

The Kindness and Severity Of God

Isaiah 19



2020

2020

“a confluence of crises”



Isaiah

Ministry Span: 740-700 B.C.

Centered in Judah and Jerusalem

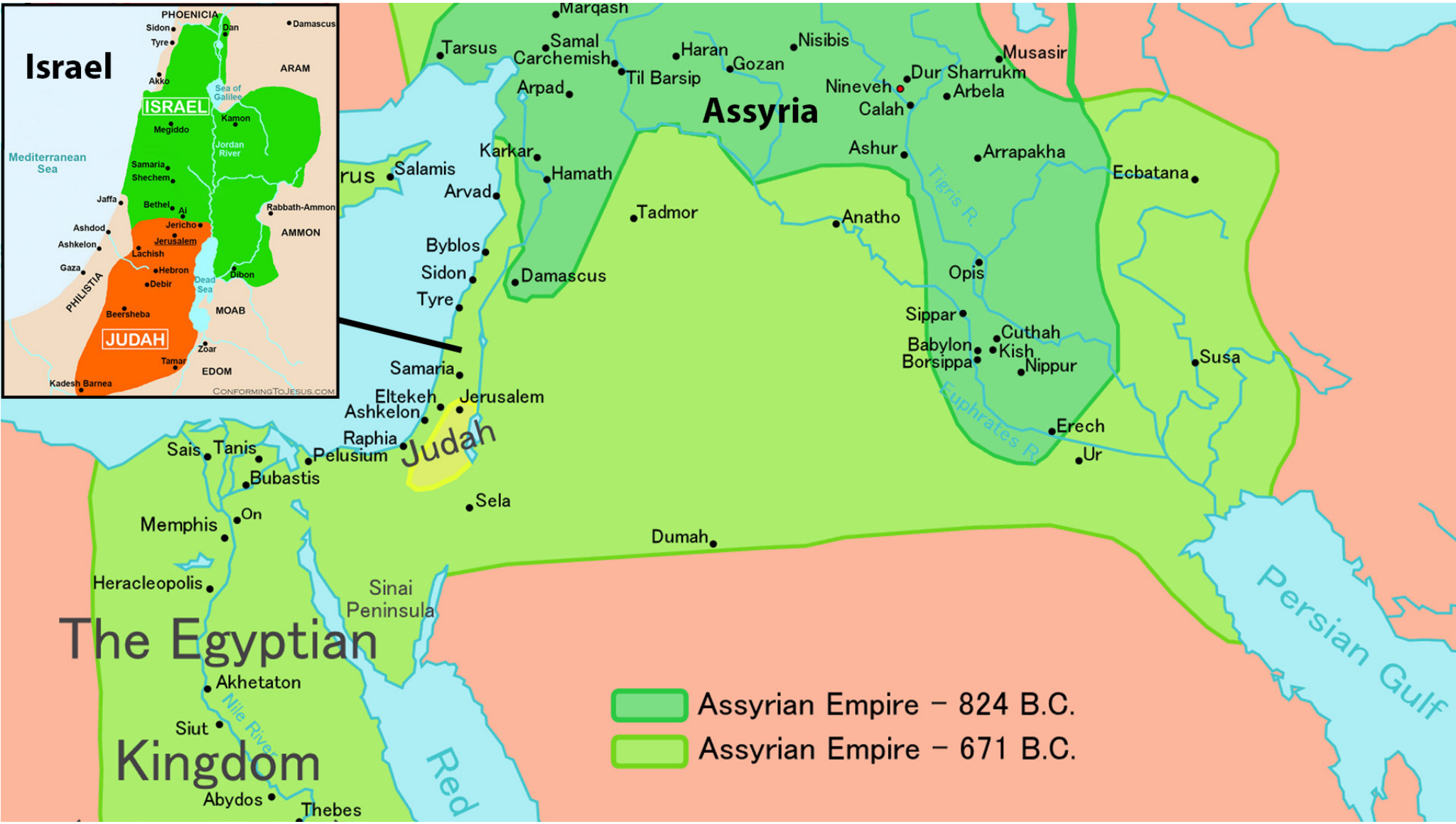
Kings:

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh



God - Sovereign and Supreme King (Isaiah 19:1)

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“The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.” – Exodus 15:3

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- Shock and Awe!

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“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring **the end from the beginning** and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and **I will accomplish all my purpose,**’” Isaiah 46:9-10

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“God has the rightful authority, the freedom, the wisdom, and the power to bring about everything that he intends to happen. And therefore, everything he intends to come about does come about. Which means, God plans and governs all things.” – John Piper

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Social Collapse (verses 2-4)

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- “I will confound their counsel”

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- They will *mourn, lament, languish, despair, and be grieved*

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I Corinthians 3:20

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- *“a spirit of confusion”*

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- *“a spirit of confusion”*
Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

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“The abiding message of a passage such as this lies not in its details, which are peculiar to its situation and date, but in its insistence that the problems of society, economics, and politics, have a spiritual causation. They are the outworking of divine purposes and are directly traceable to the hand of God, not the outworking of sociological laws, market forces, or political fortunes. And it is only by recourse to the Lord that they can be solved.” - J Alec Motyer

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- “the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians.”
- King Hezekiah prayer - 2 Kings 19:15-19
- King Sennacherib's defeat - 2 Kings 19:35-37

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- Prayer, revelation, and providential discipline

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“Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. **Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness.**” Romans 11:19-22

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“One event can look very much like severity and judgment (like the sudden violent death of mother), but in fact be a great kindness (because, unknown to anyone, she had a terrible disease that would have caused excruciating pain for months and then death). Or an event can look like a great kindness and blessing (like the windfall of winning the lottery), but in fact is severity and judgment (as lives are ruined by the love of money). Often one event is both — severity for one and kindness for another, depending on who is trusting God in it and who is angry at God in it.” – *John Piper*

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“My house shall be a house of prayer for all people... and I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.” Isaiah 56:7-8

2021