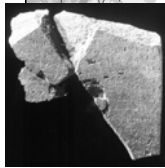


REL 204 THE BIBLE

End of Monarchy

Division of the kingdom after Solomon

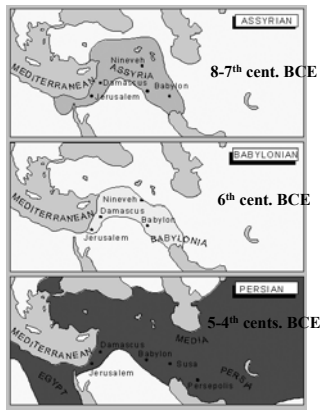
- North: Israel/Ephraim
 - Capital: Samaria
 - Larger, richer, stronger
 - Religious & political turmoil
- South: Judah
 - Capital: Jerusalem
 - Smaller, poorer
 - Stable with Davidic dynasty



Tel Dan inscription

Age of Empires

From 8th cent. BCE



Assyria

- Shalmaneser III (859-826 BCE) stopped by Ahab of Israel & allies
- Tiglath-pileser III (745-727 BCE) could not be stopped
 - Replaced Israel's king (732 BCE)
- Sargon destroyed Israel & Samaria (722 BCE)



Israel's king bows before Assyrian king

Judah alone (722-587 BCE)

- Jerusalem swells with refugees
- Judah survives as Assyrian vassal
- *2 Kings* focuses on 3 kings:
 - Hezekiah (715-687 BCE)
 - Manassah (687-642 BCE)
 - Josiah (640-609 BCE)

Hezekiah & Josiah: foreign policies

- Rebelled against Assyria
- Expanded Judah's borders





Hezekiah & Josiah: religious reforms

- Destroyed local shrines
- Centralized worship in Jerusalem Temple
- Josiah based reform on a “book of the law” (Deuteronomy?)
- Only kings approved by *DtrH* after David!



Consequences:

- Sennacherib besieged Hezekiah in Jerusalem
 - Jerusalem (miraculously?) saved
 - Judah still Assyria’s vassal
- Josiah wins independence
 - Dies fighting Egypt at Megiddo (609 BCE)
 - Judah again a vassal



Babylonian Exile



Ishtar Gate, Babylon

- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated Judean rebellions in 597 & 587 BCE
- Exiled king & upper classes both times
- Destroyed Jerusalem & Temple in 587

Catastrophe & History

- **The Exile:**
 - Removed influence of Israelite/Judean kings
 - Prompted critical reflection on Israel/Judah's religious history
- **Result: the religiously critical Deuteronomistic History, written in exile**

Dates to remember!

- Ca. 1000 BCE** ➤ David king over Israel
- 922 BCE** ➤ Kingdom divides
- 722 BCE** ➤ Israel destroyed & exiled
- 587 BCE** ➤ Judah destroyed & exiled
