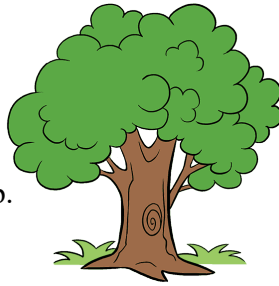


The Family Tree

“The LORD called you a thriving olive tree with fruit beautiful in form. But with the roar of a mighty storm He will set it on fire, and its branches will be broken.” - Jeremiah 11:16



The Kingdom Under David

1. David's rule was a time of victory and worship.
2. The kingdom expanded ten-fold.
3. The king and the people worship the Lord!

“David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.”

- 1 Chronicles 29:10

The Kingdom Under Solomon, David's Son

Solomon's rule was a time of peace and prosperity!

1. Solomon's Start

“Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.” - 2 Chronicles 1:1

2. Solomon's Wisdom

“That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” ...¹⁰“Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?” - 2 Chronicles 1:7,10

3. Solomon's Excess

“The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” ¹⁷He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.” - Deut. 17:16,17

The Horses

“Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem... ²⁸Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt...” - 1 Kings 10:26,28

The Wives

“He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.” - 1 Kings 11:3

The Wealth

“The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents,” - 1 Kings 10:14

“The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones...” - 1 Kings 10:27

4. Solomon's End

- 1 Kings 11:4

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.”

The Kingdom Under Rehoboam, David's Grandson

Rehoboam's rule was a time of chaos and division.

1. Rehoboam's greed and folly.

“Some worthless scoundrels gathered around him and opposed Rehoboam son of Solomon when he was young and indecisive and not strong enough to resist them.” - 2 Chronicles 13:7

2. Rehoboam's End.

“Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.”

- 2 Chronicles 12:16

The Kingdom Under David's Heirs

There were 20 kings of Judah in David's line.

The vast majority of them did not follow God.

“He (Abijah) committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.” - 1 Kings 15:3

“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD.” - 2 Chronicles 18:1

But God did not destroy David's line.

“Nevertheless, for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.” - 1 Kings 15:3

When His people rejected Him, God punishes them. He cut down their “tree” but allowed the root to remain. A Stump!

“Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the LORD, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.” - 2 Chronicles 36:14

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” - Isaiah 11:1

The Lessons We Learn

1. God has a plan for His people and for the throne of David. A “Shoot” will restore the kingdom and the people.

“The scepter will not depart from Judah; nor the ruler's staff from between his feet until He comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is His.” - Genesis 49:10

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right...” - Jeremiah 23:5

2. It is spiritually dangerous for a nation or for an individual to have great prosperity!

3. We cannot follow the Lord half-heartedly and be successful.

4. Jesus reminded us that our lives must be fruitful or the ax will strike!

“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” - Matthew 3:10

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For Further Discussion

The Family Tree

Let's Review

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Consider and Discuss the Following:

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2. How does our nation or your life reflect the nation of Israel?
3. How has prosperity hurt your walk with Christ? What could you do to work on that?
4. One thing that we read about David is that he was "wholehearted" in his faith. How many people do you know that would earn that label? Would that define your faith?
5. Read Matthew 3:1-10. What does Jesus' reference of the ax mean to you? What do you think it meant to those who heard Him speak? How does it affect your thinking concerning your walk with God?

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