



Lesson 3-1

1-2 Kings: Division, Decline, Fall

From David to Solomon

- ✦ After the death of Absalom, Adonijah (not Solomon) is David's eldest son.
- ✦ Adonijah sets up his own coronation celebration.
- ✦ Nathan & Bathsheba act cleverly to convince David to choose Solomon to succeed to the throne.
- ✦ Adonijah's ascension to the throne is thwarted
- ✦ Solomon is anointed as king

King Solomon

✦ Solomon's Faith: Not Always like David's

- "Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David." (1Ki 3.3)
- Against Deuteronomy, offers sacrifices at the "high places" (3.1-3)
- Marriages to foreign wives lead to the worship of foreign Gods (ex. 3.1-2; 11.1-13)

King Solomon

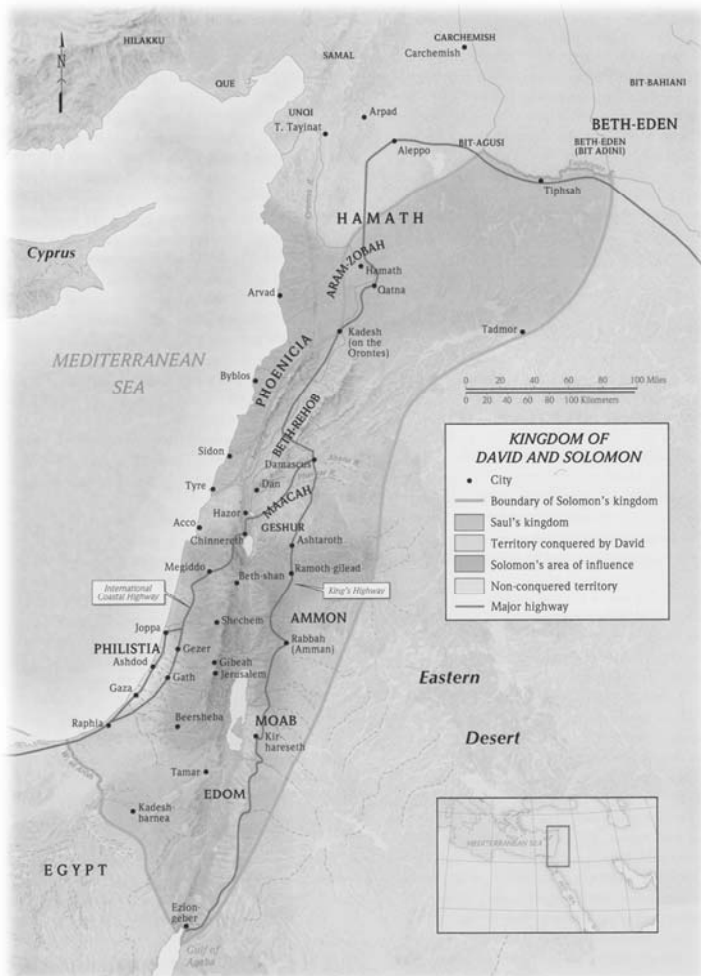
✦ Solomon's Wisdom: Unrivaled

- Solomon asks for wisdom to lead; the Lord grants wisdom, wealth and longevity (1Ki 3.4-14)
- Solomon's international reputation for wisdom
- Solomon is Israel's master sage and patron of its wisdom tradition. Widely celebrated in folk literature among Jews, Arabs, and Ethiopians

King Solomon

✦ Solomon's Politics: A Period of Progress

- Re-organization of the kingdom provide a system for taxation and governance and to break down old tribal distinctions
- International alliances (1Ki 2; 5; 11)
- Golden age of wealth and prosperity (1Ki 4-10)
- Massive building campaign (1Ki 5-10)



Territorial Peak of Israel Under King Solomon

1. Purple: Saul's Conquest
2. Green: David's Conquest
3. Brown: Solomon's Influence

King Solomon

✦ Solomon's Failures: Seeds of Division

- Excessive taxation and forced labor leads to revolt
- Worship of foreign deities due to foreign marriages
- The dissenters rally behind Jeroboam, who was in charge of Solomon's forced labor. The prophet Ahijah tells Jeroboam that the Lord will tear the kingdom from Solomon's hand.
- Jeroboam flees to Egypt to escape Solomon's attack.

King Solomon

✦ Solomon's Legacy: The Kingdom Divides

- The people ask Rehoboam for relief from the harsh requirements of his father, Solomon.
- The elders who had counseled Solomon urged Rehoboam to be a servant (rather than a tyrant) to the people.
- But Rehoboam's younger attendants advised him otherwise. Following their advice, Rehoboam responds harshly.
- The northern tribes revolt under Jeroboam. Rehoboam attempts to put down the rebellion, but his messenger is stoned to death.
- The kingdom divides: Israel to the north, Judah to the south.



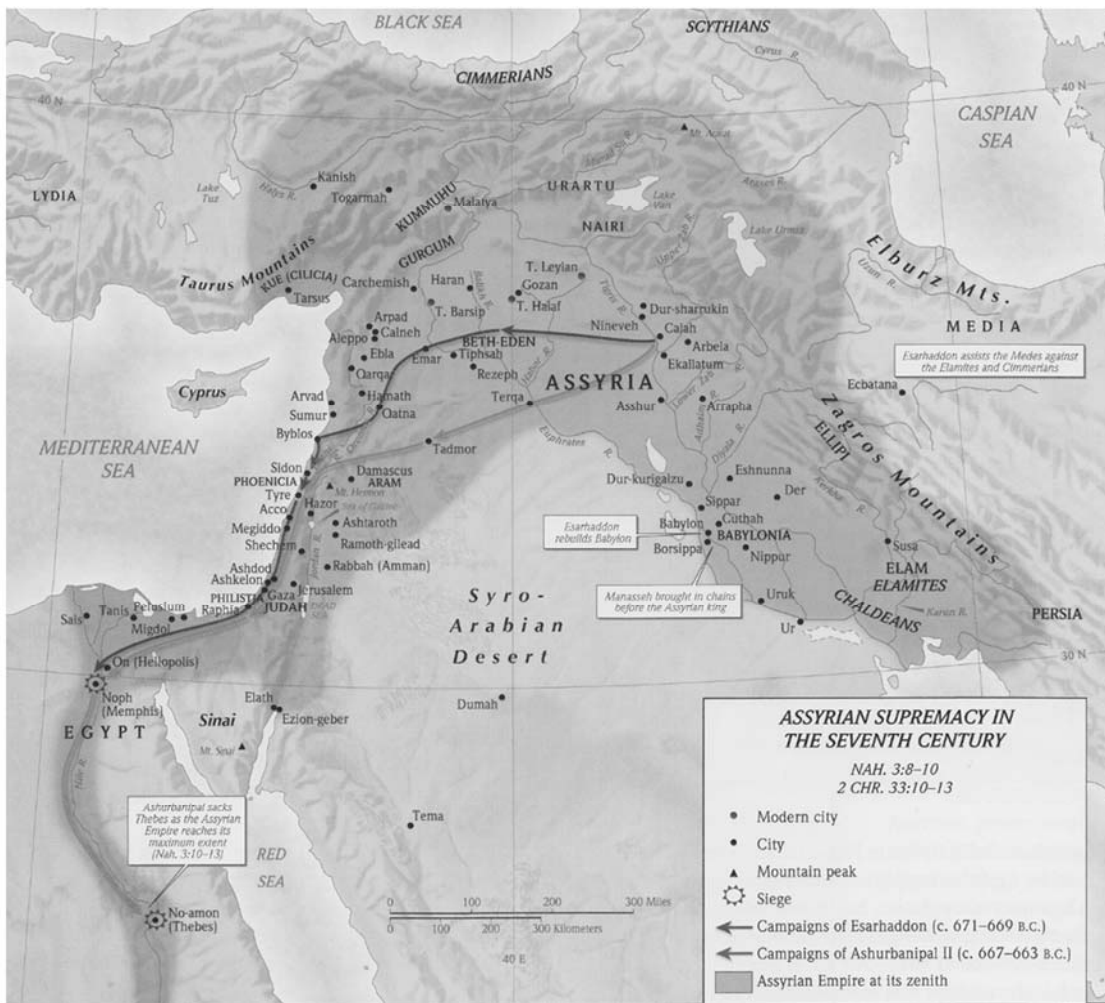
The Divided Kingdom

1. Green: Northern Israel

2. Purple: Southern Judah

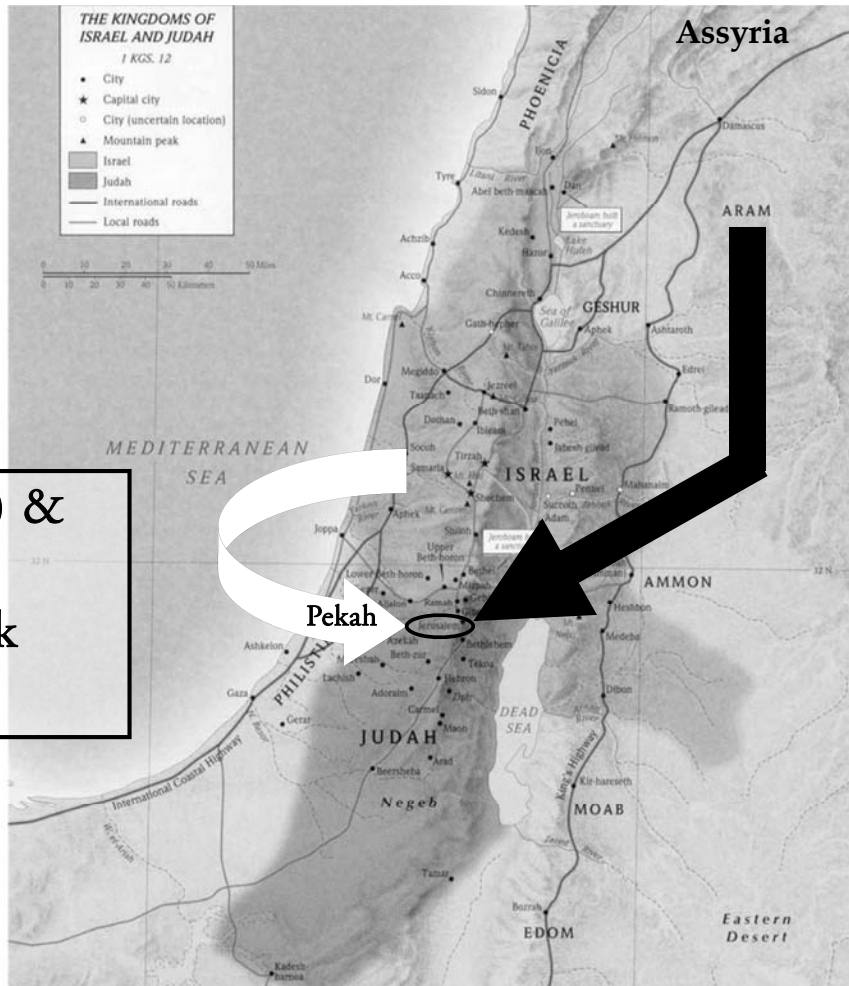
The Divided Monarchy

- Northern Kingdom of Israel:
 - Ruled by Jeroboam, with Shechem as the capital. The capital will be moved to Tirzah and then finally to Samaria.
 - Better strategic location, more productive land, larger population, stronger economically
 - Instable government, attractive to foreign powers
- Southern Kingdom of Judah:
 - Ruled by Rehoboam, with Jerusalem as the capital.
 - Poorest land and smallest population
 - Stable government, great city of Jerusalem, less attractive to foreign powers.



Fall of Israel to Assyria (722 BCE)

King Pekah (Israel) & King Rezin (Aram/Syria) attack Jerusalem.



Fall of Israel to Assyria (722 BCE)

King Ahaz (Judah) allies with King Tiglath-Pileser (Assyria).

Tiglath-Pileser attacks and conquers Aram/Syria.



Fall of Israel to Assyria (722 BCE)

Assyria makes Judah and Israel vassal-states.

They pay heavy tribute to Assyria.



Fall of Israel to Assyria (722 BCE)

Under King Hoshea, Israel revolts against Assyria and stops sending tribute.

Assyria's king, Shalmaneser, attacks and destroys Samaria, Israel's capital.



Israel Falls

✚ What is the result of the fall of Israel?

- The people are exiled
- The land is filled with other people groups, who will eventually become known as Samaritans.

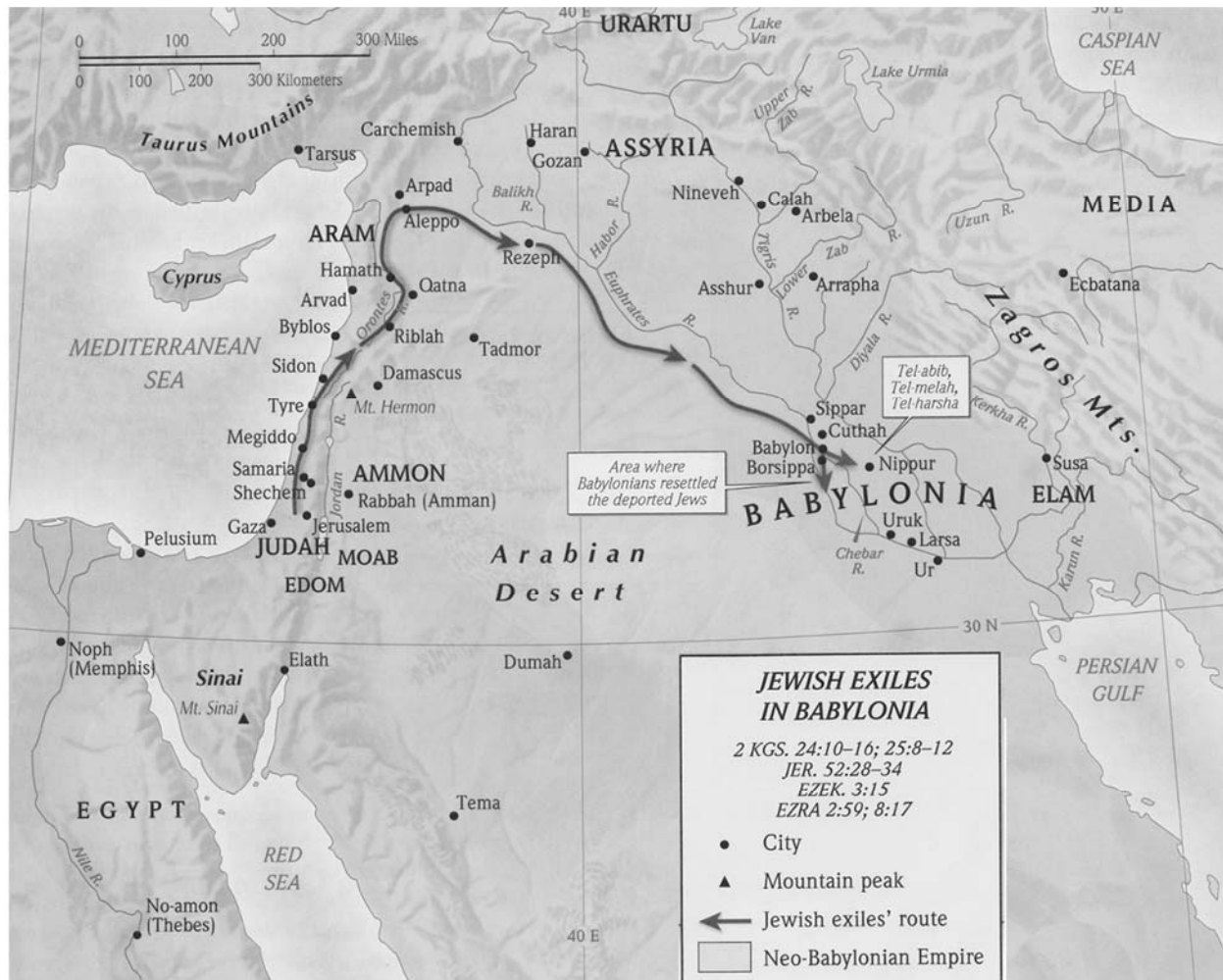
✚ Why does Israel fall to Assyria?

- Israel's unfaithfulness, rather than Assyria's superior strength.
- 2 Kings 17.7, 11-12

Judah Falls

✚ The Fall of Judah:

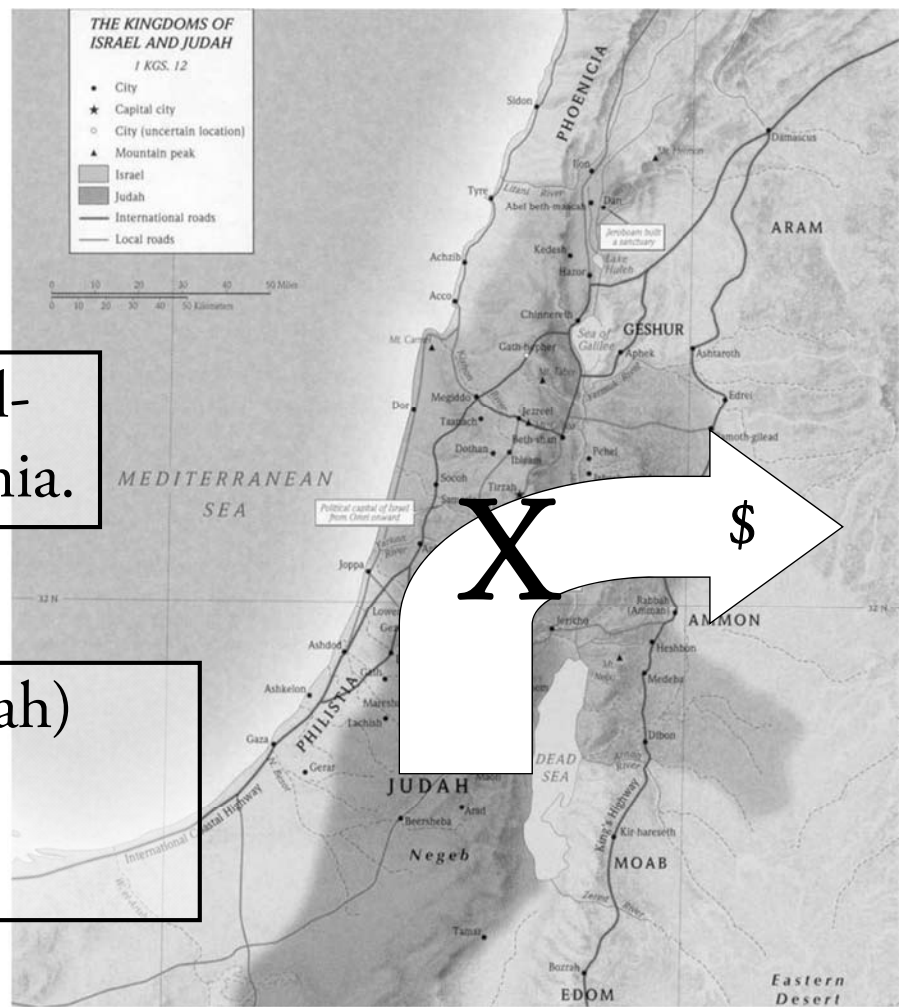
- Although the picture of the northern kings is decidedly negative, Judah suffers its fair share of bad kings as well.
- Hezekiah and "the boy king" Josiah are cast as good kings who do right in the sight of the Lord.
- They are shadowed by a long list of bad kings, such as Manasseh and his son Amon, who utterly abandoned exclusive devotion to the Lord.
- The result: "Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle." (2Ki 21.12)



Fall of Judah to Babylonia

Judah is a vassal-state of Babylonia.

Jehoiakim (Judah) rebels against Babylonia



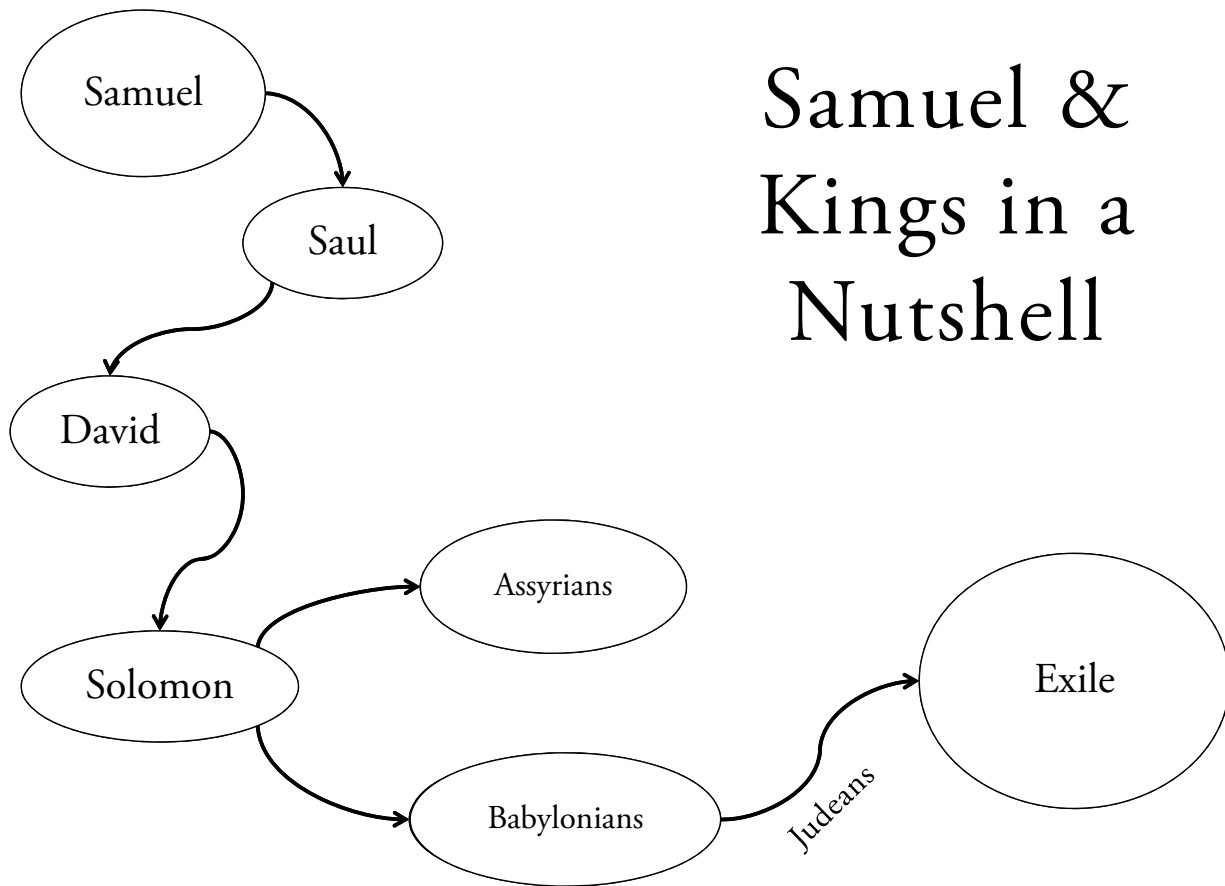
Fall of Judah to Babylonia

Babylonia attacks Judah (King Jehoiachin) and conquers Jerusalem (Zedekiah installed as a puppet-king).

Judah once again is a vassal state.



Samuel & Kings in a Nutshell



Kingdom Chronology

✦ Some Important Dates to Remember:

✦ Establishment of the Monarchy: c. 1025 BCE

✦ Division of the Kingdom into Israel (North) and Judah (South): c. 922 BCE

✦ Fall of the Northern Kingdom: c. 722 BCE

✦ Fall of the Southern Kingdom: c. 586 BCE

Christian Scriptures Timeline

