The following resources were used to develop this chart:

"New Bible Atlas" edited by Binson, Kane, Paterson, Wiseman and Wood (Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois)
"The New Inductive Study Bible" (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon)

1. The bottom line shows the rise and fall of the dominant world powers with which Israel -- whether united or divided -- contended.

2. Beginning with Israel united as a single nation under David and Solomon, the kingdom is divided and ruled by separate lines of kings. "Israel" from this point on refers to the northern half which is ruled by a succession of kings not of David's lineage who never return to the Lord and are taken into captivity by the Assyrians. The southern half is referred to as "Judah" although people from every tribe come to live within its borders. It is ruled by direct descendants of David, some of which repent and lead the people back to God. It will be carried away into captivity to Babylon, which in turn is conquered by the Medo-Persians, from whom the return to the land of Israel is effected.

3. To better understand the context of God's Word through the prophets, read the corresponding accounts of the kings reigning during their ministry and to which of the two kingdoms they mainly ministered to.