Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord
Session 19: The Last Kings of Judah (Ch. 18-24)
Remember Acts 17:11

Outline of the Historical Books (Pre-Exile):

Joshua:	The Conquest of the Land
Judges:	The Generation After Joshua
Ruth:	A Story of Love & Grace
I Samuel:	The Rise of the Monarchy
II Samuel:	The Reign of David
I Kings:	Solomon & A Divided Kingdom
II Kings:	**The Prophets & the Downfall**
I Chronicles:	
II Chronicles:	

Outline of II Kings:

The Road to the Exile (Ch. 18-25)

Hezekiah's Victory
Manasseh's Corruption
Josiah's Reforms
The Babylonian Invasion
An Epilogue of Judah
(Time of Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah & Jeremiah)

The Prophet Isaiah:

- Isaiah: "Yahweh is Salvation"
- Married: "Prophetess" (Isa. 8:3)
- Prophetic Career (Judah):
  - Azariah (Uzziah), Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah
  - Possibly the Early Reign of Manasseh
  - Circa 64 Years
  - Per Rabbinic Tradition: Murdered by Manasseh

King Hezekiah of Judah (716-687BC):

- Hezekiah: "Yahweh is My Strength"
- Concurrent with the Prophetic Ministries of Isaiah, Micah, and Hosea
  - Referenced in Jeremiah
- Family:
  - Son of King Ahaz
  - Mother Abijah (Daughter of High Priest Zechariah)
  - Married Hephzibah (Trad. Daughter of Isaiah)

King Hezekiah of Judah (Cont.):

- Declared King at 25 (18:1-8)
    - Sole Reign for 29 Years
    - Potential Coregent with Ahaz for 14 Years
- Rebellion Against Assyria (18:13-19:37)
    - Hezekiah Ended Tribute Paid to Assyria (Ahaz)
    - King Sennacherib of Assyria Invades Judah
    - Hezekiah Relents & Offers Tribute
    - Soldiers Continue to Harass Jerusalem
    - Hezekiah Goes to the Temple in Prayer (Isaiah)
    - An Angel is Sent: Kills 185,000 Assyrian Soldiers (2 Chr. 32)
    - Sennacherib Returns & is Assassinated
- Restoration of the Temple
    - Removed Idols from Jerusalem
    - Raised Money for Repairs
    - Destroyed Pegan Shrines in Judah
    - Destroyed the Brazen Serpent
    - Reinstituted the Passover Pilgrimage (2 Chr. 30)
- Illness (Ch. 20)
    - Isaiah: "Put your house in order…"(20:7)
    - Hezekiah Goes to the Temple in Prayer
    - Isaiah Delivers a Message of God's Healing
    - God Added 15 Years to the King's Life
    - The King of Babylon Sends Envoys & Gifts
    - Hezekiah Shows Them the Palace, Temple, & Armory
    - Isaiah Confronts Hezekiah & Prophecies the Babylonian Exile (Not in His Lifetime)
    - Hezekiah Resigns Himself to the Fate of Judah

Manasseh, the Apostate King (687-643BC):

- Manasseh: "He Who Has Forgotten"
    - Became King at 12 (55 Year Reign)
    - Not Buried with the Davidic House
- Rampage Against the Worship of God
    - Reinstituted Canaanite Idol Worship
    - Reinstituted the Persecution of the Prophets
    - Rebuilt Pagan Shrines in Israel
    - Actively Destroyed Copies of the Torah
    - Placed Idols on Temple Grounds
    - Sacrificed a Son in Moloch Worship (21:6)
    - Trad: Murdered Isaiah

Manasseh, the Apostate King (Cont.):

- Prophetic Reaction
  - Isaiah, Habakkuk, (Poss. Nahum, Zephaniah)
  - Ex. 21:10-15 & Jer. Ch. 2
- Capture & Repentance (2 Chr. 33)
  - Jerusalem was Harassed by Assyria
  - Captured Manasseh & Brought Him to Babylon
  - In Destress, Manasseh Repents
  - Upon His Return He Cleanses the Temple
  - Restores Monotheistic Worship (High Places Remained)

The Reign of King Amon (643-641BC):

- Amon: "Skilled Workman"
- Crowned at 22 (2 Year Reign)
- (Re)Reinstituted Idolatry in Judah
- Trad: Actively Burned Copies of Torah & Allowed the Temple to Fall into Disuse
- Assassinated by His Officials (2 Chr. 33:24)
  - Buried with Manasseh
  - Officials were Themselves Murdered

The Revival of King Josiah (641-609BC):

- Josiah: "Healed by God"
  - Crowned at Age 8 (Reigned 31 Years)
  - "Walked in the way of David his father…" (22:2; 2 Chr. 34:2)
- Children of Josiah
  1. Johannan
  2. Eliakim ("Jehoiakim" by Pharaoh Necho II)
     (Grandson) Jeconiah ("Jehoiachin")
  3. Mattanyahu (Changed to "Zedekiah")
  4. Shallum (Changed to "Jehoahaz")
- Religious Restoration
  - Committed Himself to God at Age 16
  - At 20 Began Removing the Pagan Alters/Shrines
  - Ordered the Restoration of the Temple (Paid from the Temple Taxes)
  - A Surviving Copy of Torah is Discovered by Hilkiah the High Priest
  - Josiah Rends His Robe in Repentance
  - The Prophetess Huldah is Consulted (22:15-20)
  - Torah Read from the Temple and the Covenant was Renewed Between the King, Israel, & God

The Revival of King Josiah (Cont.):

- Religious Restoration (Cont.)
  - Judah & Samaria are Cleansed
  - The Temple at Bethel is Destroyed (1Kgs. 13)
  - Removed the Pagan Shrines from Manasseh, Ephraim, & Naphtali (2 Chr. 34:6-7)
  - Ordered a Great Passover Observance
  - Returned the Ark of the Covenant to the Temple (2 Chr. 35:1-4) Trad. Hidden by Hezekiah
  - Reorganized the Choruses of the Priesthood
- Regional Power Vacuum & Death
  - Assyria Was in Decline/Babylon Was Rising
  - Assyrian Vassal States Became Independent
  - Pharoah Necho II Marched to Assist Assyria from Babylonian Aggression (Battle of Harran)
  - Josiah Attempted to Block the Egyptian Army in the Jezreel Valley at Megiddo
  - Josiah was Shot with an Egyptian Arrow

Succession Crisis (23:31-37; Ch. 24):

- Jehoahaz (Shallum) Was Anointed King in 609BC
  - Reigns for 3 Months
  - After Being Defeated by the Babylonians, Necho II Deposed Jehoahaz Installing Jehoiakim (Eliakim)
  - Judah Becomes a Vassal of Egypt
  - King Jehoahaz Dies a Prisoner in Egypt
- Jehoiakim Reigns (609-598BC)
  - Pays Heavy Tributes to Egypt
  - Egypt is Defeated by Nebuchadnezzar II of
  - Jehoiakim Allies with Babylon
  - Nebuchadnezzar Takes Hostages & Tribute (Includes Daniel)
  - Denounced by Jeremiah Tyranny (Jer. 36:1-32)
  - Babylon Repulsed by Egypt
  - Judah Switches Sides
  - Jehoiakim Dies During a Siege of Jerusalem
- Jehoiakim's Son Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) Installed by Nebuchadnezzar
  - Jehoiachin Deposed After 3 Months for Suspected Treachery
  - Zedekiah (Mattanyahu, His Uncle) Installed as King

For Discussion:

- Share Reading and Journal Highlights.

Consider Along with the Bible:

- How Does the World Define Leadership?
- What Should We Look for in a Leader?
- Do We Ask for God's Choice?