

Jeremiah: A Little History to Help

...he did not do what the LORD commanded. ([1 Kings 11:10b](#))

Some historical context – Bible history in a few VERY broad strokes:

1. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (known as the Pentateuch) tell the story of Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the giving of the Law, and the captivity of the Jews in Egypt. Includes the stories of the patriarchs, including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It ends with Moses' death and the 40 years of wilderness wandering.
2. Joshua, Judges, and Ruth tell the story of the Israelites inhabiting the Promised Land of Canaan and the subsequent cycle of disobedience (sin, punishment, obedience - sin, punishment, obedience...) This was the historic time of the judges.
3. First and Second Samuel record the stories of Saul, David, and Solomon as kings of the united nation of Israel, approximately 1050 BCE to 930 BCE. In First and Second Kings and First and Second Chronicles we read the story of the Divided Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom (930 BCE) was called Judah and included the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel and consisted of the other 10 tribes.
4. During the Divided Kingdom, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had 19 evil kings and God sent prophets such as Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea to warn the Israelites of their sin, but they were conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BCE. because of their disobedience.
5. The Southern Kingdom of Judah (House of David) had 20 monarchs (19 kings and 1 queen) of which some were good (ex. Hezekiah and Josiah) while most others evil. God sent prophets to proclaim God's message such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Jeremiah. Judah fell to the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 586 BCE.