THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Lake Galilee

ISRAEL

Samaria

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Dead Sea

JUDAH
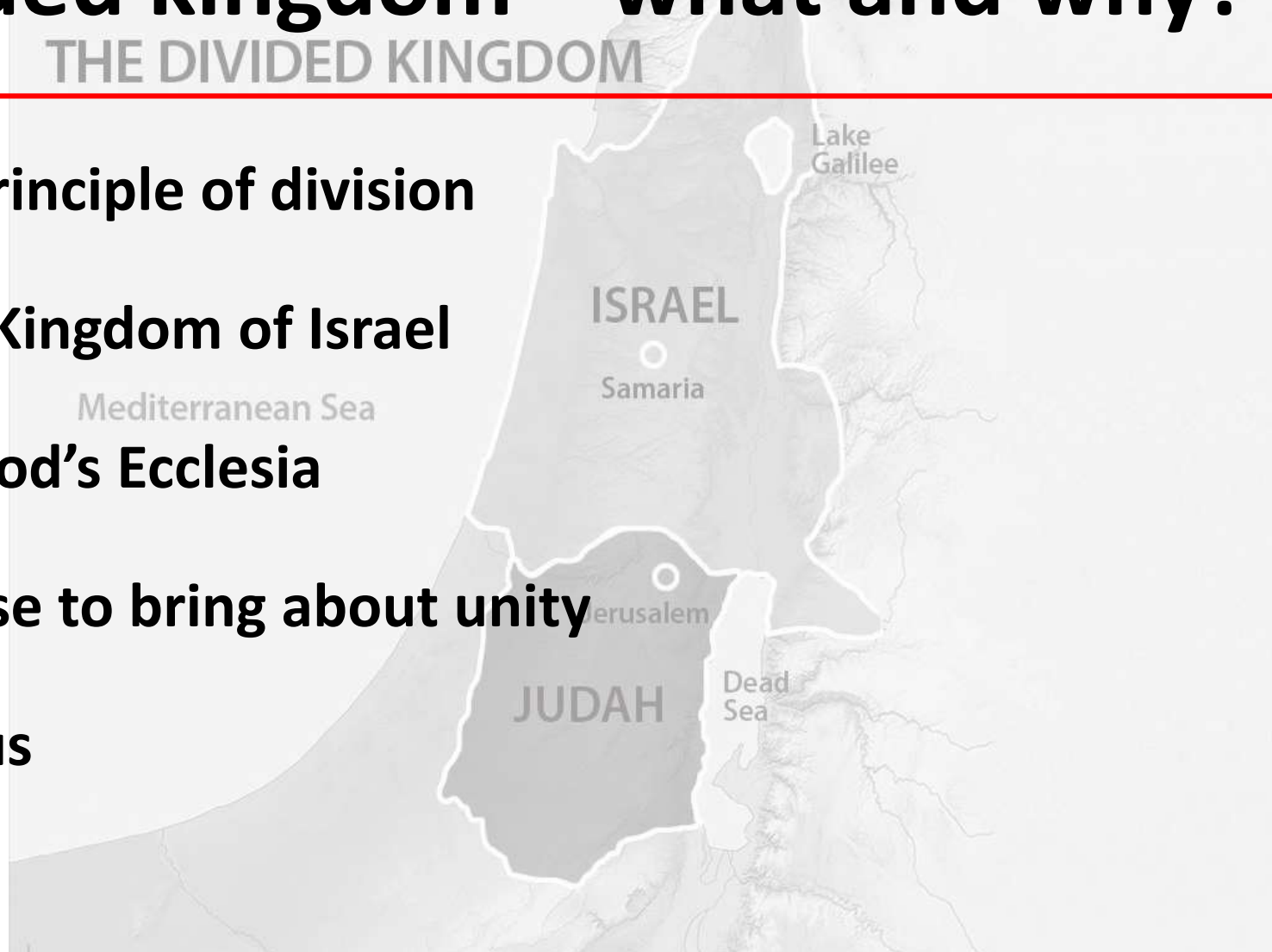
The divided kingdom – what and why?

Laindon Bible Class

16th January 2019

The divided kingdom – what and why?

- **The divine principle of division**

- **The divided Kingdom of Israel**

- **Division in God's Ecclesia**
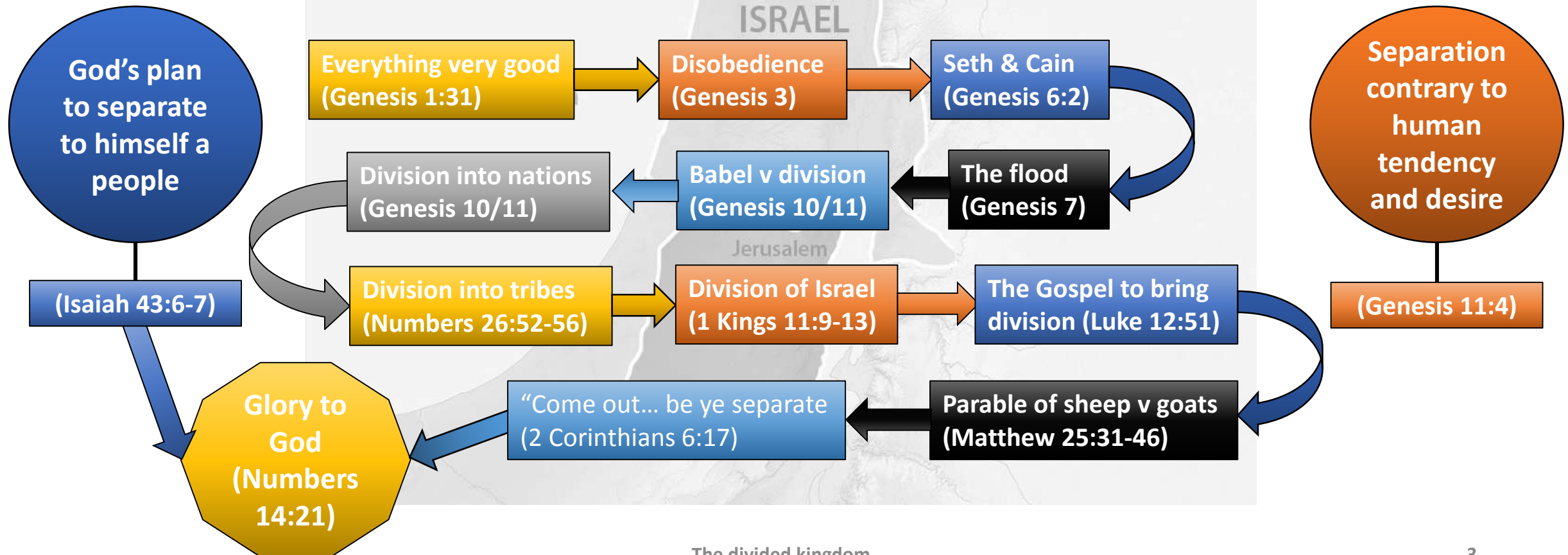
- **God's purpose to bring about unity**
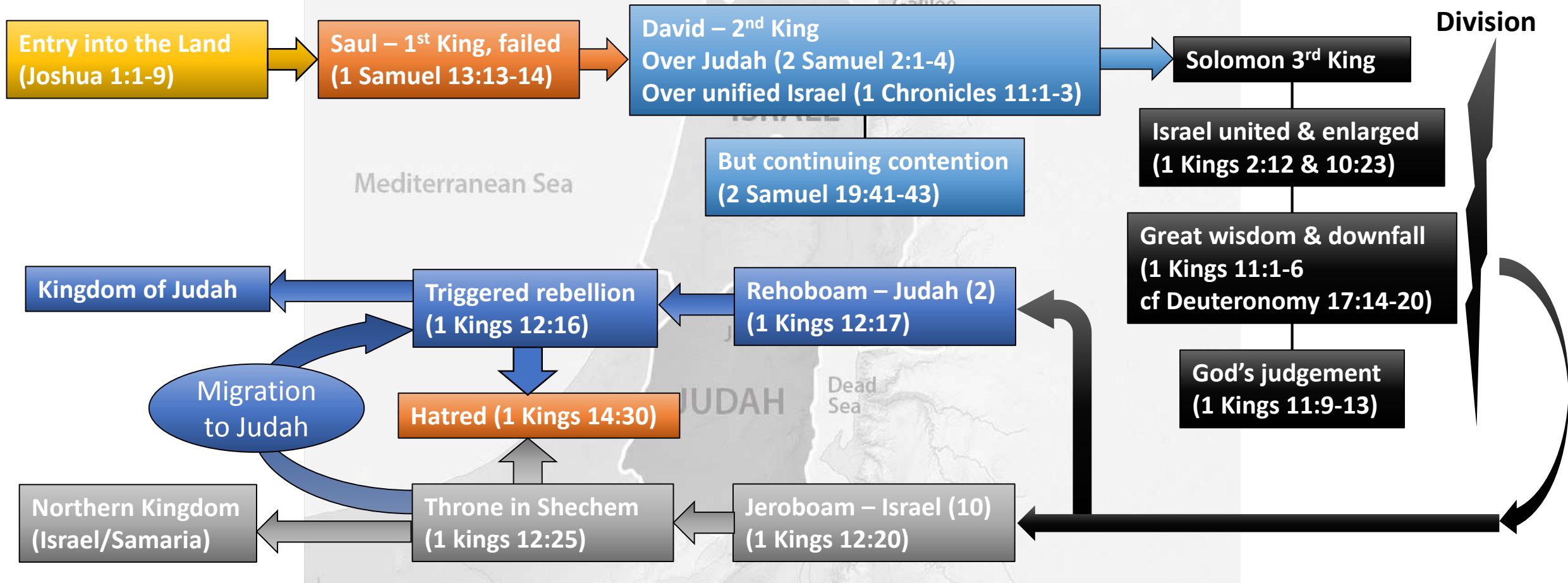
- **Lessons for us**

The divine principle of division

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division" Luke 12:51

"…that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10

God's plan to separate to himself a people

Separation contrary to human tendency and desire

Everything very good (Genesis 1:31) → Disobedience (Genesis 3) → Seth & Cain (Genesis 6:2)

The flood (Genesis 7) → Babel v division (Genesis 10/11) → Division into nations (Genesis 10/11)

Division into tribes (Numbers 26:52-56) → Division of Israel (1 Kings 11:9-13) → The Gospel to bring division (Luke 12:51)

Parable of sheep v goats (Matthew 25:31-46) → "Come out… be ye separate (2 Corinthians 6:17)

(Isaiah 43:6-7)

(Genesis 11:4)

Glory to God (Numbers 14:21)

The Kingdom of Israel is divided

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Entry into the Land (Joshua 1:1-9) → Saul – 1st King, failed (1 Samuel 13:13-14) → David – 2nd King, Over Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-4), Over unified Israel (1 Chronicles 11:1-3) → Solomon 3rd King

But continuing contention (2 Samuel 19:41-43)

Israel united & enlarged (1 Kings 2:12 & 10:23)

Great wisdom & downfall (1 Kings 11:1-6 cf Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

God's judgement (1 Kings 11:9-13)

Division

Kingdom of Judah ← Triggered rebellion (1 Kings 12:16) ← Rehoboam – Judah (2) (1 Kings 12:17)

Migration to Judah

Hatred (1 Kings 14:30)

Northern Kingdom (Israel/Samaria) ← Throne in Shechem (1 kings 12:25) ← Jeroboam – Israel (10) (1 Kings 12:20)

The two kingdoms

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM
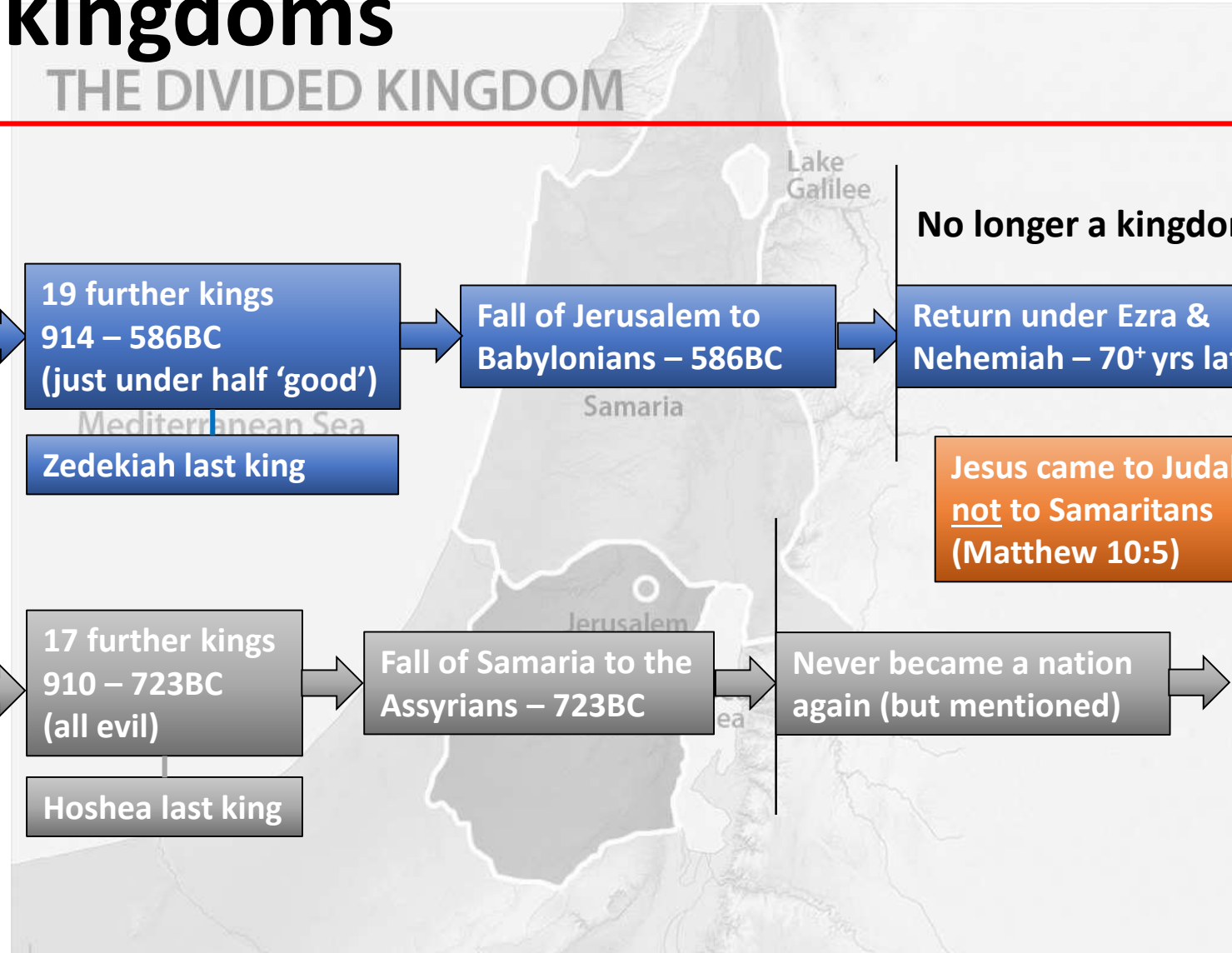
No longer a kingdom

Kingdom of Judah – Rehoboam (17 yrs) 930 – 914BC → **19 further kings 914 – 586BC (just under half 'good')** → **Fall of Jerusalem to Babylonians – 586BC** → **Return under Ezra & Nehemiah – 70+ yrs later** → **Banished by the Romans**

Zedekiah last king

Jesus came to Judah not to Samaritans (Matthew 10:5) → **However, apostles preached to them (Acts 8:25)**

Northern Kingdom (Israel/Samaria) – Jeroboam (22 yrs) 931 – 910BC → **17 further kings 910 – 723BC (all evil)** → **Fall of Samaria to the Assyrians – 723BC** → **Never became a nation again (but mentioned)**

Hoshea last king

Israel and Judah – God's Ecclesia

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- "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him." 1 Chronicles 29:23

- "This is he *[Moses]*, that was in the church *[ecclesia]* in the wilderness…" Acts 7:38

- The kings of Israel and Judah were accountable to God (Hebrews 13:17)

- The Biblical records are explicit and unbiased (not as they would have been written by a court scribe)

- "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:11

Lessons for us…

- **We must keep ourselves separate as God's people, not associating ourselves with the godless world around us or with error amongst us (Deuteronomy 13:12-16 – "inquire and make search")**

- **As part of God's ecclesia He sees all that we do and will hold us to account but will also care for the faithful: "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chronicles 16:9**

- **The division that has taken place down the ages has been at God's instigation to separate out for himself a people**

- **In the end God's plan will be accomplished and all division will be removed in a perfected Kingdom (spiritual Israel), which is to His eternal glory**