

**A HISTORY OF THE JEWS:  
FROM THE BABYLONISH  
CAPTIVITY TO THE  
DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM**

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A History of the Jews: From the Babylonish Captivity to the Destruction of Jerusalem by Joseph Robertson

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**JOSEPH ROBERTSON**

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*John L. Boddy  
Plymouth  
1838*

# HISTORY OF THE JEWS:

FROM THE

BABYLONISH CAPTIVITY,

TO THE

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

BY

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE design of the following Work is primarily to present to Bible Classes in schools a record of the leading events in that period, in the history of the Jews, which is not contained in the inspired writings.

So far as was consistent with the continuity of the narrative, I have avoided any encroachment upon that part of the history given in the Scriptures, believing, as I do, that what is contained in that Sacred Book ought to be read there simply as recorded.

This continuation, then, is not intended to be put into the hands of classes till after they have completed the books of Kings and Chronicles.

It is only proper to state that, in this compilation, I have been mainly indebted to the excellent and elaborate Work by Jahn, entitled, *The Hebrew Commonwealth*.

The Author's Chronological Tables are intended to be employed as a book of reference throughout the entire course, and will be found very useful in presenting, in their order, the principal facts of the whole history, from the Creation to the conclusion of the present Work.

HAMILTON, 1852.

J. R.



# HISTORY OF THE JEWS.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

1. THAT idolatry was the besetting sin of the Jews, cannot have escaped the observation of any one who has carefully read their history from their first existence as a separate people, till the period which falls more immediately under the scope of this little treatise. It was that which ultimately brought upon them all those calamities which were so emphatically predicted by Moses in his last address to their forefathers in the wilderness (read Deut. xxviii.) So long as they followed the true God all their undertakings, according to his promise, were crowned with success. Hence we find that their greatest outward prosperity was during the reigns of David and Solomon, when their kingdom extended from the borders of Egypt to the river Euphrates. From the death of the latter king may be dated the decline of their national greatness.

2. The calamitous revolt of the ten tribes—the commencement of God's punishment for their apostasy—while it gave rise to contentions and wars between the rival kingdoms, presented opportunities to the neighbouring nations, which had been subjugated by David and Solomon, to regain their independence, and to retaliate upon their former conquerors. Of these, Syria, from a



very early period, proved a formidable enemy.\* From its proximity to Israel (the ten tribes), its attacks were chiefly directed against that people, who thus began to reap the bitter fruits of their idolatry. In this sin they were most deeply involved, having, from the time of their separation from Judah, almost wholly apostatized.

3. These harassing wars with Syria continued till that kingdom itself was subdued by a more powerful enemy. This was the *modern Assyrian empire*. It will be necessary here to give a short outline of the origin and history of that nation, with which the kingdom of Israel is in future so intimately connected.

The ancient kingdom of Assyria, which had existed from a very early period in the history of the world, was overthrown, and its last king, Sardanapalus, slain by Arbaces, king of Media (804 B.C.)

During the lifetime of Arbaces, Assyria was united to Media; but, on his death, an interregnum of seventy-nine years occurred, during which confusion and anarchy prevailed. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Assyrians regained their independence, and (774 B.C.) established what is known as the *modern Assyrian empire*, which lasted for 151 years, during the reigns of the following kings:—

TABLE OF THE ASSYRIAN KINGS (JAHN).

Pul.....	began to reign 774 B. C.—reigned 21 years.		
Tiglath-Pileser	" 753	" 19	"
Shalmaneser...	" 734	" 14	"
Sennacherib...	" 720	" 7	"
Esar-haddon...	" 713	" 35	"
Sardochæus...	" 678	" 20	"
Chyniladan.....	" 658	" 22	"
Saracus.....	" 636	" 13	"
	End 623		
		Lasted 151	"

\* The origin of this kingdom, which took place before the death of Solomon, is recorded in 1 Kings xi. 23-26.

4. Having secured its own independence, Assyria began to extend its sway by conquest.

Tiglath-Pileser, after conquering Syria, over-ran the northern part of Israel—together with the whole territory to the east of the Jordan, which had been in possession of the Israelites—and on his return carried with him to his own land, a portion of the inhabitants of the conquered country. His successor on the throne, Shalmaneser, following the same career, conquered Hosea, king of Israel, and laid his kingdom under tribute.

Hosea, in the vain endeavour to free himself from this yoke, entered into an alliance with So, king of Egypt, and withheld the usual tribute.

For this Shalmaneser invaded the land. Samaria, the capital of the kingdom, surrendered after a siege of three years, and was destroyed. The conqueror then carried away the principal inhabitants of the country, distributing them throughout his empire, and supplying their places by his own subjects.

5. Those, and other colonists sent by Esar-haddon (*Ezra* iv. 2, 9, 10), mingling with the inhabitants left in the land, formed the promiscuous race which afterwards passed under the name of Samaritans. It is requisite to attend particularly to the origin of this people, who claim to be true Israelites, and followers of Jehovah—a claim which we find was strenuously resisted by the Jews, even to New Testament times.

6. (720 B.C.) Shalmaneser was succeeded by Sennacherib. In the reign of Hezekiah of Judah, he led a powerful army against Egypt, and on his way endeavoured to conquer Judea (*2 Kings* xviii.) In answer to the prayer which Hezekiah offered up on receiving the blasphemous letter from Rabshakeh, one of the officers of Sennacherib, the Lord sent a destroying angel into the camp of the Assyrians, and slew 185,000 men. Senna-

cherib with his shattered host, fled; and returning to Nineveh (his capital) he was shortly afterwards murdered by his own sons.

(713 B.C.) He was succeeded by his son Esarhaddon, in whose reign the Assyrian empire began to decline. It does not appear that he made any attempts to complete the subjugation of those kingdoms against which his father had made war, but, as already stated, he seems to have sent additional colonists to Samaria. His attention was more directed to the neighbouring and rival kingdom of Babylon. Taking advantage of an interregnum in that kingdom he subdued it, and appointed tributary princes as governors, under whom it remained till united to Assyria by his successor—Sardochæus.

7. This union was of short duration, for only fifty-five years after its conquest by Esarhaddon, Babylon was again rescued from the Assyrian yoke by Nabopolassar (the first of the Chaldean dynasty), aided by Cyaxares, king of Media. The victorious Chaldean then (612 B.C.) captured and utterly destroyed Nineveh, which has since lain desolate, according to the predictions of Scripture. The following is a table of the kings who ruled over the Chaldee-Babylonish empire, as it was called after the subjugation of Assyria:—

CHALDEE-BABYLONISH KINGS.

Nabopolassar (Nebuchadnezzar I.).....	began to reign	625 B. C.—	reigned	20 yrs.
Nebuchadnezzar II.....	"	605	"	43
Evil-Merodach.....	"	563	"	2
Neriglissor.....	"	560	"	4
Laborsarachad.....	"	556	"	9mos.
Nabonned (Belshazzar)....	"	556	"	17 yrs.
		End		539

CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH.

8. While Israel was thus under the sway of the stranger, her "treacherous sister Judah" failed to im-