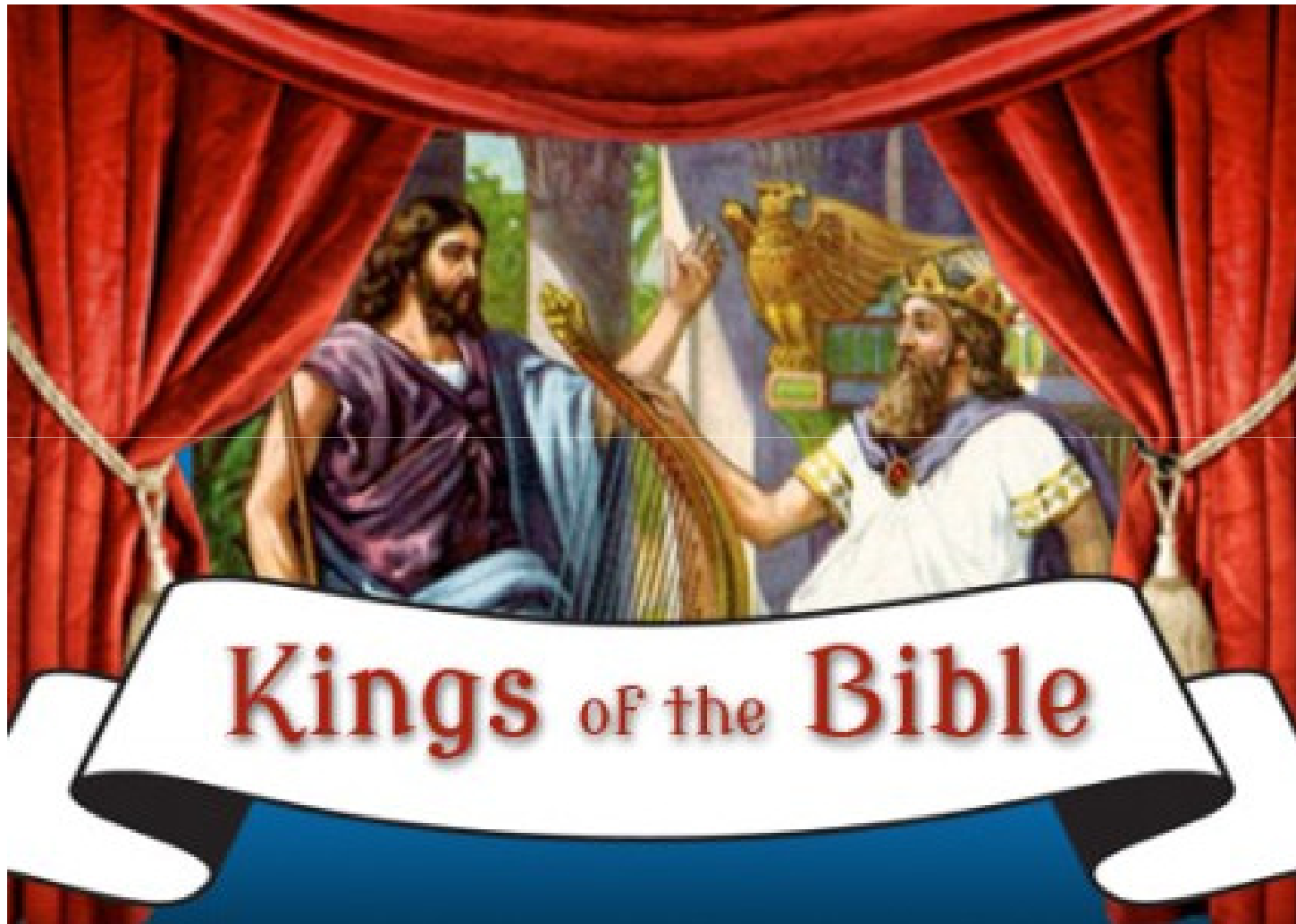


# The Kings of the Bible



*Providence Baptist Church Bible Study – 28/11/18*

# What we have covered

## **Week**

1. Overview and context
2. Saul
3. David
4. Solomon
5. Rehoboam and Jeroboam
6. Kings of Israel and Judah
7. Hezekiah (Jehoshaphat and Josiah)
8. Kings of Persia
9. Melchizedek
- 10. Summary and lessons**

# Principles

1. King (rulers of nations and empires (and cities)) play an important part in the Bible. Prosperity of a nation often depends on who is in power (Proverbs 29:2,4),
2. Regarding kings in our own time, often we look on them more with consternation.
3. Israel is at the centre of our study and so is God
4. The need to apply 2Timothy 3:16, 17 to our study
5. We are called to respect kings, submit to and obey rulers, them who God ordains (good and bad). Ref. examples of Jesus, Peter, Paul – 1Peter 2:13,14, Romans 13:1,2; need to pray for kings 1Timothy 2:1-2

# From Nimrod to Jesus



# Kings with respect to Israel

- From Adam to Noah - none
- From Noah to Abraham - Nimrod
- From Abraham to Moses and Joshua - Pharoah
- Under the Judges – all the surrounding nations had kings except for Israel
- The united kingdom of Israel (twelve tribes)
- The divided kingdom of Israel and Judah
- Exile and post exile – kings of Babylon, Persia
- Inter testament – kings Greece
- New testament – Caesar, Jesus
- Until Jesus, who is the King of kings, returns

It was not God's intention for Israel to have a king but

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 ... if they were to have a king ... these are the qualifications that are needed ...

- Not a foreigner
- Not a war monger
- Not dependant on Egypt
- Not many wives
- Studies the law
- Not proud and arrogant

# Saul



“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.” Judges 21:25

“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.” 1Samuel 8:19,20

King Saul – a man that looked the part and who started his reign with so much promise, with God blessing him and wanting to establish his reign, but Saul disobeyed God and God rejected him.



# David



Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart

Acts 13:21-23 – he was a man after God's own heart

And this despite many struggles, faults and sins, especially regarding Bathsheba and Uriah

Kingdom was established under David



# David – cont

**Humble** – Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie; if weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath. Psalm 62:9

**Reverent** – I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. Psalm 18:3

**Respectful** – Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. Psalm 31:9

**Trusting** – The LORD is my light and my salvation– whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life– of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

**Loving** – I love you, O Lord, my strength. Psalm 18:1

**Devoted** – You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. Psalm 4:7

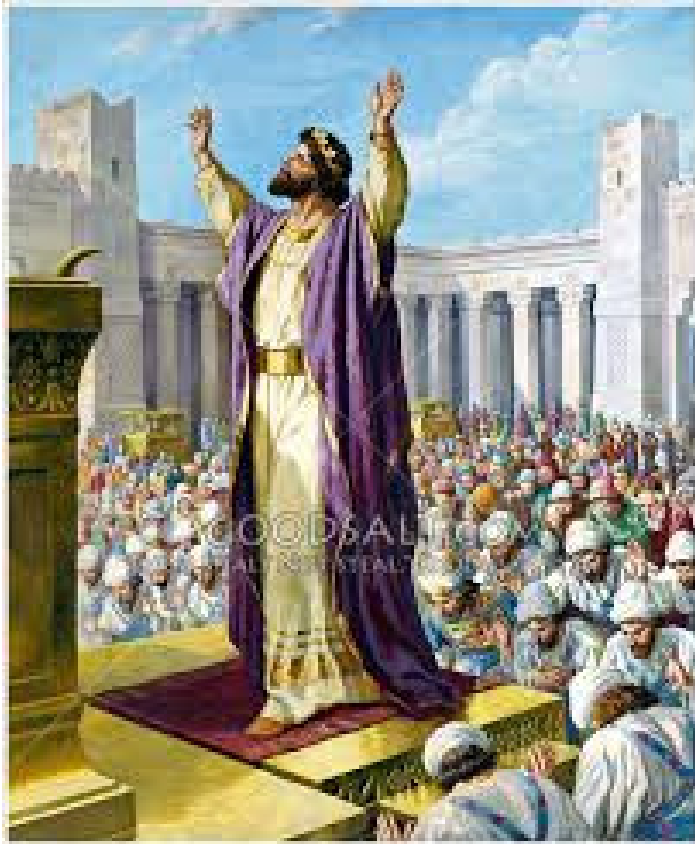
**Recognition** – I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. Psalm 9:1

**Faithful** – Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

**Obedient** – Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34

**Repentant** – For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Psalm 25:11

# Solomon



- Kingdom was at its height due to David establishing it
- Started off by having to do a clean up operation
- He began as dedicated to God and to serving the people
- Building and dedicating the Temple was perhaps his highlight
- Was given the wisdom he asked for but also riches and honor
- Fell away in later years
- Thereby sowing the seeds for division and decline

# Jeroboam and Rehoboam



# Jeroboam and Rehoboam – cont

## Jeroboam

- The rebel king
- Anointed by God
- Golden calves (Bethel, Dan)

## Rehoboam

- Foolishness
- People turned further away from God
- Decline and subjugation

## Kings of Judah and Israel

Saul	1050-1010 BC
David	1010-970
Solomon	970-930

Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
					6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	Micaiah
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good		14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad-repent	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	722 BC Fall of Isreal / Assyrian Captivity				
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									



## 18 • The Prophets of the Old Testament (870 BC – 465 BC)

Prophet*	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled During Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (BC)	Prophet's Place of Birth
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845	Tishbe
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800	Abel Meholah
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673	Jerusalem
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582	Anathoth
Ezekiel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-570	Jerusalem
Daniel	To Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Babylonian Exile	620-540	Judah (Jerusalem?)
Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725	Israel
Joel	To Judah	Governor Ezra	450	Jerusalem
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II	765-754	Tekoa**
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590	Jerusalem
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781	Gath Hepher**
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698	Moresheh-gath**
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615	Elkosh**
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598	Unknown
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626	Unknown
Haggai	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	520	Jerusalem
Zechariah	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	522-509	Jerusalem
Malachi	To Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	465	Jerusalem

\* Prophets are listed in the order they are found in the Bible.

\*\* Exact location unknown.



# Good, bad and in-between

- Bad kings did good things; good kings did bad things
- “Good” invariably linked to dedication to God
- “Bad” invariably linked to practising idolatry
- Some good kings still allowed the High places
- Bad kings who became good
- Good kings who became bad

Time only allows to skim the surface on some of the kings of Judah and Israel. I have selected seven which between them illustrate all of these tendencies.

# Asa

2Kings 9 1-24, 2Chronicles 14:1 – 16:14

Asa was a good king – he got rid of false religion and governed well. He trusted God when attacked. He fell away in later life and did not turn to God in his troubles.

# Jehu

2Kings 9:1 – 10:35

Like all the kings of Israel he was a bad king, and yet he was anointed by God for the task and did good by doing what God told him by getting rid of some of the false religion.

# Jehoram

2Chronicles 21

Jehoram was a thoroughly bad king of Judah, entirely ruthless in getting rid of any opposition. He had a horrible end and the tragedy is when he died NO-ONE mourned his death.

# Manassah

2Kings 21:1-18, 2Chronicles 33:1 – 33-20

Manassah was an evil king (he even sacrificed his own children). He was judged severely but in the end he returned to God and God was merciful.

# Jehoshaphat

2Kings 22: 41-50, 2Chronicles 17:1 – 21:1

This is the guy that went to war and at the head of the army was a choir of God worshippers. Because of his dedication to God and the bringing in of proper worship of God, the fear of God came upon the surrounding nations.



# Hezekiah

2Kings 18:1 – 20:21, 2Chronicles 29:1 -32:33

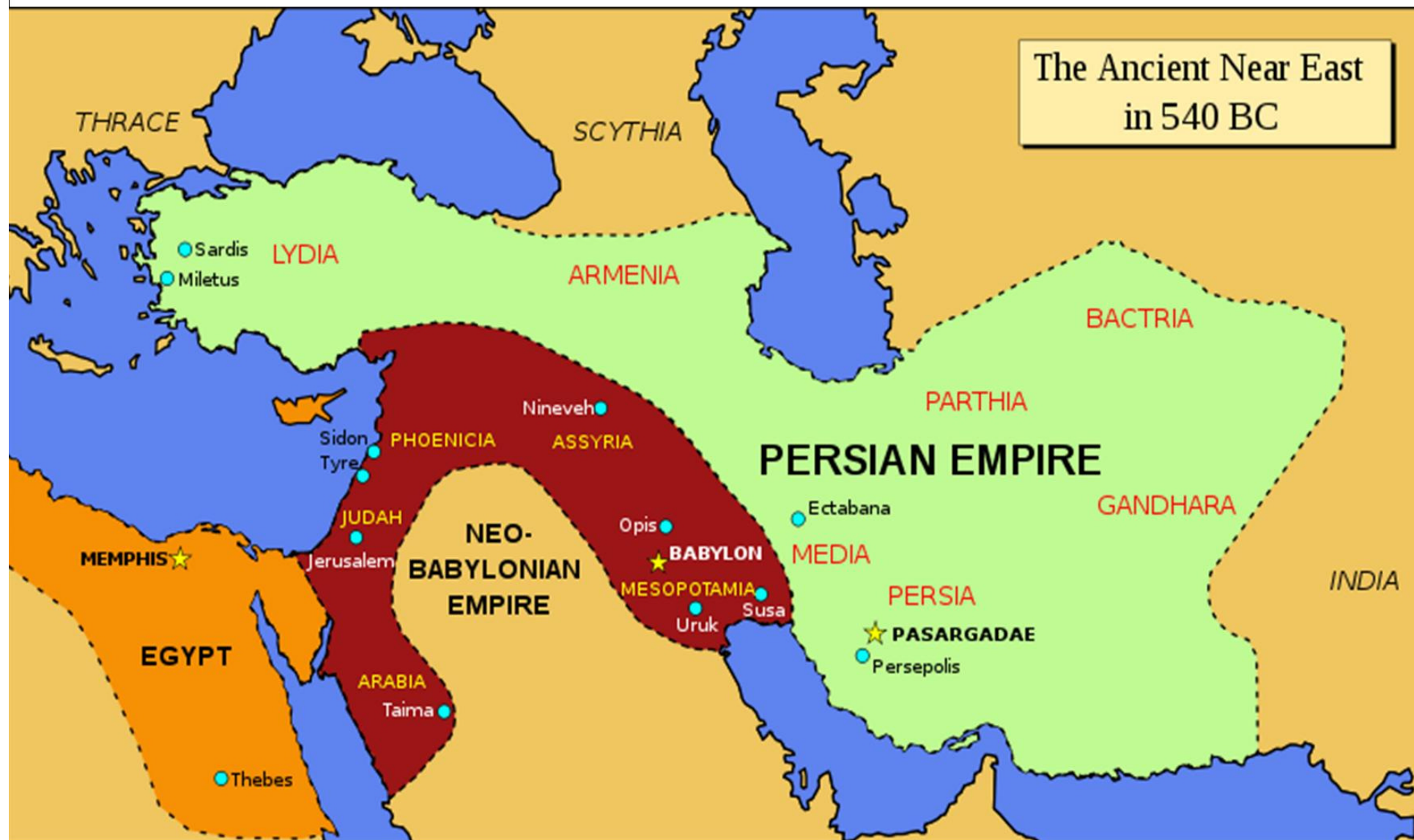
Another godly king who brought back pure worship. When confronted with the Assyrian army and he have over the letter telling him to capitulate over to God and he prayed for deliverance, and God delivered. Sadly, in later years God told him to put his house on order.

# Josiah

2Kings 22:1 – 23:30, 2Chronicles 34:1 – 35:27

“Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their ancestors.”

The Ancient Near East  
in 540 BC





# First came the Babylonians

Consider Daniel – bridges two great empires (Babylon and Persia)

Ch 1 Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel (exiled under Jehoiakim)

Ch2 Nebuchadnezzar's dream – Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome

Ch3 Image of gold and the fiery furnace for Daniels' three friends

Ch4 Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree – which was his  
humiliation and restoration – which all came to pass

Ch5 Belshazar and the writing on the wall (then Darius the Mede)



# Persian Kings in the Bible

NAME	B.C. DATE	PERSIAN NAME	BIBLE NAME	BIBLE REFERENCE
Cyrus	539-530	Koorush	Cyrus	Isaiah 45, Daniel Ezra 1-3
Cambysses	530-521	Cambujieh	Ahasruerus	Ezra 4-6
Pseudo Smerdis	521	Berooyeh Doroughi	Artaxerxes	Ezra 4:7-23
Darius the Great	521-486	Darryoosh	Darius	Ezra 5-6
Xerxes	486-465	Khashayarshah	Ahasurerus	Esther 1-10
Artixerxes	464-423	Ardeshier Dernaz Dast	Artaxerxes	Neh. 1-13 Ezra 7:10



“I am Cyrus. King of the world. When I entered Babylon...I did not allow anyone to terrorize land...I kept in view the needs of Babylon and all its sanctuaries to promote the well-being...I put an end to their misfortune.”

*Cyrus Charter of Human Rights*



# Cyrus the Great



Isaiah 44:24-28; about God, about Cyrus  
(significance – 200 years before it happened).

Isaiah 45:1-13; more about Cyrus, the Lord's  
anointed and how God deals with him / Israel

Ezra 1:1-6; showed how was the prophecy revealed  
– despite the various hold ups?



The Cyrus cylinder was propaganda praising his achievements. But he was an enlightened king in every way: culture, engineering, government etc.

# Melchizedek

**Melchizedek \* King of Salem \* King of Righteousness \* Priest  
of the Most High God \* Forerunner of Jesus of Nazareth**



# Melchizedek – cont

Melchizedek was priest of the Most High God and king of Salem (Jerusalem). He met Abraham after the war fought between the four kings against the five and blessed him. Following the blessing Abraham gave him a tenth of all he had (Genesis 14)

“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” – Psalm 110:4

“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens” – Hebrews 7:24-26



JESUS CHRIST



KING OF KINGS  
LORD OF LORDS



What have you learned?

?

# What I have learned and do ponder

1. God anoints kings and uses all sorts of people
2. Bad kings can become good and good kings bad
3. God sees us as we are, yet his inclination is to show mercy
4. Kings affect those they rule over and vice versa
5. God has a special love for his chosen people (Israel)
6. God sends his prophets to warn, encourage etc.
7. The lure of idolatry is ever present and is with us today
8. The application now is in the way God deals with nations
9. God's word always comes to pass, even after many years
10. The importance of trusting in God and is the key for blessing
11. God is holy and He is to be honoured and obeyed
12. Always something new – compare scripture with scripture