

Panorama Bible Study

The Plan of the Ages, Study 7

THE DISPENSATION OF LAW

FROM THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM TO THE CAPTIVITY

1. I Kings 12 **REHOBOAM**, Solomon's son, is now **King**. The people are needing relief from the taxes and financial burden from supporting a King's lifestyle and the cost of the Kingdom. (*God had warned them about this when they asked for a King like the other nations.*) **King Rehoboam** listens to **foolish advice** from his young counselors who tell him to tell his people that he is going to put **MORE BURDEN** on them than his father did in supporting the kingdom. This leads to the people **REVOLTING**, as predicted by the **PROPHET AHIJAH**. The once **UNITED ISRAEL** now **DIVIDES**. **JEROBOAM** (*of the tribe of EPHRAIM—one of JOSEPH'S sons*) is made **King of the 10 tribes** who become known as **THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL**. **Two tribes, JUDAH and BENJAMIN**, stay with **King Rehoboam at Jerusalem** and the **TRUE WORSHIP of JEHOVAH at Solomon's Temple** located there. It is known as **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM or JUDAH**. However, **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH** will have periods of following **God BUT**, they, too, will fall into **IDOL WORSHIP**.
2. I Kings 13 **King JEROBOAM** of the **NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL** is afraid he will **lose his kingdom** if the **people return to worshipping the true God, Jehovah, at Jerusalem**, so he creates the **GODS OF EGYPT** for them to worship: **TWO GOLDEN CALVES**, one placed at **BETHEL** (*the sacred spot where Abraham built his FIRST ALTAR to God; where JACOB had his dream of the ladder to heaven and God re-established His Covenant with Jacob; and where the ARK of THE COVENANT had stayed temporarily*) and the **other GOLDEN CALF** placed at the city of **DAN**, named for the **tribe of DAN**. God, through the **prophet AHIJAH**, had told **JEROBOAM** to **follow HIM** and **He would bless him** and **The Northern Kingdom**, but **JEROBOAM REBELLED from the very beginning** with the institution of **CALF WORSHIP!!!** Since God viewed **BETHEL** as a **SACRED PLACE**, He sent an unnamed **prophet to BETHEL** to **speak with KING JEROBOAM** as he burned incense upon the heathen altar for the calves. What follows is one of the most **ASTOUNDING PROPHECIES in the BIBLE, as far as LENGTH OF TIME IS CONCERNED**. The **PROPHET** tells **King Jeroboam** that God will one day raise up a **KING in The Southern Kingdom Judah** who will come long after King Jeroboam is dead (*even after the fall of The Northern Kingdom Israel*) and **DESTROY THAT HEATHEN ALTAR**— burning the dead false priests bones upon it!

The prophet even names the KING. He is good King **JOSIAH WHO WILL NOT BE BORN FOR 300 YEARS!** (*See the prophecy fulfilled in II Kings 23:15-16.*)

Spiritually, the people of the **NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL** have **RETURNED to EGYPT** in their hearts. Eventually, they will locate their **CAPITAL CITY at SAMARIA**. (*Remember, in almost a thousand years, when Jesus begins his ministry, He will go into the area known as SAMARIA and remember, also, He will tell the story about the “GOOD SAMARITAN.”*)

3. I Kings 14 The people of **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**, who have the **TRUE TEMPLE OF GOD**, begin **idol worship**—“in high places, in groves, on every high hill and under every green tree.” **Sexual perversion** becomes prevalent with “**SODOMITES** in the land...” God sends **KING SHISHAK of EGYPT** as an **enemy** against them to make them **realize their sin**. **SHISHAK** takes **TREASURES** from the **TEMPLE** and from **King Rehoboam’s house**. **King Shishak of EGYPT** gets their **GOLD SHIELDS** and **King Rehoboam has to replace** them with **BRASS shields**. **BRASS** is a symbol for **JUDGMENT**. **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**, entrusted with the **TEMPLE** where **GOD PUT HIS NAME and HABITATION**, is now suffering **LOSS, LOSS, LOSS** because of turning away from Jehovah. God is trying to get their **ATTENTION** and using **EGYPT**, of all nations, to do it—which should be a wake-up call for them!!! He is telling them that they are **HEADED BACK INTO BONDAGE!!!**
4. Even though **The Southern Kingdom Judah** and **The Northern Kingdom Israel** were all “**FAMILY**” (*all descendants of the 12 tribes of Jacob, renamed Israel*), after the **DIVISION** the **RELATIONSHIP** was **never the same**. For the next 80 years, there would be **WARFARE** between them—brother fighting against brother. The following 80 years both nations had some peace between them, but it didn’t last. The remaining 50 years were filled with sporadic wars between them.

FIRST LET’S LOOK AT THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL.

(Remember, it only lasted approximately 250 years.)

5. Your Panorama booklet shows the **19 Kings of The Northern Kingdom Israel**. They were from 9 different families of those 10 tribes and many assumed the throne through **MURDER and TREACHERY**. The **Northern Kingdom Israel** had **NO STABILITY! ALL** the kings were **BAD**. **KING AHAB**, assisted by his idolatrous, **PAGAN**, “**bad-to-the bone**” wife, **JEZEBEL**, was **THE WORST KING** and the **most wicked**.

QUESTION: This “HOUSE,” called **The Northern Kingdom of Israel**, was built upon the **WRONG “FOUNDATION”** and, consequently, **ALL the KINGS WERE BAD**. What was the “FOUNDATION” that **KING JEROBOAM** had laid? What is the application for our lives?

ANSWER: (See I Corinth. 3:11)

6. I Kings 16:30-31 “And **AHAB**, the son of Omri, did **EVIL in the sight of the Lord ABOVE ALL** that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam...that he took to **WIFE, JEZEBEL**, the daughter of **ETHBAAL, King of the Zidonians**, and went and **SERVED BAAL**, and **WORSHIPPED** him.”

Wicked **KING AHAB** and his **BAAL-WORSHIPPING** wife, **JEZEBEL**, were the “Bonnie and Clyde” of **The Northern Kingdom Israel**! Through **JEZEBEL’S devotion to BAAL**, **KING AHAB** built a **house and altar for BAAL** in the capital city of **SAMARIA**. **QUEEN JEZEBEL** was ruthless and **DETERMINED** to make **BAAL WORSHIP** the **NATIONAL RELIGION** of **The Northern Kingdom Israel**. She ordered the **MURDERS** of the few **TRUE PROPHETS** of the Lord in **The Northern Kingdom Israel**. She even devised a scheme for an innocent man named **NABOTH** to be killed so that she could present **NABOTH’S** vineyard to the **POUTING KING AHAB** who had everything, but **COVETED** this man’s vineyard. (*I Kings 21*) Absolutely **NOTHING** was **OFF LIMITS** to this woman. God uses **her name** in the **Book of Revelation** to teach us that the **SAME DEMONIC INFLUENCE** upon **JEZEBEL** so very long ago is still with us **TODAY** and can even be present in our **CHURCHES!!!** (*Rev. 2:20*) Some scholars have referred to this as “**The Jezebel Spirit.**” It **DOES NOT MEAN** that **her** spirit is still here, but that the **DEMONIC SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE** upon her is **still with us today**. With women, this **spirit manifests** itself through the **use of the woman’s beauty/sexuality** to **UNDERMINE a MOVE of GOD** in a body of believers or to **come against a GODLY MARRIAGE** and destroy it. It is a **CONTROLLING SPIRIT—“MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY!”** **BAAL WORSHIP** was conducive to this type demonic spirit (“*Jezebel Spirit*”) because it was filled with sexual promiscuity and perversion.

7. God’s **ANSWER** to **BAAL WORSHIP** and **JEZEBEL** is a **PROPHET OF FIRE** named **ELIJAH**! His name means “**JEHOVAH IS GOD!**” He boldly declares that in **Jezebel**, where wicked Queen **JEZEBEL** had caused Naboth’s death, **Jezebel** would one day meet with a **VIOLENT DEATH** and the **dogs** would lick up **her blood** in that **very spot**.

In Godly defiance to the false god **Baal**, who supposedly had control over **RAIN**, **ELIJAH** declares **NO DEW or RAIN** till he, **ELIJAH**, says so! After pronouncement of this **DROUGHT** in the name of **JEHOVAH**, God eventually sends **ELIJAH** to a place of provision in, of all places, **ZAREPHETH**, located in **JEZEBEL'S HOME COUNTRY of ZIDON!!!** (*Just as with Moses in Pharaoh's palace, God demonstrates His greatness and sovereignty in placing His servants in the home place of the ENEMY and makes the ENEMY support his servant!*) A **WIDOW** sustains **ELIJAH** in **ZAREPHETH** by obeying the Word of the Lord when **ELIJAH** tells her to take **her last cake** she is baking for herself and her son and **GIVE IT TO HIM!** The widow obeys and God causes her barrel of **MEAL** and her cruse of **OIL** to **supernaturally reproduce** until the drought ends.

QUESTION: What is the personal application we can make from the widow's example?

ANSWER: (Phil. 4:19) _____

8. I Kings 18 **ELIJAH** is told by **God** to tell **KING AHAB** that he is calling an **END** to the drought and it is going to be a **DRAMATIC EVENT to PROVE JEHOVAH IS GOD!!!** He challenges **QUEEN JEZEBEL'S 450 BAAL prophets and 400 prophets of the groves** to a **SHOWDOWN** on top of **MT. CARMEL**. The false prophets put on a show on top of Mt. Carmel in an attempt to **get BAAL** to accept their **sacrifices** by **sending FIRE** from Heaven. (*The image of Baal shows him with a **LIGHTNING BOLT** in his hand. He's supposed to be quite handy with **FIRE!***) However, after **hours of cutting themselves** and begging **BAAL to send FIRE** upon the sacrifices, **they give up! NOTHING happens!** **JEHOVAH'S PROPHET OF FIRE, ELIJAH**, steps up at the **TIME OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE** at the **TEMPLE in THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**. (*Not a coincidence!*) He takes **12 STONES**, representing the **COVENANT of JEHOVAH**, the **TRUE and LIVING GOD**, with the **12 TRIBES of ISRAEL**. He **REPAIRS** the **ALTAR OF THE LORD** which had been used by those in **THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL** who still believed in **JEHOVAH**. **ELIJAH** even digs a **trench** around the altar, puts the wood in order, places the bullock on the altar, and **THEN GOES EVEN FURTHER** to prove **JEHOVAH IS GOD**. He pours **FOUR BARRELS of water** on the sacrifice and on the wood. He does it **3 times!** The water overflows and **FILLS THE TRENCH**. Then **ELIJAH** prays a **SIMPLE, SHORT PRAYER**,

"Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel (*Jacob*), let it be known this day that **THOU art GOD in Israel** and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at **THY WORD**. Hear me, O Lord, Hear me, that this people may know that **THOU ART THE LORD GOD**, and that **THOU hast TURNED THEIR HEART BACK AGAIN.**" (*I Kings 18:36-37*)

9. **THE FIRE FELL IMMEDIATELY!!!** The **FIRE of HOLY GOD** not only consumed the sacrifice, but consumed the **STONES** and the **DUST** and even licked up the water in the trenches! The people **FELL** on their faces and declared that **JEHOVAH is GOD!** **Elijah** then **EXECUTES** all the false prophets! *(This was **NOT CRUEL** but was **JUSTICE**. Remember, **BAAL WORSHIP** was particularly **evil** because **INFANTS** were offered. Archaeologists have excavated **near** the capital city of **SAMARIA** and have found many jars of the **remains of infants** sacrificed in the name of **BAAL WORSHIP** through the worship of **BAAL'S GODDESS WIFE, ASHTORETH. A FEMALE GODDESS** and the **SLAUGHTER of INFANTS!** Does that sound familiar to anything going on in our world today?)*
10. I Kings 18 **Elijah** goes to the top of Mt. Carmel and **PRAYS** for **RAIN**. **God sends the rain!**
11. I Kings 19 **ELIJAH** has to **RUN FOR HIS LIFE** when **JEZEBEL** hears he has executed her prophets. **ELIJAH RUNS** a very, very long way—all the way back to the **original site of the COVENANT with MOSES—MT. HOREB or SINAI in the ARABIAN PENINSULA!!!** It is here that God gives him the **revelation** of the **NEW TESTAMENT COVENANT—the STILL SMALL VOICE**. The **voice** of God that had **WALKED in the Garden of Eden** would walk the earth again, die for our sins, be resurrected for us and, ultimately, **place HIS VOICE in us by His Holy Spirit**, which is what happened on the Day of Pentecost in the Book of Acts.
12. I Kings 19: 16-21 **ELIJAH** goes back to **The Northern Kingdom Israel** and he **ANOINTS** his successor, **ELISHA**, whose name means, “**GOD HIS SALVATION.**” While **ELIJAH** is a symbol for **THE LETTER OF THE LAW** or the **OLD COVENANT**, **ELISHA** is a symbol for **THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW** or the **NEW COVENANT** in **JESUS CHRIST**.
13. II Kings 2 **Elijah** continues in his ministry as a prophet and **ELISHA** is his apprentice until the time of **ELIJAH'S departure**. **ELIJAH**, as a **SYMBOL** of the **FIERY LAW**, will **NOT EXPERIENCE DEATH**. *(Remember, in the New Testament, **ELIJAH and MOSES** will appear on the Mt. of Transfiguration **with Jesus** to speak with Jesus about the impending crucifixion.)* **ELISHA** asks for a **DOUBLE PORTION** of the **SPIRIT** that is upon **ELIJAH**. **Elijah** strikes the waters of the **JORDAN RIVER** and the **waters PART**, just as they had done hundreds of years prior when Joshua led the people over. A **CHARIOT of FIRE** and **HORSES of FIRE** take **ELIJAH up into Heaven by a WHIRLWIND**.

As **Elijah** is taken up, his **MANTLE falls upon ELISHA**. **ELISHA** now has the **DOUBLE PORTION** of the **SPIRIT** and will go on to **DOUBLE the MIRACLES** that **ELIJAH** had done during his ministry.

14. II Kings 7 Even with these **ANOINTED PROPHETS** and others, **The Northern Kingdom Israel** continued in their **IDOLATRY** and **REBELLION** until it brought them **CAPTIVITY**—as sin always **DOES!** During **ELISHA'S** ministry, the nation of **SYRIA** laid siege to the capital city, **SAMARIA**, which led to **FAMINE in the CITY**, and just as **GOD** had warned them almost **800 years earlier through MOSES**, they even **ATE** their own **CHILDREN!!!** But even here, God was giving them a chance to **REPENT!**
15. II Kings 13:21 **ELISHA** was such a symbol of the **DOUBLE PORTION of the Spirit** and the **NEW COVENANT**, that **after his death** and placement in a sepulchre, **his bones** brought to **life** another man who had recently been killed and thrown into **ELISHA'S sepulchre**. It is a picture of **JESUS CHRIST**, who, **IN DEATH**, has brought us **RESURRECTION** and **ETERNAL LIFE!!!**
16. II Kings 17 Finally, **The Northern Kingdom Israel** had so hardened itself against the Lord, God allowed the **BRUTAL, TERRORISTIC EMPIRE of ASSYRIA** to **destroy** them and **take many captives**. The Assyrians would take captives from other lands and populate the lands they conquered. This is what happened in **The Northern Kingdom Israel (Samaria)** and is why they were not considered **PURE HEBREWS** during Jesus' time. To be a **SAMARITAN** was to be held **in contempt** by many **JEWISH** people of Jesus' day due to the intermingling of the populations/nationalities the **ASSYRIANS** had conquered.

NEXT LET'S LOOK AT THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH.

*(Remember, the **KINGS** of the **tribe of JUDAH** through **David's son, Solomon**, are the protected **KINGLY lineage** of **JOSEPH**, the **LEGAL--though NOT BIOLOGICAL FATHER--of Jesus Christ**. **David's son, NATHAN**—brother of **Solomon**—is the **actual lineage of The SEED OF THE WOMAN** prophesied in*

*Genesis 3, for **through Nathan** comes the*

***BIOLOGICAL MOTHER** of **Jesus Christ, MARY**.*

***The Southern Kingdom Judah** lasted approximately **400 years.**)*

17. Of the 19 kings (*ALL out of the lineage of SOLOMON, out of DAVID, out of tribe of JUDAH*), only 6 could be characterized as **GOOD** or **MOSTLY GOOD**. Even with the **BAD Kings** of **JUDAH**, **GOD** was still able to **PRESERVE** that specific **KINGLY lineage** out of which **JOSEPH**, the **LEGAL father of Jesus**, would come!!! (*Notice the RED LINE in your Panorama.*)
18. II Kings 8:18 **HOWEVER**, Satan was intent on trying to stop that **KINGLY lineage** out of King David's family which would **culminate** in the **person of JOSEPH**, the **LEGAL father of Jesus**, from coming into the world. He would use the **INFLUENCE** of **KING AHAB** and **WICKED QUEEN JEZEBEL** of **THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL** to **INFILTRATE THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**. At a time when **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH** was friendly with **THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL**, King Ahab's and Queen Jezebel's daughter, **ATHALIAH**, married **KING JEHORAM** of **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**, making her the **MOTHER of the NEXT KING OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH**, **AHAZIAH**. When God commissioned through **ELIJAH** in **The Northern Kingdom Israel** a man named **JEHU** to **EXTERMINATE** the seed of **AHAB AND JEZEBEL**, **JEHU** fully obeyed the command of the Lord and didn't stop until he got **ALL of their descendants**, including **killing The Southern Kingdom Judah's King, AHAZIAH**, son of **ATHALIAH**, because he was a **GRANDSON** of **AHAB** and **JEZEBEL**.
19. II Kings 11:1 **ATHALIAH**, just like her power-hungry, **BAAL WORSHIPPING, CONTROLLING** momma, **JEZEBEL**, took this opportunity at her son's death, to rise up and **KILL ALL HER GRANDCHILDREN** so that **none** could **inherit the THRONE** of **The Southern Kingdom Judah**. What a grandmother!!! She **declared HERSELF QUEEN** of **The Southern Kingdom Judah** and **DID NOT KNOW** that **God** had **MIRACULOUSLY PRESERVED ONE SEED**. Satan had used this evil woman to **ALMOST accomplish the ERADICATION** of the **Kingly lineage out of SOLOMON** out of which **JOSEPH**, the **LEGAL father of Jesus**, would eventually come.
20. II Kings 11:2 A **GODLY** woman named **JEHOSHEBA**, who was **KING AHAZIAH'S HALF sister**, saves **ONE** of **AHAZIAH'S sons** from the slaughter by his grandmother, **ATHALIAH**. **Jehosheba**, the child's aunt, is **MARRIED** to the **HIGH PRIEST, JEHOIDA**. The child's name is **JOASH (or JEHOASH)**. **Jehosheba** and her husband, the High Priest, **Jehoida**, take the child and his nurse and **HIDE THEM IN THE TEMPLE!** Meanwhile, his **WICKED GRANDMOTHER** is reigning as the **FIRST QUEEN** in **The Southern Kingdom Judah**. She has placed **BAAL WORSHIP** as the **NATIONAL**

RELIGION! Her **6-year reign** comes to an **end** when the **HIGH PRIEST JEHOIDA** bravely calls for the rulers and captains of the guard to help him rightfully **present the 7-year-old JOASH as the TRUE HEIR TO THE THRONE**. Little **JOASH** is **CROWNED KING at the Temple** and when his grandmother, **QUEEN ATHALIAH**, hears the cheering/clapping, she rushes to the **TEMPLE** and cries, **“TREASON, TREASON.”**

QUESTION: Can you imagine the **SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS/CONDITION** of this woman that she had the **NERVE** to holler **“TREASON”** after she had **MURDERED all but one** of her **GRANDCHILDREN**, the **ROYAL SEED**, and was **ILLEGALLY** ruling as **QUEEN**?

- 21. II Kings 11:15-18** **High Priest Jehoida** commands the guards and officers to **remove QUEEN ATHALIAH from the TEMPLE and execute** her and any followers. High Priest Jehoida led the **child KING, JOASH**, and the **people in a COVENANT** that day to be the **LORD’S people**. The people tore down the **BAAL ALTARS** and executed the **BAAL** priests.
- 22. II Kings 18** During the reign of **good KING HEZEKIAH** in **The Southern Kingdom Judah**, **The Northern Kingdom of Israel** was **conquered** by the **ASSYRIANS** and taken away as **CAPTIVES**. Their idolatry, sins, and rebellion brought them into **BONDAGE AGAIN**. They never recovered. God was very patient with **The Southern Kingdom Judah** in allowing them to see **The Northern Kingdom** go into captivity, but allow **The Southern Kingdom** to continue in order to **REPENT!** **The Southern Kingdom Judah**, due to the work of the **prophet ISAIAH**, continued **another 135 years** past **The Northern Kingdom Israel’s** captivity. **ASSYRIA** came down into **The Southern Kingdom Judah** and took 46 walled cities. Jerusalem and the Temple were spared at that time strictly because of the prophet **ISAIAH**. As **ASSYRIA’S army** was encamped literally outside the **walls of JERUSALEM**, because **KING HEZEKIAH** had fervently prayed to the God who “dwells between the cherubim,” the **PROPHET ISAIAH** is sent to him to prophesy. The **ANGEL of the LORD KILLS 185,000 ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS** and **ASSYRIA never comes to JERUSALEM AGAIN**. Although **ISAIAH** was able to save **JERUSALEM** from the **ASSYRIANS**, he saw **100 years into the future** regarding a nation named **BABYLON** that **would destroy Jerusalem**. However, God reassured **ISAIAH** that when His people go into Babylonian captivity in the future, a **PERSIAN KING** by the name of **CYRUS**, who **overtakes BABYLON**, will make a decree allowing the **JEWISH CAPTIVES** to return to their land of **JUDAH**.

23. II Kings 20 **Good King HEZEKIAH** of **The Southern Kingdom Judah** becomes deathly ill. At first, **ISAIAH** tells the King he is going to die, but Hezekiah prays fervently to God for his life to be spared and God grants his request through the **prophet ISAIAH**. **ISAIAH** places a **LUMP OF FIGS** on **King HEZEKIAH'S BOIL** and then God gives **KING HEZEKIAH** a **MIRACULOUS SIGN** that he will live: The shadow of the **Sun Dial** went **BACKWARD 10 degrees**. After his recovery, King Hezekiah allows well-wishers from **BABYLON** to see **EVERYTHING IN HIS HOUSE AND THE TEMPLE**. The **PROPHET ISAIAH** tells him that this is a **SIGN from GOD** that this nation, **BABYLON**, would ultimately come and be **GOD'S JUDGMENT** upon the city of **JERUSALEM**, "wiping it clean." **ISAIAH** prophesied this event **100 YEARS BEFORE IT HAPPENED!!!** **GOD** is giving **The SOUTHERN KINGDOM JUDAH** (what's left of it, mostly Jerusalem where **His TEMPLE** is located) **TIME TO REPENT** and **AVOID JUDGMENT!** In **HIS UNSPEAKABLE GRACE**, God allows **THE BEST KING TO EVER RULE** in **The Southern Kingdom Judah**, **JOSIAH**, (their 16th king) to assume the throne.

24. II Kings 22 **KING JOSIAH** has a heart for the **LORD**. He **repairs** the **TEMPLE** and in so doing they **FIND THE BOOK OF THE LAW!** Can you imagine that? The **WORD OF GOD** had been **LOST ALL THAT TIME!!!**

QUESTION: What can we learn that happens to any nation that **LOSES THE WORD OF GOD?**

ANSWER: _____

25. II Kings 22 When **KING JOSIAH** and the **PRIESTS** find **The Book of the Law**, they have to go to a **WOMAN** to get **ANSWERS!!!** It is astonishing that the **PRIESTS**, who were entrusted with **The Word of God**, **knew nothing about it!** It is a picture of a nation that is **SELF-DESTRUCTING** and **RIPE FOR JUDGMENT**. However, the **PROPHETESS HULDAH** is an illustration that **GOD will USE ANYONE** who seeks after **His HEART**, to know Him, as she does. It **DID NOT MATTER** that she was a **WOMAN!!!** The **MALE PRIESTS** had **neglected** the **LAW OF GOD** and now everybody was going to **SUFFER!** She predicts that, based upon what The Law of God says, **JUDGMENT IS COMING BUT**, because **KING JOSIAH** has **sought the Lord** and has a **tender heart toward God**, the **JUDGMENT** will be **AFTER** his reign.

QUESTION: What does this say about our own nation *IF* we return to the **WORD OF GOD** and **OBEY IT?**

ANSWER: _____

26. II Kings 23 **KING JOSIAH** (what a great leader!!!) calls the **people** together to the **TEMPLE** and **HE READS THE LAW TO THEM—THEIR COVENANT CONDITIONS**. **KING JOSIAH RENEWS** the nation's **COVENANT** and **REMOVES ALL VESTIGES OF IDOL WORSHIP**. He **BREAKS DOWN** the **HOUSE** of the **SODOMITES** which was right up against the **TEMPLE!!! PERVERSION** literally **ADJOINED** to the Holy **HOUSE OF GOD**. **KING JOSIAH** didn't leave a stone unturned in **cleansing the land** of idolatry and sin. His **ZEAL** even takes him into what used to be **The Northern Kingdom Israel** and he winds up at **BETHEL** where the **evil first King** of **The Northern Kingdom Israel** began **EGYPTIAN CALF WORSHIP**. He unknowingly **FULFILLED** the **300-year-old PROPHECY** which called **him BY NAME** and stated that he would **one day tear down the heathen altar** and **burn the false priests' bones** upon it!!! **KING JOSIAH REINSTITUTED** the long-neglected **PASSOVER**, which had been a **COMMAND** of God. There had **not** been a **PASSOVER** like the one under King Josiah since the days of the judges!!! All of this was done by a **26-year-old King** with **MORE WISDOM** than men twice his age! He spared himself and his nation from sure judgment! Later, **GOOD KING JOSIAH** dies in battle and his **EVIL son, JEHOAHAZ (17th king)**, is **KING OF The Southern Kingdom Judah**. The pattern begins to **repeat**: God allows **EGYPT** to take some **control** of the region and the land of **Judah is paying TAXES to EGYPT**. They are experiencing **EGYPTIAN BONDAGE** again but are not getting the message God is sending them. Pharaoh **REMOVES KING JEHOAHAZ** and replaces him with his brother, **KING ELIAKIM (or JEHOIAKIM, 18th king)**. The **PROPHET JEREMIAH** is prophesying during this time and is given the **AMAZING prophecy** that **JUDAH will eventually be overcome by Babylon for 70 years**. Helping Jeremiah in his ministry to Jerusalem were the **PROPHETS HABAKKUK** and **ZEPHANIAH**. During this time the **PROPHET NAHUM** preached the **FALL of NINEVEH**, the **CAPITAL of ASSYRIA**. (*They once had repented at the preaching of JONAH.*) Also during this time period, the **PROPHET OBADIAH** was prophesying the **fall of EDOM**, the nation which descended from **ESAU** and had constantly opposed Israel from the time of crossing The Red Sea to Jeremiah's time.

27. II Kings 24 **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR** of **BABYLON** begins conquering lands and takes **control** of **The Southern Kingdom Judah** away from **EGYPT**. He **REPLACES KING JEHOIAKIM** with his 18-year-old son, **JEHOIACHIN (or JECONIAH, 19th king)** who

is evil and **REBELS** against **BABYLON** even though God had told them to **SUBMIT to the JUDGMENT** and it would go well with them. **KING JEHOIACHIN** finally **SURRENDERS to BABYLON**.

IMPORTANT: By the **SPIRIT of GOD**, **JEREMIAH** places a **“BLOOD CURSE”** upon **Jehoiachin (*Jeconiah*)**, stating that God had decreed **NONE OF JEHOIACHIN’S SEED** will sit upon the **THRONE of JUDAH. (*Jeremiah 22:30*)** **WHAT????** How can the **MESSIAH KING** now come through the **KINGLY LINEAGE** when God has **ENDED it HERE?** How can there be a **LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH?** The answer is found in **MARY’S genealogy** in the New Testament Book of **LUKE**. Her lineage goes back to King David, for God had promised **David an ETERNAL THRONE, BUT** she is descended from **SOLOMON’S BROTHER, NATHAN!!!** So, Satan may have thought that through the **EVIL** of these supposedly **CHOSEN KINGS** that He **had FINALLY STOPPED** the **Messiah/King** from coming, **BUT GOD** had said from the very beginning in the **GARDEN OF EDEN** that the seed would be **“OF WOMAN,”** not seed of man!!! Jesus’ earthly (**LEGAL**) father was **JOSEPH**, whose lineage traces straight back through **all the KINGS of JUDAH** coming through **SOLOMON**. **Joseph** provided the **LEGAL lineage of KINGSHIP**, but the **BLOOD OF JESUS** had to be **DIVINE BLOOD**. **ALMIGHTY GOD** was the **true FATHER of JESUS** and **HE PROVIDED the DIVINE BLOOD** needed to **REDEEM FALLEN HUMANITY** through **THE SEED OF WOMAN**, which came out of the **TRIBE OF JUDAH**, only through **NATHAN**, not **SOLOMON!!!**

28. KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR comes in and **TAKES CAPTIVES** out of **JUDAH**. He literally **PLUNDERS Solomon’s Temple** for the treasures, dismantling it. He takes **100,000 captives back to Babylon** and just leaves the **POOR** to tend the land. The **PROPHET JEREMIAH** writes a letter to these captives and tells them to **be obedient** and God will **return them** to their land **in 70 years**. Nebuchadnezzar leaves **KING JEHOIACHIN’S (*JECONIAH’S*) UNCLE** as **KING**. He is **KING ZEDEKIAH**. After reigning 11 years, **KING ZEDEKIAH** rebels.

29. II Kings 25 **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR** returns in **FULL FURY** and lays **SEIGE to JERUSALEM**. Nebuchadnezzar **murders KING ZEDEKIAH’S sons** before his eyes and then **PUTS OUT ZEDEKIAH’S EYES**, leading him to **BABYLON in BRASS chains!** Nebuchadnezzar orders the once magnificent **SOLOMON’S TEMPLE**, where **GOD** had placed **HIS NAME** and **HABITATION, TO BE BURNED** to the ground. He further **DESTROYS the WALLS**. This **CAPTIVITY** leaves the poorest of the poor to tend the land and to be ruled by a **Governor, Gedaliah**, who was later **assassinated** by other

Jews who eventually fled to **Egypt**, taking the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** with them. In **chapters 25 and 29 of Jeremiah**, God reveals that the **captivity will last 70 years**. In **chapter 50 of Jeremiah**, he predicts the **FALL of BABYLON**, just as the **PROPHET ISAIAH** had done over 100 years prior. The **PROPHET JEREMIAH** even names the nation that will **OVERCOME BABYLON—THE MEDES/PERSIANS**.

***Remember, the **prophet ISAIAH**, gave the amazing prophecy way back in the reign of good **KING HEZEKIAH**. He called this futuristic **PERSIAN KING, CYRUS, BY NAME!!!** **ISAIAH prophesied that KING CYRUS would allow the captives to return and rebuild Jerusalem.**
THIS PROPHECY WAS UTTERED BY ISAIAH OVER 150 YEARS BEFORE CYRUS!!!

THERE WERE 3 DIFFERENT TIMES OF DEPORTATIONS OF CAPTIVES FROM JUDAH

30. Daniel 1-2 In the **first group** taken **captives** into **Babylon** was a young man named **DANIEL**. He **HONORED GOD** and **His Word** even while living in a **HEATHEN CULTURE**. Like Joseph, God gave him the **gift of interpreting dreams**, which led to **DANIEL** achieving a high office in the government of **Babylon**. He interprets the dream **God** gave **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR** of the **statue** which represented the **FUTURE COMING WORLD KINGDOMS UPON EARTH**. **THIS IS AN AMAZING PROPHECY and EACH KINGDOM CAME TO PASS EXACTLY AS DANIEL INTERPRETED IT!!!**
31. Daniel 3 Daniel's **three friends**, who also honor God, are thrown into the **FIERY FURNACE** which has been heated **7 times hotter**. The **FURNACE** kills the soldiers throwing **SHADRACH, MESHACH, and ABEDNEGO** into the flames, but the three Hebrew men are walking around **IN THE FIRE with THE SON OF GOD** (*a pre-incarnate appearance of The Lord Jesus Christ*)! They are untouched and not even the smell of smoke is upon them. **THEY HAVE TO BE CALLED OUT OF THE FIRE!!!** **GOD** uses these **FAITHFUL young men** to show **His might and power** to a **HEATHEN NATION AND** to demonstrate to **His captive people** that **He is ALMIGHTY GOD!**
32. Daniel 6 God uses an **aged Daniel** when **KING DARIUS** of the **MEDES** **overthrows BABYLON** at the **end of the 70-year captivity** as an **example** of the **POWER** of the **COVENANT KEEPING JEHOVAH**. The lions refuse to eat **DANIEL**, but do not hesitate when Daniel's enemies are thrown to the **SAME LIONS!** God is demonstrating to His chosen people and the world that **IDOLATRY IS FOLLY**—that **He alone** is the **TRUE and LIVING God!**

- 33. Daniel 9** God reveals that the **number 70** used in their **time period of captivity** as **70 years** is also significant in what is termed **God's CALENDAR** in dealing with His people, for in this chapter God uses the **70 as 70 weeks of 70 "sevens."** It means a **total of 490 years**. It is remarkable that this prophecy says in the **69th "week"** (*period of "sevens" or 483 YEARS*) Messiah would come and be **"CUT OFF,"** or **COVENANTED**. Astonishingly, from the time **KING CYRUS of PERSIA** made the **DECREE** for the **REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM** till the **time of the coming of JESUS CHRIST** is **EXACTLY 483 years!!!** Since the **69th "week"** was fulfilled in the **CRUCIFIXION of CHRIST**, we are **left with the 70th "week"** or **7 years of the prophecy**. Since the **7 years** of this **70th "week"** came and went **after the CRUCIFIXION** without God establishing His Kingdom upon earth, some scholars believe we are in an **INTERIM, arbitrary time period** between the **69th "week"** and the **70th "week"** for the **"times of the Gentiles to be fulfilled,"** i.e., receive salvation.
- 34. Ezekiel 1** The **PROPHET EZEKIEL** was deported as a captive in the **second** group, **BEFORE** the **COMPLETE DESTRUCTION of JERUSALEM**. The **PROPHET DANIEL** had already **been in BABYLON about 9 years** when the **PROPHET EZEKIEL** arrived. God had **elevated DANIEL** as a voice in the **PALACE** and **EZEKIEL** ministered in the **RURAL AREAS** near the captives. **EZEKIEL** is given a **"VISION OF GOD,"** and what a vision it is: Four Cherubim seemingly connected to each other and moving about rapidly, each with 4 faces, fire, lightning, running as a flash of lightning, a wheel upon the earth, rings **FULL of EYES**, firmament upon their heads as the color of terrible **CRYSTAL**, the noise of **GREAT WATERS** as the **VOICE of the ALMIGHTY**, the likeness of a **THRONE** and the likeness of a **man upon the THRONE**. So much of this imagery and terminology is seen again in the Book of **REVELATION**.
- 35. Ezekiel 2-7** The **PROPHET EZEKIEL** had to **"EAT"** the **Word** of the Lord and **declare** it to the captives. He warned them that **THEY WOULD NOT RETURN** to Jerusalem for God was about to **DESTROY IT and the TEMPLE**.
- 36. Ezekiel 8** Ezekiel was **TRANSPORTED in the SPIRIT** back to Jerusalem where God showed him all the atrocities, injustices, and idolatries happening in that city where He had placed **His NAME** and **HABITATION** and **EVEN INSIDE THE TEMPLE!!!** He let **EZEKIEL** know that **JERUSALEM** would be **"WIPED CLEAN."**
- 37. Ezekiel 37** After **JERUSALEM is destroyed**, God gives Ezekiel a **vision of**

the valley of “DRY BONES.” He tells Ezekiel to **prophecy to the bones** and they come together to form the **ARMY OF GOD**. It is a prophecy that **God will RAISE UP His people again** in coming **home to Jerusalem** but, **more importantly**, it prefigures **all of those** who come to **faith in Christ** being **MADE ALIVE UNTO GOD—SOLDIERS** in His army!

- 38. Ezekiel 38-48** Ezekiel gives a prophetic look at the **END TIMES**. He cites **GOG** and **MAGOG**, which are the **descendants of NOAH’S SON, JAPHETH**, and others which will mount an **INVASION into The Holy Land** near the **END OF THIS AGE**. The prophecy reassures **all BELIEVERS** that **God will be victorious** in this **END-TIME** battle. Ezekiel also prophesies of a **FUTURE TEMPLE**, which doesn’t seem to be an **actual TEMPLE**, but **representative of the CHRISTIAN AGE** and that **JESUS is our TRUE TEMPLE**.