

# Chapter 18

---

Movements and Settlements of the Israelites

# Overview

King Azitawadda boasts in inscriptions about how his people have plenty to eat and how his name will endure forever

Ends up being forgotten for thousands of years until the 1940s

With collapse of 5 great powers: the Levant (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine) home to many smaller kingdoms

1100 – 900 BCE: Dark age because so few texts survive to shed light on histories

Historians would have almost nothing if it weren't for the writings of people of Israel or the Israelites

# Israel

Israel: like its neighboring kingdoms in many ways (trade, fought over land, kings led troops, rebuilt cities, levied taxes)

Arameans: major power in Levant, controlled large stretch of land. Spread their language, Aramaic; this is now most common of languages in Near East

Differences of Israel: spoke Hebrew, not Aramaic; thought it was important to write down their history as opposed to other groups

Don't just list kings or copies of inscriptions; instead, they write long books about who they are, what they did, and what they believed. Different authors penned these texts over hundreds of years

These texts eventually put into book called the Hebrew Bible. Collection of histories, hymns, prophecies; never had to be excavated or recovered because it was never lost

# Israel's History

Returned to Levant around 1200 BCE

Hebrew Bible writes about how they had been in Egypt and enslaved; their God saved them from this slavery and brought them to Canaan, or what they called the “promised land”

Philistines also invading area; this led to conflict and war among the both of them (Philistines had been one of the Sea Peoples who attacked Egypt in 12th century BCE)

Levant: small area, size of California. Overrun with people speaking different languages and following different customs. Tribes battled over land, not customs

Only a portion of the land was good for farming; it was small but had potential to grow rich from farming and trade

# Israel's Beliefs

Israel organized into 12 tribes. Sense of safety; had no single leader and united under a military ruler when they had to fight neighboring peoples

Saul: Israel's first king. Book of Samuel describes his story (Samuel anoints him with help from their God)

David: Israel's second king. Modest background (shepherd boy), defeats Goliath (Philistine), people love him

Jerusalem: conquered city that David makes his capitol (royal palace there). A great poet; many of the Psalms are said to have been written by him

Brings most sacred object into Jerusalem: the Ark of the Covenant. Ark: fine, beautiful wood, overlaid with gold; inside were treasures of Israel including Ten Commandments (laws of the Israelite people) and God, himself

# Continuation

Solomon: Israel's third king. Wise king; reign is both peaceful and prosperous. Builds himself an elaborate temple, married many foreign princesses.

Traded with the Phoenicians and Azitawaddas  
hired laborers from Phoenicia to help with his building projects

922 BCE: Solomon dies, Israel broken into two

Southern part: Solomon's son becomes king, kept Jerusalem as capital city but changed kingdom's name to Judah

Northern part: chose new king and new capital city, kept name Israel  
Shared a border for hundreds of years and at times were at war

# Omri

Omri: in Hebrew Bible, 1 Kings; does not play a huge role in the Bible but the Moabites considered him to be significant and called Israel the “House of Omri”

Significance? Historians at last had hard evidence that an early king of Israel actually lived and reigned as the Bible claims.