PSALM 74

Lament on the sack of the Temple

God, why have you finally rejected us,
your anger blazing against the flock you used to pasture?
Remember the people you took to yourself long ago,
your own tribe which you redeemed,
and this Mount Zion where you came to live.

Come up to these endless ruins!
The enemy have sacked everything in the sanctuary;
your opponents made uproar in the place of assemblies,
they fixed their emblems over the entrance,
emblems -never known before-

Their axes deep in the wood,- hacking at the panels,-
they battered them down with axe and pick;
they set fire to your sanctuary,
profanely raised to the ground the dwelling-place of your name.

They said to themselves, 'Let us crush them at one stroke!'
They burned down every sacred shrine in the land.
We see no signs, no prophet any more,
and none of us knows how long it will last.

How much longer, God, will the enemy blaspheme?
Is the enemy to insult your name for ever?
Why hold back your hand,
keep your right hand hidden in the folds of your robe?

Yet, God; my king from the first,
author of saving acts throughout the earth,
by your power you split the seas in two,
and smashed the heads of the monsters in the waters.

You crushed Leviathan's head,
gave him as food to the wild animals.
You released the springs and brooks,
and turned primordial rivers into dry land.

Yours is the day and Yours the night,
you caused sun and light to exist,
you fixed all the boundaries of the earth,
you created summer and winter.

Remember, Yahweh, the enemy's blasphemy,
a foolish people insults your name.
Do not surrender your turtledove to the beast;
do not forget for ever the life of your oppressed people.

Look to the covenant!
All the hiding-places of the land are full,
haunts of violence.
Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion,
give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.

Arise, God, champion your own cause,
remember how fools blaspheme you all day long!
Do not forget the shouting of your enemies,
the ever-mounting uproar of your adversaries.

Let God arise, let his enemies scatter,
let his opponents flee before him.
You disperse them like smoke;
as wax melts in the presence of a fire,
so the wicked melt at the presence of God.

The upright rejoice in the presence of God,
delighted and crying out for joy.
Sing to God, play music to his name,
build a road for the Rider of the Clouds,
rejoice in Yahweh, dance before him.
Father of orphans, defender of widows,
Psalm 29 is probably a Baal-Hymn that has been "Yahweh"-ized.
Prophecy of Elijah and Elisha

Blenkinsopp begins his section noting two reasons why the Prophetic material in 1,2 Kings tends to begin with North:

1. A Southern-bias Bible wants to note that the North paid a price for NOT listening to its prophets about proper worship of Yahweh, and/or
2. Charismatic leadership was always stronger in the North because there was no religiously-legitimated regime to command loyalty from the people, like the Davidic line claimed in the South.

Northern involvement of Prophets in Northern Regimes:
(a) Ahijah named Jeroboam, but then condemned and fell
(b) Jehu ben Hanani named Baasha, then condemned him
(c) Elijah, Elisha, and Micaiah, conflict with Omrids, and helped Jehu
(d) Amos and Hosea condemn Jehu

Ahab and Jezebel, who encouraged Baal worship throughout the Northern region.

1 Kings 17—Introduces to the first major prophetic figure, Elijah.
- Condemns the regime with drought, and then flees to Canaanite territory.
- There lives with a widow and son, performs miracle of food, then life.

Yahweh over Baal on issues of fertility—rain, food, life

1 Kings 18—The confrontation with Baal Prophets and Priests on Carmel
- Obadiah’s fear that Elijah will not really show up, but Elijah assures him.
- Ahab meets Elijah “troubler of Israel”
- The contest between the gods—Baal Prophets vs. Elijah. Elijah calls for the altar to be doused with water 3 times. God’s fire licks up wood, sacrifice, altar-stones, and water.
- The prophets of Baal are killed. Mass revolt / riot

1 Kings 19
- Jezebel threatens Elijah, who flees to Mt. Horeb (connection between Elijah and Moses, not transfiguration in NT!). 40 days/night’s journey
- Was the revolt unsuccessful? Blenkinsopp wonders if this story is out of place, and may have originally served as the call narrative of Elijah? He does protest his inability to do this:

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.”
Kings 19:11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

1 Kings 19:12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

1 Kings 19:13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

No: in demonstrations of great power (only?) and not in the Storm as Baal.
But God does incite a revolution.
A seeming contradiction?

Naboth’s Vineyard in 1 Kings 21


Third commander – entreated the enemy. Elijah accompanies him.

Elijah passes on to Elisha, who carries on the mandate to name Kings in 2 Kings
- the chariot carries Elijah
- the parting of the water when Elisha asks “Where is God?”
- making water drinkable
- the attack of the bears
- widow’s oil
- healing Naaman’s illness
- 2 Kings 6:8-23 – Miraculous warfare can sometimes end in LIFE!

Blenkinsopp wants to know if there are connections with Nazirites and Rechabites – a fraternity that avoided drink, agriculture, lived in tents, perhaps associated with religious warfare (Ancient Taliban?) and their term may even be associated with chariots (“rekev”=Rechabites? – God’s Charioteers?).

Elisha names Jehu, who leads bloody purges of former regime.
2 Kings 9 - Jechu anointed by Elisha – the officers respond “what has that madmen done?”
they remove cloaks, and proclaim him King.
- Kings meet Jechu at the property of Naboth’s vineyard! – massacre

But Hosea condemns the “blood of Jechu” in Ch. 1 of Hosea
Interesting contrast between 2 Kings 10:30, and Hosea 1.

What is important in the Elijah and Elisha traditions?

(1) Charismatics with power
(2) Involvement in politics
(3) At times vindictive
(4) Able to call on Chariots of Fire
(5) Miracle Workers
(6) Zealous worshippers of Yahweh alone
(7) Followers of a charismatic leader
(8) Sometimes can take issue with other prophets
(9) Circulating stories of miracles and events, rather than teachings, typical of early prophets.
(10) Associated with violence in early days.
BEFORE MONARCHY

WILDERNESS WANDERING

Numbers 32:13 And the LORD's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness for forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD had disappeared.

Deuteronomy 4:25 When you have had children and children's children, and become complacent in the land, if you act corruptly by making an idol in the form of anything, thus doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, and provoking him to anger,

Deuteronomy 17:2 If there is found among you, in one of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, and transgresses his covenant

Deuteronomy 31:29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly, turning aside from the way that I have commanded you. In time to come trouble will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

Judges 2:11 Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and worshiped the Baals;

Judges 3:7 The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, forgetting the LORD their God, and worshiping the Baals and the Asherahs.

Judges 3:12 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD strengthened King Eglon of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Judges 4:1 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

Judges 6:1 The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.

Judges 10:6 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, worshiping the Baals and the Astartes, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. Thus they abandoned the LORD, and did not worship him.

Judges 13:1 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.
The MONARCHY

SAUL

1 Samuel 15:10-11  10 The word of the LORD came to Samuel: 11 "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me, and has not carried out my commands."

1 Samuel 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

DAVID

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:14  26 When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. 27 When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. NRS2 Samuel 12:1 But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds; 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; 6 he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." 7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; 8 I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 11 Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. 12 For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." 13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die."
SOLOMON

1 Kings 11:6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not completely follow the LORD, as his father David had done.

KINGDOM OF JUDAH

REHoboam 931/922 - 913

Kings 14:22 Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their ancestors had done.

ABIJAM

1 Kings 15:3-4 3 He committed all the sins that his father did before him; his heart was not true to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David. 4 Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem;

ASA

1 Kings 15:14 14 But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was true to the LORD all his days.

JEHOSHAPEARAT

1 Kings 22:43-44 43 He walked in all the way of his father Asa; he did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD; yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and offered incense on the high places. 44 Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.

JEHORAM

2 Kings 8:18 18 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

AHAZIAH

2 Kings 8:27 He also walked in the way of the house of Ahab, doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab.
ATHALIAH

2 Kings 11:13-16 13 When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into the house of the LORD to the people; 14 when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!" 15 Then the priest Jehoiada commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks, and kill with the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be killed in the house of the LORD." 16 So they laid hands on her; she went through the horses' entrance to the king's house, and there she was put to death.

2 Chronicles 23:21 21 So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been killed with the sword.

JOASH

2 Kings 12:3-4 3 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.

AMAZIAH

2 Kings 14:3-4 3 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his ancestor David; in all things he did as his father Joash had done. 4 But the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

UZZIAH (Azariah)

2 Kings 15:3-5 3 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. 4 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. 5 The LORD struck the king, so that he was leprous to the day of his death, and lived in a separate house. Jotham the king's son was in charge of the palace, governing the people of the land.

JOTHAM

2 Kings 15:34-35 34 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done. 35 Nevertheless the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD.

AHAZ

2 Kings 16:2-4 He did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done, 3 but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even made his son pass through fire, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. 4 He sacrificed and made offerings on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.
HEZEKIAH

2 Kings 20:16-19 16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: 17 Days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your ancestors have stored up until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the LORD. 18 Some of your own sons who are born to you shall be taken away; they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." 19 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?"

MANASSEH

2 Kings 21:2-3 2 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, following the abominable practices of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. 3 For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he erected altars for Baal, made a sacred pole, as King Ahab of Israel had done, worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them.

AMON

2 Kings 21:20-22 20 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. 21 He walked in all the way in which his father walked, served the idols that his father served, and worshiped them; 22 he abandoned the LORD, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

JOSIAH

2 Kings 23:25-26 25 Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. 26 Still the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him.

JEHOAHAZ

2 Kings 23:32 32 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his ancestors had done.

JEHOIAKIM

2 Kings 23:37 37 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as all his ancestors had done.

JEHOIACHIN

2 Kings 24:9 9 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his father had done.

ZEDEKIAH
2 Kings 24:19 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done.

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

JEROBOAM

1 Kings 14:7-10 Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because I exalted you from among the people, made you leader over my people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David to give it to you; yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my sight, but you have done evil above all those who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods, and cast images, provoking me to anger, and have thrust me behind your back; therefore, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will consume the house of Jeroboam, just as one burns up dung until it is all gone.

NADAB

1 Kings 15:26 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of his ancestor and in the sin that he caused Israel to commit.

BAASHA

1 Kings 15:34 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of Jeroboam and in the sin that he caused Israel to commit.

1 Kings 16:7 Moreover the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, both because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and also because he destroyed it.

ELAH

1 Kings 16:12-13 Thus Zimri destroyed all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke against Baasha by the prophet Jehu-- because of all the sins of Baasha and the sins of his son Elah that they committed, and that they caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

ZIMRI
1 Kings 16:18-19  
18 When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king's house; he burned down the king's house over himself with fire, and died—
19 because of the sins that he committed, doing evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and for the sin that he committed, causing Israel to sin.

OMRI

1 Kings 16:25 Omri did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did more evil than all who were before him.

AHAB

1 Kings 16:30 Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him

1 Kings 21:25 (Indeed, there was no one like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD, urged on by his wife Jezebel.

AHAZIAH

1 Kings 22:52 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and mother, and in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin.

JEHORAM

2 Kings 3:2 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and mother, for he removed the pillar of Baal that his father had made.

JEHU

2 Kings 10:31-32  
31 But Jehu was not careful to follow the law of the LORD the God of Israel with all his heart; he did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he caused Israel to commit.
32 In those days the LORD began to trim off parts of Israel. Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel:

JEHOAHAZ

2 Kings 13:2 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin; he did not depart from them.

JEHOASH

2 Kings 13:11 He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin, but he walked in them.
JEROBOAM II

2 Kings 14:24 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin.

ZACHARIAH

2 Kings 15:9 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his ancestors had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin.

SHALLUM

Ruled ONE MONTH

MENAHEM

2 Kings 15:18 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin.

PEKAHIAH

2 Kings 15:24 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin.

PEKAH

2 Kings 15:28 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin.

HOSHEA

2 Kings 17:2 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him.
FIGURE 11.2 Map showing the principal sites mentioned in the account of the conquest of the land of Canaan in the book of Joshua. In the main map, the solid line locates the events in chapters 1–8, the dotted line those in chapter 11. The cities of refuge in chapter 20 are starred. The inset locates the events in chapters 9–10.
FIGURE 12.1 Map of tribal divisions during the period of the judges, showing principal areas of Philistine and Israelite control.