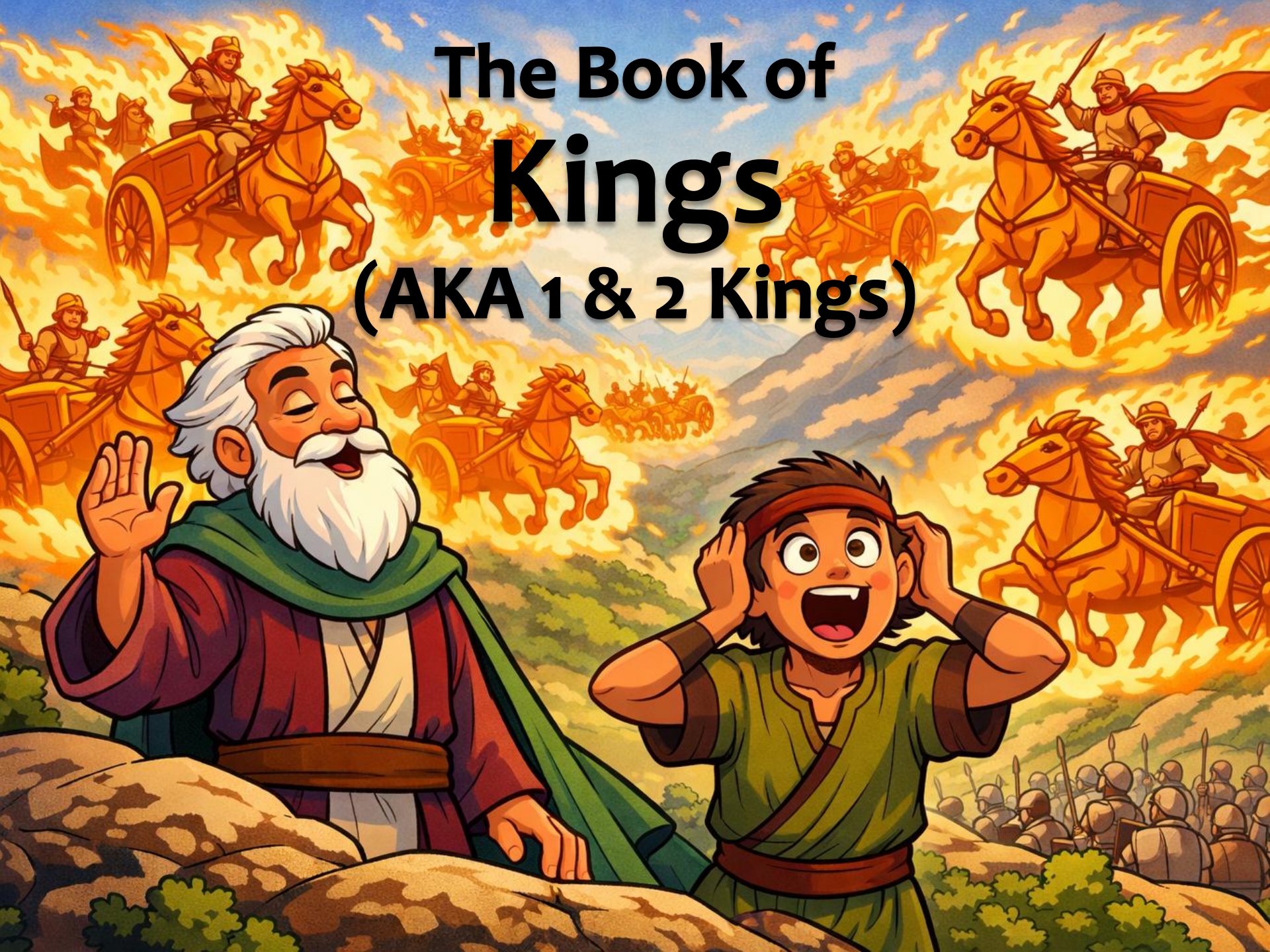
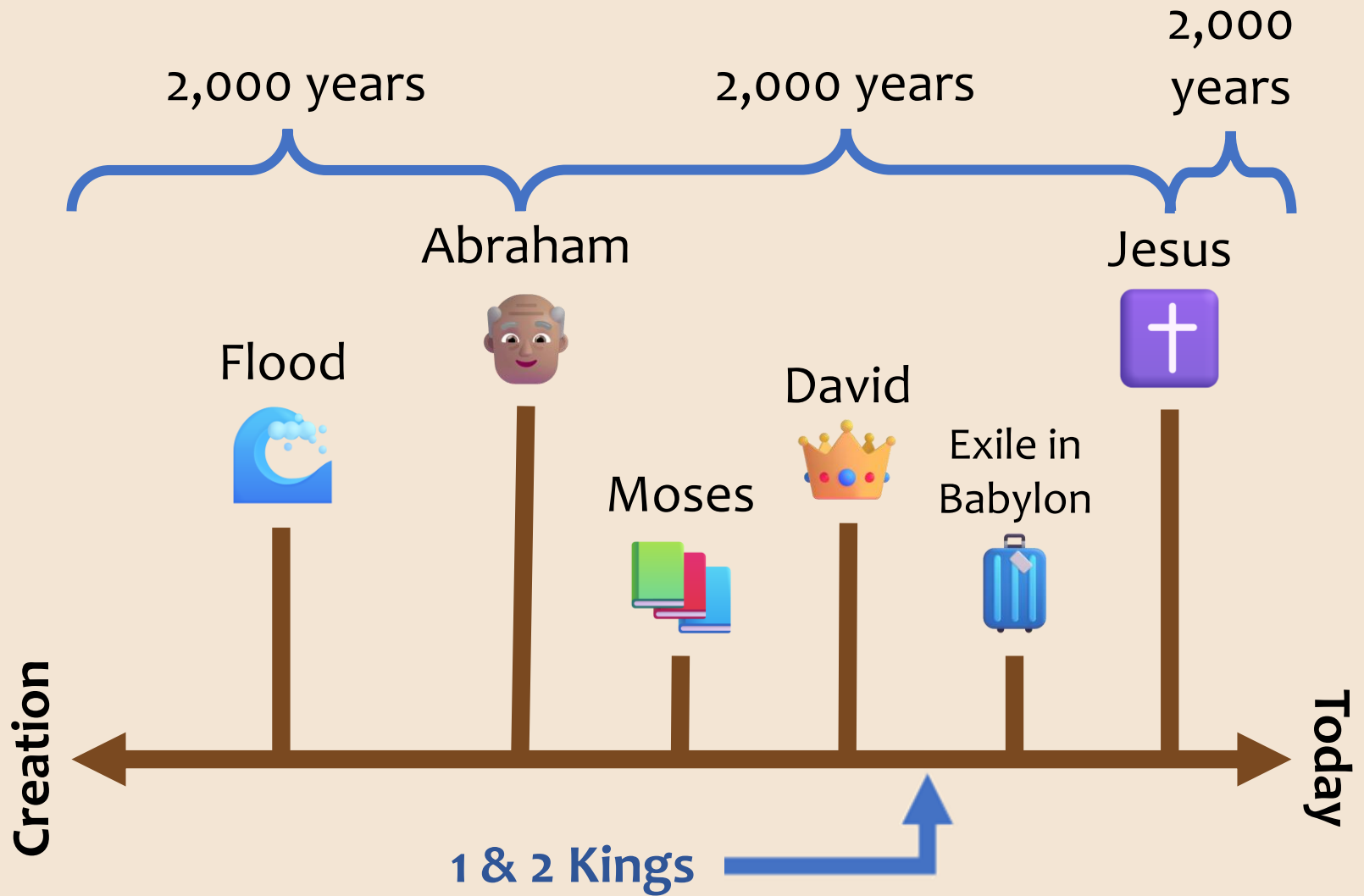


The Book of Kings

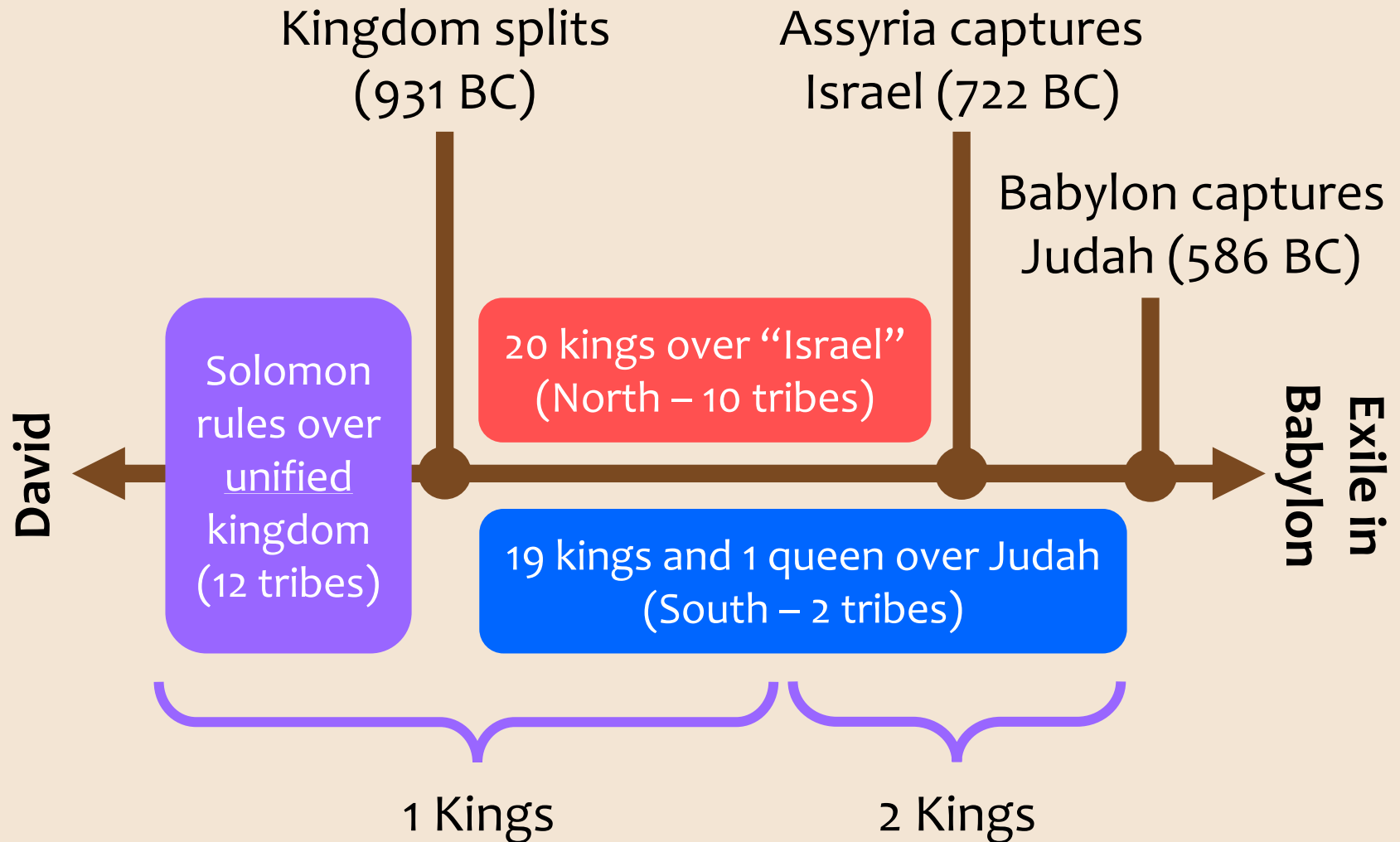
(AKA 1 & 2 Kings)



Bible timeline



Timeline of the books of 1 & 2 Kings



Summary

Book of Kings



- Kings of the Jews.
Lots of them.
Also prophets.



Why the book of Kings is special

• Abundant failure

- ~385 years of kings
- All 20 kings of the north proclaimed as terrible
- Many kings of Judah were awful
- God sent prophets, but few listened to them
- Both nations end up conquered
 - Judah will return
 - Israel, not so much

Main characters in 1 & 2 Kings

-  **King Solomon**

- David's son
- Rich, wise, and ruined his life



-  **39 other kings and a queen regent**

- In total, over Judah or Israel

-  **Elijah and Elisha**

- Prophets

Outline of the book of *Kings*

- **Solomon's reign** **1 Kings 1-11**
 - Kingdom is still unified
- **Stories of kings in Judah and Israel** **1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17**
 - Kingdom splits in two
 - Stories go back and forth between the two kingdoms
 - Ends with northern kingdom conquered and dissolved by Assyria
 - Leaving Judah... alone
- **Stories of kings in Judah alone** **2 Kings 18-25**
 - Hezekiah and Josiah do good
 - Other kings are terrible
 - Ends with Judah conquered and exiled by Babylon

Theology and doctrine

- Why did God let the people go into exile?
 - He promised it as a punishment
 - **Leviticus 26:27, 33**, “But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me... I will scatter you among the nations.” (ESV)
 - **Deuteronomy 28:15, 64**, “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today... the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other” (ESV)
 - And spelled it out when it happened (**1 Kings 17:6-23**)
 - But promised to bring them back once they repented
 - **Deuteronomy 30:1-3**, “... he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.” (ESV)

Recap of *Kings*

- **Summary**

- Lots of kings of the Jews, and some prophets

- **Why it is special**

- It shows the nations' repeated failures to obey God

- **Main characters**

- Solomon
- 39 other kings
- 1 queen
- Elijah
- Elisha

- **Outline**

- Solomon's reign (1 Ki. 1-11)
- Stories of kings in Judah and Israel (1 Ki. 12 to 2 Ki. 17)
- Stories of kings in Judah alone (2 Ki. 18-25)

- **Theology and doctrine**

- God promised exile if the people disobeyed (after many warnings). This is the fulfillment of that.

Israel splits up

1 Kings 12



Summary

Israel splits up
1 Kings 12

- After only 3 kings, Israel can't hold together as a single nation, and the north secedes
 - They lasted together 113 years



Sound familiar?

Our country lasted about 70 years before the South seceded from the North

-
- Union free state
 - Union slave state (border states)
 - Slave state seceding before Fort Sumter, April 1861
 - Slave state seceding after Fort Sumter, April 1861
 - Territory

0 400 mi
0 600 km

Why this story is special



- They never reunite

- This is it. Each side limps along for a few more centuries, but eventually they both fall to enemy nations

Main characters

-  **Rehoboam**

- Becomes **king over Judah** only
- Son of king Solomon
- Was supposed to rule over all of Israel
- Is a total jerk to the people

-  **Jeroboam**

- Becomes **king of “Israel”** – aka northern 10 tribes
- Rebelled against Solomon (**1 Kings 11:26-31**)
- Rebels against Rehoboam
- Leads his nation immediately to idolatry

Outline of 1 Kings 12

1. Time for **Rehoboam** to become king (v. 1)
2. **Jeroboam** comes back to protest (vs. 2-4)
3. **Rehoboam** takes bad advice: be mean (vs. 5-15)
4. The **North** declares independence (v. 16)
5. **Rehoboam** heads back home (vs. 17-19)
6. **Jeroboam** made king of the North (v. 20)
7. The LORD prevents **Rehoboam** from fighting (vs. 21-24)
8. **Jeroboam** installs idols for national worship (vs. 25-33)

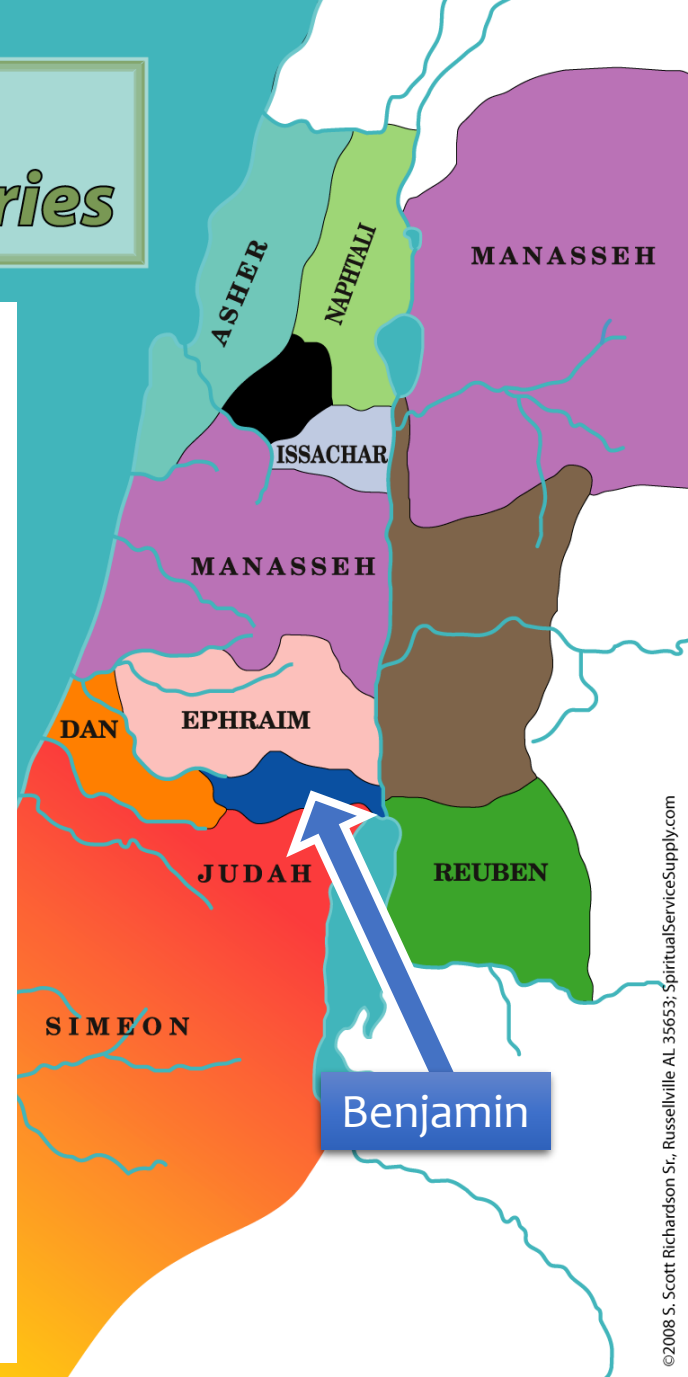
In case you missed it

- This is not the first secession of the north
 - **2 Samuel 2:4, 8-11**
 - Saul dies
 - David is supposed to become king of the whole land
 - Saul's son (Ish-Bosheth) disagrees; he becomes “king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.” (v. 9, KJV)
 - David rules only Judah for the first 7 years

In case you missed it

Tribal Territories

- What are the 2 tribes in the south?
 - The nation had 12 tribes total
 - Jeroboam was promised 10 tribes (1 Kings 11:35)
 - This leaves 2 for Rehoboam...
 - ...but is he king over “Judah only” (1 Kings 12:20)?
- It seems that Benjamin is included when you say “Judah”
 - 1 Kings 12:23, ”Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people...” (KJV)
- However, maps tend to imply Simeon is part of Judah



Theology and doctrine

- Listen to your elders!
 - It didn't have to end this way.
 - Jeroboam was trying to ask for mercy from Rehoboam, not start a war (**vs. 3-4**).
 - And the older men around Rehoboam told him to be merciful.
 - But instead, Rehoboam listened to the younger men who told him to rule with an iron fist (**v. 10**).
- Solomon – his dad! – warned about this
 - **Proverbs 11:14**, “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” (ESV)
 - **Proverbs 16:31**, “Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.” (ESV)
 - **Proverbs 19:20**, “Listen to advice and accept instruction” (ESV)
 - **Proverbs 24:6**, “for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.” (ESV)

Recap of 1 Kings 12

- **Summary**

- The northern tribes secede from the kingdom

- **Why it is special**

- They never reunite

- **Main characters**

- Rehoboam
- Jeroboam

- **In case you missed it**

- They did this before (2 Samuel 2:4, 8-11)
- Benjamin is implied as part of “Judah”

- **Outline**

1. Time for Rehoboam to become king (v. 1)
2. Jeroboam comes back to protest (vs. 2-4)
3. Rehoboam takes bad advice: be mean (vs. 5-15)
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8. Jeroboam installs idols for national worship (vs. 25-33)

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Listen to your elders!

Poem: 2 Kings 19:20–28

Sennacherib's fall

- Similar to Isaiah 37
- Background:
 - Takes place in Judah
 - King of Judah is Hezekiah (one of the best kings)
 - Assyria recently conquered Israel (north – 18:10); now they are attacking Judah (18:13)
 - Hezekiah is upset (19:1)
 - Isaiah promises deliverance (19:6-7)
 - Hezekiah prays (19:14-19)
 - This poem is the LORD's reply