

# The Lost Tribes of Israel Web

2 Kings 17; 18:1-12

The kingdom of Israel split into two nations around the year 926 B.C. After Solomon's son Rehoboam ascended to the throne, the ten northern tribes rebelled and withdrew from the union. This left two tribes—Judah and Benjamin, plus much of Levi—under the control of the king in Jerusalem and birthed two separate nations. The ten northern tribes came to be called the nation of Israel, and later Samaria. The two southern tribes were called the nation of Judah.

This situation continued until around 723 B.C., when the Assyrians conquered Israel. To keep conquered nations weak and under their control, Assyria typically moved their captives to other areas and resettled the land with newcomers. When the Israel was conquered all but the very poor were deported and moved to other areas in the Assyrian kingdom. This included places near Nineveh, Haran, and on what is now the Iran-Iraq border. In their place, settlers were moved in from places like Babylon and Syria.

These settlers married the people from Israel who remained and became the Samaritans. They were named after the area of Samaria. Some of these people survive today. The Israelites who were deported also intermarried with the peoples of the places where they were resettled. They eventually lost their culture and identity. They are sometimes called “the lost tribes of Israel.”

There are many stories and legends about what happened to these tribes and where they settled. Think of a story you could tell about one family who was deported to somewhere in Assyria. Then make and complete a web like the one below.

