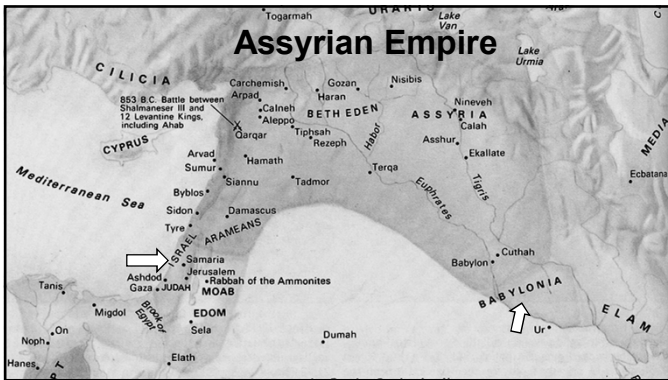
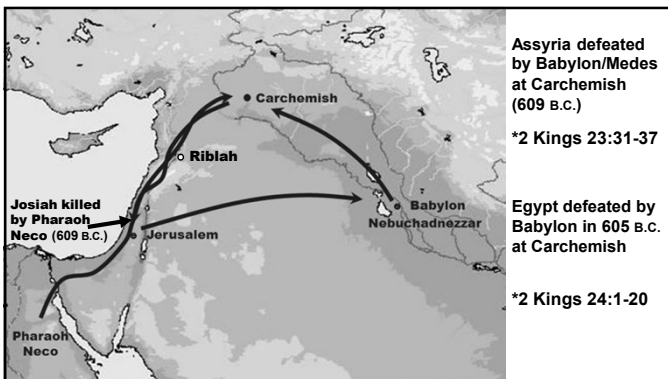




The Beginning of the End 2 KINGS 23:31-24:20



¹⁷ Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. ¹⁸ 'Some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon. (2 Kings 20:17-18)



The Final Four

The Final Four

Jehoahaz:

- three month king
- taken into exile

Jehoiakim:

- appointed; 11 yrs.
- named changed
- rebelled

Jehoiachin:

- three month king
- taken into exile

Zedekiah:

- appointed; 11 yrs.
- named changed
- rebelled

² The LORD sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

³ Surely at the command of the LORD it came upon Judah, to remove *them* from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, (24:2-3)

²⁰ For through the anger of the LORD *this* came about in Jerusalem and Judah until He cast them out from His presence. (24:20)

Implications:

1. God is sovereign over the nations
 - the rise, fall and actions of nations are under His rule for His purposes (cf. Acts 17:26)

...In order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes (Dan. 4:17)

I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

³⁵ "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

But He does according to His will in the host of heaven

And *among* the inhabitants of earth;

And no one can ward off His hand

Or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Dan. 4:34-35)

Implications:

1. God is sovereign over the nations
 - the rise, fall and actions of nations are under His rule for His purposes (cf. Acts 17:26)
 - this includes His use of evil rulers as agents of His righteous purposes (cf. Acts 4:27-28)
 - kings and nations are accountable and judged for their actions (cf. Isaiah 10:12)

Implications:

2. God's wrath toward sin is unrelenting
 - His just judgment for sin is irreversible – "*Yahweh was unwilling to forgive*"
 - He will remove sinners "from His sight" into final judgment (cf. 2 Thess. 1:9)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' (Matthew 7:21-23)

⁷ "For a brief moment I forsook you,
But with great compassion I will gather you.
⁸ "In an outburst of anger
I hid My face from you for a moment,
But with everlasting lovingkindness
I will have compassion on you,"
Says the LORD your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:7-8)