

Biblical History



David Anoints Solomon

Solomon's Choice

Solomon's Temple

God's Ideal King

The Divided Kingdom

The Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Baal Worship

God's Warning

The Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Judah's Kings

Hezekiah

The Babylonian Captivity

Daniel and the Prophets

Nebuchadnezzar

The Destruction
of Jerusalem

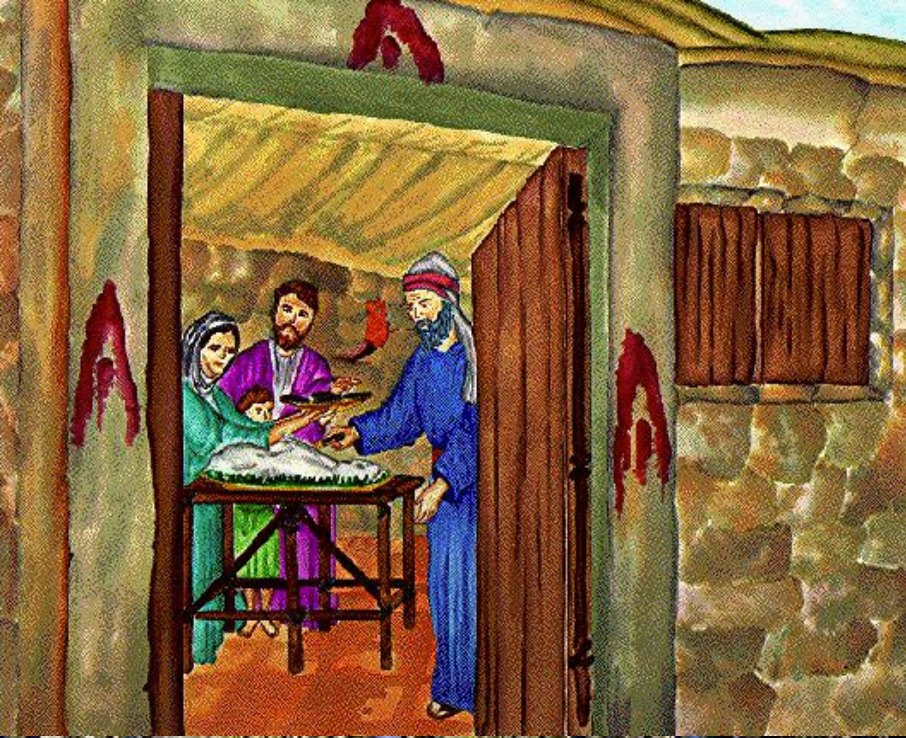
The Return From Babylon



- Theme: "Rediscovering God's Torah"
- 2nd Kings 22:2
- Lavish ceremony at Temple followed by ACTION !
- False priests killed
- Idols and shrines destroyed
- Apostate Levite Priests were fired
- Josiah tried to re-unite the 12 tribes, but failed

PASSOVER & SPRINGTIME

- 2nd Kings 23:21 – end
- ***Pesach*** is the 1st of the 7 biblical feasts
- 1st Passover in Egypt, meaning was quickly self-evident
- Every Passover afterwards was a commemoration
- Josiah ordered everyone to come to Jerusalem for ***Pesach***
- 2nd Chronicles 35:1 – 19
- Springtime is when the earth comes back to life after a long season of death and dormancy



N I S A N						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 PASSEOVER
15	16 FIRSTFRUITS	17	18	19	20	21
← FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD →						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- Josiah's Passover properly celebrated on Nisan 14th
- 2nd Chronicles 30:1 – 5
- King Hezekiah celebrated Passover in Iyar, the 2nd month
- Many of the remnant of the 10 tribes came, but did not purify themselves
- The 7 day Matza celebration turned into a 14 day party !
- 2nd Chronicles 35: 3 The Ark of the Covenant had to be put back into the Holy of Holies (Removed for refurbishment?)

Hardening of the Heart



- *“In order to establish the words of the Torah”*
- Whatever small chance of reforming the people’s hearts rested in the Word of God
- All any leader can do is present the truth; the people must decide what to do with it
- 2nd Kings 23:25 The Lord praises Josiah for his faithfulness to the task
- The ONLY measure the Lord uses is our faithfulness and obedience towards Him
- Success and failure of those to whom we take the truth are not our responsibility
- 2nd Kings 22:18 - 20

Truth
IN THE
HEART

GOD PRONOUNCES THE FINAL VERDICT ON JUDAH



- Vss. 26, 27 The end of the ballgame !
- Despite smashing idols, saying “Amen” to the covenant, nothing of a spiritual substance had changed in the people
- 2nd Kings 23:27
- God still had to fulfill His promise to Josiah, that he wouldn't be alive when exile came

THE STATE OF THE REGION IN THE TIME OF KING JOSIAH

- God invariably uses gentile nations to deal with His chosen people
- 610 B.C. Assyria is a declining empire
- Babylon is powerful and growing
- Egypt has a well equipped army & navy
- Egypt bordered the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, so they were able seafarers



EGYPT AND ASSYRIA ALLIES

- Both Babylon and Egypt hoped to someday take over Assyria's empire
- The Medes joined with Babylon in fighting Assyria
- Babylon took the Assyrian city of Haran, and forced them to retreat to Carchemish
- A Babylonian victory at Carchemish would end the Assyrian dominance



Nabopolassar
626-605 a.e.c.



NECO II

← **ALLIES**
↓

Sin-Sharra-ishkun



JOSIAH SEALS HIS OWN FATE



Neco marches his army north along the Via Maris

Cuts inland at Ashdod to the Jezreel Valley

On his way to help his ally Assyria

Josiah goes to attack Neco to stop his advance

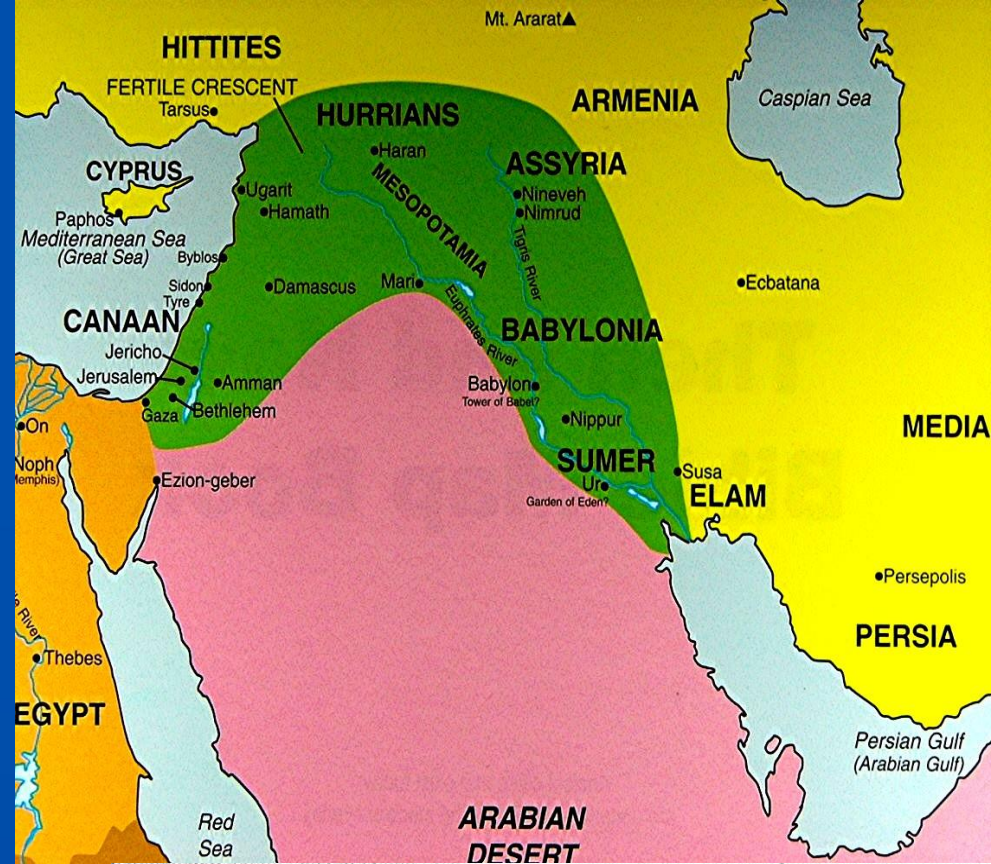
Neco sends envoys to explain he has no interest in Judah, and is only passing through

"God" (*elohim*) was meaning Yehoveh

Elohim a generic term for God or gods

NOTHING BUT BAD OPTIONS

- Why did Josiah attack Neco?
- Josiah had to choose who he'd rather see dominate the region
- He felt most endangered by the Assyrian-Egyptian alliance
- King Josiah shot with an arrow at Megiddo, died in route to Jerusalem



Y'HO'ACHAZ SUCCEEDS JOSIAH

- *Am eretz* = people of the land
- *Y'ho'achaz* was first called Shallum
- King for 3 months until Neco deposed him and took him in chains to Ribla
- Another son of Josiah named Elyakim was selected by Neco to be King of Judah
- *Elyakim* = *Y'hoyakim*
- He ruled Judah for 11 years as a bad king



A DRAMATIC POWER SHIFT



- ***Y'hoyakim*** a vassal under Egypt for 3 years
- 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar becomes King of Babylon
- Babylon pushes Egypt back to the Sinai
- ***Y'hoyakim*** now a vassal to Babylon
- He rebelled, and Babylon sent troops
- YHWH says it was HE who caused this in order to harm Judah