

A person with a backpack is walking away on a dirt path through a field of tall grass. The sun is setting behind a range of mountains, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds.

How to Consistently Receive God's Will for Your Life

Seek and Follow Wise Counsel

Background on Solomon

- Son of King David
- 3rd King of Israel
- Wisest man who ever lived
- Built the temple for the Lord in Jerusalem with forced labor
- Multiplied wives and wealth
- Allowed the worship of other gods

1 Kings 11:11

Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you,

1 Kings 11:11

I will surely tear the kingdom
from you and will give it to
your servant.

1 Kings 11:26

Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king.

1 Kings 11:31

thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes

1 Kings 11:32

(but he shall have one tribe,
for the sake of my servant
David and for the sake of
Jerusalem, the city that I have
chosen out of all the tribes
of Israel),

1 Kings 11:33

because they have forsaken
me and worshiped Ashtoreth
the goddess of the Sidonians,
Chemosh the god of Moab,
and Milcom the god of
the Ammonites,

1 Kings 11:33

and they have not walked in
my ways, doing what is right
in my sight and keeping my
statutes and my rules, as
David his father did.

1 Kings 11:38

And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did,

1 Kings 11:38-39

I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever.

1 Kings 11:40

Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

1 Kings 11:43

And Solomon slept with his
fathers and was buried in the
city of David his father.
And Rehoboam his son
reigned in his place.

TLDR Recap 😊

- **King Solomon abused his people**
- **Jeroboam was Solomon's servant, but he rebelled against Solomon**
- **God said Jeroboam is going to be a King; Solomon tries to kill him**
- **Jeroboam hides in Egypt, Solomon dies**
- **Rehoboam, Solomon's son, becomes the new King**

1 Kings 12:1-2

Rehoboam went to Shechem,
for all Israel had come to
Shechem to make him
king. And as soon as Jeroboam
the son of Nebat heard of it

1 Kings 12:2-3

(for he was still in Egypt,
where he had fled from King
Solomon), then Jeroboam
returned from Egypt.
And they sent and called him,

1 Kings 12:3

and Jeroboam and all the
assembly of Israel came and
said to Rehoboam,

1 Kings 12:4

“Your father (Solomon) made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.”

1 Kings 12:5

He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away.

1 Kings 12:6

Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?”

1 Kings 12:7

And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.”

1 Kings 12:8

But he abandoned the counsel
that the old men gave him and
took counsel with the young
men who had grown up with
him and stood before him.

1 Kings 12:9

And he (Rehoboam) said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?”

1 Kings 12:10

And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’

1 Kings 12:10

thus shall you say to them,
'My little finger is thicker than
my father's thighs.'

1 Kings 12:11

And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.””

1 Kings 12:12

So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.”

1 Kings 12:13-14

And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men...

1 Kings 12:15

So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill
His word,*

****What God said about Jeroboam***

1 Kings 12:16

And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.

1 Kings 12:16-17

To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.

1 Kings 12:20

And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM



Dan

Lake Galilee

ISRAEL

Mediterranean Sea

Bethel

Jerusalem

JUDAH

Dead Sea



JEROBOAM



REHOBOAM

Israel

Jeroboam I	931-910
Nadab	910-909
Baasha	909-886
Elah	886-885
Zimri	885
Omri	885-874
Ahab	874-853
Ahaziah	853-852
Jehoram	852-841
Jehu	841-814
Jehoahaz	814-798
Jehoash	798-782
Jeroboam II	782-753
Zechariah	753-752
Shallum	752
Menahem	752-742
Pekahiah	742-740
Pekah	740-732
Hoshea	732-722

722 ————— EXILED
TO ASSYRIA

KINGS IN BLUE ARE GOOD
KINGS IN GREY ARE BAD

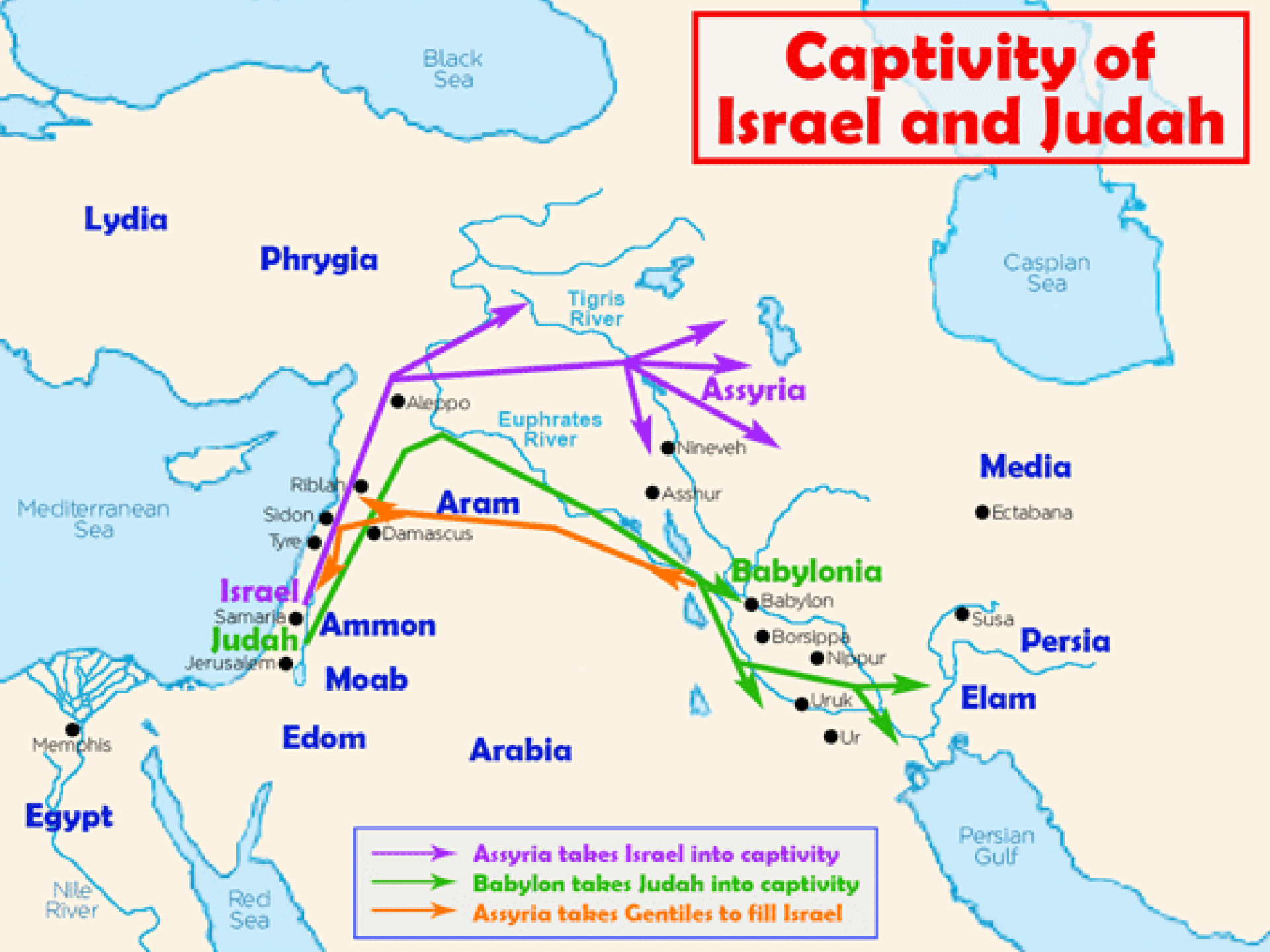
Judah


Rehoboam	931-913
Abijah	913-911
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Ahaz	732-716
Hezekiah	716-687
Manasseh	687-642
Amon	642-640
Josiah	640-608
Jehoahaz	608
Jehoiakim	608-597
Jeconiah	597
Zedekiah	597-586

586 ————— EXILED
TO BABYLON

★ QUEEN

Captivity of Israel and Judah



A person with a backpack is walking away on a dirt path through a field of tall grass. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

How to Consistently Receive God's Will for Your Life

Seek and Follow Wise Counsel

Principle #1

**Wise counsel only comes from
God and people who know,
follow, and trust in God.**

Job 12:13

Wisdom and strength belong
to God; counsel and
understanding are His.

Proverbs 11:14

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

1 Kings 12:6

Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?”

1 Kings 12:8

But he abandoned the counsel
that the old men gave him and
took counsel with the young
men who had grown up with
him and stood before him.

Israel

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2 Chronicles 18:4-5

And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Inquire first for the word of the LORD.” Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them,

2 Chronicles 18:5

“Shall we go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?” And they said, “Go up, for God will give it into the hand of the king.”

2 Chronicles 18:6

But Jehoshaphat said,
“Is there not here another
prophet of the LORD of whom
we may inquire?”

2 Chronicles 18:7

And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah the son of Imlah;

2 Chronicles 18:7

But I hate him, for he never
prophesies good concerning
me, but always evil.”

Principle #2

Often the wisest counsel has its roots in humility. Whatever advice serves the other person best, is usually the advice that Jesus Himself would give.

Matthew 5:38-39

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matthew 5:40-41

And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Matthew 5:42

Give to the one who begs
from you, and do not refuse
the one who would borrow
from you.

1 Kings 12:6

Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?”

1 Kings 12:7

And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.”

Principle #3

To find wise counsel, you need to have a group of counselors who have varying perspectives on living as a follower of Jesus.

It's why we have 4 gospels! 😊

Proverbs 15:22

Without consultation,
plans are frustrated,
But with many counselors
they succeed.

1 Kings 12:2-3

(for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

And they (Rehoboam) sent and called him,

Principle #4

When you receive counsel, make sure to take significant time to consider what has been said to you. Pray over their words; search the scriptures to confirm or deny what was said.

1 Kings 12:5

He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away.

Acts 17:11

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

James 3:17

But the wisdom from above
is first pure, then peaceable,
gentle, reasonable, full of mercy
and good fruits, unwavering,
without hypocrisy.

What Does Wise Counsel Look Like?

- Pure: *without fault, modest*
- Peaceable: *peaceful*
- Gentle: *equitable, fair*
- Reasonable: *sensible*
- Full of Mercy: *a desire to help; kindness*
- Good Fruits: *good effect, result*
- Unwavering: *clear and steady*
- Without Hypocrisy: *sincere*

Principle #5

Wise counsel is often found in those who have walked with Jesus longer than we have.

Make sure you have people like this in your life.

1 Kings 12:8

But he abandoned the counsel
that the old men gave him and
took counsel with the young
men who had grown up with
him and stood before him.

Job 12:12

Wisdom is with aged men,
With long life
is understanding.

Principle #6

Be careful that you have not surrounded yourself with clones of yourself: people who will tell you only what you want to hear.

Sometimes the wisest advice is the hardest to hear.

1 Kings 12:8

But he abandoned the counsel
that the old men gave him and
took counsel with the young
men who had grown up with
him and stood before him.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool
is right in his own eyes,
but a wise man
listens to advice.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.

Principle #7

The consequences of not seeking or following wise counsel are devastating; not only to you, but to the people who are connected to you.

1 Kings 12:20

And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah.

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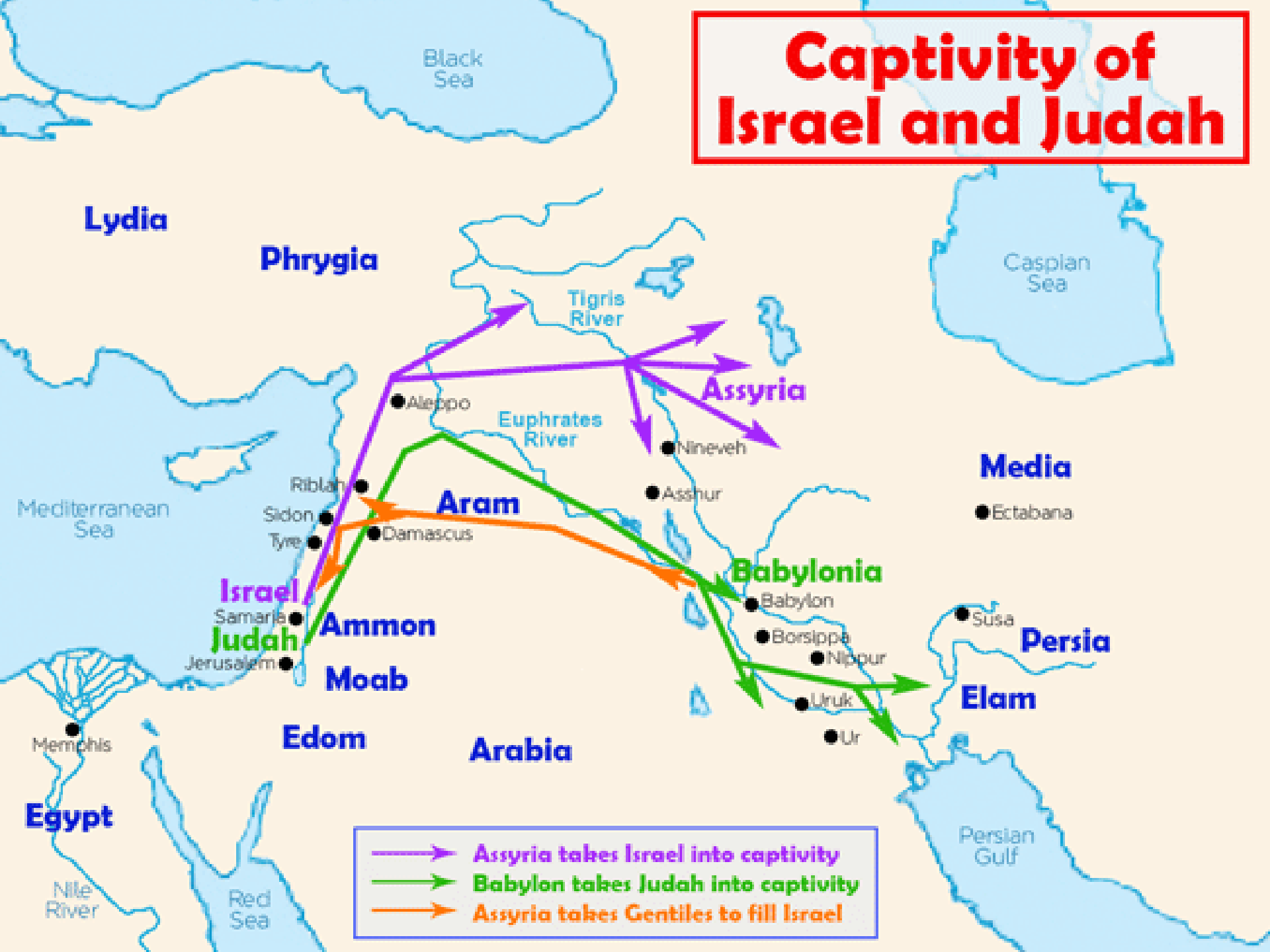
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Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no guidance
the people fall,

But in an abundance of
counselors there is victory.

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

A Lesson From Youth Group that Still Applies to Adults:

**“Show me your friends and
I’ll show you your future.”**


**Are they leading you closer
to God or further away?**

Who is Your Wise Counsel?

- Is there evidence in their life that they know God and His Word?
- Do they come from different backgrounds and perspectives of life?
- Will they tell you what you need to know, not just what you want to hear?
- Are you following Godly counsel or just listening to it?

Good Examples in the Bible

- Ruth followed Naomi's counsel and married Boaz, the grandfather of King David.
- Samuel followed Eli's counsel and began his journey as a prophet.
- Esther followed her uncle Mordecai's counsel and saved the Jewish people.
- The disciples followed Jesus' counsel and changed the world.

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