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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month begins a series of articles on the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The first of the series is "[Israel and Judah: 1. Saul and David](#)." I will present over several months a detailed account of the second of the Former Prophets, the "Book of the Kingdoms." Within the Old Testament are three grand divisions: the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (or the Writings). These are so identified in Luke 24:44.

**"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in [1] the law of Moses, and in [2] the prophets, and in [3] the psalms, concerning me."**

• Luke 24:44

Yes, the writings of the Old Testament concern Jesus Christ. That includes the Prophets division which is also in three divisions: (a) the Former Prophets, (b) the Latter Prophets, and (c) the Minor Prophets. The Former Prophets have two parts, Joshua-Judges, which is **considered** as one "book" by ancient scholars such as Josephus and the rabbis, and the second part is the "Book of the Kingdoms" composed of Samuel-Kings. In the Hebrew canon Joshua-Judges was on one scroll, and 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings were all in one scroll. This information is explained in Dr. Ernest Martin's book, [Restoring the Original Bible: the Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures](#).<sup>1</sup>

The narrative of the "Book of the Kingdoms" will be compared and set side-by-side with the narrative of the Book of Chronicles, the last book in the Hebrew canon. If one accepts this natural structural layout of the Old Testament, notice that the Latter and Minor Prophets (both of which come after the Former Prophets), are commentaries of Kingdoms and Chronicles. Chronicles (First and Second Chronicles in our Bibles) begins with Adam, then it reviews and comments on portions of the preceding 21 books of the Old Testament. Most of Chronicles specifically corresponds with the Book of the Kingdoms (Samuel-Kings).

### Volume One The Old Testament

3	Grand	Divisions
The Law	The Church (1st Rank)	The State (2nd Rank)
GOD (5 Books)	CHURCH (6 Books)	STATE (11 Books)
<b>1. LAW</b>	<b>2. PROPHETS</b>	<b>3. PSALMS</b>
1. LAW	2. FORMER	5. WISDOM
1. Genesis	1. Joshua - Judges	1. Psalms
2. Exodus	2. Book of the Kingdoms	2. Proverbs
3. Leviticus	3. LATTER	3. Job
4. Numbers	3. Isaiah } MAJOR	6. FESTIVAL
5. Deuteronomy	4. Jeremiah } MAJOR	4. Song = Passover
	5. Ezekiel } MAJOR	5. Ruth = Pentecost
	6. MINOR	6. Lam. = Ab 10th
	6. The Twelve	7. Eccl. = Tabernacles
	1. Hosa }	8. Esther = Purim
	2. Joel }	
	3. Amos }	7. RESTORATION
	4. Obadiah }	9. Daniel
	5. Jonah }	10. Book of Nehemiah
	6. Mirah }	11. Chronicles
	7. Nahum }	
	8. Habakkuk }	
	9. Zephaniah }	
	10. Haggai }	
	11. Zechariah }	
	12. Malachi }	
		[This third division is the Royal (state or government) section and was inferior in rank to the prophets of division two.]
Basic Law	Priests & Prophets	Kings & Rulers
5 Books +	6 Books = 11 Books	+ 11 Books = 22 Books

### Why this Multi-Part Project?

The Samuel-Kings narrative, with the parallel text of Chronicles, are the basic historical events and issues about which the Later Prophets (also called the "Major Prophets") and the Minor Prophets comment

<sup>1</sup> Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 1994/2004. This book can be read [FREE online](#). A larger and complete chart can be found as a GIF format at <http://www.askelm.com/restoring/res000a.gif> or as a PDF at <http://www.askelm.com/restoring/res000a.pdf>.

upon with their exhortations, warnings, prophecies, and comfort when God's judgments fall upon the disobedient children of Israel and Judah. Dr. Martin has an extensive series of presentations in article form on the ASK website (and many on the Byte Show, presented by me), explaining the basic messages of each prophetic book. It is time to go deep into the historical background of those prophecies for us to understand more details of the prophecies. This will help us understand the things that "concern Christ" (Luke 24:44).

I believe it helpful to compare the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah by having a side-by-side presentation of texts (where applicable) with the full information before your eyes. Where no secondary text exists, often outside resources can inform us, whether from the New Testament, Josephus, Jewish traditional sources, the early fathers of the church, archaeology, etc., all of these can be useful on occasion. In this first article I use comments by two excellent sources of ancient military information. One such book was written by Chaim Herzog, former Prime Minister of Israel, and military historian Mordechai Gershon.

The geopolitical situation of Israel is always useful to know because it is static. Reread Dr. George Friedman's enjoyable article, [The Geopolitics of Israel, Ancient and Modern](#). For example, Dr. Friedman tells us what is obvious from any map of Israel, but he explains many significant factors, such as, quote:

- **Its coastal plain facilitates commerce, serving as the interface between eastern trade routes and the sea. It is the home of merchants and manufacturers, cosmopolitans — not as cosmopolitan as Phoenicia or Lebanon, but cosmopolitan for Israel.**
- **The northeast is hill country, closest to the unruliness north of the Litani River and to the Syrian threat. It breeds farmers and warriors.**
- **The area south of Jerusalem is hard desert country, more conducive to herdsman and warriors than anything else. Jerusalem is where these three regions are balanced and governed.** [end quote]

This information is relevant to this month's article because Philistine actions from the coast, south, and the northeast play a significant role in what happens to Israel in the time of Saul and David.

Each of us should desire to present how the prophecies in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms point to and are fulfilled by Christ. He says it is possible, and it is stated in places other than Luke 24:44. We have more knowledge than anyone has had, even more than the apostles had. As we approach 2,000 years from the apostolic period to today, we should begin to understand the signs of the times.

**"And he said also to the people, 'When you see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway you say, There comes a shower; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, There will be heat; and it comes to pass. You hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that you do not discern this time?'"**

• **Luke 12:54–56, KJV**

## **Thank You**

The goal of ASK is to bring you to maturity as much and as soon as possible. Everyone one grows old in the faith; we do that just by living. But Paul desires you to become mature in the faith. We are here to help.

**"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."**

• **Colossians 2:7, KJV**

**"Till we all come in [1] the unity of the faith, and of [2] the knowledge [*epignosis*, full knowledge] of the Son of God, unto [3] a perfect [mature] man, unto [4] the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: [To what end?] That we henceforth be no more children, ..."**

• **Ephesians 4:13–14, KJV**

Thank you for supporting ASK and the work we do to educate all of us to maturity.

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