

# REASONS FOR THE BABYLONIAN EXILE



53b

# How the Kingdom Divided

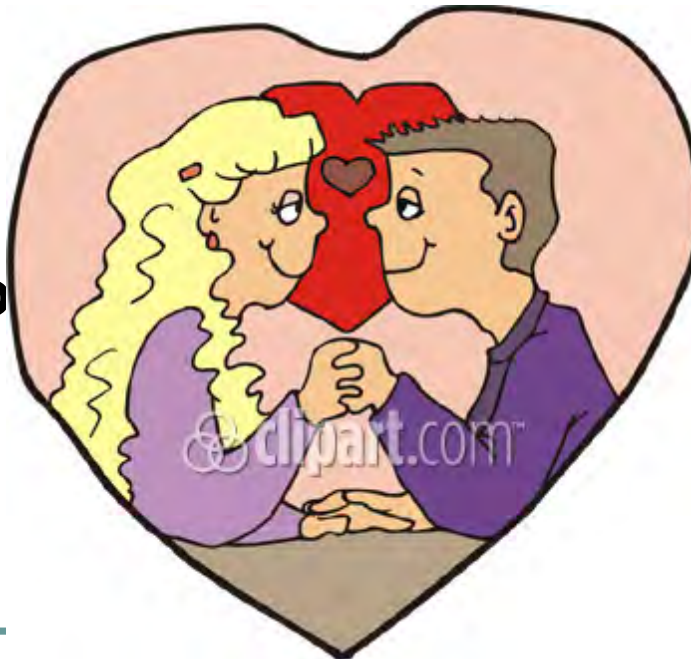




# How the Kingdom Divided

- **King Solomon started well.**
- **But, he loved many foreign women — Egyptians, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonites, and Hittites.**

- **His 700 princesses turned his heart away to**



**his heart turned as old.**



# How the Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11:5

## Ashtoreth

goddess of the Sidonians



## Molech

god of the Ammonites

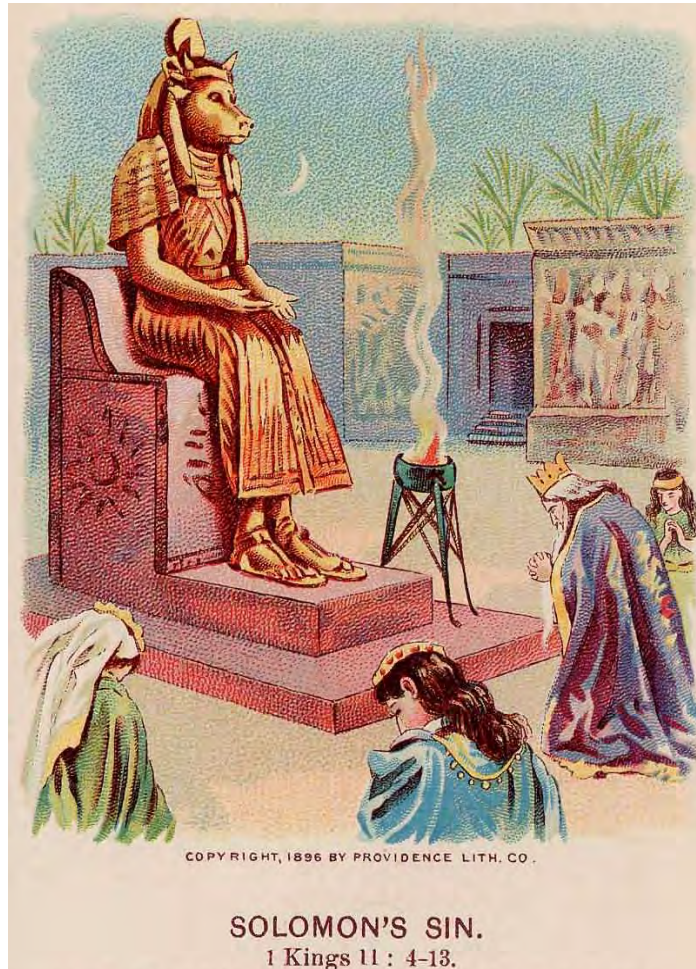


## Chemosh

god of the Moabites

# How the Kingdom Divided

Deut 7:3-4



**He did not keep what the LORD had commanded:**

**“Do not intermarry with them... for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods, and the LORD’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.”**

# Results

- **God tore Solomon's kingdom from his son, but kept "one tribe" (Judah with Benjamin) for his son for the sake of David (1 Kings 11:13).**
- **This divided the kingdom after Solomon's death into:**
  - **Israel (Northern, 10 tribes)**
  - **Judah (Southern, 2 tribes - Judah and Benjamin)**
- **Solomon's foreign wives introduced Baal worship and other foreign gods that later became widely accepted in Israel and Judah.**



**THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH**  
1 KGS. 12

- City
- ★ Capital city
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Israel
- Judah
- International roads
- Local roads

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles  
0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers







# WORSHIP OF THE BAALS



# Baal



- ▣ **Supreme male god of the Canaanite nations**
- ▣ **Worship of Baal and its other forms (Baalim) prevailed amongst the Moabites and Midianites during Israelites' wandering in the wilderness**
- ▣ **God of rain and fertility**

# Baal



- ✦ **Baal – holding a mace and a spear tipped with vegetation.**
- ✦ **Often portrayed as “rider of the clouds” and described in imagery associated with storms, clouds, and thunder.**
- ✦ **Baal and related deities are also portrayed as mating bulls, symbolizing fertility.**



# Baal



Worship of Baal involved sacred prostitution—sexual acts by both male and female prostitutes were believed **to arouse Baal** and gave him vitality **to bring rain** to make Mother Earth fertile.

# Baalim (The Baals)

- **BAAL-BERITH** (the covenant Baal) was worshipped during the judges at Shechem (Judges 8:33; 9:4).
- **BAAL-ZEBUB** (lord of the fly) was worshipped at the Philistine city of Ekron (2 Kings 1:2, 3, 16).
- **BAAL-PEOR** (lord of the opening, i.e., for others to join in the worship), was a Moabite idol (Num 25:1-3).
- **Hadad** god of Canaan, or **Adad** god of Assyria also related to the Baals.



# Why was Baal worship popular?

- Canaan was largely arid, so idolatry included trusting Baal as the god of rain to **water crops**.
- The **sexual immorality** of Baal worship especially appealed to men.
- Baal could not speak, so followers could put words into his mouth to pursue their **own will**.

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, white geometric and celestial diagrams. On the left, a large circular scale with degree markings from 160 to 260 is visible. To its right, there are several concentric circles and arcs, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. These elements suggest a theme of astronomy, navigation, or the cosmos.

# **WORSHIP OF OTHER GODS**

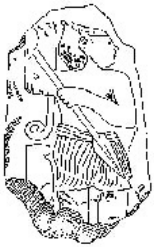


- 



## Ammonites sacrificed their own children to Molech.

# Chemosh



**National god of Moabites and Ammonites**



**Star of ill omens**



**Worshipped by the [sacrifice of children](#) as burnt offerings. Mesha, king of Moab, offered his eldest son to Chemosh (2 Kings 3:27).**



# Ashtoreth



**Ancient Syrian and Phoenician goddess of the moon, sexuality, sensual love, and fertility.**



**Modern equivalent  
= Venus**

**The female partner of Baal**




# Recap

- **Solomon's sins in his old age brought judgment from God – division of kingdom into two.**
- **The problem started earlier when Israelites disobeyed God by not driving out the Canaanites and intermarrying with them.**

The background is a gradient from dark purple at the top to dark blue at the bottom, speckled with small white dots. On the left side, there are several concentric circles and a large arc with a scale. The scale has numbers ranging from 160 to 260 in increments of 10. There are also some dashed lines and arrows pointing in different directions, suggesting a complex geometric or scientific theme.

# THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS



# Kings of Israel (North)

**19 kings – ALL BAD!**

- Jeroboam I (933-911) - 22 years
- Nadab (911-910) - 2 years
- Baasha (910-887) - 24 years
- Elah (887-886) - 2 years
- Zimri (886) - 7 days
- Omri (886-875) - 12 years
- Ahab (875-854) - 22 years
- Ahaziah (855-854) - 2 years
- Jehoram (Joram) (854-843) - 12 years
- Jehu (843-816) - 28 years
- Jehoahaz (820-804) - 17 years
- Jehoash (Joash) (806-790) - 16 years
- Jeroboam II (790-749) - 42 years
- Zechariah (748) - 6 months
- Shallum (748) - 1 month
- Menahem (748-738) - 10 years
- Pekahiah (738-736) - 2 years
- Pekah (748-730) - 20 years
- Hoshea (730-721) - 9 years



- Rehoboam (933-916) - 17 years
- Abijam (915-913) - 3 years
- *Asa* (912-872) - 41 years
- *Jehoshaphat* (874-850) - 25 years
- Jehoram (850-843) - 8 years
- Ahaziah (843) - 1 year
- Athaliah (843-837) - 6 years
- *Joash* (843-803) - 40 years
- *Amaziah* (803-775) - 29 years
- *Azariah (Uzziah)* (787-735) - 52 years
- *Jotham* (749-734) - 16 years
- Ahaz (741-726) - 16 years
- *Hezekiah* (726-697) - 29 years
- Manasseh (697-642) - 55 years
- Amon (641-640) - 2 years
- *Josiah* (639-608) - 31 years
- Jehoahaz (608) - 3 months
- Jehoiachin (608-597) - 11 years
- Jehoiachin (597) - 3 months
- Zedekiah (597-586) - 11 years

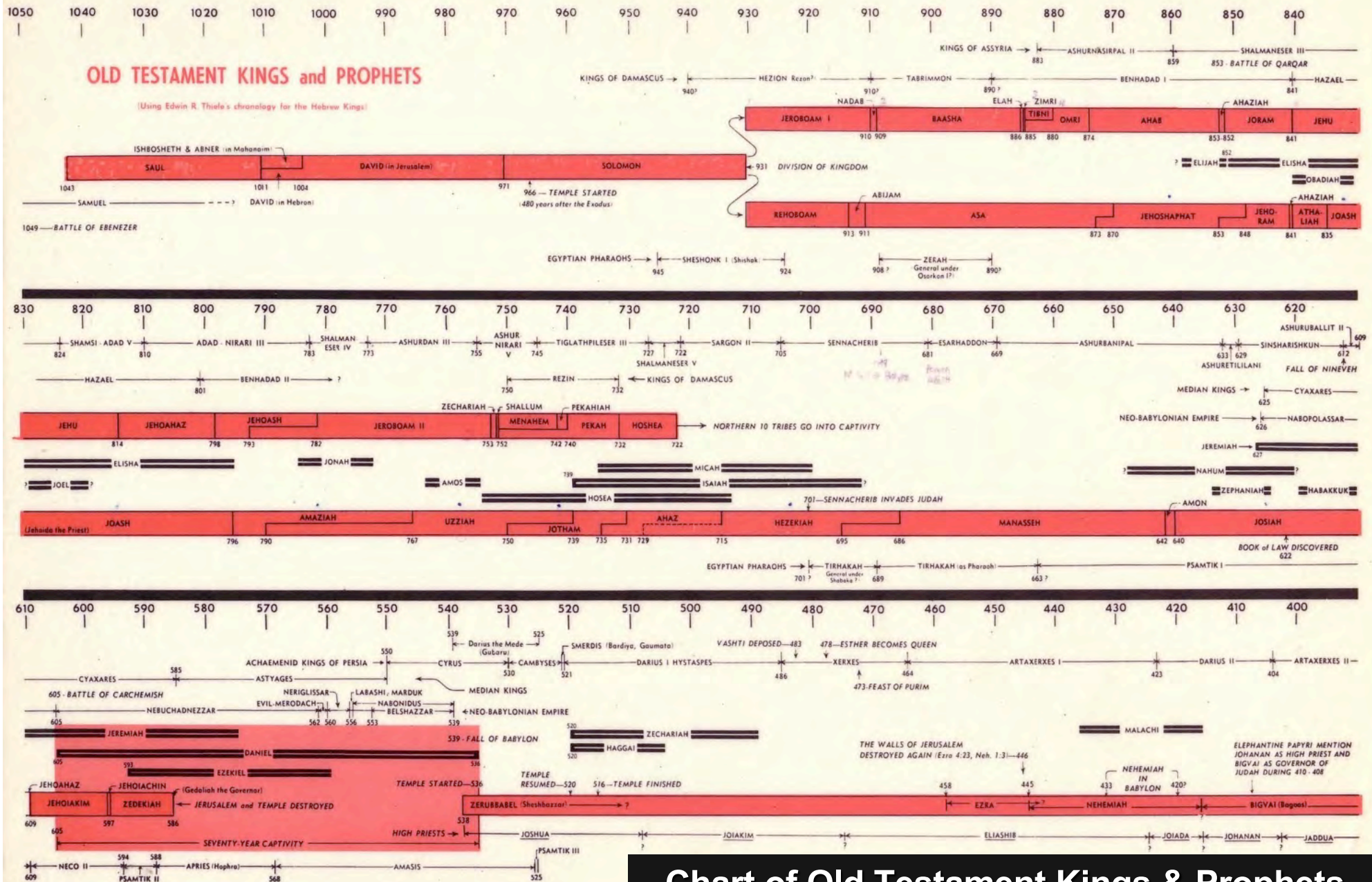
8 *GOOD* Kings  
19 kings and 1 Queen

Kings of Judah (South)



# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

232 & 342



## Chart of Old Testament Kings & Prophets

John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2



The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circles and a curved degree scale ranging from 160 to 260. Some circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

# **ABOMINATIONS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS**





- Israel's and Judah's sins reached a peak that was worse than the times of Judges.
- Worship of Baal and other pagan gods were mixed with worship of God (idolatry + apostasy).
- Temples, altars and places of worship were built for Baal and the other gods everywhere.
- Widespread evil and sins of murder (human sacrifice) and sexual immorality accompanied idolatrous worship.





- **God's laws written in the Ten Commandments and the Books of Law were completely forgotten (not read; Passover not observed).**
- **God's temple was in disrepair. Articles from the temple were taken out by some kings and enemies.**
- **The bad kings led the people to sin through their examples of idolatry and ungodliness.**
- **The few good kings tried to abolish pagan god worship and re-establish the worship of God and service in the temple. But they did not succeed in turning the hearts of the people back to God.**





King Ahaz and King Manasseh both sacrificed their children in the fire.





The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots, resembling a starry sky. Overlaid on this are several faint, white, concentric circles and arcs. A prominent arc on the left side features a scale with numerical markings ranging from 160 to 260 in increments of 10. Other smaller arcs and circles are scattered across the frame, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

# **DID GOD KEEP SILENT?**

# God's Messengers of Wrath & Hope

- God sent His Prophets to:
  - warn about His anger and judgment on them (including exile).
  - call Israel/Judah to turn from their sins immediately.
  - speak comfort about a remnant from Judah who would be delivered and return to the land.

# Prophets

## Israel

- Elijah
- Elisha
- Jonah
- Amos
- Hosea

## Judah

- Joel
- Isaiah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Zephaniah
- Habakkuk
- Jeremiah
- Obadiah
- Ezekiel



# Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates



931

Obadiah



722

Jonah Amos Hosea

Isaiah

Micah

Nahum Zephaniah



Jeremiah

Lamentations

Joel

Daniel

Haggai

Habakkuk Ezekiel

Zechariah

Malachi



586



# Prophets

But the bad kings  
**DID NOT**  
listen to the prophets.

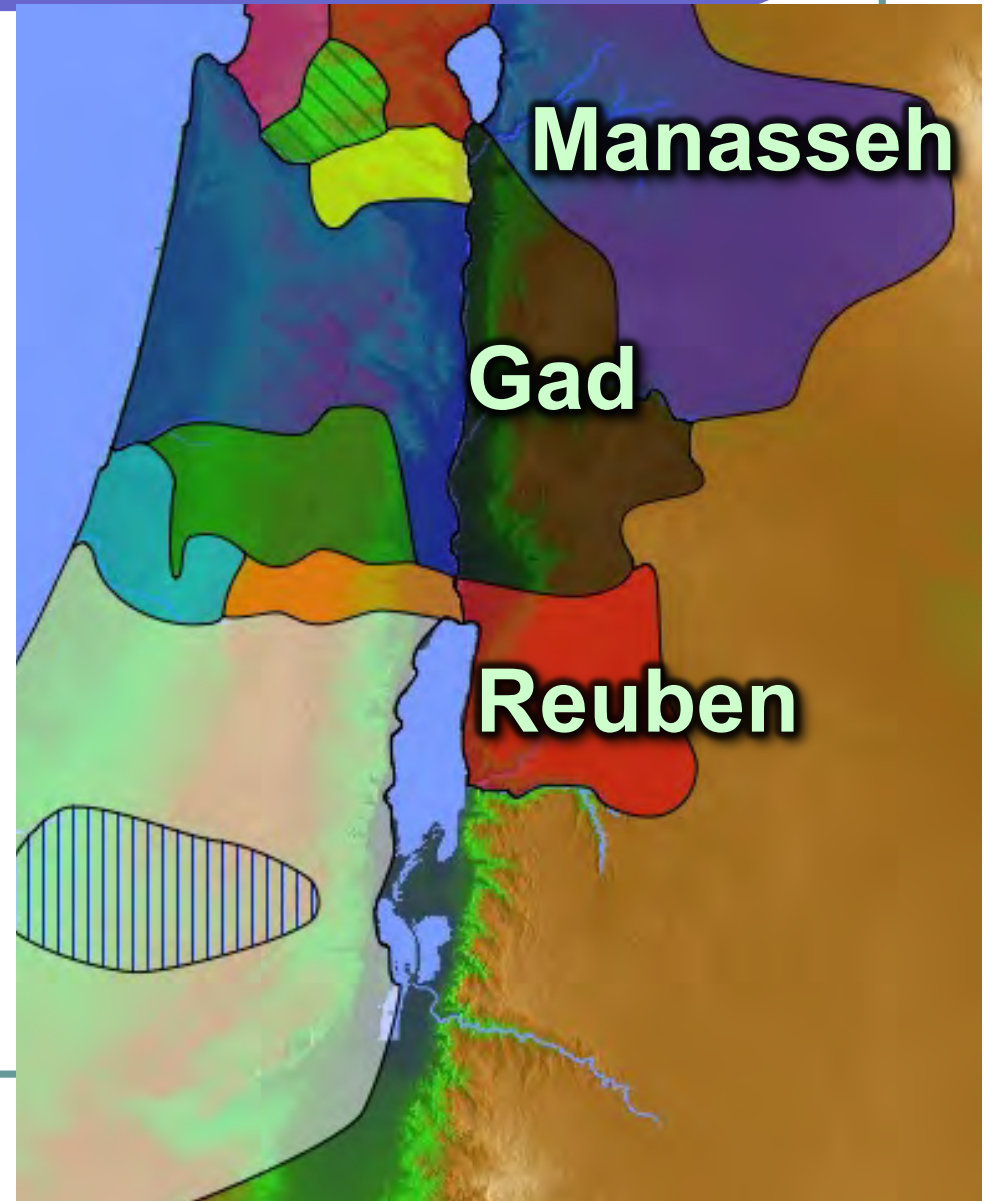
The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue geometric elements: concentric circles, arcs, and a curved scale with numerical markings ranging from 160 to 260. Some of these elements have small arrows indicating a direction of movement or rotation.

# **ISRAEL'S ASSYRIAN EXILE**



# Israel: Assyrian Exile

- Israel was invaded by three or four successive kings of Assyria.
- In 740 BC, Tiglath-Pileser carried away the Transjordan tribes (1 Chron 5:26) and the inhabitants of Galilee (2 Kings 15:29, Isa 9:1) to Assyria.



# Israel: Assyrian Exile



**Shalmaneser  
invaded Israel  
twice (2 Kings  
17:3, 5) and after a  
three-year siege  
took Samaria (722  
BC), and then  
exiled the people  
to Assyria.**

**This ended the  
kingdom of the  
ten tribes of Israel.**

The background is a gradient from dark purple at the top to dark blue at the bottom, speckled with small white dots. On the left side, there is a large, semi-circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 160 to 260. Several concentric circles and arcs are drawn in a light purple/blue color, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text is centered on the right side of the image.

**WAS JUDAH  
ANY BETTER?**



# Judah

- **Judah also worshipped pagan gods.**
- **Some of their kings were particularly evil and defiant to God.**



# King Manasseh

2 Kings 21:3-7

- Rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had demolished
- Erected altars to the Baals and Asherah poles
- Bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshipped them
- Sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom
- Practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft and consulted mediums and spiritists
- Put the carved image he made in the LORD's temple



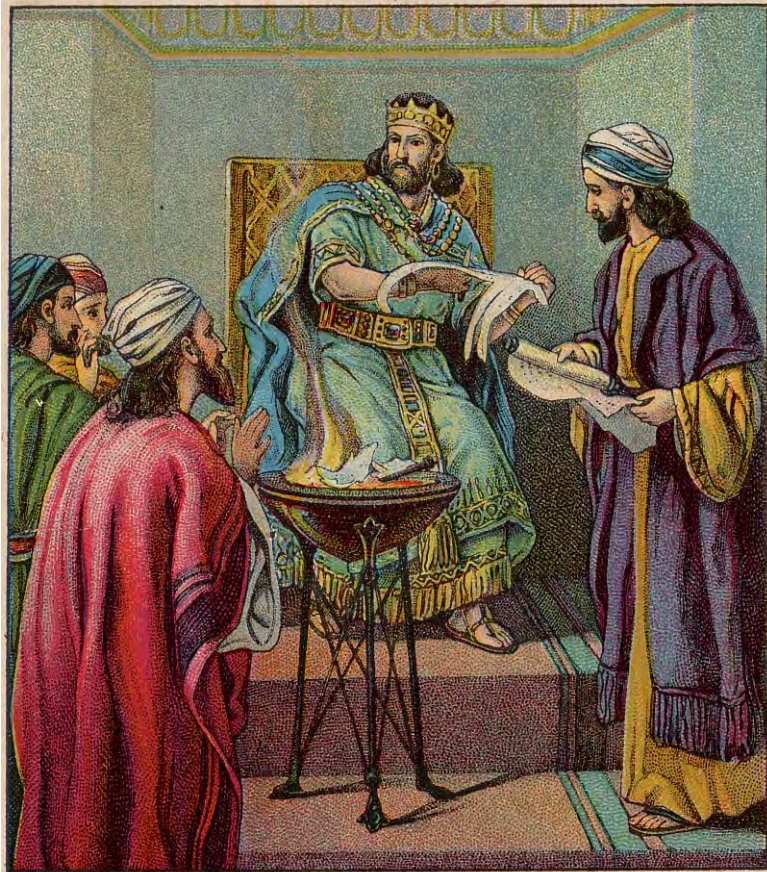
# King Manasseh

- **God pronounced judgment on Jerusalem and Judah.**

***“Manasseh... has committed these detestable sins... Therefore, the God of Israel says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah... [that] I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish... turning it upside down”  
(2 Kings 21:11-15).***



# King Jehoiakim



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**JEHOIAKIM BURNS THE WORD OF GOD**

- **Even after he was defeated by the Babylonians, he did not repent.**
- **God commanded Jeremiah to write down warnings of the destruction of Judah by Babylon as God's divine judgment.**
- **When the scroll was read to Jehoiakim, he cut and burned it in sections.**

# Jeremiah 36:24



*“The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.”*



The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots, resembling a starry sky. Overlaid on this are several faint, white geometric and celestial diagrams. On the left, there is a large circular scale with degree markings from 160 to 260. To its right, there are several concentric circles and arcs, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. These elements suggest a theme of astronomy, navigation, or the passage of time.

# **GOD'S FOREWARNINGS TO KINGS OF JUDAH**



# Isaiah to King Hezekiah

Isaiah 39:6-7

***“The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left... And some of your descendants... will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”***



# Jeremiah to King Jehoiakim

***"Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from My presence! Let them go!"***

**Jeremiah 15:1**





# Jeremiah to King Jehoiakim

Jer 15:4

***"I will make them  
abhorrent to all the  
kingdoms of the earth  
because of what  
Manasseh son of  
Hezekiah king of Judah  
did in Jerusalem."***





# Jeremiah to King Jehoiakim

Jeremiah 16:11-13

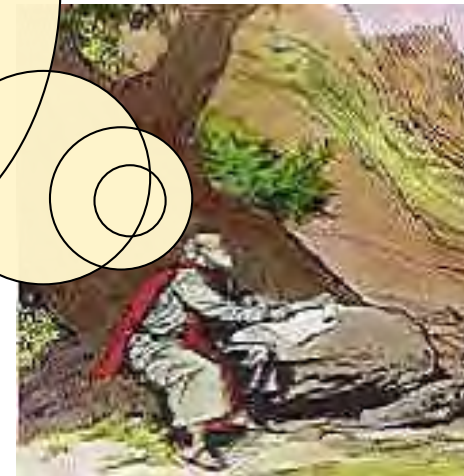
*“...Your fathers forsook me... and did not keep my law. But you have behaved more wickedly than your fathers... instead of obeying Me. So I will throw you out of this land into a land neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favour.”*



# Jeremiah to King Zedekiah

Jeremiah 27:12-13

*"I gave the same message to Zedekiah king of Judah. I said, 'Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live. Why will you and your people die by the sword, famine, and plague with which the Lord has threatened any nation that will not serve the King of Babylon?'"*



# Ezekiel to King Zedekiah

Ezekiel 23:11-35



*“...I will bring them against you from every side — the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans, the men of Pekod... because you lusted after the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.”*



The background is a deep blue gradient with a starry sky texture. Overlaid on the left side are faint, white, semi-transparent circular patterns resembling celestial orbits or constellations. Some of these patterns include small arrows indicating a direction of movement. A large, curved scale with numerical markings (160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) is also visible, suggesting a celestial map or a measurement of degrees.

# **GOD'S CALL FOR JUDAH TO RETURN TO HIM**

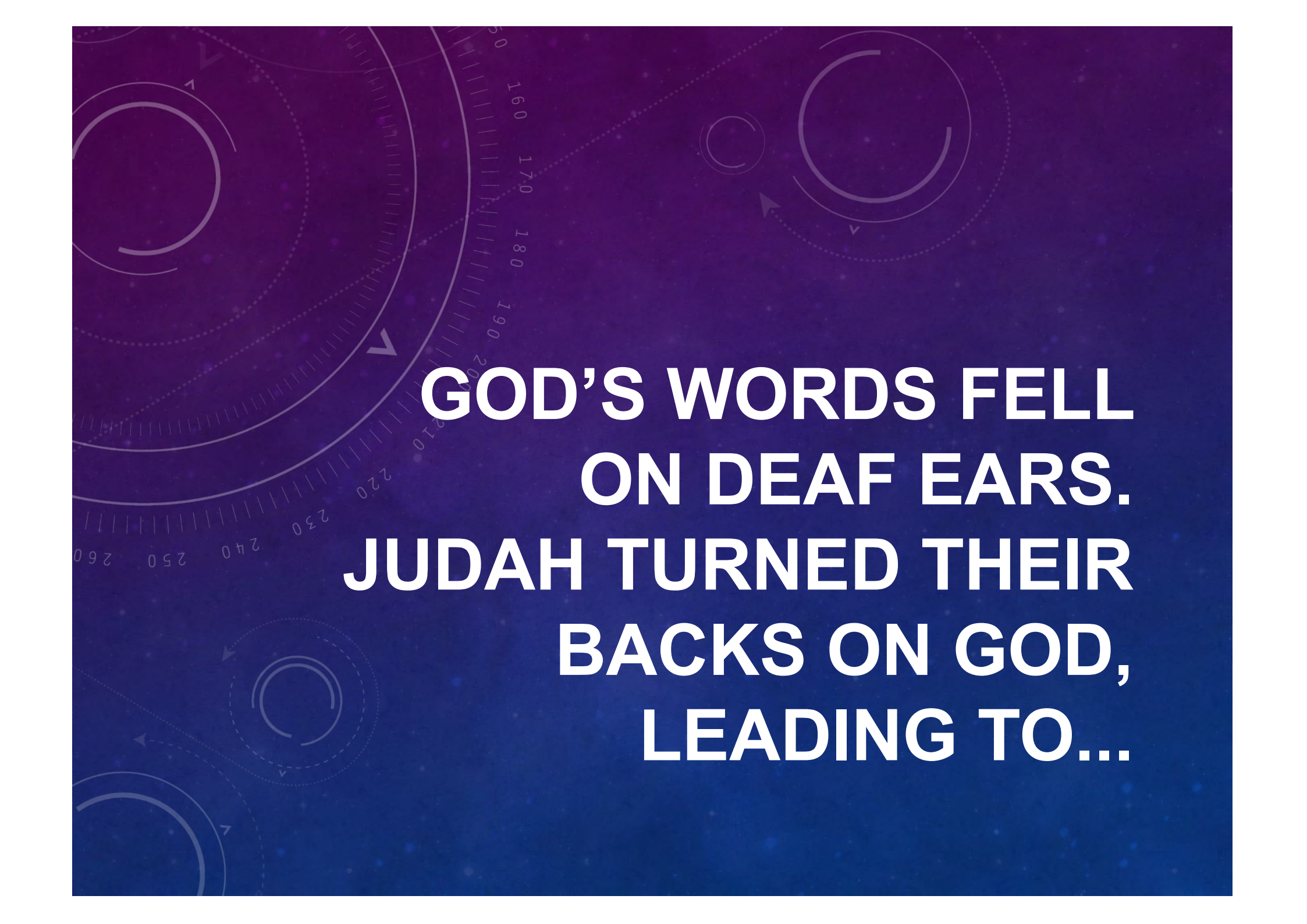
# God's Call to Return

- “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way....**let him turn to the LORD**, and He will have mercy on him...for He will freely pardon” (Isa 55::6-7)
- “...So **turn from your evil ways**, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions...” (Jer 18:11)

# God's Call to Return

- “Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. They said, ‘Each of you must **turn from your wicked ways** and reform your actions; do not follow other gods to serve them...” (Jer 35:15)
- “Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed.... **Repent and live!**” (Ezek 18:31-32)



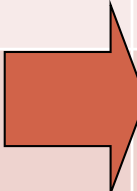
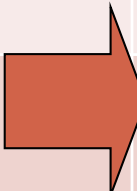
The background is a deep blue gradient with faint, glowing white and light blue geometric patterns. These include concentric circles, arcs, and dashed lines, some with small arrows indicating direction. Faint numerical values like 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260 are visible along some of the arcs, suggesting a celestial or astronomical theme.

**GOD'S WORDS FELL  
ON DEAF EARS.  
JUDAH TURNED THEIR  
BACKS ON GOD,  
LEADING TO...**

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, white geometric and celestial diagrams. On the left, a large circular arc with tick marks and numbers (160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) is visible. To its right, there are several concentric circles and arcs, some with arrows indicating a path or direction. The overall aesthetic is that of a technical or astronomical diagram.

# JUDAH'S BABYLONIAN EXILE

# Nebuchadnezzar's Six Deportations to Babylon

Size	Date	King of Judah	Number taken	Key Captives	Results/ Comments
1 Minor	605 BC	Jehoiakim	Few (Dan 1:3)	Daniel, 3 friends & nobility & royalty	Tribute imposed. Egypt powerful.
2 Moderate	598 BC	Jehoiakim	3023 (Jer. 52:28)		Minor deportation
3 Major 	597 BC	Jehoiachin	10,000 (2 Kings 24:14)	Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, Mordecai	Neb. deports many; installs Zedekiah
4 Minor	587 BC	Zedekiah	832 (Jer. 52:29)		Before destruction
5 Major 	586 BC	Zedekiah	ca. 10,400 (2 Kings 25:11)	Zedekiah	Jerusalem & temple destroyed
6 Minor	582 BC		745 (Jer. 52:30)		4 years after Jerusalem's destruction



# Babylonian Exile

- ▶ 2 major groups of more than 10,000 left for exile:  
(1) Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:14-16) in 597 BC  
(2) Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:11) 587-586 BC
- ▶ During the exile in 586 BC, the temple of God in Jerusalem was also destroyed.
- ▶ The length of the Babylonian exile was 70 years (606-536 BC) until the Persian empire replaced the Babylonian empire.

# Babylonian Exile

2 Kings 25:8-21; 2 Chron 36:17-21



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THE CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH  
2 Chron. 36 : 11-21.

## The Babylonians

- ✚ killed the young men.
- ✚ took all the articles from the house of God, the treasures of the king and of his leaders.
- ✚ burned the temple, the king's palaces, and all houses in Jerusalem.
- ✚ broke down the wall of Jerusalem.
- ✚ carried the people to Babylon to serve the king of Babylon.

# Two 70-Year Exiles

560

## People Exile



## Temple Exile

"This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for **seventy years**. <sup>12</sup>Then, after the **seventy years** of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the Lord. I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever"  
(Jeremiah 25:11-12).



The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side is a large, semi-circular degree scale ranging from 150 to 260. Several concentric circles and arcs are scattered across the image, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The word "CONCLUSIONS" is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# CONCLUSIONS

# Conclusions

- The exiles were God's judgment on the sins of the kings, leaders, and people.
- Their main sins were idolatry, murder, and sexual immorality associated with the pagan practices.
- Their failures to fear God, heed His prophets' warnings, and turn back to God, led them to destruction.

## 2 Kings 21:11-15

*“Manasseh... has committed these detestable sins... Therefore, the God of Israel says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah... I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish... and turning it upside down.”*



## 2 Kings 24:2-4

*“The Lord sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him (Jehoiakim). He sent them **to destroy Judah** according to the LORD’s command, in order to remove them from His presence **because of the sins of Manasseh**... For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the **LORD was not willing to forgive.**”*

## 2 Chronicles 36:14-17

*"Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful... and defiling the temple of the LORD... in Jerusalem. The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had pity on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against His people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians... God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar."*

## 2 Kings 24:20

*“It was because of the **LORD’s** anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end He thrust them from His presence.”*



The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored geometric and celestial diagrams. On the left, there is a large circular arc with tick marks and numbers ranging from 160 to 230. To its right, there are several concentric circles and arcs, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. These elements suggest a theme of astronomy, navigation, or the passage of time.

**WAS THIS THE END OF JUDAH  
AND THE DAVIDIC COVENANT?**

The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, glowing celestial patterns, including concentric circles and a large arc with numerical markings (160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260). A dark blue speech bubble with a white outline points towards the center.

**YOU ARE RIGHT!**

**NO!**

**A REMNANT from Judah was saved!**

# Jerusalem's Fall

232  
&  
342

Key Dates

627 Jeremiah

605 Daniel

597 Ezekiel

Jerusalem's  
Fall

586  
Joel

Habakkuk

Lamentations

538

# God's Messengers of Hope

- **Habakkuk's vision - Jehovah would destroy the Chaldeans and deliver Israel (Hab. 2).**
- **Ezekiel's vision - God's throne chariot emerged from the north (Babylon) indicating that Jehovah had not forsaken them.**
- **Ezekiel predicted resurrection of Judah's statehood, restoration of its remnant, and a glorious future re-established in its own country.**



# Return to the Land

- **Shortly before 536 BC, the Babylonian empire fell to the Persian empire.**
- **The Persian kings Cyrus and Artaxerxes allowed the Hebrew exiles to return to the land in 3 groups to rebuild the Temple and wall in Jerusalem.**

# God's Firm Decree

- **Return must take place. Zerubbabel must return to the land so that his descendent, Christ, could be born in the land just as God had said.**
- **The Davidic covenant was not broken because of Judah's exile. Christ, in the Davidic line, will reign forever.**



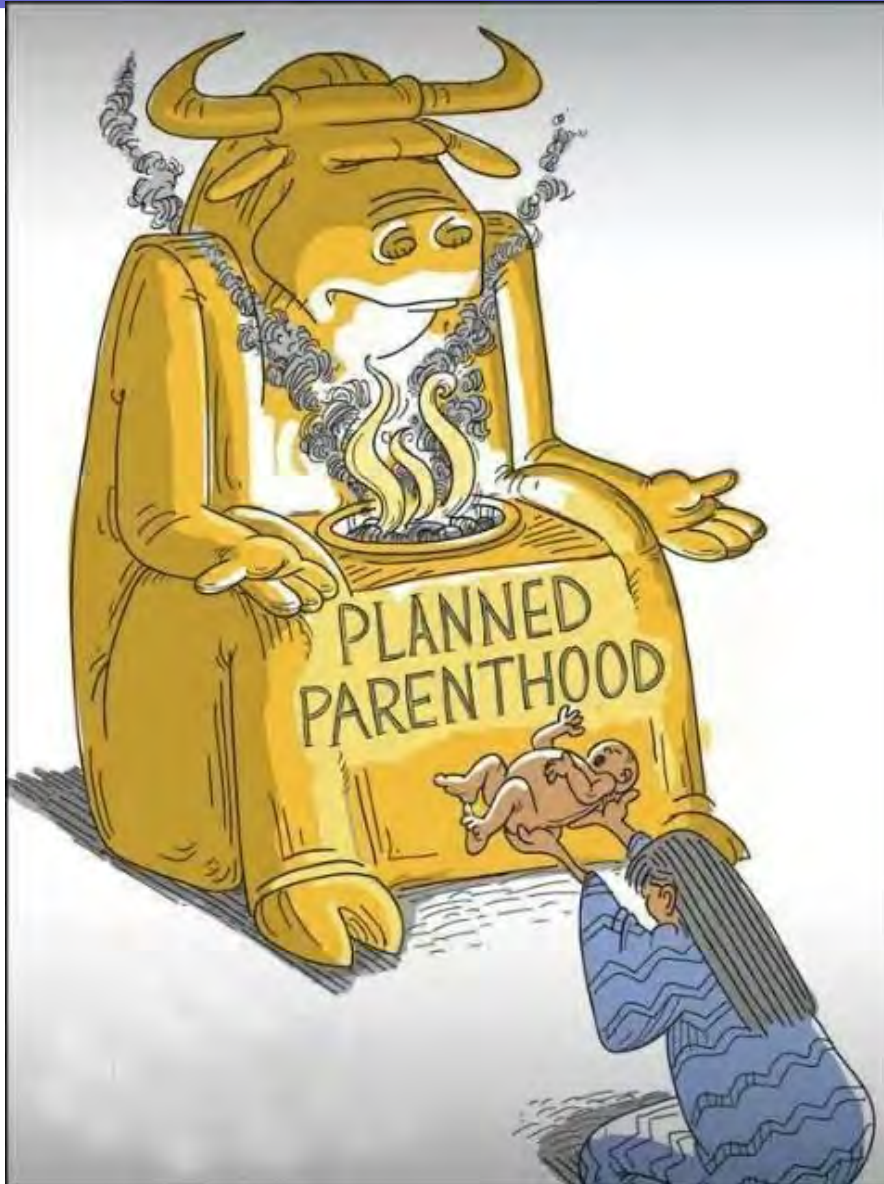
# APPLICATIONS

# Applications

- **Take God's words seriously. What He says, He will do.**
- **Disobedience to God leads to chastisement and destruction; repentance and full obedience lead to blessings and life.**
- **God is merciful. He warned them even before they entered Canaan (Deut 28:36, 49, 64), and continued to warn until He had to punish them for their sins.**



# Applications



- **We must value children and not sacrifice them to the modern gods of Molech.**

# Applications

- **God is sovereign and faithful. He is willing and able to keep His promises and fulfill His purposes despite the failures of men to do their part.**

# Psalm 145:8, 17, 21

***“The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.***

***The LORD is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all he has made.***

***My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever.”***

# Singapore Bible College Presenters

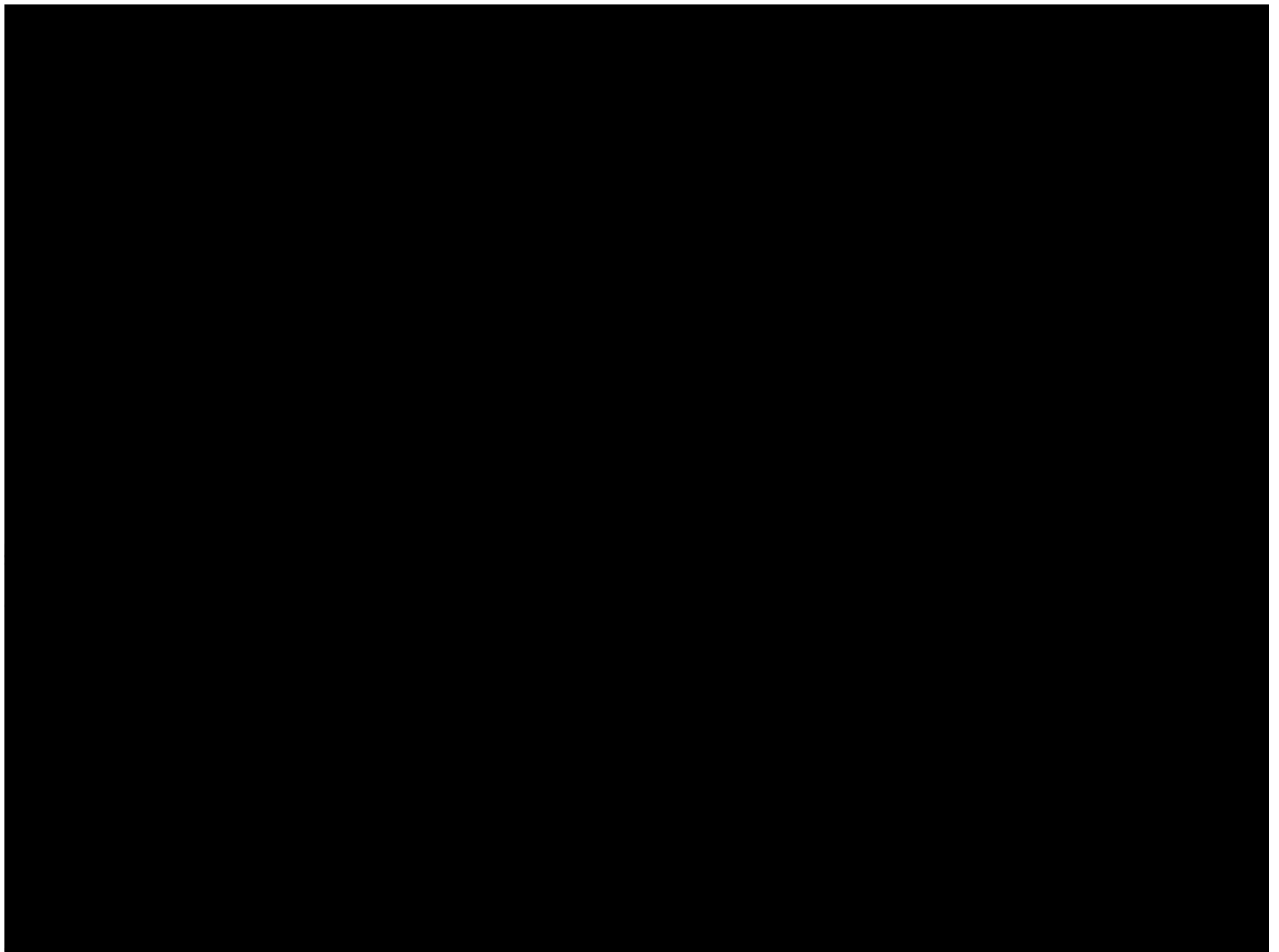
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