

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands holding a pen over an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with some text visible, and the word "BIBLE" is printed on the cover. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

**A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
YEAR TWO, QUARTER ONE**

Israel and Judah

**THE BOOKS OF
FIRST AND SECOND KINGS &
FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES**

**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

The Kings of Israel (931-722 B.C.)

1. Jeroboam I (931-910) was a tax superintendent under Solomon until the king saw his ambition. He fled to Egypt but returned to revolt against Rehoboam. Jeroboam introduced calf worship.

2. Nadab (910-909) was slain by Baasha at Gibbethon.

3. Baasha (909-886) reigned for some time before attacking Judah. An odd alliance between Judah and Damascus defeated him.

4. Elah (886-885) reigned about a year before being killed while drunk by Zimri.

5. Zimri (885) occupied the throne for seven days. The army had chosen Omri to rule instead. Zimri was pursued into the palace where he set it ablaze and perished.

6. Tibni (885-880) emerged as the choice of the people of Tirzah and ruled five years during a great struggle with Omri and his factions until he died.

7. Omri (880-874) finally took the throne of Israel after defending Tibni. He began the third dynasty unscrupulously.

8. Ahab (874-853) married Jezebel and introduced her Baal worship to Israel. He killed Naboth for his vineyard.

9. Ahaziah (853-852) fell through a lattice and inquired of Baalzebub regarding his health. Elijah informed him he would die.

10. Jehoram (852-841) continued his brother's alliance with Judah. He alternately worked with and against Elijah.

11. Jehu (841-814) killed King Jehoram after Elisha anointed him to reign instead. He then exterminated all of Ahab's descendants. Next, he massacred many Baalists.

12. Jehoahaz (814-798) was kept in subjection by Damascus throughout his reign. He maintained Jeroboam's idolatry. His plea to God for a deliverer was answered.

13. Jehoash (798-782) visited Elisha on his deathbed and was promised deliverance from Syria, but limited to three victories. He later defeated Amaziah of Judah in battle.

14. Jeroboam II (782-753) repelled Syria, taking Damascus and lost much territory.

15. Zechariah (753-752) was a short-lived, but evil, king, who was killed by Shallum.

16. Shallum (752) ended the Jehu dynasty, but reigned only a month before being killed.

17. Menahem (752-742) seized the throne after killing Shallum. He maintained calf worship in his godless, immoral society.

18. Pekahiah (742-740) was another evil king who reigned just two years before being killed by one of his officers, Pekah.

19. Pekah (740-732) lost much of his territory to Tigleth-Pileser of Assyria before being killed by Hoshea.

20. Hoshea (732-722) was the final king of Israel who became a vassal to Shalmaneser of Assyria by paying him tribute money. Three years later, he conspired with Egypt to overthrow Assyria and stopped paying. His plan was revealed and Shalmaneser carried him captive to Assyria.

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

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Israel and Judah

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT is designed to take a Bible class all the way through the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in two years' time. Sacrifices were made to arrange this pace, especially in obscure passages such as some found in the Pentateuch, major prophets and wisdom literature. Topical class books can supplement the cursory study of these books at other times, however, so that no part of God's writ is slighted.

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Lesson 1: David's Demise

First Kings 1-2 and First Chronicles 26-29

1. What was wrong with King David (First Kings 1:1-10)? What was Adonijah's ambition? How had David failed him?
2. Whom did Adonijah leave out of his plan?
3. What two people conspire to gain David's approval of Solomon's claim to the crown (1:11-21)?
4. What did they see in their future if Adonijah became king?
5. Were they able to gain David's approval (1:22-35)? What ride did David appoint for Solomon that symbolized both his new office and a messianic prophecy?
6. Why did Adonijah give up so quickly and easily (1:36-53)?
7. What conditions did Solomon give for allowing him to live?

8. What were David's last wishes for Solomon (2:1-9)? How did David want his son to approach the building project (First Chronicles 28:9-10, 20)?

9. What was the condition placed upon David's descendants continuing to occupy the throne of Israel? Did they meet this condition? How did David die (First Chronicles 29:26-28)?

10. What one thing did Adonijah request (2:10-21)?

11. How did Solomon respond to this request (2:22-27)?

12. For whose blood was the defector, Joab, condemned (2:28-35)?

13. Why was Shimei executed (2:36-46)?

14. Looking back over this first chapter of Solomon's reign, how was it that his kingdom was established and his father's buried?

Lesson 2: Solomon's Splendor

First Kings 3-10 and Second Chronicles 1-9

1. What was the compliment paid Solomon (First Kings 3:1-3)? What was the criticism?
2. What did Solomon ask God to give him (3:4-9)? Why?
3. What had God expected Solomon might have requested (3:10-15)? What was the condition placed upon God's promise of a long life to Solomon?
4. How did Solomon solve the dispute between the two harlots (3:16-28)?
5. Two of the promises made to Abraham are reported as fulfilled in First Kings 4:1-21. Which ones are they?
6. How does this history characterize the reign of Solomon as it affected the people (4:22-28)?
7. As Moses gave Israel the Law and David gave her the Psalms, what was the contribution of Solomon (4:29-34)?
8. What was Solomon's proposal now that war was over (5:1-18)? What did he want from King Hiram of Tyre?

9. Why didn't the construction of the temple ensure that God would never cast off Israel, no matter how she behaved (6:1-13)?

10. Where was the ark to be placed (6:14-22)?

11. How long did it take to construct the temple (6:23-38)?

12. How long did it take to build Solomon's palace (7:1-12)?

13. What was the name of the craftsman who came to do bronze work (7:13-51)?

14. What was found in the ark (8:1-9)? What had also been there at other times (see Hebrews 9:4, Exodus 16:33, Numbers 17:10)?

15. How did God show his approval of the temple (8:10-21)?

16. What must people do concerning their sin before God will forgive (8:22-66)?

17. Did Solomon's temple stand forever (9:1-28)? What did God say would be the cause of its destruction?

18. Why did the queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon (10:1-29)?

Lesson 3: Solomon's Demise

First Kings 11 and Second Chronicles 9

1. What was the criticism here of Solomon (First Kings 11:1-8)? Why was this a problem?
2. What did Solomon's wives do to his heart? What does this mean? How far did Solomon's change of heart go?
3. What is known about Molech (Leviticus 18:21, 20:2-4, Jeremiah 32:35, Second Kings 23:10)?
4. How did God determine to punish Solomon (11:9-13)? Why did God promise to wait until Solomon was dead to execute his plan?
5. What else would God do for David's sake?
6. Why did the Edomites bear a grudge against Israel (11:14-20; Second Samuel 8:13-14)?

7. What news emboldened Hadad to return to Edom?

8. What grudge did Rezon bear against Israel (11:21-25; Second Samuel 8:3-4)?

9. Who was Jeroboam (11:26-39)?

10. Why did Jeroboam rebel against Solomon?

11. What promise did God make Jeroboam? What were the conditions?

12. To where did Jeroboam escape (11:40-43)? Why?

13. Who reigned over Israel when Solomon died?

Lesson 4: Rehoboam and Jeroboam

First Kings 12-16 and Second Chronicles 10-16

1. With Jeroboam acting as the representative of the downtrodden people, Rehoboam was faced with important decisions very early in his rule (First Kings 12:1-11). What were the demands of Jeroboam and his followers?
2. What did Solomon's advisers tell Rehoboam to do? Did he accept their advice? What did his young friends recommend?
3. Did Rehoboam like the advice from his young friends (12:12-17)? What happened?
4. What event solidified the revolt against Rehoboam (12:18-24)? What tribe sided with Judah and Rehoboam when Israel made Jeroboam king? Did God permit them to make war on Israel?
5. What was Jeroboam's greatest fear (12:25-33)? What did he do about it?
6. Whom did the prophet predict would put away this idolatry (13:1-10)? When did he live? Why did the prophet refuse an offer of hospitality at his hand?
7. How did the old prophet persuade the young prophet to come (13:11-19)?

8. How did the young prophet die (13:20-25)? Why did he die?
9. What did the old prophet do because of his guilt (13:26-34)?
10. Summarize the prophecy of Ahijah (14:1-20).
11. Was Judah any better than Israel (14:21-31)? How so? How was she punished?
12. Summarize the reign of King Abijah of Judah (15:1-8).
13. Summarize the reign of King Asa of Judah (15:9-24).
14. Summarize the reigns of King Nadab and King Baasha of Israel (16:1-7).
15. How did King Elah of Israel die (16:8-20)? Who reigned once Tibni died?
16. Whom did Ahab serve (16:29-34)?

Lesson 5: Elijah

First Kings 17-19

1. What did Elijah prophesy to Ahab (First Kings 17:1-7)? How did God provide for the prophet?
2. What was the widow doing when Elijah arrived in Zarephath (17:8-16)? What did Elijah ask of her? What was Elijah's promise to her if she provided for him?
3. Why did the woman blame Elijah when her son died (17:17-24)? What was the effect of Elijah's miracle upon the woman?
4. How long had the land now known drought (18:1-6)? What was Samaria experiencing?
5. How was Obadiah like the ravens?
6. Why was Obadiah worried about giving Elijah's message to Ahab (18:7-14)?
7. What did Ahab call Elijah when he saw him (18:15-19)? Why? How was Ahab truly the guilty one?

8. What company did Elijah request meet him at Mount Carmel?

9. What question did Elijah ask the people (18:20-29)? What did he mean?

10. How did Elijah mock the prophets of Baal?

11. How did Jehovah prove he was the only true and living God (18:30-46)?
How did Elijah and the people of Israel respond to this service?

12. What did Jezebel have in mind for Elijah's victory reward (19:1-9)?
How did Elijah react to this turn of events?

13. In what was the Lord not (19:10-18)? In what was the Lord?

14. What reservation did God make in Israel?

15. How did Elijah call Elisha to be his assistant (19:19-21)?

Lesson 6: Ahab and Jezebel

First Kings 20-22 and Second Chronicles 17-20

1. What concession was Ahab ready to make to the king of Syria (First Kings 20:1-9)? Where did he draw the line?
2. What did Ahab mean with his proverb (20:10-21)? What played a role in Israel's victory? (There are several answers.)
3. Where and when was the next battle pitched between Syria and Israel (20:22-27)?
4. How was the war resolved (20:28-34)?
5. The young prophet uses a parable similar to Nathan's to condemn Ahab (20:35-43). Of what was the king guilty?
6. Why did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard to Ahab (21:1-14)? Upon finding her husband pouting, Jezebel promises to secure the vineyard for Ahab. How does she go about it?

7. What was Elijah's prophecy against Ahab's opportunism (21:15-24)?

8. How did Ahab gain a little time (21:25-29)?

9. Why was Jehoshaphat dissatisfied with Israel's prophets (22:1-12)? Why did Ahab object to Micaiah? What was the recommendation of Ahab's prophets?

10. Micaiah's first report to the king was sarcastic (22:13-23). What did he really see in Israel's prospects against Syria?

11. How was Micaiah rewarded for his honesty (22:24-28)?

12. How were the prophecies of both Micaiah and Elijah fulfilled (22:29-40)?

13. How does history remember Jehoshaphat (22:41-50)?

14. How does history remember Ahaziah (22:51-53)?

Lesson 7: Elisha

Second Kings 1-4, 6

1. Why was Ahaziah doomed to death (Second Kings 1:1-8)?
2. How did Elijah get rid of the king's messengers (1:9-18)?
3. Why was Elisha sharp with the sons of the prophets (2:1-8)? How did Elisha prove his loyalty?
4. What did Elisha ask of Elijah (2:9-18)? What was Elijah's condition?
5. How was Elijah removed from the Earth? What item signified the passing of responsibility to Elisha?
6. How did the young people mock Elisha (2:19-25)? How did he punish them?
7. What enemy did Israel, Judah, and Edom share (3:1-12)?

8. What fatal misconception did the Moabites have when they saw the red water in the valley (3:13-23)?

9. How did the king of Moab cause indignation in Israel (3:24-27)?

10. How did God bless the poor widow by Elisha's hand (4:1-7)?

11. What did the Shunammite couple do for Elisha (4:8-17)? What did Gehazi suggest Elisha do to repay her?

12. How did Elisha resurrect the child many hours after he died (4:18-37)?

13. What miracles of Jesus are foreshadowed by Elisha here (4:38-44)?

14. Why was the prophet more concerned than expected over the lost ax head (6:1-7)?

15. What was symbolized by the vision of the chariots of fire and horses (6:8-23)? How did Elisha capture a company of Syrians?

16. How low had Israel sunk as Ben-Hadad threatened them again (6:24-33)?

Lesson 8: Naaman the Leper

Second Kings 5

1. Was Naaman a part of the nation of Israel (Second Kings 5:1-7)? How does the Holy Spirit describe Naaman?
2. To whom does the passage give the credit for Naaman's success? Why does this seem odd?
3. For what reason could this young girl have been bitter about being in a Syrian's service? Does she appear to be of this attitude?
4. What was her prescription for Naaman's leprosy? What did the king of Israel think when he received the letter from Syria?
5. What was Elisha's prescription for healing Naaman's leprosy (5:8-14)?
6. Did Naaman immediately follow the "doctor's" orders? Why, or why not? How did his servants persuade Naaman to change his mind?

7. How did Naaman intend to show his gratitude to Elisha (5:15-19)? To God?

8. What pardon did Naaman ask of God through Elisha? Why?

9. Why did Gehazi chase after Naaman once Elisha refused his gift the last time (5:20-27)?

10. What two lies did Gehazi tell?

11. How was Gehazi punished?

Lesson 9: Bloody Reigns

Second Kings 7-12 and Second Chronicles 21-24

1. What was Elisha's prediction regarding the siege of Samaria and its resultant famine in the city (Second Kings 7:1-12)? Why had the Syrian army fled?
2. Did the king believe the lepers' report was really good news for him? What did he think?
3. How did Elisha's prophecies come to pass (7:13-20)?
4. What was Elisha's new prophecy (8:1-6)? Whom did he protect?
5. What did Elisha tell Hazael to say to Ben-Hadad concerning his prospects for recovery (8:7-15)? How did Hazael become the king of Syria?
6. In whose ways did Jehoshaphat's son and grandson walk as kings (8:16-29)? Why did God not destroy Judah?
7. What did the madman and babler tell Jehu (9:1-13)? How did the others receive the news?

8. Whose death was avenged as Jehu killed King Jehoram (9:14-26)?

9. Why did Jezebel call Jehu “Zimri” (9:27-37; see First Kings 16:9-18)?

10. How did Jehu show his “zeal for the Lord” (10:1-17)?

11. How did Jehu manage to assemble all the Baalists before him (10:18-28)? What did he do with them, once they were gathered?

12. What was Jehu’s downfall (10:29-36)?

13. Who wanted the throne of Judah when Ahaziah died (11:1-12)? Who was the rightful heir now?

14. Why didn’t the Baalists find refuge in Judah now that Israel had killed their fellow worshipers (11:13-21)?

15. Why were the “high places” created (12:1-16; First Kings 3:2)?

16. How did Joash meet his end?

Lesson 10: Fall of Israel

Second Kings 13-17 and Second Chronicles 25-28

1. Why did God initially give Israel up to Syria (Second Kings 13:1-13)? Why did he later relent?
2. What was the evidence that Israel did not repent of her idolatry?
3. To what did Joash allude when he mentioned “the chariots of Israel and their horsemen” (13:14-21; see Second Kings 2:12)?
4. What was the penalty for Joash’s apparent lack of zeal in the prospect of striking Syria?
5. How many victories did Israel win over Syria (13:22-25)?
6. Why did the king not punish the children of his father’s murderers (14:1-7)?
7. Why was Israel able to defeat Judah (14:8-22; see Second Chronicles 25:14-20)?
8. What prophet to Nineveh, often assumed to be mere legend, figures into the record of King Jeroboam II’s reign (14:23-29)?

9. What problem continued to plague every king of Judah (15:1-7)?

10. How did Menahem keep Pul, the king of Assyria, from invading Israel (15:8-31)? Which of his successors invaded Israel anyway?

11. What happened to worship during the reign of Ahaz (15:32-16:4)?

12. Two nations fought against two other nations (16:5-9). Name them in their respective alliances.

13. Describe the extent of the apostasy of King Ahaz (16:10-20).

14. Why was Israel's King Hoshea imprisoned (17:1-4)?

15. Why did Israel ultimately fall (17:5-23)?

16. What was the state of worship once the Assyrians replaced the Israelites in Samaria (17:24-41)?

Lesson 11: Hezekiah

Second Kings 18-21 and Second Chronicles 29-33

1. What did Hezekiah do, that no other king had ever been brave enough to attempt (Second Kings 18:1-8)? Why was Hezekiah such a prosperous and successful monarch (see also Second Chronicles 29:1-31:21)?
2. What was happening in Israel as Hezekiah ascended (18:9-12)? Why?
3. The Assyrians perceived that King Hezekiah was relying upon two powers in his struggle, both of which they mocked (18:13-25). What were the two powers (see also Second Chronicles 32:7-8)?
4. How severe a defeat did Rabshakeh predict for Judah (18:26-37)?
5. What was Isaiah's prophecy concerning the king of Assyria (19:1-13)?
6. How did Hezekiah's prayer to God strike a far different chord than anything heard from most of his predecessors (19:14-19)?
7. For whose sake did God plan to preserve Jerusalem from the Assyrians (19:20-34)?

8. How did God save Jerusalem (19:35-37; see also Second Chronicles 32:20-23)?
9. What was Isaiah's initial prophecy to the sick monarch (20:1-11)? How did Hezekiah gain a little more time? What sign did God use to prove the addition of fifteen years?
10. What was Hezekiah's failure when the King of Babylon came calling (20:12-21; see also Second Chronicles 32:25-26)? What did Isaiah prophesy about this event?
11. Why wasn't King Hezekiah more concerned about this prophecy of doom?
12. How did Manasseh undo his father's good deeds (21:1-18)? What saved Manasseh (see Second Chronicles 33:10-20)?
13. What would make both ears tingle?
14. What reforms did Amon make when he took his father's throne (21:19-26)?

Lesson 12: Josiah

Second Kings 22-23 and Second Chronicles 34-36

1. How old was Josiah when he became king (Second Kings 22:1-2)? What was Josiah up to in the first years of his reign (Second Chronicles 34:3-7)?
2. What public work project did he begin (22:3-10)? What did Hilkiah find in the temple? How could it have been so forgotten?
3. How did Josiah react to hearing it read (22:11-13)? Why?
4. Why couldn't disaster in Judah be averted (22:14-20)? Why was Josiah to be spared the punishment?
5. Why didn't Josiah just ensure that the priests read the law (23:1-9)?
6. For what did the people take their stand? What does this mean?
7. Why did not Josiah act more tolerantly to the idolaters who had captured his predecessors' favor (23:10-14)?

8. Whose gravestone did he see (23:15-20)?

9. Consulting psychics is a popular pastime today. How would Josiah have viewed such a thing (23:21-27)?

10. What great distinction was placed upon Josiah (verse 25)?

11. Why wasn't Josiah's reformation sufficient to cause God to relent of his intentions to destroy Judah (23:26-30)?

12. How did Josiah die? What might have prevented his death on that day (Second Chronicles 35:20-25)?

13. What became of King Jehoahaz (23:31-34)?

14. How did Jehoiakim (Eliakim) become king (23:35-37)?

Lesson 13: The Fall of Judah

Second Kings 24-25 and Second Chronicles 36

1. Egypt was soon defeated in battle by a rising world power that had broken away from Assyria (Second Kings 24:1-7). What was that power and who was its ruler?
2. What did he do with Jehoiakim? How did Jehoiakim respond to the new arrangement?
3. Who ruled in the place of Jehoiakim when he died?
4. How was the new king treated (24:8-16)?
5. How was Jerusalem treated by the invader?
6. Who took the throne when Jehoiachin was removed (24:17-20)? How did this new ruler repay Nebuchadnezzar for making him king?
7. What did Zedekiah's rebellion lead Nebuchadnezzar to do (25:1-7)?

8. How was Zedekiah punished for his rebellion and escape attempt?

9. What was Nebuzaradan's mission in the city of David (25:8-21)?

10. Nebuchadnezzar didn't leave much behind in Judah, but he did install a governor (25:22-26). Who was the governor appointed to watch over nothing?

11. What was his philosophy for dealing with their oppressors?

12. How was Jehoiachin treated when Evil-Merodach became king of Babylon (25:27-30)?

13. In one sentence, describe the condition of Israel as it exists at the point in history where the record of the Kings ends. Who had defeated Israel?

14. In one sentence, describe the condition of Judah as it exists at the point in history where the record of the Kings ends. Who defeated Judah?

The Rulers of Judah (931-586 B.C.)

1. Rehoboam (931-913) took the advice of his young counselors and ignited a revolt. He was forced to surrender the northern kingdom. He gave the temple treasures to the Egyptians to buy peace.

2. Abijam (913-911) made war on Israel in a slightly successful attempt to recover the treasures of the temple.

3. Asa (911-870) tried to rid Judah of idolatry and made reforms. His reign was peaceful in the beginning but was broken when Baasha of Israel tried to fortify Ramah. He was loved and honored.

4. Jehoshaphat (870-848) was one of the best and most pious kings in Judah's history. He formed an alliance with Israel to fight wars and battled idolatry.

5. Jehoram (848-841) put his brothers to death soon after taking the throne. He established Baal worship. Only his son, Ahaziah, survived revolts by Edom and Libnah and an invasion by the Philistines and Arabs.

6. Ahaziah (841), nephew of Israel's Ahaziah, was an idolater and was killed at Megiddo.

7. Athaliah (841-835) was Jehoram's widow who killed all the survivors of the royal family, save for Joash.

8. Joash (835-796) was revealed at age seven to be the heir. He ended Athaliah's tyrannical reign. His rule was good for 23 years he renewed Baalism and killed Zechariah who rebuked him.

9. Amaziah (796-767) began by punishing his father's murderers. He unsuccessfully battled Israel.

10. Azariah (767-740) or Uzziah, assumed the throne at age 16 and ruled long in the fear of God. He received leprosy for burning incense on the altar.

11. Jotham (740-732) served God.

12. Ahaz (732-716) ruled during a siege of Jerusalem at the hands of Israel and Syria. Isaiah encouraged him and Judah was able to endure. Ahaz forsook God and asked Assyria for help. Tigleth-Pileser didn't expel invaders but made Judah pay. Ahaz sent his son through the fire of Molech and introduced a sundial.

13. Hezekiah (716-686) repaired the temple and led Judah to regain land from Philistia. He refused Assyrian dominance and prepared for war. His prayer gave him 15 more years of life; however, he foolishly showed the Babylonians his treasures. Sennacherib took much of Judah but was later stopped.

14. Manasseh (686-642) took the throne at 12 and resumed idolatry. He dropped a Babylonian alliance and made reforms.

15. Amon (642-640) served false gods and was killed by conspirators.

16. Josiah (640-609) took the throne at eight. He destroyed the idols and made other reforms upon finding the law. He opposed Pharaoh-Necho's travel along the seacoast and was killed at Megiddo.

17. Jehoahaz (609) was chosen king over his older brother. He was deposed by Pharaoh and imprisoned in Egypt.

18. Jehoiakim (609-597) was his older brother whom Pharaoh crowned. Judah served Egypt four years until Babylon besieged Jerusalem and carried him to Babylon. He served as puppet three years, rebelled and was executed.

19. Jehoiachin (597) was his son who ruled three months as Babylon took the palace.

20. Zedekiah (597-586) allied with Egypt, which brought the final onslaught from Babylon.

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