

**EPISODE 8: Israel—- Solomon and Kings**

**1 Kings 9-11, 18**

**10/19-10/20**

1. **THE GLORY OF SOLOMON** 
   1. A Kingdom of Wealth and Fame
      1. *“So king Solomon was king over all Israel (1 Kings 4:1) and Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen”* (1 Kings 4:26).
      2. *“And Solomon built…all the cities of store…and cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen”* (1 Kings 9:17-19).
      3. *“And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-Geber which is beside Eloth… and they came to Ophir”* (1 Kings 9:26-28).
      4. *“And all king Solomon’s drinking vessels were of gold… none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. For the king had at sea a navy… bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes, and peacocks”* (1 Kings 10:2-22).
      5. *“And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord… was … overlaid with gold"*(l Kings 6:2-22).
      6. *“And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt and linen yarn… and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means”*(1 Kings 10:28-29).
      7. *“Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents* (I Kings 10:14)
   2. Israel’s “International King.”
2. **THE CORRUPTION OF THE NATION**
   1. **Solomon’s Slide**
      1. **I Kings 11:1-2, 7-8** *Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,* ***2****from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” …* ***7****Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.* ***8****And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.*
      2. **I Kings 11: 9-13 *9****And the Lord was angry with Solomon, …* ***11****Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.* ***12****Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.* ***13****However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”*
   2. The Slide Continues—Ahab and Elijah (1 Kings 18): Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal
3. **JONAH AND THE ASSYRIANS (The Book of Jonah)**
   1. The Evil of Assyria/ Nineveh (Jonah 1:1-2)
   2. Nineveh Repents (Jonah 3:1-10)
4. **WHO WERE THE ASSYRIANS?** 
   1. Four cities on the Tigris: Ashur (Kala’at-Sherghat); Arbela (Irbil); Kalakh (Nimrud); and Nineveh (Kuyunjik—across the river from Mosul).
   2. “Nineveh—named also after a god, Nina, the Ishtar of Assyria. At its height 300,000 people.
   3. An inheritor of Babylonian / Sumerian / Akkadian Civilization.
   4. In Ethnicity a mixture of Semitic peoples and Hamite (Hittite and Mitanni) peoples.
   5. Extremely Militaristic
      1. Efficient Government / Highly disciplined and Organized.
      2. Brutal.
   6. **Names to know**
      1. ***Tiglath-Pileser I (1115-1076 BC):*** First great expansionist king of Assyria (Conquered Syria).
      2. ***Shalmaneser V (727-722):*** Captured Shechem and besieged Tyre. Samaria fell.
      3. ***Sargon II (721-705 BC):*** An officer in the army, made himself king by a coup d’état; led his troops in person, and took in every engagement the most dangerous post. Defeated Elam and Egypt, reconquered Babylonia, and received the homage of the Jews, the Philistines, even the Greeks of Cyprus. He ruled his empire well, encouraged arts and letters, handicrafts and trade, and died in a victorious battle that definitely preserved Assyria from invasion.
      4. ***Sennacherib (704-681 BC)*** put down revolts in the distant provinces adjoining the Persian Gulf, attacked Jerusalem and Egypt without success. He sacked eighty-nine cities and 820 villages.
      5. ***Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC):*** Established the characteristic Assyrian policy of deporting conquered populations to alien habitats, where, mingling with the natives, they might lose their unity and identity, and have less opportunity to rebel. Revolts came nevertheless, and Assyria had to keep herself always ready for war.”
      6. ***Ashurbanipal (669-633 BC):*** Ruled Assyria, Babylonia, Armenia, Media, Palestine, Syria, Phoenicia, Sumeria, Elam and Egypt. The most extensive administrative organization yet seen in the Mediterranean or Near Eastern world.
   7. **Religion**
      1. The religion of Assyria, like its language, its science and its arts, was imported from Sumeria and Babylonia, with occasional adaptations to the needs of a military state.
      2. Ashur was the “formal” head of the state as well as the chief god of the Assyrian pantheon.
         1. *Ashur, the national deity, was a solar god, warlike and merciless to his enemies; his people believed that he took a divine satisfaction in the execution of prisoners before his shrine. The essential function of Assyrian religion was to train the future citizen to a patriotic docility, and to teach him the art of wheedling favors out of the gods by magic and sacrifice.” (William Durant)*
      3. The king had himself described as a god (an incarnation of Shamash, the sun.
   8. **Culture** 
      1. Art: The Bas-Relief.
      2. Libraries.
5. **ASSYRIA AND THE FALL OF ISRAEL**
   1. *“And Pul the king of Assyria (Tiglath-Pilesar III) came against the land”* (2 Kings 15:19). [See Table Below]
   2. Sargon II reigned from 721 to 705 B.C. According to that the northern kingdom of Israel collapsed (Samaria) in 721 B.C. (2 Kings 17:6).
   3. “The people of the Northern Kingdom and their kings with them disappeared, were absorbed into the population of these foreign lands, and never emerged again in history. All investigation into what became of the ten tribes who had their home there has so far come to nothing.” (Werner Keller).

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| II Kings | Cuneiform Text of Tiglath Pilesar III |
| “The king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin” (2 Kings 16:9)” | “His noblemen I impaled alive and displayed this exhibition to his land. All his gardens and fruit orchards I destroyed. I besieged and captured the native city of Reson (Rezin) of Damascus. 800 people with their belongings I led away. Towns in 16 districts of Damascus I laid waste like mounds after the Flood.” |
| “In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria and took… Hazor and “Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria” (2 Kings 15:29)” | “Bet-Omri (Israel) all of whose cities I had added to my territories on my former campaigns, and had left out only the city of Samaria….  “The whole of Naphtali I took for Assyria. I put my officials over them as governors. The land of Bet-Omri, all its people and their possessions I took away to Assyria.” (From: Western Campaign and Gaza/Damascus campaign 734-733 B.C.)” |
| “And Hoshea… made a conspiracy against Pekah… and slew him and reigned in his stead” (2 Kings 15:30)” | “They overthrew Pekah their king and I made Hoshea to be king over them.” (From: Gaza/ Damascus campaign.)” |
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1. The Fall of Assyria
   1. Fall of Nineveh (612 BC).
   2. Fall of Haran (610 BC).
   3. Fall of Carchemish (605 BC).