

Author: Peyton J. Hall ©

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## An Overview of the Ancient Near East

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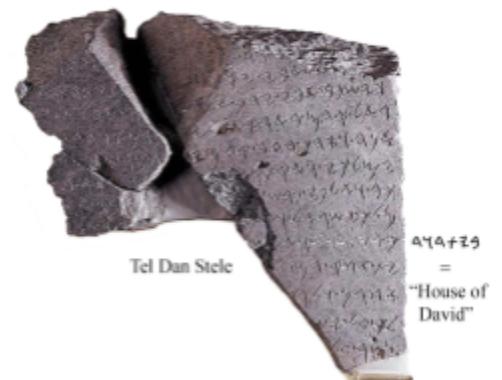
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## Introductory Overview:

The Middle East, as referred to in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, was once home to various ancient empires and kingdoms. Though it contained dozens of Egyptian dynasties and multiple different empires and kingdoms, a select number played the most prominent roles in the history of the Israelites. All twelve tribes of Israel experienced good, bad, and ugly moments throughout their history. From being part of a United Monarchy to dividing into Northern and Southern kingdoms, then being exiled by the Assyrians and Babylonians, some returned to their homeland, and others did not.

## The Undivided Kingdom of Israel (United Monarchy):

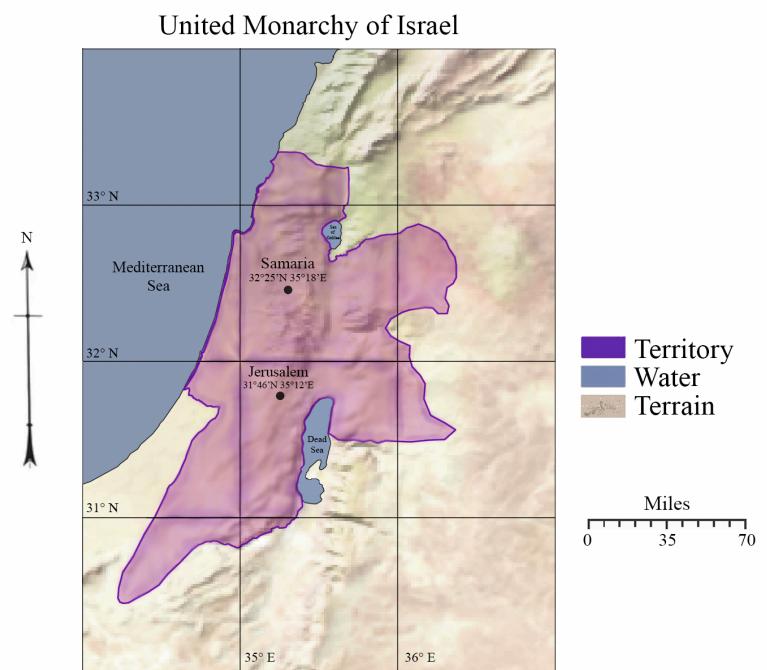
The Kingdom of Israel flourished in the northeastern hemisphere, that is, within 30°N to 34°N latitude and 34°E to 37°E longitude, from approximately 1,052 to 930 B.C. It was a United Monarchy which consisted of all twelve tribes of Israel: Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Joseph, Judah, Levi, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun. These twelve tribal names were the names given to the sons of Jacob, who was renamed Israel. The existence of the United Monarchy of Israel was acknowledged by King Hazael (842 – 806 B.C.) of Aram-Damascus, the author of the Tel Dan Stele [Figure 1]. On it, he carved in Old Aramaic, “[I] killed [Ahaz]iah son of [Jehoram kin-]g of the House of David” (Civilization.ca). Regardless of the fact that the United Monarchy of Israel divided nearly one century prior to the reign of King Hazael, he acknowledges the “House of David” as a historically legitimate dynasty founded by King David.



[Figure 1]

United Monarchy of Israel

King	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Parent	Citation Index
Saul	1052 - 1012	40 (see Acts 13:21)	Kish	1
Ishbosheth	1012 - 1010	2 (see 2 Samuel 2:10)	Saul	2
David	1010 - 970	40 (see 2 Samuel 5:3-4)	Jesse	3
Solomon	970 - 930	40 (see 1 Kings 11:42, 2 Chronicles 9:30)	David	4

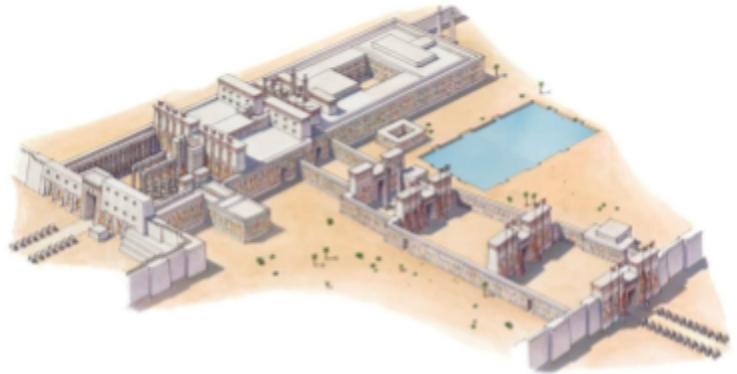


### The Twenty Second Dynasty of Egypt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Intermediate Period:

The twenty second dynasty of Egypt lasted from 945 to 715 B.C. That was, a dynasty part of the chronology of the Third Intermediate Period of Egypt. According to 1 Kings 14:25-26, Solomon's temple, built on Mount Zion ( $31^{\circ}46'40''N$   $35^{\circ}14'07''E$ ) during the period of Israel's United Monarchy, was ransacked. "And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, *that* Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made." This military campaign of Pharaoh Shishak I (945 - 924 B.C.) [Figure II] of Egypt against Jerusalem is well documented on the Bubastite Portal in the Karnak Temple of Egypt [Figure III]. According to the *Biblical Archaeology Society*, engraved on the Bubastite Portal, "among the places listed as having been captured by Shishak are several sites in the central hill country located along the main east-west route leading to Jerusalem" (Steinmeyer 2022). Being the first Pharaoh of Egypt's twenty second dynasty, Shishak I left behind a noteworthy legacy on the history between the Israelites and Egyptians.



Headshot of the Sculpture of the Sphinx of  
Pharaoh Shishak I (945 - 924 B.C.)  
[Figure II]

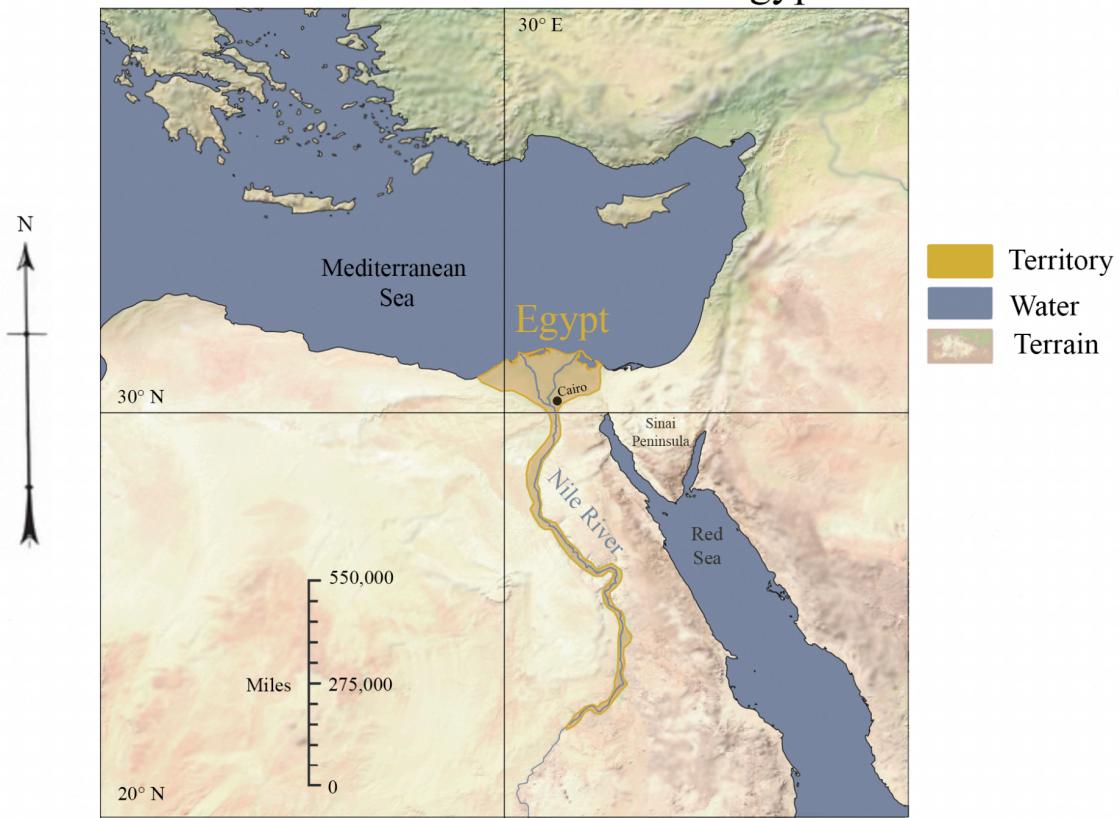


Karnak Temple of Egypt  
 $25^{\circ}43'07''N$   $32^{\circ}39'28''E$   
[Figure III]

### Twenty Second Dynasty of Egypt

Pharaoh	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Scriptural Occurrences	Citation Index
<b>Shishak I</b>	945 - 924	21	1 Kings 11:40, 14:25. 2 Chronicles 12:2-9.	5
<b>Osorkon I</b>	924 - 889	35	NULL	6
<b>Shishak II</b>	890 - 890	1	NULL	7
<b>Takelot I</b>	890 - 873	13	NULL	8
<b>Osorkon II</b>	872 - 837	3	NULL	9
<b>Shishak III</b>	837 - 798	39	NULL	10
<b>Shishak IV (Quartus)</b>	798 - 785	13	NULL	11
<b>Usermaatre Setepenre Pami</b>	785 - 778	7	NULL	12
<b>Shishak V</b>	767 - 730	37	NULL	13
<b>Osorkon IV</b>	730 - 715	15	NULL	14

## Third Intermediate Period of Egypt



### The Neo-Assyrian Empire:

The Neo-Assyrian Empire dominated Mesopotamia for centuries. From 911 to 609 B.C., the empire held eighteen kings. One in particular, which was noteworthy, included King Sargon II (721 - 705 B.C.) [Figure IV]. Under his regime, Neo-Assyria underwent numerous military campaigns aimed at annexation of foreign ancient near eastern land. This vast series of annexations featured the land of Israel Samaria. Subsequently, the ten northern tribes were deported to Assyria. Sargon II, according to Oxford University Press, “conquered Samaria in 721 bc, and according to tradition dispersed those Israelites who became the ‘lost tribes’ of Israel” (Encyclopedia.com). King Shalmaneser V (725 - 721 B.C.) initially invaded Samaria, but Sargon II carried out the military campaign. In the book, *Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets*, Biblical Archaeologist E. Raymond Capt highlights that “it is generally accepted that Shalmaneser V captured Samaria, and this is certainly the impression which the Scriptural narrative leaves. However, the assertion is not expressly made. If we accept the direct statement of Sargon II, successor of Shalmaneser V to the Assyrian throne, we must consider that he, and not Shalmaneser V, was the actual captor of the Samarians” (Capt 1985). After Sargon II was assassinated in 705 B.C., his successor, Sennacherib (705 - 681 B.C.), reigned in his stead. Capt moreover expresses that “of all the Assyrian kings, none were more famous, or infamous, than Sennacherib. His



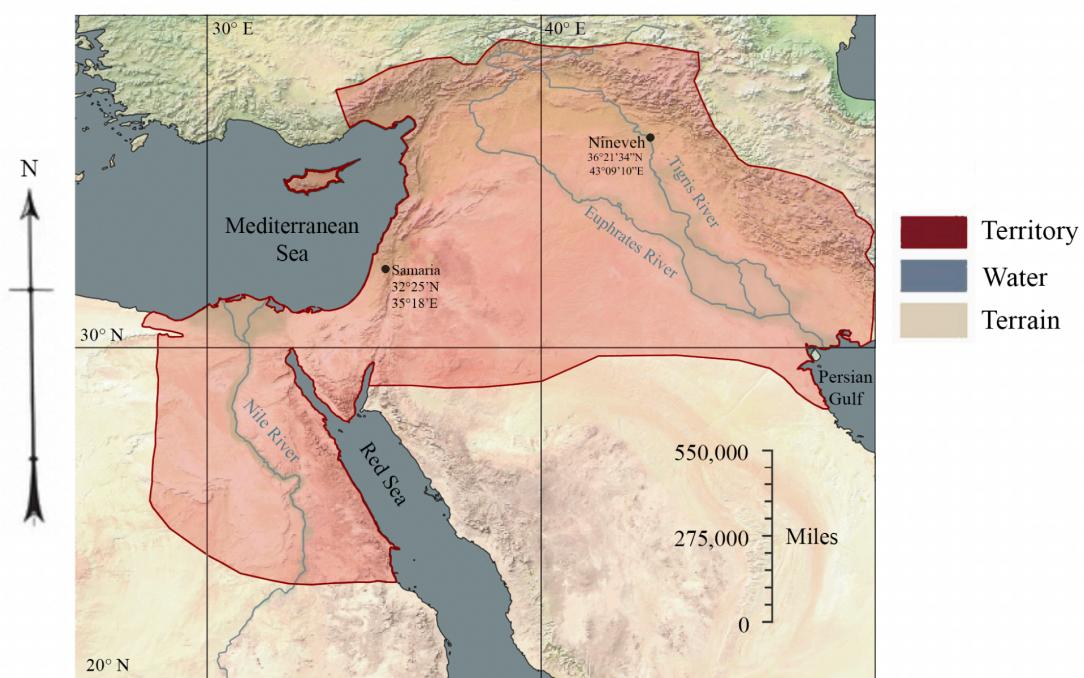
Sculpture of  
King Sargon II (721 - 705 B.C.)  
[Figure IV]

terrifying assault upon Judah, his blasphemous defiance of the Lord beneath the very walls of Jerusalem, and his miraculous repulse at the eleventh hour through the unshaken faith of Isaiah the prophet and the prayers of the faithful king Hezekiah are all well known to every student of the Old Testament" (Capt 1985). The climax of the extent of the territory of the Neo-Assyrian Empire existed in 671 B.C. during the reign of King Esarhaddon (681 - 669 B.C.), the successor of Sennacherib. Nearly sixty years later, "in 612 B.C., the combined armies of Nabopolassar and the Medes assaulted, captured, and destroyed Nineveh" (Capt 1985). Consequently, the empire fell shortly thereafter.

Neo-Assyrian Empire

King	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Scriptural Occurrences	Citation Index
<b>Adad-nirari II</b>	911 - 891	20	NULL	15
<b>Tukulti-Ninurta II</b>	890 - 884	6	NULL	16
<b>Ashurnasirpal II</b>	884 - 859	25	NULL	17
<b>Shalmaneser III</b>	859 - 825	34	NULL	18
<b>Shamshi-Adad V</b>	825 - 810	15	NULL	19
<b>Adad-nirari III</b>	810 - 783	27	NULL	20
<b>Shalmaneser IV</b>	783 - 773	10	NULL	21
<b>Ashur-dan III</b>	773 - 755	18	NULL	22
<b>Ashur-nirari V</b>	755 - 745	10	NULL	23
<b>Tiglath-Pileser III (a.k.a. Pul)</b>	745 - 725	20	2 Kings 15:19. 1 Chronicles 5:26.	24
<b>Shalmaneser V</b>	725 - 721	4	2 Kings 17:3, 18:9.	25
<b>Sargon II</b>	721 - 705	16	Isaiah 20:1	26
<b>Sennacherib</b>	705 - 681	24	2 Kings 18:13, 19:16-36. 2 Chronicles 32:1-22. Isaiah 36:1, 37:17-21, 37:37.	27
<b>Esarhaddon</b>	681 - 669	12	2 Kings 19:37. Ezra 4:2. Isaiah 37:38.	28
<b>Ashurbanipal (a.k.a. Sardanapalus)</b>	669 - 626	43	NULL	29
<b>Aššur-etyl-ilāni</b>	631 - 627	4	NULL	30
<b>Sin-šar-iškun</b>	627 - 612	15	NULL	31
<b>Ashur-uballit II</b>	612 - 609	3	NULL	32

### Neo-Assyrian Empire (671 B.C.)



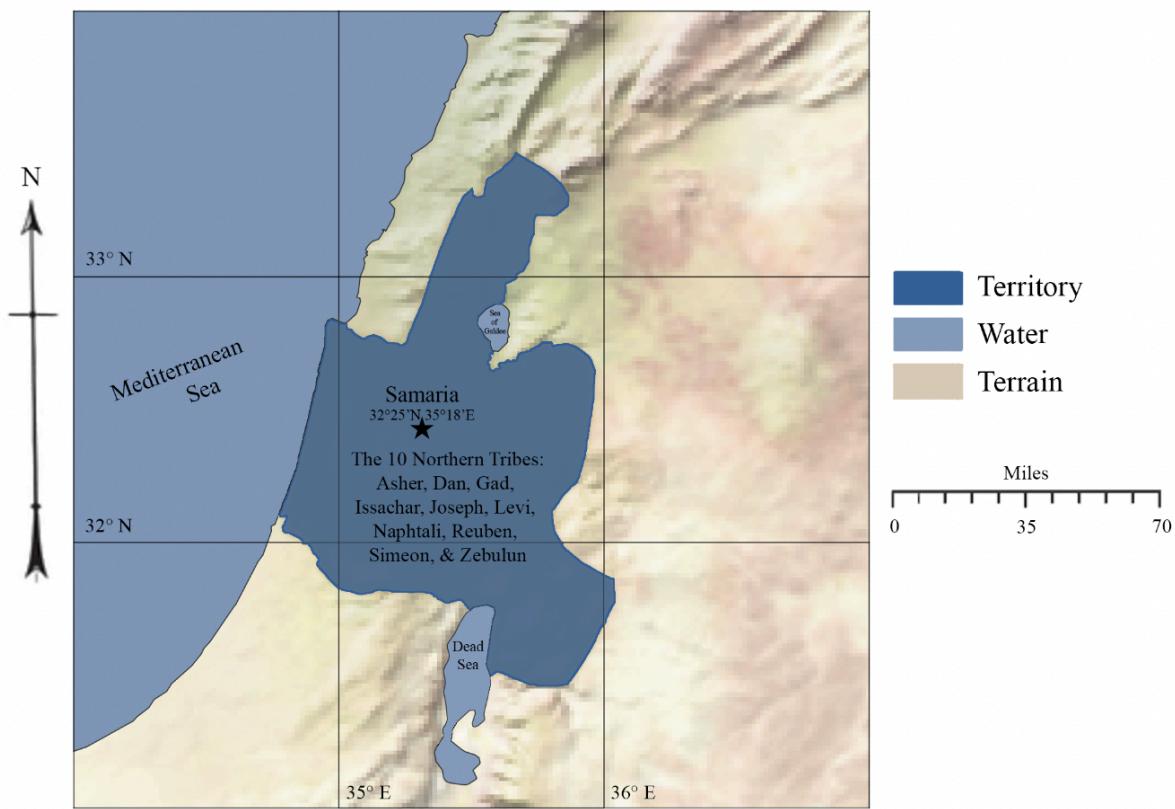
### The Divided Kingdom - Israel:

After the United Monarchy of Israel split, the ten northern tribes occupied the Kingdom of Israel, and the two southern tribes occupied the Kingdom of Judah. The ten northern tribes consisted of Asher, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Joseph, Levi, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun. As Encyclopædia Britannica puts it in their article, *Ten Lost Tribes of Israel*, “in 930 BC the 10 tribes formed the independent Kingdom of Israel in the north and the two other tribes, Judah and Benjamin, set up the Kingdom of Judah in the south” (Britannica 2024). Though they are commonly referred to as the ten “lost” tribes of Israel, their locations have been well documented subsequent to their deportation. Therefore, it is not entirely accurate to refer to them as completely lost. According to *Missing Links Discovered in Assyrian Tablets*, Biblical Archaeologist E. Raymond Capt summarizes, “the Assyrians and Babylonians called the Israelite exiles ‘Gimiri’ regardless of where they lived [verified on behalf of the British Museum by L.W. King and R.C. Thompson - Sculptures and Inscriptions of Behistun - pg. 161]. It also indicates that by this time (about 516 B.C.) a branch of the Gimiri (called ‘Sakka’ by the Persians) had already migrated a long way beyond Bactria and dwelt on the eastern extremity of the Persian empire” (Capt 1985). After the Neo-Babylonian empire conquered the Neo-Assyrian empire in the 612 B.C. Battle of Nineveh, they invaded Media, where the Gimmirah were, which forced them toward the Caucasus. According to the *World History Encyclopedia*, “in 612 BCE Nineveh was sacked & burned by a coalition of Babylonians, Persians, Medes, & Scythians” (Mark 2018). The Persians called the Gimmirah “Sakka.” Different peoples speaking different languages had different names for the Israelites: “It is universally accepted by modern historians that the Iskuza were called ‘Shuthae’ by the Greeks and ‘Sacae’ (also ‘Saka’ and ‘Sakka’) by the Persians. [Greek Historian] Herodotus further tells us the Persians called the Sacae, ‘Scythians.’ If one wonders why the Medes and Persians did not use the Assyrian name for the Israelites, it is probably because they were in closer social contact with the Israelites and thus familiar with the name the Israelites called themselves. The name ‘Gimira’ was strictly an Assyrian name and not the one the Israelites would have used” (Capt 1985). With widely documented historical records, it is evident that the ten “lost” northern tribes of Israel were neither mass exterminated nor mythical, but rather, they were simply relocated, subject to a series of mass deportations and mesopotamian military campaigns.

Kingdom of Israel

King	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Parent	Citation Index
<b>Jeroboam I</b>	931 - 910	22 (see 1 Kings 14:20)	Nebat	33
<b>Nadab</b>	910 - 908	2 (see 1 Kings 15:25)	Jeroboam I	34
<b>Baasha</b>	908 - 886	24 (see 1 Kings 15:33)	Ahijah	35
<b>Elah</b>	886 - 885	2 (see 1 Kings 16:8)	Baasha	36
<b>Zimri</b>	885 - 885	7 days (suicide) (see 1 Kings 16:15-16)	NULL	37
<b>Tibni (civil division)</b>	885 - 880	5 years (see chronology of the Hebrew kings, Andrews University)	Ginath	38
<b>Omri (civil division)</b>	885 - 874	12 (see 1 Kings 16:23)	NULL	39
<b>Ahab</b>	874 - 853	22 (see 1 Kings 16:29)	Omri	40
<b>Ahaziah</b>	853 - 852	2 (see 1 Kings 22:51)	Ahab	41
<b>Jehoram (a.k.a. Joram in 2 Ki. 8:16)</b>	852 - 841	12 (see 2 Kings 3:1)	Ahab	42
<b>Je-hu</b>	841 - 814	28 (see 2 Kings 10:36)	Jehoshaphat	43
<b>Je-hoahaz</b>	814 - 798	17 (see 2 Kings 13:1)	Je-hu	44
<b>Je-hoash (a.k.a. Joash in 2 Ki. 14:23) (co-regent)</b>	798 - 782	16 (see 2 Kings 13:10)	Je-hoahaz	45
<b>Jeroboam II (co-regent)</b>	793 - 753	41 (see 2 Kings 14:23)	Je-hoash	46
<b>Zachariah</b>	753 - 752	6 months (see 2 Kings 15:8)	Jeroboam II	47
<b>Shallum</b>	752 - 752	1 month (see 2 Kings 15:13)	Jabesh	48
<b>Menahem (rival reign)</b>	752 - 742	10 (see 2 Kings 15:17)	Gadi	49
<b>Pekah (rival reign)</b>	752 - 732	20 (see 2 Kings 15:27)	Remaliah	50
<b>Hoshea</b>	732 - 723	9 (see 2 Kings 17:1)	Elah	51

## Kingdom of Israel - 10 Northern Tribes



### The Divided Kingdom - Judah:

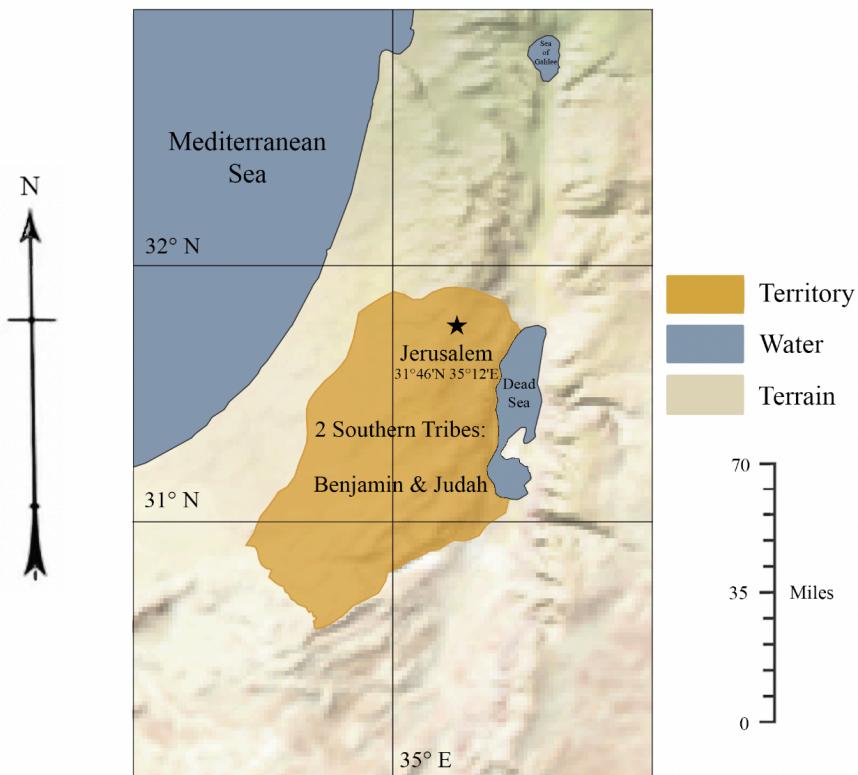
The Kingdom of Judah was the other portion of the divided Israelites following the end of the United Monarchy of Israel. The English word, “Judah,” is defined in the Hebrew tongue in the *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* as thus: יְהוּדָה (Strong’s Hebrew # 3063) Pronunciation: “yeh-oo-daw” – Definition: “The tribe descended from Judah the son of Jacob. The territory occupied by the tribe of Judah. The kingdom comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin which occupied the southern part of Canaan after the nation split upon the death of Solomon” (Strong 1995). From approximately 930 to 586 B.C., the descendants of Benjamin and Judah inhabited the Kingdom of Judah. According to the article, *Judah*, by Encyclopædia Britannica, “the southern Kingdom of Judah thrived until 587/586 BC, when it was overrun by the Babylonians, who carried off many of the inhabitants into exile. When the Persians conquered Babylonia in 538 BC, Cyrus the Great allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, where they soon set to work to replace the magnificent Temple of Jerusalem that the Babylonians had destroyed” (Britannica 2023). The rebuilding of the temple, which occurred on Mount Zion ( $31^{\circ}46'40''N$   $35^{\circ}14'07''E$ ), is described in the biblical canonical books of Ezra and Haggai. In Haggai 1:14, this significant task is well summarized: “And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshuathe son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,” (Haggai 1:14 KJV). Geopolitically, following the completed reconstruction of the temple, the promised

land was occupied by the Persian Empire, Hellenistic Empires (under Alexander the Great), Hasmonean Kingdom (i.e. Jewish independence from foreign rule), and the Roman Empire during the time the Messiah walked the earth in the flesh. The temple built under Governor Zerubbabel was the same temple which stood during the time of Jesus Christ's ministry on earth.

Kingdom of Judah

King	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Parent	Citation Index
<b>Rehoboam</b>	930 - 913	17 (see 1 Kings 14:21)	Solomon	52
<b>Abijah (a.k.a. Abijam &amp; Abia)</b>	913 - 910	3 (see 1 Kings 15:1-2, 2 Chronicles 13:1-2)	Rehoboam	53
<b>Asa (co-regent)</b>	910 - 869	41 (see 1 Kings 15:8-10)	Abijah	54
<b>Jehoshaphat (co-regent)</b>	873 - 848	25 (see 1 Kings 22:41-42, 2 Chronicles 20:31-32)	Asa & Azubah	55
<b>Jehoram (a.k.a. Joram in 1 Ch. 3:11) (co-regent)</b>	849 - 841	8 (see 2 Kings 8:17, 2 Chronicles 21:16-20)	Jehoshaphat	56
<b>Ahaziah</b>	841 - 841	1 (see 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2)	Jehoram	57
<b>Joash (a.k.a. Jehoash in 2 Ki. 12:1)</b>	835 - 796	40 (see 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1)	Ahaziah	58
<b>Amaziah (co-regent)</b>	796 - 767	29 (see 2 Kings 14:1-2, 2 Chronicles 25:1)	Joash & Jehoaddan	59
<b>Azariah (a.k.a. Uzziah in 2 Ch. 26:3) (co-regent)</b>	792 - 740	52 (see 2 Kings 15:1-2, 2 Chronicles 26:3)	Amaziah & Jecholiah	60
<b>Jotham</b>	750 - 732	16 (see 2 Kings 15:32-33, 2 Chronicles 27:1)	Azariah	61
<b>Ahaz</b>	732 - 716	16 (see 2 Kings 16:1-2, 2 Chronicles 28:1)	Jotham	62
<b>Hezekiah (co-regent)</b>	716 - 687	29 (see 2 Kings 18:1-2, 2 Chronicles 29:1)	Ahaz & Abijah	63
<b>Manasseh (co-regent)</b>	697 - 642	55 (see 2 Kings 21:1, 2 Chronicles 33:1)	Hezekiah & Hephzibah	64
<b>Amon</b>	642 - 640	2 (see 2 Kings 21:19, 2 Chronicles 33:21)	Manasseh	65
<b>Josiah</b>	640 - 609	31 (see 2 Kings 22:1, 2 Chronicles 34:1)	Amon & Jedidah	66
<b>Jehoahaz</b>	609 - 609	3months (see 2 Kings 23:31, 2 Chronicles 36:2)	Josiah	67
<b>Jehoiakim</b>	609 - 598	11 (see 2 Kings 23:36, 2 Chronicles 36:5)	Josiah & Zebudah	68
<b>Jeconiah (a.k.a. Jehoiachin)</b>	598 - 597 (Siege of Jerusalem)	3months & 10days (see 2 Kings 24:8, 2 Kings 24:12, 2 Chronicles 36:9)	Jehoiakim	69
<b>Mattaniah (renamed Zedekiah in 2 Ki. 24:17)</b>	597 - 586	11 (see 2 Kings 24:18, 2 Chronicles 36:11)	Josiah	70

## Kingdom of Judah - 2 Southern Tribes



### The Twenty Sixth Dynasty of Egypt, Late Period:

The Twenty Sixth Dynasty of Egypt lasted from 672 to 525 B.C. as part of the chronology of the Late Period of Egypt. One of the most notable monarchs of this dynasty was Pharaoh Necho II (610 - 595 B.C.) [Figure I]. He built his reputation by conducting ambitious building projects, attempting to revive Egyptian influence in the East, and leading aggressive military campaigns. Necho II's most infamous campaign occurred at the Battle of Megiddo, where King Josiah (640 - 609 B.C.) of Judah was killed. Approximately one year subsequent to Necho II's rise to power in 610 B.C., the 609 B.C. Battle of Megiddo occurred at Tel Megiddo, Judah ( $32^{\circ}35'07''\text{N}$   $35^{\circ}11'04''\text{E}$ ) [Figure VI]. Though the achievement of killing Josiah was accomplished at that battle, Necho II experienced many failures. Encyclopædia Britannica states in their article, *Necho II*, that “Necho II (flourished 7th century BCE) was a king of Egypt (reigned 610–595 BCE), and a member of the 26th dynasty, who unsuccessfully attempted to aid Assyria against the Neo-Babylonians and later sponsored an expedition that circumnavigated Africa” (Britannica 2024). Not only did Necho II ally with the Assyrians; he also fought against them: “in his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him” (2 Kings 23:29 KJV). To get to the Euphrates, where the Assyrians were, Necho II and his army first needed to pass through the Israelites. “Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo” (2 Chronicles 35:22 KJV). Alternatively, the Babylonians were the most serious threat to the Egyptians. “A threat developed in Mesopotamia, where the Assyrian empire was falling to the Babylonians. Necho ordered fleets to be built on the Mediterranean and Red seas, and with them he undertook a Syrian campaign in 608 BCE to assist the battered Assyrian armies” (Britannica 2024). This military operation aimed to establish dominance in the ancient near east. According to Greek Historian Herodotus’ *Book II*, “Psammetichus [Psamtik I] had a son Necos [Necho II], who became king of Egypt. It was he who began the making of the canal into the Red Sea,<sup>25</sup> which was finished by Darius the Persian” (Herodotus 2). As for the Israelites, they did clash with the Egyptians, yet there was no incident more devastating for Judah as a whole than the exile under the Neo-Babylonians.

Twenty Sixth Dynasty of Egypt

Pharaoh	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Scriptural Occurrences	Citation Index
<b>Necho I</b>	672 - 664	8	NULL	71
<b>Psamtik I</b>	664 - 610	54	NULL	72
<b>Necho II (a.k.a. Pharaohnechoh)</b>	610 - 595	15	2 Kings 23:29-35. 2 Chronicles 35:20-22, 36:4.	73
<b>Psamtik II</b>	595 - 589	6	NULL	74
<b>Apries</b>	589 - 570	19	NULL	75
<b>Ahmose II</b>	570 - 526	44	NULL	76
<b>Psamtik III</b>	526 - 525	1	NULL	77

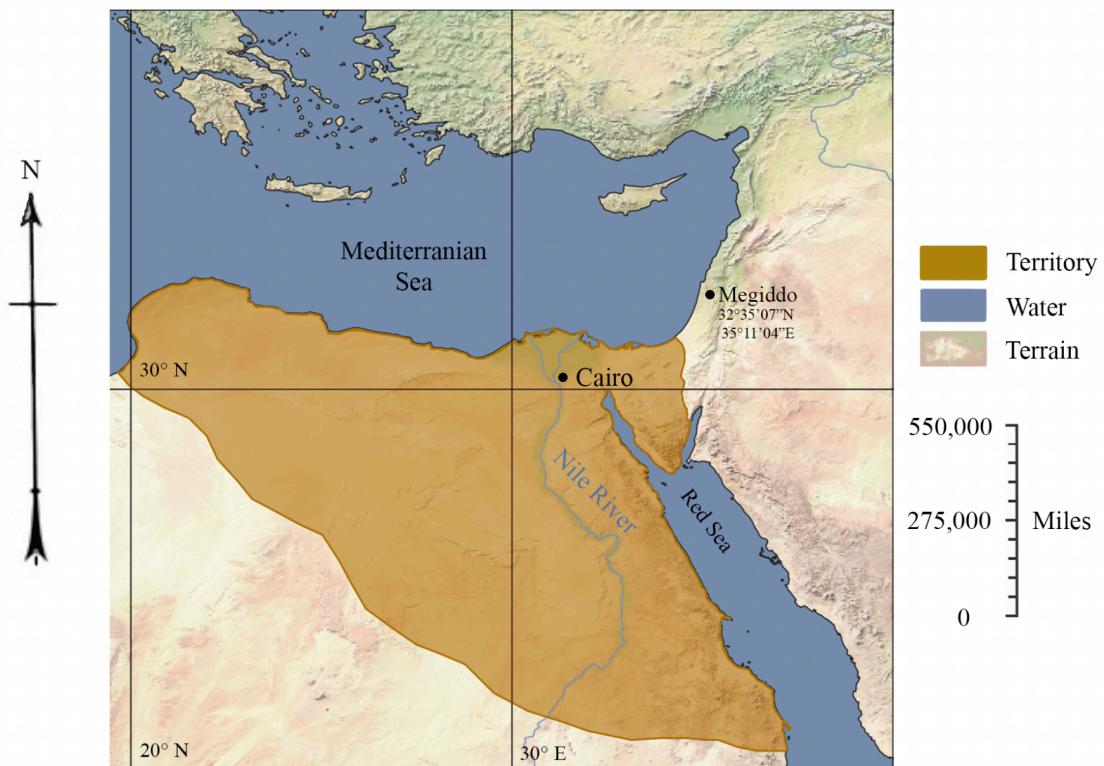


Sculpture of  
Pharaoh Necho II (610 - 595 B.C.)  
[Figure V]



Ancient City of Megiddo  
32°35'07"N 35°11'04"E  
[Figure VI]

## Late Period of Egypt



### The Neo-Babylonian Empire:

From 626 to 539 B.C., the Neo-Babylonian Empire flourished in the Mesopotamian region of the Fertile Crescent. Also known as the Chaldaean Empire, it was home to some of the most powerful monarchs in ancient military history. According to Encyclopædia Britannica, “it dominated much of Southwest Asia from shortly after its founding in 626 BCE until the defeat of its final king by the Persian king Cyrus the Great in 539 BCE” (Lloyd, von Soden, Saggs 2024). Of all the Babylonian monarchs, the most well known is King Nebuchadnezzar II (August 605 - October 562 B.C.) [Figure VII]. From the Babylonian Chronicles to the canonical books of Kings and Chronicles in the Bible, the vast expansion of Babylonian territory is well documented throughout world history. The father of Nebuchadnezzar II - King Nabopolassar (November 626 - July 605 B.C.) - was the first king and founder of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The collapse of the Assyrian Empire, which occurred in 612 B.C. following the Battle of Nineveh, gave Nabopolassar an opportunity to establish Babylon as a global superpower. “By 616 Nabopolassar had conquered the rest of Babylonia, a region that stretched from the area around what is now Baghdad to the Persian Gulf. In the years that followed he attacked cities in Assyria—with Median and, later, Scythian support—and sacked Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, in 612. The Neo-Assyrian empire met its end in or shortly after 610 with the defeat of Ashur-uballit II and his Egyptian allies at Harran” (Lloyd, von Soden, Saggs 2024). The prefix, “Neo,” refers to a restoration of power following a period of geopolitical decline and absence. When Babylon dominated the ancient near east, the Siege of Jerusalem, carried out in 597 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar II, marked the demolition of the city and exile of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. “In 597 BC the Babylonians under King Nebuchadrezzar [another transliteration for Nebuchadnezzar] besieged and captured Jerusalem. They deported Jehoiachin to Babylon and made Mattaniah regent under the name Zedekiah” (Britannica 2014). Eight years after Nebuchadnezzar II took the throne in 605 B.C., Jehoiachin surrendered to him in 597 B.C. “And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his [Nebuchadnezzar’s] reign” (2 Kings 24:12 KJV). After Zedekiah witnessed the execution of his sons, his eyeballs were put out according to 2 Kings 25:7 and Jeremiah 52:11. Jerusalem fell “following a four-month siege, according to the Babylonian Chronicles, a set of tablets currently possessed by the British Museum” (Bush 2021). It was a long, drawn out occurrence. According to *The Bible*, God used Nebuchadnezzar II to punish the Israelites: “And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him” (Jeremiah 27:6 KJV). The Fertile Crescent provided a convenient terrain for agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry (i.e. raising farm animals). Moreover, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers allocated opportunities for Babylon to achieve agricultural productivity, trade and commerce, irrigation (i.e. water collection and distribution), and tactical advantages in warfare. Overall, the Fertile Crescent has provided an excellent habitat for various species’ survival for several thousands of years. Moreover, the ancient city of Babylon ( $32^{\circ}32'32''\text{N}$   $44^{\circ}25'16''\text{E}$ ) [Figure VIII] has remained well preserved even to the 21<sup>st</sup> century A.D. According to scripture, “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Daniel 5:34 KJV). The unique architecture of the city provides a glimpse into the Babylonian majesty which Nebuchadnezzar ambitiously sought out to represent.

## Neo-Babylonian Empire

King	Reign Period (B.C.)	Years Reigned	Parent	Scriptural Occurrences	Citation Index
Nabopolassar	November 626 - July 605	21	Kudurru	NULL	78
Nebuchadnezzar II	August 605 - October 562	43	Nabopolassar	See Strong's Exhaustive Concordance	79
Evilmerodach (a.k.a. Amel-Marduk)	October 562 - August 560	2	Nebuchadnezzar II	2 Kings 25:27. Jeremiah 52:31.	80
Neriglissar (a.k.a. Nergal-shar-usur)	August 560 - April 556	4	Bel-shum-ishkun	NULL	81
Labashi-Marduk	April 556 - May 556	2 months	Neriglissar	NULL	82
Nabunaid (a.k.a. Nabonidus) (co-regent)	May 556 - October 539	17	Nabu-balatsu-iqbi	NULL	83
Belshazzar (co-regent)	556 - 539		17 Evilmerodach (father) Nebuchadnezzar II (grandfather)	Daniel 5:1-30, 7:1, 8:1.	84

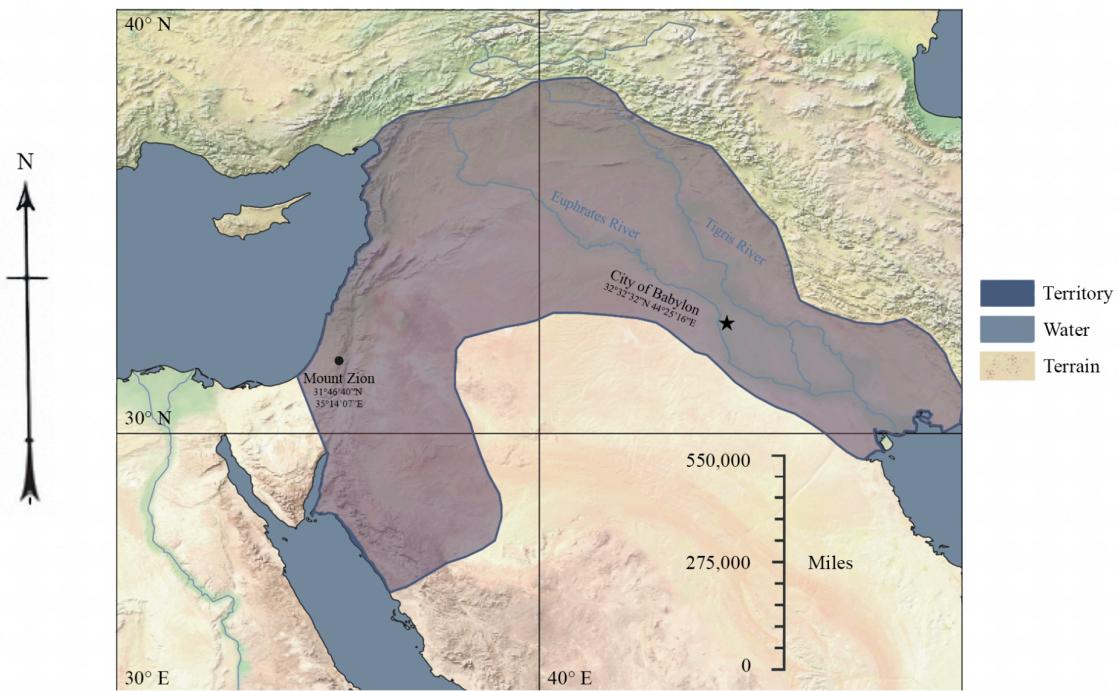


Sculpture of  
King Nebuchadnezzar II (605 - 562 B.C.)  
[Figure VII]



Drone Image Facing South Towards the  
Ancient City of Babylon  
32°32'32"N 44°25'16"E  
[Figure VIII]

## Neo-Babylonian Empire



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