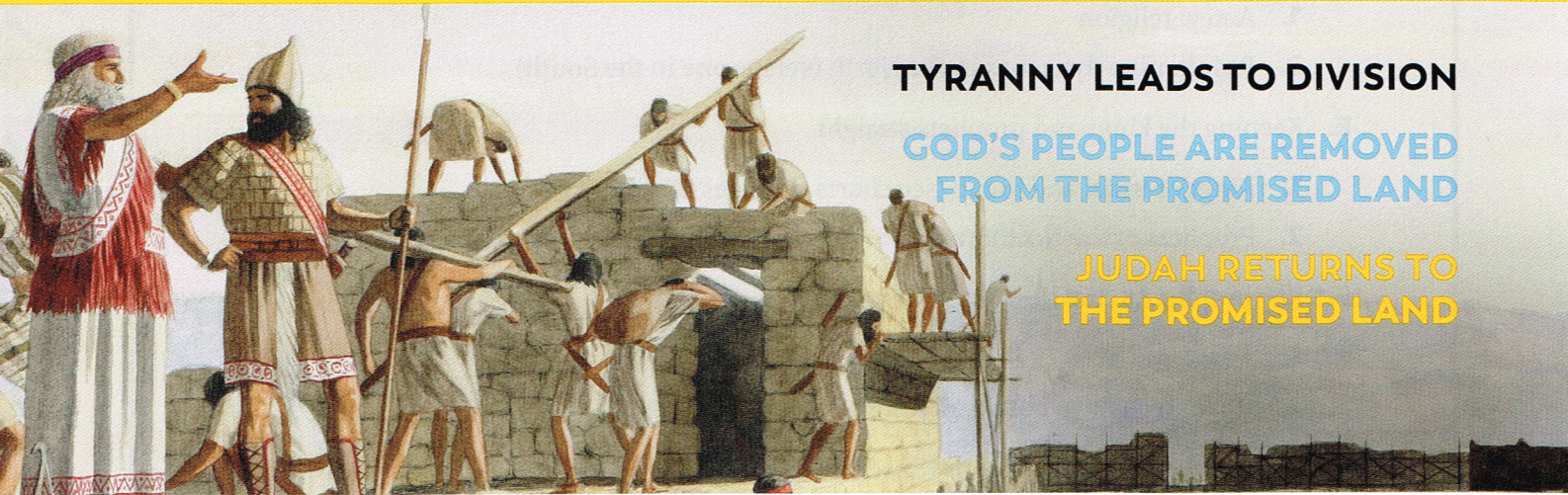


Session Six – DIVIDED KINGDOM

EXILE

and RETURN



TYRANNY LEADS TO DIVISION

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE REMOVED FROM THE PROMISED LAND

JUDAH RETURNS TO THE PROMISED LAND

Session Six Talk Notes

- I. Overview of Session Six: Three Periods on the Chart
- II. Divided Kingdom
 - A. Everything changes here
 1. Israel divides
 2. The prophets begin here
 - B. 930 BC – The kingdom divides (1 Kings 12:6)
 1. Rehoboam's decision
 2. Jeroboam leads the North to separate from the house of David
 3. How to read the Chart
 - C. Two kingdoms
 1. Ten tribes to the North, two to the South
 2. Israel (North)
 - a. Capital: Samaria
 - b. King: Jeroboam
 3. Judah (South)
 - a. Capital: Jerusalem
 - b. King: Rehoboam (Solomon's son)

- 4.** Prophets move people to obey God's Word
- D.** Jeroboam's dilemma: no access to Temple
 - 1.** A new religion
 - 2.** Result: nine dynasties in the North (versus one in the South)
- E.** Keeping the kings and prophets straight
 - 1.** Kings of Israel and Judah (see charts on pages 47 and 48)
 - 2.** Prophets of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (see chart on page 49)
- F.** Key prophets to the Northern Kingdom
 - 1.** Amos
 - 2.** Hosea: You have been unfaithful
- G.** Key prophets to the Southern Kingdom
 - 1.** Isaiah warns of exile
 - 2.** Jeremiah prophesies exile for seventy years
- H.** How to read 1 and 2 Kings
 - 1.** Supplemental books: 1 and 2 Chronicles

III. Exile

- A.** The Exile on the Chart
- B.** Remembering the world powers: Eat A Big Purple GRape
 - 1.** Assyria: world power when Israel is exiled
 - 2.** Babylon: world power when Judah is exiled
- C.** Focus on the North (Israel)
 - 1.** 722 BC – exile by Assyria
 - 2.** Assyria settles Samaria with captives from five other nations
- D.** Focus on the South (Judah)
 - 1.** Jeremiah 34: unfaithful
 - 2.** 587 BC – Babylon destroys Jerusalem
- E.** Three waves of exile to Babylon
 - 1.** 605 BC – Daniel
 - 2.** 597 BC – Ezekiel, Baruch
 - 3.** 587 BC – destruction of Jerusalem

IV. Return: Brighter Days Ahead

- A.** The Return on the chart
- B.** Cyrus of Persia is foretold by Isaiah (Isaiah 45): allows Judah to return
- C.** Three “waves” of return
 - 1.** 537 BC – Zerubbabel rebuilds the Temple
 - 2.** 458 BC – Ezra returns and teaches the Law
 - 3.** 444 BC – Nehemiah returns and rebuilds Jerusalem walls
- D.** Spiritual lessons: ingredients to rebuild your life
 - 1.** Eucharist (worship)
 - 2.** Word (teaching)
 - 3.** Community
- E.** Ahead: a new return from sin

T • A • K • E • A • W • A • Y • S

- 1. God provides the Eucharist, the Word of God, and the Church to heal our brokenness.**
- 2. There is always hope of restoration.**

Discussion Questions

- 1.** Shortly after Solomon’s death, the glorious Royal Kingdom splits in two. (Look at the map on page 40. The line of division is just north of Jerusalem.) What precipitates this division? (See 1 Kings 12:6-11.)

- 2.** What are the two resulting kingdoms called?

Northern Kingdom: _____

Southern Kingdom: _____

3. What grave sin does King Jeroboam commit soon after the Northern Kingdom is formed? (See 1 Kings 12:26-30.) Why does he do this?

4. **Think About It:** In what sense is Israel and Judah's punishment for their sin a physical reflection of their spiritual state?

5. The dark period of the Divided Kingdom is represented by the color black. What color is used to help recall the period of the Exile, and why?

6. Read Jeremiah 31:31-33. God says that Israel has broken the covenant they made with him. Look along the top of your Chart where the covenant icons in "God's Family Plan" appear. What is this "new covenant" Jeremiah announces? When will it be made?

7. How might looking to "other gods" in our culture result in a spiritual exile from God? Search your heart to see if you have any idolatrous attachments in your life.

8. What color is used to characterize the period of Return? Why?

9. What unlikely person does God use to return his people to the Promised Land? How is the Return accomplished? (See Ezra 1:1-4 for help with this question.)
10. What three kinds of rebuilding are necessary when the Jews return?

Closing Prayer



God's plan unfolded through history and gives us the "story" for our lives. Let us pray in the name of Jesus.

Israel split into rival kingdoms and fell into idolatry:

R: Help us to choose your kingdom over other loves.

You punished first Israel and then Judah with exile. Prophets brought a message of hope:

R: In our exile due to sin, show us the way home.

You brought the exiles back to Canaan; they rebuilt the Temple and Jerusalem and were taught once more from your Law:

R: Rebuild our broken hearts and lives as we return to you.

Our Father ...



Home Preparation: Looking Ahead

After a number of generations, a new foreign power comes on the scene, and the Jews are faced with a new threat. Will they succumb to a pagan culture and religion, or will they be faithful to God? The Maccabean Revolt tells this stirring story of faith and courage.

*The Old Testament is finished, and the time for fulfillment of God's promises has come. God's people have been waiting for the Messiah for centuries, and the long years of spiritual exile end at last in the period of **MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT**. Will the Jews recognize the Son of Man and the kingdom he has come to establish on earth?*

Use your Chart to fill in the following information about these time periods:

Period name: **MACCABEAN REVOLT** Approximate dates: _____

Period color: _____ Color meaning: _____

List two main events: _____

Name the new world power: _____

Period name: **MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT** Approximate dates: _____

Period color: _____ Color meaning: _____

Narrative book: _____ Supplemental books: _____

(Note: The four Gospels are of equal importance. Luke was chosen as the narrative book for this session because it includes the infancy narrative and provides a more complete story of the history covered in The Bible Timeline Learning System.)

Read the following passages to get a summary of the period of the Maccabean Revolt and some key events in Messianic Fulfillment:

MACCABEAN REVOLT:	1 Maccabees 1-2	Maccabean revolt
	2 Maccabees 7	Seven martyrs and their mother
MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT: PART I:	Luke 1-4	Announcement of the birth of the Messiah; temptation in the desert
	Luke 6:12-36	The twelve apostles; the Sermon on the Plain
	Luke 9:1-36	Sending out of the Twelve; feeding of the five thousand; Peter's confession of faith; the Transfiguration