



# Insights in Isaiah

Caversham Community Church

---

Jean-Louis Ernest Meissonier, *Isaiah*, 1838

25 July 2021



# Isaiah at a Glance

Book Theme	Salvation for Israel and the Nations through the Messianic King
Author	Isaiah
Recipients	Judah and Jerusalem
Date	739-681 bc
Message	The Messianic King will rule in righteousness over a remnant from Israel and the nations, but first he must become a Servant who provides righteousness for them and a Conquerer who defeats their enemies.
Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh were kings of Judah</li><li>❖ Contemporary prophets were Hosea and Micah</li><li>❖ Israel was conquered and deported by Assyria in 722 bc</li><li>❖ Judah narrowly avoids the same fate in 701 bc</li></ul>



# Isaiah's Three Big Segments

Chapters	Segment Theme
1-39	Messianic King
40-55	Messianic Servant
56-66	Messianic Conqueror

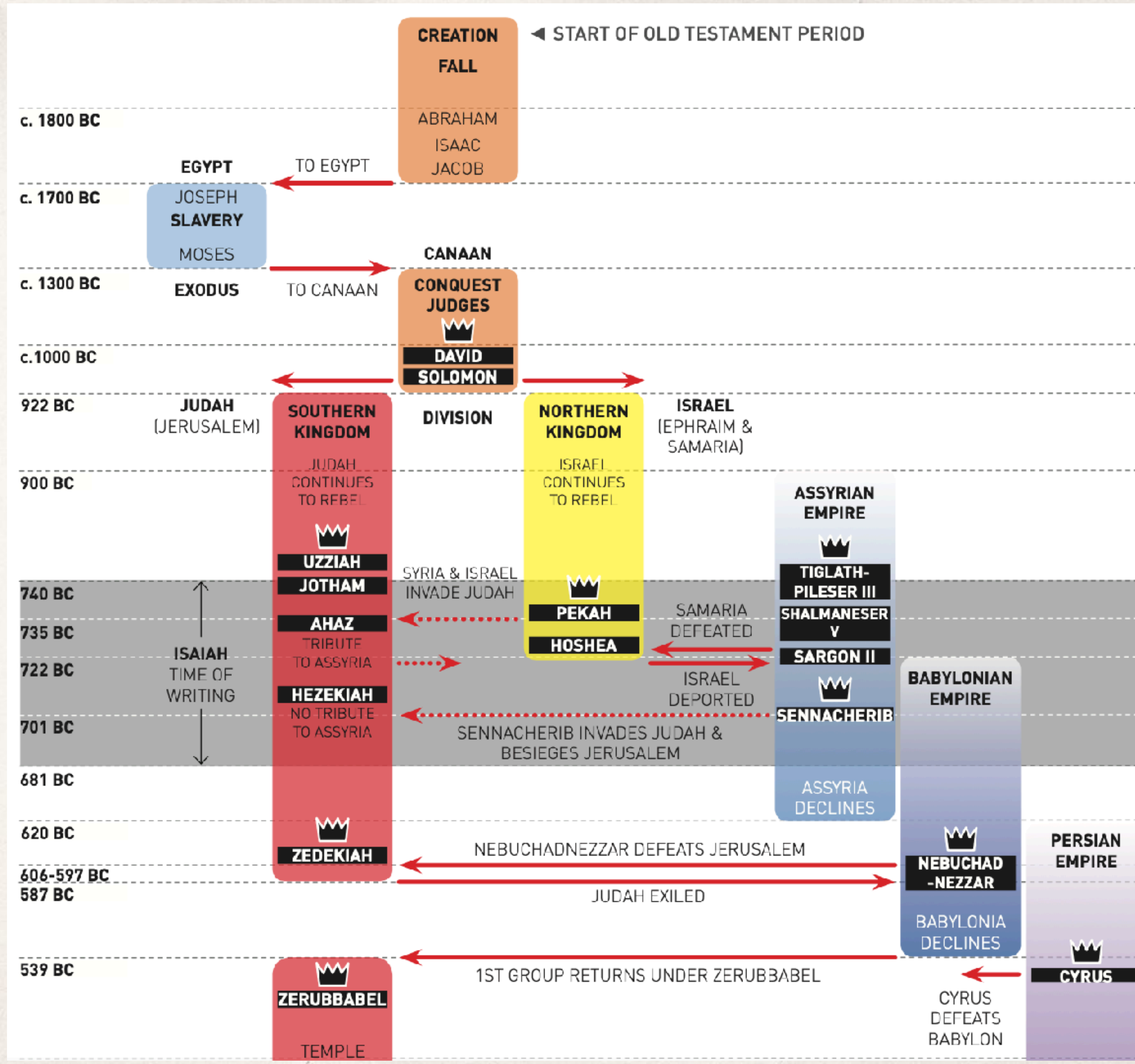


# Great Isaiah Scroll (125-100 bc)

---









**TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION  
OF PALESTINE**

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon

- 

MEDITERRANEAN  
SEA



ASHER

**NAPHTALI**

EAST  
MANASSEH

**ZEBULUN**

## ISSACHAR

WEST  
MANASSEH

EPHRAIM

DAN

**JUDAH**

**SIMEON**

REUBEN

DEAL

• Kir-hareseth

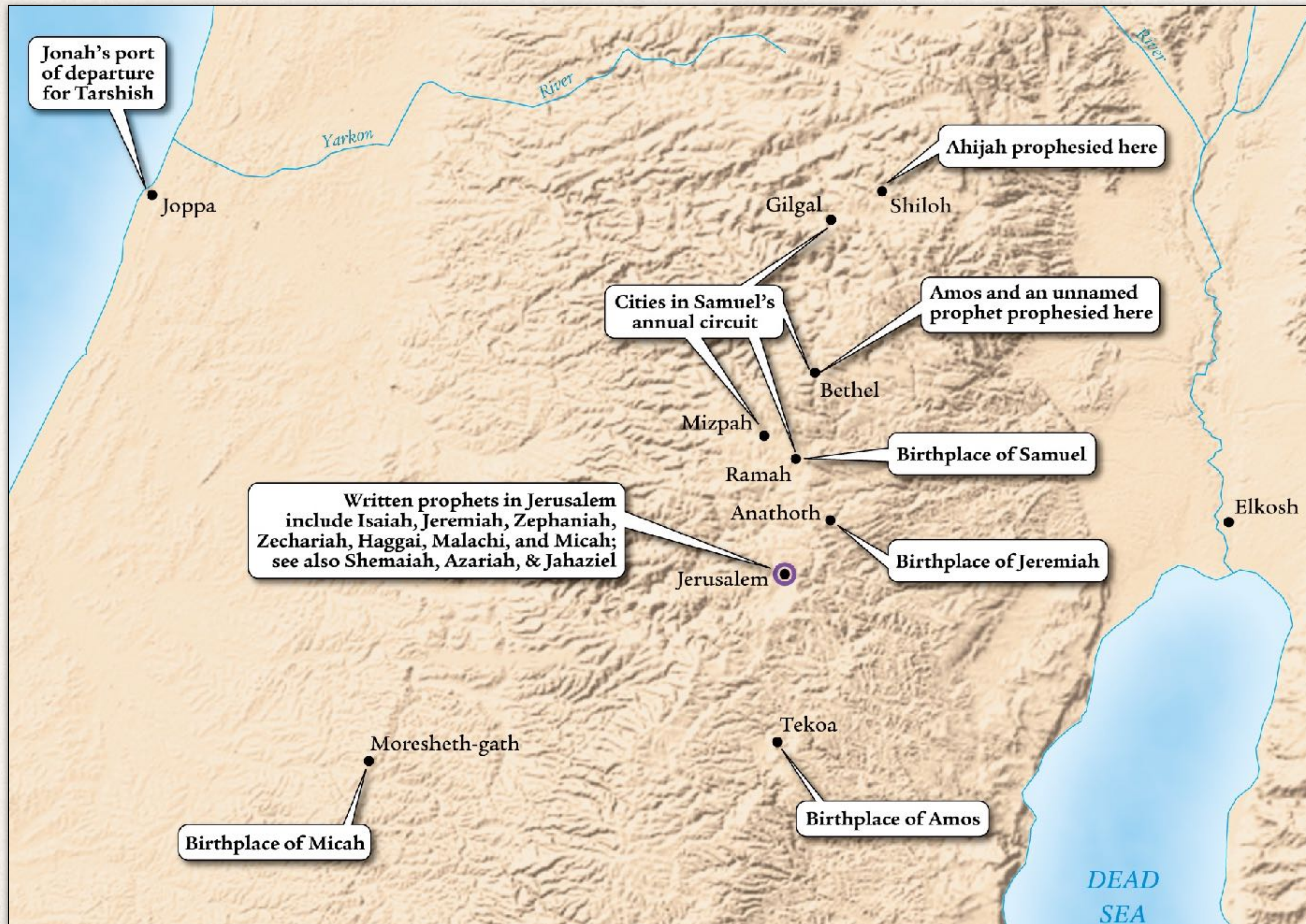
Bezzah

 Copyright 2007 Logos Bible Software - [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com)

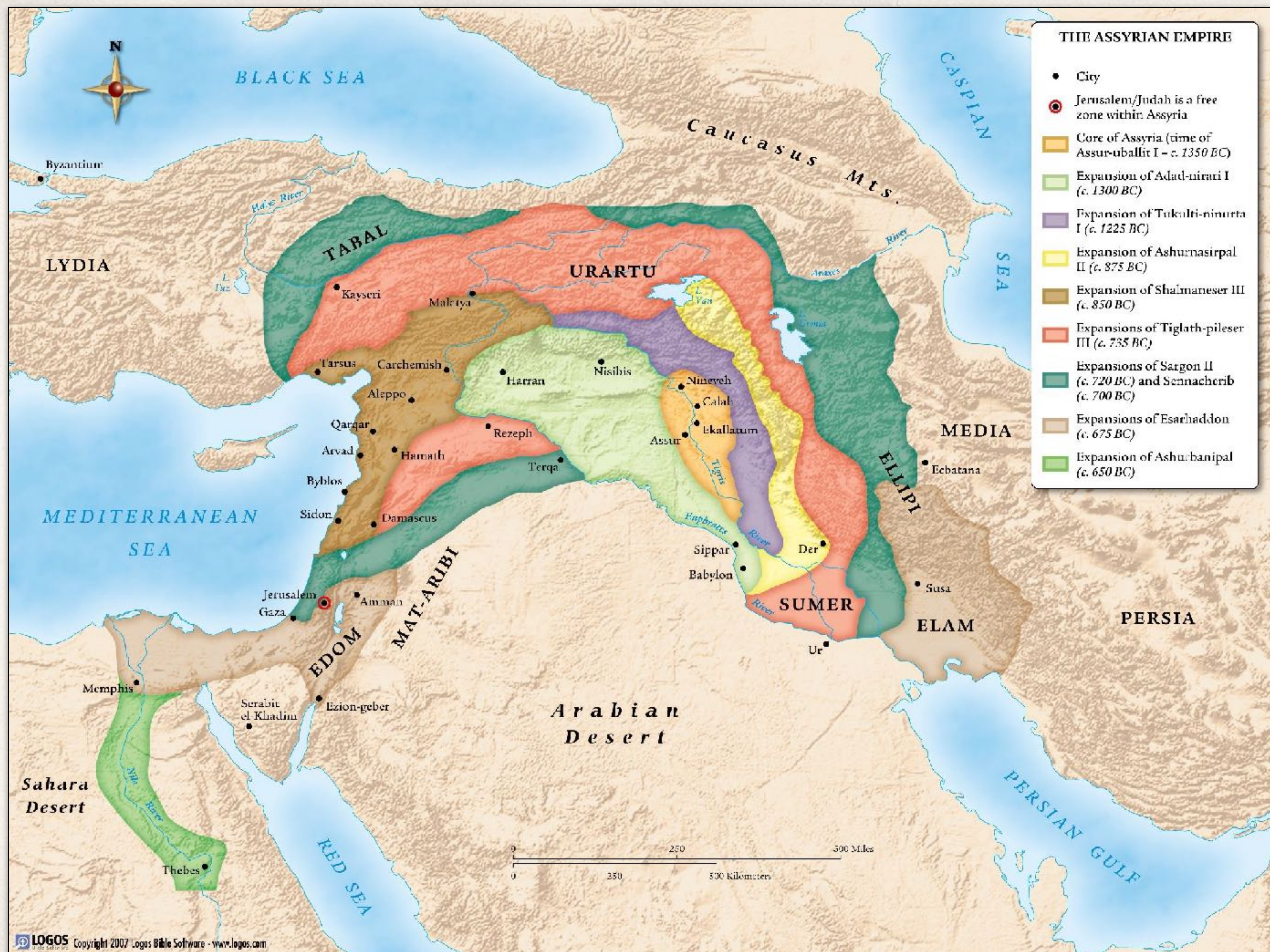










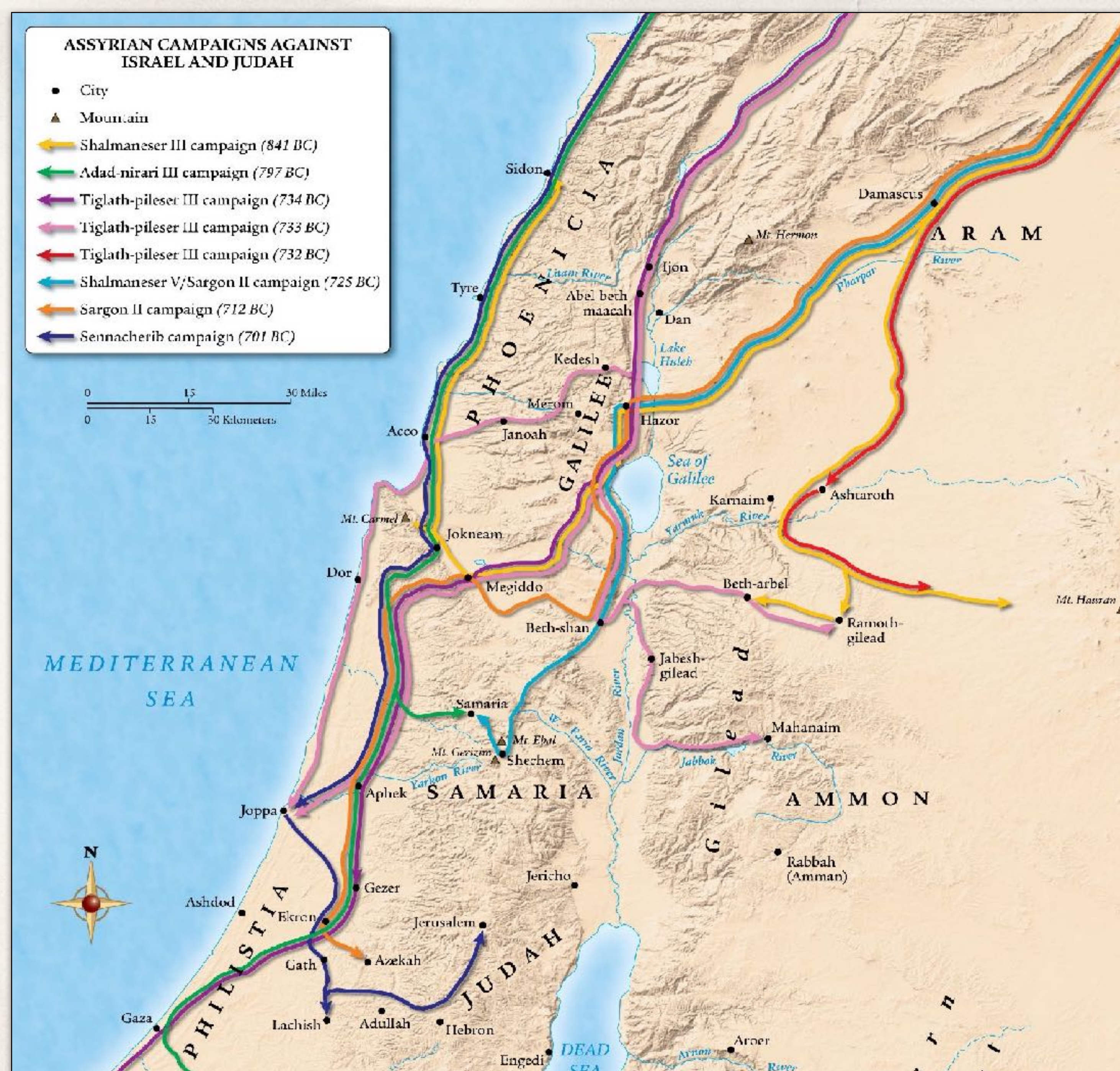




# ASSYRIAN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ISRAEL AND JUDAH

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- Shalmaneser III campaign (841 BC)
- Adad-nirari III campaign (797 BC)
- Tiglath-pileser III campaign (734 BC)
- Tiglath-pileser III campaign (733 BC)
- Tiglath-pileser III campaign (732 BC)
- Shalmaneser V/Sargon II campaign (725 BC)
- Sargon II campaign (712 BC)
- Sennacherib campaign (701 BC)

0 15 30 Miles  
0 15 30 Kilometers





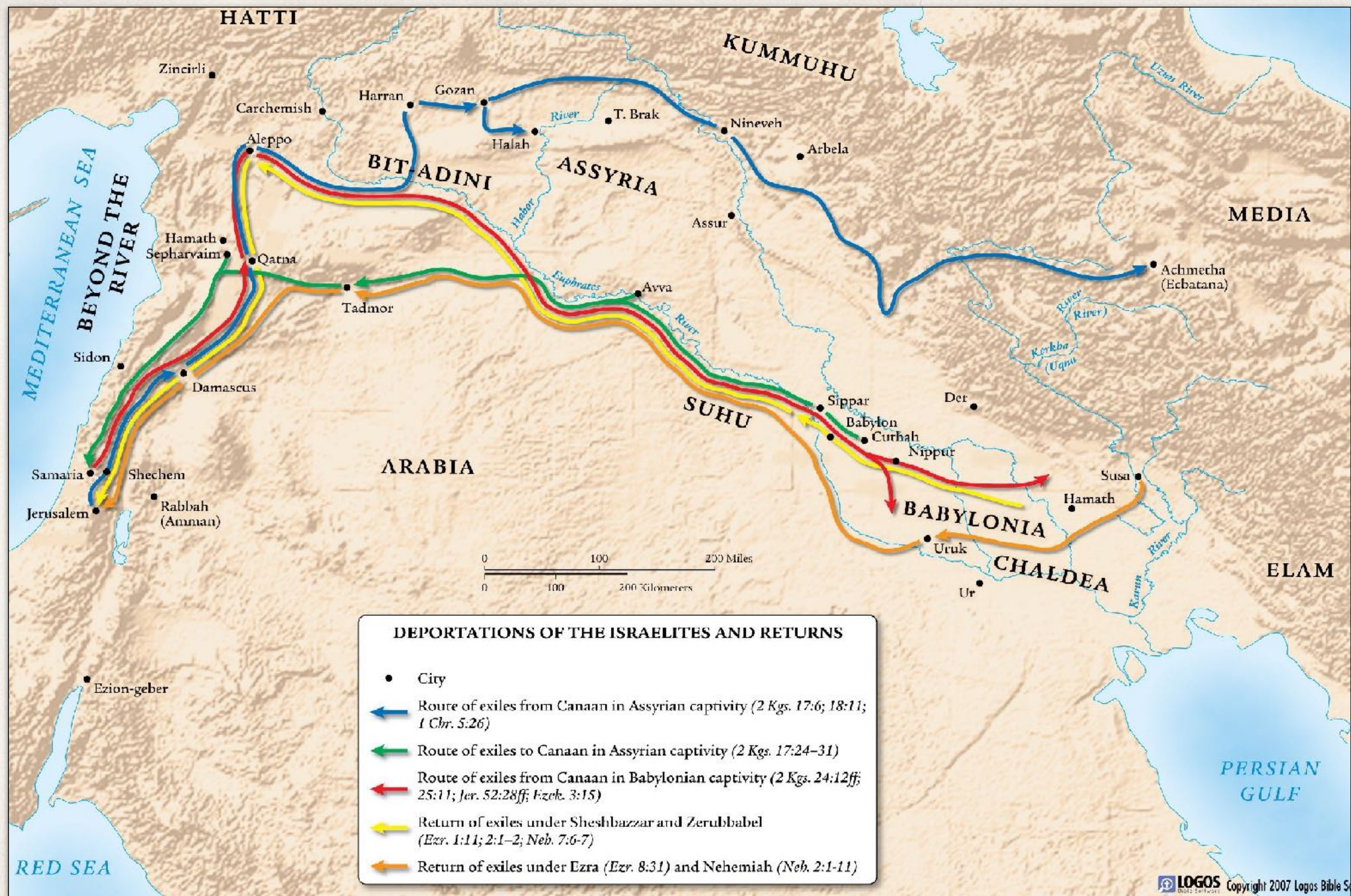
PALESTINE AFTER THE FALL  
OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

- City
- Political boundary
- Assyrian provinces
- Semi-independent realm
- Heartland of Judah by 722 BC

0 10 20 Miles  
0 10 20 Kilometers









# Theological Background of Isaiah

---

- ❖ Abrahamic Covenant (unconditional) - Genesis 12
- ❖ Mosaic Covenant (conditional) - Exodus 24
- ❖ Davidic Covenant (unconditional) - 2 Samuel 7
- ❖ New Covenant (unconditional) - Deuteronomy 30 / Jeremiah 31



# Message of Isaiah

---

- ❖ A King is coming who will rule in righteousness over a righteous remnant, but he cannot do so until he first becomes a Servant who provides righteousness for the remnant and a Conquerer who overthrows the enemies of the remnant.



# Themes of Isaiah

---

- ✦ God's holiness
- ✦ Israel and the nations
- ✦ Coming of the Davidic Messiah
- ✦ Messianic kingdom



# Tips for Reading Isaiah

---

- ❖ Read thematically, not chronologically
- ❖ Remember chs. 1-37 are from a spoken ministry
- ❖ Use your imagination; enjoy Isaiah's word pictures
- ❖ Be ready for sudden changes in referent
- ❖ Keep asking two questions:
  - ❖ Who is Isaiah talking about?
  - ❖ What time period is he talking about?



# Isaiah's Big Question

---

- ✧ Given Israel's failure, how will God's unconditional promises in the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants be fulfilled?



# Application of Isaiah

---

- ✦ See history from God's point of view.
- ✦ Understand God's plan centres on Israel and her Messiah
- ✦ Put all your hope in Jesus, the Messianic King-Servant-Conqueror
- ✦ Use *Isaiah* to share the gospel, just like the early church



# Isaiah 1: Indictment of Israel

---



# Isaiah 1-39 at a Glance

Segment Theme	Chapters	Sub-Segment Themes
Messianic King  Isaiah 1-39	1-5	Condemnation of Israel
	6	Call of Isaiah
	7-12	Book of Immanuel
	13-23	Oracles against the Nations
	24-27	Isaiah's Little Apocalypse
	28-35	Six Woes against Israel
	36-39	Hezekiah's Salvation, Sickness, and Sin



Isaiah 1-6 at a Glance

Ch.	Sub-Segment Themes	Chapter Themes
1	Condemnation of Judah	Indictment against Israel
2		Man's Pride Humbled
3		Judah's Leadership Breakdown
4		Beautiful Branch of Yahweh
5		Six Woes and Four Therefore
6	Call of Isaiah	



# Historical Preface (Isaiah 1:1)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:1** 1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.



# Rebellious Children Who Don't Understand

## (Isaiah 1:2-3)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:2-3** 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for Yahweh has spoken: Children have I reared and brought up, but they have broken away (פִּשְׁעַ) from me. 3 The ox knows (יָדַעַ) its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand (בִּין).



# The Holy One amidst a Sinful Nation (Isaiah 1:4)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:4** 4 Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, seed (זֶרַע) of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have abandoned (עָזַב) Yahweh. They have despised (נָאָץ) the Holy One of Israel. They are utterly estranged.



# Israel Sick from Head to Toe (Isaiah 1:5-6)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:5-6** 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no health (רִפְיָה) in it, but bruises, sores, and raw wounds. They are not pressed out, bound up, or softened with oil.



# Like a Shack in a Cucumber Patch (Isaiah 1:7-8)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:7-8** 7 Your country lies desolate. Your cities are burned with fire. In your very presence, foreigners devour your land. It is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners. 8 And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.



# Almost Like Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:9)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:9** 9 If Yahweh of hosts had not left us a few survivors (שְׁרִיד; refugees, escapees), we should have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.



# False Worship and True Worship (Isaiah 1:10-17)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:10-14** 10 Hear the word (דְּבַר) of Yahweh, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the law (תּוֹרָה) of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says Yahweh. I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats. 12 When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? 13 Bring no more vain offerings. Incense is an abomination to me. New moon, Sabbath, and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me. I am weary of bearing them.



# False Worship and True Worship (Isaiah 1:10-17)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:15-17** 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you. Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves. Make yourselves clean. Remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes. Cease to do evil. 17 Learn (למד) to do good. Seek justice (תִּשְׁפָּט). Correct oppression. Bring justice (שפט) to the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.



# God's Grace Argument (Isaiah 1:18-20)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:18-20** 18 Come now, let us argue [as in a lawsuit] (יכח) together, says Yahweh. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. 20 But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.



# Unfaithful City to Faithful City (Isaiah 1:21-26)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:21-26** 21 How the faithful city (קִרְיָה נְאֻמָּנָה) has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers. 22 Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water. 23 Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them. 24 Therefore Yahweh declares, Yahweh of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and take revenge on my foes. 25 I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your [silver] dross as with potash/lye and remove all your slag. 26 And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness (עִיר הַצְדִּיק), the faithful city (קִרְיָה נְאֻמָּנָה).



# Differing Destinies of the Redeemed and the Rebellious (Isaiah 1:27-30)

---

- ❖ **Is 1:27-30** 27 Zion will be redeemed (פִּדְיָהּ) by justice (מִשְׁפָּט), and those in her who turn back (שׁוּב) by righteousness (צִדְקָה). 28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who abandoned Yahweh shall be consumed. 29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks that you desired, and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen. 30 For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers and like a garden without water. 31 And the strong (גִּבּוֹר) shall become tinder and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.





Hubert and Jan van Eyck, Adoration of the Lamb, Ghent, 1432

**Will you be redeemed or rebellious?**