



# Old Testament History

Psalm 95 1 Cor 10:1-13 John 5:31-40

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Let's try to get our hands around the end of the Old Testament times.

One of King David's sons was Solomon, and when David died, Solomon became King over Israel. When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became King of Israel<sup>1</sup>. God promised to bless him and his reign if he remained faithful to the Lord. However, Rehoboam rebelled against the Lord; he was a harsh ruler and burdened the people with heavy taxation. The nation of Israel split into two; ten of the tribes stayed together and kept the name Israel, and they made their capitol the city of Samaria. The other two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, stayed together and they made their capitol the city of Jerusalem.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel rebelled against God and fell into idolatry. *Everyone* of their Kings was evil. They worshipped golden calves and the gods of the pagans. They were sexually immoral and depraved. Every one of their Kings was evil and wicked in the sight of God. Over and over again, the Lord sent prophets to warn the Kings and the people. Prophets like Elijah and Elisha; Amos and Hosea were sent by God; but yet the Kings nor the people would repent. **FINALLY, THE LORD HAD HAD ENOUGH.** In a series of three brutal attacks, the Assyrians captured Samaria, and took the Israelites prisoners. The Israelites were deported; those 10 tribes of Israel are lost forever... they never returned to Israel. The Northern Kingdom of Israel lasted just over 200 years<sup>2</sup>.

The story of the Northern Kingdom of Israel is one of rebellion and unrepentance; they continually ignored the Lord and His Word and fell deeper and deeper into sin. Their rebellion, idolatry and disobedience brought God's

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<sup>1</sup> You could date King Solomon to about 950BC. Here is an easy way to roughly date the Old Testament:  
Adam 4000 BC Noah 2500 BC Abraham 2000 BC Moses 1500 BC David 1000 BC Ezra 500 BC Christ 0 BC/AD

<sup>2</sup> You can read the epitaph of this utterly tragic story in 2 Kings 17. The idolatry of the Israelites rivaled that of the vilest pagans; even to the point of sacrificing their own children in fires of pagan gods.

wrath and judgment down upon them, and they were destroyed. **It's a strong warning for us today.** That's one of the reasons God preserved the Old Testament for us.

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us <small>Romans 15:4.</small>
These things took place as examples to keep us from craving evil things as they did. <small>1 Corinthians 10:6</small>
Now these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. <small>1 Corinthians 10:11</small>

The Old Testament stories are examples and warnings for us to learn today. *The sad story of the Northern Kingdom of Israel is a foreshadow of Judgment Day.* God will certainly punish all rebellion, idolatry, and disobedience. The Day of Judgement will be swift and certain and final.

**Learn from the Northern tribes of Israel and don't live your life like they did!**

If you are rebelling against the Lord your God, then repent!

If you are involved in sexual immorality, then repent!

If you are ignoring or neglecting God and His Word, then repent!

**NOW IS THE TIME TO STOP SINNING;** *turn away and confess your sins to God!* God's wrath is real; His punishment will come. Judgment Day is imminent. Don't tempt the Lord your God with your rebellion and immorality. *Turn from it, confess it to God, and believe that you are forgiven because the Lord Jesus Christ!*

God sent Jesus to forgive your sins, and to restore your relationship with the Lord. He is the Obedient One; even obeying the Father to the point of dying on the cross as the Savior of the world. In Him you find forgiveness and eternal life; and only in Him are you empowered to live an obedient life of loving God and serving your neighbor.

Today, **learn from the Northern Tribes;** don't follow their example of disobedience and fall into the wrath of God.

**The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and lost forever.**

*The Southern Kingdom of Israel was close behind.*

The Southern Kingdom of Israel took the name Judah<sup>3</sup>, and they made Jerusalem their capitol. They too rebelled against the Lord, and fell into idolatry, rebellion, and sexual immorality. Only 8 of their 28 Kings were godly men. Over and over again, the Lord sent prophets to warn the Kings and the people. Prophets like Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah were sent by God, but yet the Kings nor the people would repent. **FINALLY, THE LORD HAD HAD ENOUGH.** The Lord allowed the Babylonians to sweep through Judah, destroy Jerusalem, burn down the Temple, and take the people captive<sup>4</sup>.

**But there was hope for the Southern Kingdom in the midst of all of this evil.**

The tribe of Judah was the Messianic line; the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah** would be the Messiah, the Savior of the world<sup>5</sup>. So **the Lord had mercy** on the people of Judah for the sake of the Messiah, and He promised that they would only be captive and exiled for 70 years, and then they would return to Jerusalem. Those 70 years are called the **Babylonian Captivity**<sup>6</sup>. For the sake of the coming Messiah, the Lord had mercy on His People in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and He gave them hope.

**The Lord does the same thing for you today as well.**

For the sake of the Messiah, God has mercy on you and gives you hope.

Like the Israelites, both the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms, we all fall into sin, rebellion, disobedience, and immorality. But the Lord is merciful to us, He sent the

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<sup>3</sup> The Southern Kingdom composed of two tribes: Judah and Benjamin. However, Judah was large, and Benjamin was small, and Benjamin was eventually absorbed into Judah.

<sup>4</sup> The final blow happened in 586BC. This depressing saga is told in 2 Kings 24-25.

<sup>5</sup> The **Messianic line** is the “family tree” of the Messiah; it starts with Adam/Eve and extends to Joseph/Mary (See Luke 3, Matthew 1). Of the 12 Tribes of Israel, Judah (Jacob’s 4<sup>th</sup> son) was chosen to be Messianic (see Genesis 49; especially verses 8-12). Jesus, according to His human nature, is a descendent of Judah. The term “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” is a royal title, and it comes from Genesis 49:9. The title is used for the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Jesus in Revelation 5:5. God was at work to preserve the tribe of Judah for the sake of the Messiah, who is the Savior of all nations! This is why the tribe of Judah was spared and given hope. That, ultimately, is Gospel good news for us and all people, even today!

<sup>6</sup> The prophecy is found in Jeremiah 29:10-11: “This is what the Lord says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Messiah, the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**, to be your Savior. We know Him as **Jesus**, Who's death and resurrection brings the mercy of God to us. In mercy, the Lord does not look upon your sins nor even remember them. Your sins are forgiven because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your relationship with God is restored: you have peace with God, unlimited access to Him, and the certain hope of eternal life.

The **Lion of the Tribe of Judah** is the **BASIS** of your hope. Hope is confident faith in the promises of God; especially the promises of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. You will live forever because Jesus has risen from the dead. Because He lives, you live. In Him you have the **hope**, the **confident assurance** of eternal life.

God is merciful to you and gives you hope because of the Messiah, the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**, the Lord Jesus Christ. For the same exact reason, the Lord was merciful to the Southern Kingdom of Judah as well.

After 70 years, the Lord kept His promise and the Babylonian Captivity ended. The Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem, where they began the process of rebuilding their city and God's Holy Temple.

Over the next few of weeks of Lent, we will be looking at **that story** of rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple of God through the eyes of a minor prophet in the Old Testament. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be spending time in Jerusalem around 520BC. We will listen and learn from a long forgotten prophet named Haggai<sup>7</sup>.

Today, we thank God that He does not judge and condemn us like He did the Northern Kingdom of Israel. But rather He treats us with mercy and gives us hope, like He did the Southern Kingdom of Israel. The Lord treats you in mercy and gives you hope because of the Lord Jesus Christ, the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah!**

Amen!

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<sup>7</sup> GET A HEAD START! Spend some time reading the OT book of Haggai --> its only 2 chapters long! I have created a formatted text with a few notes for my personal study; if you would like a copy of that, send me an email and I will send it to you or I can print a copy for you!