

Israel's History in a Nutshell

The Beginning

- In c. 2000 BC, God formed Israel by choosing **Abraham** and his descendants to multiply and be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1-3). Jacob was Abraham's grandson, whom God renamed Israel, and his sons became **Twelve Tribes of Israel**.
- Around 1720 BC, the Israelites moved to **Egypt** and became enslaved there over the next 500 years.
- God brought the people of Israel **out of slavery** in Egypt and through the wilderness under **Moses**. God led them to the **Promised Land** under Joshua's leadership around 1240 BC.

Judges and Kings

- In the Promised Land, under 12 different **Judges**, Israel went through a downward cycle of falling into idolatry, half-heartedly repenting. But each Judge became less godly and effective, and the people demanded to have a king like the nations around them.
- In 1050 BC, they chose **Saul as king**, and his reign was a failure.
- After that, God chose **David as king**, and though his reign was successful, he too had failures.
- David's son, **Solomon**, reigned in his place, but fell away also.
- In 930 BC, the **Kingdom was divided** into Israel in the north, and Judah in the south. The city of Jerusalem was located in Judah.

What Led to Exile

- The northern kingdom of Israel had only wicked kings who led the people into idolatry.
- They fell in 720 BC to the Assyrian Empire.
- The southern kingdom of Judah had only 5 kings who followed God. The other 15 kings all led the nation into idolatry.
- *Judah fell to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 585 BC and the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.*

Return from Exile

- In 538 BC, Jewish exiles began to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls.
- Later in 515 BC, the Temple of God was rebuilt in Jerusalem. This all happened under the Persian Empire when Nehemiah was a leader.

Habakkuk is written right before Judah fell to Babylon.