

An Introduction to the Book of the Prophet

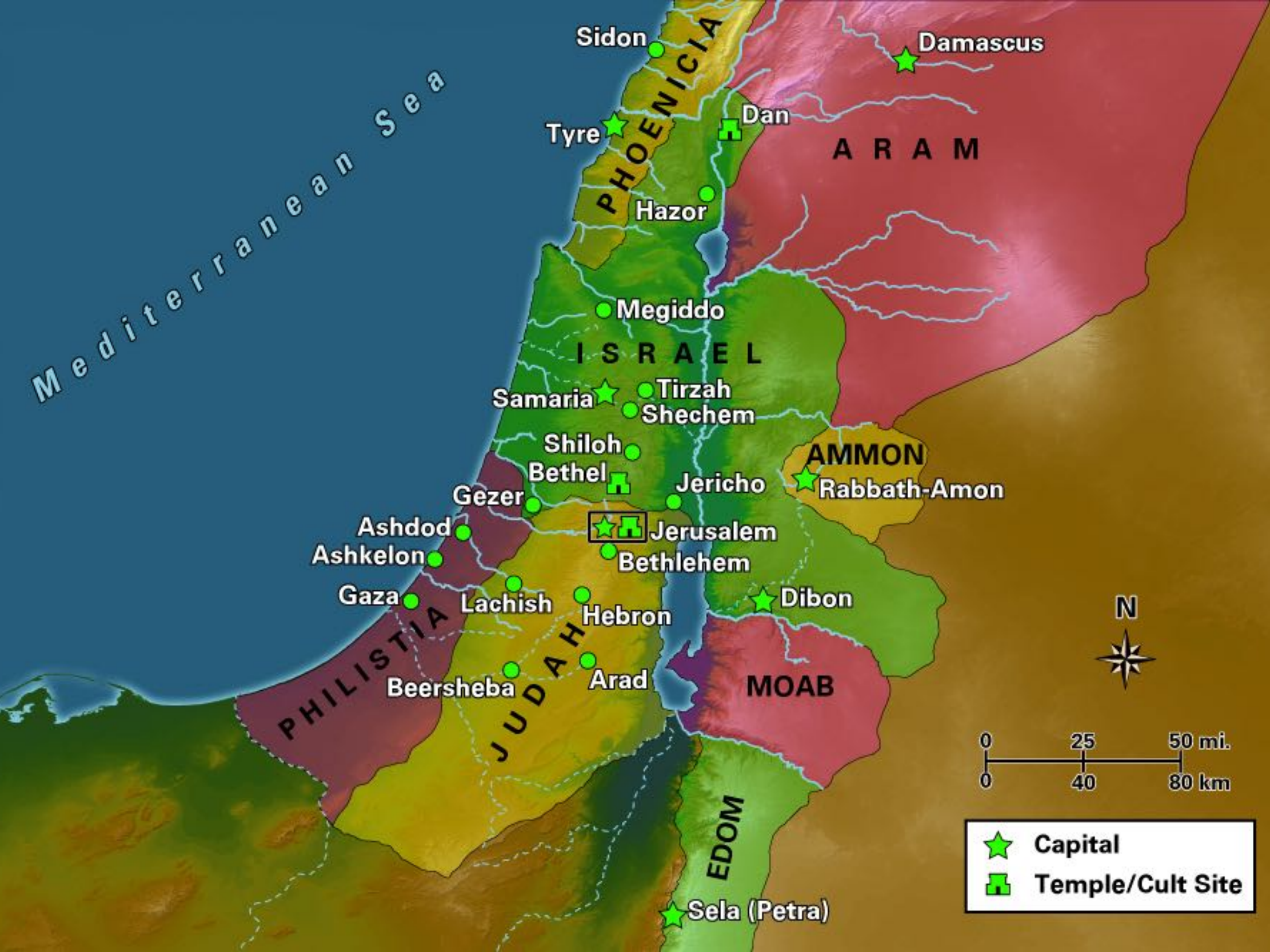
Isaiah

The Prophecy of Isaiah: Political Background

- Isaiah of Jerusalem ministered from the year King Uzziah died (740BC) through the reigns of Jotham (740-732), Ahaz (732-716), and Hezekiah (716-687).
- During this time, Israel and Judah were under threat from the Assyrian Empire.
- Rulers of Assyria: Tiglath-pileser III (744-727); Shalmaneser V (726-722); Sargon II (721-705); Sennacherib (704-681).

The Kingdom Divided

- The United Kingdom lasted during the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- Following Solomon's death in 926, tensions between the northern part of Israel containing the ten northern tribes, and the southern section dominated by Jerusalem and the southern tribes reached boiling point. When Solomon's successor Rehoboam dealt tactlessly with economic complaints of the northern tribes, in about 930 BCE (there are difference of opinion as to the actual year) the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah split into two kingdoms: the northern Kingdom of Israel, which contained Samaria, and the southern Kingdom of Judah, which contained Jerusalem.
- The Kingdom of Israel (or Northern Kingdom, or Samaria) existed as an independent state until 722 BCE when it was conquered by the Assyrian Empire, while the Kingdom of Judah (or Southern Kingdom) existed as an independent state until 586 BCE when it was conquered by the Babylonian Empire.



Mediterranean Sea

Sidon

Damascus

Tyre

Dan

ARAM

Hazor

PHOENICIA

Megiddo

ISRAEL

Samaria

Tirzah

Shechem

Shiloh

Bethel

Jericho

AMMON

Rabbath-Amon

Gezer

Jerusalem

Ashdod

Ashkelon

Bethlehem

Gaza

Lachish

Hebron

Dibon

Beersheba

Arad

MOAB

PHILISTIA

JUDAH

EDOM

Sela (Petra)



0 25 50 mi.
0 40 80 km

- ★ Capital
- Temple/Cult Site



*Mediterranean
Sea*

**KINGDOM OF
ISRAEL**

★ Samaria

Shechemo

○ Jaffa

○ Beit El

○ Jerash

○ Jericho

**KINGDOM OF
AMMON**

**ARAMEAN
TRIBES**

○ Rabbath-Ammon

○ Dibon

Ashdodo

Ashkelono

★ Jerusalem

○

Lachish

○ Hebron

○ Beersheba

**KINGDOM OF
JUDAH**

**KINGDOM OF
MOAB**

**PHILISTINE
STATES**

Gaza

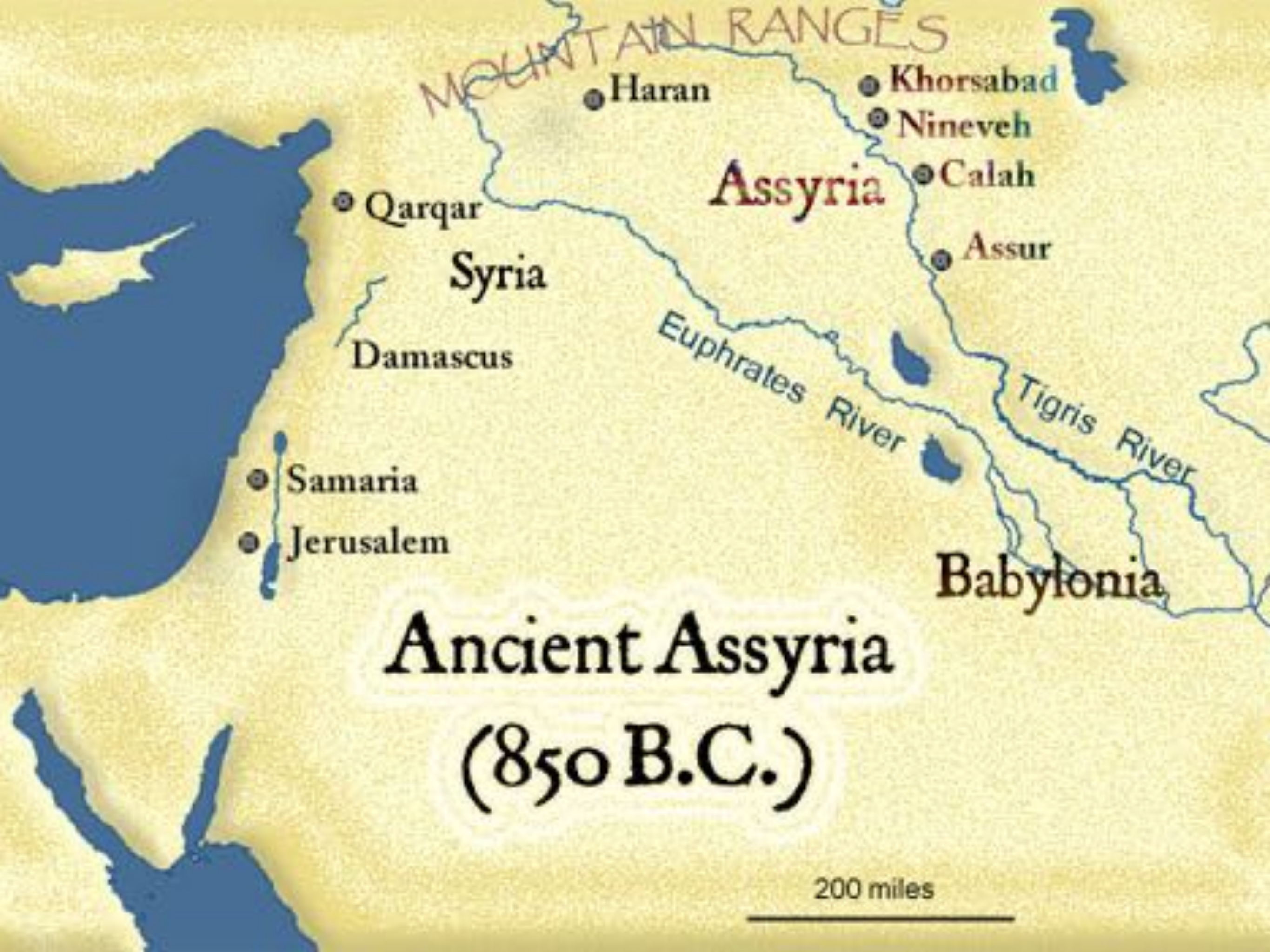
**ARABU
TRIBES**

NABATU TRIBES

The Assyrian Captivity: Ten Lost Tribes

- The Assyrian Captivity is the period in the history of Ancient Israel and Judah during which thousands of Israelites of ancient Samaria were resettled as captives by Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Neo-Assyrian monarchs, Tiglath-Pileser III and Shalmaneser V. The later Assyrian rulers Sargon II and his son and successor, Sennacherib, were responsible for finishing the twenty-year demise of Israel's northern ten-tribe kingdom, although they did not overtake the Southern Kingdom. Jerusalem was besieged, but not taken. The tribes forcibly resettled by Assyria later became known as the Ten Lost Tribes.





MOUNTAIN RANGES

Haran

Khorsabad

Nineveh

Calah

Assur

Qarqar

Syria

Damascus

Samaria

Jerusalem

Euphrates River

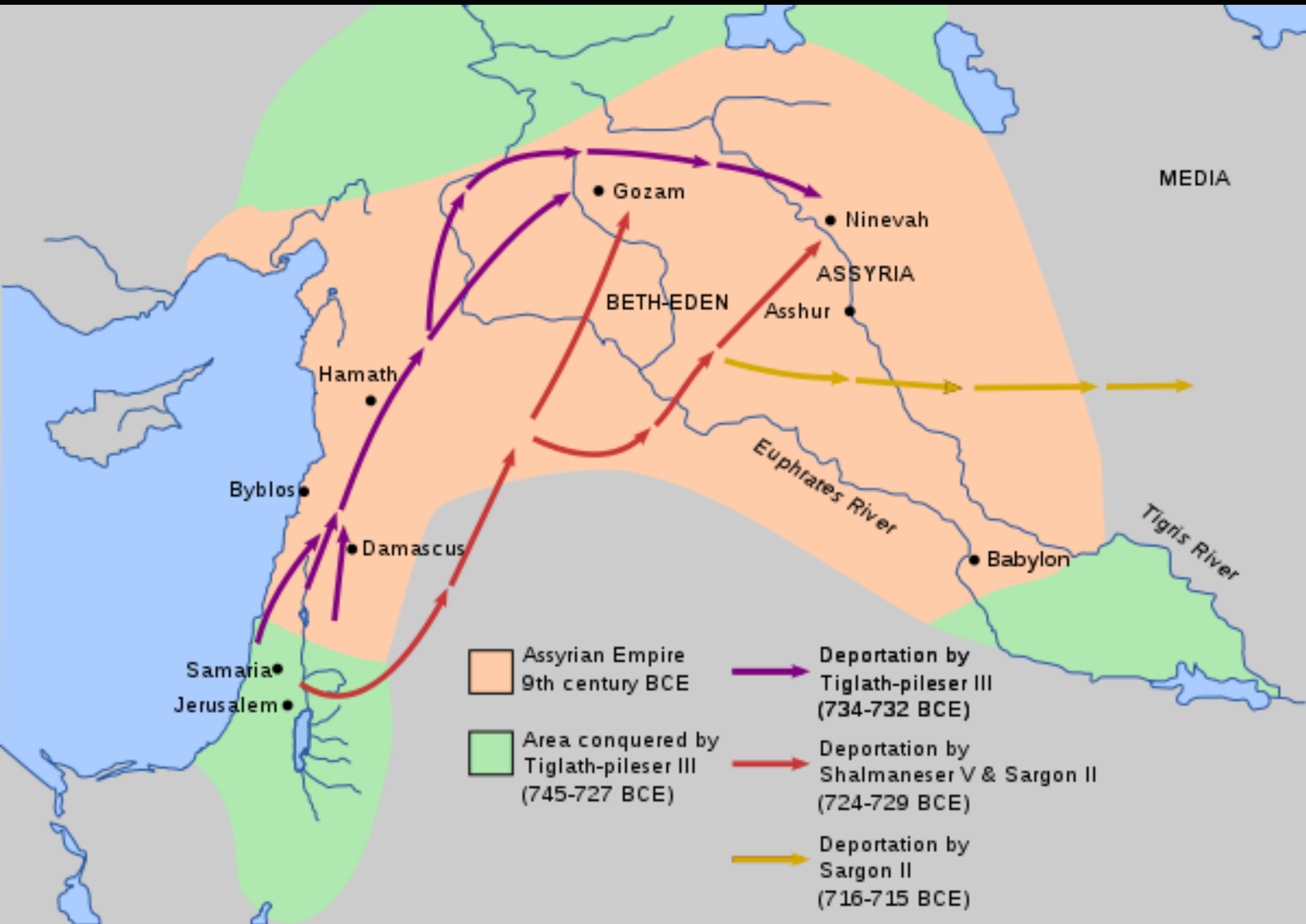
Tigris River

Babylonia

Ancient Assyria (850 B.C.)

200 miles





The Book of the Prophet Isaiah: Structure

- The scholarly consensus which held sway through most of the 20th century saw three separate collections of oracles in the book of Isaiah. A typical outline based on this understanding of the book sees its underlying structure in terms of the identification of historical figures who might have been their authors:
 - 1–39: Proto-Isaiah, containing the words of the original Isaiah;
 - 40–55: Deutero-Isaiah, the work of an anonymous Exilic author;
 - 56–66: Trito-Isaiah, an anthology of about twelve passages.
- While one part of the consensus still holds – virtually no contemporary scholar maintains that the entire book, or even most of it, was written by one person – this perception of Isaiah as made up of three rather distinct sections underwent a radical challenge in the last quarter of the 20th century.[18] The newer approach looks at the book in terms of its literary and formal characteristics, rather than authors, and sees in it a two-part structure divided between chapters 33 and 34:
 - 1–33: Warnings of judgment and promises of subsequent restoration for Jerusalem, Judah and the nations;
 - 34–66: Judgment has already taken place and restoration is at hand.

Proto-Deutero-Trito-Isaiah

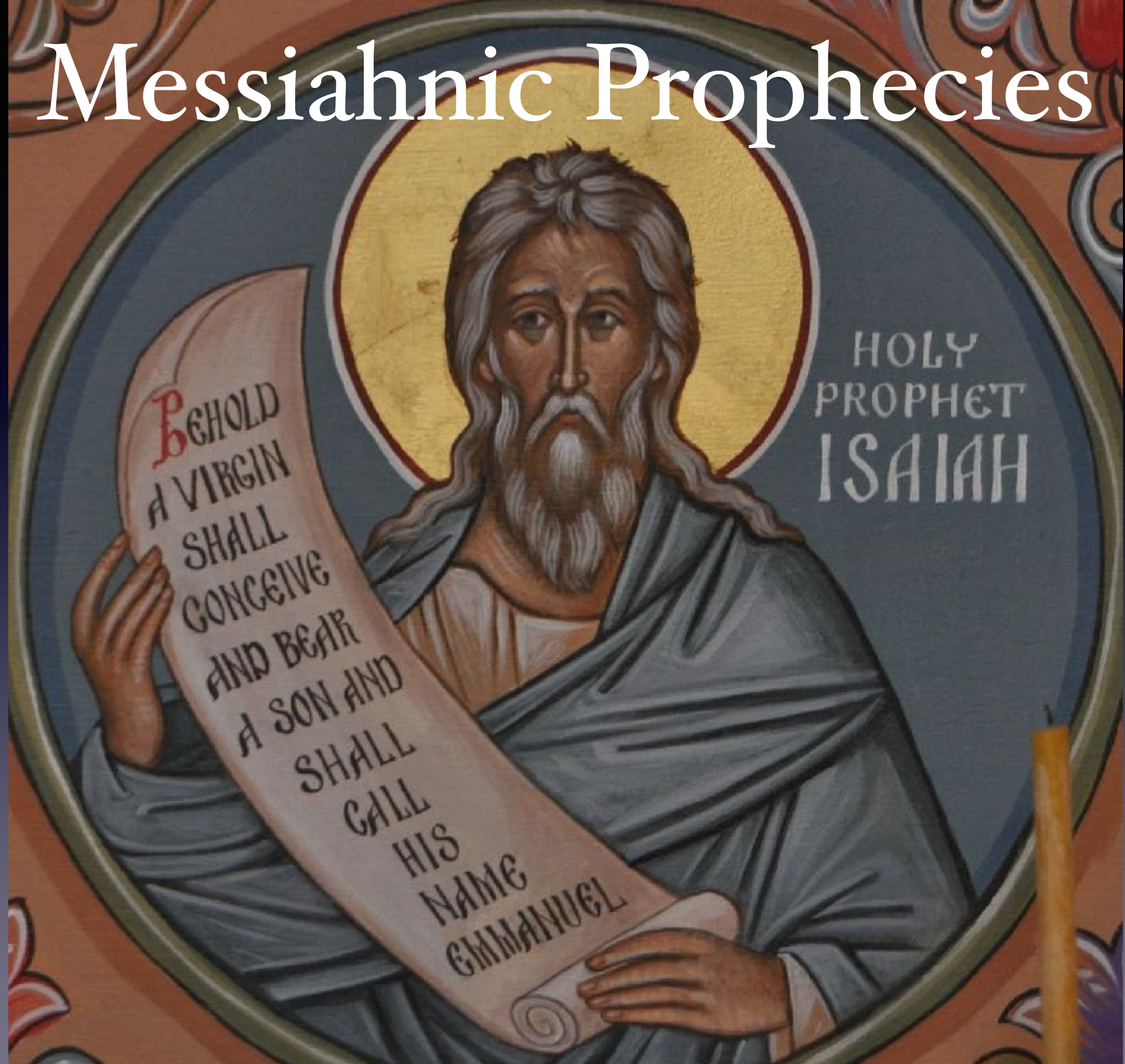
- Chapters 1–39 come from the historic Isaiah ben Amoz, who lived in the Kingdom of Judah during the reigns of four kings from the mid to late 8th century BCE. During this period, Assyria was expanding westward from its origins in modern-day northern Iraq towards the Mediterranean, destroying first Aram (modern Syria) in 734–732 BCE, then the Kingdom of Israel in 722–721, and finally subjugating Judah in 701.
- The conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon and the exile of its elite in 586 BCE ushered in the next stage in the formation of the book. Deutero-Isaiah addresses himself to the Jews in exile, offering them the hope of return. Deutero-Isaiah's predictions of the imminent fall of Babylon and his glorification of Cyrus as the deliverer of Israel date his prophecies to 550–539 BCE, and probably towards the end of this period.
- The Persians ended the Jewish exile, and by 515 BCE the exiles had returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the Temple. The return, however, was not without problems: the returnees found themselves in conflict with those who had remained in the country and who now owned the land, and there were further conflicts over the form of government that should be set up. This background forms the context of Trito-Isaiah.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah: Structure

ISAIAH AT A GLANCE								
Focus	Prophecies Of Condemnation				Historical Parenthesis	Prophecies Of Comfort		
Reference	1:1— 13:1 ——— 24:1 ——— 28:1 ——— 36:1 ——— 40:1 ——— 49:1 ——— 58:1 — 66:24							
Division	Prophecies Against		Prophecies Of		Hezekiah's Salvation, Sickness, And Sin	Israel's Deliverance	Israel's Deliverer	Israel's Glorious Future
	Judah	The Nations	Day Of Lord	Judgment & Blessing				
Topic	Prophetic				Historic	Messianic		
	Judgment				Transition	Hope		
Location	Israel And Judah							
Time	c. 740–680 B.C.							

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Messiahnic Prophecies



Messianic Prophecy in the Book of Isaiah

Passage From Isaiah	Characteristic of the Messiah	Fulfillment
7:14	He will be born of a virgin	Mt. 1:23
11:1; 10	He will be of the Davidic line	Mt. 1:1
28:16	He is the cornerstone of the foundation	Ro. 9:32-3; 10:11
42:1	He will have the Lord's Spirit upon Him and the Lord will uphold Him	Mt. 3:15-7
49:7; 53:1-3	He will be rejected by Israel and the nations	John 12:37
42:6; 49:6	He will extend salvation to the end of the earth and be a light to the gentiles	Mt. 28:18-20 Acts 1:7-8
50:4-5	He will be obedient to the Lord	Mt. 26:39
50:6	He will give His back to be struck, His beard to be plucked, and His face to be spit upon	Mt. 27:26, 30
52:14	He will be disfigured by torture and cruelty	Mt. 27:27-30
53:1-3	He will be despised and rejected by men	Mark 15:29-32
53:4-6	He will be stricken and afflicted for our sins	Mark 15:25
53:5-6	He will be a sin offering	Ro. 4:25
53:7	He did not speak to defend Himself	Mt. 27:13-14
53:9	He will be given a grave with the rich	Mt. 27:56-60

Twelve Tribes of Israel

- Tribe of Reuben
- Tribe of Simeon
- Tribe of Levi
- Tribe of Judah
- Tribe of Issachar
- Tribe of Zebulun
- Tribe of Dan
- Tribe of Naphtali
- Tribe of Gad
- Tribe of Asher
- Tribe of Joseph
- Tribe of Benjamin

The Rise and Fall of Empires: Assyria

The Assyrian Empire was a powerful ancient Mesopotamian empire, known for its military dominance and vast territorial expansion during the Neo-Assyrian period (911–609 BCE). It expanded through a series of conquests to become one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Egypt in the west to parts of modern-day Iran in the east. Its legacy includes advanced military tactics, impressive architecture, and administrative systems, but it ultimately fell to a coalition of Babylonians and Medes.

Kings of Assyria

- **Tiglath-Pileser III (reigned 745–727 BC):** He began the conquest by capturing many of the northern kingdom of Israel's cities and deporting many of its inhabitants.

Shalmaneser V (reigned 726–721 BC): He initiated the final siege of the capital city, Samaria, which lasted for three years.

Sargon II (reigned 721–705 BC): He completed the conquest of Samaria, which led to the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Sennacherib (reigned 705–681 BC): After the fall of Israel, he focused his attention on the southern kingdom of Judah, capturing many of its fortified cities



- Assyrian Empire – 824 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire – 671 B.C.

The Rise and Fall of Empires: Babylon

The Babylonian Empire reached its greatest extent under two different rulers: Hammurabi in the Old Babylonian period and Nebuchadnezzar II in the Neo-Babylonian period. Hammurabi's empire stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Zagros Mountains, while Nebuchadnezzar II expanded it to its furthest western reach, from the Persian Gulf to the borders of modern-day Egypt.

The Greatest Extent of the Babylonian Empire



theharvetsatearthsend.com

Black Sea

Caspian
Sea

• Troy

Assyria

Media

Mediterranean Sea

• BABYLON

• Jersusalem

• Memphis

Persia

Arabian Desert

Persian
Gulf

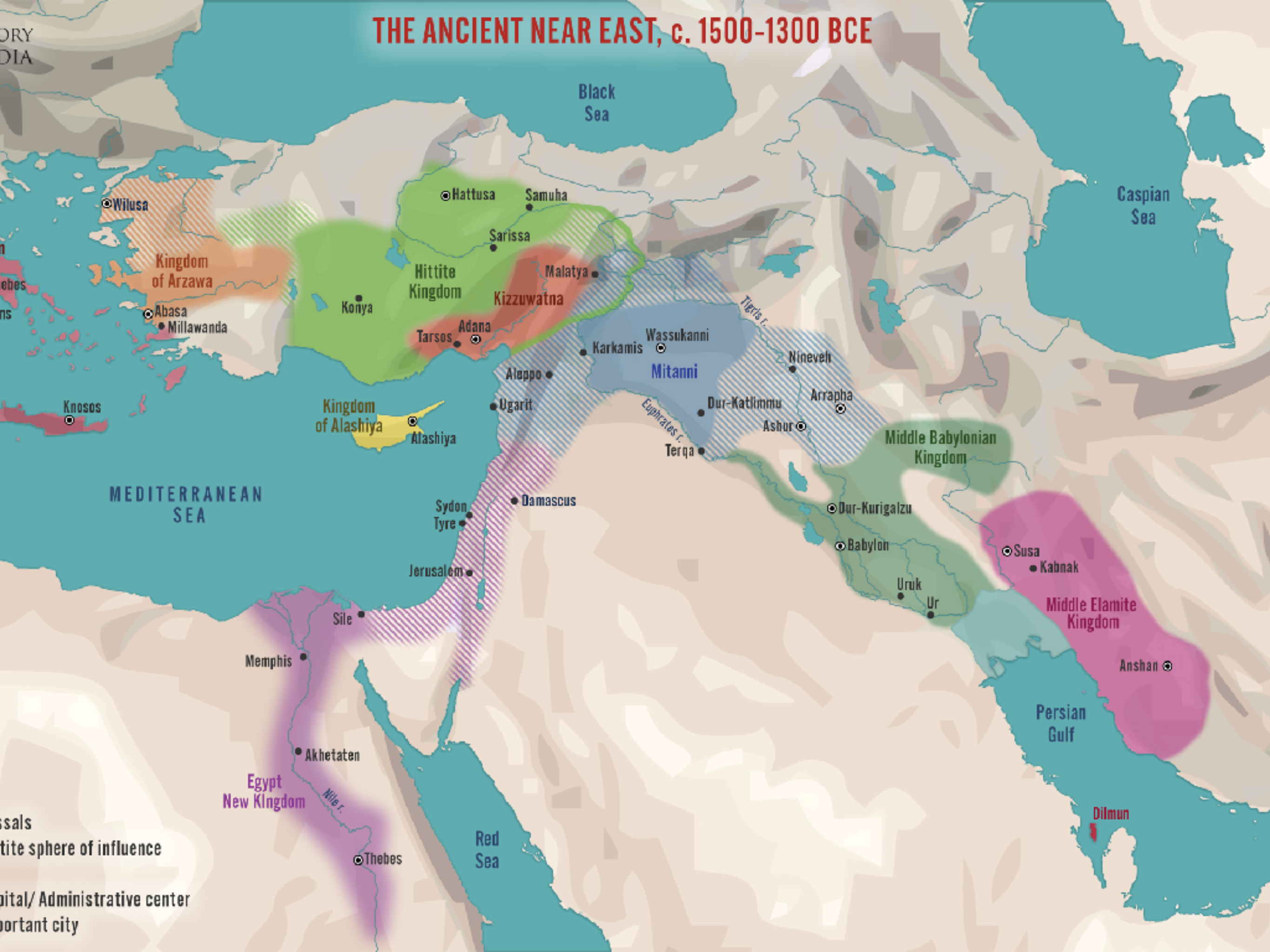
Red
Sea

The Rise and Fall of Empires: Persia

The Persian Empire refers to a series of dynasties in modern-day Iran that spanned from the 6th century BCE to the 20th century CE. The first and largest of these was the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great around 550 BCE. It became one of history's largest empires, stretching from the Balkans to the Indus Valley and known for its centralized administration, infrastructure like the Royal Road, and relative cultural tolerance



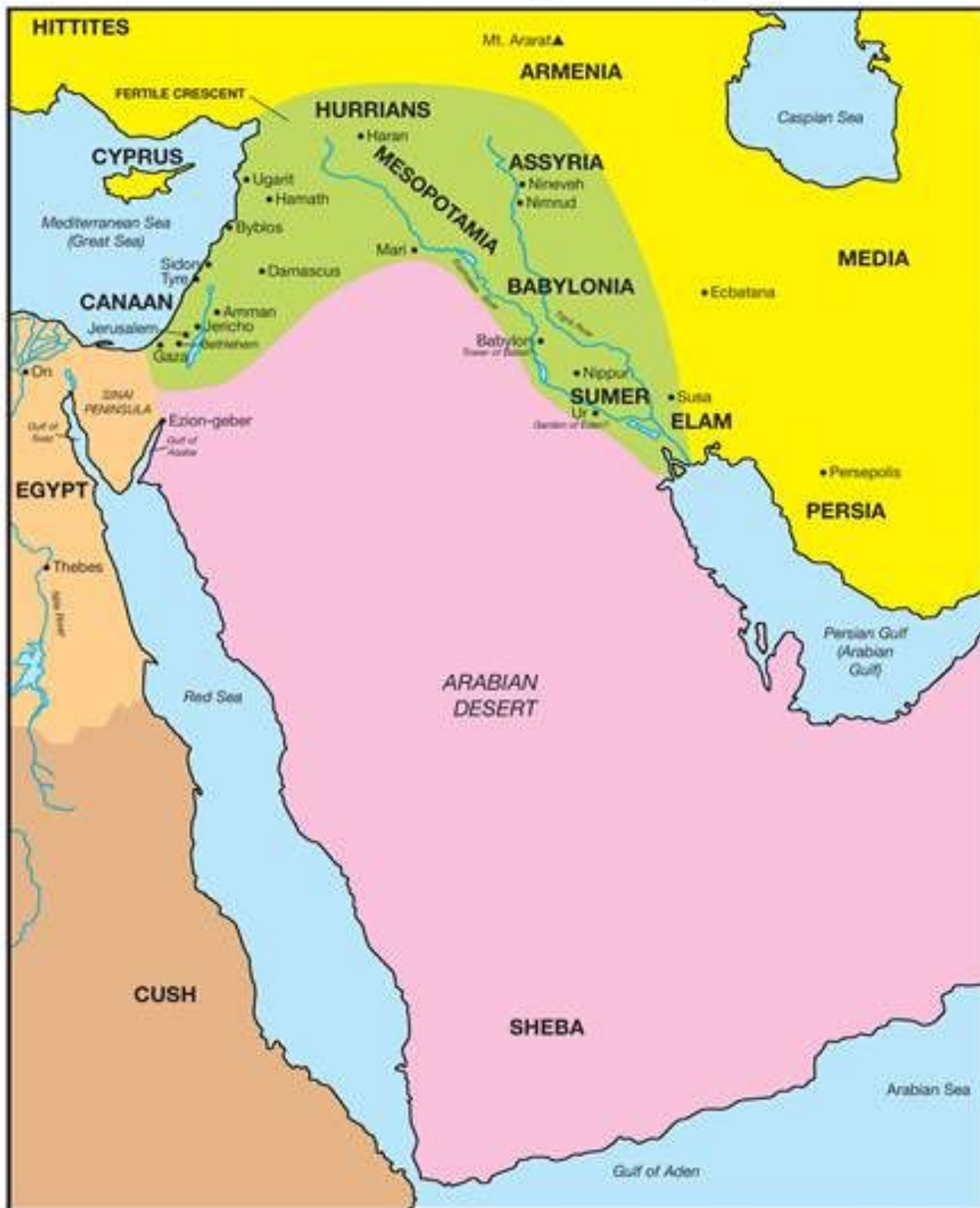
THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, c. 1500-1300 BCE



The Middle East

Then (B.C.)

Now



Ancient Correspondence Discovered

The Messianic Hope

- The Book of Isaiah is built around three Messianic Portraits:
- The King (chapters 1-37)
- The Servant (chapters 38-55)
- The Anointed Conquerer (56-66)

The Messianic Hope

- Several key features are common to each portrait
- The Messiah is endowed with Spirit and Word.
- The Concept of Righteousness
- Son of David
- Embrace of both Israel and the Gentile world
- Messianic Enigma: Both Man and God

The Messianic Hope: The King

- Chapters 1-5: Deterioration of Jerusalem (1: 21-23), Inevitable Punishment: (1: 24-25); restoration (1: 26).
- Chapters 6-12: two images: corrupt King Uzziah Dies (6:1); HOLY ONE of Israel (6: 5); Holy King as Holy God; (7: 14; 9: 6-7; 11: 1-10); Visions of the King who will come (9: 1-7; 11: 1-10); and the worldwide dominion: (9: 7; 11: 10).

The Messianic Hope: The King

- Chapters 13-27: People of God surrounded by the Gentiles. Dynasty of David will come (14: 29); Ideal of Zion achieved (14: 32). Zion delivers the needy (15: 1-16: 14), and welcome the nations (24: 23); the Messianic Banquet (25: 6-9); worship on the Holy Mountain: 27: 13)
- Chapters 28-35: Denunciations and Visions: a King will reign (31:1); admiration of the people (33: 17). the True Zion with Lord as King (33: 20-22).

The Messianic Hope: The King

- Chapters 36-37: Historical Appendix: An example of the Lord's Dominion over Egypt and Assyria

Kingship in Israel: Covenant

Five major covenants

Adamic/Edenic Covenant: The initial covenant in Eden, broken by Adam and Eve's disobedience.



Kingship in Israel: Covenant

Five major covenants

Noahic Covenant: God's promise to Noah to never again destroy the earth with a flood.



Kingship in Israel: Covenant

Five major covenants

Abrahamic Covenant: A promise to Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation.



Kingship in Israel: Covenant

Five major covenants

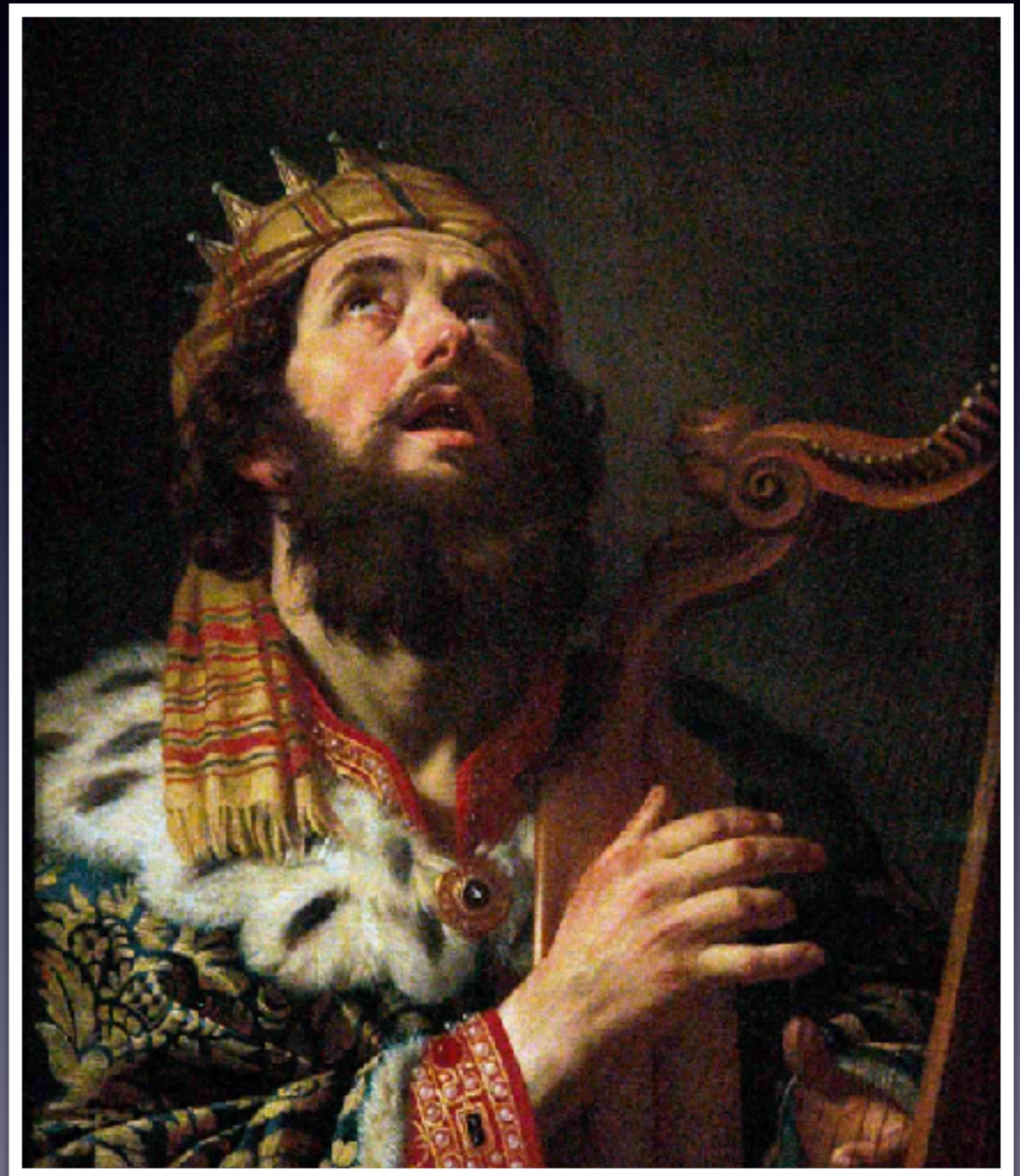
Mosaic Covenant: The law given to the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.



Kingship in Israel: Covenant

Five major covenants

Davidic Covenant: God's promise that a descendant of David would rule on the throne forever.



Kingship in Israel

The Davidic Covenant: A perpetual promise from God to David that his descendants would rule on an eternal throne and that his dynasty would never end. (2 Samuel 7)

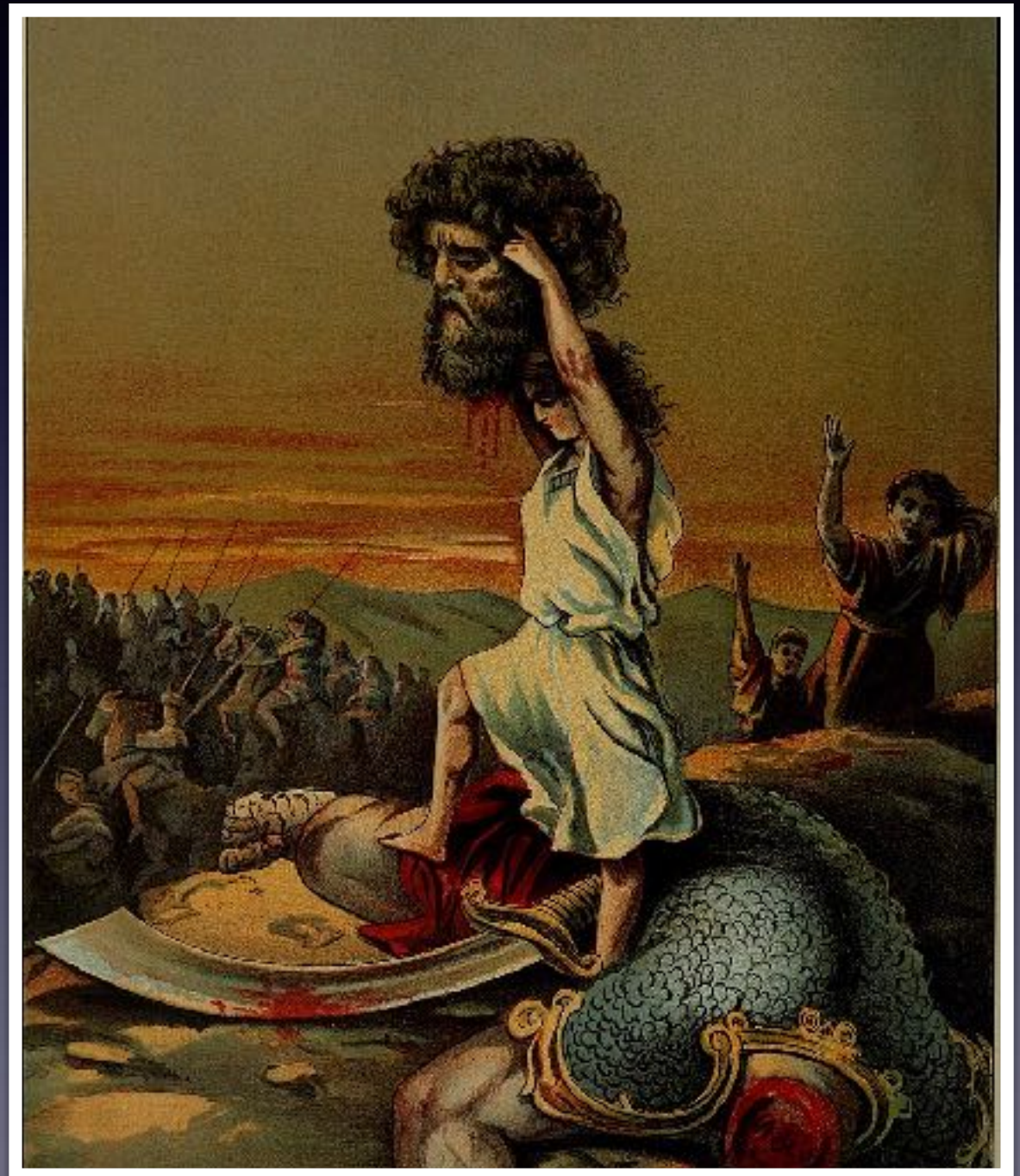
The king was considered to be ruling on "the throne of the Lord" and was expected to act as God's representative on Earth, reflecting God's righteous and just rule while leading the people in faithfulness to the Mosaic law.



Kingship in Israel

Succession and the line of David:
After King Solomon, Son of David,
the kingdom was divided, but the
Davidic line continued in the
southern kingdom of Judah.

The Babylonian conquest of
Jerusalem threatened the Davidic
line, but its continuation is shown
through Jehoiachin, who was taken
to Babylon and treated favorably.



Kingship in Israel: David

David was anointed king three times in his life: first as a youth by the prophet Samuel, and later twice publicly after King Saul's death, first over the tribe of Judah and then over all of Israel. His first anointing by Samuel was a private event in Bethlehem, signifying that God had chosen him, while the later anointings marked his actual accession to the throne.



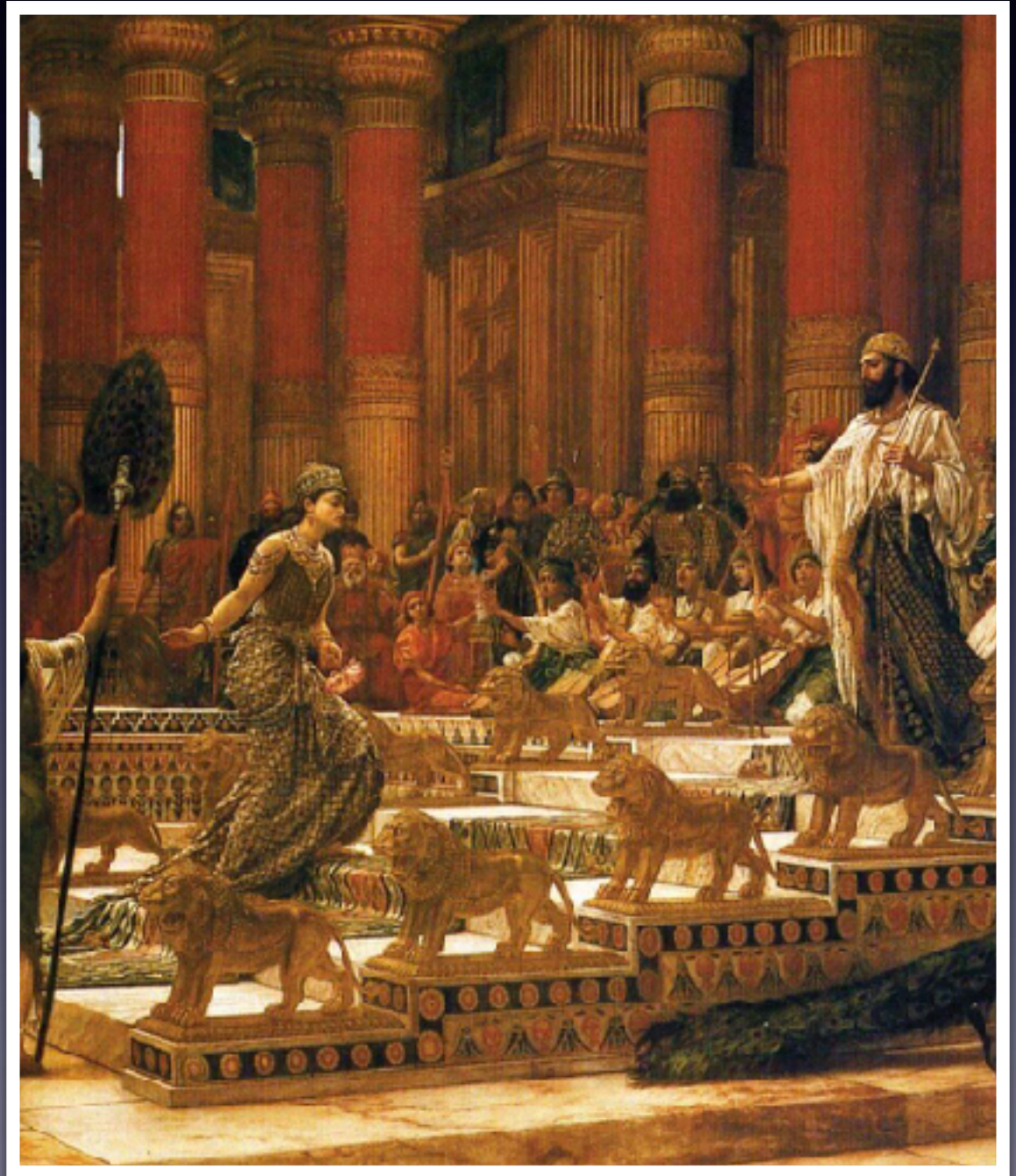
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Kingship in Israel: Solomon

- Solomon is the son of David with Basheba, the wife of Uriah.
- Solomon is the last King to rule over the united Kingdom.
- His sons, Jeroboam and Rehoboam rule after him over Israel and Judah.



Kingship in Israel: Solomon

- The Hebrew name for Solomon, “Shlomo,” means “peace.” In contrast to King David’s reign, which was marked by ongoing conflict, Solomon’s kingship was characterized by peace, and widespread prosperity.
- Solomon completed the First Temple. Construction took 7 years and was completed in 2935 (827 BC).



Kingship in Israel: Solomon

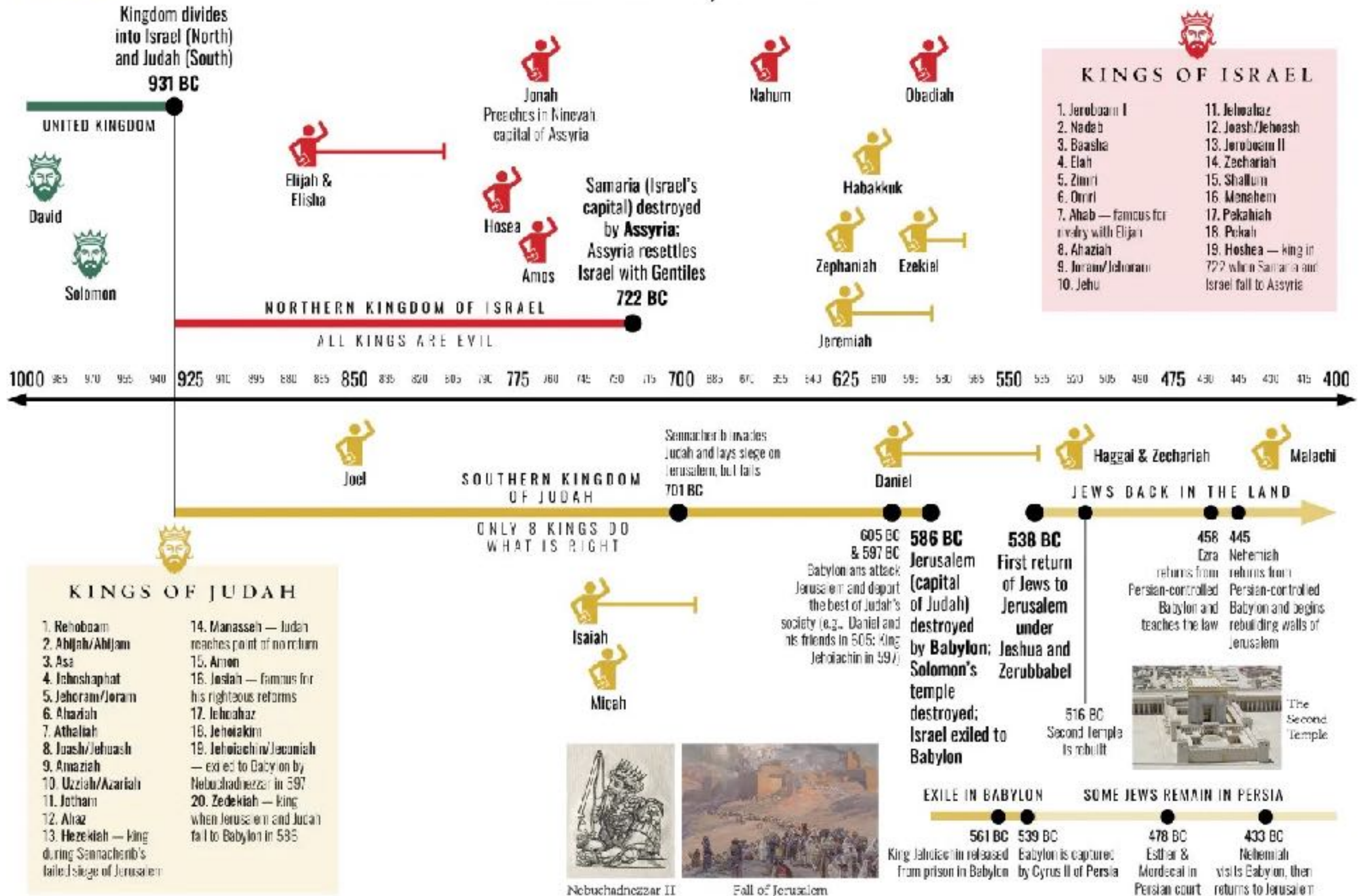
Scripture records the first case adjudicated by King Solomon, involving two mothers who had each recently given birth. When one of the infants died in his sleep, each mother claimed that the deceased child belonged to the other mother. Hearing the story, Solomon ruled that the baby who was still alive should be cut in half, and each mother would receive a piece. One of the mothers begged that the child be given to the other woman rather than be killed. Solomon immediately awarded the child to that woman, as she was undoubtedly the true mother.



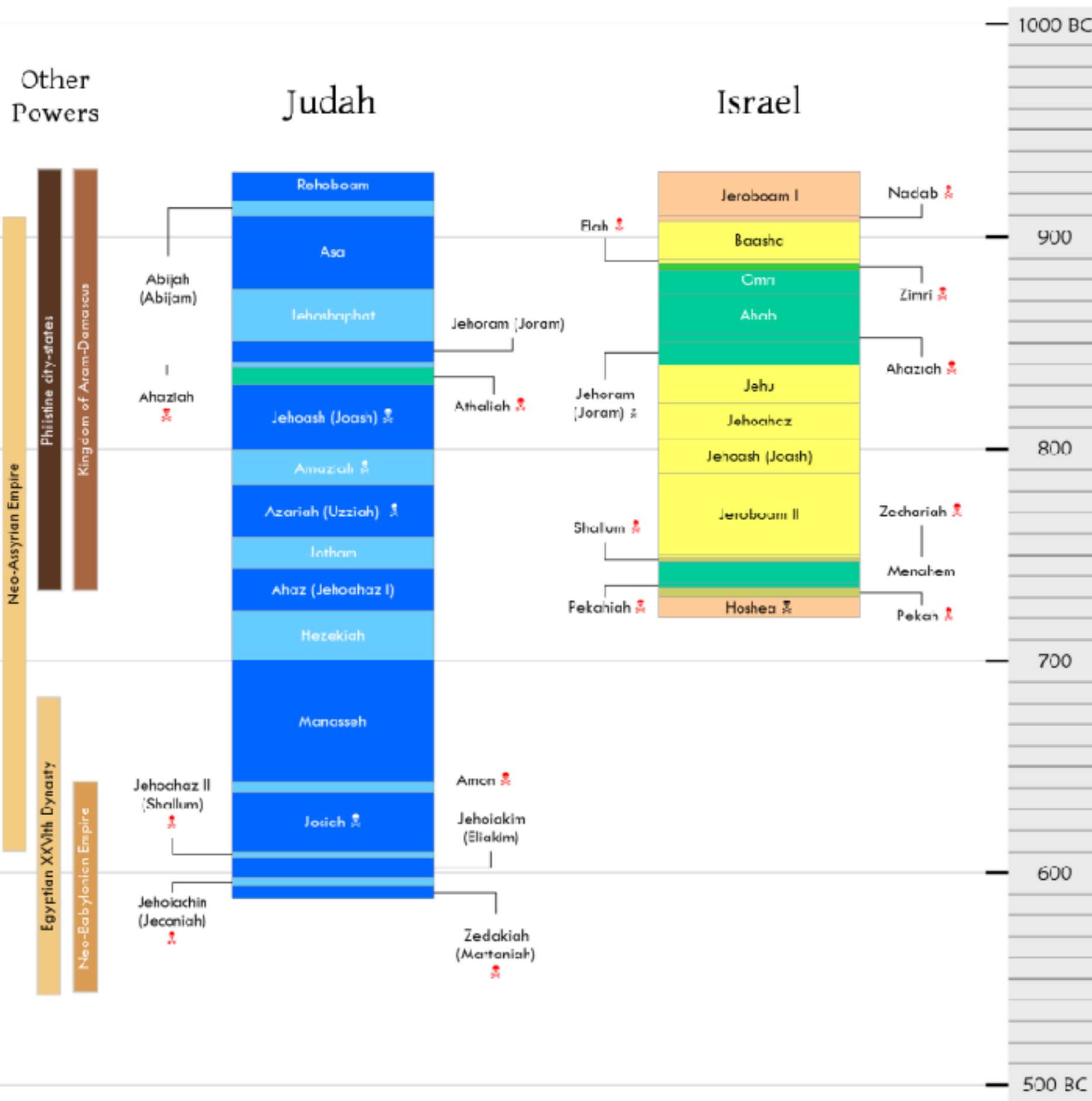
TIMELINE OF ISRAEL & JUDAH

1000 BC – 400 BC

 United Kingdom of Israel
 Northern Kingdom of Israel
 Southern Kingdom of Judah



The Kings of Judah and Israel



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The Messianic Hope: The Servant

- 42: 1-4: The Servant's Task: Endowed with Spirit and Word
- 49: 1-6: The Servant's Task: Endowed with Word
- 50: 4-9: The Servant's Commitment: Endowed with Word
- 52: 13- 53: 12: The Completion of the Servant's Task. He experiences Suffering.