

## Lesson 25 II Kings 14 – 25

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

- 1. The sad tale continues towards its bitter conclusion. We will read through this condensed history (783 B.C. to 587 B.C.) and then spend six lessons reading the great prophets who spoke God's Word through these two hundred years. This is the peak of Old Testament prophecy. These men of God, Old Testament saints, interpret Israel's past, foresee the world powers as divine instruments of God, and bring new revelation of God which enlarges and deepens the body of revealed faith.*
- 2. What is the chain of events that brings to an end the Northern Kingdom? Has it ever had a chance of survival? Why? See chapter 17*
- 3. By chapter 24 (605 B.C.) Assyria has weakened. Who succeeds her as master of the world? What other rising power must be appeased? What is Jerusalem's situation?*
- 4. Of all the kings of Judah, Manasseh is the worst; see II Chronicles 33:10-16 for an interesting addition to the story. If you have the additional books (non canonical in the RSV) in your Bible, you may have a Prayer of Manasseh at the back.*
- 5. Who are the great reforming kings of Judah? What would be the prophetic messages during their reigns? Note II Kings 22. The book of Law that is found may have been a scroll of the book of Deuteronomy. To recall what it was that the people heard for the first time, reread Deuteronomy 28. Can you see how this stimulated the great reform?*

### Psalm 130 and prayer

**God who created geography, uses history.** God in creating the world formed the topography that is studied in geography. Geography forms history. History is guided by God. History and geography together are the backdrop to the development of our religion. Ours is not a religion of philosophy or theology books, not at its source. It is a religion of lands and peoples, of real circumstances in real places, the action of the Creator on His Creation. It was in these Near Eastern lands, in the wadies, the deserts, among the hills, fields and waters, that very real

people did very real things, and in these events and actions God revealed Himself to Man.

**One era has reached completion and another is beginning.** See map B-16. It is on this spot of the globe that revealed religion developed. We are now coming to a new phase in that revelation. Remember Abraham and his original home in Babylon country, then called Sumer, in the city called Ur; of how he started out from his home and like other flock-followers of his time, wended north to Haran, then to Canaan, on to Egypt and returned to Canaan near Hebron. From this one man began a knowledge and a faith, received through revelation, of the only Being worthy of worship. Worship was in the very being of man from the beginning. Here was a creature who had worship in his bones. He marveled and was in awe of the powerful natural things around him. Things that were more mysterious, more powerful than himself, he fell down and worshipped.

**What a mystery of fertility is all around us.** The dead world comes to life again in the spring, the dry seed planted yields a harvest! Lately our family has welcomed two more babies, and oh! the awe and tears that welcome these little persons when they arrive so perfectly, so individually upon the scene. All these natural things were worshipped because of their obvious wonder. In Egypt, the sun, object of worship by many other cultures, was worshipped as Amon-Re. Think of the marvels that come from the sun - no wonder people thought the sun was a god. But none of these things is God, and we would never have come to know the One God as the Creator, completely separate as He is from these creatures of His, if He had not revealed Himself. He pulled back the veil and began teaching and showing people Himself, not indiscriminately to all people, but to a selected people through whom, He said, He would work to save the whole world. He would do this by using their circumstances and their natural understanding, He would work through the things that happened to them in their situation, He would work through the nations around about them - through their history. He would do this so that His Spirit could again eventually be given to them, becoming united with them, even in their natural state. The final result would be a willing, whole being, a true human being

with divine gifts that would make it possible for him to be one with God again, just as he was in the beginning. This would not be a puppet on a string, a dummy who spoke or believed only when spoken through or manipulated, but he would be a truly free person making free decisions in accord with God's will on the basis of a graced, full understanding.

**So the Perfect Teacher began His work.** The origins of that work are lost in the mists of time. But with Abraham He made promises recorded in Genesis 12. Many times He renewed these promises that He would make a nation from a barren woman, and He would give them a land; yet all Abraham ever owned was a cave in which he buried his dead. The final promise, the one which is the rider, the one that to this point in the history we are reading has not been completely fulfilled, is that promise that all nations on earth would be blessed by this nation of God's people to spring from Abraham's loins. It is in light of this last unfinished promise that the events of I Kings have their bearing.

**God began to form His nation at Mt. Sinai.** There Moses had guided the chosen people as God's own deliverer and leader. There God gave them the identity as a holy people serving a Holy God. He gave them the Law, religious and civil, that set them apart from the other nations. He gave them the presence of God with them; in all their travels they carried that Presence in the ark, which was later put into the Tabernacle and finally into the Temple. The People's God, The Lord (Yahweh by the unspeakable name), went with them. Finally through the power of His strong arm, they were settled in the Holy Land, the destination of all their wandering. The Ark, the very presence of God, was in their midst. They truly believed that they were the chosen people of the revealed God, and that all the world literally revolved around them.

**Finally, the kingdom of David saw them established.** Their land stretched from the Euphrates on the north, then east to the Sea; and from Mt. Hermon on the north to the Negeb, even to Egypt on the south; all fulfilled according to promise. They thought of themselves as somewhat powerful and important. The only nations that they had dealings with were about their own size, sometimes smaller, Ammon,

Moab, Edom, and the like. Egypt overshadowed them through the centuries, but even Egypt had its waning years, and Egyptians were, after all, the condemned children of Ham. If they had been asked to put a stake in the center of the known world, God's chosen people would have driven it into the ground in the Holy of Holies in their Temple. Even the northern kingdom with its idol worship and its perverted religion, would secretly have felt that the Temple was the place where God had chosen to dwell (I Kgs.8:1 6ff). All the apostasy did not shake the belief that they were special and that in some way God would come to their help when the chips were down. The prophets from Moses on had warned them differently, but they paid little heed to those words because they remembered the countless times that, when crying for it, they had received divine help.

**Other peoples around them had their own gods.** They worshipped Molech, Chemosh, the Baals and the rest. Each of these people believed that their god was only god of their tribe, concerned only with their own territory; none of them claimed to be God of all creation like The Lord. We have an illustration of that when, after his healing by Elisha, Naaman took soil back from Israel to his own country so that he could worship The Lord. He thought Yahweh, like other local gods, was only concerned with his own soil. In another instance, the Syrians believed the God of Israel to be god of the hills, they were sure He was not able to defeat them in the valleys. Thinking, as others did, that The Lord was but another local tribal god, Yahweh was now to prove Himself to be far different from any local god.

**The Hebrews knew better.** They knew because God had revealed that He was God of all creation. They were His special people, meaning that as His special people they might be punished for shirking their special responsibilities. But because they were special the world would, they believed, after all was said and done, continue to revolve around them. They had no idea of the size of this world and their very small place in it. Therefore, they had no idea of the bigness of God. It was this complacency and this narrow concept that would be broken by the great nation that was arising in the north and east. Israel had never conceived of such a power. It would change the religious consciousness of the Hebrews forever. If all nations on earth were to bless themselves

in the revealed faith of the Hebrews, it had to be broken out of its self-satisfied little walnut shell. There was an enormous world out there for the message of God to reach. Assyria was the hammer that would smash the shell and send the contents, even painfully, spilling out into the world.

**Assyria had been growing as a nation since 1100 B.C.**, a hundred years before David. It had stretched out to the Mediterranean on a few occasions previous to the 8th century, but had recoiled again due to border problems with the Medes and disputes with other nations on the east and north. When it retracted, Syria, who lay between Assyria and Palestine, would gain freedom from Assyrian pressure and take the opportunity to attack Israel and Judah. As a result there were centuries of disputes between Syria and our two small kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

**It becomes an awesome power in the world.** But when Assyria finally pulled its act together, it increased pressure southward on all the smaller nations. Under Tiglath Pileser III Assyria became an ominous fighting machine, the greatest the world had ever seen. Nation after nation was destroyed before it. Maiming the nations it defeated by scattering their inhabitants, it effectively controlled its conquered territories. Mixing populations, settling people with strangers unable to speak or understand each other's language, made it nearly impossible to organize rebellions against the Assyrian power.

**Israel and Judah quake before Assyria.** The Hebrews, unrealistic about their size and capabilities, found themselves inviting trouble when they went to Tiglath Pileser for aid. It had worked for King Asa of Judah back a hundred and more years when he had paid Syria for getting Baasha of Israel off his back. So about 735 B.C., courting Assyria is what King Ahaz of Judah did to gain the upper hand in his struggle with Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria. It was like inviting a cat into a dispute between a rat and a mouse. Tiglath Pileser was more than happy to oblige. He came with his armies and silenced Pekah. It was the beginning of the end for Israel. The vassal king Hoshea, who Tiglath

Pileser put on the throne of Israel rebelled against him by attempting to get Egyptian help. For that, the country was crushed by Assyria and the exile of Israelites carried out by his successor, Shalmaneser, and further by Sargon II, the next king. Israel had fallen to the Assyrians; the fateful year was 721 B.C.

**Ahaz pays the price of lack of faith.** Asking Tiglath Pileser into the fray was paid for many times over by Ahaz, King of Judah. He lost control of the Temple worship, first bringing in an Assyrian altar from Damascus, then giving up the king's entrance to the Temple, a symbolic reduction that showed that Assyrians had control of the city of Jerusalem and the center of worship. The Assyrians also believed that this Yahweh was only a local god, and they laughed to scorn the idea that He could do any more for His people than the other national gods had been able to do for theirs. Hadn't all the countries round about relied on their gods, and hadn't Assyria wiped them all like one wipes a plate? Why did Judah believe they would be any different?

**Isaiah prophesies to Hezekiah, "Don't worry."** At the time of Hezekiah, the Assyrians have been at the very gates of Jerusalem. They have just had victories over Judah's great cities, including the most successful battle at Lachish. The aspects of this victory Sennacherib used to decorate the walls of the great palace at Nineveh. Hezekiah's delegation meets the Assyrian officials at the walls of Jerusalem. The Assyrians arrogantly warn the inhabitants that no appeal to God will save them because it is God who has told them to destroy the place. Oddly enough the prophets will say this same thing. The Assyrians brag about all the nations they have destroyed and the gods who could do nothing for their people. The great Isaiah is the prophet of the time, his prophetic words appear in chapter nineteen. He tells Assyria how it will be. They can taunt God, but He has allowed them to turn fortified cities to ruins. Yes, He is behind it all. In time their taunting will be paid for; they themselves will have a hook in the nose and will be turned back the way they came into oblivion.

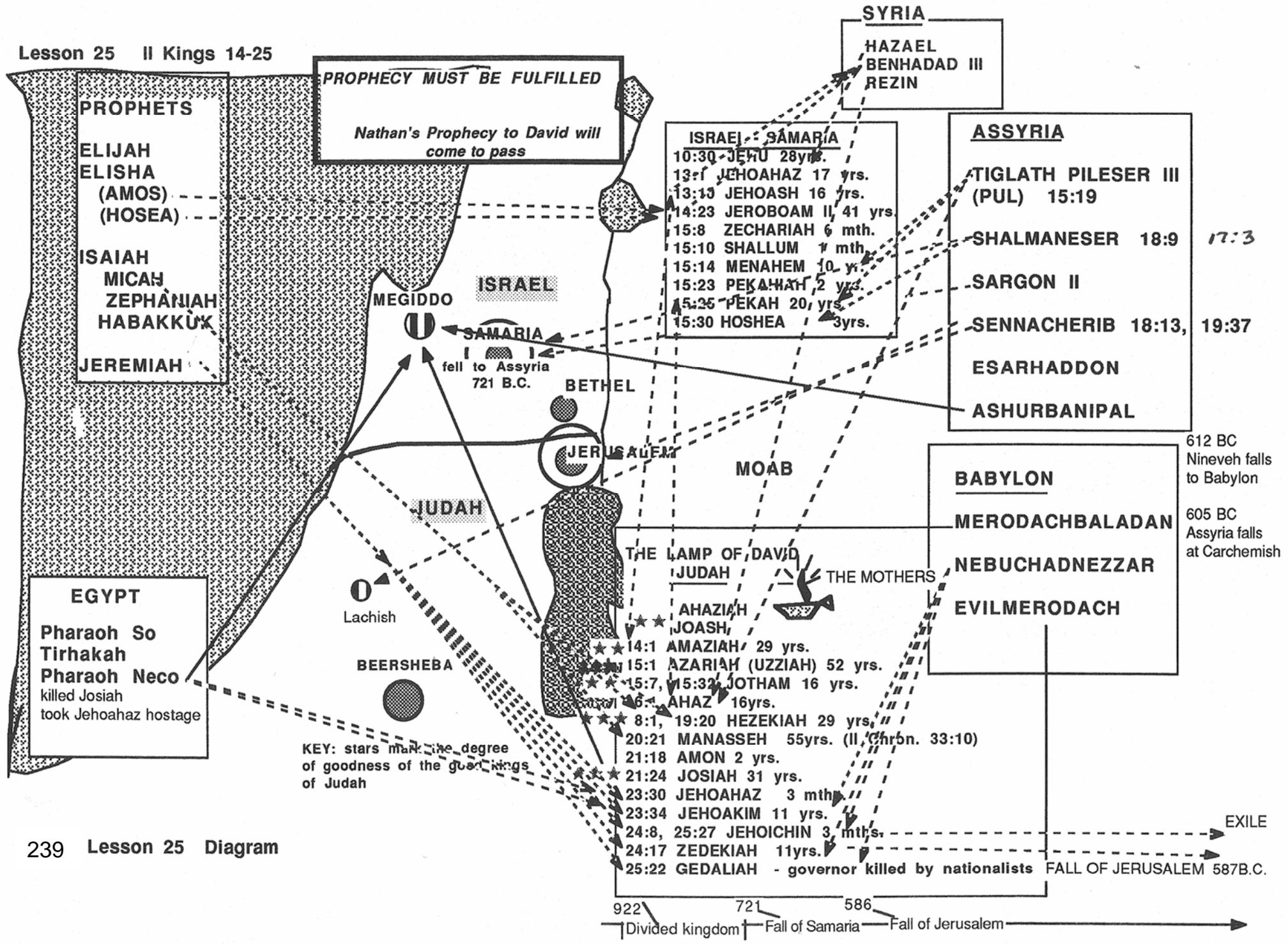
**Assyria will wane; Babylon will rise.** To the south another giant military power is growing. As Assyria wanes in strength, this nation will become the instrument of God to bring punishment and ruin to

Jerusalem - the Babylonians. Again, this great historical move will be interpreted to God's people by the prophets. Midst all the apostasy in Judah there are two great reforming kings: the first, Hezekiah, the second Josiah. Hezekiah's strong faith works with Isaiah's prophecy to reform the community. As a result of his faithfulness to God the marvel happened; the Assyrian war machine was turned back when success seemed to be only a matter of days. But God had promised that because of faith He would turn them away. Skulls of those destroyed in a plague (the angel of death) that ruined the Assyrian camp have been found in archeological excavations.

**Hezekiah's son is a horror.** Hezekiah's death was delayed fifteen years because of his earnest plea to God for healing. After him followed the worst king of the whole four hundred years of the southern kingdom, Manasseh who ruled fifty-five years. All the horrors that he represented in the national life of Judah are contrasted to the surprising information about his conversion in II Chronicles. A Prayer of Manasseh has come down to us in the apocryphal writings (found in the back of the New Oxford Edition of the RSV). After him, his son Amon rules wickedly, but after two years, Josiah, the great reformer, takes the throne.

**Josiah believes he will reestablish the Davidic Kingdom.** In having the Temple upgraded, the Law is rediscovered. On reading the Law, the king and his courtiers are horrified at the state of disbelief and disobedience of God's Word in the whole land. A great reform is begun. The greatest of all reforms, this includes a general reading of the Law to everyone in Jerusalem and a recommitment to keep the covenant - a recovenanting. The prophets (Huldah, a prophetess) tell Josiah that evil days will come, but that Josiah will not live to see them. He is killed, however, when he tries to head off Pharaoh Neco who is on his way to Carchemish to join the Assyrians in a war against the rising power, Babylon. The battle with Babylon this time is indecisive, however, Neco, on his way home, takes Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, prisoner and exacts more tribute from Jerusalem. He puts a vassal king, Jehoiakim (another of Josiah's sons) in Josiah's place.

**The end is coming.** When Babylon takes over the world by defeating Assyria and Egypt in 605 B.C., Jehoiakim becomes the servant of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. It is the end of those dynasties and the beginning of another. Jehoiakim dies and Jehoiachin (son of Jehoiakim) takes his place. He rules for three months and surrenders to Babylon. He and ten thousand of the most able of the city are taken into exile to Babylon. Zedekiah (Josiah's third son) is put on the throne as a vassal king. He rebels; Babylon comes swiftly and sieges the city. Suffering a severe famine, the city surrenders. Zedekiah's eyes are blinded, the city razed, and a governor, Gedaliah, is left to govern the territory from Mizpah. Nationalist rebels, intent on resisting Babylon, rise up to kill him. Everything is chaos and confusion. The one and only bright spot is that there is still alive a Davidic king, bearer of the promise. He is a prisoner in Babylon. But Evilmerodach who now reigns in Babylon has him brought out of prison to sit at his table - a conquered king.



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## Lesson 25 II Kings 14 - 25 Synopsis

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| <p>14. Amaziah (J) begins his reign he did what was right he did not put children to death for sins of their fathers he killed 10,000 Edomites the messengers he sent to Jehoash (I) were spurned so they faced each other in battle at Bethshemesh Israel won they broke the wall took treasures and hostages Amaziah killed in a conspiracy his son Azariah (J) reigns Jeroboam II (I) is savior in Israel Jeroboam dies, Zechariah reigns</p> <p>15. Azariah (J) leprous, reigns 52 yrs Jotham(J) his son, overseer of the house of Judah Zechariah (I) did evil Shallum (I) conspires, kills him prophecy to Jehu is fulfilled Shallum reigns one month Menahem (I) kills him he sacked the cities killed the pregnant women Menahem reigned ten years paid tribute to Assyria Pekahiah (I) reigns two years Pekah (I) kills him Azariah's (Uzziah) son Jotham (J) is at war with Syria and Israel Jotham dies, Ahaz (J) rules</p> <p>16. Ahaz (J) is just sixteen yrs old he did what was evil even burned his sons Edam fights Judah, Israel, Syria</p> | <p>Ahaz seeks Tiglath Pileser's aid against Israel and Syria falls under domination of Assyria pagan altar sent from Damascus Ahaz must give Temple fixtures</p> <p>17. Hoshea (I) reigns nine years Shalmaneser comes against him Israel becomes a vassal state Noshes begs help from Egypt Assyria puts him in prison besieges Samaria three years the fall and exile of Israel Judah is also going wrong Sargon II continues the siege exiles Israel, mixes the population foreigners are placed in Samaria lions rampage, priests sent back to teach the land's religion but Samaritans do not fear only Yahweh, but have other gods</p> <p>18. Hezekiah (J) rules 29 years he begins a great reform down with pagan altars, pillars Asherah, breaks bronze serpent of Moses which was worshipped Hezekiah trusted in the Lord rebelled against Assyria fought the Philistines in his sixth year Israel is crushed in 14th yr Assyria took his cities Hezekiah pays tribute to Assyria Assyrians come to Jerusalem the Rabshakeh challenged Eliakim and Yahweh</p> <p>19. Hezekiah and people in sackcloth for general repentance sends to Isaiah who prophesies Assyria will leave arid return to his own land</p> | <p>Assyria sends another challenge to Hezekiah who prays to the Lord the prayer to the Lord is answered a three year prophecy is given a remnant, there will be survivors Jerusalem will be defended prophecy fulfilled 185,00 Assyrians slain by plague Sennacherib slain by his sons</p> <p>20. Hezekiah is sick and dying the Lord relents, he recovers the promise of recovery is the sign that the sundial shadow goes backwards Babylon sends envoys part of a plot against Assyria Hezekiah shows his treasures Isaiah prophesies everything shall be carried to Babylon Hezekiah builds pool and conduit Hezekiah dies</p> <p>21. Manasseh rules fifty-five years rebuilt the high places back come the Beals, the Asherah burned his son, soothsaying etc. Yahweh provoked to anger will bring evil upon him he killed the God-believers Amon(J) rules two years like Manasseh did evil servants conspire to kill him people slew the guilty put his son upon the throne</p> <p>22. Josiah rules thirty-one years a reformer, he repairs the Temple the book of the Law found read, causes general repentance Huldah the prophetess says he will die in peace</p> | <p>23. but he does not do so elders gather and read the scroll renewed the covenant with all cleaned up worship, slew priests of high places, pulled down altars in general purge of false religion Passover kept for the first time since Joshua put away wizards Egypt unites with Assyria Neco kills Josiah; his son Jehoahaz rules 3 mths, did evil Neco puts him in bonds Jehoiakim reigns Jehoahaz dies in Egypt money is exacted by Egypt</p> <p>24. Babylon becomes the master Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt and Assyria at Carchemish in 605 Jehoiakim rebels, fights many he dies, his son Jehoiachin reigns 3 mths, Nebuchadnezzar sieges Jerusalem and conquers carries off everything with the king first exile of 10,000 captives</p> <p>25. Zedekiah, Josiah's son rules he rebels against Babylon siege of the city terrible, it falls Zedekiah is captured and tortured taken to Babylon where he died Jerusalem burned, walls broken Temple bronzes broken up executed all leaders and priests Gedaliah placed as governor Ishmaei of royal family kills him utter chaos and ruin Jehoiachin released from prison has a portion at the King's table in Babylon</p> |
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## Lesson 25 II Kings 14 - 25

## Outline

### I. The Years Before Assyria Arises There is Prosperity

- A. Joash(1), son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, 799-783 reigned 16 yrs
  - 1. Elisha blessed his aims
  - 2. he won back cities taken by Syrians
- B. Amaziah, king in Judah does what is right in the eyes of the Lord 14:3
  - 1. however, the high places are not removed
  - 2. he does not kill children for sin of their fathers 14:6
  - 3. he provoked civil war with Israel 14:11 was defeated
    - a. fought Jehoash (Joash) at Bethshemesh
    - b. Jerusalem's walls broken down
    - c. gold and silver were seized in the house of the Lord
    - d. hostages were taken
  - 4. he was killed in a conspiracy at Lachish 14:19
- C. Jeroboam II 783-743 (I) came in on a flowing tide, reigned 40 years
  - 1. he quieted Syria
    - a. he restored the borders 14:25
    - b. he occupied part of the territory of Damascus 13:23-25, 14:28
    - c. the raids ceased
    - d. a generation grew up that did not know defeat or war - Israel forgot 2, the towns increased
      - a. they became a commercial people
      - b. there were more poor and more rich
      - c. civilization and culture developed
      - d. there were more temptations
      - e. there was indifference to social want
  - 3. closer ties were established with foreign nations
    - a. they were complacent about Assyria
      - 1) their patriotism and confidence running high
      - 2) there was a revival of stories of ancient times
        - a) Yahweh worship revived (still apostate golden-calf worship)
        - b) God would not desert His people
      - b. the people were opposed to prophets who cried "doom"
      - c. Jeroboam II misjudged Tiglath Pileser ca.745 B.C.
    - 4. he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord 14:24
- D. Azariah (Uzziah)(J), son of Joash, parallels time of Jeroboam II
  - 1. he crushed the Philistines II Kings 15
  - 2. he reorganized the army

- a. invented new engines for siege and casting stones
  - b. built towers on the frontiers, kept nomads in subjection
- 3. agriculture revives under his reign
- 4. there is much trade and building
- 5. a great earthquake during his time is recorded
  - a. followed by plague and pestilence
  - b. but there was a speedy recovery, and no moral improvement
- 6. a total eclipse of the sun was in 763 B.C.
- 7. he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord 15:4
  - a. however, the high places were not removed
  - b. the Lord smote him with leprosy 15:5
- 8. his son, Jotham, ruled for him
- E. Jotham (J) reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem- did what was right
  - 1. but the high places were not taken away
  - 2. during his time Syria and Israel began to press Judah
- F. Zechariah(I), son of Jeroboam reigns six months, doing evil
  - 1. killed by Shallum who reigned in his place
  - 2. ended the rule of Jehu's family
- G. Shallum (I) reigned one month, Menahem struck him down 15:14
- H. Menahem (I) ruled ten years 15:17 - did what was evil
  - 1. Pul (Tiglath Pileser III) came against him 15:19
  - 2. paid tribute 738 B.C. exacted \$25 from 60,000 men - \$1,500,000
  - 3. Israel henceforth a vassal state.

### II. Frightening Assyria Threatens

- A. The greatest event of the Eighth Century
  - 1. till then political and spiritual fortunes were joined
    - a. Assyria will smash these apart - religious development will go free
    - b. blind pride must be broken
      - 1) the world is a much bigger place than they imagined
      - 2) faith in Yahweh must widen and deepen
    - c. Assyria will shatter the tribal idea of religion
      - 1) Israel is but one of the nations of God
      - 2) God uses all nations and people for His purposes
    - d. the field was cleared of the many, made room for the ONE
      - 1) God and His People appear not as conquerors, but defeated
      - 2) this caused a religious, ethical advance
  - 2. Assyria advanced in the 800's
    - a. Assurnasirpal reached the Levant in 870 B.C.

- b. Shalmaneser had defeated Ahab and Benhadad, but then retreated
  - 1) 850 BC, 849BC, 846BC battles against Hadadezer of Zobah
  - 2) 842BC, 839BC, battles against Hazael of Syria
  - 3) Assyria returns in 803 to overthrow Damascus
  - 4) came only to Lebanon in 754 B.C.
- c. allows Syria to ravage Israel
- 3. Assyria will still the rivalries and hatreds of Israel, Judah and enemies
  - a. morally they are equal - all being punished
  - b. the factious, ferocious world of the Semites will be silenced
- B. Tiglath Pileser III is a vicious warrior
  - 1. he exacted tribute from Menahem (I)
  - 2. Pekahiah (I) , Menahem's son reigned two years 15:23 -did what was evil
    - a. Pekah slew him in Samaria
  - 3. Pekah (I) reigned twenty years - did what was evil
    - a. Tiglath Pileser takes the cities of northern Israel
      - 1) Ijon, Abelbeth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, Galilee and Naphtali
      - 2) he carried people captive to Assyria
    - b. Pekah was killed by Hoshea
  - 4. Ahaz (J) reigns in the place of Jotham, his father, sixteen years 16:2
    - a. he did not do right
      - 1) he burned his son as an offering
      - 2) sacrificed and burned incense on the high places
    - b. the argument with Pekah and Rezin
      - 1) they tried to force him into a coalition against Assyria
      - 2) he refused, they came up and besieged Jerusalem
      - 3) Edom revolts successfully against him
    - c. he goes against Isaiah's advice (Isaiah 7)
      - 1) he turns from God and asks Tiglath Pileser to intervene
      - 2) Assyria brings Syria to defeat 16:9 in exchange for tribute
    - d. after his encounter with T. P. Ahaz is a puppet 16:10
      - 1) he brings back plans for a pagan altar
      - 2) he removed the bronze altar, and sacrifices on pagan altar
      - 3) he removes bronze from Temple to pay tribute
      - 4) he no longer controlled his own temple 16:18
- C. Shalmaneser V 727-722 is successor to Tiglath Pileser
  - 1. Hoshea (I) reigned nine years as Assyria's vassal - did what was evil 17:1
    - a. Hoshea pays him tribute 17:3
    - b. Shalmaneser finds treachery in Hoshea
      - 1) Hoshea had sent messengers to Egypt for help
      - 2) he put him in prison
  - 2. he besieges Samaria for three years 17:5
- D. Sargon II continues the siege when Shalmaneser dies Is 20:1
  - 1. carries inhabitants away to Assyria 17:6
  - 2. he mixes the population of Samaria
    - a. the land is no longer called Israel, but Samaria
    - b. a lion rampage blamed on new people not worshipping right 17:26
    - c. priests are sent back to instruct in the god of the land 17:27
      - 1) they had the idea of regional god
      - 2) still had their own gods as well 17:29
    - d. this was the reason for the corruption of Samaritan faith 17:34 ff
- E. Sennacherib follows Sargon
  - 1. Hezekiah (J) reigns in Jerusalem twenty-nine years
    - a. did what was right
      - 1) he removed the high places
      - 2) broke down the pillars, cut down the Asherah
      - 3) broke in pieces the bronze serpent of Moses
      - 4) loved the Lord - none like him before or after
    - b. he smote the Philistines
    - c. he rebelled against Assyria
    - d. he was healed from an illness 20:1
      - 1) Isaiah prophesied he would die
      - 2) God relented, the sign, a shadow would go backwards 20:11
      - 3) Hezekiah's prayers answered, he recovered
  - e. he shows envoys from Babylon the king's treasures
    - 1) Isaiah troubled by this
    - 2) foresees Babylon is the power that will ultimately conquer 20:17
    - 3) Hezekiah doesn't care because he won't see it himself
  - f. built the amazing conduit for water in preparation for Assyrian siege
    - 1) dug under Jerusalem 1700 ft through solid rock
    - 2) 2 Chr 32:30
- 2. Sennacherib takes all the fortified cities of Judah
- 3. he demands tribute of Hezekiah- silver and gold from the house of the Lord
- 4. he comes to Jerusalem after the victory at Lachish
  - a. Assyrian officials taunt Hezekiah saying:
    - 1) the Lord has told them to destroy the land
    - 2) make peace with Assyria that you may live and not die
    - 3) have any nations been delivered by their gods?

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- b. context of Is. 22:29
- c. defeat of Egyptians previous 18:21
- d. Hezekiah rends his clothes and prays 19:1
- 5. Isaiah prophesies against Sennacherib
  - a. don't be afraid
  - b. he will hear a rumor and return home 19:7
  - c. he will fall by his own sword at home
- 6. Sennacherib hears Egypt is coming 19:9 and writes Hezekiah
  - a. Tirhakah is the Ethiopian Pharaoh of Egypt (25th dynasty )
  - b. Sennacherib warns Hezekiah again
    - 1) none of the gods of the nations has been able to save their people
    - 2) Jerusalem will not be different 19:12
  - c. Hezekiah prays before God over this letter 19:15
  - d. God answers
    - 1) God will not be mocked 19:22
    - 2) He is behind all that Assyria has done
    - 3) God will put a hook in Sennacherib's nose and turn him back
    - 4) he will give a sign 19:22 but what does the sign mean?
      - a) two years siege
      - b) then peace?
      - c) but only a remnant left to "go out"?
    - 5) the king of Assyria shall not take Jerusalem 19:32
    - 6) he will go home the way he came
- 7. a pestilence strikes the camp 19:35
  - a. Herodotus says Assyrians were defeated on borders of Egypt because mice chewed their bowstrings and other equipment
  - b. mice and rats carried bubonic plague
  - c. Assyria withdraws, leaving many dead
- 8. Sennacherib is killed by his sons in Assyria 19:37
- F. Esarhaddon rules Assyria

### III. Judah's last years are full of pain

#### A. The long dark night

1. Manasseh rules fifty-five years 21:1 subject to Sennacherib, Esarhaddon, Assurbanipal
  - a. he did evil
    - 1) rebuilt the high places
    - 2) re-erected altars for Baal
    - 3) made an Asherah, put it in the Temple

- 4) served false gods
- 5) burned his son as an offering
- 6) practiced soothsaying with augury
- 7) shed innocent blood 21:16
  - (a) first religious persecution by a leader
  - (b) may have killed Isaiah, the great prophet
- b. led the nation in more evil than the nations the Lord destroyed
- c. Yahweh will bring evil upon Jerusalem for these practices 21:12
2. Amon reigned two years in a time when Assyria is disintegrating
  - a. did evil like his father
  - b. his servants killed the king in his house
  - c. people loyal to the Davidic dynasty put his son, Josiah, on the throne
- B. Josiah Brings Hope - did right and walked in the way of David
  1. he repaired the Temple 621 B.C. also 2 Chr. 34:3
  2. the book of the Law was found - probably a scroll of Deuteronomy
    - a. the king had never heard these words before 22:11
    - b. he asked the prophetess, Huldah, what will happen because of disobedience to the Law 22:14
      - 1) evil will come upon Jerusalem
      - 2) but not on Josiah because of his penitence
      - 3) he will be gathered to his grave in peace 22:20 (a false prophet?)
        - a) he died in battle, could that be considered a blessing?
        - b) yet, he did not see the catastrophe of 587
  3. he recovenanted the people
    - a. had the scroll read to the people
    - b. all promised to live by the Law with heart and soul
  4. he cleaned up worship everywhere
    - a. eliminated all accoutrements of Baal worship
    - b. deposed idolatrous priests
    - c. took the Asherah out of the Temple
    - d. broke down houses of cult prostitution
    - e. broke down the high places at the gates
    - f. forbade burning children to Molech 23:10
    - g. stopped sun worship
    - h. pulled down false altars
    - i. desecrated high places to foreign gods 23:1
      - 1) pulled down Jeroboam's high place in Bethel (to fulfill prophecy)
        - 1) he burned the Asherah
        - 2) he took bones from tombs and defiled the place

- 3) he slew the priests of the high place k. he put away mediums and wizards, teraphim and idols
- 6. there was no king like him before or since 23:25
- 7. nevertheless, God will punish for all the evil done in Jerusalem 23:27

#### IV. A New Power Rises - Babylon, and Hope Is Dashed

- A. Pharaoh Neco helps Assyria against Babylon 23:29
  - 1. Neco hoped to extend Egypt to the Euphrates
  - 2. Josiah hoped to regain all Davidic lands, so he tries to head off Neco
  - 3. Pharaoh Neco kills Josiah at Megiddo 23:30
    - a. Jehoahaz, Josiah's son, on the throne in Jerusalem
    - b. but Jehoahaz taken by Neco to Egypt
  - 4. Neco puts Jehoiakim, another son, on the throne 23:34
    - a. Josiah's son reigns eleven years
    - b. Neco demands tribute of silver and gold
    - c. the land is taxed and controlled by Egypt
    - d. Jehoiakim does what is evil 23:37
- B. Nineveh had fallen in 612 to the Medes and Chaldeans (Babylonians)
- C. 605 B.C. Battle of Carchemish - Babylon defeats Assyria, Egypt Jer 46:2 24:7
- D. Nebuchadnezzar puts Jehoiakim under his control 24:1
  - 1. he revolts against him
  - 2. he is punished by bands of marauders 24:2
- E. Jehoiakim dies, Jehoiachin, his son, rules three months
  - 1. Jerusalem is sieged by Nebuchadnezzar
  - 2. Jehoiachin surrenders, is taken prisoner
  - 3. 10,000 captives, all the treasures are taken off, Mar. 16, 597 B.C.
- F. Another son of Josiah, Zedekiah reigns eleven years 24:18, 1Chr 3:17-18
  - 1. he did evil in the sight of the Lord
  - 2. he rebels against the king of Babylon Jer 39:1-10
    - a. the plots are recorded in Jer 27:3-7, Ez 17:15
    - b. he had made a solemn oath to Nebuchadnezzar Ez 17:11-21
  - 3. Jeremiah speaks to Zedekiah Jer 21,24,27,29,32,37,38; Ez 17:11-21
  - 4. Nebuchadnezzar comes to siege Jerusalem July 15, 588 25:2
    - a. he built siege works
    - b. it was a terrible time Dt 28:52-57, Lam 4:10
    - c. Zedekiah flees
    - d. he is captured, his sons killed, his eyes put out, he dies in Babylon
    - e. N. kills all the leaders and takes the rest into exile 25:21
  - 5. 354 years after Solomon built it, the Temple is destroyed 5:9 ff. August 587

- G. Gedaliah appointed governor Jer 40:7-41:18 and chapters 42, 43
  - 1. his father, adviser of Josiah, friend of Jeremiah Jer 26:24, Jer 39:14, 40:6
  - 2. he enjoyed the confidence of fellow citizens Jer 40:11-12
  - 3. Jerusalem was not habitable - Gedaliah lived at Mizpah 25:23
  - 4. Ishmael of the royal family kills Gedaliah
  - 5. everyone left flees to Egypt Jer 40:13-41:18
- H. Jehoiachin freed from prison in the 37th year of the exile Jer 52:31-34
  - 1. hope for Davidic king still stands
  - 2. Nathan's prophecy must be fulfilled

#### V. Prophets bring the word of God

- A. Elijah and Elisha are the last of the older prophets ca.800
  - 1. had seen much evil inflicted on Israel
    - a. the Syrians under Hazael
    - b. the Moabites 11 Kgs 10:32,13:20, 22
  - 2. spent their lives in national defense II Kgs 13:14
  - 3. left promise of new day of victory 13:17ff
- B. From this time prophecy begins to criticize national life
- C. Amos prophesies to Jeroboam II in Israel
  - 1. God is righteous
  - 2. he demands social justice
- D. Hosea prophesies to Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah
- E. Isaiah to Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz; he died under Manasseh
- F. Micah to Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz
- G. Zephaniah to Josiah
- H. Jeremiah to Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah J. Habakkuk to these later kings

#### VI. Prophecies must be fulfilled

- A. Jehu's family will hold Israel's throne for four generations fulfilled 15:12
- B. border of Israel restored according to the prophet 14:25
- C. The Lord said he would not blot out the name of Israel - Jeroboam used by God as savior 14:27 - and the name lives today
- D. Why did destruction come to Israel - fulfillment of prophecy 17:7 ff
  - 1. Assyria in not to blame, Israel is to blame 17:8ff
  - 2. they despised the covenant and statutes 17:15
  - 3. Judah is going wrong and will also fall 17:19 this, too, is fulfilled
- E. Josiah's destruction of Bethel prophesied in I Kgs 13:2 ff is fulfilled - 23:15- 20
- F. From David's line a king must come! - Nathan's great prophecy will be fulfilled