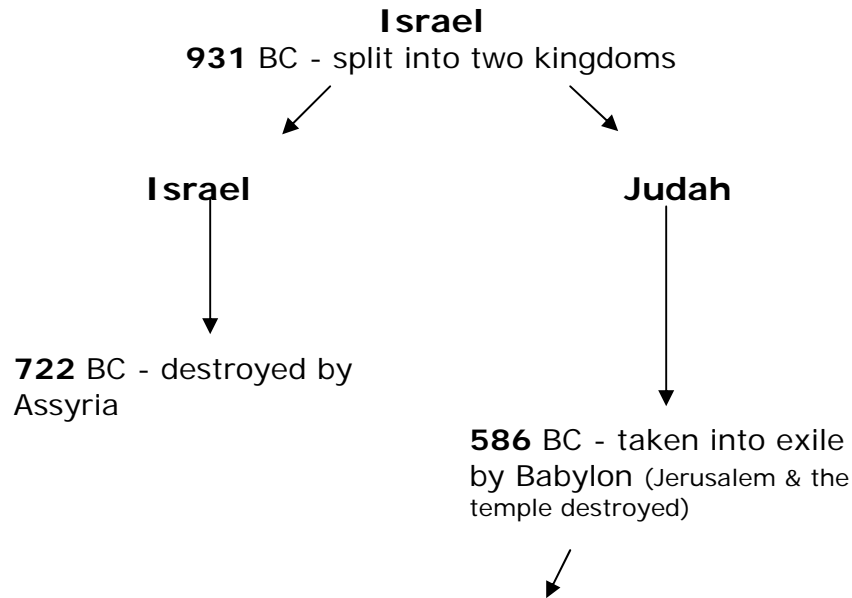


Haggai Background



- **539 BC** - the Persian King Cyrus destroyed the Babylonian empire (It lasted approximately 70 years as predicted by Jeremiah - 25:11-12)
- **538 BC** - Cyrus decreed that the exiles could return to Judah and build the temple (as predicted by Jeremiah - 29:10-14) - Ezra 1
- Those that returned set up the altar and offered sacrifices - Ezra 2-3
- In the second year, they began work on the foundation, but local opposition brought the work to a halt - Ezra 3-4
- **520 BC** - after 16-17 years of delay, Haggai began to speak to the people about finishing the temple - Ezra 5:1