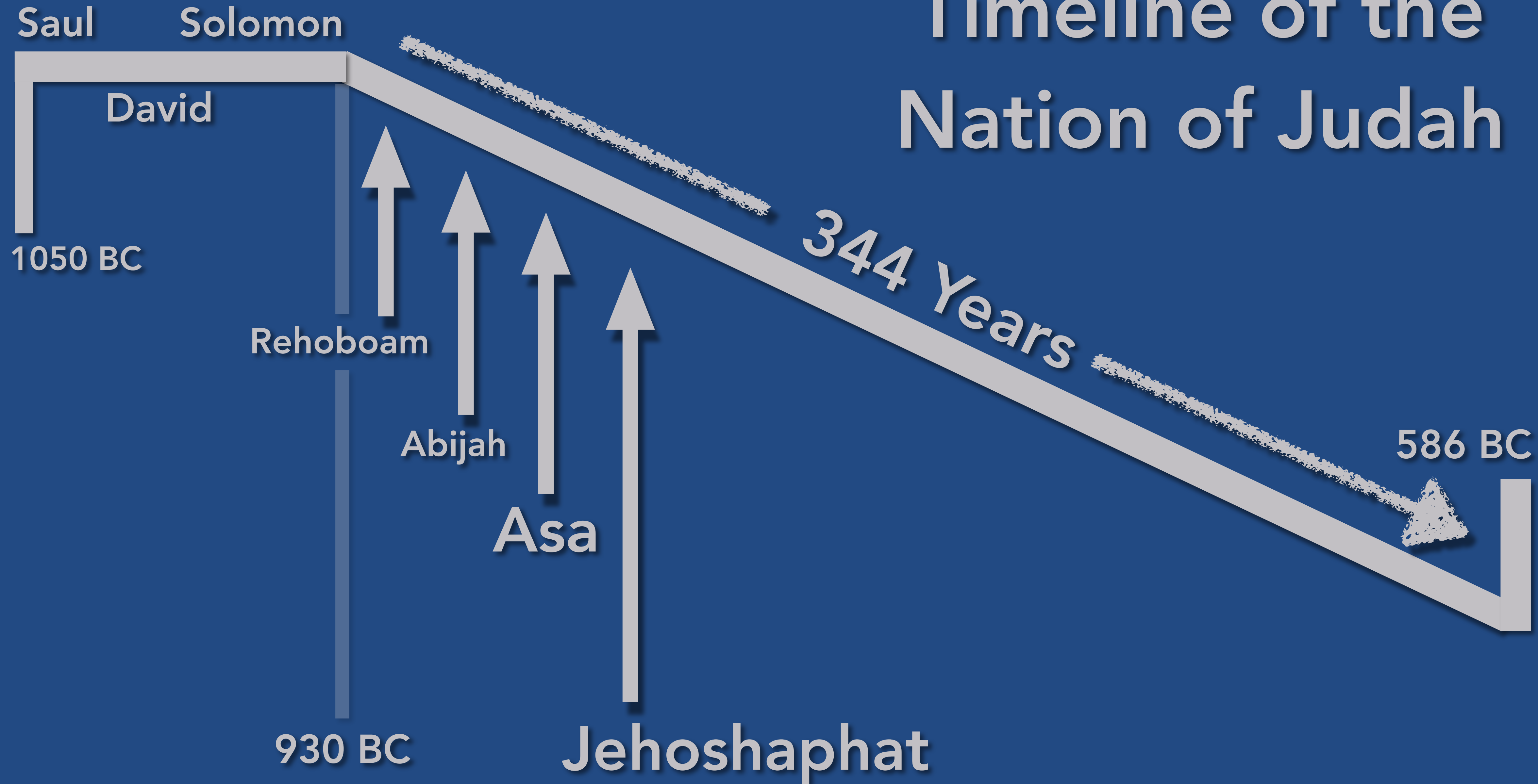


WORLD

Hearing God in a World of Noise

A Series from 2 Chronicles

Timeline of the Nation of Judah



God was speaking
at every step in the
decline of Judah.



2 Chronicles 15:16-19

“King Asa also deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah. Asa cut it down, broke it up and burned it in the Kidron Valley. Although he did not remove the high places from Israel, Asa’s heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life. He brought into the temple of God the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated. There was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa’s reign.”

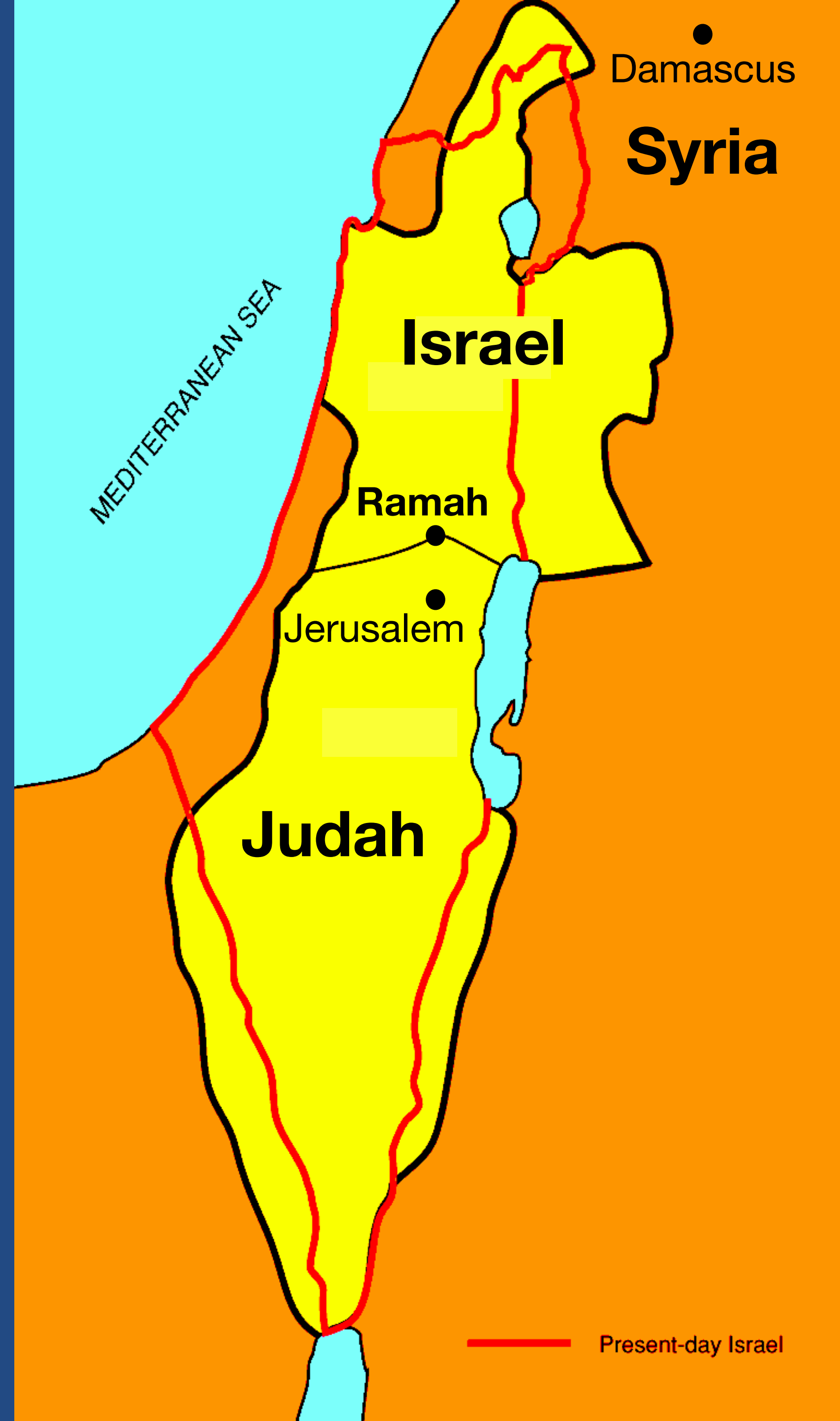
But...

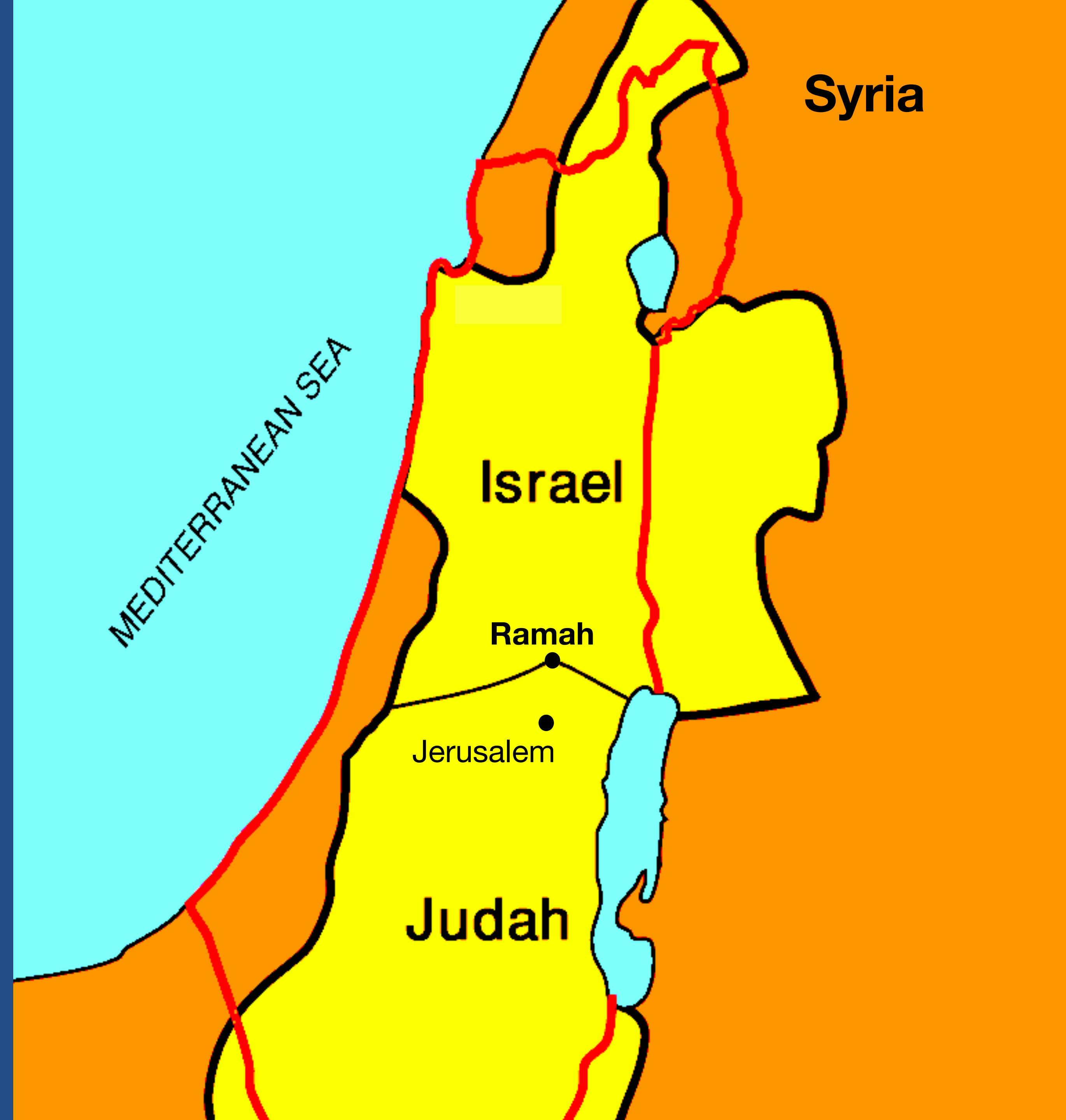
2 Chronicles 16

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the Lord's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus.

"Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."





2 Chronicles 16

Ben-Hadad agreed with King Asa and sent the commanders of his forces against the towns of Israel. They conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim and all the store cities of Naphtali. When Baasha heard this, he stopped building Ramah and abandoned his work. Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah, and they carried away from Ramah the stones and timber Baasha had been using. With them he built up Geba and Mizpah.

It seemed to work. But it wasn't good.

Asa's heart had changed.

2 Chronicles 16

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand. For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

2 Chronicles 16

Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison.

At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.

The events of Asa's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

(1 Kings 15)

2 Chronicles 16

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians.

Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died and rested with his ancestors. They buried him in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the City of David.

They laid him on a bier covered with spices and various blended perfumes, and they made a huge fire in his honor.

The Facts:

- King Asa lived most of his life with a trusting, faithful heart toward God. (15:17)
- There was a time when Asa listened to the voice of God—and acted on it. (15:8)
- King Asa lost faith in God. (16:7)
- Asa got angry with God, and took his anger out on everyone around him. (16:10)

Why?

What happened that caused
King Asa to stop trusting
God and lose faith?

We don't know.

But I have a good guess.

Life.

Life happened.

Faith is like a muscle.
It atrophies if you don't
exercise it. But the more
you use it, the stronger
it grows.

God is faithful.
We can trust Him.
No matter what.

“I hurt so bad. And I kept praying to God to help me—to lessen my pain or my anxiety—because I knew that wasn’t helping. As I was praying, I felt this peace. I was sitting on Jesus’ lap. He was cradling me, and telling me that I would be OK.”

Kay Estep

1. Kay didn't have to say this...
she was compelled to say this.

2. Kay trusted the doctors...
and she trusted God AS WELL.

3. Faith reminds us that God
is in complete control.

“When God fights—He wins.”

Anna Holmes

2 Chronicles 16:7-9

“Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand. For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

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Lord range throughout
the earth to strengthen
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