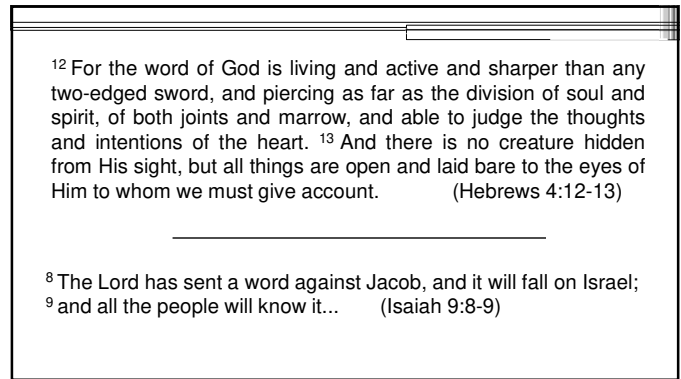
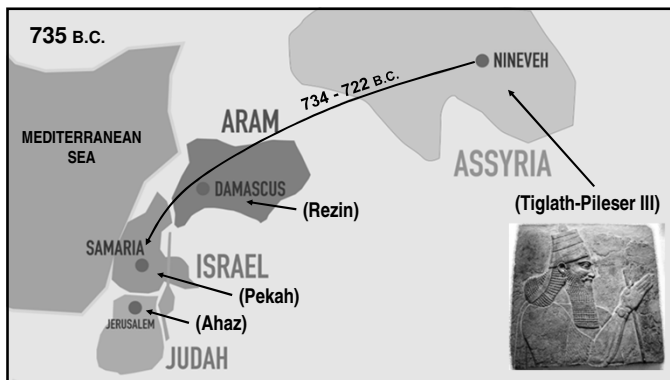




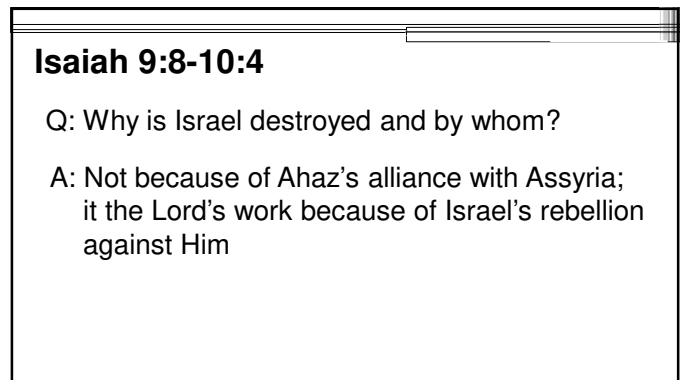
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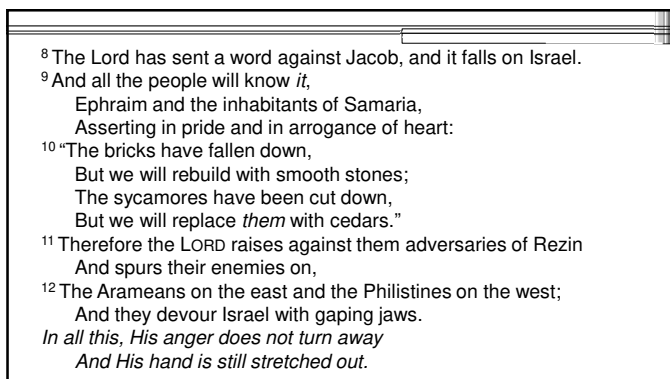
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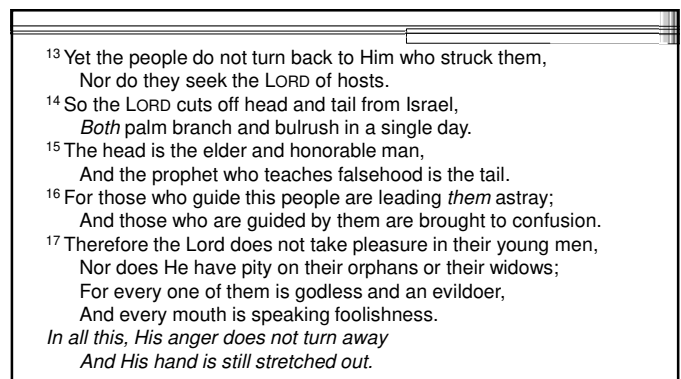
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4



5



6

¹⁸ For wickedness burns like a fire;
It consumes briars and thorns;
It even sets the thickets of the forest aflame
And they roll upward in a column of smoke.
¹⁹ By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up,
And the people are like fuel for the fire;
No man spares his brother.
²⁰ They slice off *what is* on the right hand but *still* are hungry,
And they eat *what is* on the left hand but they are not satisfied;
Each of them eats the flesh of his own arm.
²¹ Manasseh *devours* Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh,
And together they are against Judah.
*In all this, His anger does not turn away
And His hand is still stretched out.*

7

¹ Woe to those who enact evil statutes
And to those who constantly record unjust decisions,
² So as to deprive the needy of justice
And rob the poor of My people of *their* rights,
So that widows may be their spoil
And that they may plunder the orphans.
³ Now what will you do in the day of punishment,
And in the devastation which will come from afar?
To whom will you flee for help?
And where will you leave your wealth?
⁴ Nothing *remains* but to crouch among the captives
Or fall among the slain.
*In all this, His anger does not turn away
And His hand is still stretched out.*

8

God's Outstretched Hand

- God's raised hand is a symbol His sovereign power, now against His people in judgment

9

God's Outstretched Hand

1. Self-reliant pride
 - defiant in the face of judgment, trusting one's own resources, abilities and decisions

10

God's Outstretched Hand

2. Perverse Leadership
 - results in the people being godless and evildoers, speaking falsehood (perversion of the truth)

11

God's Outstretched Hand

3. Self-destructive appetites
 - the devouring power of sin is seen in its inherent capacity to destroy human relations

12

God's Outstretched Hand

4. Oppression of the needy

- laws framed in wickedness that deny justice to and exploit the weak and vulnerable

There is coming a great reversal in the day of judgment:
no excuse, no refuge, no advantage, no escape!

13

God's Outstretched Hand

²⁶ This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. ²⁷ For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His outstretched hand, who can turn it back?"

(Isaiah 14:26-27)

14