

"Cursed be we if we fail to fulfill all we have promised unto God."

And they failed!

They became weary of an unseen king, even though that king were the living Lord. They desired a king of flesh and blood like unto their neighbours. The Lord granted them their request. He gave them Saul in his anger and took him away in his wrath. He gave them David and built them up an exceedingly great nation, climaxing their glory and greatness in his son Solomon. Under Solomon's son, Jeroboam, ten tribes revolted against Solomon's successor, Rehoboam, and went into Samaria, there establishing themselves as the Northern kingdom, setting up images and becoming an idolatrous people. God sent the Assyrians against them. They carried away the people as captives. For twenty-five hundred years their identity has been lost and they have been known and spoken of in history as "the ten lost tribes."

The remaining two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, because of their iniquity, were carried away by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. At the end of seventy years, as had been foretold by Jeremiah, the prophet, they were permitted to return and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. By the hand of one conqueror and another they were ruled, till Rome set her imperial eagles above the royal standard of Judah.