

Small Group Guide: The Big Picture - Jesus in the Old Testament

Kings and Chronicles



Summary:

In the books of Kings and Chronicles, we uncover a profound lesson about God's unwavering commitment to His promises. Despite the tumultuous history of Israel and Judah, with kingdoms divided and countless kings failing to follow God, we see a golden thread of hope running through it all. This hope centers on the Davidic covenant - God's promise that a descendant of David would always sit on the throne. Even when it seemed impossible, when evil Queen Athaliah nearly wiped out the royal line, God preserved a single heir. This miraculous preservation of David's lineage points directly to Jesus, our Messiah. It reminds us that no matter how chaotic or hopeless our circumstances may seem, God is working behind the scenes to fulfill His promises. Just as He kept His word through centuries of turmoil, we can trust Him to be faithful in our lives today.

Key Takeaways:

1. God's plan for salvation through Jesus was woven throughout Israel's history, even in times of chaos and division.
2. The split of Israel into northern and southern kingdoms ultimately served to preserve the Messianic line through Judah.
3. God's promises remain true even when circumstances seem dire or hopeless.
4. Sometimes we can't see God's larger plan in the midst of our struggles, but He is always working.

Discussion Questions:

1. The message contained a personal story about facing homelessness and uncertainty. Have you ever experienced a time when you couldn't see God's plan, but looking back you can see how He was working? Share with the group.
2. How does understanding the big picture of Israel's history help us see Jesus in the Old Testament?
3. What struck you about the story of Athaliah and Jehoshabab? How does this demonstrate God's sovereignty in preserving the Messianic line?
4. The northern kingdom of Israel had no good kings, while Judah occasionally had righteous rulers. How might this relate to leadership in our lives today?
5. How does the 400-year period of silence before Jesus' arrival parallel the Israelites' time in Egypt? What does this teach us about waiting on God?
6. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the role of Messiah that was anticipated throughout Israel's history?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try to identify an area of uncertainty in your life. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you trust His bigger plan even when you can't see it.
2. Choose one Old Testament book (perhaps 1 Kings or 1 Chronicles) and read it with the perspective of looking for hints of Jesus and God's redemptive plan.
3. Make a timeline of your life, noting significant events. Reflect on how God may have been working behind the scenes, even in difficult times.
4. Practice sharing your testimony, focusing on how God has worked in your life over time, similar to how the pastor shared his story.
5. Commit to praying for current leaders (in church, work, or government), that they would seek God's wisdom like the good kings of Judah.

Closing Thought:

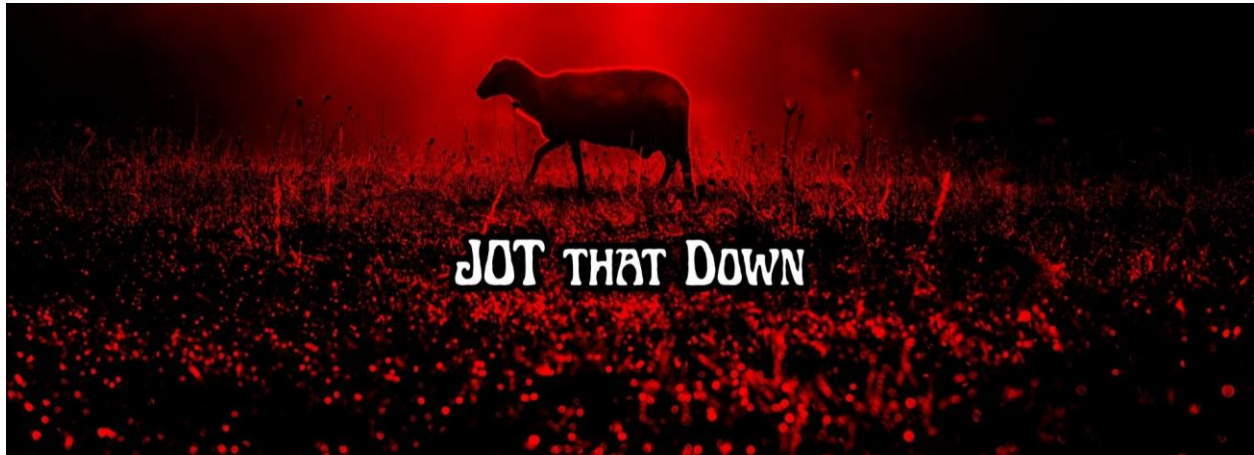
Just as God preserved the line of David through centuries of turmoil to bring about the Messiah, He is working in our lives and in our world today. Let's encourage one another to trust in His bigger picture, even when we can't see it clearly.

Study Reference Tools

Israel				
Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture
931 - 910	Jeroboam I (servant)	Evil / Evil	Ahijah	1 Ki 12-14 2 Ch 10
910 - 909	Nadab (son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 15
909 - 886	Baasha	Evil / Evil	Jehu	1 Ki 16
886 - 885	Elah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 16
885	Zimri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Micaiah	1 Ki 16
885 - 874	Omri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Elijah 1 Ki 17-19 1 Ki 21 2 Ki 1-2	1 Ki 16
874 - 853	Ahab (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 17 2 Ch 18
853 - 852	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 22 2 Ki 1
852 - 841	Joram (Son of Ahab)	Evil / Evil	Elisha 1 Ki 19 2 Ki 2-9 2 Ki 13	2 Ki 3
841 - 814	Jehu (Captain)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 9-10
814 - 798	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13
798 - 782	Jehoash (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13-14
782 - 753	Jeroboam II (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 14
753 - 752	Zechariah (Son)	Evil / Evil	<i>Amos</i> <i>Hosea</i>	2 Ki 15
752	Shallum	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
752 - 742	Menahem	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
742 - 740	Pekahiah (Son)	Evil / Evil	(2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1)	2 Ki 15
752 - 740 (rival) 733 - 722 (sole)	Pekah (Captain)	Evil / Evil	<i>Micah</i>	2 Ki 15
732 - 722	Hoshea	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 17
Israel into Assyrian captivity - 722 BC				

Judah				
Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture
931 - 913	Rehoboam (Son)	Evil / Evil	Shemaiah	1 Ki 12, 14 2 Ch 10-12
913 - 911	Abijah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 15 2 Ch 13
911 - 870	Asa (Son)	Good/Good	Hanani	1 Ki 15 2 Ch 14-16
870 - 848	Jehoshaphat (Son)	Good/Good		1 Ki 22 2 Ch 17-20
848 - 841	Jehoram (Son)	Evil / Evil	Obadiah(?)	2 Ki 8 2 Ch 21
841	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 8-9 2 Ch 22
841 - 835	Athaliah (mother)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 11 2 Ch 22-23
835 - 796	Joash (son of Ahaziah)	Good / Evil	Joel	2 Ki 11-12 2 Ch 23-24
796 - 767	Amaziah (son)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 14 2 Ch 25
767 - 740	Uzziah aka Azariah (Son)	Good/Evil	Isaiah Micah	2 Ki 15 2 Ch 26
748 - 732	Jotham (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 15 2 Ch 27
732 - 716	Ahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 16 2 Ch 28 Is 7
716 - 687	Hezekiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 18-20 2 Ch 29-32 Is 36-39
687 - 642	Manasseh (Son)	Evil / Good		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33
642 - 640	Amon (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33
640 - 608	Josiah (Son)	Good/Good	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Ki 22-23 2 Ch 34-35
608	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 23 2 Ch 36
608 - 597	Jehoiakim (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 23-24 2 Ch 36
597	Jehoiachin (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36
597 - 586	Zedekiah (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36
Judah into Babylonian captivity - 586 BC				

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: God's Faithfulness in Uncertain Times

Reading: 1 Kings 12:1-24

Devotional:

Just as Rehoboam faced a kingdom divided, we often encounter times of uncertainty and division in our lives. Yet even in these moments, God remains faithful. Reflect on a time when you felt lost or uncertain about your path. How did God guide you through that period? Remember that God's plans are often beyond our understanding, but He is always working for our good. Today, trust in His faithfulness, even when the path ahead seems unclear.

Day 2: The Danger of False Worship

Reading: 1 Kings 12:25-33

Devotional:

Jeroboam's creation of golden calves reminds us how easily we can be led astray by false idols. In our modern world, these idols might not be golden statues, but could be success, money, or even relationships that we prioritize over God. What are the "golden calves" in your life that might be drawing your heart away from true worship? Ask God to reveal any areas where you've allowed false worship to creep in, and recommit yourself to putting Him first in all things.

Day 3: God's Protection of His Promises

Reading: 2 Kings 11:1-3

Devotional:

The story of Joash's rescue demonstrates God's incredible commitment to His promises. Even when it seemed all hope was lost, God preserved the line of David through one small child. This reminds us that God's plans cannot be thwarted, no matter how dire circumstances may appear. What promises of God are you holding onto in your life? How can you trust Him more deeply, knowing that He will always fulfill His word, even in seemingly impossible situations?

Day 4: The Power of One Faithful Act

Reading: 2 Kings 11:4-21

Devotional:

Jehosheba's brave act of rescuing Joash had far-reaching consequences, preserving the Messianic line. This shows us that even small acts of faithfulness can have a tremendous impact in God's plan. Reflect on times when a small act of kindness or obedience led to unexpected blessings. How might God be calling you to step out in faith today, even in a seemingly small way? Remember, your faithfulness matters more than you know.

Day 5: Hope in the Midst of Silence

Reading: Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:5-25

Devotional:

The 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testaments mirror the 400 years of Israelite slavery in Egypt. Both periods ended with the arrival of a deliverer - Moses, and then Jesus. When God seems silent in your life, it doesn't mean He's absent. He's often preparing something greater than we can imagine. In what areas of your life do you need renewed hope? Take time to thank God for His ongoing work, even when you can't see it, and ask Him to strengthen your faith as you wait for His perfect timing.