

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD SIX

TWO KINGDOMS - EARLY PROPHETS

LESSON 29

Time	PERIODS SIX AND SEVEN	TWO KINGDOMS - - ISRAEL
Main thought	THE BREAKING OF A KINGDOM	
Chapters that tell of each part	1 Kings 12	to 2 Kings 25:7
What this part tells about	931 BC 722 BC Northern Kingdom - Israel - Jeroboam to end of Samaria Israel lasted 200 years	586 BC Southern Kingdom - Judah - Rehoboam to end of Jerusalem Judah lasted 350 years.
	<p>Government</p> <p>19 kings, they came from 9 different families.</p> <p>Way of Living</p> <p>The rich were very rich. The poor were very poor. Those who had much lived in sin.</p>	<p>Religion</p> <p>Most of the people worshiped idols. Priests went through a form of worship. The Prophets called the people to worship the true God.</p> <p>Prophets</p> <p>900 - 800 BC - Elijah, Elisha 850 - 700 BC - Amos, Jonah, Hosea</p>

Time	PERIODS SIX AND SEVEN		TWO KINGDOMS - - JUDAH
Main thought	THE BREAKING OF A KINGDOM		
Chapters that tell of each part	1 Kings 12 2 Chronicles 10:1	to to	2 Kings 25:7 2 Chronicles 36:16
What this part tells about	931 BC Northern Kingdom - Israel - Jeroboam to end of Samaria Israel lasted 200 years	722BC	586 BC Southern Kingdom - Judah - Rehoboam to end of Jerusalem Judah lasted 350 years.
	<p>Government of Judah</p> <p>19 kings, they all belong to the family of David.</p> <p>Way of Living</p> <p>They all lived about the same, none were very poor, and none were very rich. They had a simple way of living.</p>		<p>Religion</p> <p>Little by little the people turned from God - then they came back to God as the prophets brought them back to God.</p> <p>Prophets</p> <p>850 - 700 - Joel, Isaiah, Micah, - Obadiah 700 - 600 BC - Jeremiah, Zephaniah, - Nahum, Habbakuk</p>

In this lesson we want to learn about

THE WORK OF A PROPHET.

THREE PROPHETS -

- *Obadiah - the outline of the book,*
- *- his message to Edom.*
- *Joel - outline of his book,*
- *- a prophecy of the last day.*
- *Jonah - outline of his book, - his message to Nineveh.*

The early prophets were OBADIAH, JOEL AND JONAH. They worked between 850 BC and 780 BC

JUDAH		Ahaziah Athaliah							
King	Jehoram			Joash			Amaziah	Uzziah	
Prophet	Obadiah								
Prophet			Joel						
Prophet									
BC	850	840	830	820	810	800	790	780	
Prophet									
Prophet	Elisha							Jonah	
King	Joram	Jehu		Jehohaz			Jero	boam II	
						Jehoash			
ISRAEL		Family of Jehu							

I. PROPHETS

The prophets were preachers. Their work was to give God's message to the people. The prophets also told the people what would happen in time to come.

The people of Judah and Israel forgot God. They worshipped other gods. We read in 2 Kings 17:16 (New American Standard Bible).

"And they forsook all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshipped all the host of heaven and served Baal."

God wanted the people to stop worshipping other gods. God wanted the people to worship Him alone. The prophets told the people what would happen to them because they worshipped other gods.

The people of Judah and Israel lived in sin. They did not treat other people fairly. They made it very hard for the poor people. They did many other sins. The prophets told the people what would happen to them because of their sins.

"Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets and every seer, saying, 'Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets'" (2 Kings 17:13) (New American Standard Bible).

The prophets told the people what would happen in time to come. The prophets told about some things that would happen more than once in time to come. Example: The people of Judah were to go back to the land which the Lord gave them. They went back to their land from Babylon about 536 BC. Today the people of Israel and Judah are going back to their own land again. The prophets also told of some things which would take many years to be completely fulfilled.

2. INTRODUCTION

Obadiah, Joel and Jonah are called minor (small) prophets. They are as important as the major (great) prophets. They are called minor prophets because they wrote short books.

The books of Kings and Chronicles do not say anything about Obadiah and Joel. We have not been able to learn exactly when Obadiah and Joel lived. It is believed Obadiah and Joel lived when Jehu was king of Israel, and Athaliah was queen of Judah.

Jonah lived when King Jeroboam II was king of Israel. King Amaziah and King Uzziah were kings of Judah at that time. 2 Kings 14:25 tells us about Jonah.

Obadiah, Joel and Jonah each wrote a book.

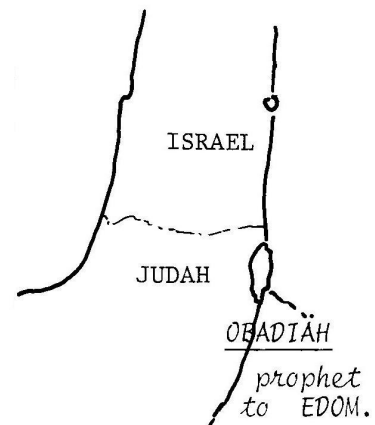
3. THE MAN OBADIAH

Obadiah means "one who worships the Lord."

The Bible tells about several men named Obadiah. We do not know for sure which Obadiah this is. Obadiah belonged to the tribe of Israel.

Obadiah was a prophet to the people of Edom.

The people of Edom came from Esau. Esau was a brother of Jacob. These people lived in the mountains, south-east of the Dead Sea. They thought they were safe. Their houses were built right in the rocks of the mountains, Obadiah verses 1-9.



4. THE BOOK OBADIAH

READ THE BOOK OF OBADIAH.

A. Outline of the book.

- The people of Edom lived in a safe place, Obadiah verses 1 -9
- The people of Edom were glad when the people of Israel suffered, Obadiah verses 10 - 14.
- The people of Edom would suffer, Obadiah verses 15 - 16.
- The people of Israel would defeat the people of Edom, Obadiah verses 17 - 21.

B. Lessons of the book.

What was the sin of the people of Edom (verses 10-14)?

What was the Lord going to do to the people of Edom (verses 9,16)?

The book of Obadiah tells us what will happen to those who work against the people of the Lord.

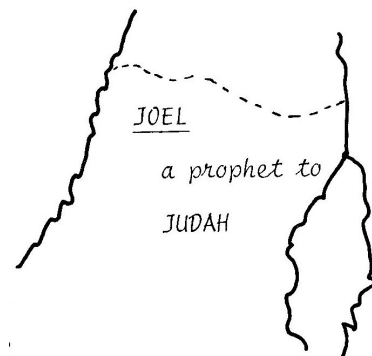
5. THE MAN JOEL

Joel means "the Lord is God."

Joel was a prophet to the people of Judah.

The Bible tells very little about Joel. We can learn about him only in the book of Joel.

Joel told the people of Judah to repent, to fast (go without food) and to pray.



6. THE BOOK JOEL

READ THE BOOK OF JOEL.

A. Outline of the book.

- The locust plague, Joel 1:1-12.
- The call to pray, Joel 1:13-20.
- The call to repent, Joel 2:1-17.
- Israel will be set free, Joel 2:18-27.
- The promise of the Spirit, Joel 2:28-29.
- The promises of judgment and blessing, Joel 2:30 - 3:21.

B. The lessons of the book.

What was to happen to the people of Judah when Joel wrote (Joel 1:3-7)?

Joel 2:28-32 tells of a prophecy which was to happen many years later. This prophecy said,

"And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions, and even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered (Joel 2:28-32 New American Standard Bible).

READ ACTS 2:16-21.

Part of this prophecy happened on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1,2). The rest of it is happening today or will happen in time to come.

Joel told how the Lord is going bring all the nations against Israel. These nations are to fight Zion (Israel today) in the valley of Jehoshaphat. In Joel 3:2 we are told that the Lord will bring judgment upon those nations. Today the nations of the world are talking about Israel. The Arab nations want to destroy Israel. The Communist nations also want to destroy Israel. These nations will go against the people of Israel just like Joel said they would.

Joel said, *"Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be delivered (saved)"* (Joel 2:32 New American Standard Bible).

READ ACTS 2:21; ROMANS 10:13.

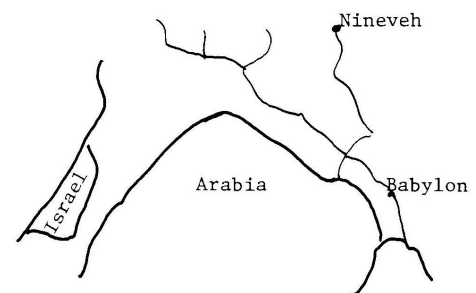
7. THE MAN JONAH

Jonah means "dove." The dove is a gentle bird. It is used as a picture of peace.

Jonah told how Jeroboam II was going to take much land for Israel (2 Kings 14:25).

Jonah was a prophet to the people of Nineveh.

The Lord wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh to warn them of punishment. Jonah was from Israel. He hated the people of Nineveh because they would fight against the people of Israel. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh.



8. THE BOOK OF JONAH

READ THE BOOK OF JONAH.

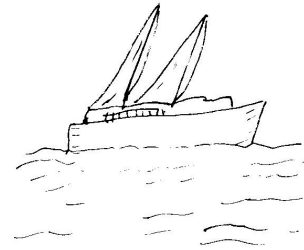
A. Outline of the book.

- Jonah disobeyed the Lord, Jonah chapter 1.
- Jonah repented and was saved, Jonah chapter 2.
- Jonah obeyed the Lord, Jonah chapter 3.
- Jonah sulked, Jonah chapter 4.

B. The lessons of the book.

The Lord wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah was to tell the people of Nineveh that God was going to punish them for their sin. What did Jonah do (Jonah 1:3)?

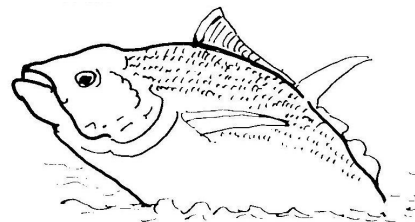
Jonah thought everything was all right. He went to sleep in the boat. What did the Lord do while Jonah slept?



The captain of the boat looked for Jonah. He found him down inside the boat. He told Jonah, "Come out and pray to your God."

Jonah told the captain and the men, "I am running away from the Lord. The Lord sent the storm because I did not obey." The men asked Jonah what to do. He said, "Throw me into the water." They did not want to do this. The storm got worse. At last they threw Jonah into the water. What happened when Jonah landed in the water (Jonah 1:15)?

The Lord made a large fish. It swallowed Jonah. How long was Jonah in the fish (Jonah 1:17)?



READ MATTHEW 12:39-40.

Some people do not believe there are fish big enough to swallow a person. The Sperm Whale is big enough to swallow several people. (Princeton Theological Review, "The Sign of the Prophet Jonah," XXV, 1927, p. 636. G. Madoskie, "How to Test the Story of Jonah," Bibliotheca Sacra, LXXII, p. 336.)

Jonah had time to repent while he was in the fish. He did repent. The Lord made the fish throw him up onto the shore. When Jonah was on the shore, the Lord told him to go to Nineveh. Jonah went to Nineveh!

What did Jonah preach in the streets of Nineveh (Jonah 3:4)?

What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Jonah preaching (Jonah 3:5-10)?

Did the Lord punish the people of Nineveh?

Was Jonah happy that the Lord did not punish the people of Nineveh (Jonah 4:1)?

What did the Lord use to show Jonah that He loved people of other nations (Jonah 4:6-11)?

The two great miracles in the book of Jonah are:

- The Lord had a big fish ready to swallow Jonah.
- All the people of Nineveh repented from their sin.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. display - show
2. fulfill - when we talk about prophecy, all will happen as it was said to happen.
3. saved - to be set free from the power of sin, hell; to be kept from death, or danger.
4. sulked - to sit and feel sorry for oneself.