

The Life of Jesus Christ, Part 2

Setting the Stage, Part 1

The Assyrian Empire

History of Israel under the monarchy

- 1051-1011 BC: Reign of Saul
- 1011-971 BC: Reign of David
- 970-930 BC: Reign of Solomon
- Divided Kingdom
 - Israel (930-722 BC)
 - Judah (+ Benjamin) (930-586 BC)

Both kingdoms had 19 kings: Israel had 9 dynasties, Judah ruled by house of David

Israel: all kings bad; Judah: some good, some bad

Assyrian Empire

First capital: Asshur, founded around 2000 BC, about the time of Abraham

Ups and downs for next many centuries, begins to rise as an empire in the 800's BC, begins to intersect with the Israelites.

Jonah, around 760 BC, probably during a weak point in Assyrian power (note diagram on map)

Tiglath-pileser III/Pul (745-727 BC)

- ca. 743: Extracts tribute from Menahem of Israel (2 Kings 15:19-20)
- ca. 733: Captures northern Israel (2 Kings 15:29)
- ca. 735: Receives tribute from Ahaz of Judah for protection (2 Kings 16:5, 7-9)

Shalmaneser V (727-722 BC)/Sargon II (722-705 BC) (Shalmaneser's brother)

- 722: After 3-year siege, Samaria is captured and carried into exile (2 Kings 17:3-6)
- Why? 2 Kings 17:7-8, 22-23
- Foreigners placed in Samaria (2 Kings 17:24)

Sennacherib, son of Sargon (704-681 BC)

- ca. 701: Invades Judah under Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:7, 13-16)
- Taunts Hezekiah and Judah (2 Kings 18:17, 28-35), Hezekiah's response (2 Kings 19:1-7, letter from Assyria, 19:14-19, God's answer, 19:20-28)
- Returns to Nineveh after God's judgment (2 Kings 19:32-37)
- 681: Killed by his sons

2 Kings 20:12-19: Hezekiah shows emissaries from Babylon the riches of Judah (perhaps about 704): connection to next great empire

Decline and end:

- Assyria weakened due to the rise of the Medes and Chaldeans (Neo-Babylonian Empire)
- 612: Babylonians captured Nineveh

- 605: Finally defeated along with their allies, the Egyptians, at the Battle of Carchemish by Nebuchadnezzar (Pharaoh Neco was on the way there when Josiah was slain: 2 Kings 23:29)

Connection with Jesus?

Isaiah 7:1-2, 5-7, 10-16: near/far prophecy; probably an unspecified young woman would be married, then have a child, who would not be very old before Israel and Syria would be conquered by the Assyrians; Matthew 1:23