

## Solomon:

# 1 & 2 Kings / 2 Chronicles

- He was the last king to rule during Israel's united kingdom
- Started well: ruled with wisdom, built & dedicated the temple
- Finished poorly: had many wives, worshiped their gods, broke the covenant
- As a result, God said he would tear part of the kingdom out of the hand of his son; this leads to the divided kingdom

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## Divided Kingdom:

# 1 & 2 Kings / 2 Chronicles

- kingdom splits in two under Solomon's son, Rehoboam
- Northern kingdom keeps the name Israel; composed of 10 tribes; Jeroboam is first king
- Southern kingdom named Judah; composed of 2 tribes: Judah & Benjamin
- Israel has only wicked kings who don't follow the Lord (0 for 19); they fall first
- Judah has some good kings who want to follow God (8 out of 20); 2 notable kings are Hezekiah & Josiah; they fall later

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## Fall of Both Kingdoms / Exile:

## 1 & 2 Kings / 2 Chronicles

- Israel falls to Assyria in 722 BC
- Assyria falls to Babylon
- Judah falls to Babylon in 586 BC, Jerusalem & temple destroyed
- Israel & Judah fall less than 150 years apart and both are in exile, away from their home country
- 2 Chronicles covers similar content as 1 & 2 Kings, but focuses on Judah

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## Restoration / Return from Exile:

## 1 & 2 Kings / 2 Chronicles

- Persian King Cyrus allows some of the people from Judah in exile to return home to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple
- Completed in 516 BC, fulfilling Jeremiah's 70 year prophecy about exile (586 BC for temple's destruction to 516 BC for new temple's completion)
- Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther occur during this time of restoration

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# The Big Picture of Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

- **Ezra:** 1) Zerubbabel, a descendant of David, returns to Jerusalem and rebuilds the temple 2) Ezra arrives years later and teaches the people to obey God's law
- **Nehemiah:** Nehemiah oversees the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. Ezra reads the law to the people & they rededicate themselves to it
- **Esther:** In Persia, Queen Esther, who is Jewish, saves her people from genocide, by risking her life to ask the king for help.