

SOME REASONS FOR THE EXILE OF THE JEWS

Grace Gospel Chapel
February 5, 2012

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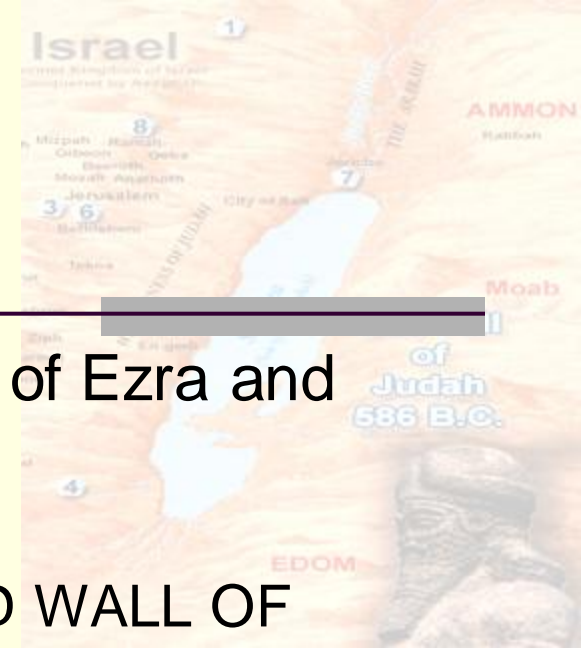


Are you reading your Bible DAILY?



What we plan to cover:

- Anticipation of the study of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah
 - RETURN OF THE EXILES
 - REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE AND WALL OF JERUSALEM
- A brief history of ISRAEL (EXODUS TO EXILE)
 - After the EXODUS
 - Before the return from EXILE
- **Mainly consider: What led to the Exile (Captivity) of Judah into Babylonia?**



A Brief Review Of the Books Of the Old Testament



- The Bible is made up of **66** Books
 - **39** Books in the OT
 - **27** Books in the NT
 - One Division of **OT Books**, based on the arrangement of books in our English Bibles:
 - **LAW**: Genesis-Deuteronomy (**5** Books)
 - **HISTORY**: Joshua-Esther (**12** Books)
 - **POETRY/WISDOM**: Job-Songs (**5** Books)
 - **MAJOR PROPHETS**: Isaiah-Daniel (**5** Books)
 - **MINOR PROPHETS**: Hosea-Malachi (**12** Books)
- (Note that there are other ways to divide the OT)

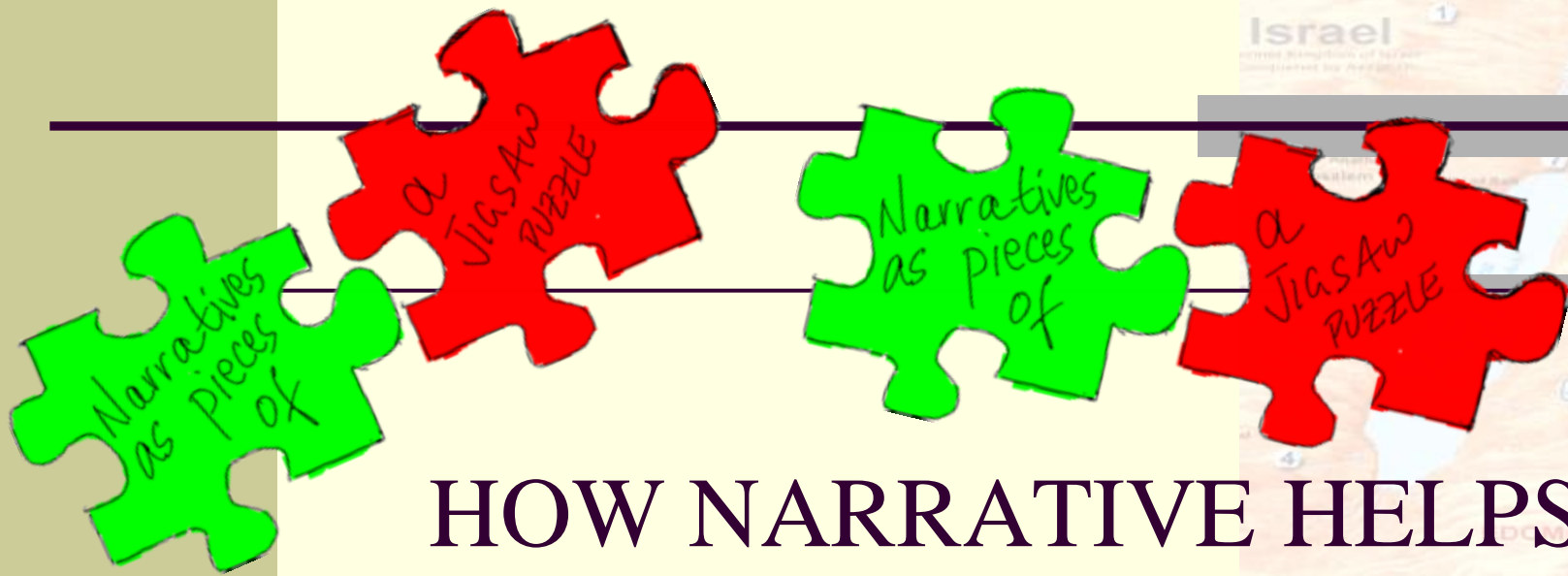
WHY STUDY THE OT?



- The Bible is progressive revelation
 - The NT is built upon what is written in the OT
 - For example--to Gain knowledge of Jewish Customs mentioned in NT
 - The identity of the Messiah etc.
- To gain understanding of many prophecies—detailed prophecies of the rise and fall of nations, end-times etc.
- Jesus loved and quoted the OT
- It makes us wise unto salvation
 - **2 Tim 3: 15**—Sacred writings are able to make you wise unto salvation
- It is through its examples, for our instruction, to provide encouragement, instill hope and generate endurance
 - **Romans 15: 4** —whatever was **written in former days** was **written for our instruction** that through **endurance** and through **encouragement** of the Scriptures we might have **hope**
 - **1 Cor. 10: 11** —these things happened to them (people of the OT) as **example**, but they were **written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come

Some Interpretive Mistakes To Avoid when studying OT (or NT) Narrative record:

- Note that approximately 40% of the OT is narrative and most of the narrative record is in the 12 Historical books.
- Remember that these are **NOT** simply stories but illustrate the WORK OF GOD through people—**GOD IS THE HERO**.
 - The OT highlights the Work of the Triune God in the **FATHER**
 - The Gospels highlight the Work of the Triune God in the **SON**
 - The Book of Acts and the Epistles highlight the Work of the Triune God in the **HOLY SPIRIT**
- These are **NOT** allegories which teach mysterious truths
- Every story may **NOT** contain a lesson or moral
- One should **NOT** attempt to formulate DOCTRINAL PROPOSITIONS based **SOLELY** on narrative.



HOW NARRATIVE HELPS OUR UNDERSTANDING:

Every individual account is like the pieces of a puzzle which when joined to other pieces presents the BIG PICTURE

THE OT HISTORICAL BOOKS

PRE-MONARCHY (SETTLEMENT)

A FAMILY PRESERVED

■ **Joshua** (CONQUEST)

■ **Ruth** (around chapter 10 of Judges)

■ **Judges** (UNREST)

A DYNASTY PRESERVED

MONARCHY

■ **1-2 Samuel** (KINGDOM ASCENDING)

■ **1-2 Kings** (KINGDOM DECLINING)

1-2 Chronicles

POST-MONARCHY

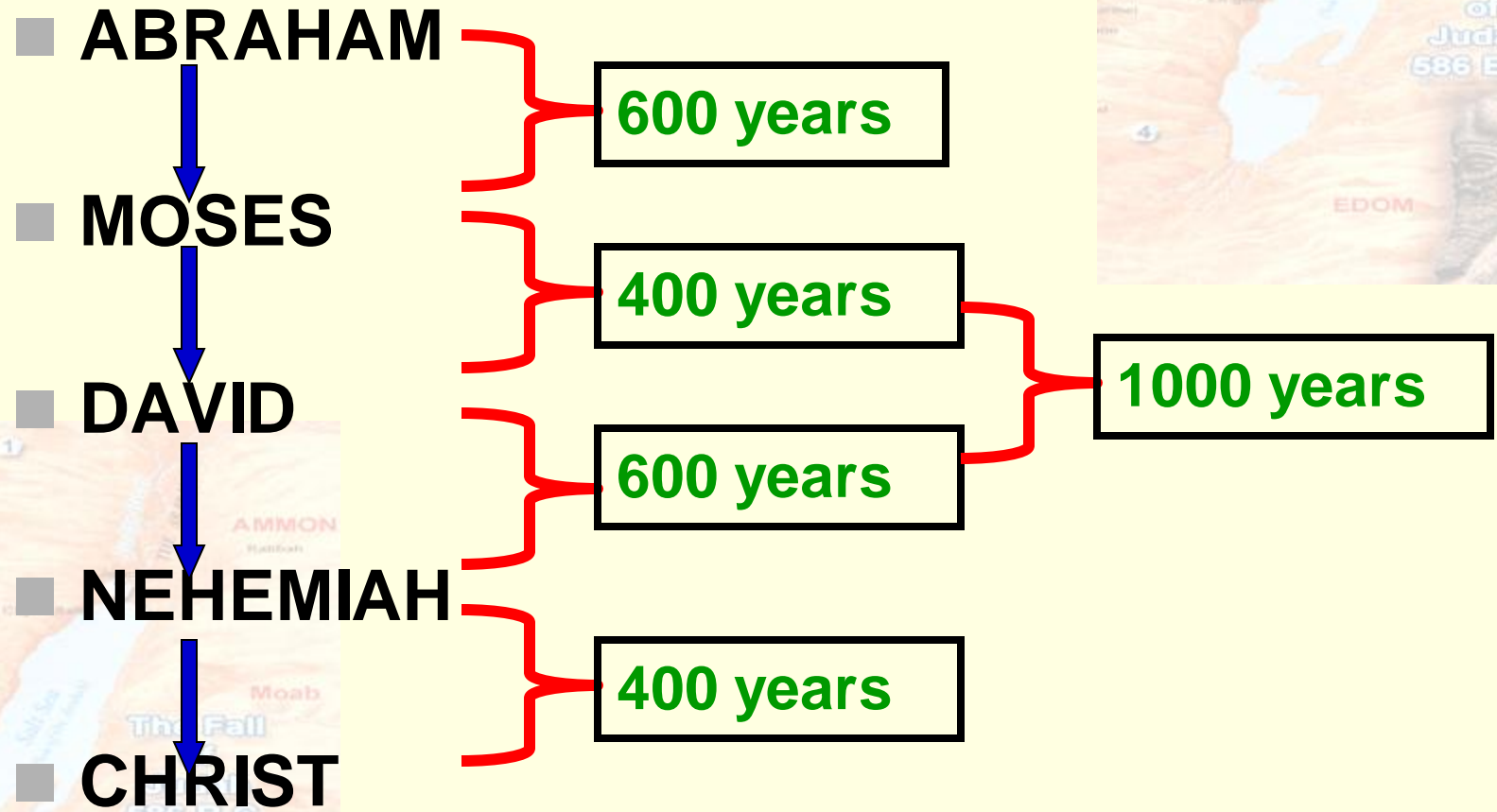
A NATION PRESERVED

■ **Ezra** (RETURN)

■ **Esther** (between chapters 6-7 of Ezra)

■ **Nehemiah** (REBUILDING)

BROAD CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF OLD TESTAMENT



7 PERIODS OF OT HISTORY: JOSHUA to ESTHER

- **CONQUEST** 1407-1367 BC (**40 Yrs**)
- **JUDGES** 1367-1043 BC (**324 Yrs**)
- **UNITED MONARCHY** 1043-930 BC (**112 Yrs**)
- **DIVIDED MONARCHY** 930-722 BC (**210 Yrs**)
- **JUDEAN** 722-586 BC (**135 Yrs**)
- **EXILIC** 586-538 BC (**48 Yrs**)
- **POST-EXILIC** 538-432 BC (**106 Yrs**)



Some Reasons For The Captivity



■ **THE WRATH OF GOD (Lev. 25: 4; Numbers 35: 33; Psalm 106: 34-43; Ezekiel 22; 2 Kings 24: 1-4; 2 Chronicles 36: 21; Jeremiah 20: 1-6 and many more)**

- **Israel & Judah rejected the Lord**

- **They rejected his laws**

- **They profaned his Sabbaths**

- **They profaned the land by their idolatries**

- **They shed innocent blood**

- **They acted fraudulently in finances**

- **They dishonored their parents**

- **They listened to false prophets**

■ **THE MERCY OF GOD (READ EZRA chapter 9; Psalm 106: 44-48; Ezekiel 36 and many more)**

- **The Lord's concern for His NAME prompted the RETURN**

- **The Lord was saving a remnant** (e.g. Joseph—Gen 45: 7; also the idea of remnant in the Assyrian Invasion 2 Kings 19: 29-31)

- **NOTE THESE PROPECIES:**

- **Leviticus 26: 32-33; 44** (written as early as 1400 BC)

- **Isaiah 49: 13-17** (written between 701-681 BC)

- **Jeremiah 32: 36-37** (626-586 BC)

- **Ezekiel 34: 13** (593-571 BC)

■ **POLITICAL REASON: The Fertile Crescent**

PRECURSORS OF THE EXILE



■ JOSHUA— THE VICTORY OF FAITH

- Joshua executes what Moses began
 - Moses vision becomes Joshua's venture
- Fulfillment of land promises made to Abraham
- “So Joshua took the whole land” (Josh. 11: 23)
 - From death of Moses in 1407 BC (Joshua aged 90)
 - To end of the United Effort in 1400 BC (Joshua aged 97)
- “There remains yet very much land to be possessed” (Josh. 13: 1)
 - 13 years later Joshua dies at the age of 110
- “Israel served Yahweh, all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders...” (Josh 24: 31)
 - 7 years later the elders die in 1380 BC

JUDGES—CRIES OF DESPAIR

- 12 leaders appointed by God to lead Israel in emergency situation (only 12 are mentioned but there were more judges)
- They had no power to MAKE laws nor INTERPRET Laws. They were to UPHOLD (enforce) the Law and thus bring “rest” to the land
 - God gave the Law, the Priests interpreted the law. The judges had to enforce the law.
- The Conquest at the time of Joshua gave way to toleration, accommodation and assimilation
- Possession of the land gives way to oppression within the land
- Freedom gives way to bondage and regression
- The victory of Faith gives way to the bondage of the Flesh
 - **“EVERY man did what was right in his own eyes”** (twice mentioned)
 - **“The children of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh** (7 times mentioned)
- Cycle of **Rebellion, Retribution, Repentance, Redemption** and **Rest** but continuously down the slippery slope. (each cycle was a plunge downward, not upward, nor horizontal)

THE MONARCHS DID NOT FAIR MUCH BETTER



- Israel's desire for a king— “appoint for us a king to judge us **like all the nations.**” (1 Sam. 8: 5)
- Note that the issue was not in their desire for a king but in their **rejection of the true KING**— “And the LORD said to Samuel...”Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for **they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.**” (1 Sam 8: 7)

Take the Case of Solomon

Deut. 17: 14-20 (A WORD GIVEN A LONG TIME BEFORE ISRAEL'S KINGS)

NOT
MANY
HORSES

"When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, '**I will set a king over me**, like all the nations that are around me,'

NOT
MANY
WIVES

you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

NOT
MUCH
GOLD

Only **he must not acquire many horses for himself** or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.'

KEEP
THE LAW

And he shall **not acquire many wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away, **nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.**

"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, **he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law**, approved by the Levitical priests.

And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,

that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

Some of Solomon's sins:--led to the division of Israel into North and South

HORSES

“Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen” (1 Kings 4: 26)

WIVES

700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3)

He loved many foreign women—Egyptian, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite (1 Kings 11: 1)

His wives “turned his heart after other gods” (1 Kings 11: 4)

WEALTH

“the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold” (1 Kings 10: 14)

IDOLATRY

“Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD” (1 Kings 11: 5-6)

RESULT: DIVISION

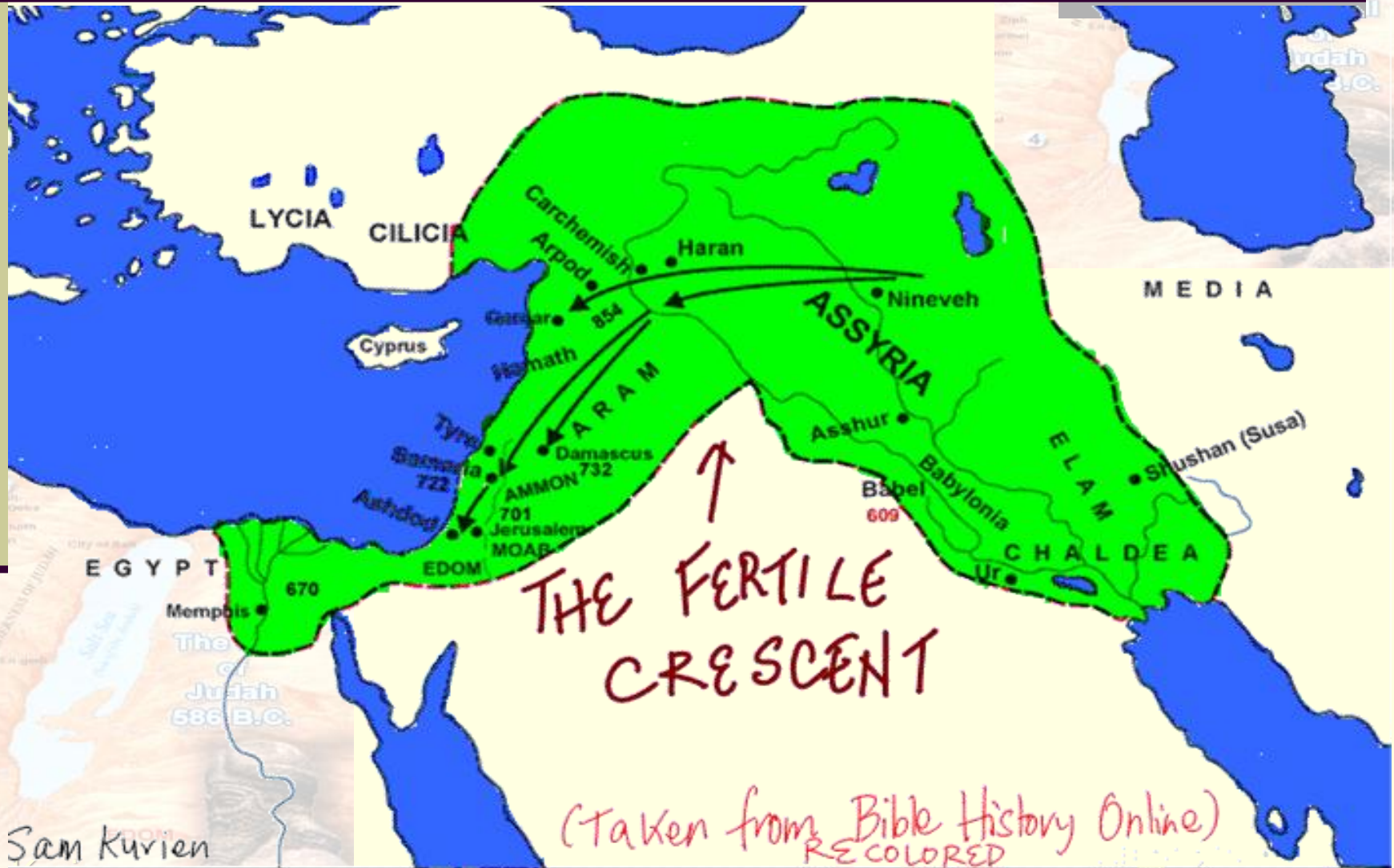
“And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice ... Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely **tear the kingdom from you** and will give it to your servant.” (2 Kings 11: 9)

Assyrian Invasion and Dispersion of the Northern Tribes



- 2Ki 15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.
- 2Ki 16:10 When King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, he saw the altar that was at Damascus. And King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a model of the altar, and its pattern, exact in all its details.

722 BC: Assyrian Invasion (the Political Reason)



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ASSYRIAN INVASION IN 722 BC: THE REASONS (Read 2 Kings 17)

- LACK OF SEPARATION
- IDOLATRY
- PROFANING OF GOD'S ALTAR

- LACK OF REPENTANCE
- DESPISING GOD'S LAW

- SACRIFICE OF CHILDREN
- DIVINATIONS
- SEXUAL IMMORALITY

2Kings 17:7-12

And this occurred because the people of Israel had **sinned against the LORD their God**, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had **feared other gods** and **walked in the customs of the nations** whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.

And the people of Israel **did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right**. They **built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city**.

They **set up for themselves pillars and Asherim** on every high hill and under every green tree,

and there they **made offerings on all the high places**, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, **provoking the LORD to anger**, and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this."

2Kings 17:13-16

Yet the **LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer**, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets."

But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

They **despised his statutes and his covenant** that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them.

And they **abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God**, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.

2Ki 17:17-23

And they **burned their sons and their daughters as offerings** and **used divination and omens** and **sold themselves to do evil** in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

Therefore **the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight**. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

Judah also **did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God**, but **walked in the customs that Israel had introduced**.

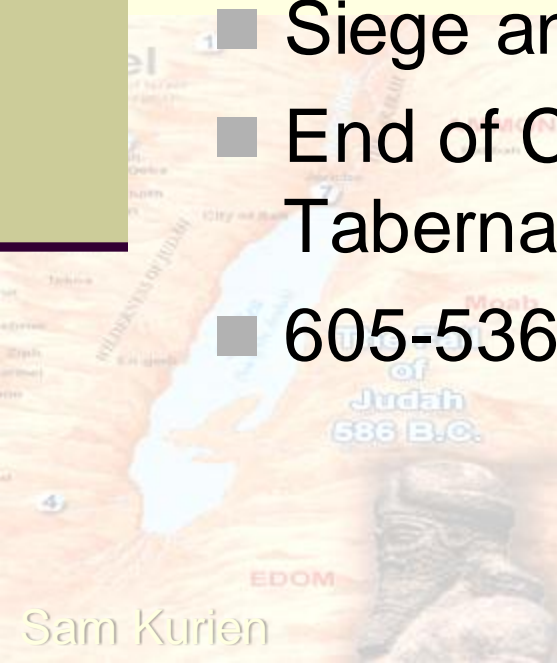
And **the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers**, until he had cast them out of his sight.

When **he had torn Israel from the house of David**, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin.

The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. **So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day**.

JUDAH'S BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY--Nebuchadnezzar

- 3 Waves of Exiles
- Daniel and others—605 BC
- 10,000 captives including prophet Ezekiel (597 BC)
- Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC)
- End of Captivity celebrated by Feast Of Tabernacles in Jerusalem (536 BC) [Ezra 3:4]
- $605-536 = \sim 70$ years



JUDAH'S BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY--Nebuchadnezzar

HEZEKIAH—illness and recovery (2 Kings 20)

King of Babylon (Meroduk-Baladan) visits Hezekiah (2 Kings 20: 12)

Hezekiah shows the Babylonians “**all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.**”

Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?" And Hezekiah said, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon."

He said, "What have they seen in your house?" And Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them."

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "**Hear the word of the LORD:**

Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD.

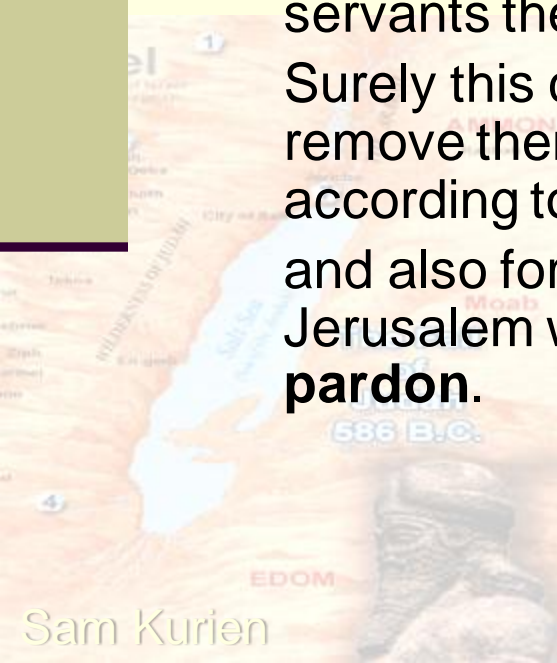
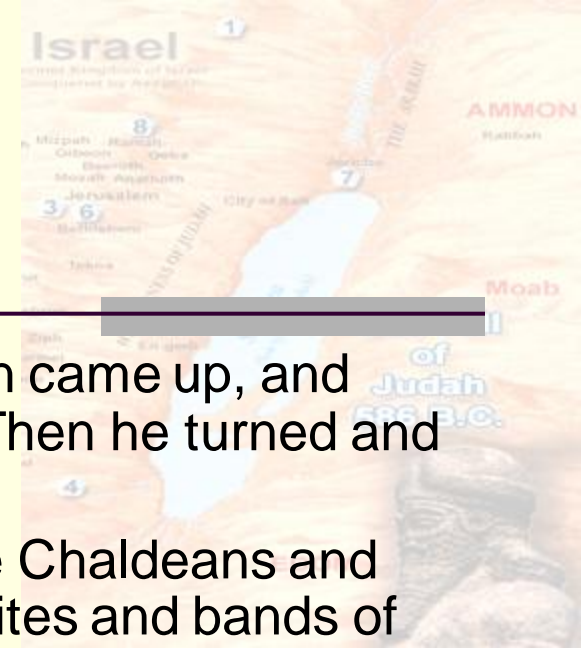
And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

2 Kings 24

In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

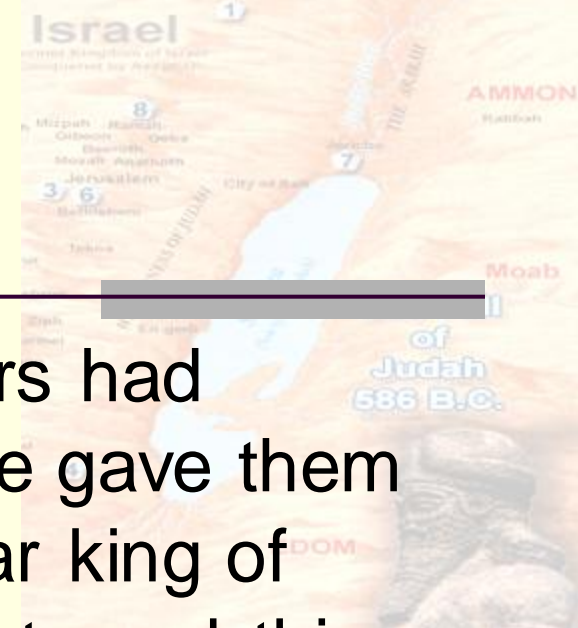
And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servants the prophets.

Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out of his sight, **for the sins of Manasseh**, according to all that he had done, and also for the **innocent blood that he had shed**. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, **and the LORD would not pardon.**



Ezra 5: 12

- Ezr 5:12 But because our fathers had **angered the God of heaven**, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia.



Habakkuk 3:2

O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.

Rom 5:20-21

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.