

THE STORY

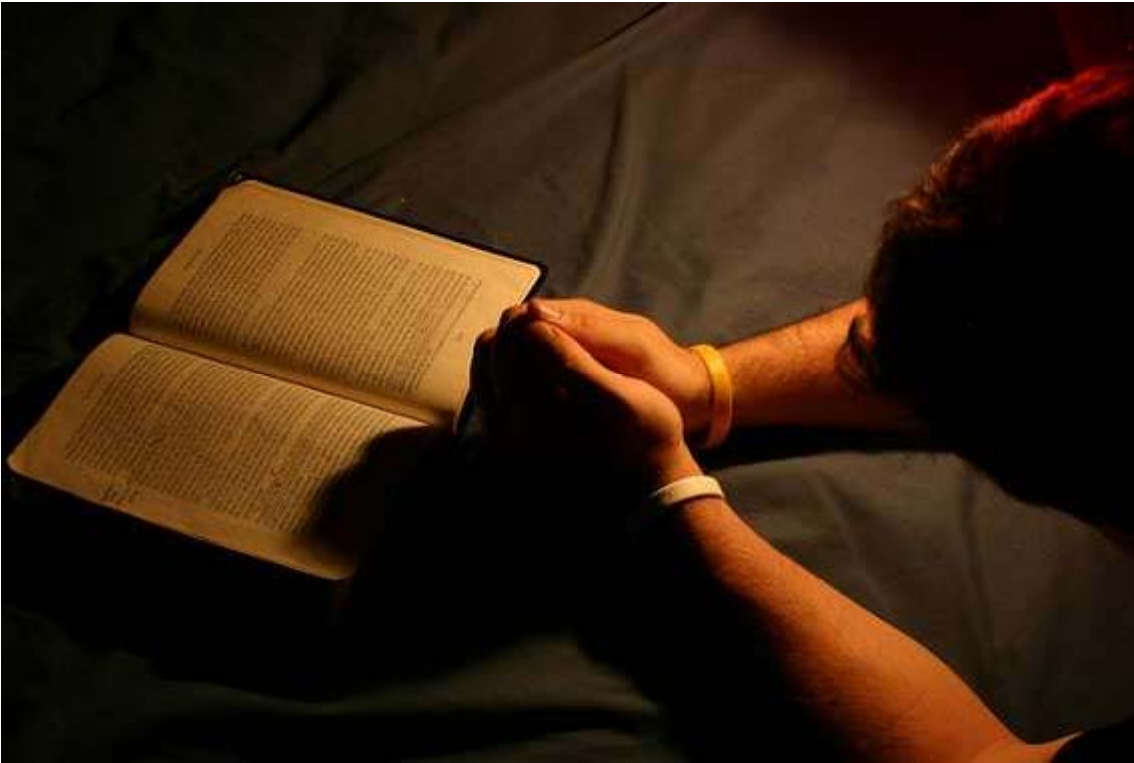
READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Chapter 16 – The Beginning of the End





Pavel Kulisek spent over three years in a Mexican prison for crimes he didn't commit. W5 speaks to Pavel about his ordeal, and how he kept his sanity throughout it.



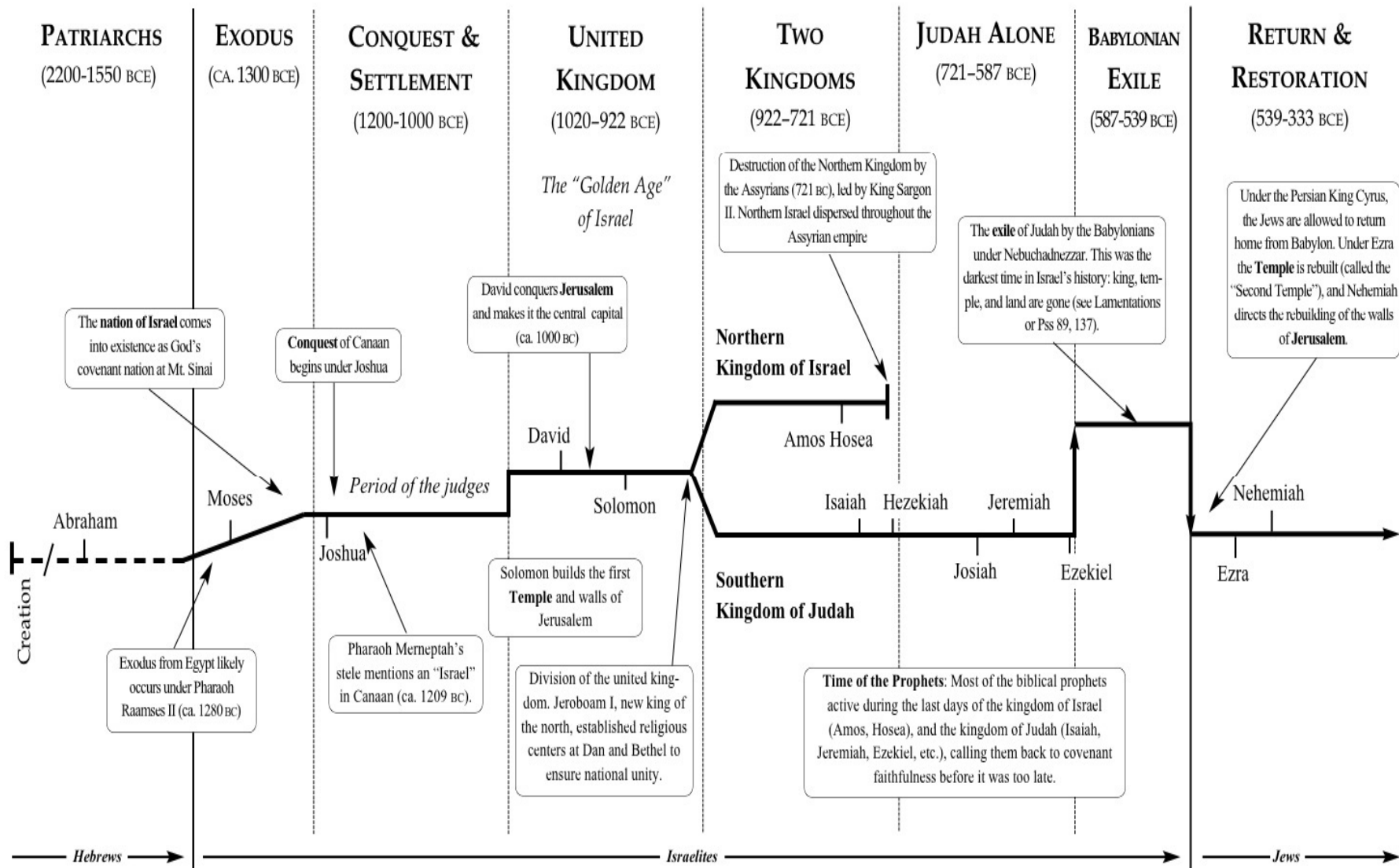
Psalm 40: 1 ¶ For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

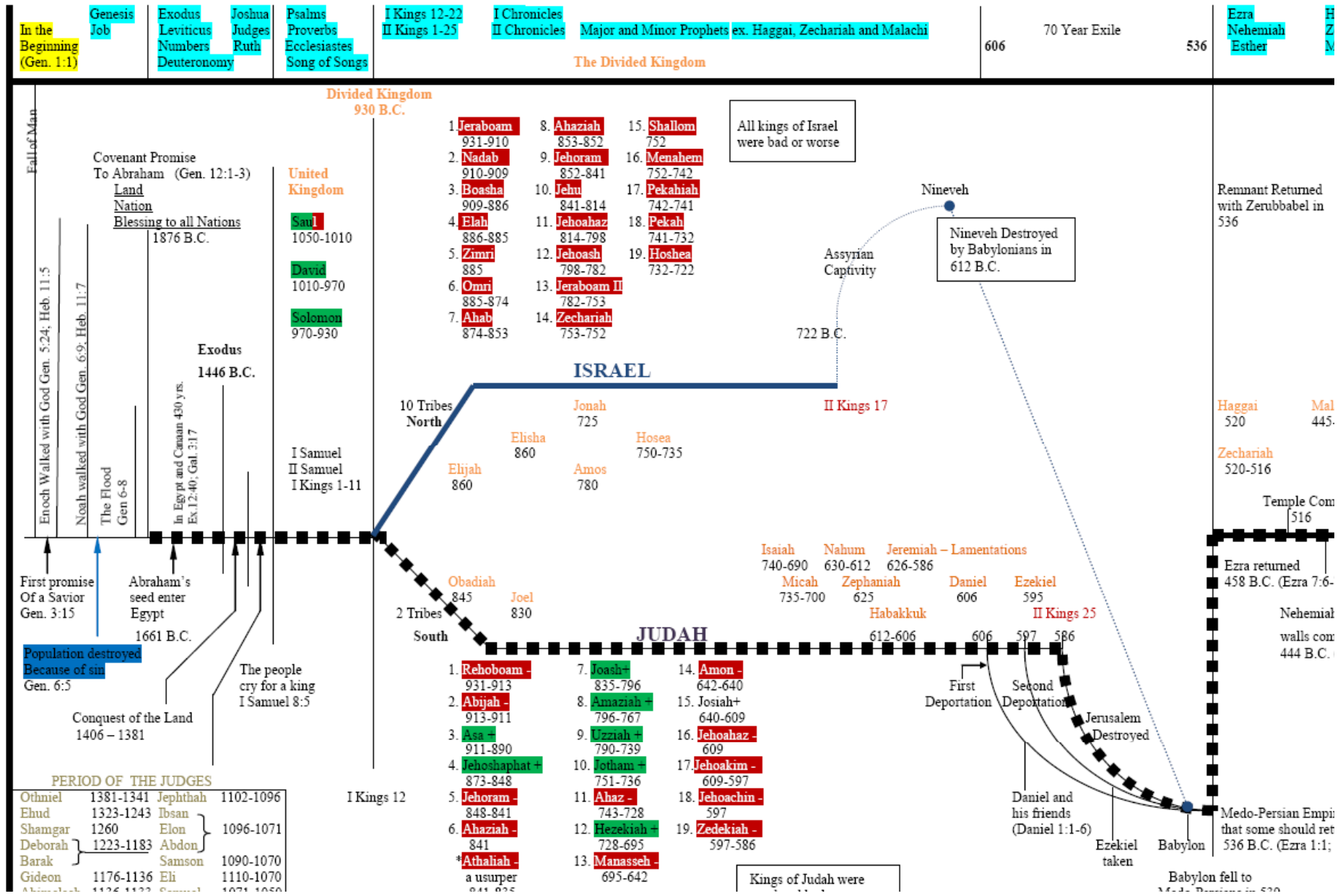
4 Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

The Old Testament Story†



OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY CHART/TIMELINE

GOD IN HISTORY BEFORE IT PLANNED IT





2 Kings 17

20 Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

21 When he tore Israel away from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin.

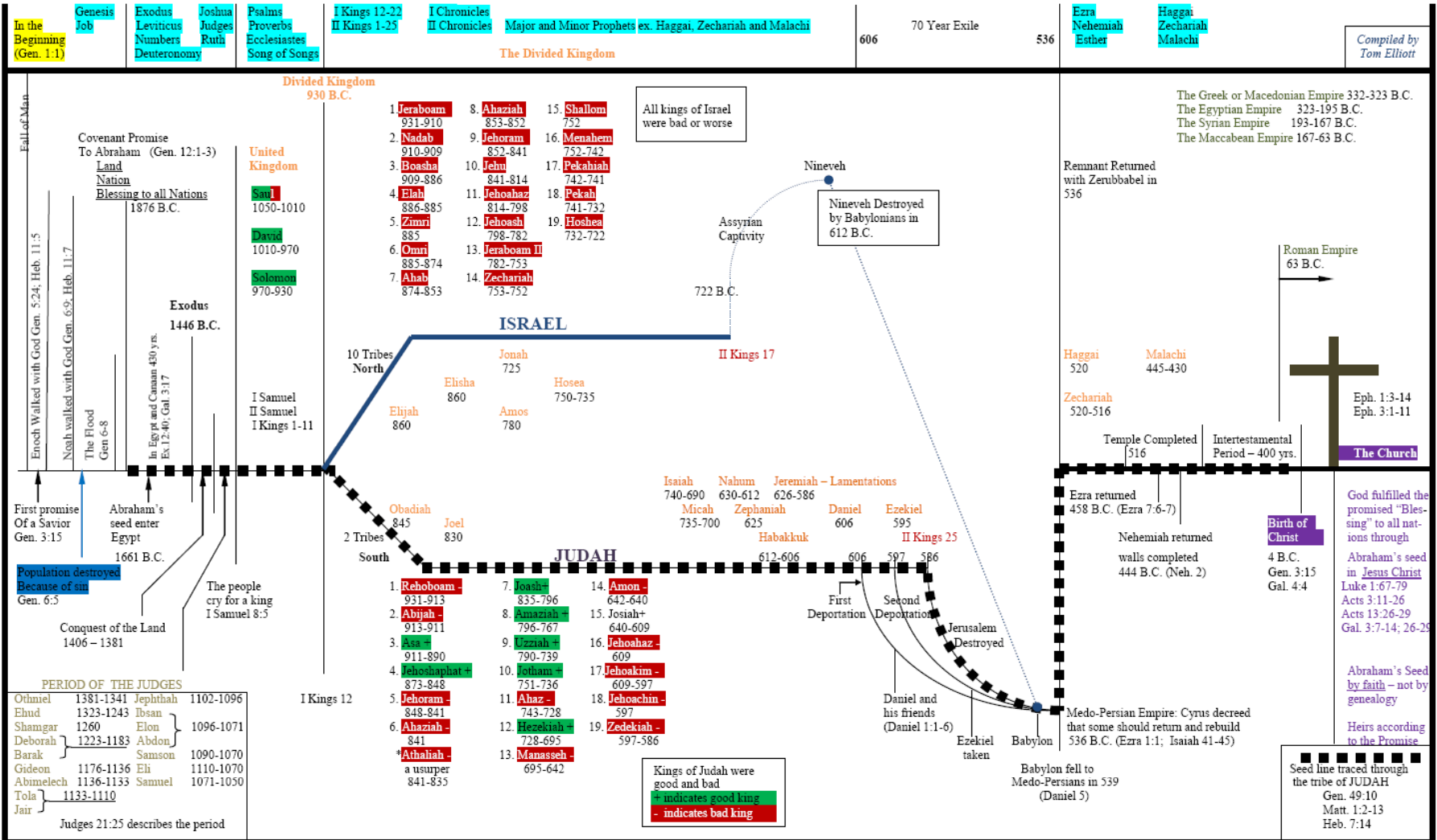
22 The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them

23 until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. **So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.**

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY CHART/TIMELINE

GOD IN ETERNITY BEFORE TIME PLANNED IT ALL

ETERNITY WHEN TIME SHALL BE NO MORE



2 Kings 18

5 Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.

6 He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses.

7 And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

8 From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.



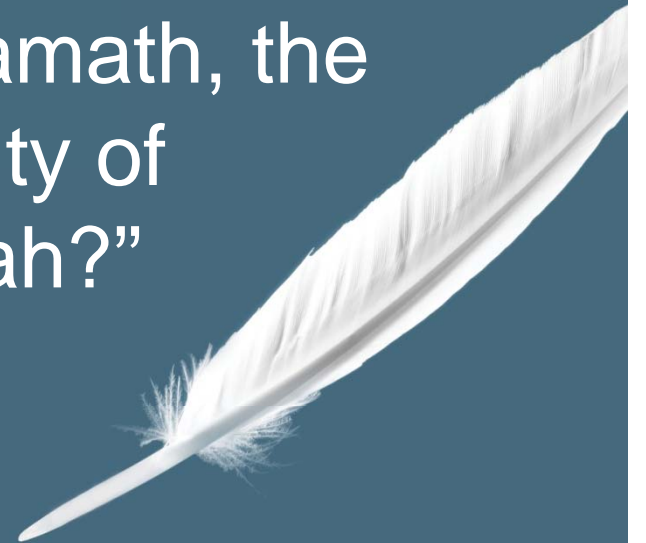
Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the Cushite king of Egypt, was marching out to fight against him. So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word: “Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, ‘Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.’”

2 Kings 19:1-19



Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered? Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my forefathers deliver them: the gods of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, or of Hena or Ivvah?"

2 Kings 19:1-19



Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: “O Lord, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth.

2 Kings 19:1-19



You have made heaven and earth. Give ear,
O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord,
and see; listen to the words Sennacherib
has sent to insult the living God.

2 Kings 19:1-19



“It is true, O Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by men’s hands. Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God.”

2 Kings 19:1-19



“Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, ‘Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.’

2 Kings 19:10



And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: “O Lord, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

2 Kings 19:15



Give ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes,
O Lord, and see; listen to the words
Sennacherib has sent to insult the living
God.

2 Kings 19:16



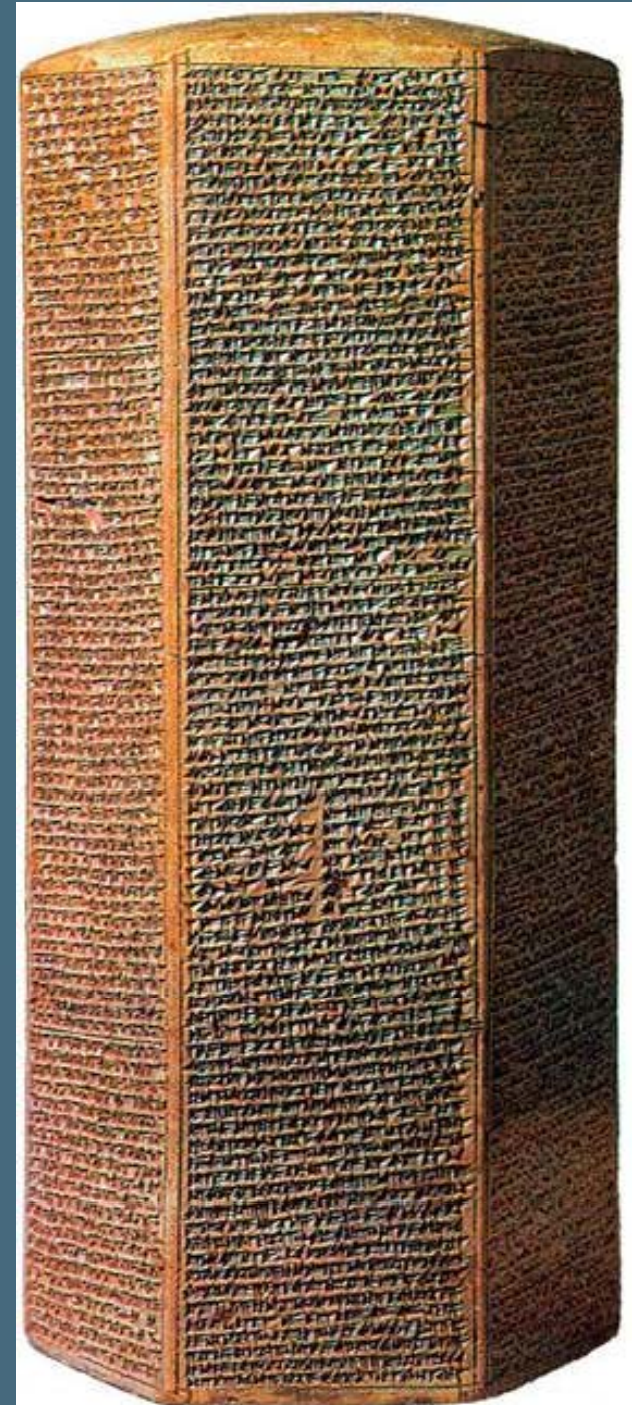
Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God.”

2 Kings 19:19



• True leadership from God is found when:

- *Even the enemy knows about the God who leads you*
- *God is the first priority in your life*
- *You go first to Him in prayer*
- *You listen to the prophetic word of God through others*
- *You evidence the posture of prayer*
- *You eagerly await God's answers*



The beginning of the end

Canaanite storm god Baal

Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. They turn to Baal; they are like a treacherous bow... (Hosea, 7:15)



When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and burning incense to idols. (Hosea, 11:1-2)

Limestone stele, early 2nd Millennium, Ugarit

The beginning of the beginning again

