



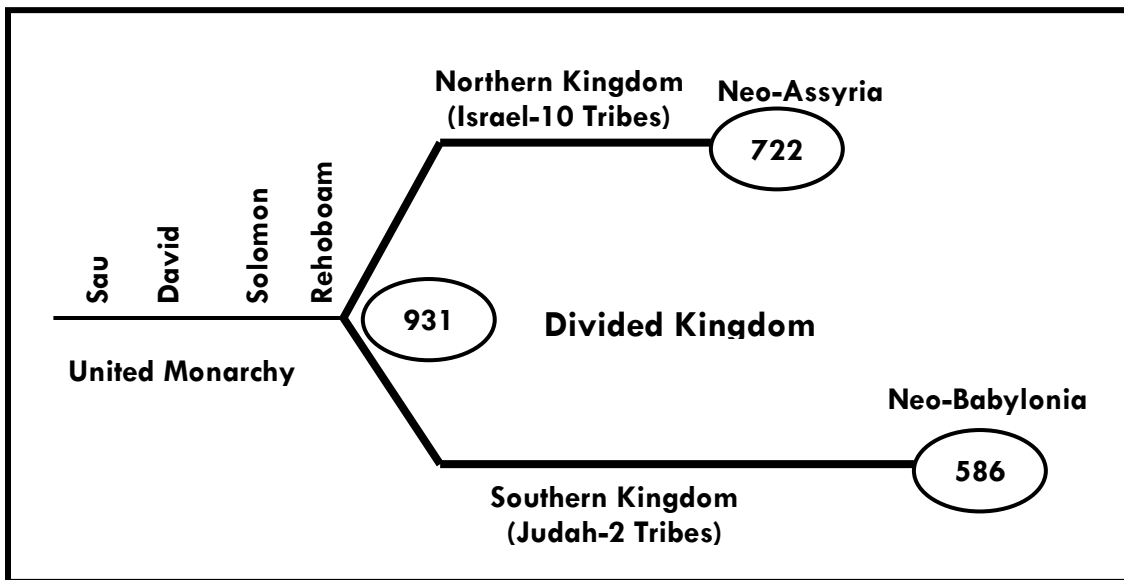
UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Seeing the Big Picture

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PART 9: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM PERIOD



QUICK LOOK AT THE PERIOD

- Israel began to fall from its “golden age” because of Solomon’s disobedience
- In 931 B.C. Israel split into two kingdoms because of heavy taxation and forced labor
- The northern kingdom became known as the Kingdom of Israel
- The southern kingdom became known as the Kingdom of Judah
- In 722 B.C. the northern kingdom was conquered by the Neo-Assyrians
- In 586 B.C. the southern kingdom was conquered by the Neo-Babylonians

FOUR REASONS FOR ISRAEL’S DECLINE

- Solomon’s oppression of Israel (1 Kings 5:13-14; 9:15-23)
- Solomon’s heart was turned away from Yahweh (1 Kings 11:1-6)
- Rehoboam’s rejection of sound advice (1 Kings 12:6-8)
- Rehoboam’s decision to increase Israel’s oppression (1 Kings 12:13-14)

ISRAEL DIVIDES INTO TWO KINGDOMS

Northern Kingdom (Israel)	Southern Kingdom (Judah)
10 tribes	2 tribes
Twenty kings	Nineteen kings, one queen
All were evil	Eight were good, eleven were evil
Lasted 240 years	Lasted 395 years
Kingdom fell in 722 BC—captured by Neo-Assyrians	Kingdom fell in 586 BC—captured by Neo-Babylonians.

NEO-ASSYRIA CONQUERS THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

- The Kingdom of Israel sinned against God and worshipped other pagan gods (1 Kings 12:25-33; 2 Kings 17:7-17)
- God sent Elijah and Elisha to warn them of God's pending punishment (1 Kings 17:1—19:21; 2 Kings 2:1-13:20)
- In 722 B.C., after a series of three raids, the Assyrians captured the Kingdom of Israel and carried them off to Assyria

NEO-BABYLONIA CONQUERS THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM

- 605 B.C. Daniel and elite people are taken away to Babylon
- 598 B.C. King Zedekiah & Ezekiel taken away to Babylon
- 586 B.C. Jerusalem and Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar
- 582 B.C. Many remaining Jews are taken to Babylon

WHY GOD ALLOWED THE JEWS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE PROMISED LAND

- They abandoned God and worshipped idols
- They adopted the customs and religions of their heathen nations
- They practiced the Baal fertility cult
- They worshipped Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites
- They refused to pay tribute to Nebuchadnezzar
- They violated the law of the Sabbatical Year

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