

EXILE

THE CONTEXT

- Under Solomon, God fulfilled the first promise to Abraham by bringing Israel into the promised land and giving them rest on all sides. God made a covenant with David promising that Israel would get to keep the land if the king, as representative of the people, obeyed Mosaic law.
- The Mosaic Covenant required Israel to devote the inhabitants of the land to complete destruction. It forbid Israel from making a covenant with them, allowing them to remain in the land, lest they become a snare (Ex 23:23-33; 34:11-16; Deut 7:1-5).
- After David defeated the inhabitants, Solomon made a covenant with them to remain in the land and pay him tribute (1 Kg 4:21). Solomon took their daughters as his wives and was ensnared by them to worship other gods (1 Kg 11:1-8). Thus Solomon lost the kingdom for his disobedience according to the terms of the Davidic Covenant (1 Kg 11:9-11).
- However, God's promise to David concerning the birth of the promised seed of the woman preserved the tribe of Judah (1 Kg 11:12-13; Ps 89:28-37), similar to how God's promise to Abraham previously preserved all 12 tribes.
- Thus the kingdom was divided into the 10 tribes of Israel and the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (1 Kings 11:12; 12:16-24; 2 Chr 10:16-11:12).

1 Kings 12: ¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king [Solomon's son Rehoboam] did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. ¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. ²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.



ISRAEL TURNS FROM THE LORD

- Divided Israel's first king Jeroboam "caused Israel to sin" by driving out the Levitical priests and replacing the worship of God with the worship of idols. The priests and all who sought to worship God left their land and came to Jerusalem (1 Kgs 12:25-33; 14:16; 15:30; 2 Chr 11:13-17).

1 Kings 12:²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David.²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

2 Chronicles 11:¹³ And the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel presented themselves to him from all places where they lived.¹⁴ For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the Lord,¹⁵ and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for the calves that he had made.¹⁶ And those who had set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the Lord, the God of their fathers.¹⁷ They strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and for three years they made Rehoboam the son of Solomon secure, for they walked for three years in the way of David and Solomon.



- Samaria eventually became the center of Israel's worship and became identified with apostasy in contrast to the Jews (Judah) who worshiped in Jerusalem (1 Kgs 13:32; 16:24, 32; Hos 8:6; Jn 4:9, 20-22).

1 Kings 16:²⁴ He [King Omri] bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he fortified the hill and called the name of the city that he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

²⁵ Omri did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did more evil than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, provoking the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols... ³² He [Omri's son Ahab] erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria.

John 4:⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)... ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

1 Kings 14:¹⁴ Moreover, the Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam today. And henceforth, ¹⁵ the Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the Lord to anger. ¹⁶ And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin."



- All of Israel's subsequent kings "departed not from the sins of Jeroboam" (1 Kgs 16:31; 2 Kgs 10:29; 13:2, 11; 14:24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28).

1 Kings 15:²⁵ **Nadab** the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶ He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin...

³³ In the third year of Asa king of Judah, **Baasha** the son of Ahijah began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years. ³⁴ He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.

1 Kings 16:²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, **Omri** began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah... ²⁵ Omri did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did more evil than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, provoking the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols...

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, **Ahab** the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.

1 Kings 22:⁵¹ **Ahaziah** the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. ⁵² He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. ⁵³ He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.

2 Kings 3:¹ In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, **Jehoram** the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve years. ² He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made. ³ Nevertheless, he clung to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it.



2 Kings 10: ²⁸ Thus **Jehu** wiped out Baal from Israel. ²⁹ But Jehu did not turn aside from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin—that is, the golden calves that were in Bethel and in Dan. ³⁰ And the Lord said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.” ³¹ But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 13:1 In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, **Jehoahaz** the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years. ² He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from them.

2 Kings 13: ¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, **Jehoash**^[b] the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. ¹¹ He also did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them.

2 Kings 14: ²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, **Jeroboam [the 2nd]** the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 15: ⁸ In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Zechariah** the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. ⁹ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin...

¹⁷ In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Menahem** the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten years in Samaria. ¹⁸ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin...

²³ In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekahiah** the son of Menahem began to reign over



Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years. ²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin...

²⁷ In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekah** the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years. ²⁸ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, **Hoshea** the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. ² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

- Because the first Abrahamic promise had been fulfilled, it no longer preserved Israel from the Mosaic curse (Gen 15:11; Deut 28:26).

Deuteronomy 29: ²⁴ all the nations will say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?' ²⁵ Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, ²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. ²⁷ Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, ²⁸ and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.'

- God sent prophets (Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah) to bring a covenant lawsuit against Israel for its disobedience (Amos 3:1-2, 14; 4:12; 5:25-27; 8:2; 9:7-8).

Amos 3:1 Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:



²“You only have I known
of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.

Amos 3:11 “I overthrew some of you,
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning;
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the Lord.

¹²“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

Amos 5: ²⁵“Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness,
O house of Israel? ²⁶You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your
images that you made for yourselves, ²⁷and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,” says
the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

Amos 8:1 This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. ²And he said,
“Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the Lord said to me,

“The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them.

- Israel was found guilty and was issued a certificate of divorce (Deut 24:1; Hos 1:4, 6; Is 50:1; Jer 3:6-8; Matt 19:7-9; Heb 8:9 cf Jer 31:32). Israel was no longer God’s people (Hos 1:9).

Hosea 1: ²When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to
yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great



whoredom by forsaking the Lord.”³ So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

⁵ And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.

Isaiah 50:1 Thus says the Lord:

“Where is your mother's certificate of divorce,
with which I sent her away?

Or which of my creditors is it
to whom I have sold you?

Behold, for your iniquities you were sold,
and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

Jeremiah 3:⁶ The Lord said to me in the days of King Josiah: “Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? ⁷ And I thought, ‘After she has done all this she will return to me,’ but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. ⁸ She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore.

Hosea 1:⁸ When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

- Israel was destroyed by God by the hand of Assyria according to the curse of the Mosaic Covenant (Deut 28:16-68) for breaking the Mosaic Covenant (Hos 6:7; 8:1; 2 Kgs 17-18). Assyria removed all Israelites from the land and sent foreigners to dwell there instead (2 Kgs 17:6, 24).



Deuteronomy 28: ²⁵ "The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And **your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away...** ⁴⁵ "All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. ⁴⁹ **The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,** ⁵⁰ **a hard-faced nation** who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. ⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish... ⁶⁴ **"And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other,** and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.

Hosea 8:1 Set the trumpet to your lips!

One like a vulture is over the house of the Lord,
because they have transgressed my covenant
and rebelled against my law.

2 Kings 17: ⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ⁷ And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods ⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced... ¹⁸ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only... ²¹ When he had torn Israel from the



house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. ²² The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³ until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

JUDAH

- Some of Judah's kings walked in the way of David, meaning they did not worship false idols (see table at end).

1 Kings 15:⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, **Asa** began to reign over Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ¹¹ And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done. ¹² He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

1 Kings 22:⁴¹ **Jehoshaphat** the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. ⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. ⁴³ He walked in all the way of Asa his father. 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 made offerings on the high places.

2 Kings 18:¹ In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, **Hezekiah** the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. ² He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. ³ And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. ⁴ He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). ⁵ He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those



who were before him. ⁶ For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. ⁷ And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. **He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.**

- However, many walked in the way of the kings of Israel (1 Kgs 15:3; 2 Kgs 8:18, 27; 21:1, 20; 23:32; 2 Chr 12:14; 24:7; 36:5 – see table).

1 Kings 15:1 Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, **Abijam** began to reign over Judah. ² He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. ³ And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.

2 Kings 8: ¹⁶ In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, **Jehoram** the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, began to reign. ¹⁷ He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ¹⁸ And 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. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹⁹ **Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David his servant, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.**

- Because of his promise to David, God saved Judah from being destroyed by Assyria like Israel (Hos 1:7; 2 Kgs 8:19; 19:32-37; 20:6).

2 Kings 19: 32 “Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. ³³ By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into



this city, declares the Lord. **34 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.**"

- A turning point was reached soon after God spared Judah from the Assyrians when King Manasseh erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah (idol) inside Solomon's Temple and sacrificed his son (2 Kgs 21:2-9).

2 Kings 21:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. ³ For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. ⁴ And **he built altars in the house of the Lord**, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." ⁵ And **he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.** ⁶ And **he burned his son as an offering** and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. ⁷ And **the carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the house of which the Lord** said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever. ⁸ And I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander anymore out of the land that I gave to their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the Law that my servant Moses commanded them." ⁹ But they did not listen, and **Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.**

- God declared that He would destroy Jerusalem and Judah (2 Kgs 21:10-16). Josiah's reforms (2 Kgs 22-23) did not turn away God's wrath (2 Kgs 23:26-27; 24:3-4; Jer 7:30; 15:1-4). Sacrifices could no longer atone for Israel, for they had defiled the temple.



2 Kings 21:¹⁰ And the Lord said by his servants the prophets,¹¹ “Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols,¹² therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.¹³ And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.¹⁴ And I will forsake the remnant of my heritage and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies,¹⁵ because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.”

2 Kings 23:²⁶ Still the Lord did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him.²⁷ And the Lord said, “I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.”

2 Kings 24:1 In his [Jehoiakim] days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.² And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servants the prophets.³ **Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the Lord, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,⁴ and also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord would not pardon.**

Jeremiah 7:³⁰ “For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the Lord. **They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.**³¹ And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.³² Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere.³³ And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of



the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away.³⁴ And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

Jeremiah 11:⁹ Again the Lord said to me, "A conspiracy exists among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.¹⁰ They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words. They have gone after other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant that I made with their fathers.¹¹ Therefore, thus says the Lord, Behold, I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape. Though they cry to me, I will not listen to them.

Jeremiah 15:¹ Then the Lord said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go!² And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord:

"Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence,
and those who are for the sword, to the sword;
those who are for famine, to famine,
and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'

³ I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the Lord: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.⁴ And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 22:⁸ "And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, "Why has the Lord dealt thus with this great city?"⁹ And they will answer, "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God and worshiped other gods and served them.""

- Like in Israel, God sent prophets (Habbakuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) to bring a covenant lawsuit against Judah for its disobedience to the Mosaic covenant. Judah was



found guilty (2 Chr 36:15-16) but was not issued a certificate of divorce because the promise to David, the second Abrahamic promise, had not yet been fulfilled.

- According to Mosaic curse, Judah came under Egyptian rule after getting caught up in a war between Assyria and Egypt (2 Kgs 23:33; 2 Chr 35:20-36:1-4).
- Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon then conquered Egypt as an act of God's judgment against Egypt (2 Kgs 24:7; Jer 46).
- In a reversal of how God commanded and led Israel/Judah throughout their history, God commanded Judah to submit to Nebuchadnezzar's yoke – to surrender to him and not fight (Jeremiah 32).

Jeremiah 21:1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying, ²“Inquire of the Lord for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us.”

³ Then Jeremiah said to them: “Thus you shall say to Zedekiah, ⁴‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city. ⁵ **I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath.** ⁶ And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence. ⁷ Afterward, declares the Lord, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.’

⁸ “And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the Lord: **Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.** ⁹ **He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.** ¹⁰ For I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the Lord: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.’



Jeremiah 27: ⁶ Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him... ¹² To Zedekiah king of Judah I spoke in like manner: "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live. ¹³ Why will you and your people die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as the Lord has spoken concerning any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? ¹⁴ Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are saying to you, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you. ¹⁵ I have not sent them, declares the Lord, but they are prophesying falsely in my name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who are prophesying to you."

- For the sake of David and Abraham, he spared the remnant who obeyed, sending them into exile, but destroyed the rest, as well as the temple (2 Kgs 24-25; 2 Chr 36:17-21).

2 Kings 24: ¹⁰ At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. ¹¹ And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, ¹² and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign ¹³ and carried off all the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the Lord, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the Lord had foretold. ¹⁴ He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land. ¹⁵ And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. ¹⁶ And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, 7,000, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, 1,000, all of them strong and fit for war. ¹⁷ And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.



2 Kings 25: ⁸In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹And he burned the house of the Lord and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. ¹⁰And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. ¹¹And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile... 26... So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.

Tables from: <https://www.vtaide.com/gleanings/Kings-of-Israel/kings.html>

Kings of the United Kingdom (c 1025-925 BC)		
King	Relationship to Previous King	God's Judgment
Saul	none	did evil
Ishbosheth*	son	(unknown)
David	son-in-law of Saul (1 Sam. 18:20-27)	did right
Solomon (AKA Jedidiah)	son	did right in youth, evil in old age

* The kingdom was divided during Ishbosheth's reign;
David was king over the tribe of Judah.

Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

Kings of Judah (c 925-586 BC)	Kings of Israel (c 925-721 BC)
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King	Relationship to Previous King	God's Judgment	King	Relationship to Previous King	God's Judgment			
Rehoboam	son	did evil	Jeroboam	servant	did evil			
Abijam (AKA Abijah)	son	did evil						
Asa	son	did right				Nadab	son	did evil
						Baasha	none	did evil
						Elah	son	did evil
						Zimri	captain	did evil
						Omri	captain	did evil
Jehoshaphat	son	did right				Ahab	son	did evil
						Ahaziah	son	did evil
Jehoram (AKA Joram)	son	did evil				Jehoram (AKA Joram)	son of Ahab	did evil
Ahaziah (AKA Azariah or Jehoahaz)	son	did evil						
Athaliah	mother	did evil						
Joash (AKA Jehoash)	son of Ahaziah	did right in youth, evil in old age	Jehu	captain	mixed			
			Jehoahaz	son	did evil			
Amaziah	son	did right in youth, evil in old age	Joash (AKA Jehoash)	son	did evil			
			Jeroboam II	son	did evil			
Uzziah	son	did right						



(AKA Azariah)			Zachariah	son	did evil
			Shallum	none	did evil (surmised)
			Menahem	none	did evil
			Pekahiah	son	did evil
Jotham	son	did right	Pekah	captain	did evil
Ahaz	son	did evil			
			Hoshea	none	did evil
Hezekiah	son	did right			
Manasseh	son	did evil	Assyrian captivity		
Amon	son	did evil			
Josiah	son	did right			
Jehoahaz (AKA Shallum)	son	did evil			
Jehoiakim (AKA Eliakim)	son of Josiah	did evil			
Jehoiachin (AKA Coniah or Jeconiah)	son	did evil			
Zedekiah (AKA Mattaniah)	son of Josiah	did evil			
Babylonian captivity					

