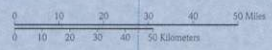


ISRAEL IS DIVIDED! ISRAEL AND JUDAH, THE EARLY YEARS C. 900 B.C.

Bill Crosby
Praise and Worship
Historian and all-around good guy

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH
1 KGS. 12

- City
- ★ Capital city
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Israel
- Judah
- International roads
- Local roads



Solomon dies, Rehoboam establishes the throne. Kingdom is divided

- [1 Kings 11:41-42](#) ⁴¹As for the other events of Solomon's reign-all he did and the wisdom he displayed-are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon? ⁴²Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.
- [1 Kings 12:1-5](#) ¹Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. ²When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. ³So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: ⁴"Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you." ⁵Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away.

Rehoboam's early decisions



Listen to the Elders?

- [1 Kings 12:6-8](#) ⁶Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. ⁷They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants." ⁸But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

Listen to his homies?

- ⁹And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?'" ¹⁰And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. ¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

Rehoboam returns aspect of Canaanite worship/religion

- ²³ For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ²⁴ and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.



Israel rebels, but God won't let Rehoboam fight to preserve unity!

- ¹⁶And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So, Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. ¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. ²⁰And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.
- ²²But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: ²³“Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, ²⁴‘Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.’” So, they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.

Jeroboam comes back from exile to seize the throne of Israel (Northern 10 tribes)

- ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.^[a] ³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. ³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So, he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. ³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.
- ⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Archaeological evidence from this period...



- "The Sacred Area or temenos at Dan is a large complex over a half-acre in size. The central open-air platform of the Sacred Area went through three phases during the Israelite period. In any event this entire area at Tel Dan was an important Israelite cultic center. Whether it is the *beth bamoth* referred to in 1 Kings 12:3, will no doubt continue to be debated by scholars for years to come. Although the Biblical record is silent concerning the specific cultic acts performed at Dan and does not even specify what use was made of the Golden Calf which Jeroboam made, the archaeological evidence suggests that a large, open-air platform was used, that there were altars, incense offerings, votive offerings involving figurines, and some kind of water purification or libation rituals." (The Remarkable Discoveries at Tel Dan, John C. H. Laughlin, BAR 07:05, 1981)

Micah's and Jeroboam's Altar (Judges 18:30) 1340 - 870 BC

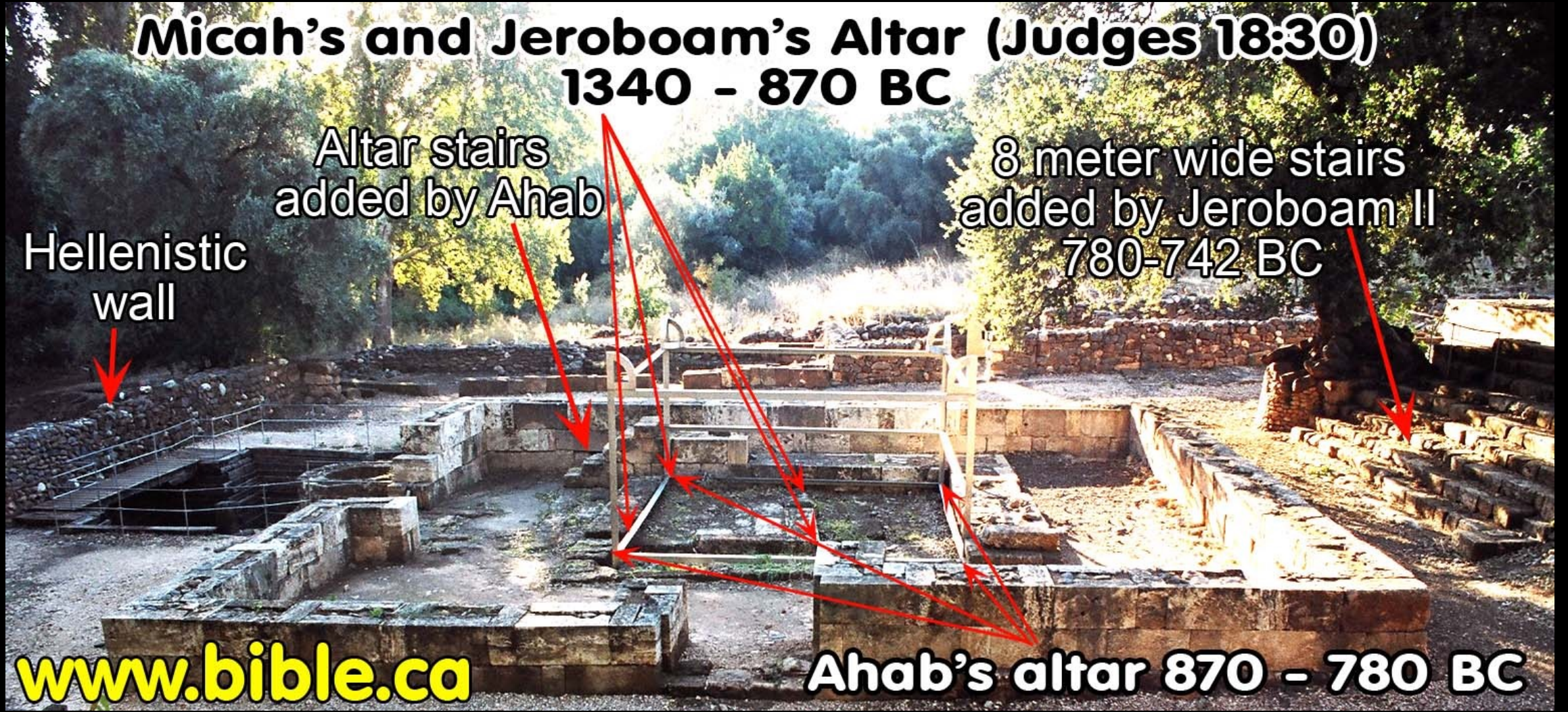
Altar stairs
added by Ahab

8 meter wide stairs
added by Jeroboam II
780-742 BC

Hellenistic
wall

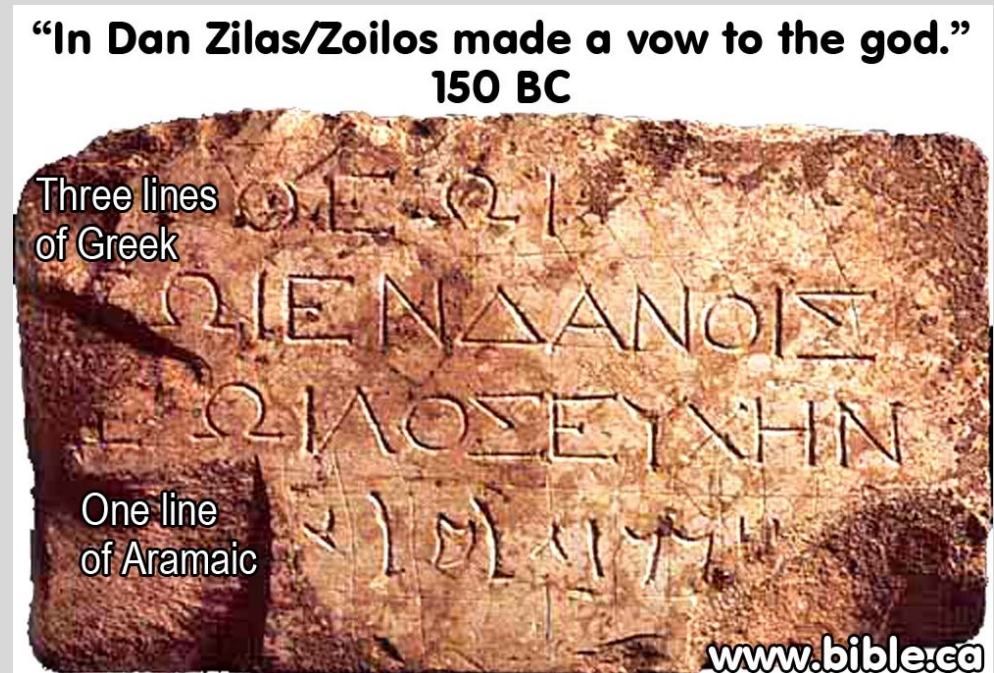
Ahab's altar 870 - 780 BC

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More from Tel Dan

- "Another interesting find from the cult complex is an inscription dating to the Hellenistic period, written in Aramaic and Greek, which says "To the god who is in Dan, Zoilos made a vow" ("Discoveries"). Even 800 years after it was built and the Northern Kingdom was annihilated by Assyria, the cultic complex was remembered." (Lexham Bible Dictionary, Dan, 2012 AD)



Tel Dan Inscription: The victory Stele of Hazael is one of the most important archeological finds ever because it lists 8 different kings listed in the Bible and evidences 3-5 different Bible stories that happened around 941 BC.

Victory Stele of Hazael **841 BC**
(King of Aram 841-800 BC)

Tel Dan inscription
8 kings

- ✓ Hazael
- ✓ Ben-Hadad II
- ✓ Ahab
- ✓ Joram
- ✓ Ahaziah
- ✓ Jehoram
- ✓ David
- ✓ Jehu

“I killed Joram son of Ahab & Ahaziah, son of Jehoram, of the house of David”
2 Ki 8:28

“House of David” →

Hazael, king of Aram 841-800 BC

1. Hazael killed Ben-Hadad after he was anointed by Elisha. 2 Ki 8:7-15
2. The annals of Shalmaneser III say he usurped the throne and was “a son of nobody”.
3. Elisha cried because he knew Hazael would kill Joram & Jahaziah. 2 Kings 8:28.

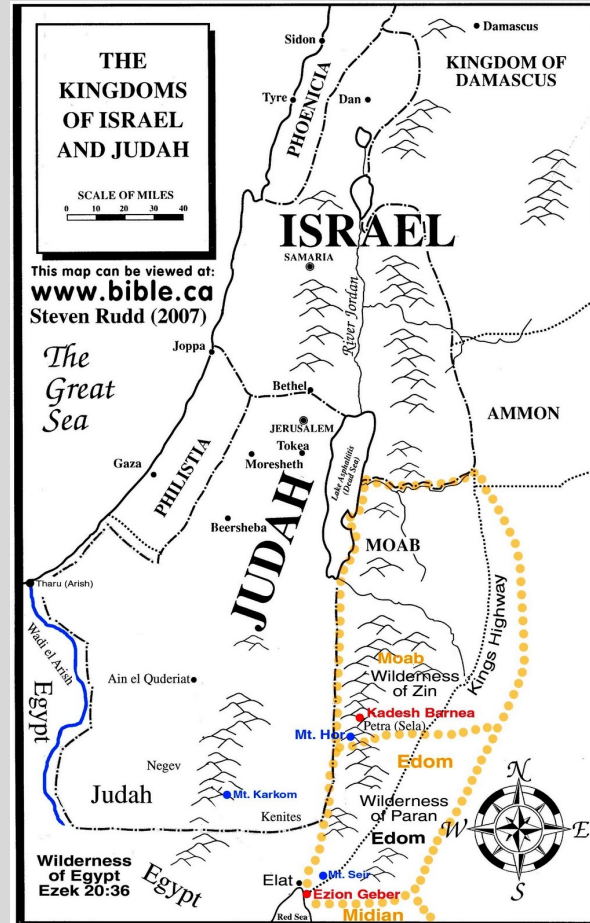
Steve Rudd July 2019
www.bible.ca

Jeroboam is even worse than Rehoboam!

Jeroboam's Golden Calves

- ²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. ²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” ²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. ³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.

Note the locations of Bethel and Dan



Pharoah revolts against Rehoboam


- ⁵ In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. ²⁶ He took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house. He took away everything. He also took away all the shields of gold that Solomon had made, ²⁷ and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.
- ² In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem ³ with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt—Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians. ⁴ And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

Shishak documented his exploits against Jerusalem on the walls of the temple of Amun in Karnak in Upper Egypt

- Mention of Jerusalem in the temple of Amun in Karnak among the 187 cities he Conquered

Shishak's List of 187 Cities at Karnak

16 15 23
Beth-Shan Shunem Gibeon



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Shishak invades Israel in 926 BC
1 Kings 11:40; 14:25-26; 2 Chronicles 12:2-9

187 hieroglyphic conquered city name-rings

Row I
Row II
Row III
Row IV
Row V
Row VI
Row VII
Row VIII
Row IX
Row X

Jerusalem

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The rest of I and II Kings, preview

- All the kings of Israel (North) earn “F” grades from the Bible writers (“did evil in the sight of the Lord”) because they rebel against Judah
- Only some of the Kings of Judah (South) earn passing grades (“did what was right in the sight of the Lord”)
- Kings has a pro-Judah bias; Chronicles has a Royal bias (the good stuff the kings of Judah did)
- See the comparative introductions which will typify the way that each king of Israel and Judah are introduced throughout the remainder of Kings

Compare and contrast the introductions of the next two kings of Judah...

Abijam Reigns in Judah

- 15 Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah. ² He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ³ And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

Asa Reigns in Judah

- ⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ¹¹ And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father had done. ¹² He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. ¹³ He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she had made an abominable image for Asherah. And Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron.