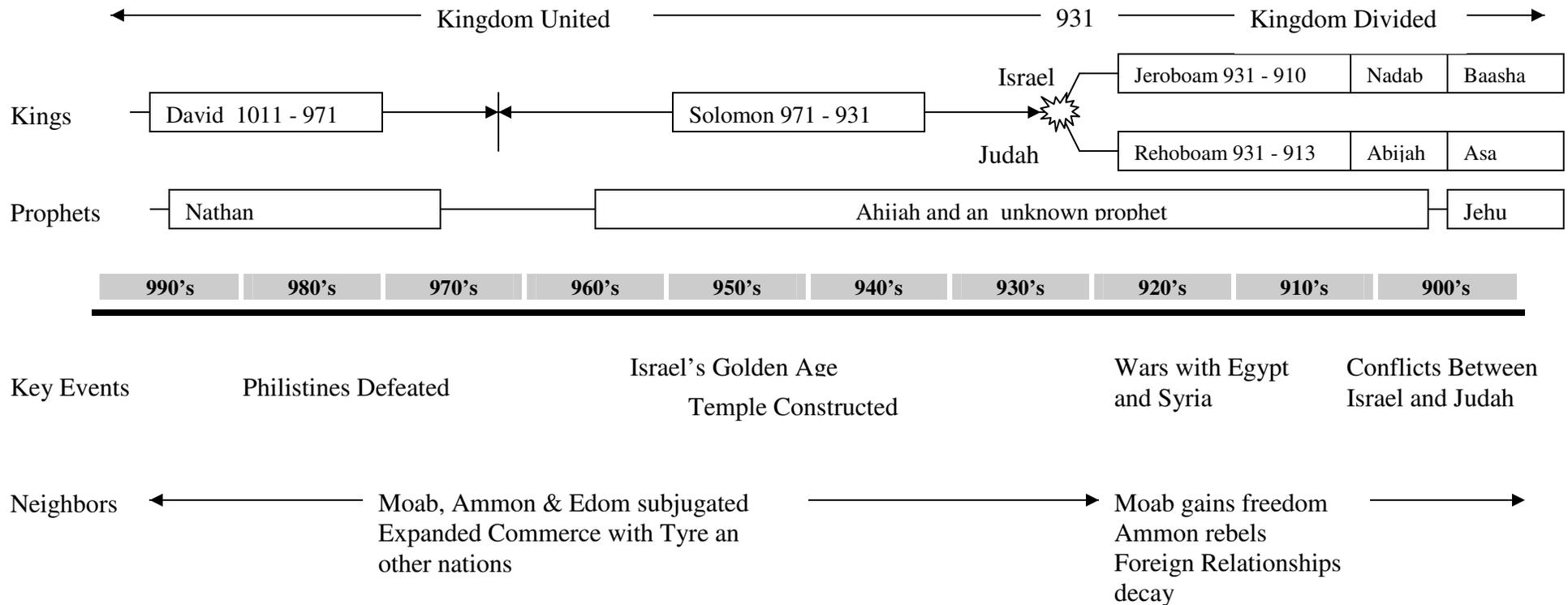


10th Century B.C. – Israel’s Timeline



Summary of the Century

The underlying message of the 10th century is clear and totally consistent with God promise to the descendants of Jacob, the people of Israel in Deut 11:26-27.. Seek God and find blessing, disobey God and find judgment.

Details:

For the nation of Israel, the 10th century BC was split between very good years united under the leadership of David and Solomon and a number of bad ones as a divided nation under two separate kings. Both David and Solomon sought after God during most of their reign and the nation prospered entering their Golden years during the early reign of Solomon. Here commerce and trade expanded with neighboring nations especially the Phoenicians with whom Solomon established a fleet of ships opening up sea trade. Trade with Tyre and other nations provided wealth for the country and contributed to the beauty of the Temple built by Solomon. The close neighboring nations of Edom, Ammon and Moab were also subjugated to Israel during this time and the Philistines had been defeated. However, Solomon's heart for God waned in the latter part of his reign and with it the nation grew further from God and his ways. Solomon's wives and his wealth led him into alliances with other nations that brought in pagan ideologies and the tolerance of idol worship. In 931 Solomon's heir was killed and Jeroboam, a governor in charge of some of Solomon's forced labor setup the Northern kingdom of Israel encouraged by a prophecy from Ahijah. He essentially seceded from the nation leaving only 2 tribes, Judah and Benjamin in the south.

Jeroboam is best known for lead his 10 tribes of Israel into active idolatry by re-creating a cultic religion similar to that Aaronite icons and traditions (ie. Worship of statues of Bulls). His son Nadab was assassinated by Basha who reigned at the end of the century. None of these kings sought after God. The southern nation of Judah remained in the leadership of the Davidic dynasty under Rehoboam. The separation of the kingdom and almost constant hostilities between Israel and Judah left the nation as a whole weak and susceptible to hostilities from other nations. In general the nation declined significantly as godliness became a thing of the past. In 925, the king of Egypt, Shisak invaded Judah. Chronicles records this invasion as judgment on Judah for Rehoboams apostasy and he offered no resistance. Shisaks invasion went on to impact the northern kingdom as well. Towards the end of the 10th century, Rehoboams son Abijah tool over his father kingdom and did attack the northern kingdom of Jeroboam trying to restore unity but this failed and he reined only 3 years. Asa's reign finished out the century and he was one of the few kings credited with doing what is right in the eyes of God removing idols and getting rid of cultic prostitutes.

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