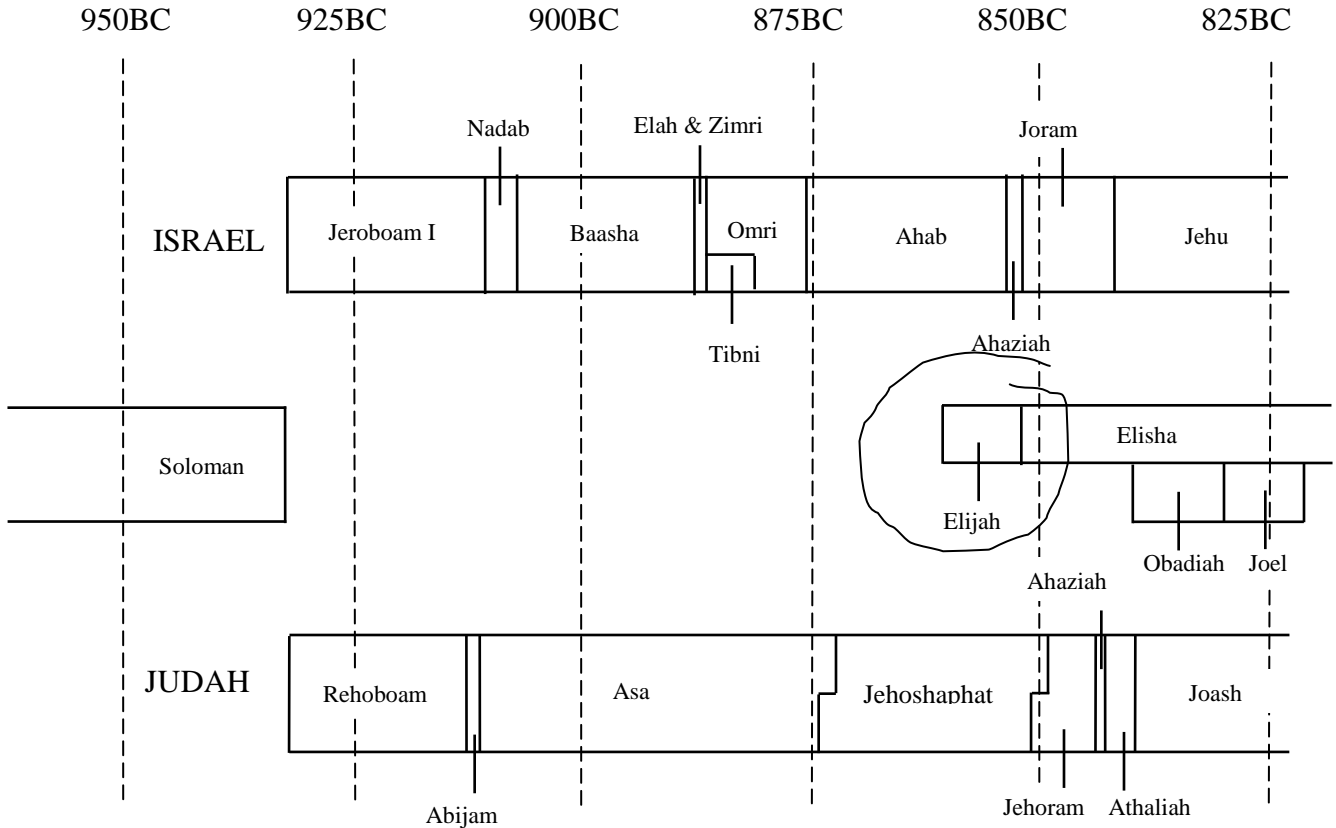


the Tishbite

#1, We need more rain! – I Kings 16:15-17:3

It had been approximately seventy five years since the end of Solomon’s reign and the start of the divided kingdom. The Southern kingdom, Judah and Benjamin, was called Judah. The remaining ten tribes made up the Northern kingdom, Israel. At the time of Elijah, Ahab ruled Israel.

Before we get too far into the study of Elijah we need to know about Jeroboam and also some facts about Ahab. So on the second page we will review “the sins of Jeroboam” and then, on page three, go on a little “rabbit trail” called Ahab, up close and personnel! And finally, for those who dislike asking directions, there is a map on page 5 . . . just for you.



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[1.] In the heading it was mentioned that the Northern Kingdom, (Israel) contained ten tribes. Go ahead and write them down.

[2.] During the time of Elijah, who was the king of Judah?

the Tishbite

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the sins of Jeroboam

I Kings 12:25-33 Then Jeroboam built (fortified) Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27 " If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." 29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.

32 Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense.

[1.] v:25, These two cities were already in existence. Why would Jeroboam mess with them?

[2.] v:26-27, said in his heart, We get a glimpse into Jeroboam's paranoia. What did he conclude?

[3.] v:28, two golden calves, How did the golden calf thing work out for Israel at Mt Sinai?

[4.] v:31, made priests, What was wrong with Jeroboam's selection of priests?

[5.] v:32, instituted a feast, Adding in this non-Mosaic feast day, sum up the sins of Jeroboam.

[6.] Before we move on, turn to II Peter 2:1-3 and describe why it is of sovereign importance for Christians to know what the Bible says.

OK you did good! Now let's jump ahead about 60-years and take a look at Ahab.

the Tishbite

#1, We need more rain! – I Kings 16:15-17:3

Ahab, up close and personnel!

I Kings 16:15-16 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah. Now the people were camped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. 16 The people who were camped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired and has also struck down the king." Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

23-24 In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel and reigned twelve years; he reigned six years at Tirzah. 24 He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built on the hill, and named the city which he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

29 Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.

31 It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him.

[7.] I Ki 16:16, Before he became king, what was the occupation Ahab's father's?

[8.] v:16:24, What was Omri's "claim to fame"?

[9.] v:30, more than all, What was Ahab's "claim to fame"?

[10.] v:31, While going to a foreign country to seek a wife, Ahab discovered another god in the girl's home town. What was the god?

Baal, Meaning "lord, husband, owner," Baal was the predominant god in Canaanite religion. He was the storm god who provided the rain necessary for the fertility of the land.

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the Tishbite

#1, We need more rain! – I Kings 16:15-17:3

32 So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. 33 Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

I Kings 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, " As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

[11.] A wife can have great influence (good or bad) over her husband. During courtship, what should a prospective husband be watching for?

[12.] Assuming the guy and girl stay pure, why can a long courtship (years) be profitable?

[13.] v:32-33, In his zeal, where did Ahab have the house of Baal built?

[14.] v:33, What is an Asherah?

Tishbite, Elijah lived in a town called Tishbe, E. of the Jordan River in the vicinity of the Jabbok River.

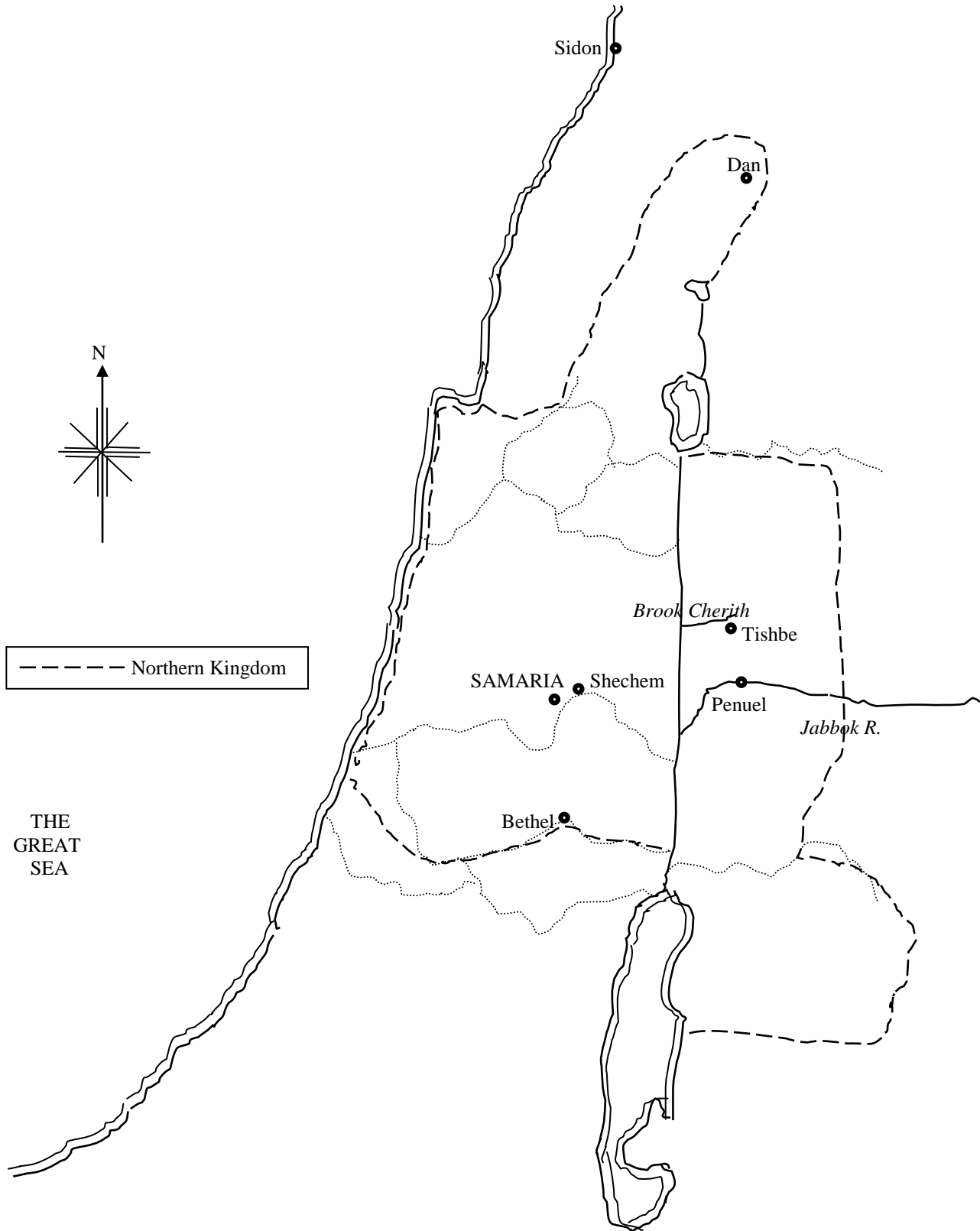
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[15.] I Ki 17:1, On your map, page 5, find Tishbe and circle it.

[16.] v:1 again, neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word, Elijah "threw down the gauntlet". Who was going to be against who?

the Tishbite

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the Tishbite

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James 5:16b-18, The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

Back to I Kings 17

2 The word of the Lord came to him, saying, 3 "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

[17.] v:1, Select some things that really control the weather:

- a) nuclear power plants.
- b) the weather person.
- c) freon.
- d) rain dances.
- e) power of God.

[18.] James 5:16b, Whose prayer does God hear?

[19.] Ja 5:17-18, We're peeking ahead a little but what were the results of Elijah's prayers?

[20.] v:3, God next told Elijah to "bail out" of there. Why would He do that?

[21.] v:3 again, To where did God tell Elijah to hide?

[22.] Find the Brook Cherith on your map and draw a line showing Elijah's probable route.

[23.] Without reading ahead, and knowing people like you do, who do you think Ahab is going to blame for the drought?