

The Northern Kingdom

- Nine 'dynasties'
 - 5 with only one king – 1 lasting only 7 days; 1 lasting only 1 month
 - 2 strong dynasties: Omride & Jehuic
- Jeroboam I of the tribe of Ephraim: "Ephraim 'is' Israel"
 - Syncretism and apostasy: "did evil in the sight of the LORD as Jeroboam"
- Conquered and taken into exile by Assyria in 722 BC

Unit Ten

Judah, the Southern Kingdom

931 – 586 BC

(2 Kings 21 – 25; 2 Chronicles 33 – 36;
Jeremiah 21, 22, 25, 38, 39)

Rehoboam

- 1 Kings 12.1-24; 14.21-31; 2 Chronicles 10 – 12
- 931-913 BC (reigned 17 years)
- Mother an Ammonitess
- Idolatry (continued)
- Shishak (Sheshonq I) of Egypt came, taking treasure from the LORD's house and the king's house as punishment for Rehoboam's sin
- War with Jeroboam I continually

Abijam

- 1 Kings 15.1-8; 2 Chronicles 15.1-22
- 913-911 BC (reigned 3 years)
- Continued sins of his father
- His mother was Maacah, daughter of Abishalom (Absalom) - Rehoboam married his 1st cousin
- War with Jeroboam (mostly successful)

Asa

- 1 Kings 15.9-24; 2 Chronicles 14.1 – 16.14
- 911- 870* BC (reigned 41 years)
- First of the religiously good kings of Judah
- Removed Maacah as Queen Mother
- Conquered 1 million-man Ethiopian army
- However, he turned to Ben-hadad I of Aram in conflict against Baasha of Israel
- Summary: mighty, built cities, died in old age

Jehoshaphat

- 1 Kings 22.1-50; 2 Chronicles 17.1 – 20.37
- 873*-848 BC (reigned 25 years)
- Walked in the ways of Asa
- Made **peace with Israel**
- Defeated coalition of Moab, Ammon and Edom
- Died of terrible bowel disorder

Jehoram (Joram)

- 2 Kings 8.16-24; 2 Chronicles 21.1 – 20
- 853*-841 BC (reigned 8 years)
- Same name as Ahab's son
- Married *Athaliah*, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
- Did evil as kings of Israel (2 Ki 8.18f)
- Lost Edom and Libnah
- Lost wives/sons to coalition of Philistines & "Arabs"



Ahaziah (Jehoahaz)

- Ahaziah (Jehoahaz)
- 2 Kings 8.25-29; 9.21-29; 2 Chronicles 22.1 – 9
- 841 BC (reigned <1 year)
- Walked in the way of the house of Ahab (his maternal grandfather)
- Peace with Israel
- Killed by Jehu along with the “house of Omri” in Israel, when he was 23 years old

Queen Athaliah

- 2 Kings 11.1-16; 2 Chronicles 22.10 – 23.15
- 841-835 BC (reigned 6 years)
- Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, mother of Ahaziah, wife of Jehoram
- Killed all the royal offspring except Joash, who was hidden by his sister in the Temple for 6 years
- Peace with Israel
- Jehoiada the High Priest crowned Joash king when he was 7 years old and had Athaliah killed

Jehoash (Joash)

- 2 Kings 11.1-16; 2 Chronicles 22.10 – 23.15
- 835-796 BC (reigned 40 years)
- First of a run of 4 successive good kings
- Initially did right in the sight of the Lord all the days that Jehoiada instructed him, **but high places remained**
- **Peace with Israel**
- Though he started well, he faltered
- Assassinated by his own servants

Amaziah

- 2 Kings 14.1-22; 2 Chronicles 25.1-28
- 796-767* BC (reigned 29 years; last 24 co-regency with Uzziah)
- Killed Joash's assassins
- Initially did right, **except high places not removed**
- He later faltered after conquering Edom
 - Retook Edom, then became apostate, serving gods of Edom
- Challenged Jehoash, king of Israel and was defeated
- Assassinated by conspiracy

Uzziah (Azariah)



- 2 Kings 15.1-7; 2 Chronicles 26.1-23
- 791*-739* BC (reigned 52 years; 16 years sole reign)
- Did right **except high places not removed**
- Successful in battle and restoring kingdom
 - Uzziah + Jeroboam II holdings = David/Solomon
- Usurped privilege of priests

Jotham

- 2 Kings 15.30-38; 2 Chronicles 27
- 750*-731* BC (reigned 20 years; first 12 co-regency with Uzziah; last 4 along with Ahaz)
- Did right as Uzziah had done
- Judah began being troubled by Israel and Aram

Ahaz

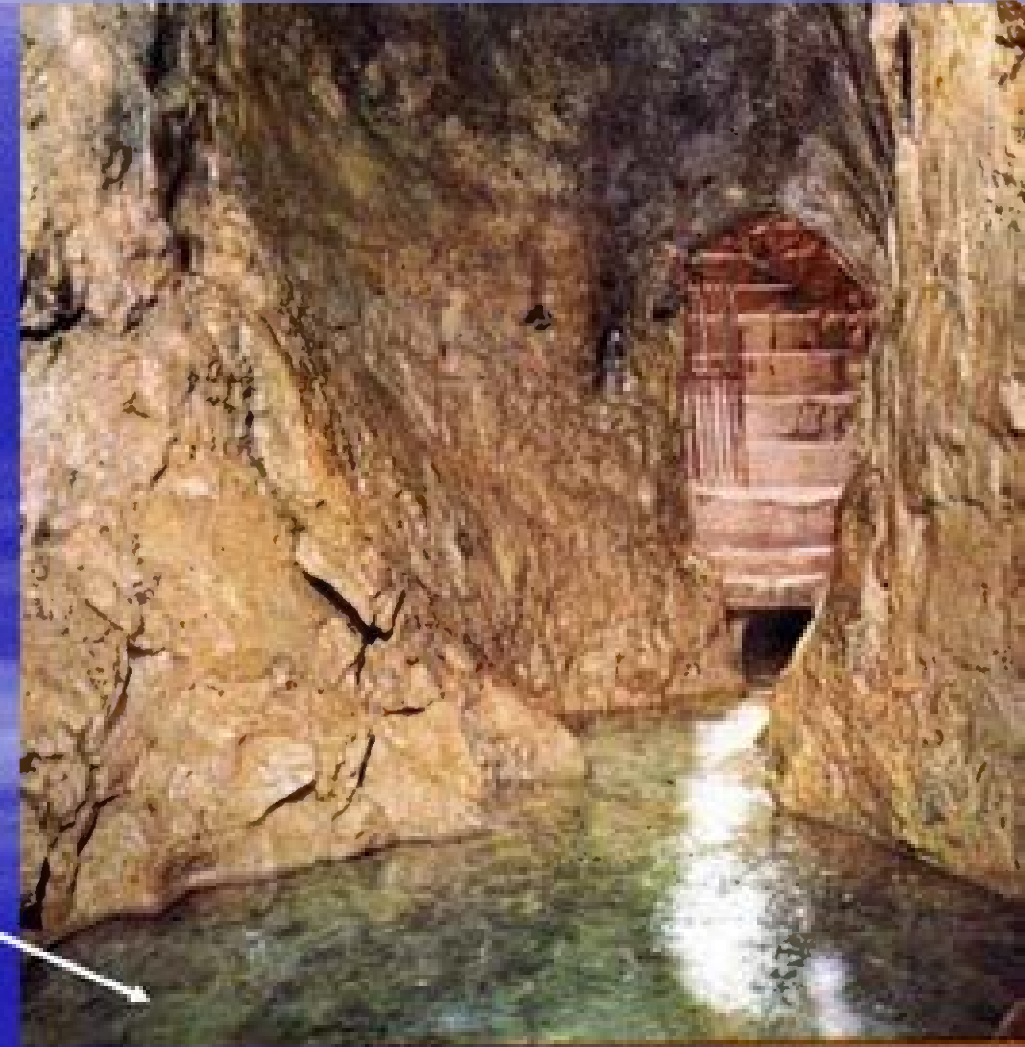
- 2 Kings 16.1-20; 2 Chronicles 28
- 743*-715* BC (reigned 28 years; sole reign for 16 years, + 8 with Jotham, + 4 with Hezekiah)
- Did evil according to the kings of Israel
- Besieged by Israel and Aram
 - Appealed for aid and became vassal to Assyria
- Had replica of Damascus altar made
- Broke up Temple furniture in order to pay tribute; closed Temple doors

Hezekiah

- 2 Kings 18.1 – 20.21; 2 Chronicles 29 – 32
- 728*-686* BC (sole reign 29 years; + 4 with Ahaz + 10 with Manasseh)
- Did right, even **destroying the high places**, broke down sacred pillars, cut down Asherah
 - “broke up the bronze serpent that had become an object of worship”
- Restored Passover
- “After him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah; he clung to the LORD” (2 Chr 29.20-36)

Hezekiah

- Rebelled against Assyria; conquered Philistines
- Prospered
- Assyrians conquered Israel in 722 BC, take most of Judah, threaten Jerusalem
 - Isaiah prophesies against Assyrians; Jerusalem twice delivered (2nd time angel of LORD killed 185,000 Assyrians)
 - Constructed famous 1200-cubit Siloam Tunnel from the Gihon Spring in a cave



EXCURSUS ON HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL

Background

- David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach . . . through the water tunnel." (2 Sam 5.6-8)
- Now when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, he decided with his officers and his warriors to cut off the water from the springs which were outside the city . . . and many people assembled and stopped up all the springs and the stream which flowed through the region (2 Chr 32.2-4)
- Then the king of Assyria sent . . . a large army to Jerusalem. So they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they went up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway of the fuller's field. (2 Ki 18.17)

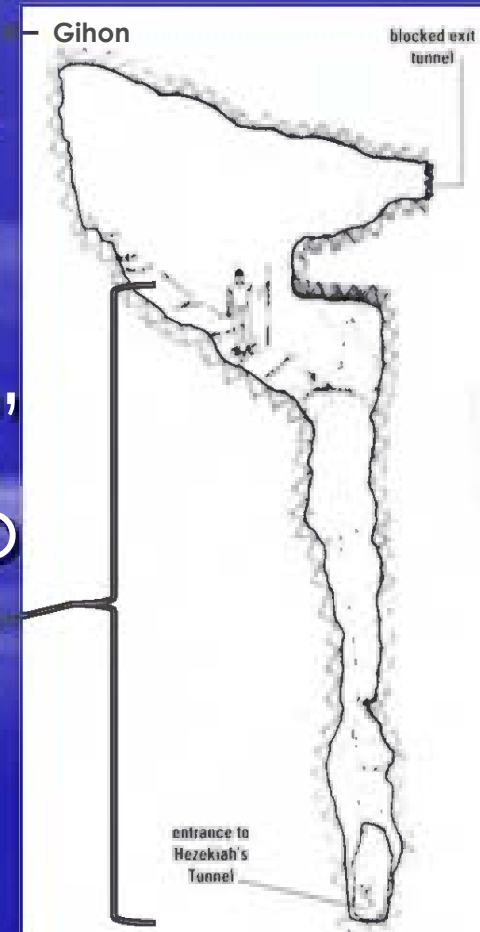
Hezekiah's Tunnel

- Connected Gihon Spring in a cave outside the city to Siloam Pool within the walls of the city of David (~1/3 mile)
- Spring connected to a naturally occurring sinkhole ("Warren's Shaft") partly by widening and



deepening a natural fissure into a tunnel connecting the spring to the shaft; in a steeper part of this "tunnel," steps to the shaft were made down to access the 'well' 25 cubits

- The presence of the shaft explains how the diggers had ventilation



Hezekiah's Tunnel

- In this region, there lie 2 layers – porous limestone atop impermeable dolomite
 - The limestone naturally allows the flow of water in all directions – until it reaches down to the dolomite; then it is forced to travel atop that layer, entering any faults or cracks
 - These are then gradually enlarged into channels; these are the rifts that Hezekiah could widen and deepen into a tunnel

Hezekiah's Tunnel

- Understanding these naturally occurring rifts explains the serpentine nature of the tunnel
- They also explain how the diggers could meet together so accurately
- Hezekiah's tunnel followed a natural fissure



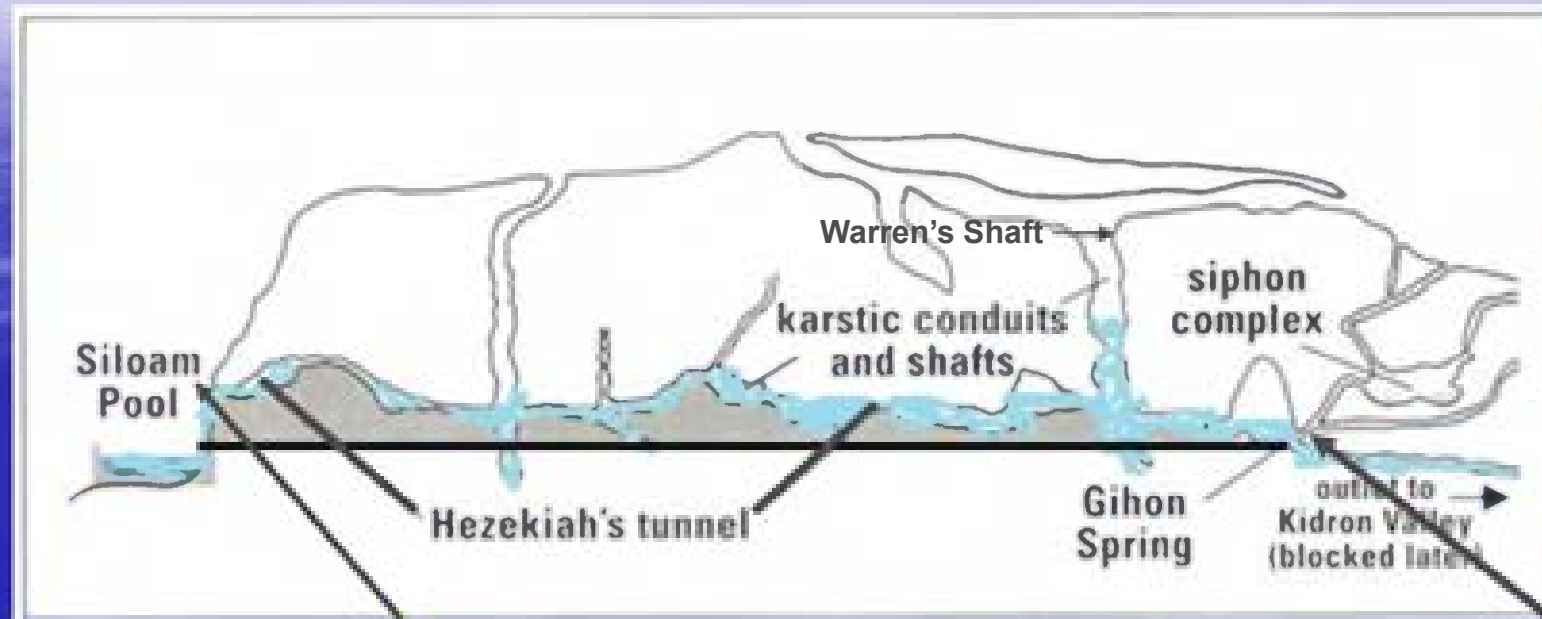
Hezekiah's Tunnel



- Note the natural and the carved ceilings
- The tunnel runs from 4.8-6 feet high in most places, but rises to 16.5 feet in some places (obviously not b/c of human efforts)



Hezekiah's Tunnel



- Notice that the exit to the tunnel is higher than Gihon Spring
- A dam was built to block the waters from the Kidron Valley and fill the enlarged tunnel to allow flow



Hezekiah's Tunnel

“this is the story of the tunnel while ... the axes were against each other and while three cubits were left to (cut?) ... the voice of a man ... called to his counterpart, (for) there was ZADA (?) in the rock, on the right ... and on the day of the tunnel (being finished) the stonecutters struck each man towards his counterpart, ax against ax and water flowed from the source to the pool for 1,200 cubits. and (100?) cubits was the height over the head of the stonecutters ...”

Hezekiah

- Hezekiah's illness and recovery (2 Kings 20.1-11)
- Visit by Berodach-baladan, son of Baladan, king of Babylon (2 Kings 20.16-19)

Manasseh

- 2 Kings 21.1 – 18; 2 Chronicles 33.1-20
- 697*-642 BC (reigned 55 years)
- Did evil according to abominations of the nations
- Prophets proclaimed the judgment of the LORD on Judah as a result
- Exiled to Babylon by the Assyrian king, where he repented
- His great sin, nevertheless, was remembered
- He was buried “in his own house,” not the “tombs of the sons of David”

Amon

- 2 Kings 21.19-26; 2 Chronicles 33.21-25
- 642-640 BC (reigned 2 years)
- He did evil as Manasseh
- Assassinated by his servants

Josiah

- 2 Kings 22.1 – 23.30; 2 Chronicles 34 – 35
- 640-609 BC (reigned 31 years)
- He did right in the sight of the LORD
- “Surely **such** a Passover had not been celebrated from the days of the judges” (2 Ki 23.22)
- Before him and after him there were none like him
- Went out to face Pharaoh Neco on his way to fight with the Assyrians against Babylon and was killed
- Remarkably, 3 of his sons would rule after him

Jehoahaz (Joahaz)

- 2 Kings 23.31-33; 2 Chronicles 36.1-3
- 609 BC (reigned 3 months)
- Josiah's son₁
- Did evil in the sight of the LORD
- Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco who imposed tribute on the land

Eliakim (→Jehoiakim)

- 2 Kings 23.34 – 24.7; 2 Chronicles 36.4-8
- 609-597 BC (reigned 11 years and died)
- Installed by Pharaoh Neco and name changed to Jehoiakim
- Josiah's son₂
- Did evil in the sight of the LORD
- Nebuchadnezzar came during his reign
- **First deportation** (including Daniel)

Jehoiachin (Coniah, Jeconiah)

- 2 Kings 24.8-16; 2 Chronicles 36.9-10
- 597 BC (reigned 3 months)
- Jehoiakim's son; Josiah's grandson
- Did evil in the sight of the LORD
- Surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar and was carried into exile
- Temple plundered and all but the poorest were carried away into captivity (**second deportation**)

Mattaniah (→ Zedekiah)

- 2 Kings 24.17 – 25.21; 2 Chronicles 36.10-19
- 597-586 BC (reigned 11 years)
- Josiah's son₃
- Did evil in the sight of the LORD
- Rebelled against Babylon
 - his sons killed before his eyes, his eyes put out; he was carried into captivity in Babylon
 - Jerusalem utterly destroyed (walls, houses, temple)
 - all but the poorest of the poor carried into exile (**third deportation**)
 - chief priests, military officers and other leaders killed

Gedaliah the Governor

- 2 Kings 25.22-26
- 586 BC
- Killed by Ishmael of the royal family after 7 months
- Remaining “leaders” of Judah flee to Egypt, forcing Jeremiah to go with them

Jehoiachin

- 2 Kings 25.27
- Released by Nebuchadnezzar's son 37 years after exile (560 BC), setting him on the most prominent throne for foreign kings and giving him an allowance
 - a tablet has been found in archeological digs from Babylon acknowledging this
 - Did Daniel et al., Mordecai or Esther influence this?

SEVENTH-CENTURY PROPHETS

Jeremiah

- Began to minister in Josiah's 13th year
- Josiah had begun to follow "the God of his father David" in his 8th year (age 16)
- Josiah began reforms in his 15th year, probably under the influence of Jeremiah
- Jeremiah fell out of favor with Josiah's successors
- ministry continued until after all 3 Babylonian exiles
- message

Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk

ZEPHANIAH

- Josiah's reign (1.1) prior to reforms (1.4)
- Message: severe punishment for Judah's sin (2.4 – 3.7)

NAHUM

- during Josiah's reign, three years before his death
- main theme was the fall of Nineveh (612 BC)

HABAKKUK

- From the close of Josiah to early Jehoiakim
- Message: Babylonian invasion as an instrument of God's justice is near at hand (1.1-11)

SEVENTH-CENTURY PROPHETS

Purpose in history

- in no other time in the history of Israel/Judah had there been such a concentration of *writing* prophets (whose works have survived and been canonized)
- Final intensive warning of pending judgment and call to repentance