

Dr. Ted Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 26, Rehoboam/Jeroboam to Ahab, Prophecies

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 26, Rehoboam/Jeroboam to Ahab, Prophecies, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt covers the period in Old Testament history from Solomon's reign to the Babylonian exile. **Key events discussed include Solomon's apostasy and the subsequent division of the Israelite kingdom**, leading to the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. **The lecture also explores the reigns of significant kings**, such as Ahab and Jezebel in the north, and highlights the roles of prophets like Elijah and their confrontations with the rulers. **Finally, the lecture examines several Messianic prophecies** found throughout the Old Testament, showing how they foreshadow the coming of Jesus Christ. Specific dates and historical figures are frequently mentioned to provide a chronological framework for the events.

2. 32 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 26 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Introduction → Old Testament Literature).



**Hildebrandt_OTLit_
Session26.mp3**

3. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 26, Rehoboam/Jeroboam to Ahab, Prophecies

Old Testament Survey: Solomon to the Messianic Prophecies

Quiz

1. Describe Solomon's trajectory in his relationship with God.
2. What is the significance of the covenant in the context of Solomon's actions, and how does God respond to his disobedience?
3. Explain the division of the kingdom, including the key figures and the resulting kingdoms.
4. What are the two primary dates associated with the exile of the kingdoms, and what major events happened during those exiles?
5. What is Rehoboam's mistake that led to the division of the kingdom?
6. What are the characteristics of the kings in the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
7. What is the sin of Jeroboam and why is it significant?
8. Describe Baal worship and why it was so offensive to God?
9. What was the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel?
10. What are the key elements of Elijah's final mission and how does God's grace relate to Ahab?

Answer Key

1. Solomon, initially known as the wisest man, ultimately turns away from God by accumulating many wives, worshiping foreign gods, and disobeying God's commands, demonstrating a "flipping over" from wisdom to folly.
2. The covenant was a central agreement between God and Israel. When Solomon broke the covenant, God declared that he would tear the kingdom away from him but spared him because of his father, David, a figure in the covenant.
3. The kingdom divided due to Rehoboam's foolish leadership, resulting in the Northern Kingdom of Israel led by Jeroboam, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah led by Rehoboam, a descendant of David.

4. 722 B.C. marks the exile of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria. 586 B.C. marks the exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to Babylon and the destruction of Solomon's Temple.
5. Rehoboam rejects the counsel of the elders and listens to his peers, which led him to mistreat the people and cause the ten northern tribes to separate from him.
6. The kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel are characterized as universally bad, all following the idolatrous ways that started with Jeroboam and rarely having lasting dynastic lines.
7. Jeroboam's sin is the setting up of golden calves at Dan and Bethel to provide alternative worship sites to Jerusalem, which lead Israel to idolatry and a break from the central place of worship that was established by God.
8. Baal worship was centered around a storm god believed to fertilize the earth, and involved temple prostitutes, which was seen as both sexually immoral and an act of idolatry by God.
9. Elijah confronted 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, challenging them to call upon their god to send fire, demonstrating that the Lord was the only God by sending fire himself, destroying the altar.
10. Elijah's final mission involved anointing the kings of Syria, Jehu, and the prophet Elisha. Ahab repented of his sins after being confronted by Elijah, so God demonstrated grace by sparing Ahab and delaying judgment on his line.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the concept of leadership as presented in the story of Rehoboam, using his choices as a case study of good and bad leadership styles and considering the implications for leaders in various contexts.
2. Compare and contrast the kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, analyzing the causes and consequences of their respective actions, and the role of prophets in the relationship between the king and God.
3. Explain the role of prophecy in the Old Testament, using specific examples like the man of God out of Judah and Elijah, and evaluate the criticisms surrounding prophecy, including the concept of "prophecy post-eventu."

4. Examine the actions and motivations of Jezebel, analyzing her use of "religious evil" as a strategy to achieve her goals, and discuss the implications for how religion can be used to justify harmful actions.
5. Summarize the Messianic prophecies found in the Old Testament, and consider how they provided hope to the Jewish people and how they are fulfilled in the New Testament.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostasy:** The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief. Solomon turned away from God and practiced apostasy by worshiping foreign gods.
- **United Monarchy:** The period in Israelite history when all twelve tribes were united under one king (Saul, David, Solomon).
- **Divided Monarchy:** The period in Israelite history after Solomon's death when the kingdom split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- **Jeroboam I:** The first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, known for establishing idolatrous worship with golden calves in Dan and Bethel.
- **Rehoboam:** The son of Solomon, who became the first king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and whose poor leadership caused the kingdom to split.
- **Assyria:** A powerful empire that conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. and exiled its inhabitants.
- **Babylon:** A powerful empire that conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 B.C., destroyed Solomon's Temple, and exiled the Jews.
- **Sabbatical Year:** Every seventh year, in which the land was to be rested and not cultivated. The Jews' failure to observe the Sabbatical year resulted in a seventy-year exile in Babylon.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite storm god worshiped by Jezebel, associated with fertility, rain, and sexual immorality.
- **Elijah:** A significant prophet who opposed King Ahab and Jezebel, and confronted the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

- **Jezebel:** The wife of King Ahab, a Phoenician princess who promoted the worship of Baal in Israel, also known for religious evil.
- **Mount Carmel:** A mountain in Israel where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, and where God demonstrated his power by sending fire to destroy the altar.
- **Prophecy Post-Eventu:** The critical view that biblical prophecies were created after the events they seem to predict, not before.
- **Messianic Prophecy:** A prophecy in the Old Testament that looks forward to the coming of the Messiah (Jesus).
- **Protoevangelium:** The first promise of the gospel, found in Genesis 3:15, where God promises a future deliverer who will defeat the serpent (Satan).
- **Ben David:** Hebrew for "Son of David," a title for the Messiah who would come from the Davidic line.
- **Ben Joseph:** Hebrew for "Son of Joseph," a title for a suffering servant Messiah.
- **Substitutionary Atonement:** The doctrine that Jesus took the place of sinners by suffering the punishment for their sins.
- **Religious Evil:** The use of religious practices and laws to justify immoral acts, as demonstrated by Jezebel's manipulation of the law to kill Naboth.

4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes, ideas, and facts from the provided lecture transcript by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt:

Briefing Document: Dr. Ted Hildebrandt's Old Testament Lecture 26

Overview:

This lecture provides a sweeping overview of the Old Testament period from Solomon's reign through the divided monarchy, the exile, and concludes with a survey of key Messianic prophecies. Dr. Hildebrandt emphasizes the themes of wisdom and folly, the consequences of disobedience, the role of prophets, and God's consistent grace despite Israel's failings. The lecture uses historical narratives, prophetic examples, and specific dates to illustrate the progression of God's redemptive plan.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Paradox of Wisdom and Folly:

- Solomon, the wisest man, ended up making foolish decisions in his old age by turning to other gods. This illustrates that "wisdom and folly actually crossover sometimes."
- Hildebrandt poses the question: "have you ever noticed people that are really smart end up to being really stupid at the same time?"
- Solomon warned others against the very things he ultimately practiced.

1. The Consequences of Disobedience and the Divided Kingdom:

- Solomon's idolatry led to God's judgment. God said, "since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant... I will most certainly tare the kingdom away from you."
- The kingdom was divided into a northern kingdom (Israel) and a southern kingdom (Judah) under Rehoboam (Solomon's son) and Jeroboam respectively.
- The division was triggered by Rehoboam's poor leadership decisions by choosing to listen to young advisors who advised him to use more force to control the people. The old leaders advised him to serve the people to gain their loyalty. His harsh policies resulted in the northern tribes breaking away.

- “The old men...said: ‘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.’”.
- Rehoboam “accepts the advice of the young guys. He comes out: ‘I’m going to whip you. My father whipped you with whips; I’m going to whip you with scorpions.’”
- The kingdom was split due to unwise leadership by Rehoboam: “ten tribes, we’re going north. We’re not going to come back down here.”

1. **Key Dates and Events:**

- **1000 B.C.:** The reign of King David.
- **931 B.C.:** The Kingdom splits
- **722 B.C.:** The Northern Kingdom (Israel) was conquered and exiled by Assyria. "The ten tribes get carried off to Assyria... and he scatters the Jews. The ten tribes are scattered throughout Assyria and the region."
- **586 B.C.:** The Southern Kingdom (Judah) was conquered and exiled by Babylon; the Temple of Solomon was destroyed.
- "586 is when the temple of Solomon is destroyed."
- "So the temple is destroyed and the Jews are hauled off to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar."
- **400 B.C.:** The end of Old Testament prophecy with Malachi. "Malachi ends at 400 B.C. So after 400 B.C., prophecy is over after 400 B.C."

1. **The Nature of Leadership:**

- True leadership is characterized by service to others, not by the exercise of power to prove dominance.
- "If a new king serves his people, the people will then in turn serve him."
- Hildebrandt gives the example of his son being a leader in the Marines who would buy pizza for his unit after grueling marches.

1. **The Kings of Israel and Judah:**

- The kings of the northern kingdom (Israel) were all bad, starting with Jeroboam and his establishment of golden calves at Dan and Bethel. "Jeroboam is the one that taught Israel to sin."

- The kings of the southern kingdom (Judah) were mostly bad, but some were good (Hezekiah, Josiah, Asa). "Most of the kings of the south were bad, some of them were good."
- The Northern kings had lines that were always cut off, but David's line would continue forever. "In the south are we going to have David's line, father son, father son, father son. David's line is going continue forever."

1. The Role of Prophets:

- Prophets spoke truth and called the people to repentance.
- "A prophet speaks for God: 'Thus saith the Lord.'"
- The prophet "gives you what God says."
- False prophets proclaimed peace when there was no peace. "The true prophet says, 'repent,' and they hated them."
- Prophets like the man of God from Judah (1 Kings 13) spoke both short-term and long-term prophecies. He gave a sign of the split altar as a short term prophecy to confirm the long term prophecy about Josiah. "If what I'm saying is true, this altar will split into two right now."
- Critics often dismiss fulfilled prophecy by claiming it was written *post-eventum*. "What this means then is that the prophecy, when it says that Josiah will do this 300 years later that that prophecy was actually made up after the time of Josiah and written back into the text."

1. The Story of Elijah:

- Elijah was a prominent prophet who challenged the wicked King Ahab and the prophets of Baal.
- The contest on Mount Carmel was a demonstration of God's power versus Baal's power.
- "'If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.'"
- Elijah taunts the prophets of Baal: "'Shout louder! He said. Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is in deep thought, or busy, or traveling or maybe he's on the pot.'"
- After the victory, Elijah experienced a deep depression and a sense of "existential aloneness." "Elijah says, 'I am the only one left and now they're seeking to take my life.'"

- God gave Elijah a threefold mission: to anoint Hazael as king of Syria, Jehu as king of Israel, and Elisha as his successor.

1. Religious Evil

- Jezebel's manipulation of religion to condemn Naboth is an example of "religious evil."
- She used "Jehovah's law to kill this guy. Is that wicked? Is it doubly wicked?"
- "Religious evil" is the use of religion to do evil and to hide behind it.

1. God's Grace and Forgiveness:

- Even Ahab, considered one of the worst kings, received grace when he humbled himself and repented. "Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring disaster in his day. But I will bring it on the days of his son."
- This demonstrates that "God is gracious in both testaments."

1. Messianic Prophecies:

- The Old Testament contains numerous prophecies pointing to the coming Messiah (Jesus).
- The *proto-evangelium* (Genesis 3:15) promises a descendant who would crush the serpent's head.
- The covenant with Abraham anticipated that his descendants would bless all the world.
- The Messiah was prophesied to be from the lineage of David. "God would build David a house [dynasty], and that his descendant would sit on the throne of his father David and would rule forever and forever looking down to Jesus as the ben David."
- Malachi prophesied the coming of Elijah before the great day of the Lord. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord comes."
- Isaiah 9:6: The child to be born will be called "Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace."
- Isaiah 7:14: A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son called "Emmanuel" (God with us).

- Micah 5:2: The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.
- Zechariah 9: The Messiah will come riding on a donkey.
- Psalm 22: David's cry of forsakenness is repeated by Jesus on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- Isaiah 53: A Suffering Servant will bear the sins of many and "by his wounds we are healed." "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed."

Key Takeaways:

- The Old Testament narrative is full of examples of both human failure and divine faithfulness.
- God's covenant with Israel is foundational, but obedience to that covenant was crucial.
- Prophets played a critical role in challenging both political and spiritual corruption.
- God's grace and forgiveness are available even to the worst offenders when they genuinely repent.
- The Old Testament is not just a history of Israel, but a testament to God's unfolding plan of redemption that culminates in Christ.
- The Old Testament looked forward to the reign of the Messiah.

This briefing document is intended to provide a thorough overview of the material presented in the lecture. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical context, the theological themes, and the interconnectedness of the Old Testament stories in order to appreciate the richness and depth of the biblical narrative.

5. FAQs on Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 26, Rehoboam/Jeroboam to Ahab, Prophecies, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Key Themes from Old Testament History

- **Why is Solomon, considered the wisest man, described as foolish at the end of his life?** Solomon, despite his wisdom, disobeyed God by marrying foreign women and worshipping their gods. This illustrates a theme that wisdom and folly can coexist and that even the most intelligent individuals can make grave mistakes, highlighting the importance of consistent faithfulness to God's commandments. His downfall serves as a warning, demonstrating how easily one can deviate from righteous paths, even when possessing great wisdom.
- **How did the Kingdom of Israel become divided, and what were the resulting kingdoms called?** The kingdom split due to Solomon's apostasy and, subsequently, the poor leadership of his son, Rehoboam. Rehoboam, upon becoming king, rejected the advice of the elders to serve his people and instead listened to younger advisors who advocated for harsh treatment. As a result, the ten northern tribes revolted, establishing the kingdom of Israel (with Jeroboam as king), while the southern kingdom of Judah (ruled by Rehoboam) consisted of the remaining tribes.
- **What were the key differences between the kings of the Northern and Southern kingdoms?** The Northern kingdom of Israel was marked by constant instability and idolatry, with all of its kings considered bad. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was ruled by the lineage of David and included both good and bad kings, with the good kings sometimes bringing reform to the area, though most were ultimately unfaithful. This contrast highlights the consequences of turning away from God's covenant, versus the relative stability that can be found in remaining faithful to the Davidic line.

- **What is the significance of the dates 722 BC and 586 BC in the history of the Israelites?** 722 BC marks the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel when the Assyrians conquered the region and scattered the ten tribes throughout their empire. 586 BC is when the Southern Kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians, who destroyed Solomon's Temple and exiled many of its inhabitants. These dates signify major turning points for the Israelites, demonstrating the consequences of disobedience, and emphasize the importance of keeping their covenant with God.
- **Why is Jeroboam I significant and what is his lasting 'epithet'?** Jeroboam I is significant because he was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after its split from Judah. He is known for setting up golden calves at the religious sites of Dan and Bethel to prevent people from traveling to Jerusalem for worship, thus securing their loyalty and preventing the flow of wealth to the south. His epithet is that he "taught Israel to sin" because his actions lead to the proliferation of idol worship across the northern kingdom and influenced its later kings.
- **Who were Ahab and Jezebel, and how did they lead Israel into idolatry?** Ahab was a king of Israel considered to be one of the most wicked rulers in the Northern Kingdom. He married Jezebel, a Phoenician princess and worshiper of Baal. Jezebel brought Baal worship into Israel, establishing temples and promoting the worship of Baal and other pagan gods, including temple prostitution. This led the Israelites to further embrace idolatry and stray from their covenant with God.
- **Why was the prophet Elijah so significant, and what was the challenge at Mount Carmel?** Elijah is a pivotal prophet in the Old Testament known for challenging King Ahab and Jezebel, as well as the prophets of Baal. The challenge at Mount Carmel was a showdown between Elijah and 450 prophets of Baal. Elijah called on God to send fire to consume his altar, which he did, demonstrating God's power over Baal and leading the people to acknowledge the Lord's true power, solidifying his legacy as a significant prophet. It served as a vivid demonstration of God's power and the emptiness of idolatry.

- **What are some of the Messianic prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament, and how do they point to Jesus?** The Old Testament is replete with prophecies that point towards the coming Messiah, or Christ. Some of these include the proto-evangelium in Genesis, the promise to Abraham of a blessing through his seed, the Davidic covenant, Malachi's prophecy about Elijah's return before the day of the Lord, Isaiah's prophecies of a virgin birth and of the Messiah's suffering. Isaiah 53 details the Messiah's suffering, death, and substitutionary atonement for the sins of humanity. These prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus, who was born of a virgin, was of the lineage of David, and whose death is believed to be an atonement for the sins of the world.