Historical Survey:
Kingdoms of Judah and Israel
(1000-586 BCE)

September 11, 2006
- Finders' guide to biblical passages
- Chronological overview
- Significant themes in the biblical "memory" of Israelite history

Finders' guide to biblical passages
- Christian Old Testament organized differently than Jewish Bible.
  - Christian bible is chronological (traditional date of author). First historical works, then poetic.
  - Hebrew Bible has three major divisions: Acronym TNK pronounced Tanakh
- Tools:
  - Table of Contents: p. v-vi
  - Alphabetical list of books: p. xvii
  - Comparison of Biblical book orders: p. 2072

Outline of Books of the
Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)

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Chronological overview*

- "Prehistory"—to ca 1250 BCE
- Formation of Israelite polity—1250-1025
- "Unified Monarchy"—1025–928
- Divided Monarchy—928–586

Next time:
- Babylonian Exile 586–538
- Restoration under the Persians 538–333

* Precise chronologies vary. See Jewish Study Bible 2106–2113 for more detail

Prehistory and early formation

- "Prehistory"—to ca 1250 BCE: Likely diverse origins
- More than one group of settlers/invaders
- Possibly only some with Egypt/Exodus connection (e.g. Levites)
- Possibly indigenous elements as well
- Formation of Israelite polity—1250-1025
  - Tribal league held together by cult (shrines, god, and ritual)
  - Centripetal and centrifugal pressures
- See Callaway for more detail/discussion

"Unified Monarchy" 1025–928

- Saul (1025–1005)
  - Seemingly in response to external pressure: the expanding Philistines
- David (1005–965)
  - State formation—royal city (Jerusalem)
  - The father of a dynasty with long term significance
- Solomon (968–928)
  - Consolidation
  - Ultimately: over-exploitation
Divided Monarchy 928–586

- Rehoboam, Jeroboam, and the division
  - Rehoboam: the successor to Solomon
  - Jeroboam: appointed by God to undermine the kingdom
  - Dissent over taxes, but the seems as though Israel divides over existing fissures
- Kingdom of Israel 928–722
  - Generally the wealthier, more powerful of the two
  - Volatile political tradition: tied to prophetic/charismatic tradition of kingship?
  - Defeated by: Assyrians
- Kingdom of Judah 928–586
  - Tradition: a single dynasty throughout
  - Defeated by: Neo-Babylonians

Significant themes in the biblical "memory" of Israelite history

- Joshua’s lightning conquest vs. piecemeal conquest in Judges
- Tension in the biblical ideology of kingship:
  - King is chosen by God (God to Samuel: they’ve rejected me, not you)
  - Kingship is rejection of God’s direct rule
- Promise of a davidic dynasty
  - Promise of an eternal dynasty to David (2 Sam. 7:11–16)
  - Promise to Jeroboam about David (!) (1 Kings 11:29–39)
  - Psalm 132: Recounting of the promise to David
  - Psalm 89: You promised, God, now where are you?

Canaan/Israel