



The History of Salvation 9

The Flight of the Prisoners, Tissot, c. 1896-1902. Public Domain

The Covenant with David

- The Lord will make you a house: dynasty
- The Lord will establish his kingdom: the son of David will rule a kingdom
- He shall build a house for my name: David's son will build the temple
- I will be his father & he shall be my son: David's son would be adopted as God's own son (first time the idea of divine filiation is applied to one person).
- I will not take my steadfast love from him: God will never disown David's line, the covenant will be permanent. Nothing will change the father-son relationship
- Your throne will be established forever: the dynasty of David will never end, the throne will always be occupied by a descendant of David.

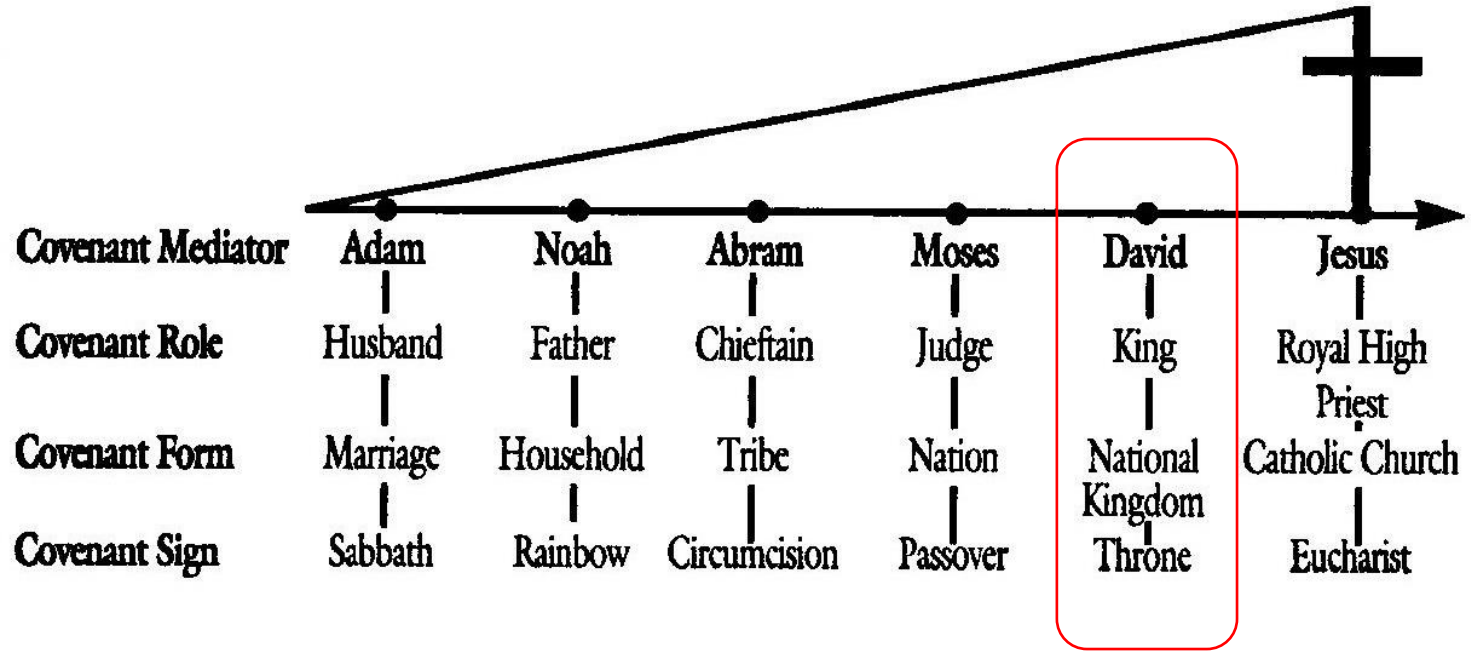


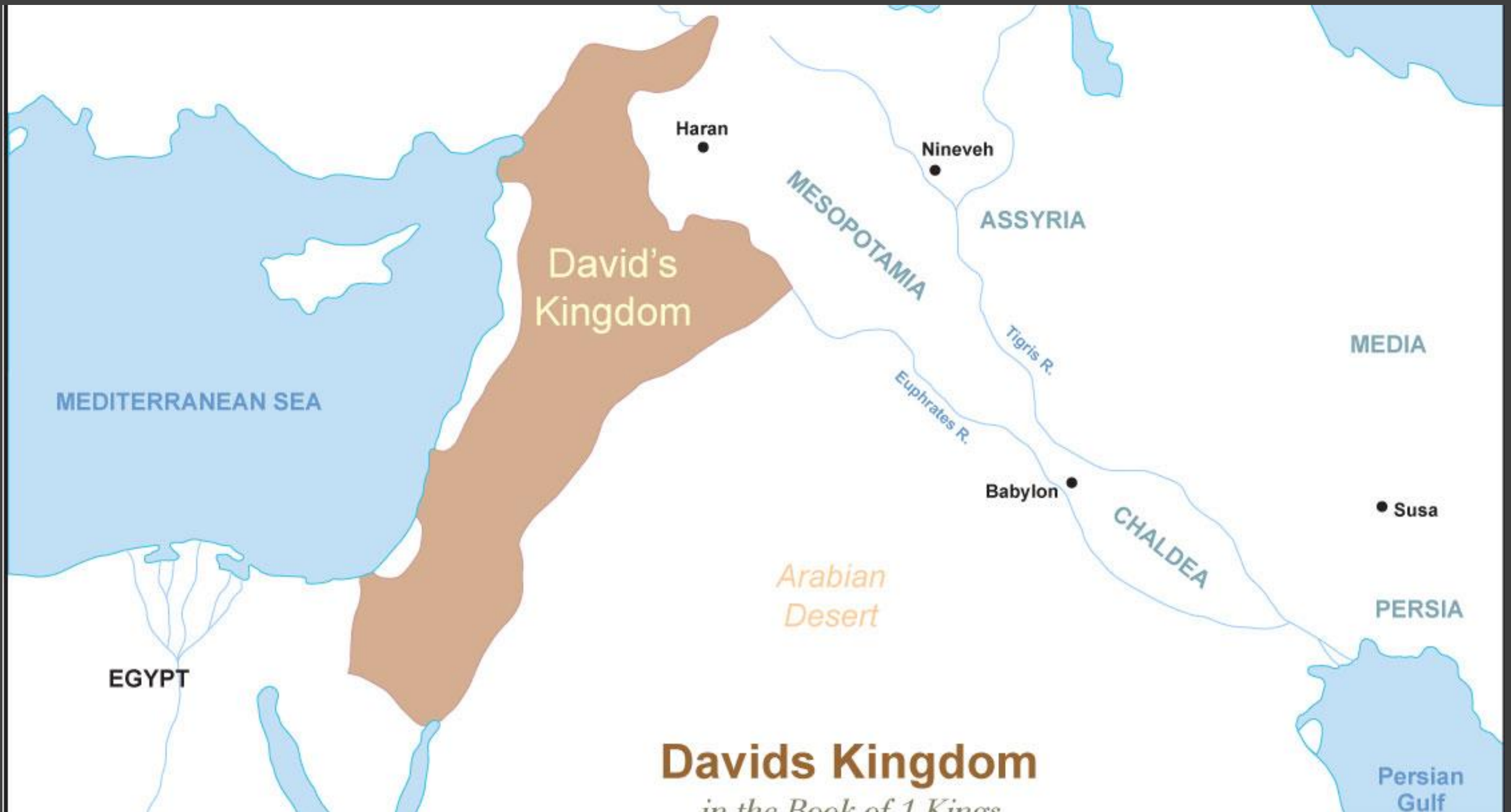
A prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple

Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of thy people Israel, comes from a far country for thy name's sake (for they shall hear of thy great name, & thy mighty hand, & of thy outstretched arm), when he comes & prays toward this house, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, & do according to all for which the foreigner calls to thee; in order that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name & fear thee, as do thy people Israel, & that they may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name. (1 Kings 8: 41-43)



Covenants





David's Kingdom

in the Book of 1 Kings



Timeline (BC)

The Kingdom of David
Capital: Jerusalem

1050 – 1010

Reign of Saul

1010-1002

David reigns in Judah

1002-970

David reigns in Judah & Israel

970-930

Reign of Solomon

922

Kingdom divided

721

Fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria

597

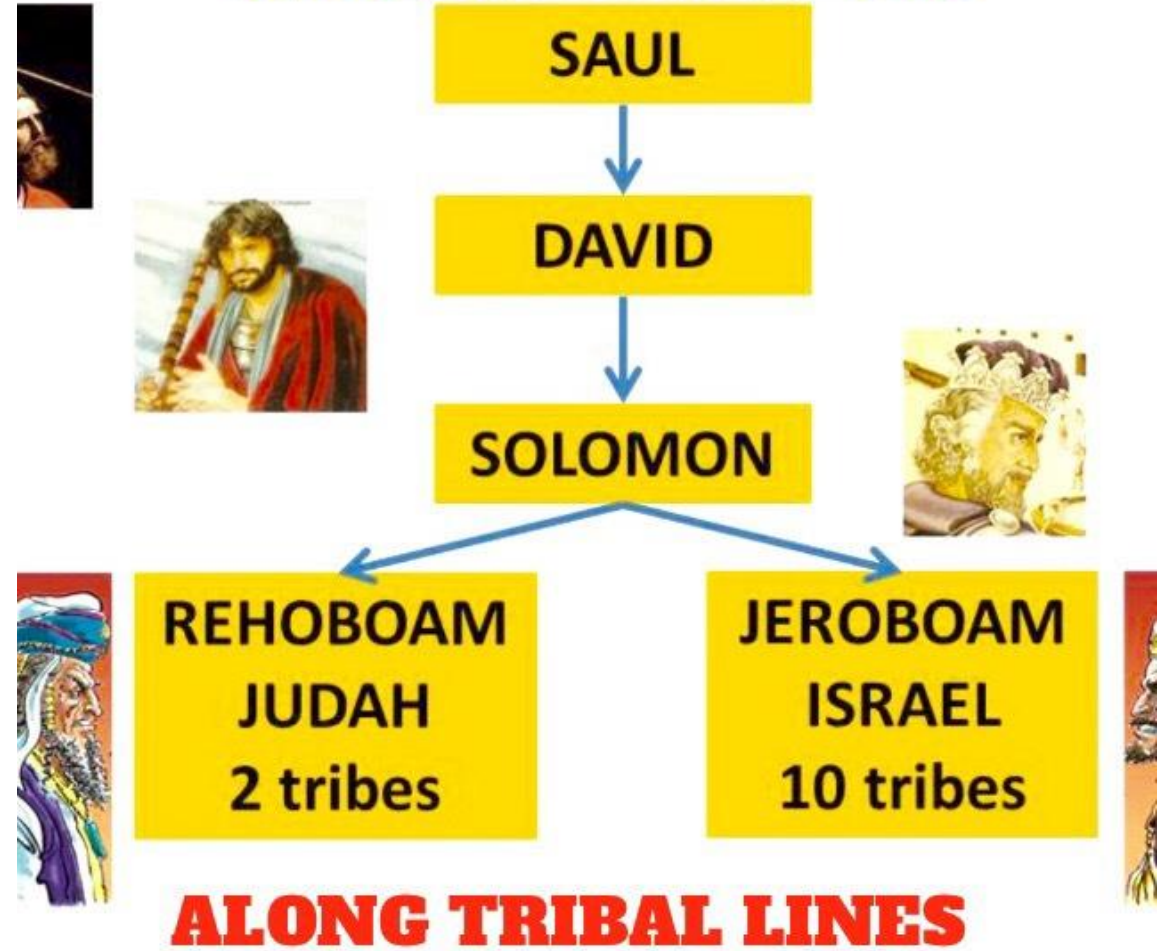
Fall of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon

Division of the Kingdom

Two Nations Under God

- Solomon
- Death of Solomon
- Succeeded by his son Rehoboam
- Rebellion led by Jeroboam, former minister of Solomon; 10 northern tribes secede
- Division of the kingdom
- 10 northern tribes form the northern kingdom of Israel with Jeroboam as king
- Rehoboam retains Judah & lands of Benjamin

Kings of Israel KINGDOM TORN IN TWO



The Divided Kingdom



- **Israel:** "Northern Kingdom" "Ephraim", "Samaria", "Joseph." Ten tribes. Severed from God's covenant with David.
- **Judah:** "Benjamin", "House of David," "Southern Kingdom". Tribes of Judah & Benjamin. Centred on Jerusalem.
- "All Israel," the Kingdom as God established & intended.

ISRAEL (Northern Kingdom)

- 10 tribes
- King Jeroboam (930BC)
- Capital: Samaria
- Introduces idolatry to keep his people from Jerusalem
- Succession of good & bad kings, idols & monotheism (sin, punishment, reform)
- Prophets Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah
- Last king = Hosea
- Tributary to Assyria then Fall (721BC)
- Deportation
- Land re-settled by foreigners, initially pagans, who later come to worship God but with differences from the Jews (eg only recognise the Pentateuch; worship on Mt Gazarim instead of Jerusalem).

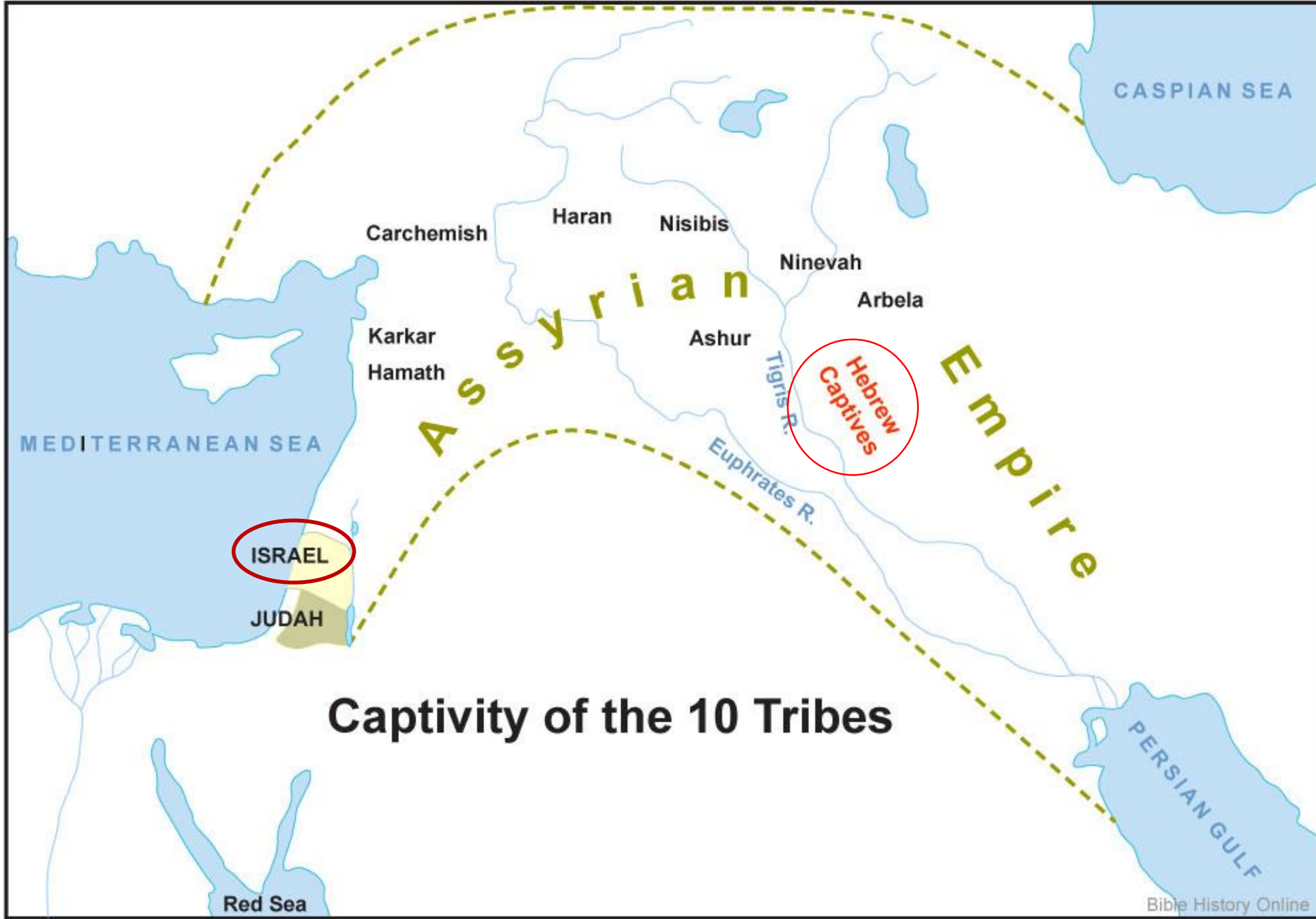


JUDAH (Southern Kingdom)

- 2 tribes (Judah & Benjamin)
- Led by David's heirs
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Jerusalem & the temple
- Succession of good & bad kings, idols & monotheism
- Prophets Ezekiel, Jeremiah.
- Messianic prophecies. Warned of fall of Judah.
- Last King = King Jehoiachin.
- Falls to the Babylonians 597BC
- Plunder, destruction of the temple, & deportation (587BC)
- Jeremiah hides the Ark. Not seen since.



Relief detail of Ashurbanipal hunting on horseback. Nineveh, Assyria, 645–635 BC © The Trustees of the British Museum



Captivity of the 10 Tribes

Raising Prophets

- During the period of the divided kingdom God raised up prophets to speak His word to His people, decry violations of the covenant, call them to repentance & to turn back to God.
- The prophets strengthen the hope of the remnant that remains faithful.
- Signs of Genuine Prophets:
 - Vocation
 - Speak in God's name
 - Act as judge of the people in light of the Covenant
 - Denounce infidelities
 - Call to conversion
 - Predict divine retribution
 - Unafraid of unpopularity
 - Give hope, foretell salvation for the faithful 'remnant', point to Messianic times.



Prophets

- **Prophets to the fall of Israel (721BC):**
- **Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah.**
- **Elijah:** King Ahab & Jezebel; Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 1:16); Succeeded by Elisha (2 Kings 2-13)
- **Hosea:** Condemns Baal cult (including temple prostitution) .
- **Amos:** Infidelities, economic injustices & other sins; God still desires to fulfill his plan for "the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt" (Amos 3:1).
- **Prophets between the fall of Israel & the fall of Jerusalem:**
- **Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk.**
- **Jeremiah:** Exile will last 70 years
- **Habakkuk:** Babylon will punish Jerusalem, "the city, rebellious & polluted....Her priests profane what is holy & do violence to the Law".
- **Prophets of the Exile:**
- **Ezekiel, Daniel, Baruch**
- **Baruch:** Strengthens the exiles, promises an end to the exile & the restoration of Jerusalem.
- **Ezekiel:** Comforts the exiles, promises future salvation for all Israel. Main guide, guides them back to right thinking, reminds of past greatness & promises to forefathers. Keeps alive national consciousness & awareness of promises. Stresses redemption. Prophet of hope. God will set them free & bring them home. Looks forward to New Covenant in Kingdom of Messiah. (Ez. 37: 25-28) God's power is everywhere, majesty infinite, universal presence. Omnipotence & infinite love – will show mercy & work their conversion. Will be a nation again. Nothing is impossible to God. (Ezek. 3: 7-14).



Some Messianic Prophecies

Jeremiah:

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel & the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke. (Jer 31: 31-2)



Some Messianic Prophecies: Isaiah

- God gave people special destiny as witnesses & servants, with divine mission. They would not perish because they held the deposit of God's Revelation.
- *In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, & his dwellings shall be glorious. In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant which is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, & from the coastlands of the sea. (Is 11: 10-11).*
- *There will be no gloom for her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun & the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; & the government will be upon his shoulder, & his name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:1-3, 6)*
- *Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, & I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive & bear a son, & shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds & honey when he knows how to refuse the evil & choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil & choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. (Is 7:10-16)*
- 'The Book of the Consolation of Israel' (Isaiah 40-66); 4 poems on the servant of Yahweh.
- Oracles on liberation & Messianic liberation (49-55).



Good & Bad Kings

- Judah (Southern Kingdom): Relative peace & religious fidelity under King Hezekiah, guided by the prophets Isaiah & Micah.
- Moral & religious corruption spread from the North into South
- Judah degenerates.
 - 701BC: Assyrians invade Judah, "My rod in anger against an impious nation" (Is 10:5-6).
 - Hezekiah's son, Manasseh: altars to false gods in the temple; sacrifices son, sheds "so much innocent blood as to fill the length & breadth of Israel" (2 Kgs 21:1-9,16; 2 Kgs 16:3;17:17).
 - Warnings: Jerusalem & Judah will be punished so that, whenever anyone hears of it, his ears shall ring" (2 Kgs 12:15); Zephaniah: "the day of the Lord," a punishment for the wickedness & the pagan practices that defiled Judah (Zph 1:4-6, 14). Will fall in the next generation.



Child offered to Molech to be burned alive.

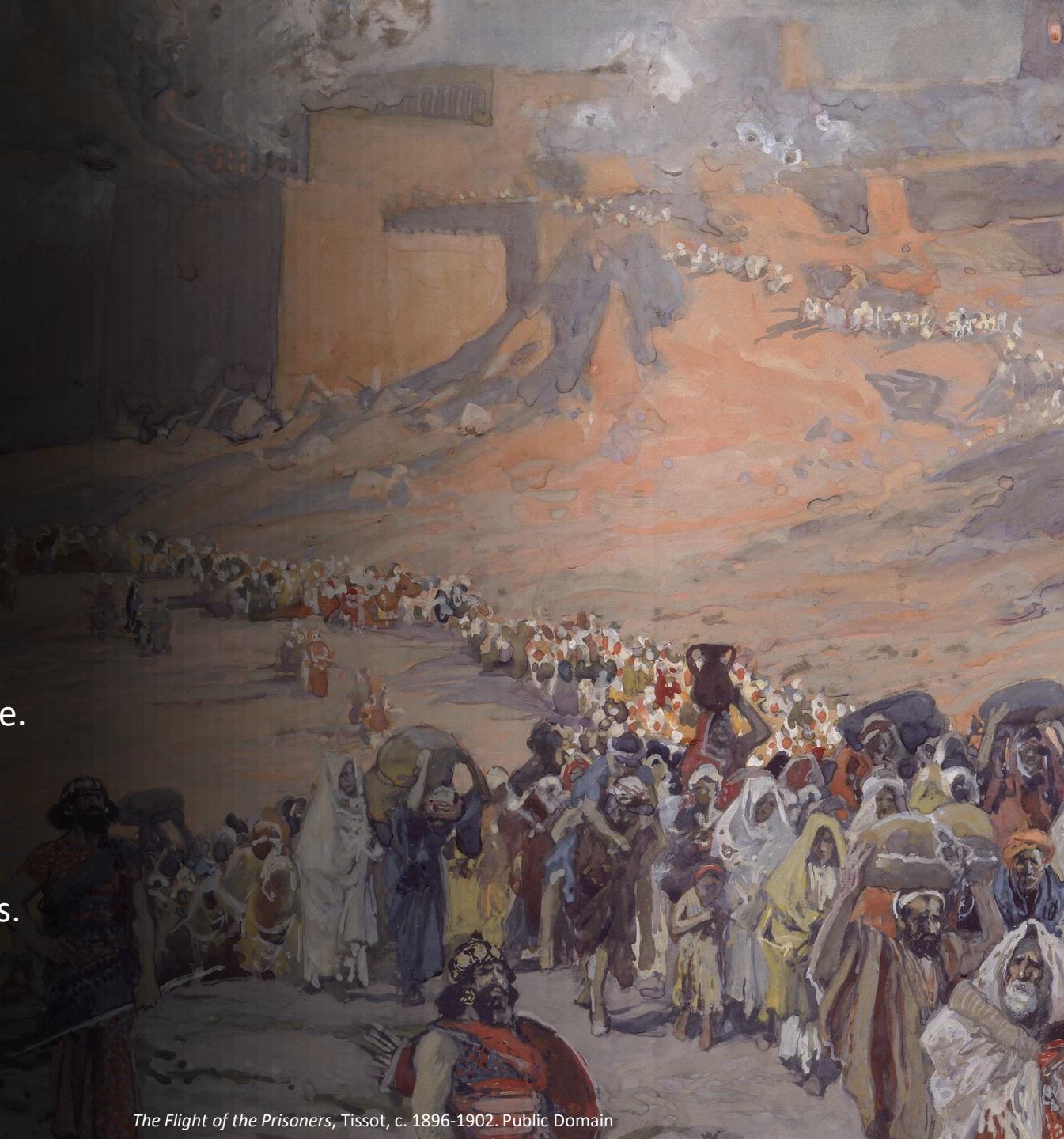


King Josiah (640-609 BC)

- “Book of the covenant” found in the Temple (2 Kgs 22:8). People had forgotten they even had the Law.
- Reform. People swear to live by the “terms of the covenant.” Temple cleaned of cult prostitutes & other abominations. The Passover celebrated.
- Supported by the prophet Jeremiah (Jr 1:1-6:30).

The Southern Kingdom

- 701 BC Judah becomes a vassal state of Assyria
- 612 BC Fall of Nineveh (Assyrian Capital). Babylonians take Assyrian Empire
- 597 BC Judah rebels against Babylon. Deportation of King, sons, nobles & people, including Ezekiel & Baruch.
- 587 BC Fall of Jerusalem. Sacking. Destruction of the Temple. Judah becomes a Babylonian province. Fall attributed to infidelity to the Covenant. (*Lamentations*)
- Exile:
 - mourn land of their inheritance, conscious of their sins.
 - opportunity to reflect on the causes of its humiliation and expiate its sin by repentance.



The Flight of the Prisoners, Tissot, c. 1896-1902. Public Domain

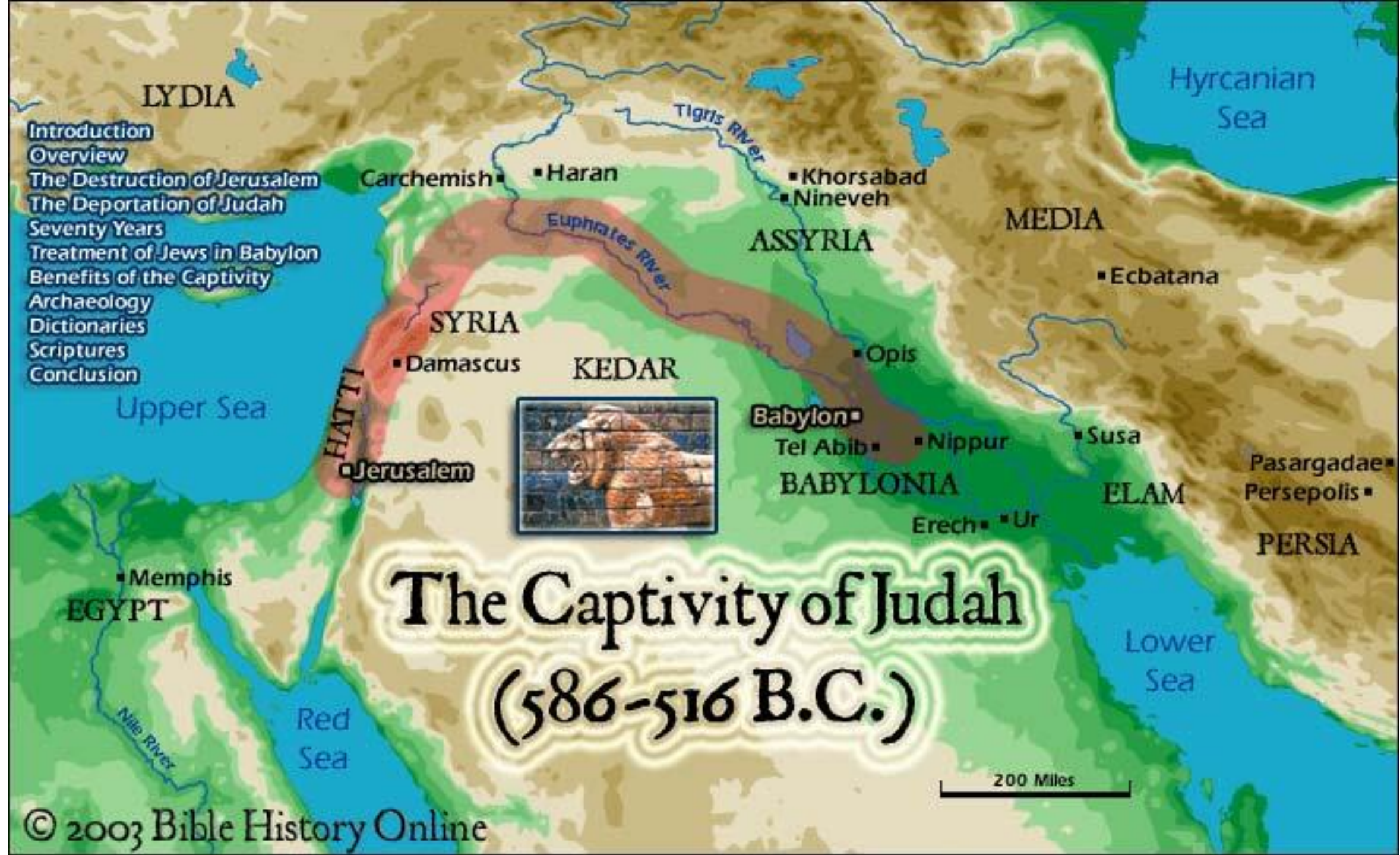
- Introduction
- Overview
- The Destruction of Jerusalem
- The Deportation of Judah
- Seventy Years
- Treatment of Jews in Babylon
- Benefits of the Captivity
- Archaeology
- Dictionaries
- Scriptures
- Conclusion

HATTI



The Captivity of Judah (586-516 B.C.)

200 Miles



Writing in Exile

Daniel: prophecy was written nearly 350 years later. The story it tells is set during the Babylonian captivity. Daniel lives in Babylon & is a seer for Nebuchadnezzar & successors.

Tobit, Judith, & Esther.

- Meditations on how Israel's faith & religious identity are to be preserved outside the Promised Land - in exile, in the face of undeserved suffering & persecution.
- Ordinary Israelites – (a widow, a blind man & his son & young bride, a young virgin) are the heroes, keeping the faith alive & saving the people.
- Tobit is set among exiles from the North living in Ninevah c. 721. It shows how an Israelite family protects and nurtures the faith. Tobit's hymn of praise promises that God is a "Father & God forever" & that, though He has scourged the exiles for their iniquities, in His mercy He will restore them from among the nations where they've been scattered (Tb 13:4-5).
- Esther & Daniel = Persian period



Exile

*By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea,
we wept When we remembered Zion.
We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst
of it.
For there those who carried us away captive
asked of us a song, And those who plundered
us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of
the songs of Zion!"
How shall we sing the LORD's song In a foreign
land?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand
forget its skill!
If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to
the roof of my mouth,
If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy. (Ps
137: 1-6)*



Purification in Exile

Northern Kingdom merged into Mesopotamia.

The 'Remnant of Judah' is purified & returns to fidelity.

- Observe circumcision, Sabbath & the Passover.
- Priests: form synagogues to teach people
- Scribes: form in the Law.
- Prophets forming the people; maintaining hope; reminding of God's love & faithfulness. Messianic expectation. New hope to the faithful. Vision of future where God himself will be the guide through his shepherd, the Messiah.
- In exile, regroup exiles around priests & the Law, revive religion which becomes more interior & personal. Personal conversion.



Exile lasts until 538BC

Foreign Domination

Assyria



Babylon



Persia



Greece



Rome

Ptolomies

Seleucids

100 Yrs
Independence
(Hasmonean)

The Persians (538 BC-331 BC)

- 538 B.C. Babylon defeated by the Persians, led by King Cyrus.
- Fairly benevolent

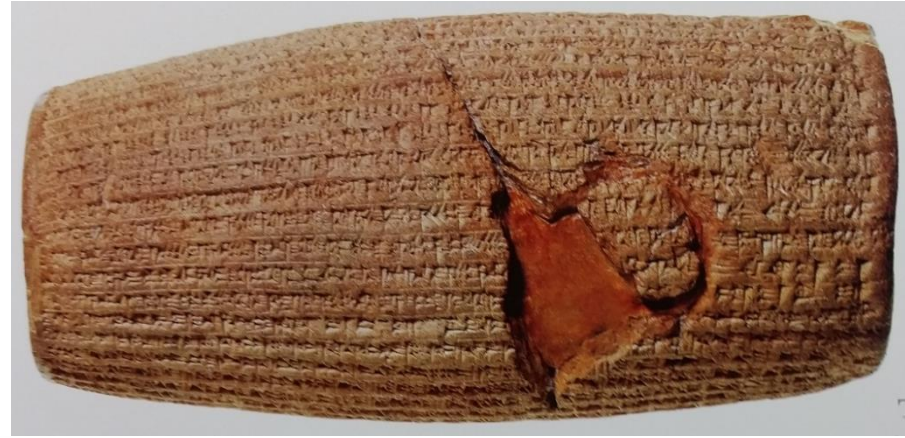


The Persian Empire



King Cyrus

- **The Cyrus Cylinder**



"...I am Cyrus. King of the world. When I entered Babylon...I did not allow anyone to terrorize the land...I kept in view the needs of the people and all its sanctuaries to promote their well-being...I put an end to their misfortune. The Great God has delivered all the lands into my hand; the lands that I have made to dwell in a peaceful habitation..."

Persians

- Belshazzar's feast (Dan 5)
- Cyrus takes Babylon 538BC.
- Tolerance, including religious tolerance.
- King Cyrus:
 - edict to let God's people return to Jerusalem
 - helped fund the rebuilding of the Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, returns the sacred vessels (Ezra 1:2-4; 6:3-5; Isaiah 44:24,28; 45:1-3,13).
- 537 BC Permission to return to Jerusalem. 800 mile walk back.
- Persians declare Mosaic Law civil law of Judea. Ezra, a scribe, in charge of implementing this.
- Ezra establishes a covenant all people subscribe to.
- Temple rebuilding begins 520BC, supported by Persian king, opposed by Samaritans. The 'Second Temple'. Holy of Holies empty
- Jews no longer trust only in memory of past, but in the future Messiah.
- 'Judah' – new name for 'Jews'.
- There are also Jews in the diaspora
- 445BC Nehemiah, governor, obtains permission to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, city repopulated. Strengthens economy.
- Influence of Ezra & Nehemiah – people more religious, more optimism & hope. Being God's chosen people is about upright life.
- Institutions: Synagogue – for prayer and religious instruction; Sanhedrin (originally religious function; takes over civil affairs incl administration of justice).
- So: the Persians are the overlords, and the High Priest, with the Sanhedrin, is effectively head over Israel.



Ezra Weeping.

Return, Restoration & Rebuilding

- Books of *Ezra* & *Nehemiah*. Order of events: : Ezra 1-6; Nehemiah 1-7, 11-13; Ezra 7-10; Nehemiah 8-10.
- Return to Jerusalem: The remnant that returned to Jerusalem was not necessarily the most pious and God-fearing people.
 - Prophet Malachi: spiritual state of the returning exiles. corruption of the priesthood and the moral laxity of the ordinary people.
- Prophets of the Restoration Era: Haggai, Zechariah. Encourage rebuilding of temple.
- When it was complete, Ezra led the people in a solemn renewal of their covenant with God (Nh 8-10). The ceremony includes a long prayer by Ezra that recounts the history of God's covenant love and His saving plan, beginning with the creation of the world (see Ezra 9:6-10:1). Summarizes the message of biblical history - "In Your great mercy You did not completely destroy them and You did not forsake them, for You are a kind and merciful God....O our God, great, mighty, and awesome God, You Who in Your mercy preserve the covenant....In all that has come upon us, You have been just, for You kept faith while we have done evil" (Nehemiah 9:31-33).
- Period of renewed national pride and optimism in Judah.
- **Prophets of the Era:** Obadiah, Joel., Jonah: foresaw the exaltation of Zion & a coming judgment on the nations. Jonah preached the unthinkable - the conversion of Ninevah, the capital city of Israel's foe.



The Second
Temple as
described by
the Jewish
historian
Josephus



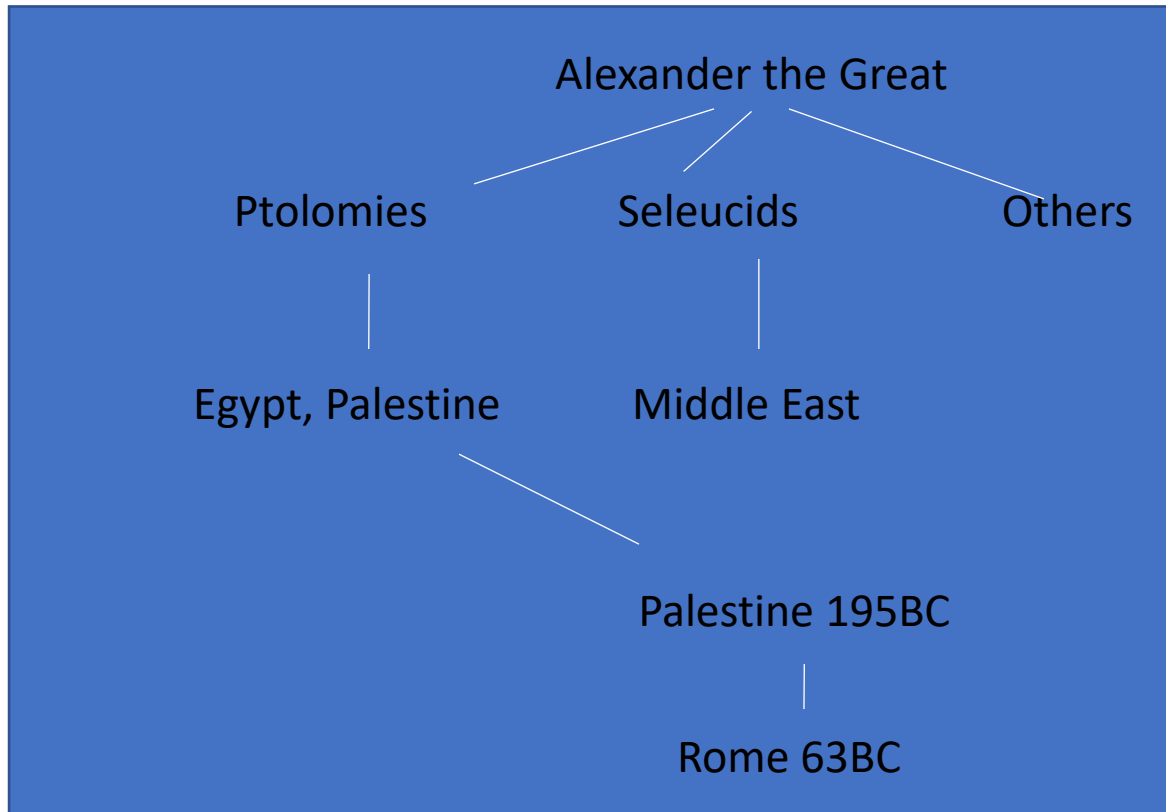
The Greeks: Alexander the Great

- 4th century BC – Political power shifts from the ‘fertile crescent’ to the West. (Battle of Marathon 491BC, Greeks defeat the Persians, 480BC defeat the Persian fleet at Salamis).
- Alexander the Great (1 Macc. 1: 1-2).
- 333BC: Alexander overthrows Persian domination of Palestine
- Greek culture gradually spreads through the Middle East.
- 323BC: death of Alexander – succeeded by his officers who divide the realm. Ptolomies (Egypt & Palestine), Seleucids (Middle East & gain Palestine 195BC).



The Greeks

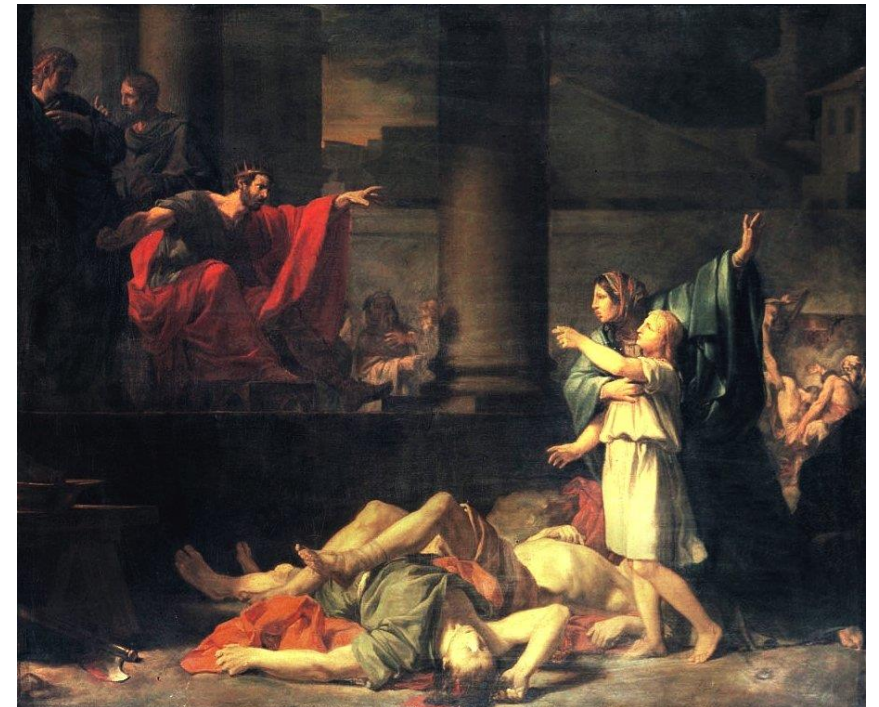
- **Ptolomies**
- Alexandria. Hellenistic culture & learning Language – Greek.
- *Septuagint* Greek translation of Scriptures from Hebrew written by Jewish scholars at Alexandria. Scriptures now accessible to people of other languages and races.



- **Seleucids**
- Take Palestine 195BC.
- *Antiochus III* – tolerant.
- ***Antiochus IV (175BC)*** - persecution & war. Hellenic religion & civilisation imposed. Anathema to Jews faithful to Covenant.
- ***I & II Maccabees***: High Priest sacked, Temple ransacked & worship of Zeus established there. Participation in Jewish religious ceremonies prohibited on pain of death, including observing the Sabbath, reading the Torah, circumcising sons. City walls pulled down. Some Jews conformed, others preferred to die than profane the Covenant. Some flee to the wilderness & form a resistance movement.
- Mattathias – holy war – armed resistance from the wilderness.
- Maccabees: God watches over his own; Israel always wins over its enemies when it is true to the covenant. Must remain totally faithful to the Covenant. Fortitude in defending faith, prayer for the dead, purgatory – atonement beyond the grave.
- *Antiochus V* – peace. Rescinds bad decrees, restores freedom of worship. Influence of Jerusalem and its rulers increase almost to the limits of old kingdom.
- Seleucids in decline, Romans in ascendancy.
- 63BC: Pompey enters Jerusalem . Judah becomes a Roman province.

Persecution & Revolt (*Maccabees I & II*)

- 331 BC Persian Empire falls to Greeks. Alexander the Great.
- The history of this period takes us to about 100 years before Christ,
- King Antiochus IV (*Epiphanes* - God Manifest): rose to power in 175 B.C.
 - vicious persecution of the Jews. Wants to erase religious distinctions among the peoples of the kingdom, trying to make all "one people, each abandoning his particular customs."
 - desecrated the Temple, rededicating it to the Greek god Zeus (?) and bringing in prostitutes to celebrate Greek fertility rituals.
 - Burned any copy of the Law he could find, forbade the Israelites from observing the sabbath, made them eat & sacrifice unclean animals; forbade the ritual act of the covenant - the circumcision of newborn sons. Penalty: torture and death.
- Many people abandoned the covenant & the ritual laws. Many others refused to abandon God, preferring "to die rather than to...profane the holy covenant." (1 Maccabees 1:11,14-15, 52).
- Maccabees: beginnings of a new definition of Israel, not according to ethnic or tribal identity, but according to faithfulness to the covenant: "Israel was driven into hiding, wherever places of refuge could be found".
- Not all who are of Israel are Israel. Israel was now made up of those who kept the faith, even if it meant dying for the faith.
- Martyrdom of 99-year-old Eleazar, & 7 sons of the mother forced to watch them tortured before being executed too for refusing to eat pork.





Hasmonean Times

- Judas Maccabeus: son of a priest, warrior, pious man. Led Israelites in revolts & battles against Antiochus & later occupying powers.
- Purified the Temple, taught the people to pray for the dead, & to hope for the resurrection of the dead
- Maccabees expelled all foreign powers from Jerusalem.
- Around 100 years of independence under the leadership of priests. The Hasmonean dynasty.
- Rise of the Pharisees & the Sadducees.
- Seems that the prayer of Maccabees has been answered: "May God bless you and remember His covenant with His faithful servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (2 Maccabees 1:2). But there were problems.
- Gods promise to David of an everlasting throne (affirmed by Jeremiah). The Hasmonean priests weren't kings, weren't descended from David or the tribe of Judah or even Aaron, as the Law of Moses required for priests.
- Early on, the people seemed to sense the problem. They agreed to live under this form of priestly, theocratic rule "until a true prophet arises" (2 Maccabees 14:41). Over time, popular expectations of a new prophet waned. Still, growing numbers searched the Scriptures, recalling the writings of the prophets - the powerful promises they had made that seemed to have been only partially fulfilled.
- This search grew in intensity after Pompey invaded in 63 B.C. & made the Holy Land part of the Roman Empire.
- Prophetic expectation grows in the period between the Old & New Testaments, reflected in the debates in the Gospels about whether Jesus was the Messiah.
- Many looked forward to the fulfillment of Moses' ancient prophecy that God would raise up a prophet like him (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). But the interpretation of this prophecy & others always pointed back to God's promise to David.
- As the New Testament period begins, the people were waiting for God to raise up a Son of David & restore the Davidic Kingdom (Jn 1:21; 7:42).

Expectation

- Promises of the prophets. They had taught Israel to hope for "a new David," their "Messiah", "one anointed" as David had been with oil and the Holy Spirit (1 Sam 16:13).
- Isaiah: coming of a son of David, a child born in the line of David, who would gather together God's scattered people into a new kingdom that would rule the world from Zion, by the Law of God (Is 2:2-3).
- Micah: a child would be born in Bethlehem, he would be the ruler & shepherd who would lead all the return of all "the children of Israel." The the new king would rule "to the ends of the earth" (Micah 5:1-4).
- Daniel: heavenly vision of the Davidic son ruling from on high: "He received dominion, glory & kingship - nations & peoples of every language serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away. His kingdom shall not be destroyed" (Dan 7:14).
- Isaiah: son of David would be called "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" & would reign "from David's throne...both now & for ever" (Isaiah 9:1-7; 7:14; 11:1-5,10; Jeremiah 23:5-6).
- Ezekiel: vision of the new David, a shepherd king who would rule over Israel forever in the land which God had promised to Abraham. God would make a new, everlasting covenant with the people, & would dwell forever among them in the sanctuary. "My dwelling shall be with them."
- Isaiah: God would "renew the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David." Implied that the Messiah would himself be a new covenant, given the name "a covenant of the people" (Isaiah 55:3-5; 42:6).
- Hosea: the Messiah would come as a groom comes for his beloved; a new covenant would be made that "espoused" Israel & God forever.
- Jeremiah: God would reunite the Northern & Southern kingdoms, gathering them from all the lands to which they had been banished: "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel & the house of Judah...I will be their God, & they shall be my people".
- On the threshold of the New Testament, people looked to these prophecies, awaiting the consolation of Israel, the coming of the new son of David, the resurrection of his fallen Kingdom (Lk 1:69; 2:25,38; Mk 11:10; Is 40:1; 52:9;61:2-3).



Roman Domination

- 63BC Judah becomes a Roman province.
- 37BC Herod the Great is appointed ruler of Judea by Rome.
- Greek remains a common language for trade, etc. (Handy for evangelisation; Luke writes in Greek).
- Apocalyptic literature/prophecies to this period, idea of Messianic kingdom.

