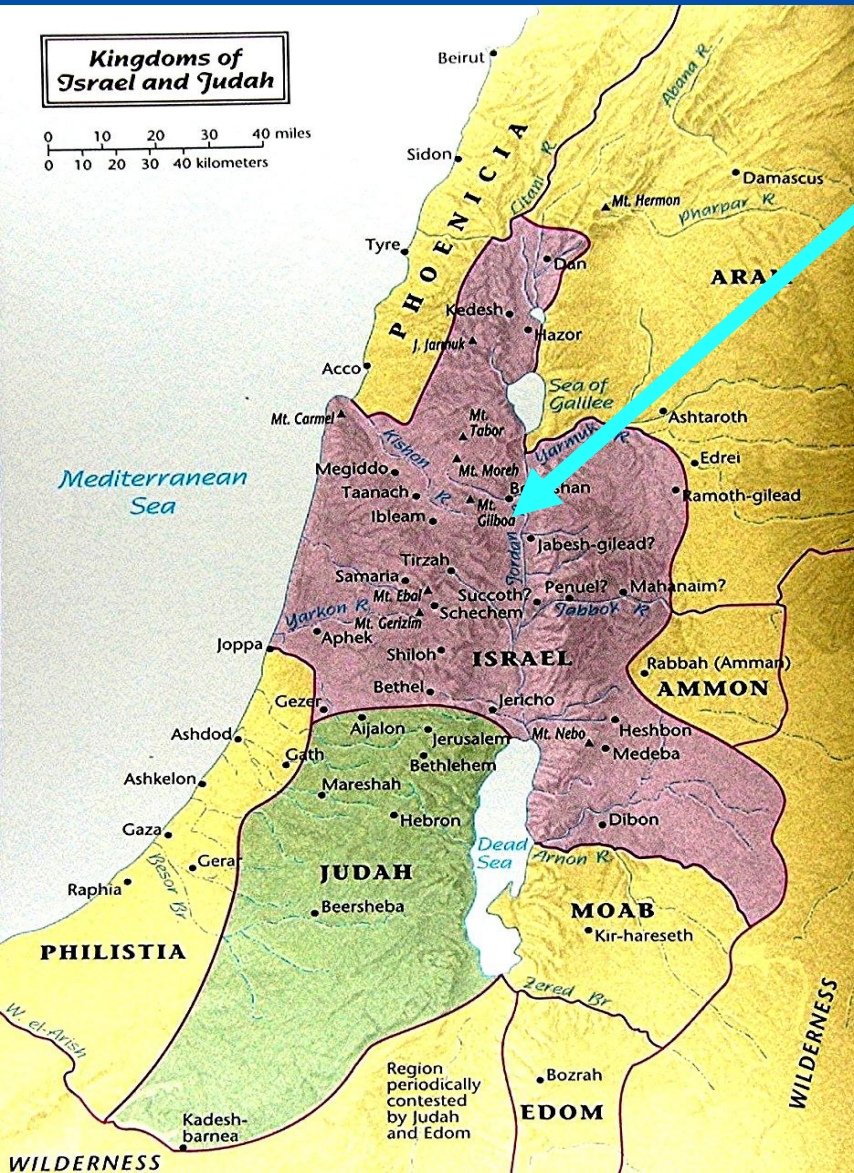


THE BEGINNING OF THE END



- Elijah's reign as the highest Prophet of God was ending
- He was taken up into the heavens with a (spiritual) storm wind
- After his disappearance the Spirit of Prophecy on earth declined
- Elisha held nearly as much power and authority as his former master *Eliyahu*
- **The next several chapters offer a sampling of Elisha's miracles and prophecies**

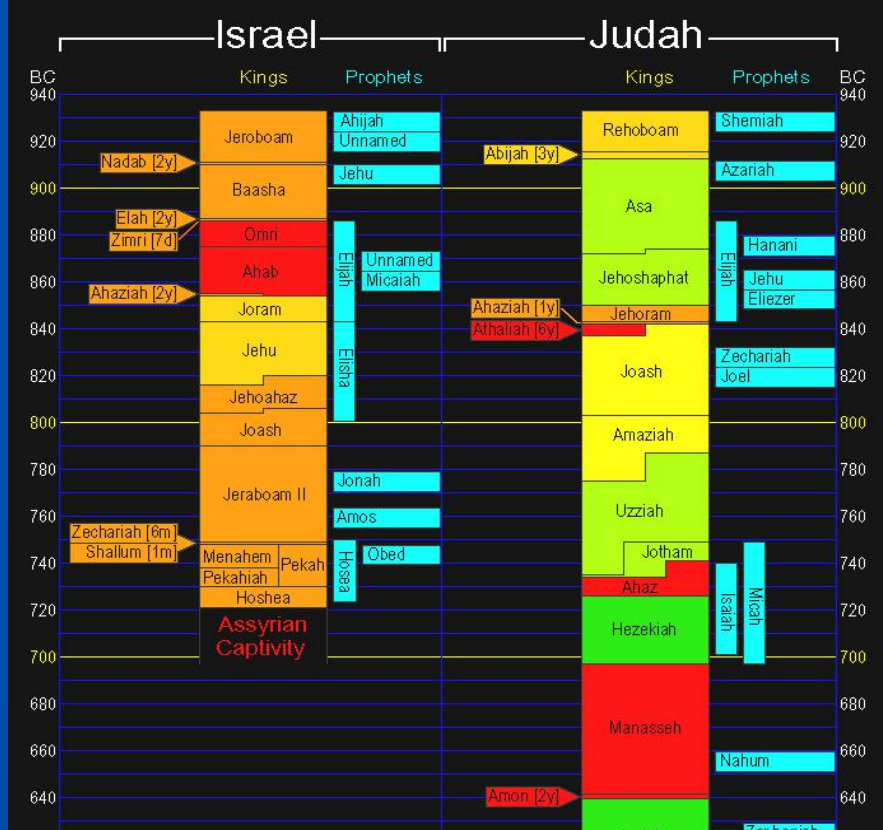
2ND KINGS 3: THE WAR WITH MOAB



- Israel at this point ONLY means the northern kingdom of Ephraim/Israel
- Judah staying faithful to YHWH
- God-Pattern: When God's people are oppressed, the Lord sends a counter weight
- Era of the *Shofetim* (Judges), a deliverer was sent to specific tribes
- Era of the Kings, Prophets were sent to keep the Word of God alive
- God's patience is not without limit, so as faithfulness declined too far, the Spirit of Prophecy was gradually removed

CO-REGENCY

- Chapter 4 opens by setting the timing of the events
- **4:1** says *Y'horam* became King of Israel in the 18th year of the King of Judah's reign (Jehoshaphat)
- **1:17, 18** says *Y'horam* became king in the 2nd year of Jehoshaphat's SON's reign
- Common for a king to name a successor and have him crowned before his death
- A Senior King and a Junior King ruled simultaneously 2Kings 8:16
- Happened with David and Solomon



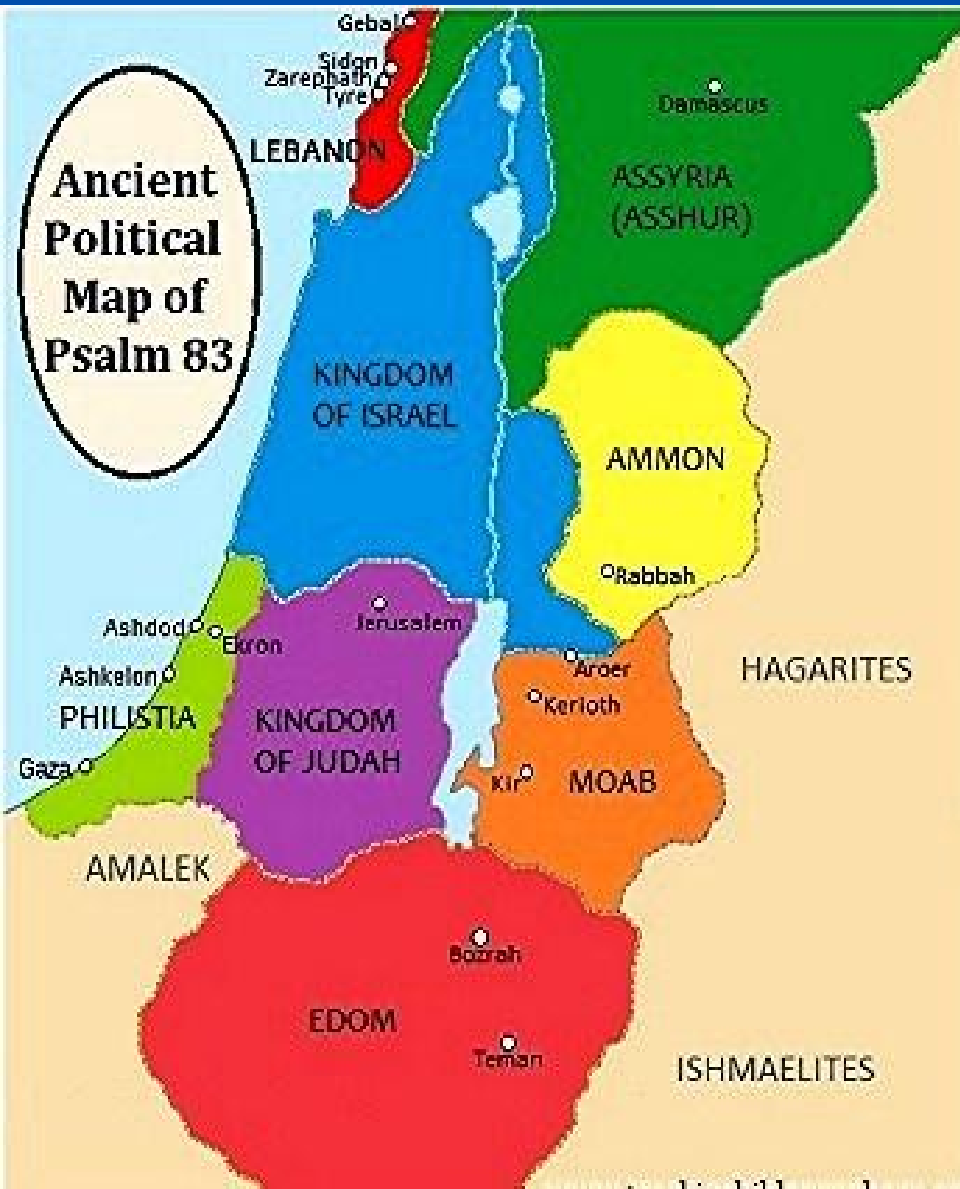
BA'AL BAD

GOLDEN CALVES OK?

- *Y'horam* of Israel was considered not as bad as his parents
- He removed a Ba'al pillar, but continued with the Golden Calf cult
- Ba'al was a "rival" god
- Golden Calves were graven images OF YHWH
- There are greater and lesser sins in God's eyes
- *Y'horam* made some effort to tamp-down Ba'al worship, but his mother Jezebel apparently used her power to override such attempts



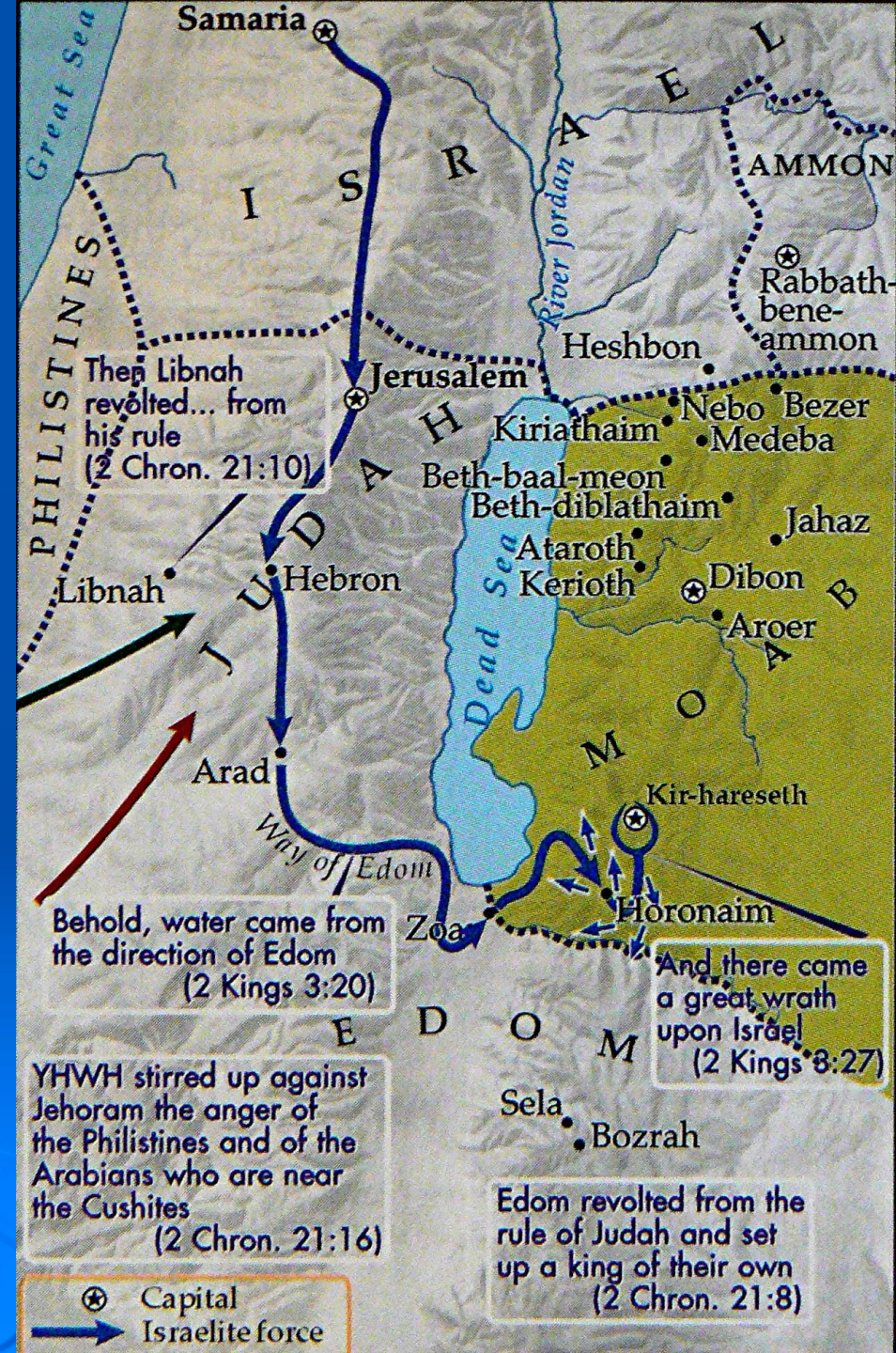
MESHA OF MOAB REBELS



- Moab was under Israel's control, not under Judah's
- 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 sheep as annual taxes to Israel
- Why would Judah help Israel attack Moab?
- 2Chron.18 Moab had come against Judah and caused harm and damage

COALITION FORCE ATTACKS MOAB

- Battle was in the summer so it was dry and hot
- Availability of water was crucial to success
- Enlisting Edom's help gave them a supply route and a good ally
- Army marched for 7 days through desert terrain
- No water was found, so the mission was in trouble



THE 3 KINGS CALL FOR HELP!

- *Y'horam* has no faith and assumes YHWH led them here to be defeated
- Jehoshaphat knows they must consult YHWH
- The 3 Kings go to *Elisha*, they don't summon him to come to them
- *Elisha* has no use for the King of Israel and says he'll help only for the sake of Jehoshaphat
- The call for a musician is only to soothe and calm, it is not part of prophetic ritual





- God will use this situation to use Elisha for another miracle
- The Lord says to dig a ditch (in a dry Wadi), and then without them seeing rain or wind, water will come
- Flash floods form miles away in mountains, where the run-off gathers and flows rapidly

THIS IS HOLY WAR !



- The Lord says the water matter is trivial, the bigger issue is that He wants Moab destroyed
- Israel is to operate a scorched earth campaign
- Law of Herem (Law of the Ban) means all spoils of war go to God
- Spoils therefore must be destroyed (by fire if possible)

BLOODY WATERS

- Moab mustered its forces and rushed them to their southern border
- Reddish soil in the flash flood waters made it appear that the waters in the trenches was blood
- Moabite soldiers assumed coalition forces had turned on themselves
- God-Principle: God can use anything for BOTH blessing and curse



MESHA OFFERS KING OF EDOM'S SON AS A HUMAN SACRIFICE



- Mesha leads 700 men and tries to break out of the besieged fortress
- Fails but captures King of Edom's son
- Mesha sacrifices the crown prince in front of the entire coalition army
- Edomite King is crushed and his army demoralized

IF ONLY THEY HAD BELIEVED GOD

- This horrible act of human sacrifice is recorded and denounced by Amos 2:1
- It was a terrible mistake by Israel to break off the battle
- Since this was Holy War, the battle was already won
- All Israel had to do was to claim it by following through
- They feared Chemosh, the god of Moab
- They thought the sacrifice had worked and they left in fear

