

## Section

# 2

# The Kingdom of Israel



### History Social Science Standards

**WH.6.3** Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.

## Guide to Reading

### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In Section 1, you read about the constant fighting between the Israelites and the Canaanites. The tribes of Israel longed for peace. Many thought the way to peace was to unite as one nation.

### Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- The Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies. (page 207)
- King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital city. (page 209)
- The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah. (page 210)

### Meeting People

**Philistine** (FIH•luh•STEEN)

**Saul** (SAWL)

**David**

**Solomon** (SAHL•uh•muhn)

**Nebuchadnezzar**

(NEH•byuh•kuhd•NEH•zuhr)

### Locating Places

**Jerusalem** (juh•ROO•suh•luhm)

**Judah** (JOO•duh)

### Content Vocabulary

**prophet** (PRAH•fuht)

**empire** (EHM•PYR)

**tribute** (TRIH•byoot)

**proverb** (PRAH•VUHRB)

### Academic Vocabulary

**instruct** (ihn•STRUHKT)

**symbol** (SIHM•buhl)

### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing Information** Complete a chart like the one below identifying characteristics of Israel and Judah.

	Israel	Judah
Location		
Capital City		
Date Conquered		
Conquered By		



## Where & When?



1000 B.C.

c. 1000 B.C.

David becomes king

750 B.C.

722 B.C.

Assyrians conquer Israel

500 B.C.

597 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem



## The Israelites Choose a King

**Main Idea** The Israelites chose a king to unite them against their enemies.

**Reading Connection** What does “united we stand, divided we fall” mean to you? Read on to find out what it meant to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Around 1000 B.C., the strongest people living in Canaan were not the Israelites, but the **Philistines** (FIH•luh•STEENS). The Philistines had strong cities, and they knew how to make iron tools and weapons.

According to the Hebrew Bible, some Israelites began copying the Philistine religion. It suggests the Israelites began to think they needed a king of their own to prevent this problem. They probably believed a king would unite the tribes and help them fight off the Philistines.

### History online

**Web Activity** Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on *Chapter 3—Student Web Activity* to learn more about the ancient Israelites.

**The Rule of King Saul** In 1020 B.C. the Israelites asked Samuel to choose a king. Samuel was a judge and a **prophet** (PRAH•fuht). A prophet is a person who the ancient Israelites thought was **instructed** by God. Samuel warned that a king would tax the Israelites and make them slaves. The Israelites still demanded a king, so they chose a warrior-farmer named **Saul** (SAWL).

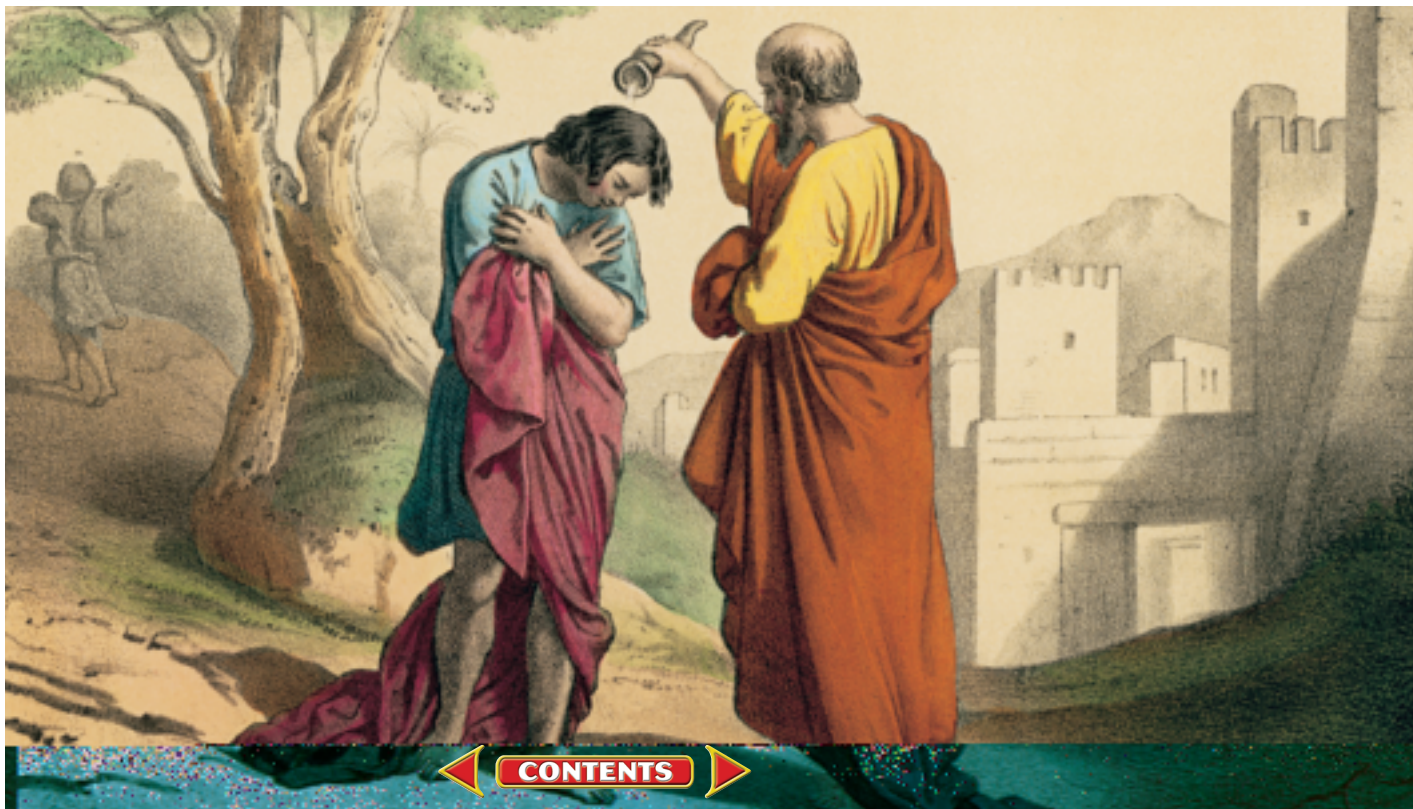
Samuel anointed Saul as king. In other words, he blessed him with oil to show that God had chosen him. Saul was tall and handsome and had won many battles.

Saul defeated the Israelites’ enemies in battle after battle. However, according to the Hebrew Bible, the king displeased God by disobeying some of his commands. God then chose another king and instructed Samuel to anoint him in secret. The new king was a young shepherd named **David**.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did the Israelites want a king?

▼ According to the Hebrew Bible, David had to be called in from the fields where he was tending his sheep when Samuel arrived to anoint him.

**Why did God have Samuel anoint David?**







## DAVID

*Reigned c. 1000–970 B.C.*

The story of David's life is told in several books of the Hebrew Bible, including Samuel I and II and Psalms. During his youth, David worked as an aide in King Saul's court. While at court, he formed a close friendship with the king's son, Jonathan. David fought courageously against the Philistines as a soldier in Saul's army. He also killed the Philistine giant, Goliath, with only a slingshot and stones. The first book of Samuel tells how David's harp playing pleased King Saul. But the king grew jealous of David's growing popularity as a brave soldier. He decided to have David killed.

To save his own life, David fled into the desert. During this time, David led a group of other people who were hiding from the king. David and his band protected people from raiders and returned possessions that had been stolen. By the time David returned to Jerusalem, he was well-known throughout the land.

After the death of King Saul, according to the Hebrew Bible, David became the second king of Israel. David successfully united all the tribes of Israel. He then conquered Jerusalem and made it the kingdom's capital. During his reign, David built Israel into an empire and dominated neighboring kingdoms.

David was not only a brave warrior and successful leader, he was also a talented poet. Many of the hymns in the Hebrew Bible's book of Psalms have been credited to David, including Psalm 23, which begins "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."



▲ King David

**"The sweet psalmist of Israel"**

—David, 2 Samuel 23:1

### Then and Now

In David's time, kings were expected to excel in battle. Use your research skills to find at least three U.S. presidents who built their reputations in the military.



## David and Solomon

**Main Idea** King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital city.

**Reading Connection** What person do you think was most important in the history of the United States? Read to learn why King David is so important to the history of the Jewish people.

Even before he became king of Israel, David was known for his bravery and leadership. The Hebrew Bible describes how he became famous by telling the story of David and Goliath. Before a battle against the Philistines, a giant Philistine named Goliath dared any Israelite to fight him one-on-one. David stepped forward with his shepherd's staff, a slingshot, and five smooth stones.

Goliath roared and rushed forward with a heavy spear. David hurled one stone straight at the giant's forehead, and Goliath dropped dead on the spot.

Saul put David in charge of the army. As his victories grew, Israelite women sang his praises. "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul grew envious and plotted to kill David.

David hid out in enemy territory until Saul and his three sons were killed in battle. The bitter rivalry was over. David was able to take the throne in about 1000 B.C.

Once in power, according to the Hebrew Bible, David drove the Philistines from the area. He conquered other neighboring nations and created an **empire** (EHM•PYR). An empire is a nation that rules several other nations. Conquered peoples had to pay David **tribute** (TRIH•byoot). Tribute is money or slaves given to a stronger ruler.

David made the Israelites pay heavy taxes. He needed money to expand Israel's capital, **Jerusalem** (juh•ROO•suh•luhm). He wanted a fine temple there so that sacred

## Primary Source

### Proverbs

Solomon's proverbs are recorded in the Hebrew Bible. Read these three, then answer the question.

"What you gain by doing evil won't help you at all, but being good can save you from death."

At harvest season it's smart to work hard, but [unwise] to sleep.

You will be safe, if you always do right, but you will get caught, if you are dishonest."

—Proverbs 10: 2, 5, 9



▲ King Solomon

## DBQ Document-Based Question

How would the third proverb above convince people to tell the truth?

religious objects cherished by the Israelites would finally have a permanent home. David died before he built the temple, but the Israelites remembered him as their greatest king, as do Jews today.

**The Rule of King Solomon** When David died, his son **Solomon** (SAHL•uh•muhn) became king. It was Solomon who built a splendid stone temple in Jerusalem. It became the **symbol** and center of the Jewish religion. In the Hebrew Bible, Solomon was known for his wise sayings, or **proverbs** (PRAH•VUHRBS), but many Israelites hated his rule. Solomon taxed the people to pay for his great buildings.





**WH6.3.2** Identify the sources of the ethical teachings and central beliefs of Judaism (the Hebrew Bible, the Commentaries): belief in God, observance of law, practice of the concepts of righteousness and justice, and importance of study; and describe how the ideas of the Hebrew traditions are reflected in the moral and ethical traditions of Western civilization. **WH6.3.4** Discuss the locations of the settlements and movements of Hebrew peoples, including the Exodus and their movement to and from Egypt, and outline the significance of the Exodus to the Jewish and other people.

The Israelites in the north were especially unhappy with Solomon. To get more money, Solomon had made many of their young men work in the mines of a neighboring country.

When Solomon died, the northerners rebelled and fighting broke out. Ten of the 12 tribes set up their own nation in the north. It was called the kingdom of Israel, and its capital was Samaria. In the south, the other two tribes founded the smaller kingdom of **Judah** (JOO•duh). Its capital was Jerusalem, and its people were called Jews.

**Reading Check Explain** What did King David accomplish for Israel?

## A Troubled Time

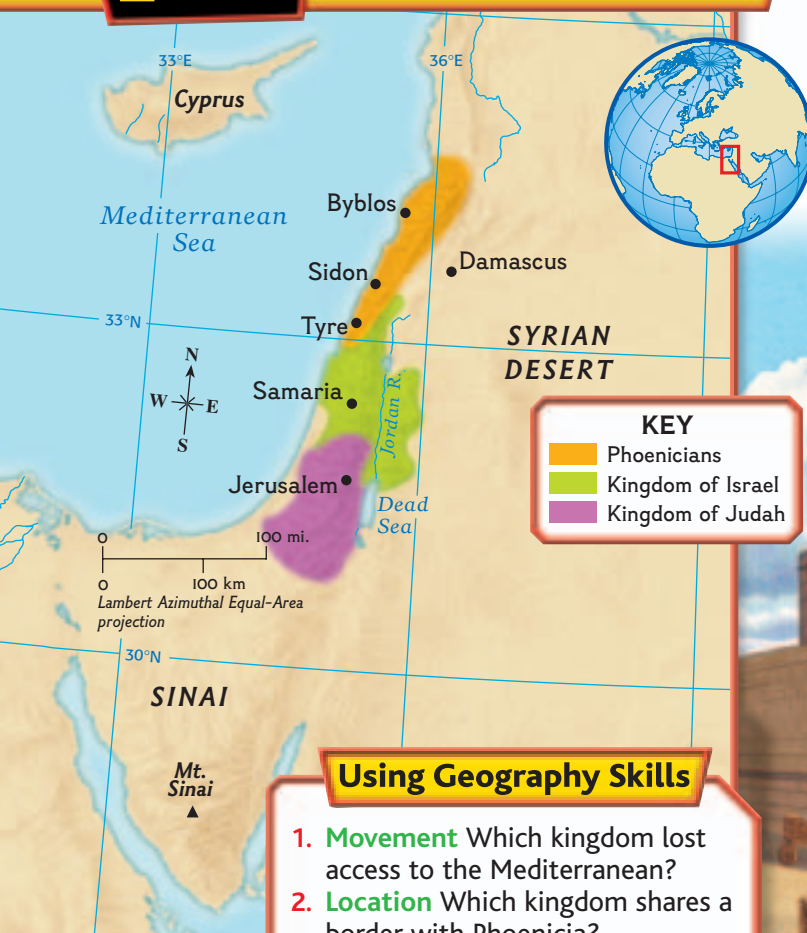
**Main Idea** The Israelites were conquered and forced to leave Israel and Judah.

**Reading Connection** Have you ever moved and left a home you loved? Read to find out why many Israelites were forced to leave their home.

While the Israelites were dividing their kingdom, the Assyrians and Chaldeans (kal•DEE•uhns) were building empires in southwest Asia. These peoples wanted to control the trade routes that ran through the Israelite kingdoms. Small and weak, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah felt threatened by their powerful neighbors.



## Ancient Israel

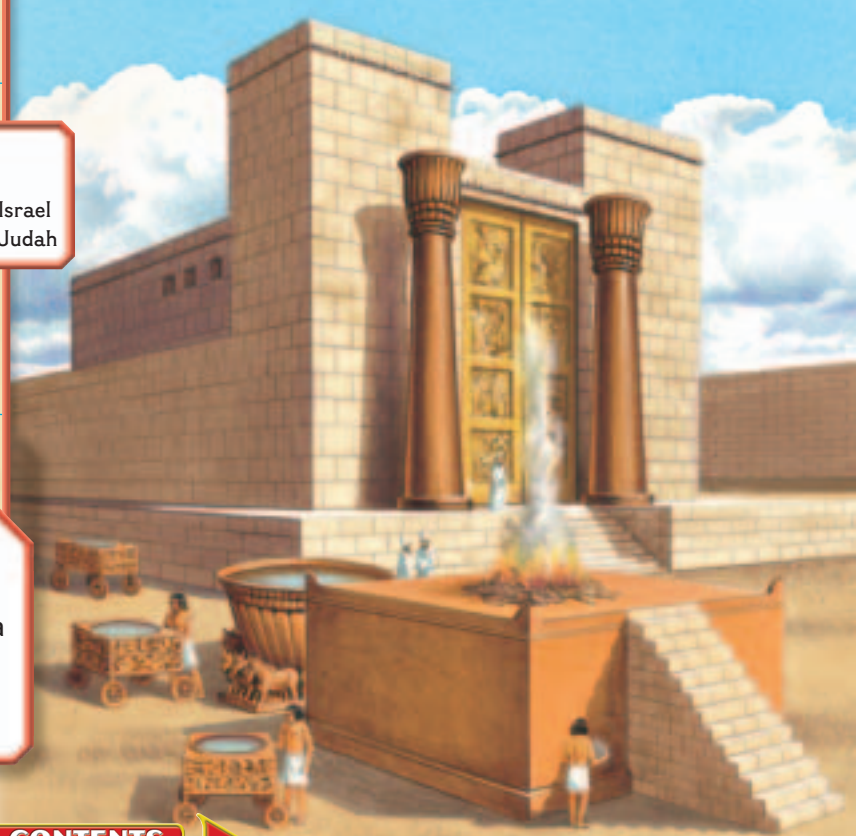


▼ The temple built by Solomon is thought to have been about 180 feet long. It contained large quantities of imported cedar wood and fine stone. **Why did some Israelites become unhappy with Solomon?**

### Using Geography Skills

- 1. Movement** Which kingdom lost access to the Mediterranean?
- 2. Location** Which kingdom shares a border with Phoenicia?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)



## Hebrew Prophets

Name	Time Period	Teachings
Elijah	874–840 B.C.	Only God should be worshiped—not idols or false gods.
Amos	780–740 B.C.	The kingdom of King David will be restored and will prosper.
Hosea	750–722 B.C.	God is loving and forgiving.
Isaiah	738–700 B.C.	God wants us to help others and promote justice.
Micah	735–700 B.C.	Both rich and poor have to do what is right and follow God.
Jeremiah	626–586 B.C.	God is just and kind—he rewards as well as punishes.
Ezekiel	597–571 B.C.	Someone who has done wrong can choose to change.

### Understanding Charts

The Israelites believed that God shared his word with them through a series of prophets.

1. Which prophet taught that both the rich and the poor needed to obey God's word?
2. **Compare** What do the teachings of Isaiah, Micah, and Ezekiel have in common?

**Who Were the Prophets?** During this troubled time, people who became known as prophets brought hope to the kingdom of Israel. The prophets emphasized religious ideals of leading a moral life and helping others so as to connect with God. Their special message was that being faithful meant more than going to a temple to worship. It meant working for a just society. The prophet Amos said that justice should “roll down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.” The Jewish goal of a just society also became an important part of Christianity and Islam.

**What Caused the Fall of Israel?** The war-like Assyrians were feared everywhere in the region. When they conquered a nation, the Assyrians destroyed its main buildings and scattered the population. Assyrians then settled in the territory.

In 722 B.C. the Assyrians conquered Israel and scattered the 10 tribes across their

empire. Over time, the Israelites who were forced to move lost contact with those who remained in Israel and Judah. Historians do not yet know what happened to these tribes. They are often called the “lost tribes of Israel.”

The Assyrians brought people from elsewhere in their empire to live in Samaria. These settlers mixed with the surviving Israelites who had not been killed or forced to move. A new culture developed and the people became known as Samaritans.

The Samaritans adopted many Israelite beliefs. They worshiped the God of Israel, read the Torah, and followed the Israelites' religious laws. Over time their religious practices developed separately, and they

had little contact. Today's Judaism developed from the religious practices of the tribes of Judah.

**Why Did Judah Fall?** Now, only the small kingdom of Judah was left of the once proud empire of David. It did not last long, because the Egyptians conquered it about 620 B.C. The Jews were able to keep their king but paid tribute to Egypt.

However, Egyptian rule was cut short when the Chaldeans conquered Egypt in 605 B.C. The Chaldeans became the new rulers of Judah. At first, the Chaldeans treated the Israelites like the Egyptians had before. They allowed the Jews to keep their king as long as they paid tribute.

Several years later, the Jews united with the Egyptians to rebel against the Chaldeans. Judah held out against the Chaldean invasion until 597 B.C. That year, King

**Nebuchadnezzar** (NEH • byuh • kuhd • NEH • zuhr) of the Chaldeans captured Jerusalem. He punished the Jews severely. He made 10,000 Jews leave the city and live in Babylon, the Chaldean capital. Then he appointed a new Jewish king.

Soon the new king of Judah was planning a revolt against the Chaldeans. A prophet named Jeremiah warned the king that another revolt was dangerous, but the king did not listen. In 586 B.C. he revolted. This time, the Chaldean ruler crushed Jerusalem. He destroyed the temple, captured the king, and took him and thousands of Jews to Babylon. In Jewish history, this time became known as the Babylonian Captivity.

**Reading Check Explain** Why did the Assyrians and Chaldeans want to control the land belonging to the Israelites?

**History Online**  
**Study Central** Need help understanding the reigns of David and Solomon? Visit [ca.hss.glencoe.com](http://ca.hss.glencoe.com) and click on Study Central.

## Section 2 Review

### Reading Summary

#### Review the Main Ideas

- Saul was the first king of the Israelites. He united the 12 tribes into one kingdom.
- King David built an Israelite empire and made Jerusalem his capital. Solomon built a great temple at Jerusalem, but after he died, the Israelites split into two kingdoms—Israel and Judah.
- The Assyrians and then the Chaldeans conquered Israel and Judah, and forced many Israelites to leave their homeland.

### What Did You Learn?

1. Why was David anointed king while Saul was still in charge of the Israelites?
2. Who were the prophets, and why were they important to the Israelites?
4. **Summarize** What happened to the Israelites after the death of Solomon? **CA H12.**
5. **Describe** Who were the Samaritans? **CA HR5.**

### Critical Thinking

3. **The Big Ideas** Draw a chart like the one below. Use it to compare the accomplishments of King David and King Solomon. **CA 6RC2.4**

King David	King Solomon

6. **Infer** Why do you think the Assyrians and Chaldeans moved Jews away from Israel and Judah? **CA CS3.**
7. **Analysis Understanding the Past** Create a summary of the major events and important people in this section. Use this summary to help you understand the history of the Israelites. **CA H11.**