

2 KINGS (TEACHER'S EDITION)

PART ONE: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM (1:1--17:41)

I. THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH IN ISRAEL	1
II. THE REIGN OF JEHORAM IN ISRAEL	2:1--8:15
III. THE REIGN OF JEHORAM IN JUDAH	8:16-24
IV. THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH IN JUDAH	8:25--9:29
V. THE REIGN OF JEHU IN ISRAEL	9:30--10:36
VI. THE REIGN OF QUEEN ATHALIAH IN JUDAH	11:1-16
VII. THE REIGN OF JOASH IN JUDAH	11:17--12:21
VIII. THE REIGN OF JEHOAHAZ IN ISRAEL	13:1-9
IX. THE REIGN OF JEHOASH IN ISRAEL	13:10-25
X. THE REIGN OF AMAZIAH IN JUDAH	14:1-22
XI. THE REIGN OF JEROBOAM II IN ISRAEL	14:23-29
XII. THE REIGN OF AZARIAH IN JUDAH	15:1-7
XIII. THE REIGN OF ZECHARIAH IN ISRAEL	15:8-12
XIV. THE REIGN OF SHALLUM IN ISRAEL	15:13-15
XV. THE REIGN OF MENAHEM IN ISRAEL	15:16-22
XVI. THE REIGN OF PEKAHIAH IN ISRAEL	15:23-26
XVII. THE REIGN OF PEKAH IN ISRAEL	15:27-31
XVIII. THE REIGN OF JOTHAM IN JUDAH	15:32-38
XIX. THE REIGN OF AHAZ IN JUDAH	16
XX. THE REIGN OF HOSHEA IN ISRAEL	17

PART TWO: THE SURVIVING KINGDOM OF JUDAH (18:1--25:30)

I. THE REIGN OF HEZEKIAH IN JUDAH	18:1--20:21
II. THE REIGN OF MANASSEH IN JUDAH	21:1-18
III. THE REIGN OF AMON IN JUDAH	21:19-26
IV. THE REIGN OF JOSIAH IN JUDAH	22:1--23:30
V. THE REIGN OF JEHOAHAZ IN JUDAH	23:31-34
VI. THE REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM IN JUDAH	23:35--24:7
VII. THE REIGN OF JEHOIACHIN IN JUDAH	24:8-16
VIII. THE REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH IN JUDAH	24:17--25:21
IX. THE GOVERNORSHIP OF GEDALIAH	25:22-26
X. THE RELEASE OF JEHOIACHIN IN BABYLON	25:27-30

AUTHOR-

AS YOU MAY RECALL FROM OUR 1 KINGS STUDY, 1 & 2 KINGS WERE **ONE BOOK** IN THE ORIGINAL. 2 KINGS IS THE SECOND HALF OF THAT BOOK. THOUGH THERE IS NO EXACT CERTAINTY AS TO THE WRITER, MANY HOLD THAT **JEREMIAH** OR A PROPHETIC CONTEMPORARY WERE LIKELY THE AUTHOR. SEE NOTES ON 1 KINGS FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

WE CAN, WITH SOME CONFIDENCE, STATE THAT THE ENTIRE TEXT OF 1 & 2 KINGS WAS WRITTEN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 560-538 B.C. THE EVENTS OF 2 KINGS COVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST **300 YEARS**. SEE NOTES ON 1 KINGS FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

ABOUT THE BOOK-

2 KINGS DEALS WITH A VERY TURBULENT PERIOD, DUALY COVERING THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH (THE 9TH KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL) THROUGH THE FALL OF ISRAEL TO ASSYRIA, AND THE FALL OF JERUSALEM AND DEPORTATION OF JUDAH TO BABYLON, ENDING WITH THE RELEASE OF KING JEHOIACHIN.

THE WRITER WAS OBVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING THE HORROR OF THE EXILE OF GOD'S PEOPLE. HE WRITES, IN THIS GREAT BOOK, A PROPHETIC MESSAGE SHOWING THAT THIS PUNISHMENT BY CAPTIVITY TO FOREIGN PAGAN NATIONS WAS THE **INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF PERSISTENT VIOLATION** OF GOD'S COVENANT. REMEMBER OUR DISCUSSION IN 1 KINGS: KINGS WAS WRITTEN TO **CAUSE EXILES TO LOOK BACK** AND REFLECT ON THEIR HISTORY AND THEN TO **RETURN TO THE LORD**. 2 KINGS SPECIFICALLY PICKS UP THE HISTORICAL RECORD WHERE 1 KINGS LEAVES OFF. **BUT REMEMBER: IT IS A SELECTIVE HISTORY WITH THEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE!** THIS BOOK PRESENTS GOD AS THE LORD OF HISTORY, PROVIDENTIALLY WORKING IN AND THROUGH THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN REDEPTIVE PURPOSE.

2 KINGS BEGINS WITH THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM WITH AHAZIAH REIGNING IN ISRAEL AND JEHOSHAPHAT RULING IN JUDAH. AS IN 1 KINGS, THE NARRATIVE IS DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUAL SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN KINGDOMS. **BUT THE MESSAGE, AS WE DISCUSSED IN 1 KINGS IS CLEAR: THE NATION, LEADER, OR PERSON WHO RESPONDS TO AND OBEYS** THE LORD WILL ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. **THOSE WHO REFUSE AND REBEL** WILL EXPERIENCE GOD'S **DISCIPLINE**.

IN ITS OPENING CHAPTERS, 2 KINGS IS FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF POWERFUL PROPHETIC MINISTRY, INCLUDING ELISHA'S AND ELIJAH'S. HOWEVER, GOD'S KINGDOM POWER IS MOST CLEARLY MANIFESTED IN **HIS JUDGMENT ON THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL**. THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM SHOWS SOMETHING WE MUST ALL REMEMBER: **THERE IS NO TRUE POWER WITHOUT TRUE OBEDIENCE**. ISRAEL'S **CONTINUOUS VIOLATIONS** OF GOD'S WAYS, AS SHOWN IN THE LEADERSHIP AND LIFESTYLE OF EVERY ONE OF THE NORTHERN KINGS, EXHAUSTED THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS PATIENCE OF OUR LOVING, YET JUST AND HOLY GOD.

A BASIC ASSESSMENT OF 2 KINGS (BASIC THEMES)-

THE BASIC THEME OF THE BOOK IS DISCUSSED CLEARLY IN ONE CHAPTER. IN **2 KINGS 17** WE ARE OFFERED A SUMMATION AND ANALYSIS OF ISRAEL'S FALL. GOD'S HOLINESS **REQUIRES THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OF NATIONS**, THOUGH THE TEXT ITSELF CLEARLY STATES THE GOD TOOK **NO PLEASURE** IN IT. THIS CHAPTER DOES TWO THINGS: 1) **IT VINDICATES GOD'S ACTION**, AND 2) **DESCRIBES THOSE THINGS THAT WILL INVITE SIMILAR JUDGMENT ANYWHERE, ANYTIME**. THOSE THINGS ARE:

- ✓ **THEY REBELLED AGAINST GOD'S WAYS AND FOLLOWED THE WAYS OF THE NATIONS** GOD HAD ALREADY CAST OUT (17:7-8)

- ✓ THEY PRACTICED **EVIL EXCESSIVELY** AND TRIED **TO HIDE IT** (17:9-12)
- ✓ THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE **GOD'S WORD** AND **HIS PROPHETS**, AND REFUSED TO BE CORRECTED. THEY WERE **UNTEACHABLE** (17:13-15)
- ✓ THEIR REBELLION LED TO **DEMONIC WORSHIP** (17:16, 17) - REMINISCENT OF 1 SAMUEL 15:23.

THESE FOUR ACTIONS BRING INTO PLAY CERTAIN PUNISHMENT. IN CHAPTER 17:19-23, WE SEE WHAT THE HORRIFIC PUNISHMENT IS: THE **REMOVAL OF HIS PEOPLE FROM HIS SIGHT!** LIVING IN THE KINGDOM CAN MEAN GREAT BLESSING, BUT IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR SELFISH, CARNAL AND EVIL PURSUITS. PERSISTING IN THINGS THAT GOD DESPISES ENDS ALL ENJOYMENT OF HIS BLESSINGS AND MERCIES. YOU MIGHT SAY THAT 2 KINGS IS A GREAT BOOK IN DEMONSTRATING HOW GOD'S PEOPLE **SHOULD NOT LIVE**. KINGDOM LIVING REQUIRES A CONSISTENTLY **TEACHABLE SPIRIT**. THIS BOOK REVEALS THE PRICE OF NEGLECTING THAT DISCIPLINE.

THE SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CLEARLY MENTIONED IN BOTH BOOKS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE, THE **PROPHETS** OF YAHWEH PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN 1 AND 2 KINGS AS GOD USES THEM TO REMIND THE KINGS OF THEIR COVENANT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE MINISTRIES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ARE THE MOST PROMINENT, BUT MANY OF THE LATER WRITING PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED AS WELL. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S **PROPHETIC WORD** IS HIGHLIGHTED AS NUMEROUS FULFILLMENTS OF PROPHECY AND MIRACLES PERFORMED BY PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED.

THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE, ONE WE DID NOT MENTION IN OUR STUDY OF 1 KINGS. THE BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 KINGS DESCRIBE SEVERAL MIRACLES WROUGHT BY GOD THROUGH ELIJAH AND ELISHA. IN ADDITION TO PROVING GOD'S POWER, THESE MIRACLES ARE ALSO **DIRECT ATTACKS** ON THE **PAGAN WORSHIP PRACTICES** OF THE FOLLOWERS OF BAAL. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: GOD'S MIRACLES ARE NOT JUST DEMONSTRATIONS OF HIS GRANDEUR, BUT ALSO ACTS OF JUDGMENT ON THE GODS OF THIS WORLD! THEY DON'T JUST PRODUCE JOY, BUT AWE-INSPIRING FEAR THAT LEADS TO PEOPLE ABANDONING THEIR IDOLS.

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-

WHEN YOU CONSIDER WHY THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN AND WHAT ITS PAINFUL HISTORY COVERS, I BELIEVE THE KEY WORD FOR THIS BOOK, AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED FROM THE COVER PICTURE, IS: **CAPTIVITY**. REMEMBER THAT THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN FROM A PROPHETIC VIEWPOINT TO TEACH THAT THE COLLAPSE OF BOTH KINGDOMS WAS BECAUSE OF SPIRITUAL REBELLION AND THE FAILURE OF THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO THE WARNINGS GOD GAVE THEM THROUGH HIS MESSENGERS.

KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER(S)-

WHEN CONSIDERING THE PURPOSE OF THE WRITING OF 2 KINGS, I HAD TO SELECT AS THE KEY VERSES: **2 KINGS 17:22-23** & **2 KINGS 23:27**. THESE KEY VERSES DECLARE THE SAME THING, BUT FOR EACH KINGDOM. THEY ARE A REMINDER AS TO WHY THE HORRIFYING EVENTS HAPPENED. AS TO THE KEY CHAPTER, I DECIDED ON SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE I BELIEVE MOST WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN CHOOSING. THOUGH **CHAPTER 17** IS THE SAD SUMMARY CHAPTER, IT DEALS ONLY WITH **JUDGMENT**. THAT IS WHY I CHOSE **CHAPTER 25** AS MY KEY CHAPTER. WHY? BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY SPEAKS OF THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE GLORIOUS TEMPLE, BUT IT ALSO **GIVES HOPE FOR THE FUTURE BY SPEAKING OF JEHOIACHIN'S RELEASE AND KIND TREATMENT FROM THE ENEMY**, SHOWING GOD'S WORK OF REDEMPTION IN THE MIDST OF MAN'S REBELLION AND JUDGMENT.

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ❖ THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IN CHAPTER 1
- ❖ **THE OFFICE OF KING, PROPHET AND PRIEST WAS FULFILLED IN PERFECT MEASURE IN CHRIST**
- ❖ **ELIJAH'S "ASCENSION" IS A SHADOW OF CHRIST'S ASCENSION**
- ❖ **ELISHA'S MINISTRY WAS A TYPE OF THE MINISTRY OF JESUS WITH MANY MIRACLES REMINISCENT OF JESUS'**
- ❖ **THE HEALING OF NAAMAN'S LEPROSY IS A TYPE OF JESUS' CLEANSING US FROM SIN. LEPROSY IS A TYPE OF SIN, AND JESUS CLEANSED THE LEPER.**
- ❖ **2 KINGS 8:19- JESUS IS THE LAMP FOR DAVID AND HIS DESCENDANTS FOREVER!**

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ❖ **THE FIRE OF GOD FALLING AND CONSUMING THE COMMANDER AND HIS TROOPS WAS THE SPIRIT**
- ❖ ALL THE PROPHETIC WORDS AND THE OFFICE OF PROPHET ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- ❖ ALL THE HEALINGS AND MIRACLES ARE THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT
- ❖ **THE TAKING UP OF ELIJAH AND THE ANOINTING COMING ON ELISHA IS LIKE ACTS 1:4-7 AND ACTS 2:1-4 (THE DAY OF PENTECOST)**
- ❖ **IN 2 KINGS 2:9, 15, THE STATEMENTS "YOUR SPIRIT" AND "THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH," ARE INDIRECT REFERENCES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- ❖ **THE ANOINTING WITH OIL IS A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT AND HIS COMING UPON PEOPLE**

SOME TRUTHS AND APPLICATIONS-

LET'S BUILD TWO SERMONS:

2 KINGS 4:1-7- FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

- 1. SHE HAS PROBLEMS OF THE PAST, PAIN IN THE PRESENT AND DESPAIR REGARDING HER FUTURE.**
- 2. THRU ELISHA, GOD ASKS, "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" WE LIMIT GOD, HE DOES NOT LIMIT US! HE WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS.**
- 3. SHE ONLY SEES WHAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE; GOD SEES WHAT WE DO HAVE: THE OIL OF THE SPIRIT!**
- 4. SHE INVOLVED HER BOYS IN THE MIRACLE OF GOD, AND HER ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE CAME FROM GETTING THE OIL IN HER (I.E., THE POWER AND FLOW OF THE SPIRIT), OUT TO THE EMPTY PEOPLE AROUND HER.**

2 KINGS 5: 1-19- FOR SOULS

- 1. LEPROSY IS A TYPE OF SIN. SOME PEOPLE'S SIN IS EVIDENT, OTHERS' FOLLOW AFTER THEM (1 TIM 5:24-THE SINS OF SOME MEN ARE QUITE EVIDENT, GOING BEFORE THEM TO JUDGMENT; FOR OTHERS, THEIR SINS FOLLOW AFTER.) NAAMAN HAD IT ALL, BUT HIS ISSUES WERE PUBLIC.**
- 2. A GIRL, FATHER AND MOTHER DEAD AT NAAMAN'S HAND AND HER NOW HIS SLAVE, TESTIFIES ABOUT GOD'S HEALING POWER AND HER DESIRE FOR HIS SALVATION!**
- 3. HE LISTENS, BECAUSE LIKE ALL PEOPLE, HE WANTS FREEDOM AND HEALING. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE OF GOD THINK HE IS NUTS AND HIS PROBLEM BEYOND HOPE.**
- 4. ELISHA MINISTERS TO HIM AS GOD WANTS HIM TO; HE DOESN'T CAVE IN TO THE CULTURE.**
- 5. GRACE IS SHOWN AS BEING FREE; WE WANT TO EARN IT!**
- 6. AFTER NAAMAN IS HEALED, HE GETS SAVED AND COUNTS THE COST. HIS WHOLE QUESTION REGARDING BOWING IN RESPECT OF HIS "BOSS" SHOWS HE UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN ISRAEL AT THAT TIME THAT YOU CAN'T SERVE GOD AND FALSE IDOLS.**

THINGS OF INTEREST

KING JEHU'S BLACK OBELISK

DURING THE PERIOD OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY FROM ABOUT 900 TO 700 BC, THE ASSYRIANS WERE THE DOMINANT WORLD POWER. ONE OF THE POWERFUL ASSYRIAN KINGS, SHALMANESER III (REIGNED 859-824 BC), ERECTED A LARGE STONE MONUMENT ON WHICH HE RECORDED HIS MILITARY VICTORIES. THIS IMPRESSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, KNOWN

AS THE BLACK OBELISK, CONTAINS A RELIEF SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE VISIT OF KING JEHU OF ISRAEL (REIGNED 841–814 BC) TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SHALMANESER.

PLACED OUTSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE AT NIMRUD IN ASSYRIA, THE MONUMENT IS MORE THAN SIX FEET HIGH. CHISELED CAREFULLY IN STONE IS A SERIES OF DETAILED DRAWINGS, WITH ACCOMPANYING INSCRIPTIONS THAT COMMEMORATE SHALMANESER'S NUMEROUS MILITARY CAMPAIGNS. THE OBELISK SHOWS AN EVENT NOT MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE—JEHU BOWING BEFORE SHALMANESER, WITH NUMEROUS ISRAELITE SERVANTS AND AIDS STANDING BY WITH GIFTS FOR THE ASSYRIAN KING.

TRIBUTE, OR COMPULSORY PAYMENTS TO PROTECT A WEAKER NATION AGAINST A MORE POWERFUL FOE, WAS OFTEN LEVIED BY AGGRESSOR NATIONS SUCH AS THE ASSYRIANS DURING OLD TESTAMENT TIMES. AFTER BEING ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL BY THE PROPHET ELISHA, JEHU ELIMINATED ALL THREATS TO HIS RULE BY KILLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF AHAB, WHOM HE SUCCEEDED (2 KIN. 9; 10). AS A RULER, JEHU WAS A WEAK KING WHO FAILED TO ELIMINATE BAAL WORSHIP FROM THE LAND.

THE BLACK OBELISK IS A VALUABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, BECAUSE IT HELPS ESTABLISH A DATE FOR JEHU'S RULE, AS WELL AS AN OVERALL CHRONOLOGY FOR THIS PERIOD OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY. IT ALSO SHOWS US WHAT AN ISRAELITE KING FROM THIS PERIOD MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE. THIS IS THE ONLY IMAGE OR DRAWING OF AN ISRAELITE KING THAT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

SENNACHERIB'S PRISM

THE MONUMENT KNOWN AS SENNACHERIB'S PRISM IS A FASCINATING ARTIFACT FROM ASSYRIA'S PAST. IT GIVES A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT FROM THE BIBLE ABOUT AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY—A SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM CONDUCTED BY KING SENNACHERIB OF ASSYRIA (RULED 705–681 BC) ABOUT 690 BC (IS. 36; 37).

THE FIFTEEN-INCH-HIGH CLAY PRISM CONTAINS WELL-PRESERVED ASSYRIAN SCRIPT THAT VERIFIES THE ATTACK ON JERUSALEM AND KING HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH BY ASSYRIAN FORCES. "AS TO HEZEKIAH, THE JEW, HE DID NOT SUBMIT TO MY YOKE," THE PRISM READS. "I LAID SIEGE TO 46 OF HIS STRONG CITIES, WALLED FORTS AND TO COUNTLESS SMALL CITIES IN THEIR VICINITY, AND CONQUERED THEM.... [HEZEKIAH] I MADE A PRISONER IN JERUSALEM, HIS ROYAL RESIDENCE, LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE."

WHILE SENNACHERIB'S SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM IS A VERIFIED HISTORICAL FACT, IT IS INTERESTING THAT SENNACHERIB'S ACCOUNT DOES NOT MENTION HOW THE SIEGE ENDED. THIS LEADS TO SUSPICION AMONG HISTORIANS THAT THE SIEGE FAILED, SINCE THE ASSYRIANS NEVER MENTIONED THEIR DEFEATS IN THEIR OFFICIAL RECORDS—ONLY THEIR VICTORIES.

THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT INDICATES THAT SENNACHERIB SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT IN HIS SIEGE OF JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF DIVINE INTERVENTION. DURING THE NIGHT, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS IN THE

ASSYRIAN ARMY DIED THROUGH THE ACTION OF THE ANGEL OF THE LORD (2 KIN. 19:35). SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE GOD USED A DEADLY PLAGUE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF JUDGMENT AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF HIS PEOPLE. RULERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD USED MONUMENTS SUCH AS THIS PRISM ON WHICH TO RECORD THEIR EXPLOITS. THESE DOCUMENTS OF STONE AND CLAY HAVE SURVIVED FOR CENTURIES IN THE RUBBLE AND RUIN OF ANCIENT CITIES. THEY PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO LIFE IN BIBLE TIMES, CONFIRMING AND, IN MANY CASES, ADDING VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT BIBLICAL EVENTS.

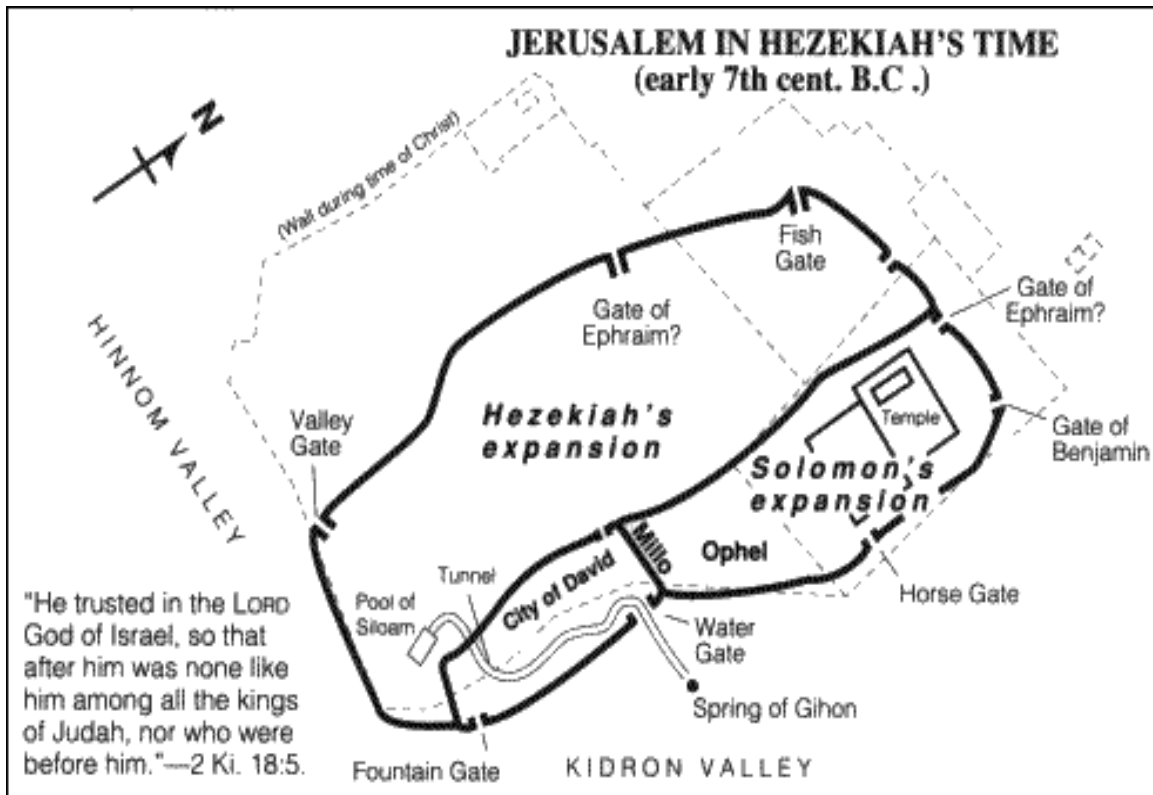
ASSYRIAN KINGS

SECOND KINGS 15:19 PROVIDES THE FIRST DIRECT MENTION IN SCRIPTURE OF ANY ASSYRIAN KING. “PULU” (BIBLICAL “PUL”) WAS THE BABYLONIAN NAME GIVEN TO TIGLATH-PILESER III (745–727 BC) AFTER HIS CONQUEST OF BABYLON. TIGLATH-PILESER’S CAMPAIGN OF 743 BC REACHED ALL THE WAY TO ISRAEL, WHERE HE EXACTED TRIBUTE FROM MENAHEM. BY THIS PAYMENT OF TRIBUTE TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA, MENAHEM BECAME A VASSAL TO THE ASSYRIAN RULER.

WHEN TIGLATH-PILESER III DIED IN 727 BC, HIS SON SHALMANESER V (727–722 BC) SUCCEEDED HIM, AND HOSHEA OF ISRAEL TOOK THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCONTINUE PAYMENT OF TRIBUTE TO ASSYRIA. HOSHEA FOOLISHLY MADE A PACT WITH EGYPT, WHICH WAS NOW SO WEAK AND DIVIDED THAT IT COULD NOT GIVE HOSHEA ADEQUATE SUPPORT. IN 725 BC SHALMANESER V MARCHED AGAINST ISRAEL AND BESIEGED THE CITY OF SAMARIA FROM 725–722 BC AFTER THREE YEARS OF SIEGE, SAMARIA FELL AND THE DAYS OF ISRAEL AS A SOVEREIGN POWER WERE OVER.

SECOND KINGS 18:17–37 DESCRIBES THE CAMPAIGN BY THE ASSYRIAN KING SENNACHERIB (705–681 BC), THE LESS CAPABLE SON OF SARGON II. HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH HAD JOINED WITH TYRE AND EGYPT IN AN ALLIANCE AGAINST ASSYRIA (2 CHR. 32:1–8). SENNACHERIB, IN 701 BC, PROCEEDED TO PUT DOWN THIS REVOLT AND MOVED AGAINST THE CITIES OF JUDAH.

ASSUR-NASIRPAL II	883–859 BC
SHALMANESER III	858–824 BC
SHAMSHI-ADAD V	823–811 BC
ADAD-NIRARI III	810–783 BC
SHALMANESER IV	782–773 BC
ASSUR-DAN III	772–755 BC
ASSUR-NIRARI V	754–745 BC
TIGLATH-PILESER III	745–727 BC
SHALMANESER V	727–722 BC
SARGON II	722–705 BC
SENNACHERIB	705–681 BC
ESARHADDON	681–669 BC
ASHURBANIPAL	668–627 BC



JERUSALEM DURING HEZEKIAH'S TIME

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WAS FURTHER EXPANDED IN THE TIME OF HEZEKIAH, REACHING A SIZE OF SOME 150 ACRES. IN HIS EFFORTS TO FORTIFY THE CITY AGAINST SENNACHERIB, HEZEKIAH ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL THAT WOULD BRING WATER FROM THE SPRING OF GIHON INTO THE CITY PROPER. THE TUNNEL WAS EXCAVATED THROUGH SOLID ROCK FOR A DISTANCE OF ALMOST 600 YARDS. WHEN IT WAS COMPLETED, IT EMERGED JUST INSIDE THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE OLD CITY, WHERE WHAT WAS LATER KNOWN AS THE POOL OF SILOAM WAS SITUATED. THIS CONDUIT, REFERRED TO IN 2 KINGS 20:20 AND 2 CHRONICLES 32:30, WAS A REMARKABLE ENGINEERING ACCOMPLISHMENT, FOR THE EXCAVATORS WORKED WITH HAND TOOLS FROM OPPOSITE ENDS, MEETING IN THE CENTER.

BABYLONIAN KINGS

ASSYRIAN DOMINANCE OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST CAME TO AN END WITH BABYLONIAN VICTORIES AT NINEVEH (612 BC) BY NABOPOLASSAR AND AT CARCHEMISH (605 BC) BY NEBUCHADNEZZAR II. AFTER DEFEATING THE EGYPTIANS WHO HAD COME TO THE AID OF ASSYRIA, NEBUCHADNEZZAR IMMEDIATELY FORCED THE SUBMISSION OF JUDAH'S KING JEHOIAKIM AND OTHER KINGS OF THE AREA. AT THIS TIME (605 BC), CERTAIN YOUNG MEN OF JERUSALEM, INCLUDING DANIEL, WERE TAKEN TO EXILE IN BABYLON.

AFTER JEHOIAKIM REVOLTED, JERUSALEM FELL AGAIN TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN 597 BC THE TEMPLE WAS LOOTED AND THE TREASURES WERE TAKEN BACK TO BABYLON. A THIRD BABYLONIAN SIEGE OF JERUSALEM FOLLOWED ZEDEKIAH'S REVOLT (589 BC) AND THE CITY FELL IN JULY OF 587 OR 586 BC. EVIL-MERODACH, THE SON OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, RULED BABYLON ONLY TWO YEARS (562-560 BC). HE RELEASED JUDAH'S KING JEHOIACHIN FROM PRISON IN BABYLON AND GAVE THE DEPOSED KING A PLACE OF PRIVILEGE IN THE BABYLONIAN COURT (25:27-30).

NABOPOLASSAR	626- 605 BC	NERIGLISSAR	560- 556 BC
NEBUCHADNEZZAR II	605- 562 BC	LABASI-MARDUK	556 BC
EVIL-MERODACH	562- 560 BC	NABONIDUS (BELSHAZZAR REIGNED AS VICE-REGENT)	555- 539 BC