

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 17

Chapters 13-23 of Isaiah: The Oracles against the nations

If you want to read ahead.....

Day 1	Chapters 13-14
Day 2	Chapters 15-16
Day 3	Chapters 17-18
Day 4	Chapters 19-20
Day 5	Chapters 21-23

Major points

1. These chapters of Isaiah deal primarily with foreign nations who at some time had persecuted Judah.
2. These oracles teach the universal sovereignty of God.

3. The Lord addresses Judah concerning these nations. Judah is the frame of reference for the Lord's dealings with pagan nations.
4. The oracles form a threefold pattern:
 - a. Reliance on human power
 - b. Impending devastation and judgment
 - c. Future hope in the Lord
5. Message to Judah: Do not place your trust in horses or princes. Trust the Lord at all times.
6. All of these nations would one day be conquered and destroyed – including the most powerful world empires of Assyria and Babylon
7. The Lord is sovereign over the affairs and destinies of all nations.

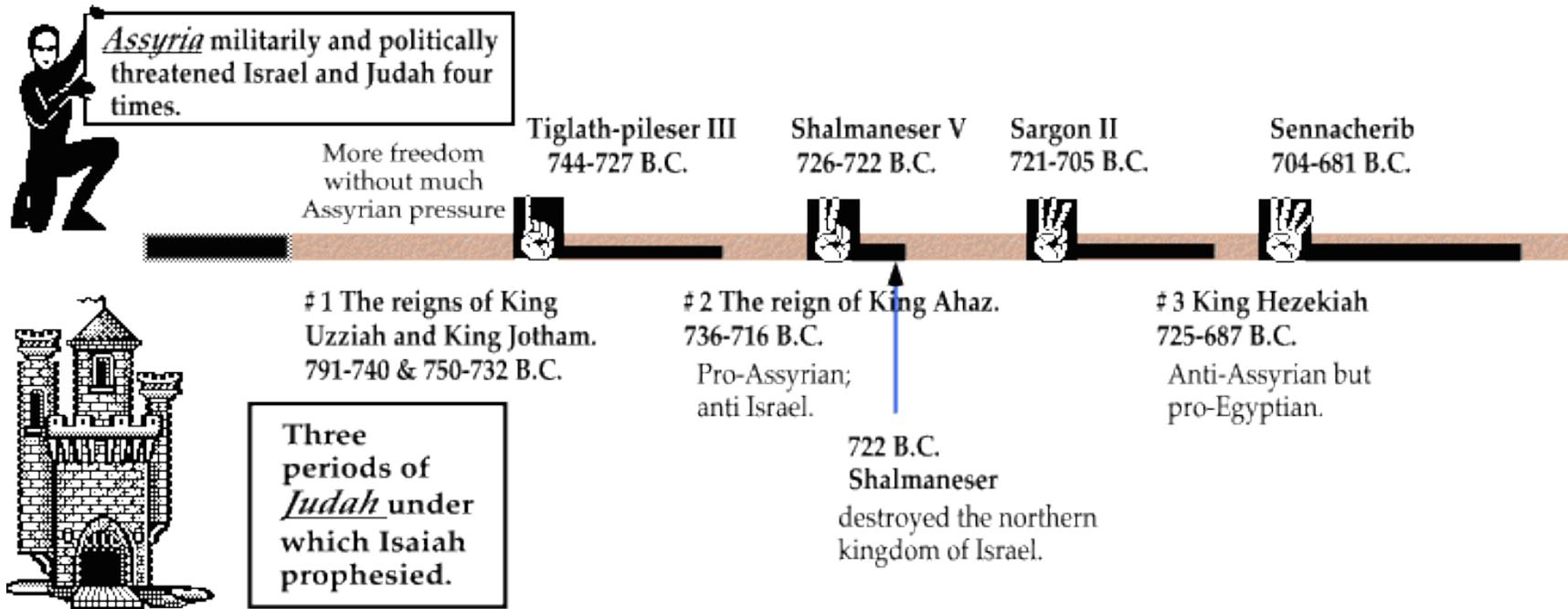
Ps 20:7

*7 Some boast in chariots and some in horses,
But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.*

Ps 118:8-9

*8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to trust in man.
9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
Than to trust in princes.*





Oracles concerning the nations in Isaiah chapters 13 to 23

Nation	Description	In Isaiah
Babylon	Would overthrow Judah and send her people into exile in 586 BC. Babylon was the dominant world power from 605 BC to 539 BC. When it fell to the Medes and Persians.	13-14:23; 21:1-10

Nation	Description	In Isaiah
Assyria	The dominant world empire during Isaiah's lifetime. The armies of Sennacherib invaded Judah in 701 BC and laid siege to Jerusalem. They suffered a serious setback when the Lord miraculously rescued Jerusalem (Isa 37:21-38).	14:24-27
Philistia	Judah's neighbor to the west. A fierce enemy of Israel in David's time. Stirred up revolts against Assyria. They would be defeated by the Assyrian invasion of 701 BC.	14:28-32
Moab	Judah's neighbor to the east. Ruth was a Moabite (Ruth 1:22). The Moabites were descendants of Lot (Gen 19:37). In 714 BC, Moab formed an alliance with the Philistines to oppose the Assyrians. It failed.	15-16
Damascus (Syria)	A nation to the northeast of Israel. Syria was a threat to the Jews from the rule of David onward. Syria was an ally of Israel in opposition to Assyria. In 734 BC the Assyrian king Tiglath Pileser III invaded and took the Syrians into exile .	17:1-3
Ephraim (Israel)	Sargon took Samaria (the capital of Israel) in 722 BC and deported most of the population (Isa 17:3-4)	17:4-11
Cush (Ethiopia)	Ruled over Egypt at that time. Territory immediately south of Egypt near modern-day Sudan.	18
Egypt	Ancient nation along the Nile. Egypt was divided during much of the 8 th century BC as 3 cities vied for control. Egypt would be defeated by Sennacherib in 701 BC.	19-20

Nation	Description	In Isaiah
Edom	The land where the descendants of Esau lived. It was in the extreme southern Palestine in the barren territory below the Dead Sea. The Edomites were the historic enemies of Israel.	21:11-12
Arabia	The desert region southeast of Judah between Babylon and Edom. It was hot, dry and sparsely populated. The territory was 1,400 miles long and 800 miles wide. The queen of Sheba came from southern Arabia.	21:13-17
Jerusalem (Judah)	The city of Jerusalem would be miraculously rescued by the Lord from the Assyrians in 701 BC. However, they would not be as fortunate when the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnessar attacked in 586 BC.	22
Tyre	Judah's neighbor to the northeast, north of Philistia. It was a great seafaring nation and a world center for commerce. They conducted lucrative trade and planted colonies throughout the Mediterranean Sea region. When Nebuchadnessar destroyed the mainland city, the economies of Mediterranean nations – including Egypt -were ruined.	23