

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #41

The transition from Sefer Shmuel to Sefer Melachim

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

At first glance, Sefer Melachim appears to be a direct continuation of Sefer Shmuel – as it concludes the story of King David. In our shiur, we will consider why it is, and then conclude why it is not.

I. Baba Batra 15a – re: authorship of Sefer Melachim

יְרֵמְיָהוּ כָּתַב סֵפֶרוֹ וְסֵפֶר מְלָכִים וְקִינּוֹת

Jeremiah wrote his own book, and the book of Kings, and Lamentations.

See DH I 29:29-30

כט וְדַבְּרֵי דָוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ, הָרֵאשִׁימִים וְהָאַחֲרֹנִים -
הֵנָּם כְּתוּבִים, עַל-דַּבְּרֵי שְׁמוּאֵל הָרֹאֶה, וְעַל-
דַּבְּרֵי נָתָן הַנָּבִיא, וְעַל-דַּבְּרֵי גַד הַחֹזֶה.

29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the words of Samuel the seer, and in the words of Nathan the prophet, and in the words of Gad the seer;

ל עִם כָּל-מַלְכוּתוֹ, וּגְבוּרָתוֹ; וְהַעֲתִים, אֲשֶׁר עָבְרוּ
עָלָיו וְעַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְעַל כָּל-מַמְלְכוֹת הָאָרְצוֹת. {פ}

30 with all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

Discuss: Later Prophets incorporate works of earlier Prophets in their compositions
As we saw in the book of Shmuel & Shoftim

- ⇒ Both Sefer Shmuel & Sefer Melachim are quoting from the words of Natan
 - [when Natan is the key Navi in those specific stories]

II. The two sections of Natan in Sefer Shmuel

A. Chapters 5 thru 8

The united Kingdom and establishing Yerushalaim

As both national and religious center

[in light of Devarim chapters 12 thru 26]

(relate to pre-Shavuot shiur re: Sefer Devarim

Noting commandment for Kings in chap 17)

B. Chapters 9 thru 20

The sin with Bat-Sheva and its consequences

[note the birth of Shlomo in chapter 12:24-25]

Let's review chapters 1 thru 10 in Sefer Melachim

Noting centrality of Natan, and connection to both topics

Chapter:

1. Adinoyahu's political campaign to become David's successor
2. David's 'advice' to Shlomo re: how to stabilize his reign
3. Shlomo's prayer for wisdom to judge and lead his People correctly
- 4 & 5 Establishing united Kingdom with strong economy & foreign relations
- 6 & 7 Building the Temple and the Palace
- 8 & 9 Shlomo's prayer at Dedication ceremony, & God's response
- 9 & 10 The greatness and success of Shlomo's Kingdom – high point in Jewish history – relate to visit of Queen of Sheba

see 10:1-10

**א וּמַלְכַת-שֶׁבַא, שָׁמְעַת אֶת-שִׁמְעַת שְׁלֹמֹה--
לְשֵׁם יְהוָה; וַתָּבֵא לְנִסְתּוֹ, בְּחִידוֹת.**

1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon because of the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.

**ב וַתָּבֵא יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, בְּחִיל כָּבֵד מְאֹד, גְּמָלִים נֹשְׂאִים
בְּשָׂמִים וְזָהָב רַב-מְאֹד, וְאֶבֶן יָקָרָה; וַתָּבֵא, אֶל-
שְׁלֹמֹה, וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלָיו, אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר הָיָה עִם-לִבָּבָהּ.**

2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bore spices and gold very much, and precious stones; and when she was come to Solomon, she spoke with him of all that was in her heart.

**ג וַיַּגֵּד-לָהּ שְׁלֹמֹה, אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֶיהָ: לֹא-הָיָה דָבָר
נֶעְלָם מִן-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר לֹא הִגִּיד לָהּ.**

3 And Solomon told her all her questions; there was not any thing hid from the king which he told her not.

**ד וַתִּרְא, מַלְכַת-שֶׁבַא, אֶת, כָּל-חֲכָמַת שְׁלֹמֹה;
וְהַבַּיִת, אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה.**

4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built,

**ה וּמֵאֲכָל שֻׁלְחָנוֹ וּמוֹשָׁב עֲבָדָיו וּמַעְמַד מְשֻׁרְתּוֹ
וּמִלְבָּשֵׁיהֶם, וּמִשְׁקֵיו, וְעֹלְתּוֹ, אֲשֶׁר יַעֲלֶה בֵּית יְהוָה;
וְלֹא-הָיָה בָּהּ עוֹד, רוּחַ.**

5 and the food of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his burnt-offering which he offered in the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

**ו וַתֹּאמֶר, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲמַת הָיָה הַדָּבָר, אֲשֶׁר
שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּאַרְצִי--עַל-דְּבָרֶיךָ, וְעַל-חֲכָמְתֶךָ.**

6 And she said to the king: 'It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom.

**ז וְלֹא-הֶאֱמַנְתִּי לְדְבָרִים, עַד אֲשֶׁר-בָּאתִי וַתִּרְאֵינָה
עֵינַי, וְהִנֵּה לֹא-הֶגְדְּ-לִי, הַחֲצִי: הוֹסַפְתָּ חֲכָמָה וְטוֹב,
אֶל-הַשְּׂמוּעָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתִּי.**

7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me; thou hast wisdom and prosperity exceeding the fame which I heard.

**ח אֲשָׁרִי אֲנֹשִׁיךָ, אֲשָׁרִי עֲבָדֶיךָ אֵלֶּה, הָעַלְמָדִים
לְפָנֶיךָ תָּמִיד, הַשְּׂמָעִים אֶת-חֲכָמְתֶךָ.**

8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, that stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

**ט יְהִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בָּרוּךְ, אֲשֶׁר חָפֵץ בָּךְ,
לְתִתֶּךָ עַל-כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל--
בְּאַהֲבַת יְהוָה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְעֹלָם,
וַיִּשְׂמַךְ לְמֶלֶךְ, לַעֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה.**

9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made He thee king, to do justice and righteousness.'

(relate to Devarim 4:5-8! As well as theme of "shem Hashem from Sefer Breishit)

III. The Navi in chapter 11 & 12 – must be Achiya ha'Shiloni

Note the change in tone from positive to negative

But note the careful juxtaposition of parshiot

[most likely the work of a later Prophetic redactor!]

Final topics of chapter 10

Verses 14 thru 25 - great wealth (especially gold !)

But note positive conclusion:

Verses 26 thru 29 - the strength of his army (many horses!)

Then chapter 11

Opening section – too many wives – leading Shlomo astray!

Note 10:21-26 – ‘gold’ in a positive light

כא וְכֹל כְּלֵי מִשְׁקָה הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה, **זָהָב**, וְכֹל כְּלֵי בַיִת-יַעַר הַלְּבָנוֹן, **זָהָב סָגוּר**: אֵין כֶּסֶף, לֹא נִחְשָׁב בְּיָמֵי שְׁלֹמֹה--לְמֵאוֹמָה.

21 And all king Solomon's drinking-vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver; it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

כב כִּי אָנֹכִי תַרְשִׁישׁ לְמֶלֶךְ בַּיָּם, עִם אֲנִי חִירָם; אַחַת לְשָׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים תָּבוֹא אֲנִי תַרְשִׁישׁ, נִשְׂאֵת **זָהָב** וְכֶסֶף, שְׁנֵהָבִים וְקַפִּים, וְתַכְיִים.

22 For the king had at sea a navy of Tarshish with the navy of Hiram; once every three years came the navy of Tarshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

כג וַיִּגְדֵּל הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה, מִכָּל מַלְכֵי הָאָרֶץ--לְעֶשֶׂר, וְלַחֲכָמָה.

23 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.

כד וְכָל-הָאָרֶץ--מִבְּקָשִׁים, אֶת-פָּנֵי שְׁלֹמֹה: לְשִׁמְעַ, אֶת-חֲכָמָתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן אֱלֹהִים, בְּלִבּוֹ.

24 And all the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

כה וְהָמָּה מְבֹאִים אִישׁ מִנְּחָתוֹ כְּלֵי כֶּסֶף וְכֵלֵי זָהָב וְשִׁלְמוֹת, וְנִשְׁקָ וּבִשְׂמִים, סוּסִים, וּפָרָדִים--דָּבָר-שָׁנָה, בְּשָׁנָה. {ס}

25 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

Relate to Devarim 4:5-8

ה רְאֵה לְמִדְּתֵי אֶתְּכֶם, חֻקִּים וּמִשְׁפָּטִים, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי: לַעֲשׂוֹת כֹּן--בְּקִרְבַּ הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם בָּאִים שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ.

5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the midst of the land whither ye go in to possess it.

ו וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, וַעֲשִׂיתֶם--כִּי הוּא חֲכָמָתְכֶם וּבִינְתְּכֶם, לְעֵינֵי הָעַמִּים: אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁמְעוּן, אֶת כָּל-הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה, וְאָמְרוּ רַק עִם-חֲכָם וְנָבוֹן, הַגּוֹי הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה.

6 Observe therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, that, when they hear all these statutes, shall say: 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

ז כִּי מִי-גּוֹי גָדוֹל, אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ אֱלֹהִים קְרֹבִים אֵלָיו, כִּי הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ, בְּכָל-קְרָאֵנוּ אֵלָיו.

7 For what great nation is there, that hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is whensoever we call upon Him?

ח וּמִי גּוֹי גָדוֹל, אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ חֻקִּים וּמִשְׁפָּטִים צְדִיקִים, כְּכֹל הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי נֹתֵן לְפָנֶיכֶם הַיּוֹם.

8 And what great nation is there, that hath statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

ט רק השמר לך ושמר נפשך מאד, פן-תשכח את-
הדברים אשר-ראו עיניך ופן-יסורו מלבבך, כל, ימי חייך;
והודעתם לבניך, ולבני בניך. י יום, אשר עמדת לפני
יהוה אלהיך בחרב
9 Only take heed to thyself, and
keep thy soul diligently, lest thou
forget the things which thine eyes
saw, and lest they depart from thy
heart all the days of thy life; but
make them known unto thy children
and thy children's children;

Devarim 17:14-19

יד כִּי-תבא אל-הארץ, אשר יהוה אלהיך
נתן לך, וירשתה, וישבתה בה; ואמרת,
אשימה עלי מלך, ככל-הגוים, אשר
סביבתי.
14 When thou art come unto the land which
the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt
possess it, and shalt dwell therein; and
shalt say: 'I will set a king over me, like all
the nations that are round about me';

טו שום תשים עליך מלך, אשר יבחר
יהוה אלהיך בו: מקרב אחיך, תשים
עליך מלך--לא תוכל לתת עליך איש נכרי,
אשר לא-אחיך הוא.
15 thou shalt in any wise set him king over
thee, whom the LORD thy God shall
choose; one from among thy brethren shalt
thou set king over thee; thou mayest not
put a foreigner over thee, who is not thy
brother.

טז רק, לא-ירבה-לו סוסים, ולא-ישיב
את-העם מצרימה, למען הרבות סוס;
ויהוה, אמר לכם, לא תספון לשוב בדרך
הזה, עוד.
16 Only he shall not multiply horses to
himself, nor cause the people to return to
Egypt, to the end that he should multiply
horses; forasmuch as the LORD hath said
unto you: 'Ye shall henceforth return no
more that way.'

יז ולא ירבה-לו נשים, ולא יסור לבבו;
וכסף וזהב, לא ירבה-לו מאד.
17 Neither shall he multiply wives to
himself, that his heart turn not away;
neither shall he greatly multiply to himself
silver and gold.

יח והיה כשבתו, על כסא ממלכתו--
וכתב לו את-משנה התורה הזאת, על-
ספר, מלפני, הכהנים הלויים.
18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the
throne of his kingdom, that he shall write
him a copy of this law in a book, out of that
which is before the priests the Levites.

יט והיתה עמו, וקרא בו כל-ימי חייו--
למען ילמד, ליראה את-יהוה אלהיו,
לשמר את-כל-דברי התורה הזאת ואת-
החקים האלה, לעשתם.
19 And it shall be with him, and he shall
read therein all the days of his life; that he
may learn to fear the LORD his God, to
keep all the words of this law and these
statutes, to do them;

כ לבלתי רום-לבבו מאחיו, ולבלתי סור
מן-המצוה ימין ושמאול--למען יאריך
ימים על-ממלכתו הוא ובניו, בקרב
ישראל. {ס}
20 that his heart be not lifted up above his
brethren, and that he turn not aside from the
commandment, to the right hand, or to the
left; to the end that he may prolong his
days in his kingdom, he and his children, in
the midst of Israel.