

Chapter 6
Lesson 2
The Israelite Kingdom

Early Kings

- Israelites created an alphabet and calendar based on Canaanite ideas
- Philistines were a powerful enemy
- Israelites called for a king to unit 12 Tribes and lead in battle

Saul: The First King

- Israelites asked judge Samuel to choose a king; chose Saul
- Israelites won many battles against Philistines
- Saul disobeyed some of God's commands
 - God instructed Samuel to anoint another king; he chose David

King David

- Saul tried to kill David, but he escaped
 - when Saul died David became king
- David united the Israelite tribes
 - established a capital city for Israel at Jerusalem
 - believed to have written many sacred songs found in Hebrew Bible's Book of **Psalms**
 - after his death, he was still honored as greatest king
- King David's son Solomon became next king, 970 B.C.
 - brought long period of peace
 - build first temple in Jerusalem, Solomon's temple, held Ark of the Covenant
 - known for wisdom
 - author of **proverbs**- wise sayings
- Israelites turned against him
 - after death in 922 B.C. they entered a trouble period which split their kingdom

Two Kingdoms

- 10 northern tribes rebelled against government
 - founded a separate kingdom, Israel
 - capital Samaria
- 2 southern tribes founded Judah
 - capital was Jerusalem
- all tribes preserved the Israelite religion
- Assyrians and Chaldeans built powerful empires
 - wanted to control trade routes

The Fall of Israel

- Assyrians forced conquered people to pay tribute
 - destroyed towns, burned estates, and took valuable goods
 - invaded Israel in 722 B.C.
 - forced Israelites to resettle in Assyrian Empire
 - known as Samaritans
 - worshipped the God of Israel, read Torah, followed Israelites' religious law

The Fall of Judah

- 597 ^{B.C.} Chaldeans, under king Nebuchadnezzar, forced thousands to leave Jerusalem and live in Babylon
- King Nebuchadnezzar chose a new king, a Judean
 - plotted to set Judah free
 - prophet Jeremiah warned that God did not want them to rebel
 - Nebuchadnezzar leveled Jerusalem to the ground
 - Jewish history, this time is known as the Babylonian Exile

What Was the Prophets' Message?

- prophets offered words of hope in time of despair
- urged people to change their ways for a better place
 - all people should work for a just society