
v34-37	Mary desires to know more "How can this be"
v38	Behold the handmaid - Mary's belief expressed
v39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
v56	Mary witnesses the birth of John
v57-66	The birth of John
v67-79	Zacharias prophesies of the ministry of his son
v80	The growth of John

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