

Signposts 2025

Week 13: Rise & Ruin

Part 1 – The Golden Age

Golden Age of Israel, during the reign of King Solomon.

In the New Testament, we are shown that when Jesus came, “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”—literally, Jesus tabernacled among us (John 1:14).

Individually, we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and collectively, the Church—the ekklesia, the assembly of God’s people—is His dwelling place (Ephesians 2:21–22).

Ephesians 2:21 – 22

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

As we saw last week, John’s vision of the heavenly city in Revelation 21 describes something profound: “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (Revelation 21:22).

Scripture tells us that:

- *“Solomon accumulated chariots and horses... He made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones” (2 Chronicles 1:14–15).*
- *“All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart” (2 Chronicles 9:23).*

Dispensationalism—holds the view that a physical Jewish temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem prior to the return of Christ

Dispensationalism:

- Founded John Nelson Darby (1800–1882)
- Gained traction in the U.S. largely through the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible (1909)
- Further popularized by fictional novels such as the Left Behind series in the 1990s–2000s
- Largely confined to Western evangelical Christianity—especially in the United States.
- Has never been widely accepted in historic Christianity or by the global church

Part 2: The Decline Begins

1 Kings 11:4–8

4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

1 Kings 11:11–13

11 So the Lord said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

1 Kings 11:38

38 If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you.

1 Kings 12:28

28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 12:4–5

4 You must not worship the Lord your God in their way. 5 But you are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go;

So here's the key takeaway:

Distrusting God's Word can lead to disobedience dressed up as "doing what seems best."

In Mark 9:24, a desperate father said to Jesus, "I believe; help my unbelief!"—and that prayer was enough.

Part 3: Convenience and Compromise

Hebrews 10:25

25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Don't choose convenience over conviction.

I would rather drive four times farther to attend a church that preaches truth than walk across the street to one that waters down the gospel.

Three cautions from Jeroboam's compromise:

1. We should gather more often, not less, as the Day approaches.
2. We should cherish the spiritual family God has planted us in—especially when we're serving, growing, and thriving together.
3. We should never let convenience override commitment to sound doctrine and biblical truth.

We must know the Word of God for ourselves.

Consensus does not override what God's Word says.

It doesn't matter how many people you can gather to validate your opinion—what matters is whether it aligns with the full counsel of God.

Part 4: The Divided Kingdom

- Israel, the northern kingdom, ruled by Jeroboam and his successors.
- Judah, the southern kingdom, ruled by Rehoboam and the line of David.

"He walked in the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his sins, which he had caused Israel to commit." (1 Kings 15:34 and repeated throughout Kings)

We've witnessed the breathtaking highs and heartbreaking lows of Israel's story:

- From creation to covenant.
- From promise to possession.
- From slavery to freedom.
- From wandering to worship.
- From the rise of kings to the splitting of a kingdom.