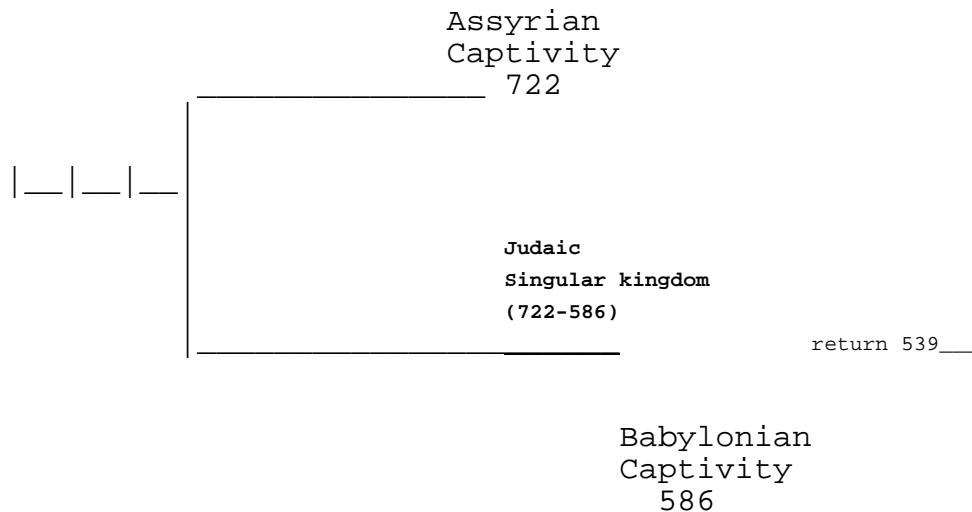


The Divided Kingdom
1 Kings 12-2 Kings 18:12
From the death of Solomon to the captivity of the North
From Rehoboam, successor of Solomon, to 6th year of Hezekiah, King in the South

1. How can we describe the time of the divided kingdom? It refers to the period that began at the death of Solomon and ended with the captivity of the northern kingdom. It is characterized by conflict between the northern and southern kingdoms that continued until the northern kingdom was destroyed by the Assyrians.



2. What is the theme of this section of Scripture? The theme is *judgment and grace in the fractured kingdom* up to the demise of Israel in the north. Grace is covenant grace which is confirmed by the author who demonstrates "the continuity of the Davidic dynasty in Judah as a demonstration of God's faithfulness to his promises" (IOT 160) in spite of Israelite disobedience.

3. The north is deported and the south is subjugated by the Assyrians. Nonetheless, there is hope out in front of the sinful children of Abraham. How is that hope prefigured in Elijah and Elisha? John is Elijah and Jesus is Elisha. The work of these prophets, Elijah and Elisha, prefigured restoration back to the land and an everlasting kingship that ultimately comes John and Jesus who come in the spirit and power of these prophets of the divided kingdom. John comes in the power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers (Lk. 1.17; Mal 4.6). The miracles of Jesus parallel those of Elisha (cf. Mat 11.4-5; IOT, 167).