

Chanukah



The Maccabees

Before his death, Mattityahu called his sons together and urged them to continue to fight in defense of G-d's [Torah](#). He asked them to follow the counsel of their brother Shimon the Wise. In waging warfare, he said, their leader should be Judah the Strong. Judah was

called "Maccabee," a word composed of the initial letters of the four Hebrew words *Mi Kamocha Ba'eilim Hashem*, "Who is like You, O G-d."

Antiochus sent his General Apolonius to wipe out Judah and his followers, the Maccabees. Though greater in number and equipment than their adversaries, the Syrians were defeated by the Maccabees. Antiochus sent out another expedition which also was defeated. He realized that only by sending a powerful army could he hope to defeat Judah and his brave fighting men.

An army consisting of more than 40,000 men swept the land under the leadership of two commanders, Nicanor and Gorgiash. When Judah and his brothers heard of that, they exclaimed: "Let us fight unto death in defense of our souls and our Temple!" The people assembled in Mitzpah, where Samuel, the prophet of old, had offered prayers to G-d. After a series of battles the war was won.

The Dedication

Now the Maccabees returned to Jerusalem to liberate it. They entered the Temple and cleared it of the idols placed there by the Syrian vandals. Judah and his followers built a new altar, which he dedicated on the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev, in the year 3622 (139 B.C.E.).

Since the golden Menorah had been stolen by the Syrians, the Maccabees now made one of cheaper metal. When they wanted to light it, they found only a small cruse of pure olive oil bearing the seal of the High Priest Yochanan. It was sufficient to light only for one day. By a miracle of G-d, it continued to burn for eight days, till new oil was made available. That miracle proved that G-d had again taken His people under His protection. In memory of this, our sages appointed these eight days for annual thanksgiving and for lighting candles.

2 Kings 17

Hoshea Reigns over Israel

17 In the twelfth year of King Ahaz of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel; he reigned nine years. ² He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him. ³ King Shalmaneser of Assyria came up against him; Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute. ⁴ But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to King So of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria confined him and imprisoned him.

Israel Carried Captive to Assyria

⁵ Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria; for three years he besieged it. ⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria captured Samaria; he carried the Israelites away to Assyria. He placed them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

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⁷ This occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They had worshiped other gods ⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had introduced.^[a] ⁹ The people of Israel secretly did things that were not right against the Lord their God. They built for themselves high places at all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city; ¹⁰ they set up for themselves pillars and sacred poles^[b] on every high hill and under every green tree; ¹¹ there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the Lord carried away before them. They did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger; ¹² they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this.” ¹³ Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the law that I commanded your ancestors and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” ¹⁴ They would not listen but were stubborn, as their ancestors had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God. ¹⁵ They despised his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their ancestors, and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false; they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do as they did. ¹⁶ They rejected all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves cast images of two calves; they made a sacred pole,^[c] worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. ¹⁷ They made their sons and their daughters pass through fire; they used divination and augury; and they sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. ¹⁸ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight; none was left but the tribe of Judah alone.

¹⁹ Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. ²⁰ The Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel; he punished them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had banished them from his presence.

²¹ When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat king. Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. ²² The people of Israel continued in all the sins that Jeroboam committed; they did not depart from them ²³ until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had foretold through all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

Assyria Resettles Samaria

²⁴ The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities. ²⁵ When they first settled there, they did not worship the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. ²⁶ So the king of Assyria was told, “The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land; therefore he has sent lions among them; they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land.” ²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there; let him^[d] go and live there, and teach them the law of the god of the land.” ²⁸ So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel; he taught them how they should worship the Lord.

²⁹ But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the people of Samaria had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived; ³⁰ the people of Babylon made Succoth-benoth,

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the people of Cuth made Nergal, the people of Hamath made Ashima; ³¹ the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. ³² They also worshiped the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. ³³ So they worshiped the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. ³⁴ To this day they continue to practice their former customs.

They do not worship the Lord and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. ³⁵ The Lord had made a covenant with them and commanded them, “You shall not worship other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them, ³⁶ but you shall worship the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm; you shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice. ³⁷ The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to observe. You shall not worship other gods; ³⁸ you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not worship other gods, ³⁹ but you shall worship the Lord your God; he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.” ⁴⁰ They would not listen, however, but they continued to practice their former custom.

⁴¹ So these nations worshiped the Lord, but also served their carved images; to this day their children and their children’s children continue to do as their ancestors did.

2 Kiings 25:27-30

²⁷⁻³⁰ When Jehoiachin king of Judah had been in exile for thirty-seven years, Evil-Merodach became king in Babylon and let Jehoiachin out of prison. This release took place on the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month. The king treated him most courteously and gave him preferential treatment beyond anything experienced by the other political prisoners held in Babylon. Jehoiachin took off his prison garb and for the rest of his life ate his meals in company with the king. The king provided everything he needed to live comfortably.

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Overview: 1-2 Kings

DAVID → **MESSIANIC KING** → **KINGS**

- ESTABLISH GOD'S KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS (GENESIS 12)
- FULFILL THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

1-2 SOLOMON SUCCEEDS DAVID
Stay faithful to God... and MURDER ENEMIES!
AVONAH
JOBAB
SIBBEI

1-11 SOLOMON'S REIGN

3-4 SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM...
1-10 RESEMBLES PHARAOH MORE THAN HE DOES DAVID

5-8 AND BUILDS THE TEMPLE
GARDEN OF EDEN
HEAVEN-EARTH MEET
GOD'S PASSION

9-17 THE ROAD TO EXILE

3-8 THE HEAVENS OF MANASSE
THE FIGHTING ARE?
ASKING A DEAF BOY
TIES UP ABOB!

18-25 JERUSALEM'S DEMISE AND BABYLONIAN EXILE

18-20 HEZEKIAH
21 MANASSEH
PROPHETS
VOICES
LOOK

24-25 EXILE CHAPTERS
WE MUST REFORM!
THE POINT OF NO RETURN!

THE CRITERIA FOR KINGS:

- WORSHIP THE GOD OF ISRAEL ALONE?
- RID ISRAEL OF IDOLATRY?
- FATHEFUL TO THE COVENANT?

10 NORTHERN ISRAEL
12 SOUTHERN JUDAH

THE ROLE OF PROPHETS:

- SPEAK ON GOD'S BEHALF
- COVENANT WATCHDOGS
- CALL OUT IDOLATRY AND INJUSTICE
- CHALLENGE TO REPENT AND FOLLOW THE TORAH

PROPHETIC REFLECTION:

- IDOLATRY
- INJUSTICE
- COVENANT UNFAITHFULNESS
- HAVE ALL LED TO THIS?

IS GOD DONE WITH ISRAEL AND DAVID'S LINE?

EXILE CHAPTERS

REHOBAM → **12-16** ISRAEL SPLITS IN TWO
NORTHERN ISRAEL
SOUTHERN JUDAH
REHOBAM
SHEBOM
SAMPARIM

13-17 THE ROAD TO EXILE
ZEZEBEL
AMORITE
ZEORAHAR
SULLIMAN
PEREMAH
HONEN
SAMARITAN

18-25 JERUSALEM'S DEMISE AND BABYLONIAN EXILE
REHOBAM
SAMARITAN
ZEZEBEL
AMORITE
ZEORAHAR
SULLIMAN
PEREMAH
HONEN
SAMARITAN

24-25 EXILE CHAPTERS
ISRAEL
JUDAH
BABYLON
ISRAEL

26-36 THE RETURN FROM EXILE
ISRAEL
JUDAH
BABYLON
ISRAEL

Books of the Old Testament

- Genesis (50 Chapters)
- Exodus (40 Chapters)
- Leviticus (27 Chapters)
- Numbers (36 Chapters)
- Deuteronomy (34 Chapters)
- Joshua (24 Chapters)
- Judges (21 Chapters)
- -----
- Ruth (4 Chapters)
- -----
- 1 Samuel (31 Chapters)
- 2 Samuel (24 Chapters)
- -----
- 1 Kings (22 Chapters)
- 2 Kings (25 Chapters)
- 1 Chronicles (29 Chapters)
- 2 Chronicles (36 Chapters)
- Ezra (10 Chapters)
- Nehemiah (13 Chapters)
- Esther (10 Chapters)
- Malachi (4 Chapters)
- Job (42 Chapters)
- Psalms (150 Chapters)
- Proverbs (31 Chapters)
- Ecclesiastes (12 Chapters)
- The Song of Solomon (8 Chapters) Song of Songs
- Isaiah (66 Chapters)
- Jeremiah (52 Chapters)
- Lamentations (5 Chapters)
- Ezekiel (48 Chapters)
- Daniel (12 Chapters)
- Hosea (14 Chapters)
- Joel (3 Chapters)
- Amos (9 Chapters)
- Obadiah (1 Chapter)
- Jonah (4 Chapters)
- Micah (7 Chapters)
- Nahum (3 Chapters)
- Habakkuk (3 Chapters)
- Zephaniah (3 Chapters)
- Haggai (2 Chapters)
- Zechariah (14 Chapters)