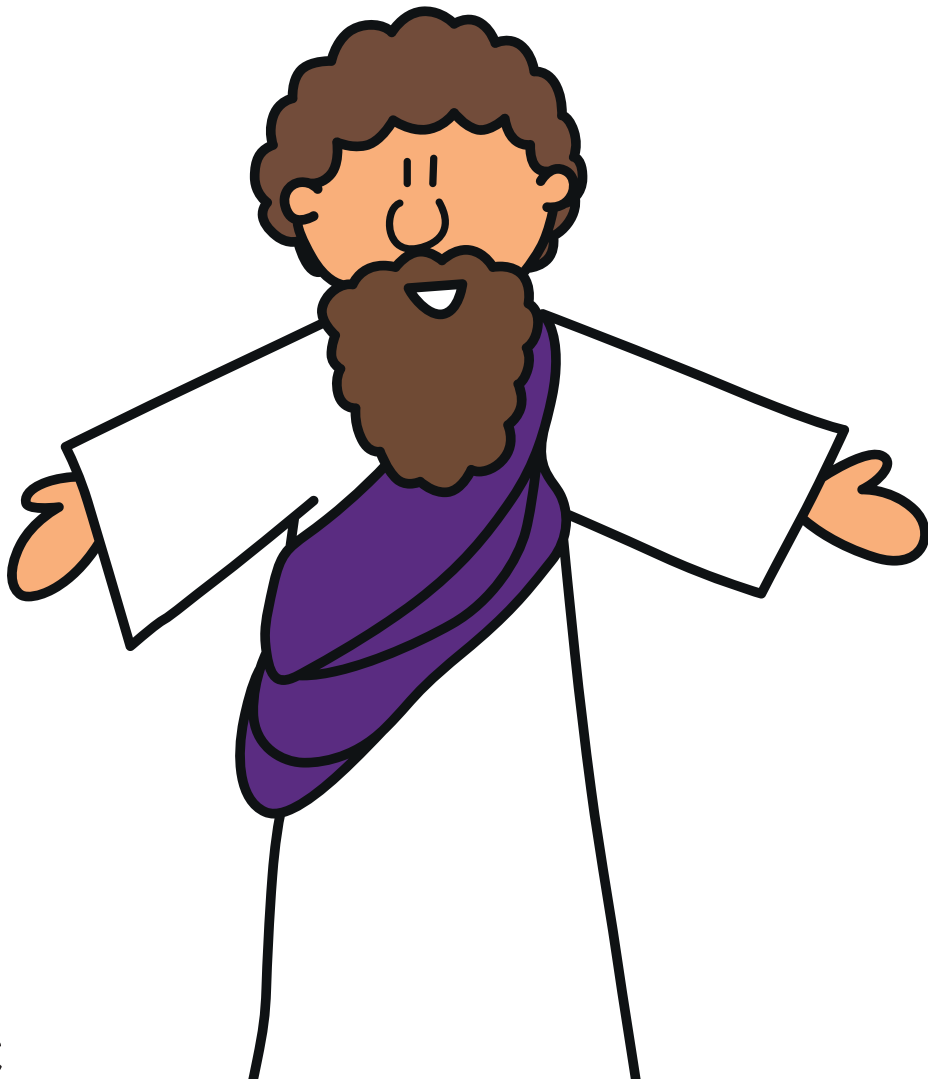


# God's Promise and the Exile of Israel



722 BC

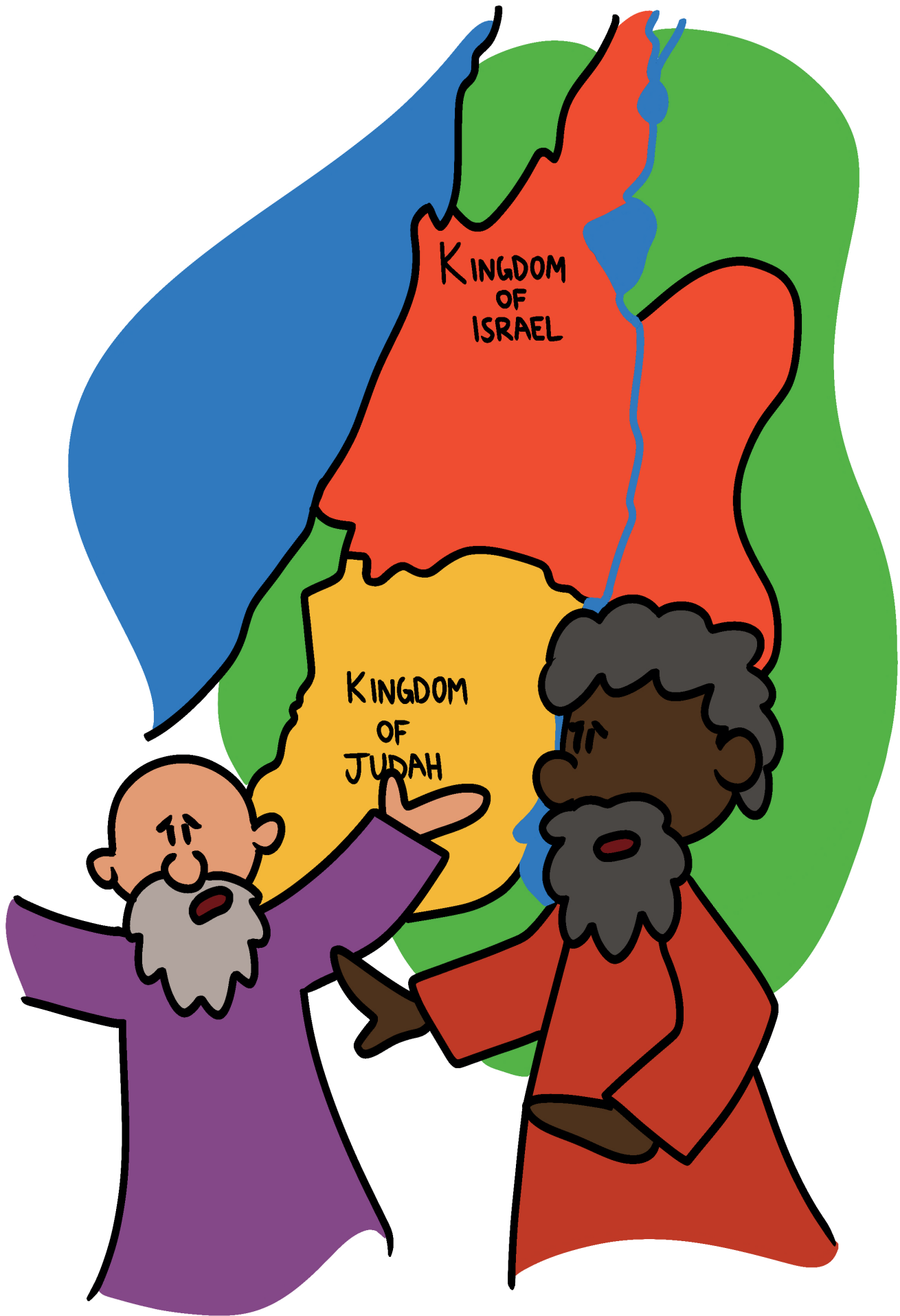
The land of Israel was now divided into two kingdoms. Israel lay in the north, with its capital Samaria. Judah, along with its capital Jerusalem, lay in the south.

King Hoshea ruled Israel and King Ahaz, Judah.

As the kings before them had done, both kings did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

The LORD warned his people through the prophets, "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands."

But they would not listen. They were stubborn. They persisted in disobeying the LORD's commands.



The Israelites continued to sin against the LORD their God.

They worshipped other gods.

They set up sacred stones and made idols in the shape of calves.

They did wicked things that provoked the LORD to anger.

They did not turn away from their sins so the LORD gave them over to their enemies.



The king of Assyria came down and attacked the northern kingdom of Israel.

The king of Israel was imprisoned, and the entire land of Samaria was invaded.



The people of Israel were then marched from their homeland into exile in Assyria.

All this happened because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them out of Egypt. They had imitated the nations around them even though the LORD had ordered, "Do not do as they do."

The LORD was very angry with his people and removed the kingdom of Israel from his presence.

Only the kingdom of Judah remained.

But even Judah did not keep the commands of the LORD.

## 2 Kings 17: 1 - 23

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