

Adult Class

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

The Story of the Bible
Connecting the Dots

The Time Periods...

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- The Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- The Exodus
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- The Judges
- The United Kingdom
- The Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone

The Time Periods...

Before the Flood
Genesis 1 – Creation
Genesis 5 – Generations

The Flood
Genesis 6 – Warning of the Flood
Genesis 8 – Ending of the Flood

Scattering of the People
Genesis 9 – Command to fill the earth
Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel, forced scattering – Generations of Shem to Abraham

The Patriarchs
Genesis 12 – Abraham introduced, promise given to him
Genesis 50 – Joseph dies in Egypt

The Exodus
Exodus 1 – People in bondage in Egypt
Numbers 13 – People lose their faith (spy incident)

Wandering in the Wilderness
Numbers 14 – God curses the people to wander for 40 years.
Joshua 5 – Commander of the Lord's army appears to Joshua

Invasion and Conquest of the Land
Joshua 6 – Jericho
Joshua 24 – Death of Joshua

The Judges
Judges 1 – Summary of the time period
1 Samuel 9 – Demand for a king

The United Kingdom
1 Samuel 10 – Saul anointed first king of Israel
1 Kings 12 – Kingdom splits after Rehoboam's unwillingness to listen to the people

The Divided Kingdom
1 Kings 13/2 Chronicles 10 – Israel begins its rebellion under king Jeroboam
2 Kings 17/2 Chronicles 31 – Assyria destroys and captures Israel (Northern tribes)

Judah Alone
2 Kings 18/2 Chronicles 31 – Israel taken by Assyria
2 Kings 25/2 Chronicles 36 – Judah taken by Babylon

The Captivity
Return from Captivity
Years of Silence

Judah Alone...

- ⦿ After Assyria came and completely destroyed Israel (the northern kingdom), Judah (the southern kingdom) was the only part left of the original kingdom of Israel.
- ⦿ This time period runs from the destruction of Israel through the eventual destruction of Judah and Jerusalem by Babylon, and is covered in the remaining parts of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.
- ⦿ In addition, there are several books of prophecy that are given during this time period.

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In addition, there are several books of prophecy that are given during this time period.

Judah Alone...

- Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)
 - Recall that the king previous to Hezekiah was Ahaz, a very wicked and evil king that had reintroduced Baal and other idolatry to Judah
 - Also, remember that during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, prophets warned Judah of its wickedness
 - It was during the 6th year of Hezekiah that Israel fell to the Assyrian army; the threat of Assyria had come very close
 - Hezekiah was a great king; perhaps he was the best king that Israel or Judah had seen since David had been king
 - Notice how Hezekiah fixes many of the problems that Ahaz had created for Judah

Judah Alone...

Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)

Recall that the king previous to Hezekiah was Ahaz, a very wicked and evil king that had reintroduced Baal and other idolatry to Judah (2 Chronicles 28:2-4; 22-25)

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Hezekiah was a great king; perhaps he was the best king that Israel or Judah had seen since David had been king (2 Kings 18:5-6)

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Judah Alone...

- ◉ Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)
 - Corrective actions taken by Hezekiah
 - Destroyed the altars and high places that had been created by Ahaz and other idol worshippers
 - Cleansed and sanctified the temple after Ahaz had defiled it and even closed its doors
 - Rededicated the temple to the service of the Lord
 - Kept the Passover, and all Israel (even the Northern tribes) was invited to come to Jerusalem to observe it together
 - The people, after keeping the Passover, destroyed all of the idols and high places that were left in Israel
 - Instituted additional reforms for the priests and offerings

Judah Alone...

Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)

Corrective actions taken by Hezekiah

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Cleansed and sanctified the temple after Ahaz had defiled it and even closed its doors

Rededicated the temple to the service of the Lord (2 Chronicles 29:20ff)

Kept the Passover, and all Israel (even the Northern tribes) was invited to come to Jerusalem to observe it together (2 Chronicles 30)

The people, after keeping the Passover, destroyed all of the idols and high places that were left in Israel (2 Chronicles 31)

Instituted additional reforms for the priests and offerings

Judah Alone...

- Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)
 - Around this time, Israel (the northern kingdom) was under siege and being destroyed by Assyria
 - It would not be too long until Assyria besieged Judah
 - Sennacherib takes the fortified cities of Judah and begins to siege Jerusalem; the Rabshakeh tries to convince Hezekiah to surrender
 - Hezekiah relies on the power of the Lord, and Sennacherib must return home after an angel kills 185,000 of his troops in the night
 - Sennacherib is later murdered by his own sons in the temple of his false god, Nisroch

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Sennacherib takes the fortified cities of Judah and begins to siege Jerusalem; the Rabshakeh tries to convince Hezekiah to surrender (Isaiah 36-37) – note that this is the same place Ahaz was exhorted to rely on the Lord (Isaiah 7:3)

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Judah Alone...

- Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)
 - During this time (or shortly beforehand), Hezekiah was struck with a life-threatening sickness
 - Hezekiah again relies on the Lord, and God grants him fifteen more years of life. He demonstrates this miracle by moving the sundial back 10 steps.
 - Babylonian servants come with presents to see Hezekiah, because they had heard of his miraculous recovery
 - Because Hezekiah shows the servants all of his wealth and dominion and does not glorify God, Isaiah warns him that the kingdom will be handed over to Babylon
 - Hezekiah dies, and Manasseh, his son, becomes king

Judah Alone...

Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20)

During this time (or shortly beforehand), Hezekiah was struck with a life-threatening sickness (1 Kings 19/2 Chronicles 32 depict the story of Sennacherib)

Hezekiah again relies on the Lord, and God grants him fifteen more years of life. He demonstrates this miracle by moving the sundial back 10 steps. (2 Kings 20 – v. 8-11 especially)

Isaiah 39, 2 Chronicles 32, 2 Kings 20

Babylonian servants come with presents to see Hezekiah, because they had heard of his miraculous recovery

What does Hezekiah show them?

Isaiah 39:2

2 Kings 20:13

Why do they come?

2 Chronicles 32:31

Isaiah 39:1

2 Kings 20:12

Is this a problem? Obviously...

Isaiah 39:3-8

2 Kings 20:14-19

What was the problem?

2 Chronicles 32:25-26 – Hezekiah had become proud

Because Hezekiah shows the servants all of his wealth and dominion and does not glorify God, Isaiah warns him that the kingdom will be handed over to Babylon

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Judah Alone...

- Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21)
 - Manasseh was the worst king of Judah, and because of him and the people's choosing to follow him, God revealed that Judah would suffer the same fate as Israel
 - Just as quickly as Hezekiah had reformed Judah from all of the wickedness of Ahaz, Manasseh brings them back into the worst sin Judah had seen thus far
 - Eventually, Manasseh is punished by God by being brought into captivity; this causes him to repent
 - Even though Manasseh repents and tries to reform Judah again, the people continue to worship on the high places
 - Manasseh dies, but is not buried in the tomb of the kings

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1 Kings 21:10-13

What are some of the things that Manasseh does that are clearly evil?

1 Kings 21

v.2 – did according to the abominations of the nations which the Lord had cast out

v.3 – brought back Baal worship, as well as other random false gods

v.4-5 – built altars in the temple and its courts

v.6 – Molech worship (child sacrifice)

v.6 – witchcraft and soothsaying

v.7 – a carved Asherah in the temple

v.7-8 – God's promise

v.9 – Manasseh's and the people's responses

v.10-16 – because of Manasseh, Judah would be destroyed eventually

Eventually, Manasseh is punished by God by being brought into captivity; this causes him to repent

2 Chronicles 33:10-16

Even though Manasseh repents and tries to reform Judah again, the people continue to worship on the high places

2 Chronicles 33:17

Manasseh dies, but is not buried in the tomb of the kings

2 Chronicles 33:20

Judah Alone...

- Amon (2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21)
 - After Manasseh dies, Amon, his son, becomes the new king of Judah; he is just as wicked as Manasseh had been in the beginning of his reign
 - Instead of repenting eventually, Amon just continued to sin do more and more wicked things
 - He is killed by his own servants in his own house and is buried in the same place as his father, Manasseh
 - The people of the land execute those who killed Amon
 - Josiah is placed on the throne by the people

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2 Chronicles 33:22

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2 Chronicles 33:23

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2 Chronicles 33:24, 2 Kings 21:26

The people of the land execute those who killed Amon

2 Chronicles 33:25

Josiah is placed on the throne by the people

Judah Alone...

- ◉ Josiah (2 Chronicles 34-35; 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Josiah becomes king at the age of 8; he is one of the best kings to ever take the throne in Judah
 - He is prophesied about by name through a man of God to Jeroboam all the way back in 1 Kings 13
 - Things turn around dramatically under Josiah as compared to the times of his father and grandfather
 - While he was still young, he began to seek the Lord
 - He listened to the prophets who rebuked the people
 - Jeremiah
 - Zephaniah

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Jeremiah

Zephaniah

Judah Alone...

- Josiah (2 Chronicles 34-35; 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Note how Josiah fulfills the prophecy of the man of God so many years later, and so exactly
 - Josiah begins restoring the temple after its desecration
 - During the restoration, Hilkiah, the high priest, finds the book of the Law of the Lord (likely the Pentateuch)
 - Having heard the commandments of the Lord, and recognizing that Judah had been so evil, Josiah mourns
 - Josiah is promised, because of his humility and desire to serve the Lord, that the kingdom will not be destroyed during his reign in Judah

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- ◉ Josiah (2 Chronicles 34-35; 2 Kings 22-23)
 - Josiah also reestablished the keeping of the Passover
 - At this time, Assyria was coming apart, and the Babylonian (Chaldean) kingdom was quickly becoming the dominant empire in the world
 - Egypt, under Pharaoh Necho, did not want Assyria to be destroyed by Babylon, as it desired a buffer state (a weak Assyria) between it and the powerful Babylon
 - Necho marches to support Assyria at Carchemish, but is intercepted by Josiah, who he urges to stand down
 - Josiah is killed in the Valley of Megiddo by the Egyptians
 - All Judah mourns the death of Josiah, its best king

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Judah Alone...

- Jehoahaz (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 23)
 - Jehoahaz is installed by the people after his father, Josiah's death in the battle with Pharaoh Necho
 - Even though Josiah had been the best king Judah had ever seen, his son is wicked and does not obey God
 - Pharaoh Necho comes to Judah shortly after Jehoahaz's installation as king and deposes and captures him
 - After installing Jehoahaz's brother, Eliakim, as king and renaming him to Jehoiakim, Necho returns to Egypt, where Jehoahaz eventually dies

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Judah Alone...

- ◉ Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 23-24)
 - After making Jehoiakim king of Judah, Necho demands an enormous tribute: almost 4 tons of silver and about 75 pounds of gold
 - At the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign, God sends Jeremiah to Judah to try to turn them from their evil ways
 - The priests and false prophets condemn Jeremiah as a traitor for speaking against Judah as he had
 - Some elders recall how Hezekiah reacted to the condemnation of Micah: repentance. They insist that they not kill Jeremiah, for he is a true prophet of God
 - Another prophet of God, Uriah, is killed, however

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After making Jehoiakim king of Judah, Necho demands an enormous tribute: almost 4 tons of silver and about 75 pounds of gold

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Jeremiah 26

The priests and false prophets condemn Jeremiah as a traitor for speaking against Judah as he had (see esp. 26:11)

Some elders recall how Hezekiah reacted to the condemnation of Micah: repentance. They insist that they not kill Jeremiah, for he is a true prophet of God (16-19)

Another prophet of God, Uriah, is killed, however (20-24)

Judah Alone...

- Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 23-24)
 - Jeremiah tells Judah the punishment they will receive for ignoring repeatedly the prophets: 70 years of captivity
 - God makes an example of the Rechabites to shame Judah
 - Around 606/605 BC, the battle of Carchemish takes place, where Egypt and Assyria are crushed by Babylon
 - Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, pursues Egypt, and on the way back from crushing it, captures Judah and other nations in the area
 - This is the first invasion of Jerusalem
 - Daniel, among others, are taken captive at this time

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Jeremiah tells Judah the punishment they will receive for ignoring repeatedly the prophets: 70 years of captivity – Jeremiah 25:1-11

God makes an example of the Rechabites to shame Judah – Jeremiah 35 – especially verse 16 (goes back to 2 Kings 10:15) – perhaps for 200 years they have been following Rechab

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Judah Alone...

- Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 23-24)
 - Jeremiah also writes a scroll on which are all of the words of the Lord against Israel and Judah. When it is read to the king, he burns it in his hearth
 - In 602/601 BC, Egypt rises up to rebel against Babylon.
 - Babylon is defeated by the Egyptians and is forced to recover for 18 months.
 - Judah begins to rebel around this time, as well, perhaps seeing that Babylon could be defeated.
 - Jehoiakim is probably killed in a skirmish with some of the surrounding raiding forces.

Judah Alone...

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Jehoiakim is probably killed in a skirmish with some of the surrounding raiding forces. (Jer 36.29-30)

Judah Alone...

- ◉ Jehoiachin (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 24)
 - Jehoiachin, an evil king, reigns a short while before Nebuchadnezzar comes to quell the rebellion in Judah
 - Nebuchadnezzar returns and sieges Jerusalem
 - This is the second invasion of Jerusalem
 - After the siege ends, Ezekiel and others are taken captive and exiled by the river Chebar
 - Jehoiachin is taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and taken back to Babylon, along with other articles in the house of the Lord
 - Nebuchadnezzar places Mattaniah on the throne and changes his name to Zedekiah

Judah Alone...

Jehoiachin (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 24)

Jehoiachin becomes king some time before Nebuchadnezzar comes to quell the rebellion in Judah

Nebuchadnezzar returns and sieges Jerusalem

This is the second invasion of Jerusalem

After the siege ends, Ezekiel and others are taken captive and exiled by the river Chebar

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Nebuchadnezzar places Mattaniah on the throne and changes his name to Zedekiah

Judah Alone...

- Zedekiah (2 Chronicles 36; 2 Kings 24-25)
 - Zedekiah is the last king of Judah, and is just as evil and rebellious as the few kings before him
 - During Zedekiah's reign, there were numerous false prophets, such as Hananiah, who prophesied that Judah would overthrow Babylon's yoke
 - In the ninth year of his reign, Zedekiah rebels against Babylon, drawing Nebuchadnezzar's wrath on Jerusalem.
 - Zedekiah places Jeremiah in prison, but later takes him out at some people's request
 - Eventually, Zedekiah is taken captive, along with his sons, to Babylon, where he dies

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During Zedekiah's reign, there were numerous false prophets, such as Hananiah, who prophesied that Judah would overthrow Babylon's yoke - Jeremiah 28

In the ninth year of his reign, Zedekiah rebels against Babylon, drawing Nebuchadnezzar's wrath on Jerusalem. – 2 Kings 25

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Eventually, Zedekiah is taken captive, along with his sons, to Babylon, where he dies. – 2 Kings 25

Judah Alone...

- ◉ Judah is completely destroyed in 586 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar burns and desolates Jerusalem in the third and final siege.
- ◉ The temple of God was left as complete waste.
- ◉ Only the very poorest people were left in the land, along with some of the surrounding nations.
- ◉ Judah had reaped what it had sown: disobedience led to its ultimate defeat.

Judah Alone...

2 Chronicles 36:14-21

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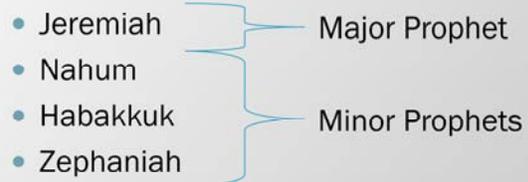
The temple of God, which had stood for centuries as the dwelling place of the Lord, was left as waste.

Only the very poorest people were left in the land, along with some of the surrounding nations.

Judah had reaped what it had sown: disobedience led to its ultimate defeat.

Judah Alone...

- The Prophets of Judah Alone

- Jeremiah
 - Nahum
 - Habakkuk
 - Zephaniah
- Major Prophet
- Minor Prophets
- 

Themes of Prophecy

- ◉ Repentance
- ◉ “The Day of the Lord”
- ◉ God’s concern for all nations
- ◉ The Messiah
- ◉ A new kingdom

Themes of Prophecy

Repentance

- God never ceases to chastise his people
- God warns the people that without repentance, disaster was soon to follow
- God extends mercy to His people, as long as they repent of their wickedness

“The Day of the Lord”

- A day of reckoning that comes for all individuals and nations
- For the evil, it is a day of judgment; for the righteous, it is a day of deliverance
- There have been many “days of the Lord” throughout history, so it is important to understand what is meant by this idea

God’s concern for all nations

- God does not simply demand Israel to behave properly while allowing all of the other nations of the world to act as they like
- God also calls the nations of the world to repentance, promising disaster if they do not comply with His demands

The Messiah

- Someone is coming to ultimately save God’s people
- There is a great deal of prophecy about the Messiah, looking, of course, to Jesus and the events that would surround his life and death
- Often referred to as a king or high priest, etc.

A new kingdom

- Hand in hand with the idea of a Messiah is the idea of a new kingdom
- Different images of this kingdom include a mountain, a grand temple, etc.
- The new kingdom ultimately refers to the establishment of the church as God’s “spiritual” Israel

Judah Alone...

◉ Zephaniah

- The book of Zephaniah is given during the time of Josiah
- It is sometimes called the “hottest” book in the Bible, as God calls for repentance in order that people might be delivered from God’s wrath, though not to avert disaster
- The “whole world” is condemned for their wickedness, however Judah is specifically mentioned in the book
- All nations will be destroyed by God’s wrath, including several nations around Judah
- Ultimately, though this is a time of judgment, a remnant will exist through whom God’s people will endure

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Judah Alone...

◉ Jeremiah

- Began prophesying in the 13th year of Josiah's reign
- Jeremiah contains more historical information than any of the other prophetic books in the Bible
- God reminds Judah of the time when they loved and obeyed God as a new bride obeys her husband
- Judah becomes as an adulteress and harlot
- God even declares that Israel, the nation he divorced, had been more righteous than Judah is
- Judah will be punished and completely desolated
- Not even one righteous man can be found in Jerusalem

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-Jeremiah 2:1-5, 12-13

Judah becomes as an adulteress and harlot

-Jeremiah 3:1-5 – see Deuteronomy 24:1-4

God even declares that Israel, the nation he divorced, had been more righteous than Judah is

-Jeremiah 3:6-11

Judah will be punished and completely desolated

-Jeremiah 4:29-30

Not even one righteous man can be found in Jerusalem

-Jeremiah 5:1-6

Judah Alone...

◉ Jeremiah

- Some people believe that they will be safe because the temple of God dwells in Jerusalem; God compares the situation to that of Shiloh years ago
- God promises blessings to enemy nations that obey Him
- As a sign, Jeremiah is instructed to take a girdle and hide it by the Euphrates river; when he returns to it, it is marred, just as God will mar the pride of Judah
- Jeremiah is commanded not to marry, as the years to come are going to be treacherous and terrible
- God explains his desire that Judah would be as clay in a potter's hand: molded by his will.

Jeremiah

Some people believe that they will be safe because the temple of God dwells in Jerusalem; God compares the situation to that of Shiloh years ago

Jeremiah 7:1-12

Jeremiah 7:21-28 – they were supposed to obey God, not [just] offer sacrifices

Jeremiah 10:1-10 – God is the true God – He mocks these false gods that people create from His creation

God promises blessings to enemy nations that obey Him

Jeremiah 12:13-17

As a sign, Jeremiah is instructed to take a girdle and hide it by the Euphrates river; when he returns to it, it is marred, just as God will mar the pride of Judah

Jeremiah 13:9

Jeremiah 15:1-5 – Even Moses and Samuel would not be able to convince God otherwise

Jeremiah is commanded not to marry, as the years to come are going to be treacherous and terrible

Jeremiah 16:1-4

God explains his desire that Judah would be as clay in a potter's hand: molded by his will.

Jeremiah 18-20

Jeremiah 18:1-6 – God wishes to fix the nation – v.7-10 – God judges the current actions of a nation

Jeremiah 19 – Jeremiah to take a piece of pottery, condemn Judah, and smash the pottery to show the people that they will be completely broken

Jeremiah 20:1-6 – story of Pashhur (Free) to Magor-Missabib (terror on every side)

Judah Alone...

◉ Nahum

- This is a prophecy that is likely given between 640 and 620 BC (Assyria is declining rapidly and about to be destroyed by the uprising Babylonian empire)
- The book seems to be designed to be a comfort to God's people who had been oppressed often by the Assyrians
- Chapter 1 – The doom of Nineveh is decreed by God
- Chapter 2 – The specific siege and destruction of Nineveh is decreed by God
- Chapter 3 – Further explanation of the destruction

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Judah Alone...

- ◉ Habakkuk
 - The book of Habakkuk describes a dialog between Habakkuk and God, where Habakkuk asks God how Babylon can be used to punish Judah
 - The book was probably given around the time that Babylon was looming as a threat to Judah, probably around 620 - 605 BC.
 - Chapters 1-2 describe the dialog between God and Habakkuk, where Habakkuk asks his questions and God responds to him
 - Chapter 3 is a prayer for mercy on the people of Judah, and concludes with reassurance for those who follow Him

Judah Alone...

Habakkuk

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The Time Periods...

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- The Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- The Exodus
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- The Judges
- The United Kingdom
- The Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- The Captivity

The Time Periods...

Before the Flood
Genesis 1 – Creation
Genesis 5 – Generations

The Flood
Genesis 6 – Warning of the Flood
Genesis 8 – Ending of the Flood

Scattering of the People
Genesis 9 – Command to fill the earth
Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel, forced scattering – Generations of Shem to Abraham

The Patriarchs
Genesis 12 – Abraham introduced, promise given to him
Genesis 50 – Joseph dies in Egypt

The Exodus
Exodus 1 – People in bondage in Egypt
Numbers 13 – People lose their faith (spy incident)

Wandering in the Wilderness
Numbers 14 – God curses the people to wander for 40 years.
Joshua 5 – Commander of the Lord's army appears to Joshua

Invasion and Conquest of the Land
Joshua 6 – Jericho
Joshua 24 – Death of Joshua

The Judges
Judges
The United Kingdom
The Divided Kingdom
Judah Alone
The Captivity
Return from Captivity
Years of Silence