Sunday Morning in the Word



2 Kings 25:27-30

November 25, 2018

Christmas Edition

JESUS NO GREATER LOVE

Coming to Grace December 2, 2018







Three men inspired by ISIS were arrested this week in Melbourne, Australia for planning a mass casualty attack on that city.

Situation in the Central African Republic

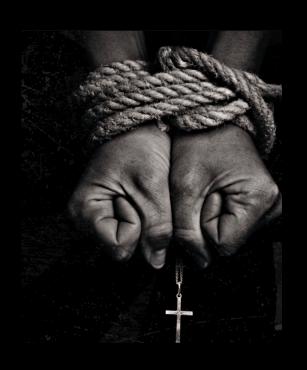
2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

621,000 people are displaced within the country

572,000 are living as refugees outside of the country







Every year, several thousand Christians around the world are tortured and even killed because of their faith in Christ!

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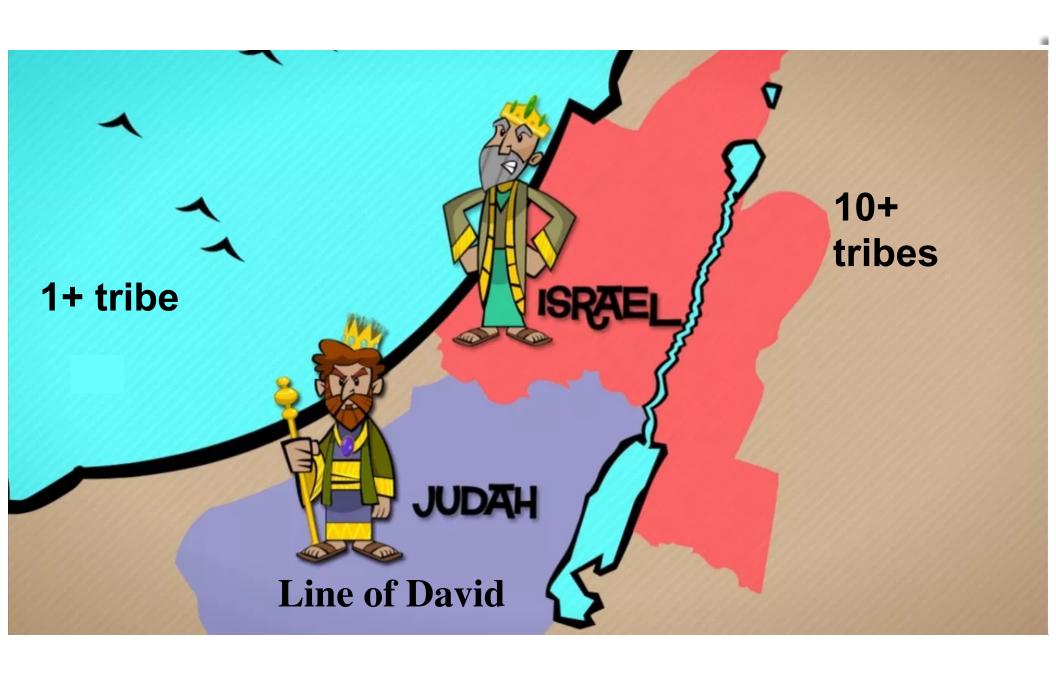
The Lord declares to you: The Lord himself will make a house for you. When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of 2 Samuel 7:11b-14 his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.

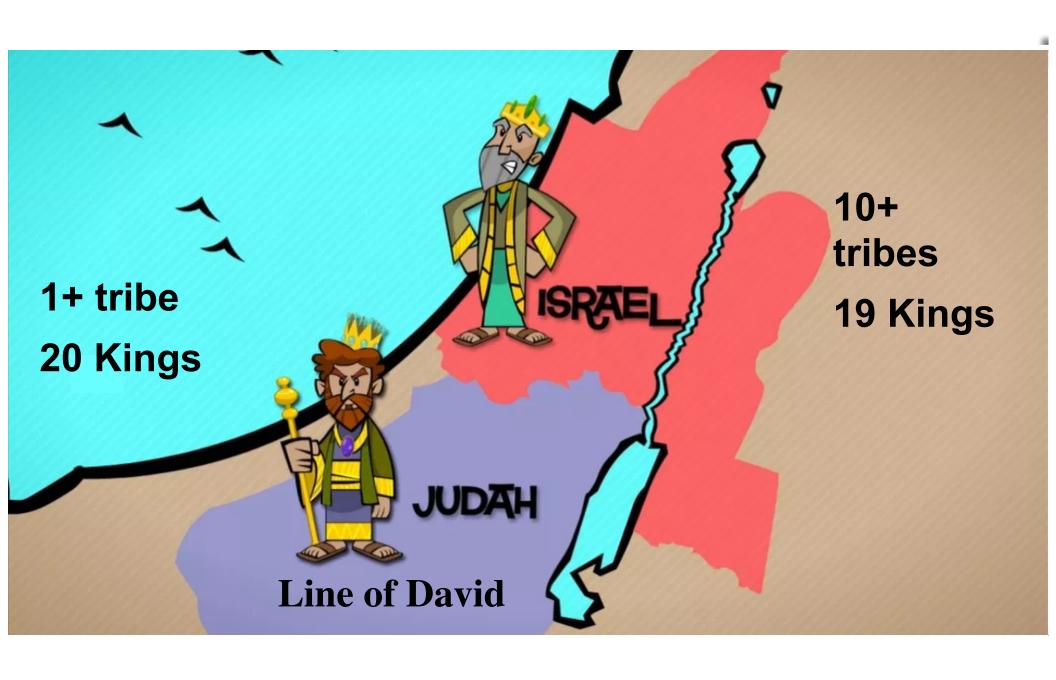
2 Samuel 7:15-16

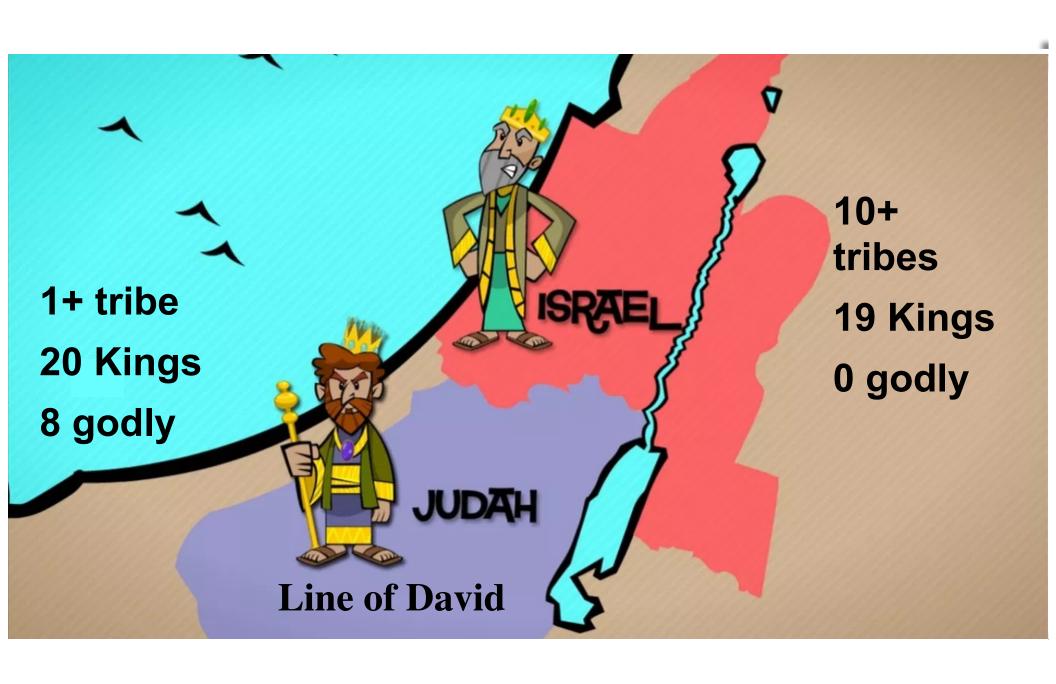
Since you have done this and did not keep my covenant and my statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. However, I will not do it during your lifetime for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand. Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of Jerusalem that I chose.

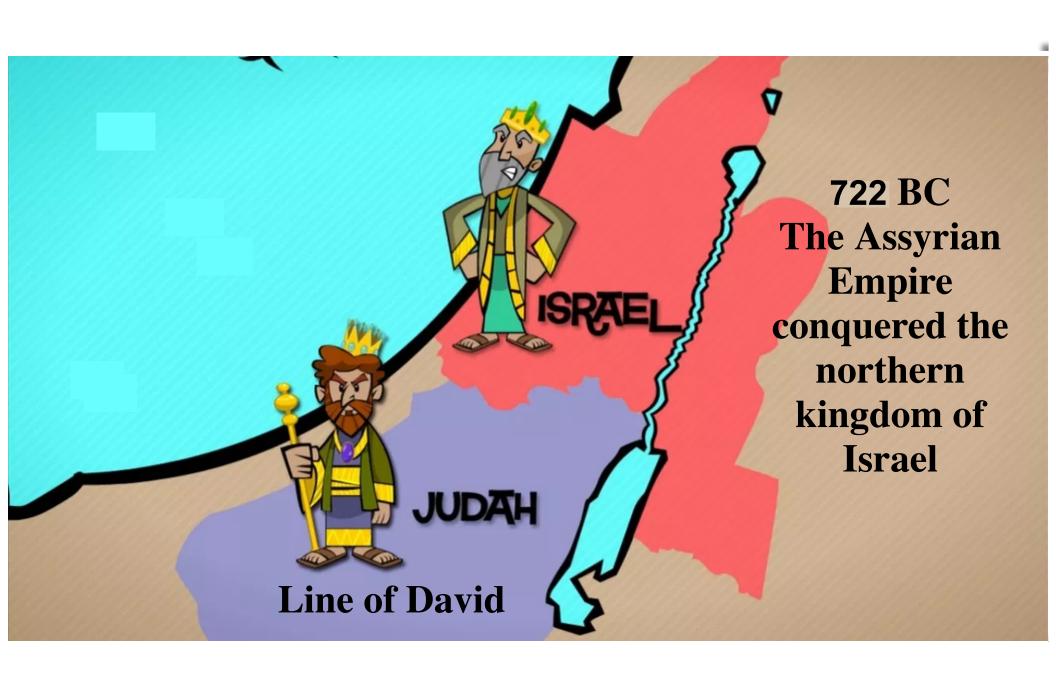


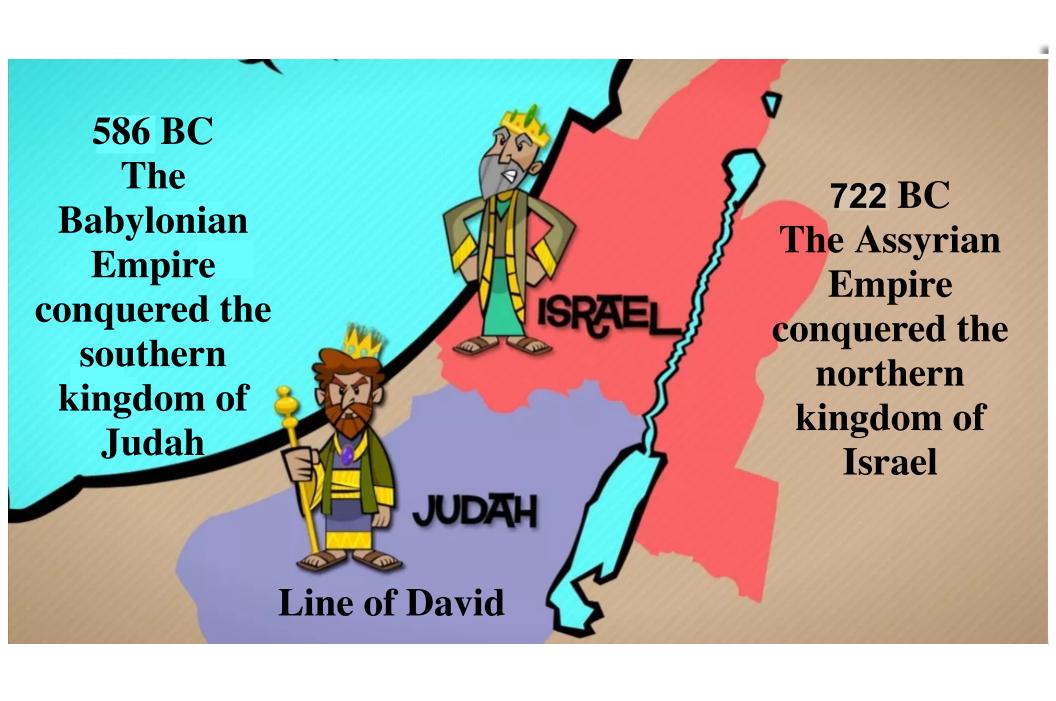


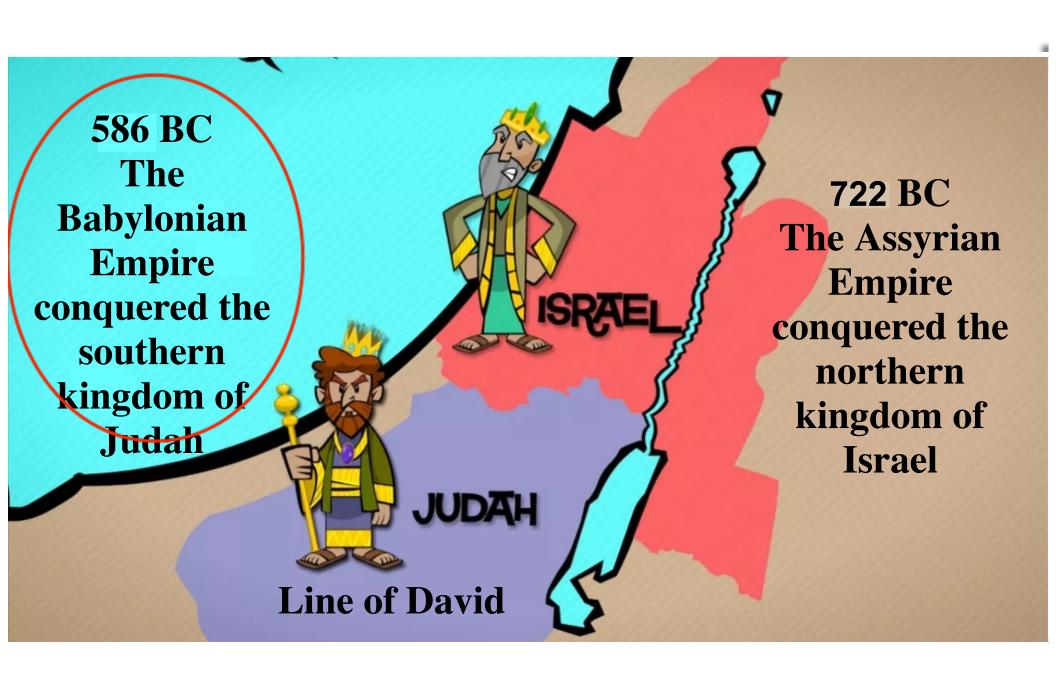












The Three Deportations of the Babylonian Conquest of Judah

Deportation #1 (605 BC)

Deportation #3 (597 BC)

Deportation #3 (586 BC)

Deportation #1 (605 BC)

During Jehoiakim's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked. Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years, and then he turned and rebelled against him.

2 Kings 24:1 CSB

Jehoiakim rested with his fathers, and his son Jehoiachin became king in his place.

2 Kings 24:6 CSB

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem . . . He did what was evil in the Lord's sight just as his father had done.

2 Kings 24:8-9

King Jehoiachin of Judah, along with his mother, his servants, his commanders, and his officials, surrendered to the king of Babylon. So the king of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his reign.

2 Kings 24:12

He also carried off from there all the treasures of the Lord's temple and the treasures of the king's palace, and he cut into pieces all the gold articles that King Solomon of Israel had made for the Lord's sanctuary, just as the Lord had predicted. He deported all Jerusalem and all the commanders and all the best soldiers—ten thousand captives including all the craftsmen and metalsmiths. Except for the poorest pegglegsfzthe zanal, no one remained. **CSB**

And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.

2 Kings 24:17

Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

2 Kings 24:20

King Zedekiah tries to escape.

The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. They slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes. Finally, the king of Babylon blinded Zedekiah, bound him in bronze chains, and took him to Babylon.

2 Kings 25:6-7

King Zedekiah tries to escape.

The Babylonian army destroys Jerusalem.

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All but the poor are deported.

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The Babylonian army destroys Jerusalem.

All but the poor are deported.

Several of the leading citizens and a number of men are executed.

So Judah went into exile from its land.

2 Kings 25:21

The Epilogue: Event #1

The appointment of Gedaliah as Governor

The Epilogue: Event #1 (Gedaliah Appointed Gov.)

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon appointed Gedaliah . . . over the rest of the people he left in the land of Judah . . . Gedaliah swore an oath to them and their men, assuring them, "Don't be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for you."

2 Kings 25:22, 24

The Epilogue: Event #1 (Gedaliah Appointed Gov.)

Then all the people, from the youngest to the oldest, and the commanders of the army, left and went to Egypt, for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

2 Kings 25:26

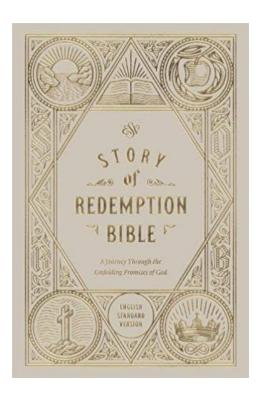


So why did the author choose to include this event?

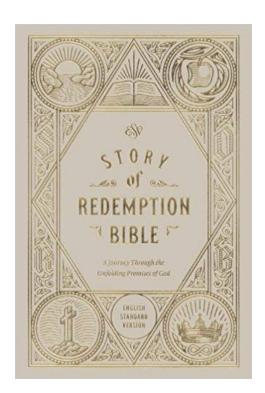


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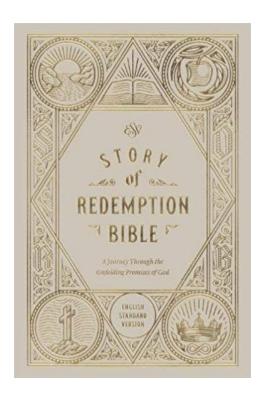
Most likely the author wanted to put an exclamation point on the judgment suffered by Judah. Now even those Jews the Babylonians had allowed to remain in the land to care for it had fled. The land once "flowing with milk and honey" is utterly empty. God's judgment is complete!



"There is nothing here but devastation. The temple is destroyed, it's implements and tools carried off as trophies to Babylon. The rich and powerful of the land have been carried into exile in Babylon, and even the left-behind poor flee en masse to Egypt, so that **the land is empty.** The royal palace is burned, Jehoiachin is taken to Babylon to die, and, worst of all, the last king in the line of David watches as his sons are slaughtered before him. Then his eyes are put out so that the last thing he ever sees is the death of his line, the end of the dynasty of David, and therefore the failure of God's promises,



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The Restoration of King Jehoiachin

On the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Judah's King Jehoiachin, in the year Evil-merodach became king of Babylon, he pardoned King Jehoiachin of Judah and released him from prison.

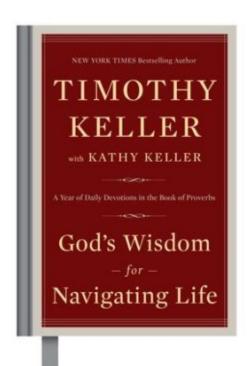
2 Kings 25:27

"A king's heart is like channeled water in the Lord's hand: He directs it wherever he chooses."

Proverbs 21:1 CSB

"The text indicates that the Lord has every ruler's heart in his hand. Each powerful person will be only an instrument for the accomplishment of God's plans."

(Timothy Keller)



He spoke kindly to him and set his throne over the thrones of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and he dined regularly in the presence of the king of Babylon for the rest of his life. As for his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king, a portion for each day, for the rest of his life.

2 Kings 25:28-30

Even when God's people fail to keep their covenant with God and choose to forsake Him,

God will ALWAYS be faithful to his covenant and will NEVER forsake his own!

The pardon of Israel's king by
Babylonian King Evil-merodach
reminds us of what God has done for
us in freeing us from prison, giving
us royal clothes to wear, and inviting
us to the table of our King, Jesus, the
Son of David, the Son of God!





Are you a member of the covenant people of God?

Are you going through a dark time in your life?





Are you going through a dark time in your life?

Do you grow anxious about all the chaos and evil that permeates our world today?



Are you going through a dark time in your life? Do you grow anxious about all the chaos and evil that permeates our world today?

Do you feel like a failure because of how often you find yourself confessing your sins to God?

Even when God's people fail to keep their covenant with God and choose to forsake Him,

God will ALWAYS be faithful to his covenant and will NEVER forsake his own!

He pardons us and gives us a seat at the table of the Great King for all of eternity!