

# 17 -18 Bible Study #3

9 26 17

# Introduction to 2017 – 2018 Bible Study (OT Prophets)

9/26/17

# Prayer Requests

- **Poor Clare – 703 768 4918** Alexandria, VA - leave a message on recorder
- **Dominican Sisters -540 635 3982** Linden, VA - speak to a sister
- **Donations are welcome**

# First Week

- Overview and definition of the prophets
- 12 periods of Bible History
- Development and overview of the Bible and 14 historical books
- Timeline of united and divided kingdoms

# Last Week

- **20 Evil Kings of Israel**
- **7 Non-Canonical Prophets of Israel:**
  - Ahijah – to Jeroboam promising 10 tribes; sons will die
  - Man of God – to Jeroboam destruction of temple at Bethel
  - Lying prophet – tricked man of God causing his death
  - Jehu - *to Baasha* – house will be destroyed
  - Micaiah – *to Ahab* – death of King of Judah in battle
  - **Elijah** – *to Ahab*
  - **Elisha** – *to Joram*

# Last Week (Cont)

- **3 Canonical prophet of Israel**
  - Jonah - prophesied to Assyria and *Jeroboam II*
  - Amos - prophesied to *Jeroboam II*
  - Hosea - prophesied to Jeroboam II
  - **Fall of Israel occurred in 722 BC \***
- **16 of the 20 Kings of Judah**

# Israelite Kings Date Chart

(Based on the chronology of John Bright)

Dennis Bratcher

The United Monarchy					
Dates (BC)	Kingdom of the Israelites				
1020-1000	Saul				
1000-961	David				
961-922	Solomon				
The Divided Kingdoms					
Dates (BC)	Israel (Northern)	Judah (Southern)	Dates (BC)		
922-901	Jeroboam I	Rehoboam	922-915		
901-900	Nadab	Abijah	915-913		
900-877	Baasha	Asa	913-873		
877-876	Elah	Jehoshaphat	873-849		
876	Zimri      Tibni				
876-869	Omri				
869-850	Ahab				
850-849	Ahaziah				
849-843	Joram (Jehoram)	Jehoram	849-843		
843-815	Jehu	Ahaziah	843		
815-802	Jehoahaz	Athaliah (non-Davidic Queen)	843-837		
802-786	Jehoash (Joash)	Joash	837-800		
786-746	Jeroboam II	Amaziah	800-783		
746-745	Zachariah	Uzziah (Azariah)	783-742		
745	Shallum	Jotham (co-regent)	750-742		
745-737	Menahem	Jotham (king)	742-735		
737-736	Pekahiah	Ahaz	735-715		
736-732	Pekah				
732-724	Hoshea				
721	Fall of Samaria				
		Hezekiah	715-687		
		Manasseh	687-642		
		Amon	642-640		
		Josiah	640-609		
		Jehoahaz	609		
		Jehoikim (Eliakim)	609-598		
		Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598-597		
		Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-587		

# Non-Canonical Prophets

- The following **Non-Canonical Prophets** prophesied to Judah:

**Shemaiah** – *to Rehoboam* – not to attack Israel

# Canonical prophets oriented toward Judah and Assyria

- *Isaiah* – prophesied to Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
- Micah – prophesied to Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
- Nahum – prophesied to the King of Assyria
- Zephaniah – prophesied to Josiah
- *Jeremiah* – prophesied to Josiah
- **Fall of Judah 586 BC \***

# The Book of the Prophet Isaiah

# Isaiah - 740-680 BC Pre Ex

- Was born around **765 BC**, married and had at least two sons
- Was a resident of *Jerusalem* during the reign of 4 kings
- Received prophetic visions while in the temple in Jerusalem
- Began to prophesy at the **age of 25** at the very end of the reign of King *Uzziah*, **Jotham**, **Ahaz**, and **Hezekiah**
- Proclaims the **fall of *Israel*** and ***Judah*** as punishment for both nations infidelity

# Isaiah (Cont)

- Many scholars believed, because of the difference in language, that the **Book of Isaiah** was written by at least three different authors:
  - **1st Isaiah - Is 1- 39 (740 – 690 BC) The Book of Judgment**
    - Bad News
      - Judgment
      - Breaking of the Covenant
      - Curses of Deuteronomy from Moses

# Isaiah (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Isaiah - Is 40- 55 (550- 525 BC) The Book of Consolation – Good News**
  - Restoration
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Isaiah - Is 56-66 (525- 500 BC) focus on reconstruction after the Exile**

# Isaiah (Cont)

- Today most believe that there is only **one author** who used different language when speaking about bad versus good things and that he was given a glimpse into “divine providence” spanning the entire history of the exile and return
- The thrust of his message is “judgment on sin”

# Isaiah (Cont)

- **Major themes of Isaiah 1-39:**
  - *Yahweh* is king of all the earth
  - The central importance of the city of *Jerusalem*
  - The failures of *Judah* when they turned their backs on God
  - The people disobey God who is not pleased
  - The universalistic men of *Yahweh* as Lord

# Isaiah (Cont)

- **Other themes include:**

- The importance of faith
- A remnant will be spared with a messiah for its king
- The just man as one like the “poor of Yahweh”
- Use of formal court room language
  - The *rib* or law suit
  - God as a prosecutor
- Imagery of the vineyard
- Punishment will conclude with exile
- God as holy and righteous

# Isaiah (Cont)

- Three minor prophets were all speaking at about the same time as Isaiah:
  - **Micah - 740-700 BC – Israel and Judah**
  - **Zephaniah - 632-628 BC – Judah**
  - **Nahum - 664-654 BC – Assyria \***

# The Book of the Prophet Micah

# Micah 740 – 700 BC Pre Ex

- Was from a village in the low-lying hills country of *Judea* under the watchful eye of the military fortress at *Lachish*
- He ministered to *Israel* and *Judah*
- Was raised in the country, he was familiar with the poor of *Judah*
- He was also at home among the sages of *Judah* as he discerned the folly of the two states
- He contrasted the kingdom to come with the seedbed of corruption in *Jerusalem*

# Micah (Cont)

- With the fall of *Samaria* in **722 BC** many of the *Israelites* fled to *Judah* for asylum
- The population of *Jerusalem* increased fourfold while her leaders grew more corrupt and the moral fiber further disintegrated
- Both he and *Isaiah* (**640 – 700 BC**) spoke of and lived to witness the fall of *Samaria (Israel)* in **721 BC**

# Micah (Cont)

- Both witnessed the rise of the *Assyrian Empire* before its eclipse by *Babylon* in **612 BC** with the conquering of *Nineveh*
- *Micah's* ministry supports the significant reform programs of King *Hezekiah*
- His book can be seen as “cliff notes” for the book of *Isaiah*

# Micah (Cont)

- He scourges:
  - the moneyed capitalists
  - the inexorable usurer
  - the swindling tradesmen
  - families divided by rivalry
  - avaricious priests and prophets
  - tyrants
  - venial judges \*

# The Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

# Zephaniah 632 -628 BC Pre Ex

- Unfortunately, almost all of the information we have about him comes from his book
- He prophesied during the reign of the good **King *Josiah*** of *Judah* and just before the ministries of the *Jeremiah*
- He preached against:
  - Alien manners
  - Worship of false gods
  - Rebuke of Court officials

# Zephaniah (Cont)

- *He was active in the city of Jerusalem*
- He pointed toward a period of religious reform (to be carried out by King *Josiah*)
- He preached against the sins of idolatry which had been rampant during the reigns of King *Manasseh* and *Amon*
- He laid the ax to the root of the religious and moral corruption which had even reached the sanctuary of the Temple
- He predicted the coming “**Day of the Lord**”

# Zephaniah (Cont)

- Historically, *Judah* had just been robbed of part of its territory by the *Assyrian King Sennacherib*
- Thus, *Zephaniah* experienced living partly under *Assyrian* rule and during the wicked reigns of the *Judean* Kings, *Manasseh* and *Amon*, who favored religious disorders
- The coming weakness of the *Assyrians* raised hopes for national recovery accompanied by religious reform

# The Book of the Prophet Nahum

# Nahum 664-654 BC Pre Ex

- *Nahum* was from the village of **Elkosh**, on the East bank of the *Tigris River*, approximately 2 miles North of **Mosel** (in *Assyria*)
- *Nahum* means “comforted by *Yahweh*”
- He ministered God’s Word during the decline of the *Assyrian Empire* under the **Assyrian King Ashurbanipal** (668-627 BC)
- He prophesies about the destruction of ***Nineveh*** and the **collapse of the *Assyrian Empire***
- He is seen as one of the great poets of Israel

# Nahum

- His ministry was during the reign of King *Manasseh* of *Judah* (**696-642 BC**) who was a vassal of *Assyria*
- He contrasts the **punishments of *Assyria*** (judgment on *Nineveh*) with the **salvation of *Judah*** (comfort to *Israel*)
- His **main theme** was **raising the hope of the people of *Judah*** based on the destruction of *Nineveh*, which was captured by *Babylonians* in **612 BC**

# Nahum

- He described a **righteous God** judging and destroying human evil
- He pulsates the hatred of the **people of *Israel*** against the people of *Assyria*
- He says that God is not the source of evil for it comes from humans who rebel and miss the mark of doing His will
- His message was short-lived due to fall of *Jerusalem* in **586 BC\***
- Before we look at Jeremiah we will make a brief review of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23-24 to set the stage of the final days of Judah before the Babylonian Captivity

A look at the final days  
of Judah

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23** summarize the life of **King *Josiah*** to include his:
  - Most important discovery of the **Book of Deuteronomy** in the temple
  - Cleansing *Jerusalem* and *Judea* of paganism
  - Attempt to cleanse the remnant in *Israel* and invitation to attend the Passover in *Jerusalem*
  - Effort to reunite the two nations under monotheism
- As *Isaiah* was the principle prophet to King *Hezekiah*, *Jeremiah* was the principle prophet to King *Josiah*
  - He was killed at the Battle of Megiddo vs the Pharaoh of Egypt

# Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

**Josiah**

|

**Jehoahaz(1)**

Ruled 3 months,  
exiled by Neco to Egypt  
where he died

**Eliakim(Jehoiakim)(2)**

Ruled 11 years,  
Enthroned by Neco  
against Jeremiah's advice  
criticized by Jeremiah  
for loyalty to Egypt  
died or assassinated  
**1<sup>st</sup> Exile 605 BC** (Daniel)

**Mattaniah/Judah(Zedekiah)(4)**

Ruled 11 years  
Rebelled against Babylon  
which brought about  
destruction of temple and  
Jerusalem **3<sup>rd</sup> and final Exile**  
**586 BC**

**Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah (3)**

Ruled for 3 months  
Exiled to Babylon **2<sup>nd</sup> Exile 597 BC**  
(Ezekiel)

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23:31-37**

- **Jehoahaz (#1)**, is anointed (*Messiah*) and began to reign upon the death of his father *Josiah*
- He immediately departed from the ways of the father and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and only **ruled for three months** because Pharaoh *Neco* of *Egypt* (who killed his father):
  - Imposed a heavy tribute on Judah
  - Exiled him to Riblah in Hammath
  - Exercised power over Judah as a vassal state
  - Made his brother **Eliakim (#2)** king of Judah
  - Carried **Jehoahaz to Egypt where he died \***

# Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

**Josiah**

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23 (Cont)

- ***Eliakim (# 2)***, the second son of *Josiah*, became the vassal king of *Egypt* and had his name **changed** by Pharaoh *Neco* **to *Jehoiakim (# 2)***
  - When someone in power changes a person's name it was to show that they have power over that person
- *Nico* imposed a heavy tax on the land of *Judah* causing *Jehoiakim* to pay him a great deal of silver and gold
- *Jehoiakim* reigned for 11 years and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:1-2**

- *Nebuchadnezzar*, King of *Babylon*, took over *Judah* making *Jehoiakim* his servant for three years
- *Jehoiakim* then **rebelled** resulting in the Lord sending against him (in accordance with the messages of the Prophets) bands of *Chaldeans (Babylonians)*, *Syrians*, and *Ammonites*
- Since *Jehoiakim* did not heed these messages from the Lord (Jeremiah), *Judah* ends up under the total domination of *Babylon*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- *Jeremiah* predicted that *Babylon* would defeat of the combined forces of *Egypt* and *Assyria* (***Jeremiah 25:1; 8-11, 15-25***)
  - *Jeremiah* told the kings of *Judah* that if they simply submitted to the authority of the *Babylonians* they would remain in their land
  - The *Babylonians* were the chastisement from God upon the people of *Judah*
  - But if they rebelled against this chastisement, things were going to get worse
  - The kings and people of *Judah* did not listen to *Jeremiah* or the other prophets \*

# Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:3-7**

- We have already discussed the sins of *Manasseh*
- *Egypt* withdrew from *Judah* resulting in King *Nebuchadnezzar* overrunning the country and causing *Jehoiakim* to become his vassal of *Babylon*
- In **598 BC** *Jehoiakim* rejected *Jeremiah's* message and decided to throw off the yoke of the *Babylonians*
- By the time the *Babylonians* arrived from the north to put down this rebellion, ***Jehoiakim* had either died or had been assassinated**; *Babylon* controlled the entire Fertile Crescent
- This led to the **first Babylonian Exile in 605 BC**
  - A young man named **Daniel** was exiled at this time \*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:8-16**
- ***Jehoiachin (# 3)***, (*Jeconiah*) the son of *Jehoiakim*, (grandson of *Josiah*) was made king of *Judah* and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord
- During his three month rule the *Babylonians* laid siege of *Jerusalem*, “despoiled” the temple, and **exiled *Jehoiachin***, his mother (who most likely was second in charge), and other leading citizens to *Babylon*
- Of importance to this history of the Davidic line in the New Testament is that:
  - *Jehoiachin's* son ***Shealtiel*** was exiled with his father to *Babylon*
  - *Shealtiel's* son ***Zerubbabel*** was born during the *Babylonian Exile (Mt 1:12)*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- This led to the **second Exile to Babylon in 597 BC** as prophesied by *Jeremiah (Jeremiah 22:22-30)*
- At this point the *Babylonians* remain in control of the entire Fertile Crescent all the way to the *Nile* in *Egypt\**

# Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:17-20**

- ***Mattaniah/ Zedekiah*** (# 4), another son of *Josiah* and uncle of *Jehoiachin*, was installed by the *Babylonians* as a vassal-king
- He was easily controlled by a pro-*Egyptian* party and prophets of hope who were living in *Jerusalem* at that time
- These false prophets predicted a rapid return of the Jews who had already been taken off to *Babylon* (first two deportations)
- *Jeremiah* continued to advise the King (as he had to the previous kings) to submit to *Babylon* and preached about the impending doom to *Jerusalem* if they refused to submit

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- Because of these prophecies, *Jeremiah* was considered a pro-*Babylonian* traitor and was thrown into prison, then a cistern, and eventually the guard house
- The King failed to heed *Jeremiah*, listened to his own officials, and was responsive to the rebellious plots of Pharaoh *Hophra*
- The king of Babylon changes his name (control) from *Mattaniah* to ***Zedekiah (4)***
- During this 11 year reign (in the 5th year into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exile) Ezekiel will begin his visions

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24 (Cont)

- In **589 BC** King *Zedekiah* rebelled against the *Babylonians*
- This will ultimately result in the final destruction of Jerusalem and the **third and final exile to *Babylon* in 586 BC**

# The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

# Jeremiah 625-580 BC Pre Ex

- Was born in **646 BC**, (approximately a century after *Isaiah*), into a priestly family in *Jerusalem*
- Is better known for his life and character than any other prophet because of his biographical narratives scattered throughout his book
- Was called by God as a **young man** (1:6-8) in **626 BC** (age 20)
- Was forbidden by **God to marry**

# Jeremiah (Cont)

- Lived through the tragic years preceding and succeeding the ruin of the kingdom of *Judah*
- Was a man of deep human emotions who actually suffered with his people
- The hopes of the people of *Judah* had been raised by the religious reforms and the rallying of the nation by King *Josiah* (**640-609 BC**) (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 22)

# Jeremiah (Cont)

- These hopes were unfortunately dashed by:
  - The tragic death of King *Josiah* at *Megiddo* in **609 BC**
  - The disruption of the balance of power in the ancient world by the fall of *Nineveh* in **612 BC** and the expansion of power of the *Babylonians*

# Jeremiah (Cont)

- From **605 BC** onward King *Nebuchadnezzar* of *Babylon* imposed his will on *Palestine*
  - *Judah* rebelled, encouraged by the persistent intrigue of *Egypt*, resulting in the besiege of *Jerusalem* and deportation of many in **597 BC**
  - A **second revolt ensued 10 years later in 586 BC**, resulting in the **destruction of the temple** and *Jerusalem*, followed by the **3<sup>rd</sup> and final deportation** of more of the Jews leaving only a small remnant in *Jerusalem* and *Judea*

# Jeremiah (Cont)

- *Jeremiah* lived through these catastrophic events, preaching, threatening, prophesying disaster, vainly admonishing the worthless *Davidic* kings who followed *Josiah*
- He was dubbed a defeatist by the war party in *Jerusalem*, resulting in his persecution and imprisonment
- When the city fell (**587 BC**) he remained with the **remnant** in *Judah* with the support of his friend *Gedaliah* whom the *Babylonians* had appointed as governor of the region
- After the murder of *Gedaliah*, *Jeremiah* was taken to *Egypt* by a party of Jews fearing reprisal, where he most likely died

# Jeremiah

- *Jeremiah* spoke of the fall and restoration of *Jerusalem* at the same time *Ezekiel* (**590-571 BC**) was preaching the same thing to those in exile in *Babylon*
  - *Jeremiah* prophesied for 40 years through four of the most turbulent decades in Jewish history:
    - The reigns of five kings and a governor of Judah
    - Periods of optimism (Josiah) to despair and desolation during the fall and aftermath of Jerusalem which he foretold (587 BC)

# Jeremiah

- His main message included:
  - Tearing up
  - Knocking down
  - Destroying
  - Overthrowing
- Let's briefly look at presentations of Jeremiah from the Liturgy of the Hours: 8/29 – 9/11 \*

# Jeremiah – Liturgy of the Hours

## 8/29 – 9/11

- 1:1-10
- 2:1-9
- 3:1-5, 19-20
- 4:5-8, 13-16
- 7:1-20
- 19:1-5,10;20:1-2
- 20:7-9
- 26:1-15
- 29:1-14
- 30: 18-22;31:2-7
- 31:15-17,27,31-34

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25 (Cont)

- Not **all the people** of *Judah* were not taken into Exile
- As we discussed earlier, there were three different waves of people exiled from *Judah* to *Babylon*
  - The **first exile** occurs in **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:1-2** and included the people who were captured in battle
    - It was during this exile that **Daniel was taken to Babylon** as a young man (**Daniel 1:1f**)

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25 (Cont)

- The **second exile** was after the *Babylon* attack discussed in **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:12**
  - It was during this period that **Ezekiel was exiled**
- After **Zedekiah (#4)** rebelled against the *Babylonians*, King *Nebuchadnezzar* laid siege to *Jerusalem* resulting in a severe famine
- A few months later things in *Jerusalem* were so bad that King *Zedekiah* breached in the city wall and he and his military fled in the night toward the Dead Sea (the Arabah)
- They were captured near *Jericho* by *Babylonians* (*Chaldeans*) and taken to the king of *Babylonians* at *Riblah*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25 (Cont)

- The king of *Babylon* ordered all the sons of *Zedekiah* to be slain in his presence, his eyes were put out, and he was taken in chains to *Babylon*
- Shortly thereafter the Babylonian army returned to *Jerusalem* and sacked it along with the Temple
- The captain of the guard took all of the inhabitants of the city to *Babylon* **except for some of the poor who were vinedressers and plowmen**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25 (Cont)

- This was the **third and final exile in 587 BC (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 25:1-12)** in which *Zedekiah*, the last king in the line of *David*, was exiled
  - During this time Jeremiah continued to prophesy to the king to let his people not rebel against the Babylonians
  - Unfortunately he did not listen, leading to the total destruction of the temple and Jerusalem
  - While this was going on Ezekiel was prophesying to those already in Babylon
  - As discussed earlier, Jeremiah never went into Babylon but was forced to go to Egypt where he died

# Introduction to the Prophets (Cont)

- This year we will look at the Exilic and post-Exilic Prophets to include:
  - Ezekiel
  - Daniel
  - Ezra
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
  - Nehemiah
  - Malachi
  - Obadiah
  - Joel
  - i
- 
- Followed by an introduction to - **1<sup>st</sup> Maccabees & Revelation**

# Summary of the Summary

# Summary

- **Civil war 930–540 = 344 yrs.**
  - Israel 930 – **722** = 208 yrs.
  - Judah 930-**586** = 344 yrs.
- **North (Israel)** 20 evil pagan/polytheist kings ends in Assyrian Exile (assimilation), important prophets:
  - Elijah – *to Ahab*
  - Elisha – *to Joram*
  - Jonah - *to Jeroboam II and Assyria*
  - Amos - *to Jeroboam II*
  - Hosea - *to Jeroboam II*

# Summary (Cont)

- **South (Judah)** 20 kings of which only 8 were good (monotheists) ending in Babylonian Exile, important prophets:
  - *Isaiah* – to *Uzziah* , *Jotham*, *Ahaz*, and *Hezekiah*
  - *Micah* – prophesied to *Jotham*, *Ahaz*, and *Hezekiah*
  - *Nahum* – prophesied to *the king of Assyria*
  - *Zephaniah* – prophesied to *Josiah*
  - *Jeremiah* – prophesied to *Josiah*
- Three Exiles: **605 BC, 597 BC, 586 BC**
- Punishment of Exile was the fulfilment of **Deuteronomy 28**

# Summary (Cont)

- Look at **Matthew 1:1-16**

# Israelite Kings Date Chart

(Based on the chronology of John Bright)

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922-901	Jeroboam I	Rehoboam	922-915	
901-900	Nadab	Abijah	915-913	
900-877	Baasha	Asa	913-873	
877-876	Elah	Jehoshaphat	873-849	
876	Zimri			Tibni
876-869	Omri			
869-850	Ahab			
850-849	Ahaziah			
849-843	Joram (Je)	Jehoram	849-843	
843-815	Jehu	Athaliah (non-Davidic Queen)	843-837	
815-802	Jehoahaz	Joash	837-800	
802-786	Jehoash (Joash)	Amaziah	800-783	
786-746	Jeroboam II	Uzziah (Azariah)	783-742	
746-745	Zachariah	Jotham (co-regent)	750-742	
745	Shallum	Jotham (king)	742-735	
745-737	Menahem			
737-736	Pekahiah			
736-732	Pekah	Ahaz	735-715	
732-724	Hoshea			
721	Fall of Samaria			
		Hezekiah	715-687	
		Manasseh	687-642	
		Amon	642-640	
		Josiah	640-609	
		Jehoahaz	609	
		Jehoikim (Eliakim)	609-598	
		Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598-597	
		Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-587	

# Transition

- We will now begin this year's study with the **Prophet Ezekiel**