

Current Bible Study

10/12/21

John 1 (Cont)

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John 1 (Cont)

- Immediately, after this John sprang his trap by stating that, “*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (**John 1:14**)
- This meant that the *Dualist* was going back and forth as he listened to the story about Jesus as John was attempting to catechize them
- He was demonstrating that there was some truth in what they believed, but not in the totality of their religion
- John was attempting to find some common ground with them, and then used the same language to close the trap on their beliefs

John 1 (Cont)

- When he said that, *“the word became flesh and dwelt among us”*
 - He was referring to the Creation imagery of **Genesis 1**
 - Then, he provided **Exodus 40:34** imagery (the word dwells among us as a reference to the “glory cloud” dwelling among the people of God)
 - Finally, he proclaimed that Jesus was the word of God which reflects back on the imagery of **Sirach 24**
 - The word of God, and the wisdom of God came from the mouth of God (sought a place to dwell among all people)
 - God finally said that He would dwell among Jacob and the people of Israel

John 1 (Cont)

- *Wisdom Books - 7*
 - Job
 - Psalms
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs
 - Wisdom
 - Sirach

John 1 (Cont)

- **Sirach** says that he who eats of me will hunger for more, and he who drinks of me will thirst for more
- We hear Jesus speaking like this in **John 6** (the Bread of Life discourse) as he fulfilled the Torah (the Word of God) given to His people in its fullness
- This is because the Word does not come to man on stone tablets, but now in the flesh (of Jesus)
- Father pointed out that the word “grace” means “gift”
- Then, John references “glory (as the glory from Mount Sinai)
- In the fullness in John’s Gospel, we have received gift upon gift

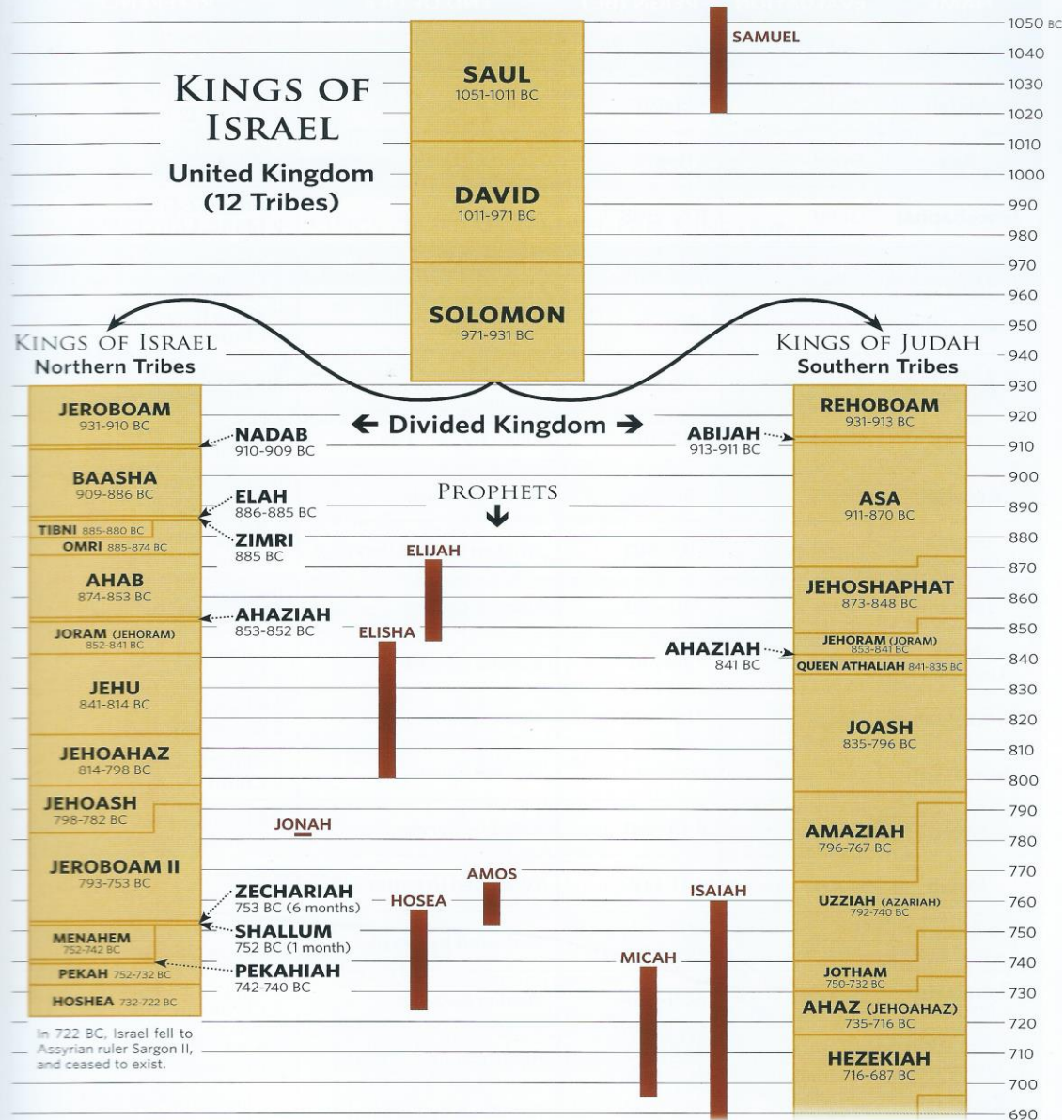
John 1 (Cont)

- He was saying that we had received a gift from Moses (the Torah) and now we will get the full gift
- The Law from Moses is grace through Jesus Christ
- No one had ever seen the “face of God,” now Jesus has revealed His father to us
- Father concluded this section by pointing a number of things that were going on here
 - Not only does John provide anti-*Dualism* information, he also was providing catechesis for the Jewish Christians
 - He is saying that Jesus (not Moses or the Law) is the revelation
 - If you want to know the Father, look to Jesus not Moses
 - This was the end of the Prologue

John 1 (Cont)

- **John 1:19-23** *“And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you’...as the prophet Isaiah said”*
 - To understand why they asked this question, we need to understand **Daniel 9:24**
 - According to the prophecy, the Messiah was to come in 490 years
 - That meant that he was to come at this time in the life of Jesus
 - This means that John the Baptist, living about the same time as Jesus, might be the Messiah
 - But, he told them he was not the Messiah
 - So, the Jews thought that if he (John the Baptist) was not the Messiah, he must be the forerunner of Christ (Elijah)

KINGS & PROPHETS



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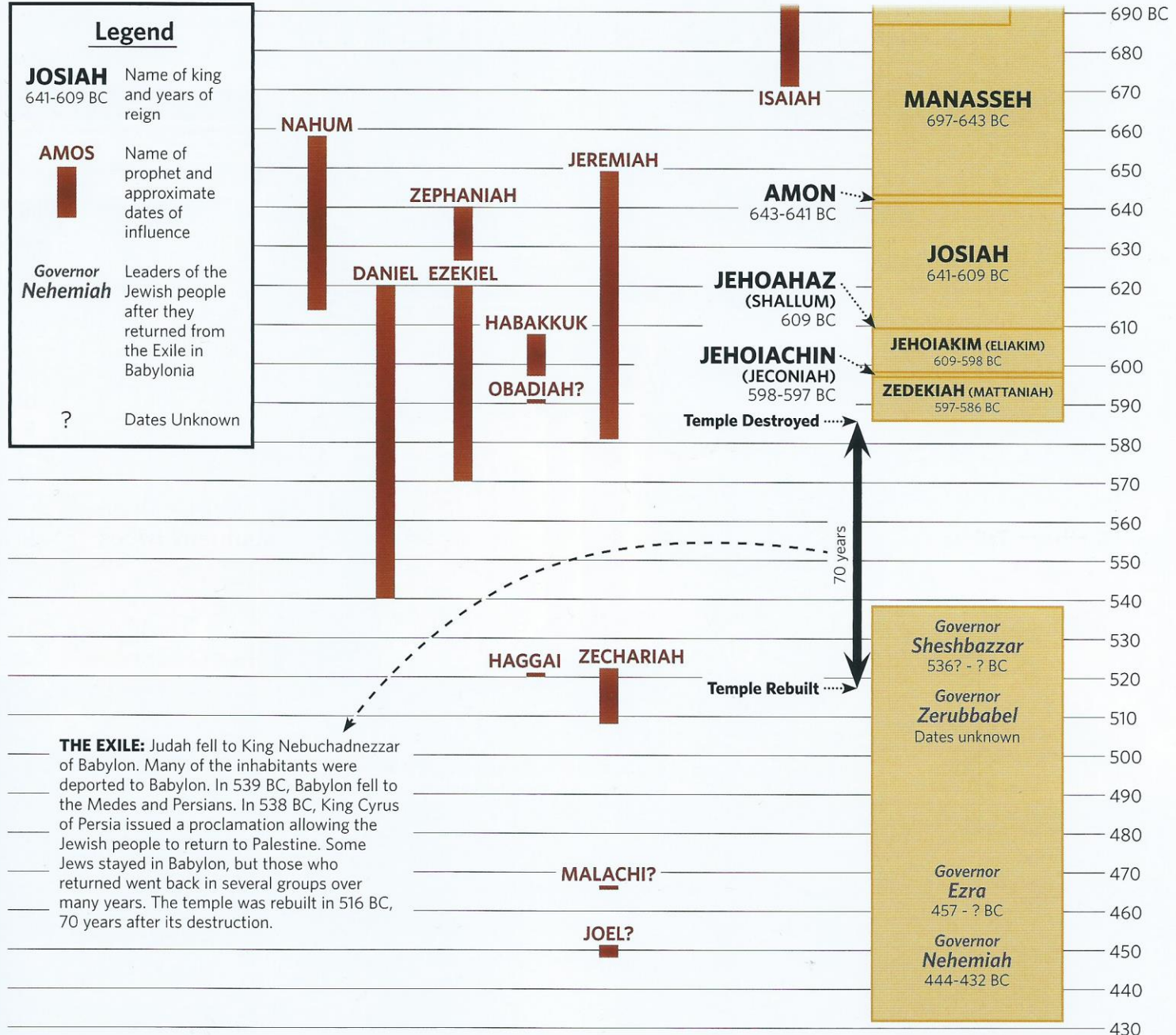
Legend

JOSIAH Name of king and years of reign
641-609 BC

AMOS Name of prophet and approximate dates of influence

Governor Nehemiah Leaders of the Jewish people after they returned from the Exile in Babylonia

? Dates Unknown



THE EXILE: Judah fell to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Many of the inhabitants were deported to Babylon. In 539 BC, Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. In 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia issued a proclamation allowing the Jewish people to return to Palestine. Some Jews stayed in Babylon, but those who returned went back in several groups over many years. The temple was rebuilt in 516 BC, 70 years after its destruction.

15 Daniel 605-535 BC Exile

- Almost all we know about Daniel comes from his book
- An **Exilic prophet** (along with Ezekiel and Jeremiah)
- Was a small boy (approximately 14 years old) when taken into exile during the 3rd year of King Jehoiakim (605 BC)
- Was exiled along with a cross section of prominent citizens, craftsmen, and other prominent young men of Jerusalem

Daniel (Cont)

- His name means “God is my judge;” He belonged to the tribe of Judah
- Was of noble or perhaps royal descent
- Half of the Book of Daniel was written in Hebrew and the other half in Aramaic (the language of the Babylonians) first used while they were in the exile

Daniel (Cont)

- Wrote from and gives a real taste of the exile
- Prophesied over a long period of time (70 years) with various visions

John 1 (Cont)

- Therefore, if John is not the Messiah, he might be *Elijah*
 - Malachi said (**Malachi 3:1**) “***Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple***”
 - Then, in the last two paragraphs (**Malachi 4:5**), he said it would be Elijah who would come before the great and terrible day of the Lord’s coming
- Then, John replied that he was not *Elijah*
- So, they asked, “Who are you”
- John the Baptist replied that he was the voice crying in the wilderness according to the prophecy of *Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5)*

19 Malachi 432-424 BC Post Ex

- Malachi
 - Name means “my messenger”
 - Only information about him comes from his writings
 - Discusses the conditions in Jerusalem 25 years after 3rd Isaiah (525-500)
 - Is preoccupied with the temple

Malachi (Cont)

- Concerned with the standards of ritual and sacrifice
- Began his ministry after the dedication of the temple in 515 BC
- Concerned with divorce in Judah and marriages with foreigners
- Proclaimed the need for a preparation for the messenger that is to come (return of Elijah)

Malachi (Cont)

- Most of the prophets speak about the glorious restoration of the Temple and the return of the “Glory Cloud”
- At the time of Malachi, the people have built the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant, but it has not been returned
- Malachi refers to Edom (God hates Esau) which was destroyed in 500 B.C. (Obadiah also speaks of this)

Malachi (Cont)

- Malachi tells the people that:
 - The Lord is not happy with their sacrifices (blemished animals)
 - They are not ready for his return (as they are still wicked), and therefore would be destroyed if He returned

Malachi (Cont)

- Before the Lord returns Elijah will reappear to gather together a remnant from among the wicked and pagan people
 - According to Jesus, John the Baptist fulfills this promise
- Thus, the 1st century people are looking for Elijah, a prophet like Moses and/or the Messiah

8 1st Isaiah 740-680 BC Pre Ex

- Some scholars believe, because of the difference in language, that the Book of Isaiah was written by 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

1st Isaiah (Cont)

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

Isaiah (Cont)

- ***Isaiah*** means “salvation is Yahweh”
 - **YAH** or **IAH** is the first part of the name **Yahweh**
 - Many OT names incorporate the name of God into a person, city, or location’s name
 - **Isaiah**, **Jeremiah**, **Hezekiah**
 - Also, the name **Elohim** – Hebrew for “gods or deity” is also contained in Hebrew names
 - **Ezekiel**, **Daniel**
- This idea that *Yahweh* is salvation (the savior) becomes a major issue at this point in the history of *Israel*

Isaiah (Cont)

- ***Isaiah***

- Born around **765 BC**
- Married and had at least two sons
- A resident of *Jerusalem* during the reigns of kings *Uzziah* through *Hezekiah*
- Received prophetic visions while in the temple in Jerusalem (**Isaiah 6**)

Isaiah (Cont)

- Began to prophesy in **740 BC** at the **age of 25** at the very end of the reign of King *Uzziah* of Judah (792-**740 BC**)
- Proclaims the **fall of *Israel*** and ***Judah*** as punishment for both nations' infidelity
- His book prophesies about many events beyond his lifetime

John 1 (Cont)

- If you have ears “hear,” and you will know that he just answered the question (Although not literally; he is ***Elijah* 2nd Kings 2:11**)
- But, the Jews did not have ears to hear, and know he was ***Isaiah***
- Thus, John told them by quoting from Isaiah that he was the ***Elijah*** they were looking for, and the prophesy was fulfilled as he was the voice crying in the wilderness
- They also asked him if he was “the prophet?” (**Deuteronomy 18:15**)
- Again, John said he was not “the Prophet”

1. Elijah (Elias) 870 BC Pre Ex

- Elijah:
 - A *Thesbite* from either *Thisbe* of *Naphtali* or *Thesbon* of *Galaad*
 - Presented in the Book of 1st Kings
 - One of the loftiest and most wonderful prophets of the OT whose words burn like a torch
 - May have been from a priestly descent and/or a *Nazarite*
 - A true son of the desert
 - Ascended into heaven in a fiery chariot