

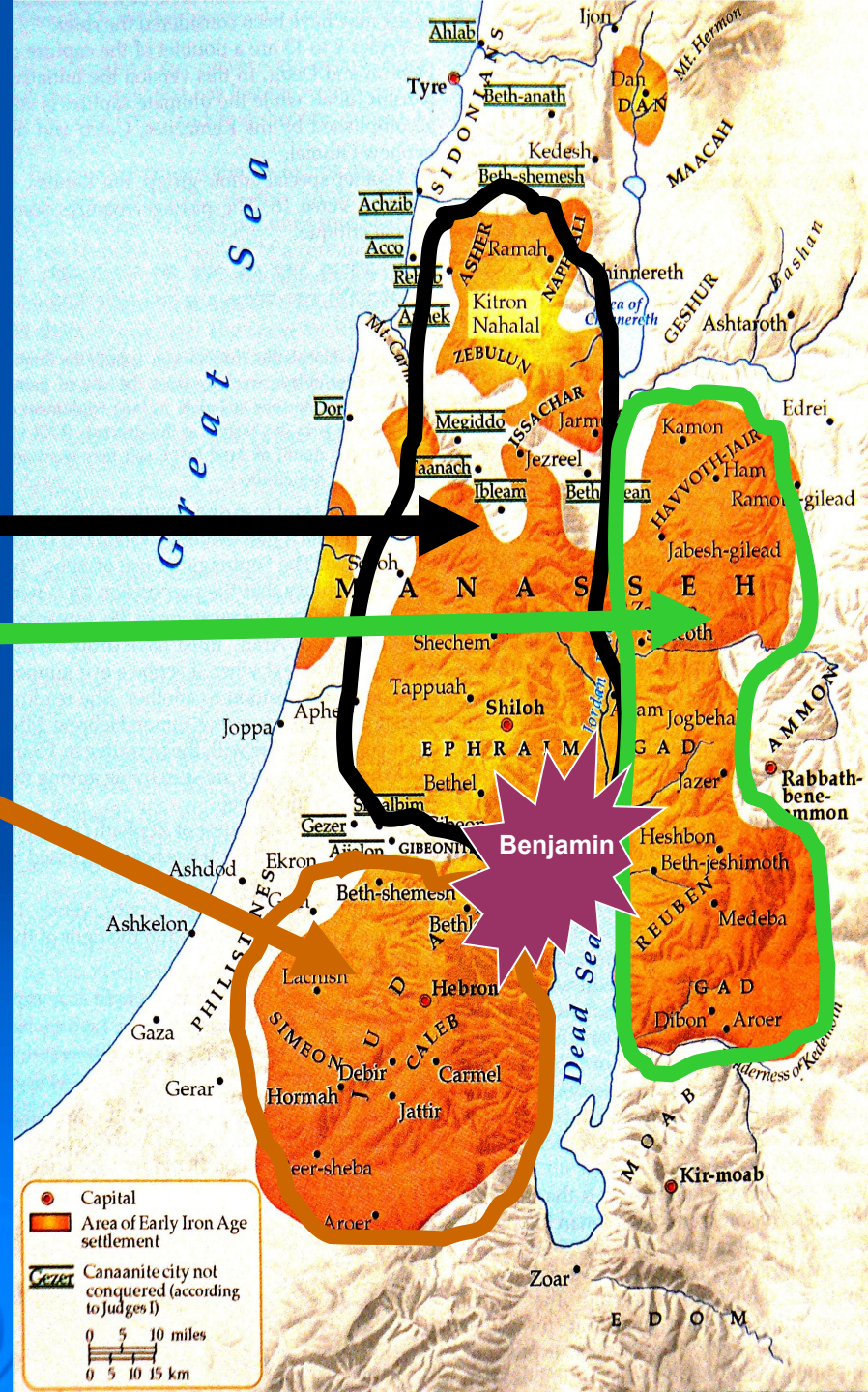
THE DEATH SPIRAL



- Seismic shifts are coming to God's Kingdom
- 2nd Kings is bouncing back and forth between stories about Judah and Israel
- Israel = northern Kingdom
- Judah = southern Kingdom
- Israelites = EITHER national name for members of northern tribes OR familial name for all the 12 tribes
- This is KEY for understanding the End Times prophecies, many written in era of the Kings

A DIVIDED ISRAEL

- Israel was divided into 3 political factions
- Northern confederation
- TransJordan confederation
- Southern confederation
- Benjamin lay at the center of the 3 factions so it was strategically important
- Benjamin aligned with the northern tribes



SEPARATE KINGDOMS = SEPARATE RELIGIONS

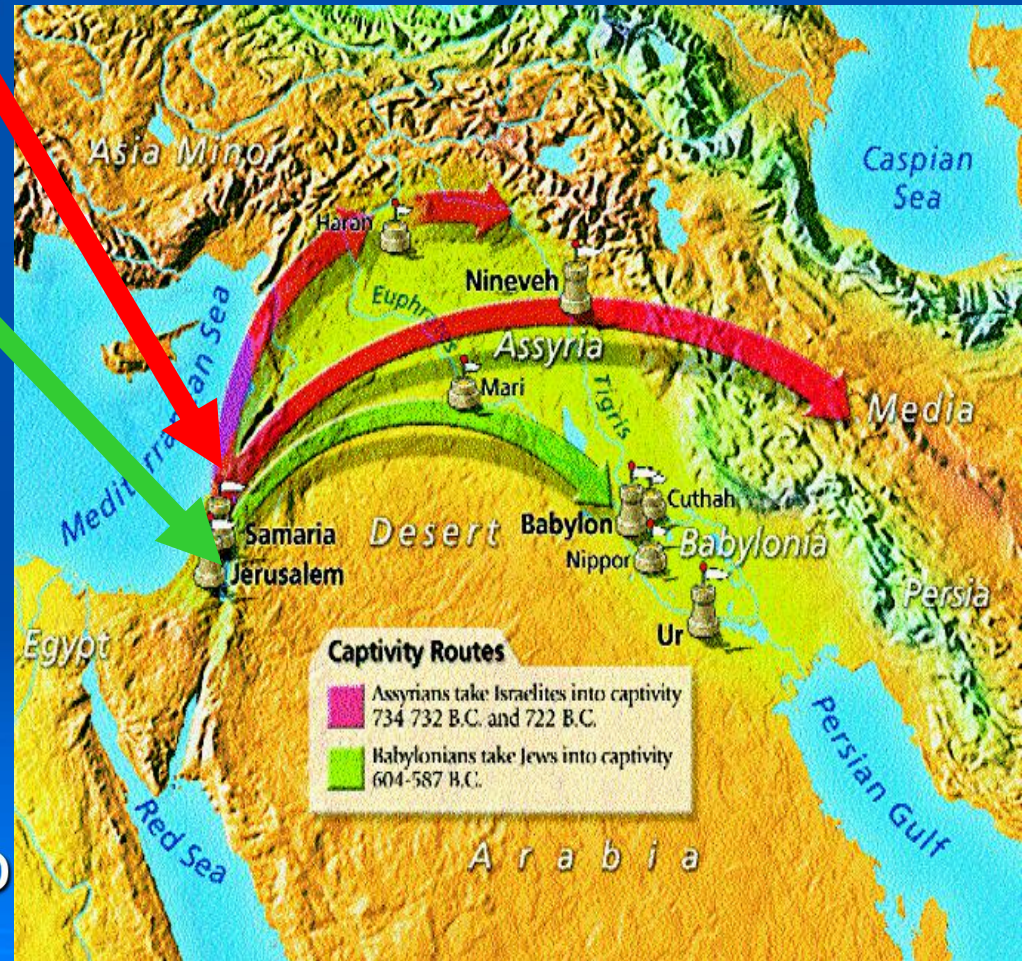


- Originally, King Jeroboam established Golden Calf worship in northern kingdom
- YHWH's authorized Temple and Priests were in Jerusalem of Judah
- Golden Calf worship established in Samaria of Israel as a competitive system
- King **Achav** of Israel began intermarriage with monarchy of Judah
- This exported idolatry to Judah



EXILE IN TWO STAGES

- 1st exile, the 10 northern tribes, 720's B.C.
- 2nd exile, the southern 2 tribes, 590's B.C.
- Haza'el King of Aram (Syria) had been wreaking havoc on Israel
- He decided to extend his range to Judah
- What influenced Aram to go after Israel and Judah? ASSYRIA !



ASSYRIA ATTACKED SYRIA (ARAM)



- Shalmaneser, King of Assyria wanted to create a Greater Assyria
- Babylon too powerful to attack, so he went West to Lebanon and Syria
- Haza'el saw Assyria and Babylon as too powerful so he went after Israel

THE NATIONS ARE BUT PAWNS IN GOD'S HANDS



- The Lord uses the wills, desires, and plans of humans to achieve His will and purposes
- None of the kings or nations knew that they were but actors in a cosmic play of redemption
- The way God dealt with the nations and leaders of Biblical times is the pattern after which He still deals with nations and leaders

2ND KINGS 13: BACK TO ISRAEL

- 23rd year of Joash, child-king of Judah
- *Y'ho'achaz*, son of Jehu, became King of Israel
- *Y'ho'achaz* died after 17 years, and his son Joash took over
- Likely *Y'ho'achaz* and Joash in a co-regency for 2 or 3 years



WHAT OR WHO SAVED ISRAEL ?

- King *Y'ho'achaz* worse than his father
- The Lord led Haza'el to be a relentless oppressor of Israel in response
- King prayed for help and the Lord intervened for the sake of His chosen people
- Shalmaneser attacked Syria
- This forced Haza'el to withdraw from Israel to defend his homeland
- Shalmaneser must be the savior of vs. 5

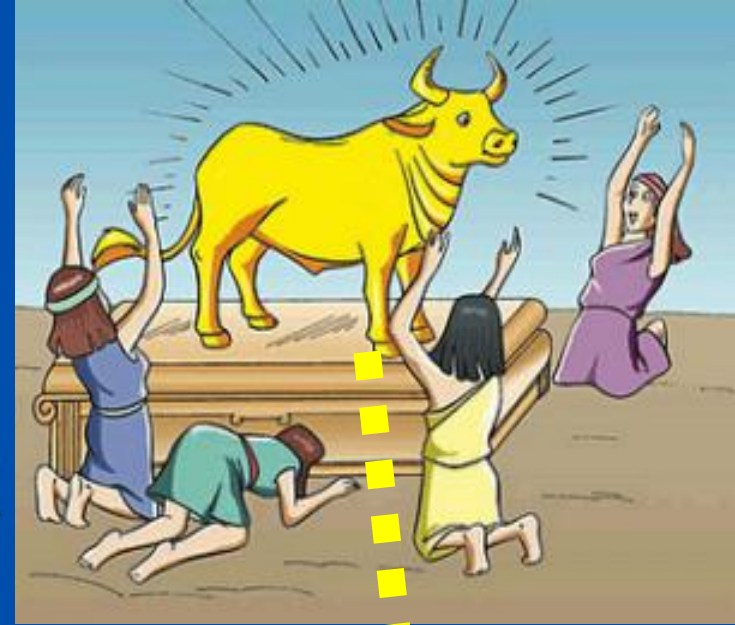


Savior



THE INEVITABLE SLIDE

- King *Y'ho'achaz* denied the connection between his plea to God for help, and the help that came
- Israel thought Golden Calves were OK because they saw them as YHWH
- Next they adopted the Asherah-tree
- Divine consequences were that Haza'el decimated Israel's army and Israel was now nearly defenseless
- Church has a bad habit of Christianizing pagan symbols and observances, declaring them holy, and incorporating them into our worship and observances
- The observances become Church orthodoxy and to NOT observe them becomes heresy !!



TWO JOASH'S NOW REIGN



- *Y'ho'achaz* dies and his son Joash takes over
- *Y'ho'ash* = given by YHWH
- *Yoash* = given by God
- *Y'ho'ash* goes to visit Elisha on his deathbed
- “Father, Father! Israel’s chariots and horsemen!”

THE CEREMONY OF THE ARROWS



- Elisha wanted to give Joash reassurance
- Elisha tells Joash to pick up his bow, and Elisha places his hands on Joash's
- Yoash stopped after shooting 3 arrows
- This greatly upset Elisha

GOD-PATTERNS

- Years earlier Elisha helped a prophet guild widow
- She was to gather all the empty flasks she could, and using her small amount of oil, keep filling them until it ran out
- The 3 arrows represented just a fraction of the victories that God wanted to give to Joash
- God will bless us a lot or a little based on His sovereign will

