

# Before judgment, God sends warning. WHY? His desire is always to restore the relationship.

The prophet is sent with a **direct message from God** during a time of **moral decline** and great **spiritual need** to address **specific situations**.

*“Surely God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7*

## CALLING ISRAEL BACK:

In Israel, the people had been led into error by their political and religious leaders. First Jeroboam and then Ahab and Jezebel led their whole nation away from the one, true God into a false worship system.

- *“Maybe if the people just SEE the truth of who the TRUE GOD is, they will return.”*

God sends **Elijah-Elisha** with powerful signs and miracles, but the people don't turn back.

- *“Maybe if I tell them how this is breaking My heart, they will return.”*

God sends **Hosea**, whose marriage parallels God's relationship with Israel, but the people don't turn back.

- *“Maybe if they see ‘Other Nations’ repent, they will return.”*

God sends **Jonah** to Assyria with one simple message: “Judgment is coming in 40 days.” He didn't even tell them to repent, but when they heard the word, they believed, repented, and cried for mercy—but Israel doesn't turn back to God.

- *“Maybe if an outsider tells them plainly what is about to happen, they will return.”*

God sends **Amos**, from a poor town in Judah, to the capital city of Samaria, to address the wealthy leaders, but the leaders don't turn back.

**II Kings 17:13-18** *Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.”...So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.*

## CALLING JUDAH BACK:

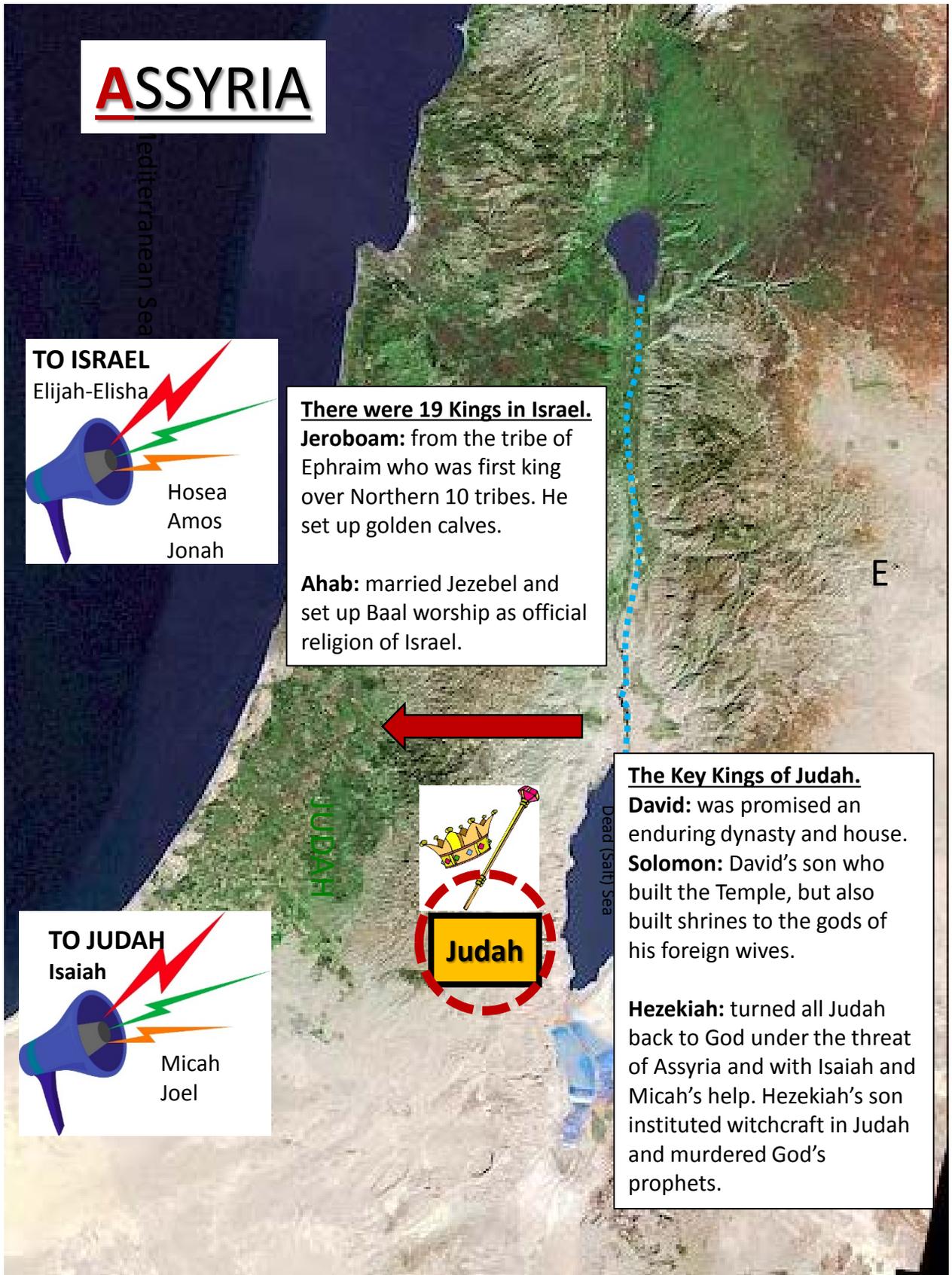
In Judah, King Hezekiah listens to the warnings of the prophet **Isaiah** and humbles himself before God. He institutes religious reforms, celebrates the Passover, and opens the border for any from Israel who want to move to Judah and worship the true God of Israel. Judah is ransacked, but Jerusalem stands.

After Hezekiah dies, his son plunges Judah into 55 years of pagan worship: including the use of witchcraft, child sacrifice, and filling Jerusalem with bloodshed of righteous people who oppose him. The priests are promising the people that the Temple gives them invincibility to enemy attacks and that God will NEVER give up Jerusalem to enemy armies. It promotes a false security.

God sends **Jeremiah** to warn that the Temple and Jerusalem will be destroyed by Babylon if they do not repent. King Josiah humbles himself when he hears a copy of God's law and realizes that God's judgment is coming. After he dies, his sons become vassals of King Nebuchadnezzar, who systematically begins to remove Judah from the land. **Daniel** is taken in the elite group to be trained in the capital of Babylon. **Ezekiel** is taken with the majority of exiles in the second deportation. Finally, Nebuchadnezzar returns in **586 B.C.** and demolishes the Temple to the ground, burns the homes of the wealthy, and reduces the walls of Jerusalem to a pile of rubble.

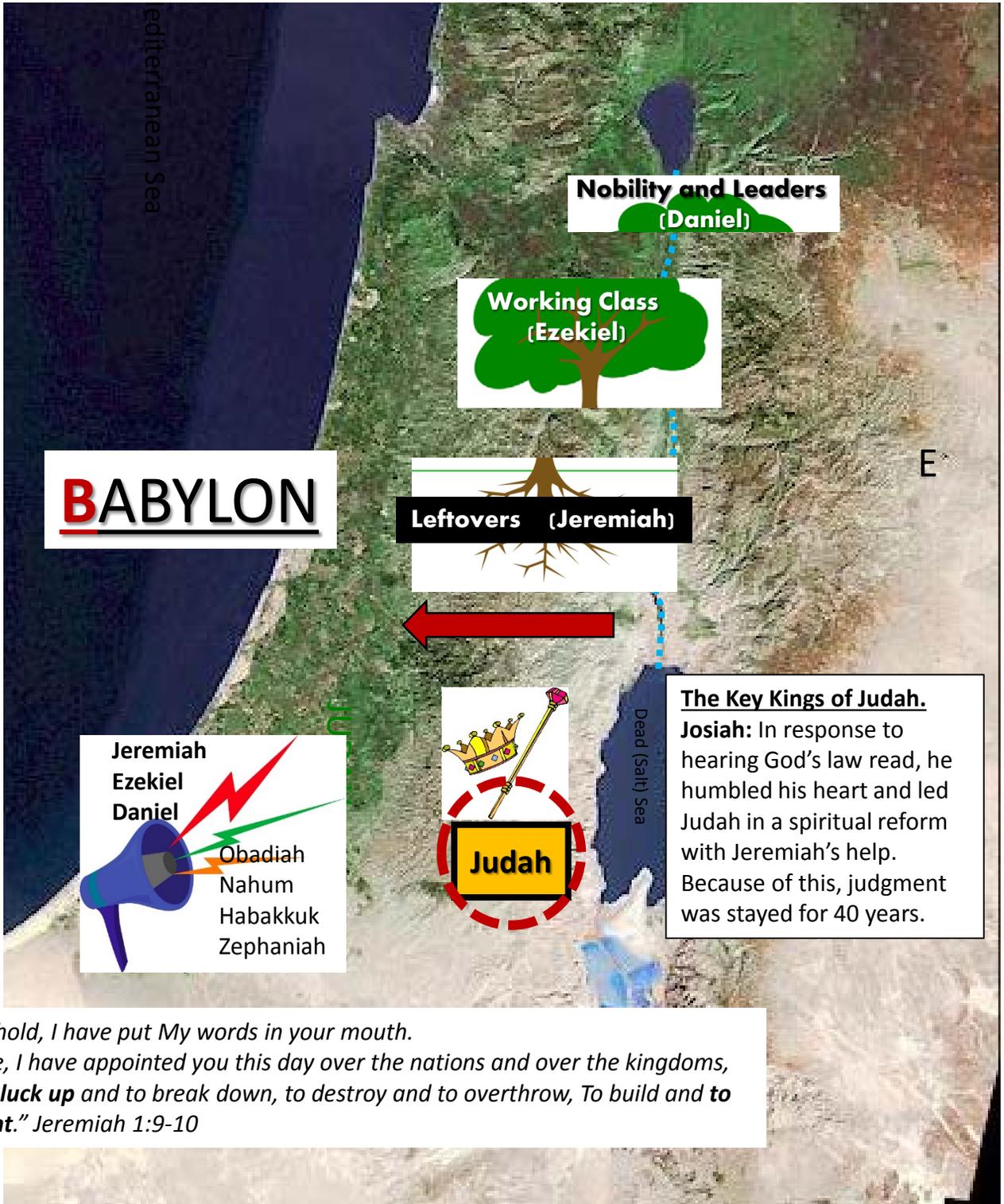
## Key Events:

- In **722 B.C.**, the nation of Israel was taken to various cities in the Assyrian Empire and foreigners were relocated into the land.



## Key Events:

- In **605, 597, and 586 B.C.**, the Babylonian Empire attacked Judah three times, taking first the young nobility, then the majority of the working class, and finally removing the remaining people. They destroyed Solomon's Temple, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, and burned the city.



*"Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*

*"See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, To **pluck up** and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:9-10*

## Key Events:

- God initiates the times of the Gentiles—beginning with Babylonian rule, David’s kingly line will be under the rule of Gentile kings. In **536 B.C.** Cyrus, the king of Persia, allows the exiles to return to their land, even providing the money to rebuild the Temple.
- Ezra 1:5, 2:1

# CYRUS of Persia

The holy seed is its stump. Isaiah 6:13  
Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,  
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. Isaiah 11:1

To the 10% who  
return to the land to  
rebuild--



Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



### The Key Leaders in Judah.

**Zerubbabel:** a descendant of David with no throne and no kingdom, who leads the first return of people back to the land.

**Joshua:** the high priest

**Ezra:** A priest and scribe led the second return of exiles and taught God’s law.

**Nehemiah:** rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

## **Israel (The Northern Kingdom) is destroyed by Assyria**

**By the end of the Assyrian invasion,  
what do we have?**

- Saul, the first anointed king, is from Benjamin and unites the tribes, preparing them to be ruled by Judah.
- David, from Bethlehem in Judah, makes Jerusalem the capital, puts the Levites back to work praising God, and is promised an enduring Kingdom.
- Solomon builds the Temple, and God promises to put His Name there forever. But Solomon marries many women from the Other Nations and they turn his heart away to their false gods.
- Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim, leads 10 tribes to a false worship of God.

### **TWO RESPONSES**

**From a rebellious heart toward God—**

“I know I’m not listening to God’s warnings, but nothing has happened yet. I’m going to keep going the way I want.”

**From a longing heart toward God—**

“If I know I’m on a dangerous path away from God, I will listen when I am warned and will turn around.”

## **Judah (The Southern Kingdom) is exiled by Babylon and a Remnant Returns**

**By the end of the Restoration, what do we have?**

- Hezekiah leads Judah in a spiritual reform that spares Jerusalem from Assyrian destruction.
- Kings and Priests give the people false hope in their heritage, in their city, in the Temple, and in their religious practices.
- Nebuchadnezzar systematically removes Judah from the land, but God has His prophet with each group—speaking to the needs of His people.
- God strengthens those who return and rebuild in preparation for His Messiah.

### **TWO RESPONSES**

**From a rebellious heart toward God—**

“Everyone knows that God is loving and will protect His people from harm no matter how they live.”

**From a longing heart toward God—**

“Even if God’s people go through costly and painful discipline, God’s mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great. He is still accomplishing His redemptive plan.”

# Kings and Prophets A

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Who was the first king of the whole nation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Who was the second king of the whole nation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Who the third king of the whole nation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What tribe was David from?
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What name were the ten northern tribes called?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Who was their first king?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What name was the southern kingdom called?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Which prophet showed Israel God's power?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which poor prophet from Judah went to the wealthy capital of Israel to warn them of their danger?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which of the Other Nations destroyed Israel?

- A. Amos
- B. Assyria
- C. David
- D. Israel
- E. Jeroboam
- F. Judah
- G. Saul
- H. Solomon
- I. Elijah

# Kings and Prophets B

During which era of history did the following kings and prophets live?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Hezekiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Josiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Zerubbabel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ezra
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nehemiah
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Isaiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Jeremiah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Ezekiel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Daniel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Zechariah

- A. Assyrian
- B. Babylonian
- C. Cyrus of Persia