

2 Kings – Introduction

Jay Hohfeler

<i>First Things</i> by Walker Percy (20th Century)	<i>Confessions</i> by St. Augustine (4th Century)
“What’s the matter, Willy?” “I don’t know, Scanlon. I’m homesick.” “How long have you been homesick?” “All my life.”	“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”

Common thread:

- The homesickness is a symptom of something bigger.
 - The restlessness is a symptom of something bigger.
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- ✓ Willy’s problem isn’t a nostalgia for a physical place. He’s homesick for a home he never had.
 - ✓ Augustine’s point: our|restlessness reminds us we’re seeking satisfaction in the wrong things.

2 Kings

Audience:

- Exiles from Judah living in Babylon for 70 years
 - * Interesting fact:

<u>Before the exile:</u>	"Israelites" was their dominate identity
<u>After the exile:</u>	"Jews" became their dominate identity (people of Judah)
<u>Eventually:</u>	"Jews" referred to all Israelites & their descendants, regardless of tribe.

Author:

- Most likely, Jeremiah
 - After exile, remained with the poorest people in Judah and eventually went to Egypt.
 - Prophet whose calling from God was to warn the people, Kings and false prophets

Purpose:

- To answer the questions:
 - "Why did God send Israel and Judah into exile?" Why are we here?
 - "What can we learn about ourselves, our sin, and what can we learn about God – now that we are here?"

Style:

- Pulls no punches
- Very hard on the Kings of Israel and Judah; hard on people
- Good detail on the prophets of God:
 - Elijah = fiery, like a sudden bolt of lightning; striking character (judgment, law, severity)
 - Elisha = miracles were deeds of kindness & mercy; prophet of grace, love, tenderness
 - Northern Kingdom: Amos, Hosea, Jonah
 - Southern Kingdom: Isaiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Zephaniah



1 Kings
Solomon becomes king
David dies
Solomon asks God for wisdom
Gets wisdom, riches, honor
Solomon builds the Temple
- Permanent center of worship - Ark; God's glory fills
Solomon's glory
- Wealth; Territory - International influence
Solomon turns away from God
- Idols, foreign wives - Solomon dies
Kingdom divides for 2 centuries
NORTH
"Ephraim" or "Israel" 10 Tribes - Jeroboam sets up false worship
SOUTH
"Judah" (Jerusalem & temple) 2 Tribes - King Rehoboam (Solomon's son)
Ahab & Jezebel rule Israel
Baal worship predominates
Elijah vs. Baal
- Drought ordained by God - Mount Carmel
Elisha is called
Lord condemns Ahab
Ahab's repentance



ISRAEL (NORTH)			
Years (BC)	King	Good/ Evil	Prophet
931-910	Jeroboam I	Evil	Ahijah
910-909	Nadab	Evil	
909-886	Baasha	Evil	Jehu
886-885	Elah	Evil	
885	Zimri	Evil	Micaiah Elijah
885-874	Omri	Evil	
874-853	Ahab	Evil	
853-852	Ahaziah	Evil	Elisha
852-841	Joram	Evil	
841-814	Jehu	Good/Evil	
814-798	Jehohaz	Evil	
798-782	Jehoash	Evil	
782-753	Jeroboam II	Evil	Amos Hosea Jonah
753-752	Zechariah	Evil	
752	Shallum	Evil	
752-742	Menahem	Evil	
742-740	Pekahiah	Evil	
733-722	Pekah	Evil	
732-722	Hoshea	Evil	
Israel into Assyrian Captivity in 722			

Lasted 200 years; 20 Kings; 9 Families

- No legitimate succession from David
- Jeroboam set up own kingship & priesthood
- Leaders:
 - changed between tribes
 - seized power; amassed armies & invaded

JUDAH (SOUTH)			
Years (BC)	King	Good/ Evil	Prophet
931-913	Rehoboam	Evil	Shemaiah
913-911	Abijah/Abijam	Evil	
911-870	Asa	GOOD	Azariah Hanani
870-848	Jehoshaphat	GOOD	
848-841	Jehoram	Evil	
841	Ahaziah	Evil	
841-835	Athaliah (Queen)	Evil	
835-796	Joash	Good/Evil	Joel
796-767	Amaziah	Good/Evil	
767-740	Uzziah	Good/Evil	Isaiah Micah
740-732	Jotham	GOOD	
732-716	Ahaz	Evil	
716-687	Hezekiah	GOOD	
687-642	Mannaseh	Evil	
642-640	Amon	Evil	
640-608	Josiah	GOOD	Zephaniah Habakkuk Jeremiah Ezekiel
608	Jehoahaz	Evil	
608-597	Jehoiakim	Evil	
597	Jehoiachin	Evil	
597-586	Zedekiah	Evil	
Judah into Babylonian Captivity 586 BC			

Lasted 350 years; 20 Kings; 1 Family (more stable)

- God promised all kings to be descended from David
- Jerusalem & temple were in Judah
 - Center of Law & orthodox worship

2 Kings

Elijah → Elisha

- Narrative focus from kings to prophets

Elijah taken to Heaven

- Whirlwind & chariot of fire

Elisha's miracles

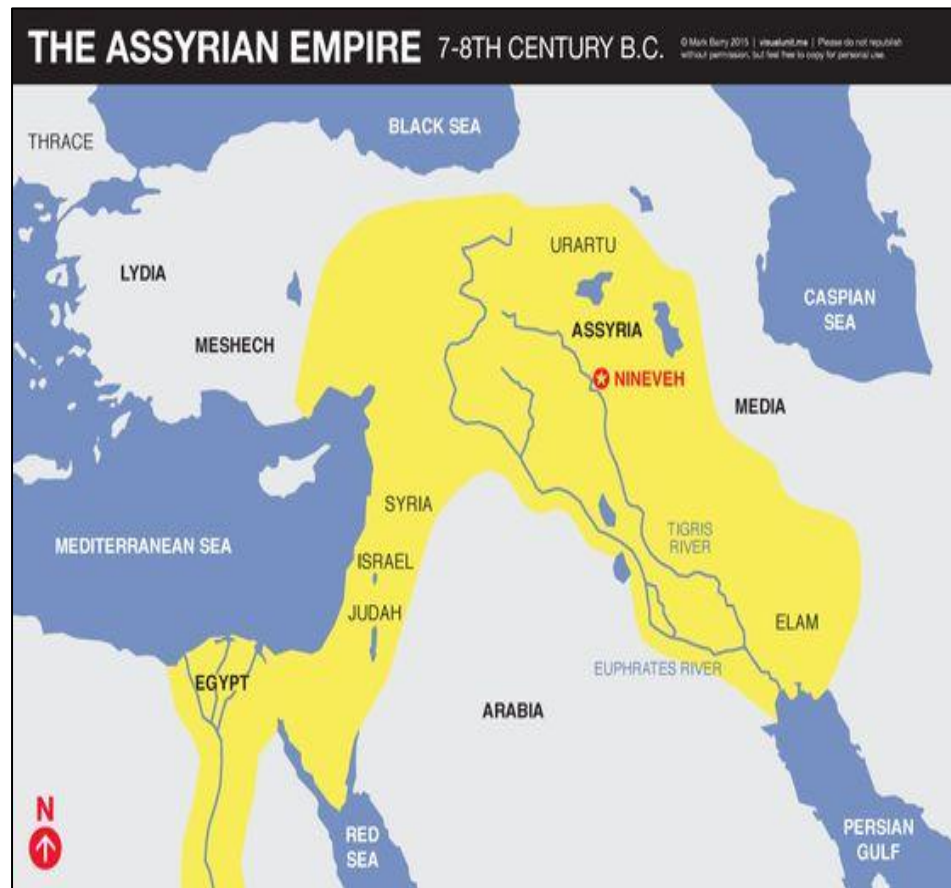
- Divides the Jordan; Multiplies widow's oil; raises her son
- Heals Naaman the Syrian

Israel deteriorates

- Physically & spiritually weakened
- Threats/taxation from Assyria escalate
- Calls for repentance from prophets ignored

Israel falls to Assyria (722 BC)

- North is both deported and re-populated by Assyria
- Intermarriage & Jewish/pagan syncretism



700s BC

- Assyria occupies most of known world.
- Northern 10 tribes lost forever
- Southern (Judah) hangs on.

2 Kings 17:18

18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight.

None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

2 Kings

But Jerusalem (inside Judah) survives!

- Focus stays on Judah (North is lost forever)
- Next 136 years: some cities are captured, but Jerusalem is protected supernaturally

King Hezekiah trusts God

- Several evil kings rule, but Hezekiah is remarkable

King Josiah's spiritual reform

- Temple repaired
- Book of the Law rediscovered

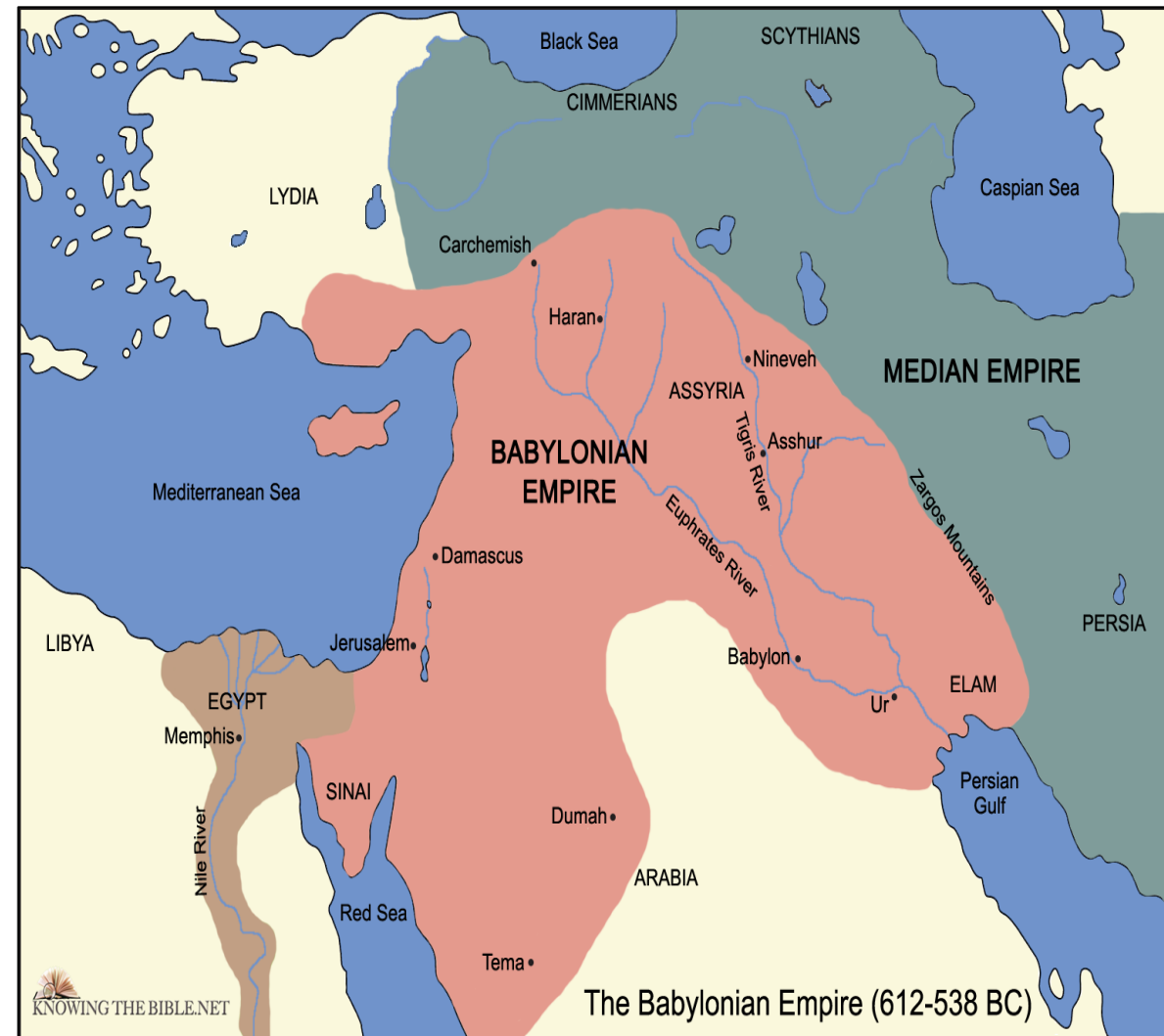
Babylon rises

- Judah's spiritual leaders fail
- Idolatry rampant again

Jerusalem falls (586 BC)

Temple destroyed

Judah goes into exile in Babylon



Late 500s BC

- Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar) deport Judah to Babylon.
- 70 yr exile begins.

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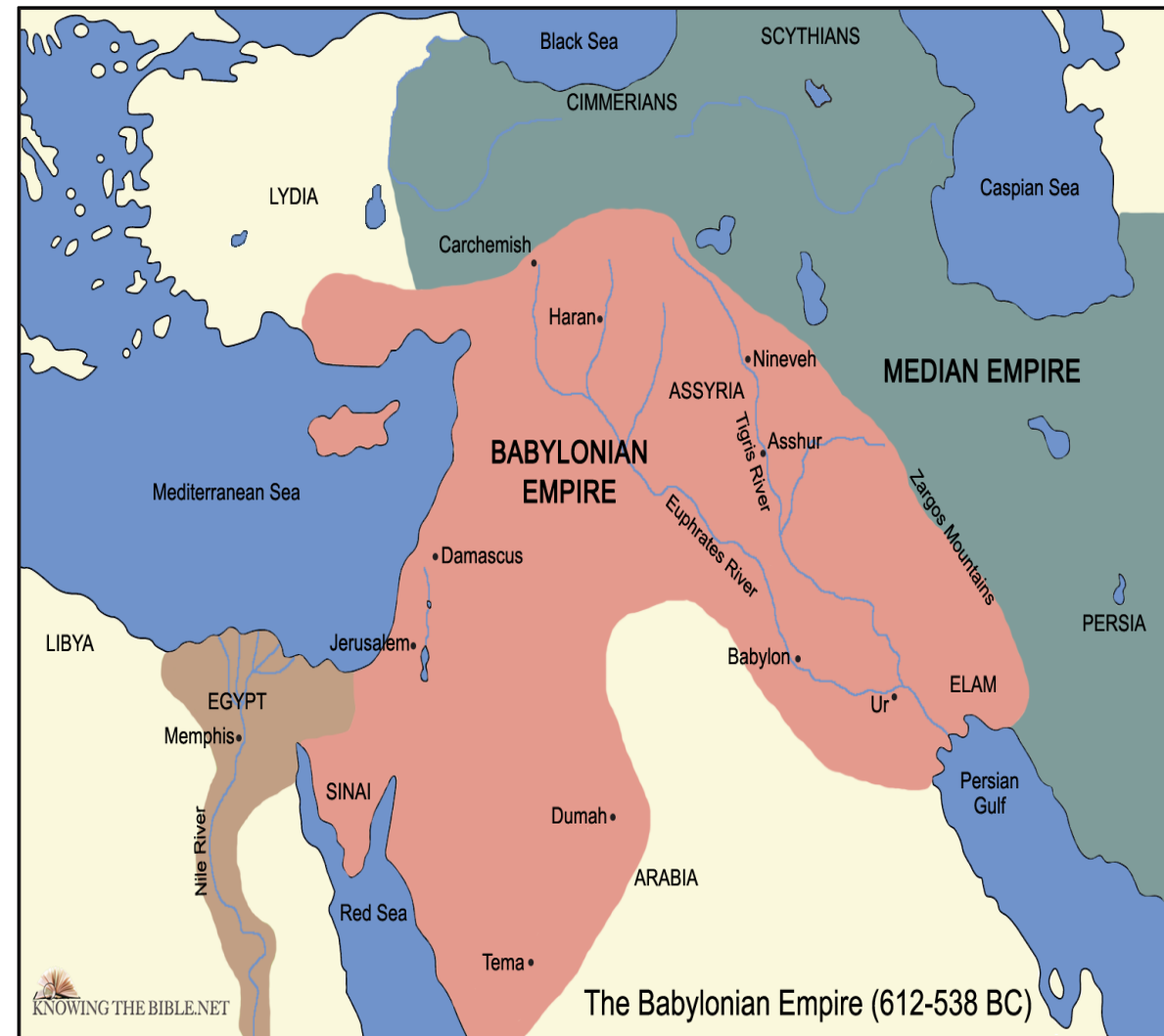
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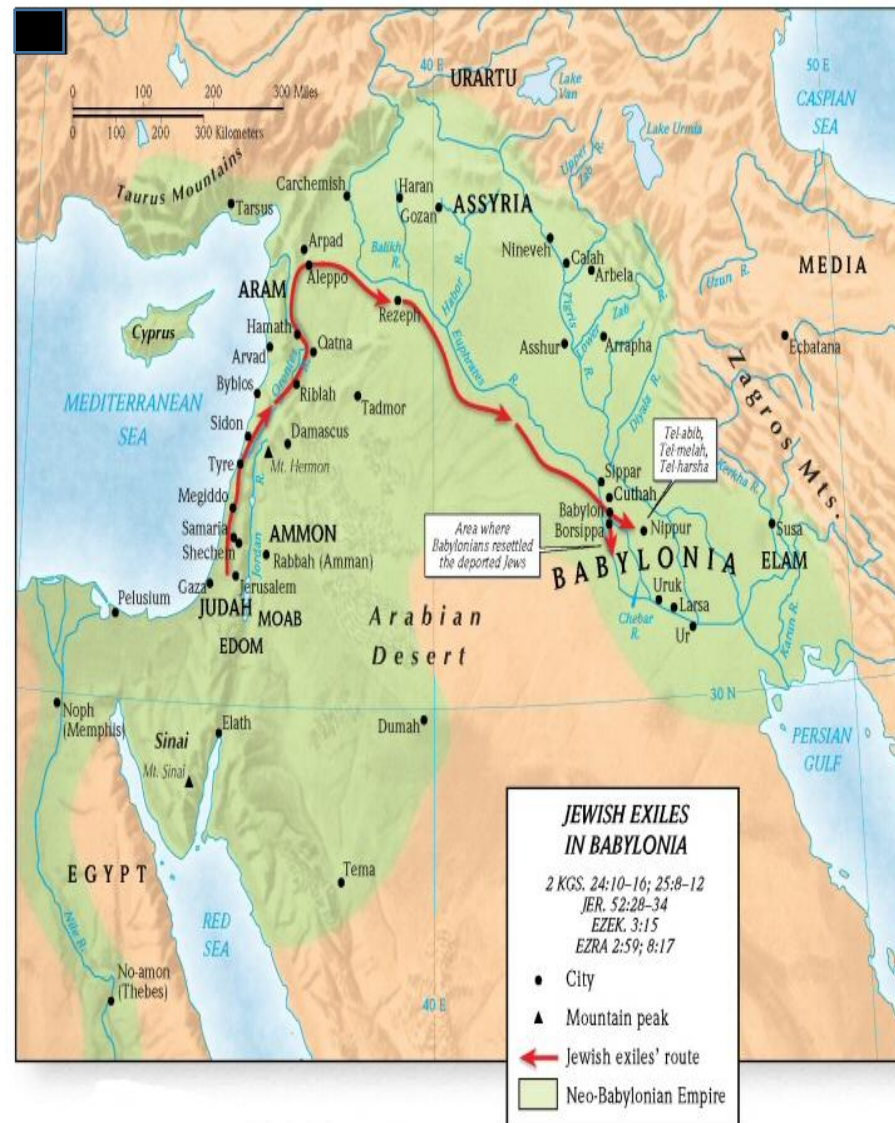
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2 Kings 23:27

27 And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

The Lord's Faithless Bride – Ezekiel 16

16 Again the word of the Lord came to me: ² “Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, ³ and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. ⁴ And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. ⁵ No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

⁶ “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ ⁷ I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

⁸ “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine. ⁹ Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. ¹⁰ I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. ¹¹ And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. ¹² And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ¹³ Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. ¹⁴ And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.