



Historical Survey: Exile and Restoration

September 13, 2006

- Announcements
- (From last time): Divided Monarchy
- The Judean Exile, beginnings of diaspora
- Community of Returnees in Judaea



Announcements

- Tonight!
Jericho's Echo:
Punk Rock in the Holy Land
7:00 PM, Hoff Theater
- Electronic Reserves:
catalog.umd.edu
Look up course reserves under my name
Password **hist282lap**



Israel and Judah (From last time)

- Formation



Divided Monarchy 928–586

- Rehoboam, Jeroboam, and the division (1Kg 11:25-14:31)
 - 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 (2Kg 17)
- Kingdom of Judah 928–586
 - Tradition: a single dynasty throughout
 - Survives the Assyrian conquest (2Kg 18–19)
 - Defeated by: Neo-Babylonians (2Kg 24–25; Jeremiah 39–44)



Note on Davidic Dynasty and History

- Some historians (aka "minimalists") doubt David's, Solomon's etc. existence. All acknowledge an element of myth, legend, and epic in the accounts. (Compare historicity of Arthur)
- Later Judaeans kings **are** attested outside the Bible (Hezekiah under Senacherib).
- The Davidic **Dynasty** (*bet David*, the house of David) **is** attested in an inscription from Tel Dan in northern Israel.

Tel Dan Inscription





The Judean Exile, Beginnings of Diaspora

- End of Judean Kingdom, destruction of Jerusalem and Temple (586 BCE)
 - Waves of expulsions 597-586
 - Expulsion of elites: military and officials (Jer. 52:27-29: 4,600);
 - Leave behind a tribute-paying agrarian population
- Beginnings of Diaspora
 - Through captivity (Judeans in Babylonia)
 - Through refugees (political etc.): episode in Jeremiah
- Little known about Babylonian exile
 - King Jehoiachin, exiled 597, honorably treated
 - Some Judeans seem to have successfully established new lives in Mesopotamia



Community of Returnees in Judaea

- Returnees are under Persian sanction
 - Sheshbazzar (539) and Zerubbabel (520s), from the royal house of David
 - Ezra ca. 458, a priest and **scribe**. His charter (Ezra 7): to enforce the law of his God, written in a **Torah, a book** of law or instruction
 - Nehemiah (late 5th C) is a pious courtier of the Persian king.
- Clashes in Judaea
 - Between leaders in Jerusalem and other local leaders (e.g. Samaria) in a position similar to Ezra's or Nehemiah's
 - Between returned exiles and "peoples of the land," **possibly the descendants of the Judeans left behind.**
 - In reality, relations were actually more intimate: intermarriage with "people of the land" protested by some leaders, practiced by others
 - In this context: the formation of an association of returnees who vow to protect the Temple, provide for the priests and levites and **separate from the peoples of the land**


