

Lesson 2 Kingdoms and Captivity

MAIN IDEAS

Government The Israelites built a small nation.

Government Conflict divided the Israelites and made them vulnerable to outside invaders.

Belief Systems The exiled Israelites returned to their homeland with beliefs that carried them through difficult times.

The Kingdom of Israel

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who were some of the early kings of Israel?

Saul and David

- Monotheism separated Israelites from other regional groups
 - traded with other groups, but did not adopt cultures, beliefs
- Philistines invaded, conquered Israelite territory around 1029 B.C.
 - Israelites agreed to unite under one king to fight the Philistines
 - Israelites feared king having too much power
- Samuel helped select first few kings of 12 tribes

A New Leader

- First king, Saul, successfully fought Philistines around 1020 B.C.
- Bible says after Saul's death, Samuel chose young **David** as king
 - David's army drove out Philistines, won back Jerusalem

Solomon

- **Solomon** chosen to succeed his father, David, in new line of kings
 - became king around 962 B.C., ruled wisely over strong nation
 - built up Phoenician trade, built important Temple in Jerusalem

REVIEW QUESTION

Why did the Israelites decide to choose a king?

The Kingdom Divides

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the outcome of the conflict among the Israelites?

Israel and Judah

- Solomon died in 922 B.C.; succeeded by his son who faced rebellion
 - northern tribes demanded less taxes, an end to forced labor
- Kingdom split into northern Israel, southern Judah; Judah included Jerusalem
 - words *Judaism*, *Jews* came from the name Judah
- Two kingdoms lasted about 200 years

Assyrians and Babylonians Take the Land

- By 738 B.C., Assyrians were forcing both kingdoms to pay tribute
- Assyria conquered and ended kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire fell to Babylonians around 612 B.C.
- Babylonia's King Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
 - Babylonians destroyed the Temple
 - took thousands of enslaved Jews to Babylon

REVIEW QUESTION

What conflicts caused Israel to split into two kingdoms?

Jewish Exiles Return to Judah

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What hope sustained the Jews in exile?

Beliefs During the Babylonian Captivity

- Exiles from Judah were in Babylon about 50 years—**Babylonian Captivity**
- Israelite exiles became known as Jews, kept religious traditions
 - observed religious laws, holidays, worship
- Israelites hoped to return to Judah, rebuild Temple in Jerusalem
 - kept hoping for their own king, an heir to David's throne
 - **Messiah**—“anointed one;” Hebrew leaders were anointed with oils
- Jews sought spiritual leaders' advice in troubled times
 - believed some leaders—**prophets**—could interpret God's word
 - prophets warned people, rulers about straying from God's law

The Temple Is Rebuilt

- Persians conquered Babylonia, 539 B.C.; practiced religious tolerance
- Persian king Cyrus freed Jewish exiles, let them return to Judah
- Jews rebuilt Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem by 515 B.C.

REVIEW QUESTION

How did the exiles maintain their identity in Babylon?

Lesson Summary

- Saul, David, and Solomon were the first kings of Israel.
- After the death of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel split into two smaller kingdoms—Israel and Judah.
- The Babylonian conquest destroyed the Temple and forced the people of Judah into exile in Babylon.

Why It Matters Now . . .

During the years in captivity, the exiles maintained the religious beliefs and practices that are part of Jewish life today.