

Lesson 9

The Story of Tiglathpileser

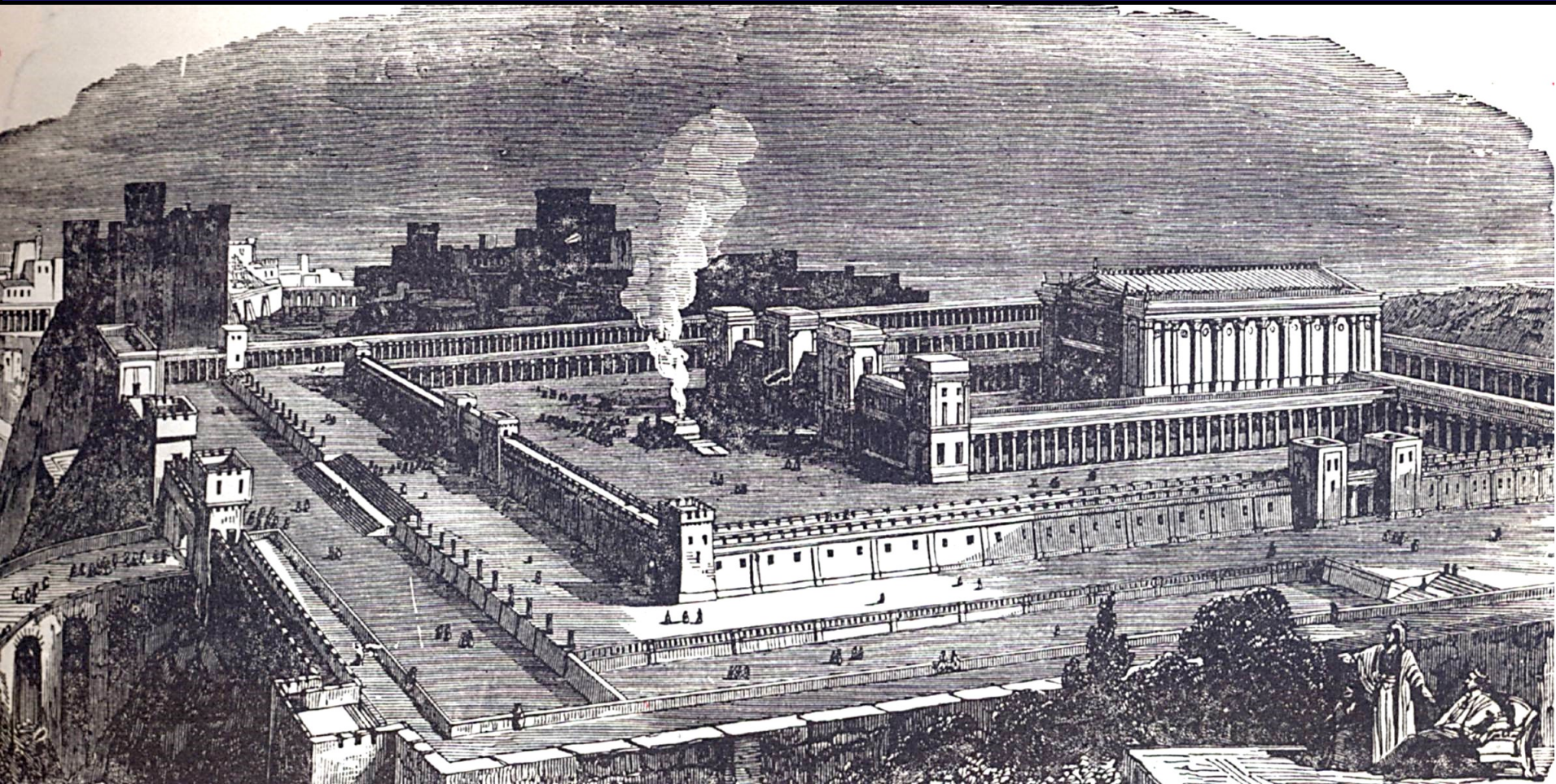
**CONTEXT FOR THIS
STORY:**

Joash king of Judah was brought out of hiding at seven years old, and his grandmother, Queen Athaliah, was assassinated so he could take her place as ruler.

The coup was bloody and dramatic, but the plan and purpose of it was righteous.



The overthrow was led by a faithful priest and carried out by Levites and others who knew Joash was the rightful king. His reign lasted for forty years and is considered to be one of the more faithful to God because he repaired the temple.





Joash's son, **Amaziah**, reigned 29 years and also did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but he was murdered in a conspiracy.



Amaziah's son, **Uzziah**, became king of Judah next at the age of 16 and ruled 52 years. He sought the Lord and prospered, but when he violated God's law by offering incense God struck him with leprosy from which he suffered until his death.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Ahaziah
Athaliah
Joash
Amaziah
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jehoahaz
Jehoiakim
Jehoiachin
Zedekiah

Jonah, Joel,
Amos, Hosea,
and Isaiah
prophesied
during the long
reign of **Uzziah**
king of Judah.

Hosea continued
on prophesying
after the death of
Uzziah and
through kings
Jotham, **Ahaz**,
and **Hezekiah**.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	Song of Solomon
Exodus	<u>Isaiah</u>
Leviticus	Jeremiah
Numbers	Lamentations
Deuteronomy	Ezekiel
Joshua	Daniel
Judges	<u>Hosea</u>
Ruth	<u>Joel</u>
1 & 2 Samuel	<u>Amos</u>
1 & 2 Kings	Obadiah
1 & 2 Chronicles	<u>Jonah</u>
Ezra	Micah
Nehemiah	Nahum
Esther	Habakkuk
Job	Zephaniah
Psalms	Haggai
Proverbs	Zechariah
Ecclesiastes	Malachi

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Zedekiah

Isaiah's ministry was even longer; through the reign of **Manasseh** the son of **Hezekiah**. The prophet Micah's ministry didn't begin until the reign of **Jotham** and accompanied Isaiah's through King **Hezekiah**. He died during the early part of **Manasseh's** reign.

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KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam
Nadab
Baasha
Elah
Zimri
Omri
Ahab
Ahaziah
Joram
Jehu
Jehoahaz
Joash
Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Shallum
Menahem
Pekahiah
Pekah
Hoshea

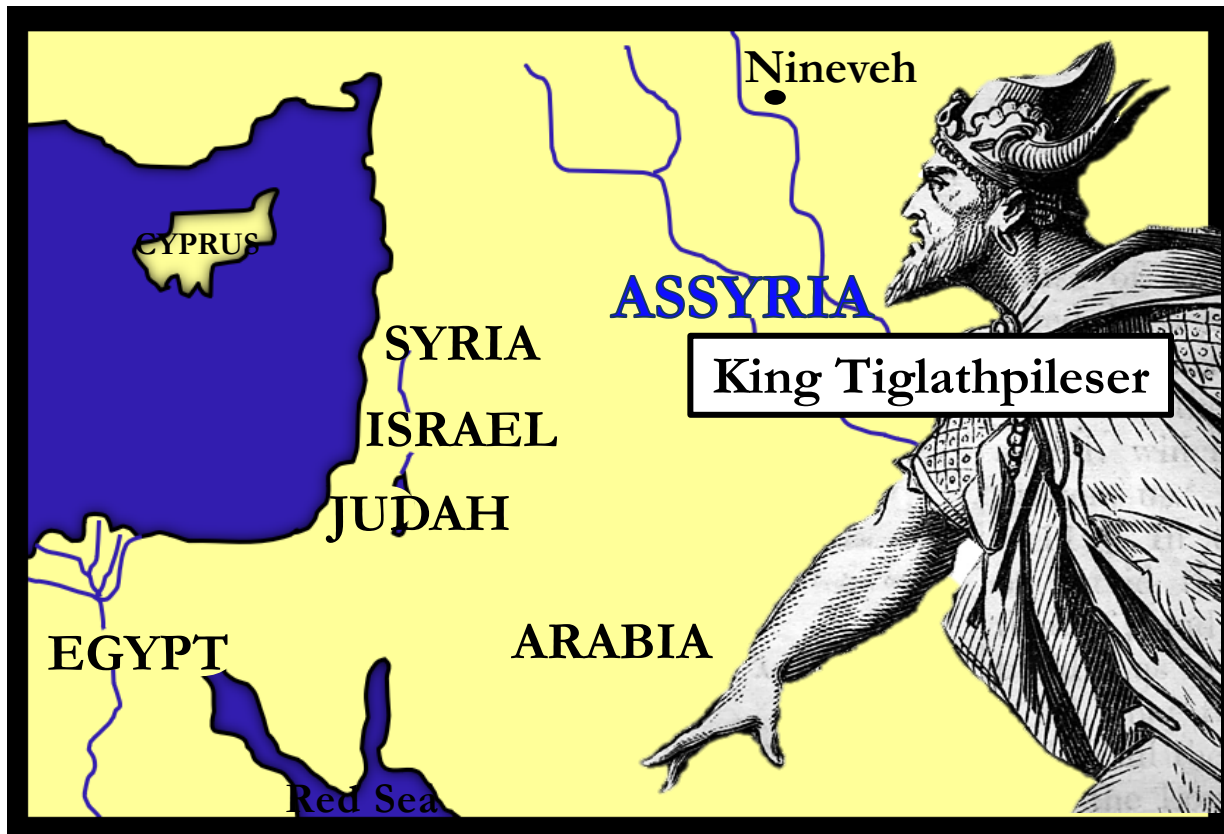
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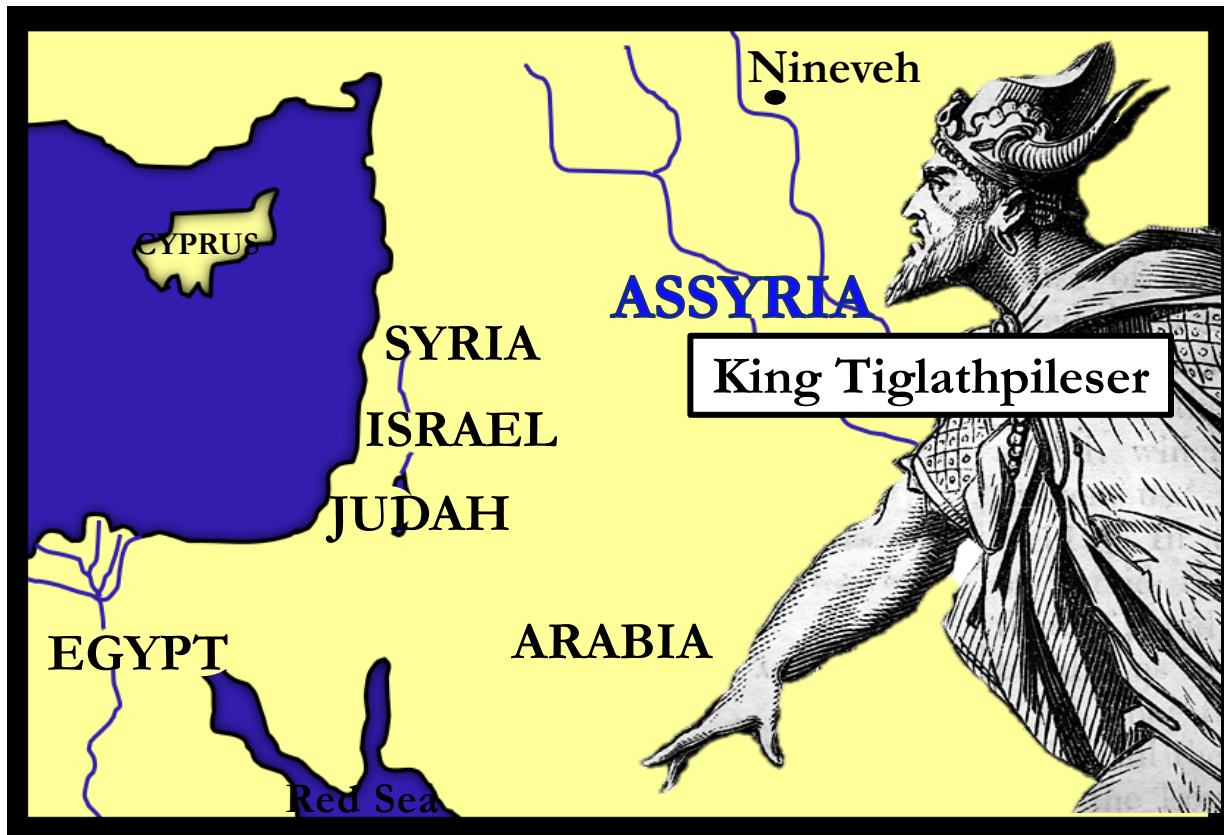
Several kings of Israel came and went during this period beginning with **Jeroboam II**.

The wicked kings of Israel ignored God's prophets and the nation would finally be taken into Assyrian captivity.

AND NOW FOR OUR STORY

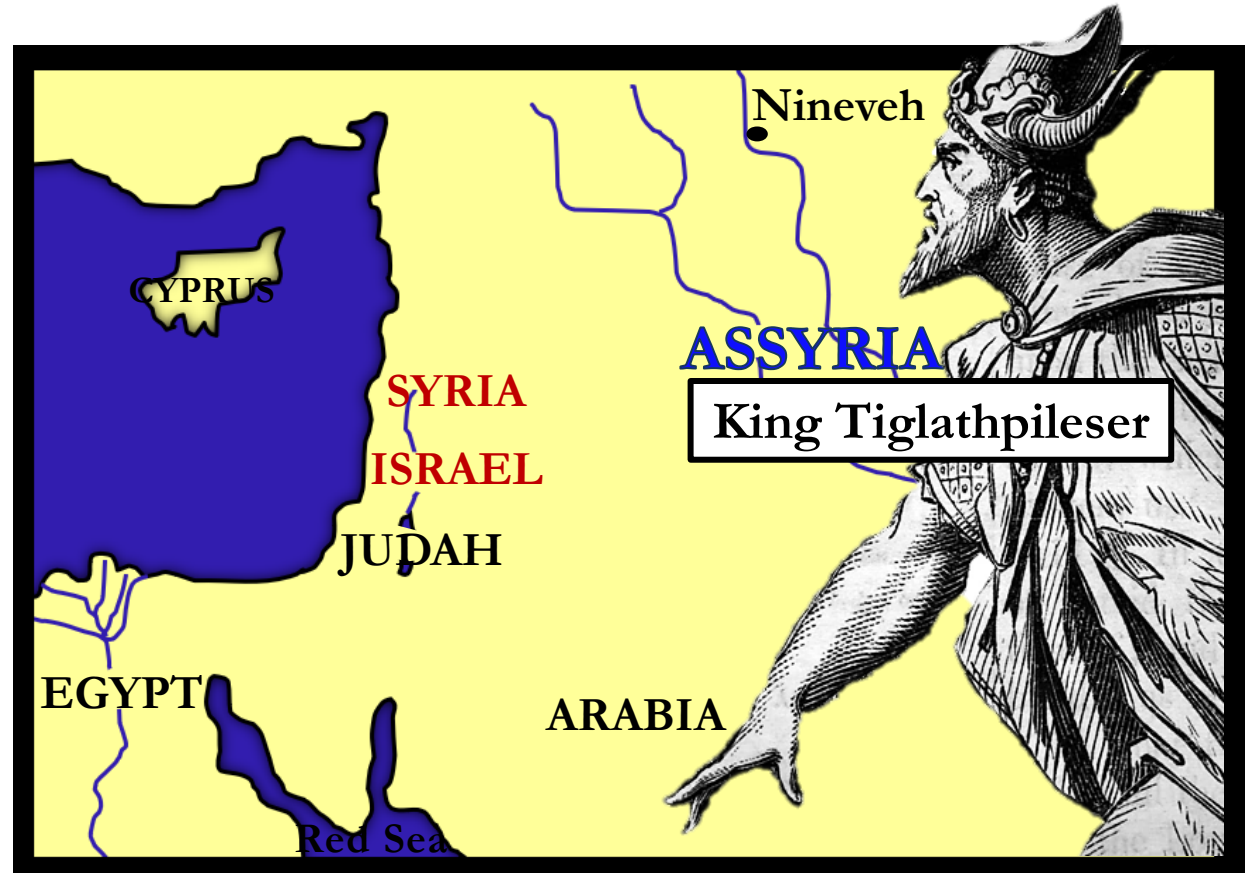


After careful consideration the choice of a story for this lesson is not a faithful prophet, but the wicked idolatrous foreign king of Assyria, Tiglathpileser.



Tiglathpileser's greed and cruelty brought about a war commonly known as the Syro-Ephraimite War.

Syro refers to **Syria** and Ephraimite to **Israel**. Ephraim was the main tribe of the Northern Kingdom at this time in history thus often referred to in the biblical text as Ephraim rather than Israel.



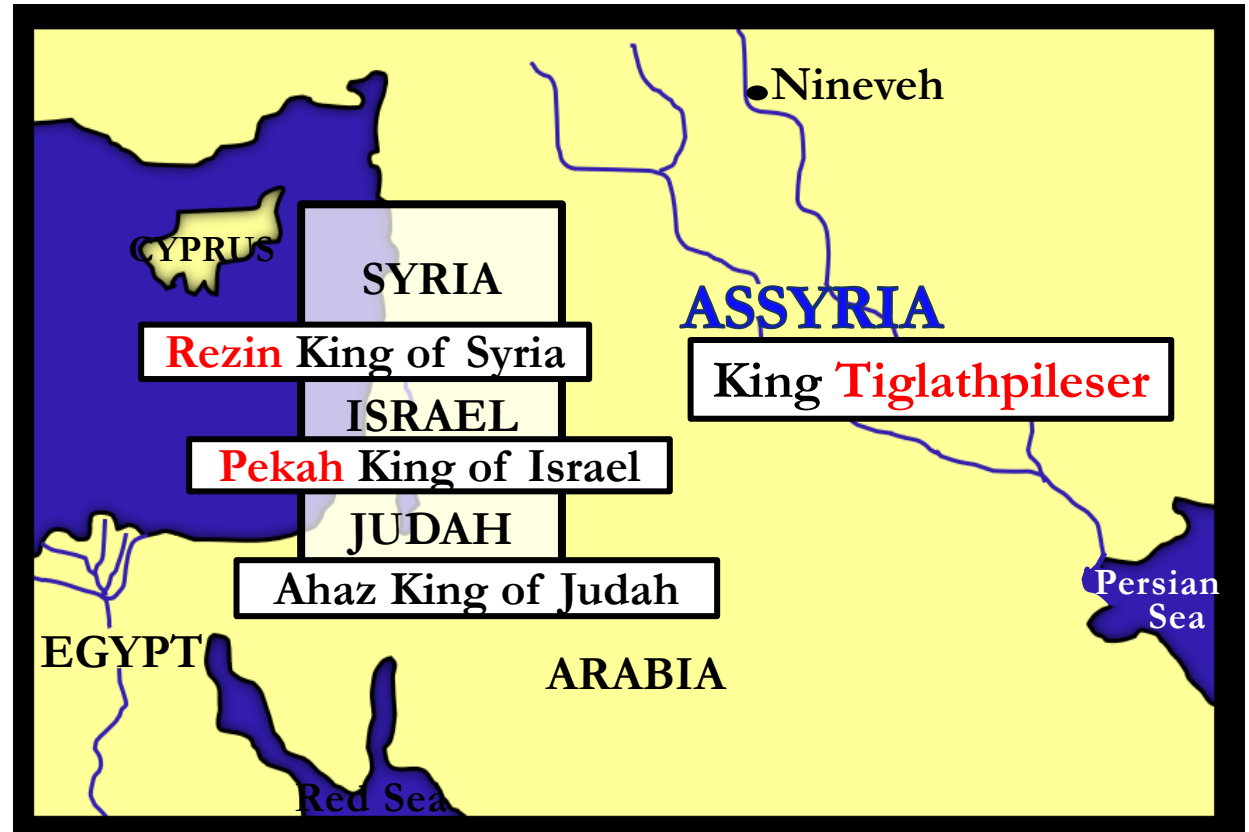
Israel was nearing its doom when Hosea prophesied.

Hosea warned against the moral degradation of the kingdom, denounced foreign alliances, and predicted Assyrian captivity.



Pekah king of Israel ignored Hosea's warning.

Pekah formed an alliance with **Rezin** king of Syria to resist **Tiglathpileser** king of the powerful Assyrian empire who was determined to dominate the nations around him.

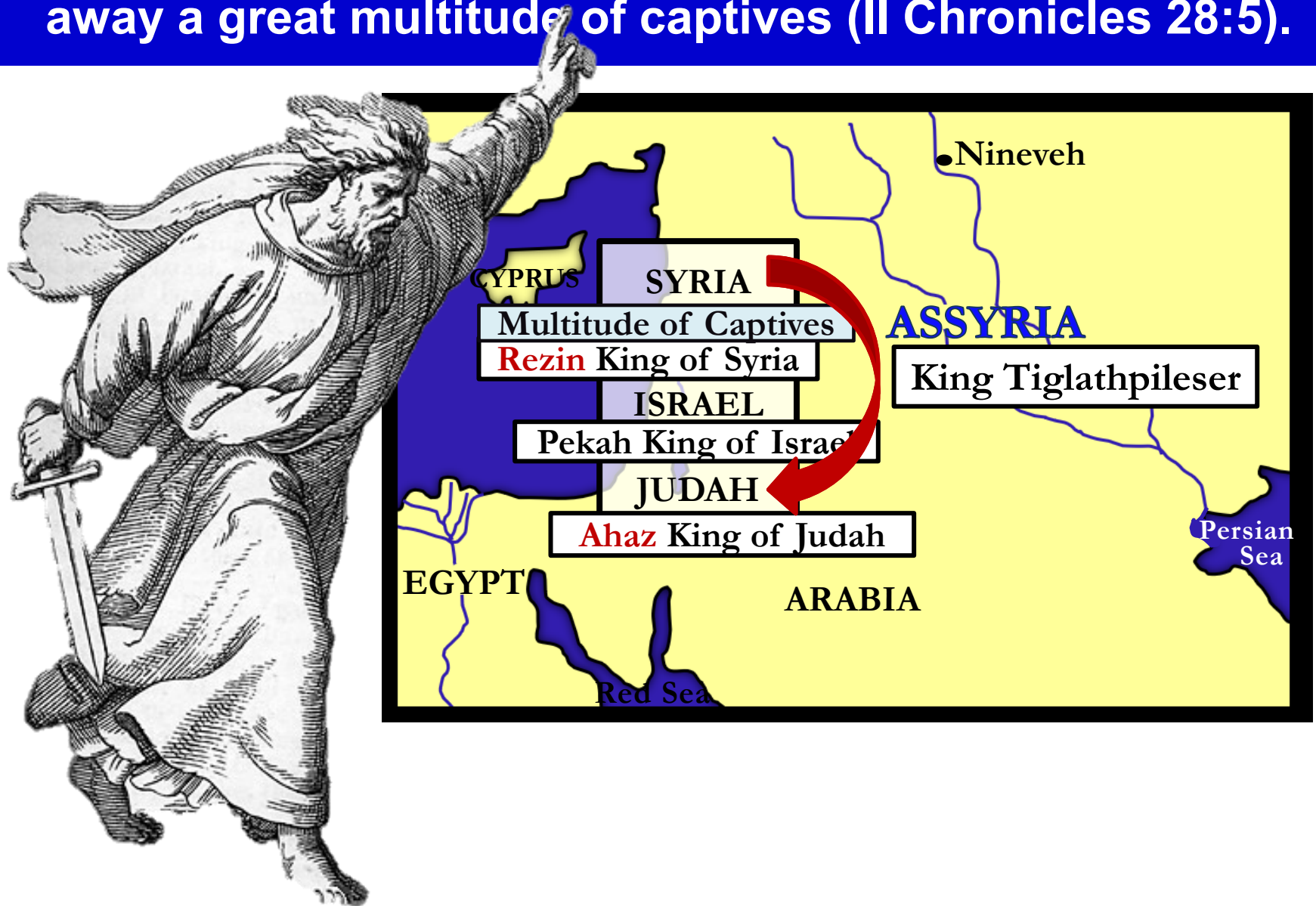


Ahaz king of Judah refused to join the alliance with Pekah and Rezin, so they resolved to dethrone Ahaz.

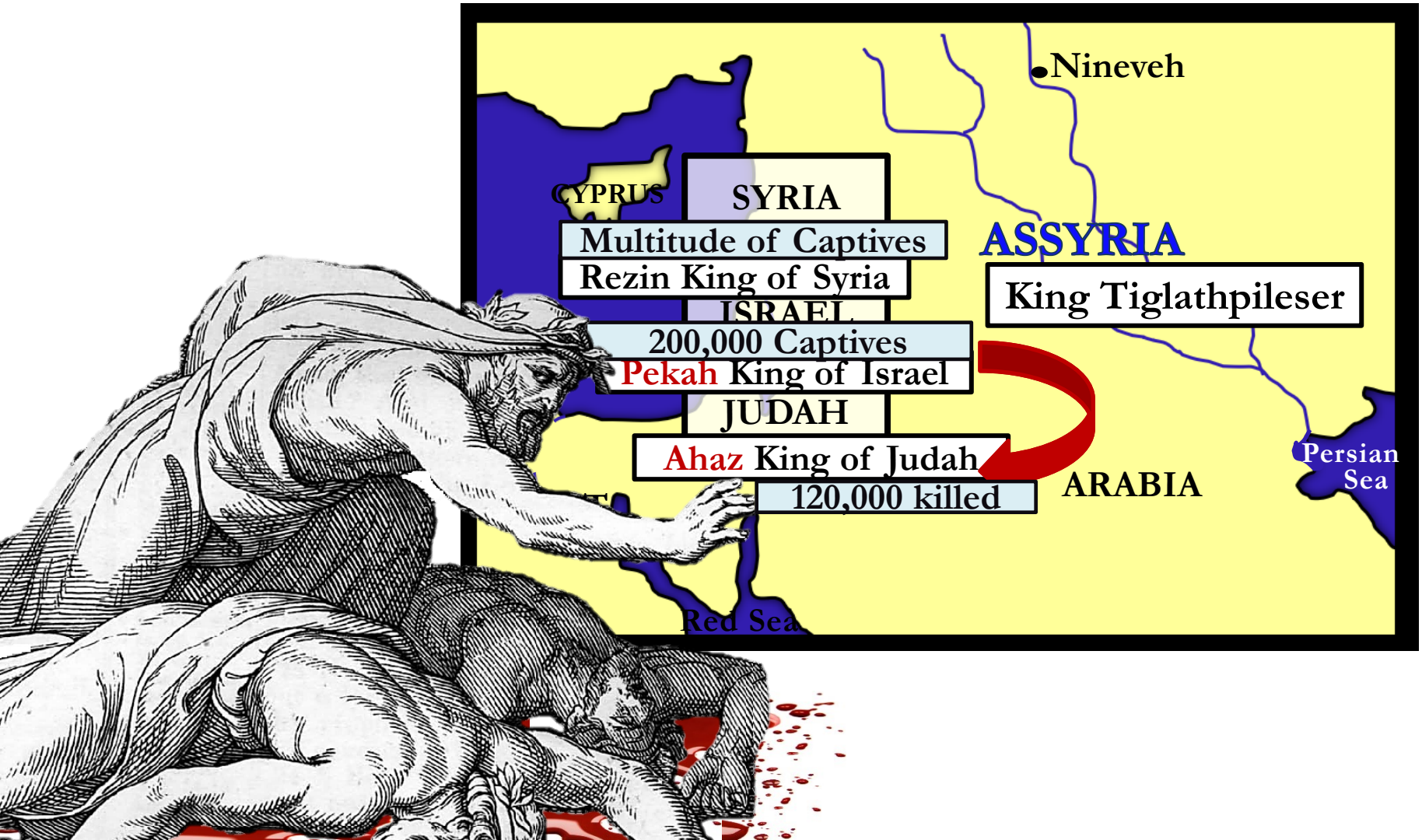
Whatever King **Ahaz's** reason may have been to reject the alliance it was not because he feared God, for he worshipped idols and burnt his children in the fire to Moloch (II Chronicles 28:3).



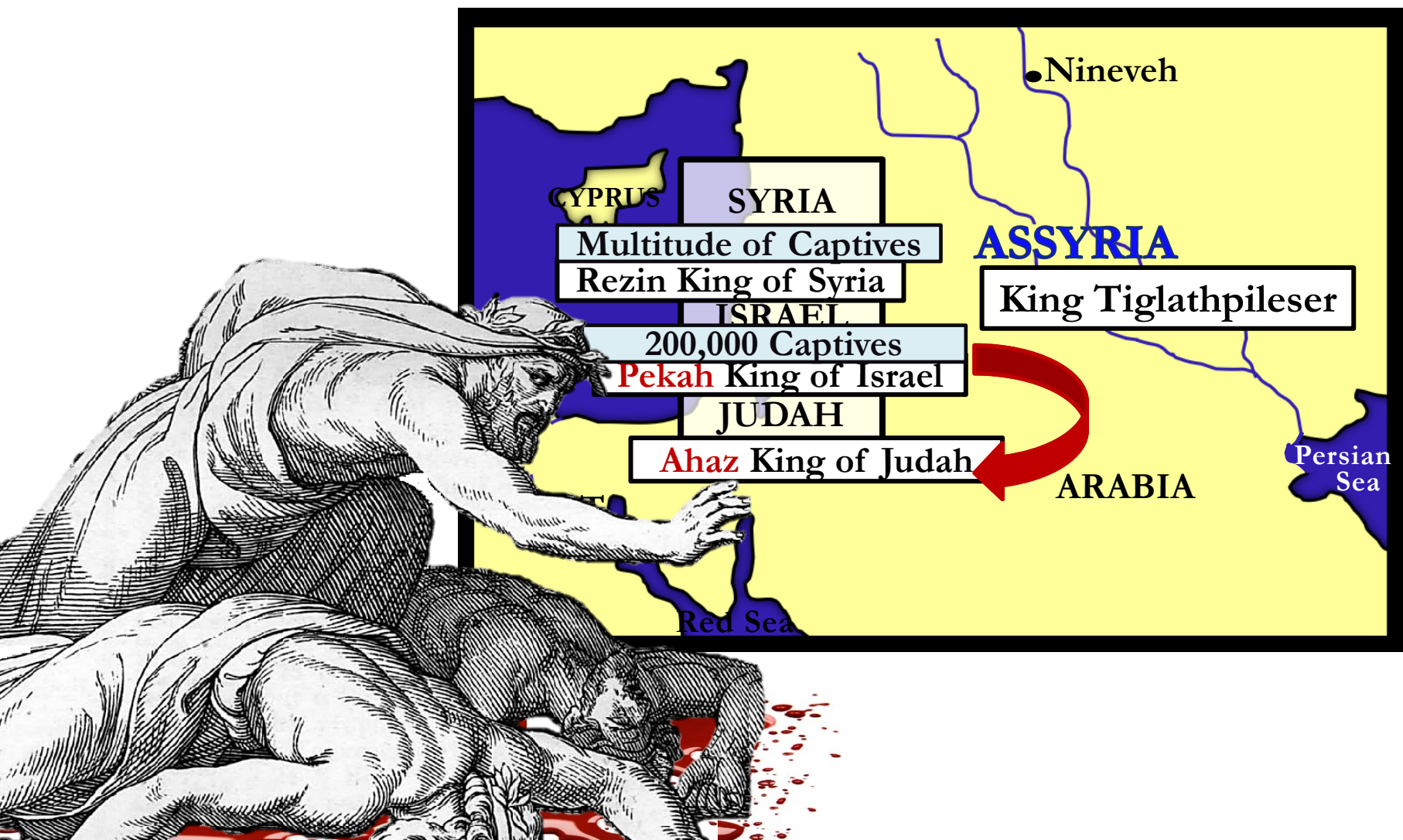
When King Ahaz refused to join the alliance Rezin king of Syria sent his army into Judah and carried away a great multitude of captives (II Chronicles 28:5).



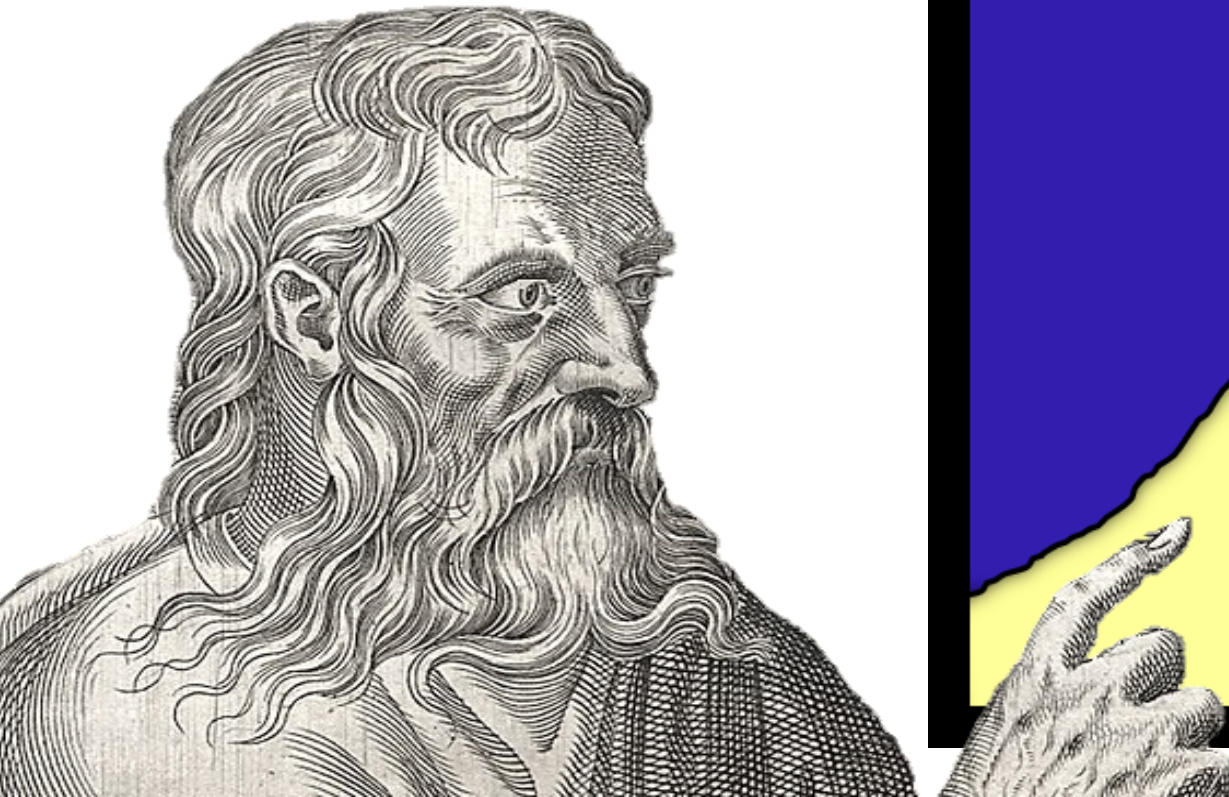
Then Pekah King of Israel made his attack and slew 120,000 in one day, then captured 200,000, and stole many valuable things (II Chronicles 28:6-8).



They captured men, women, and children, but they failed to capture King Ahaz though his son and the governor of his house were slain.



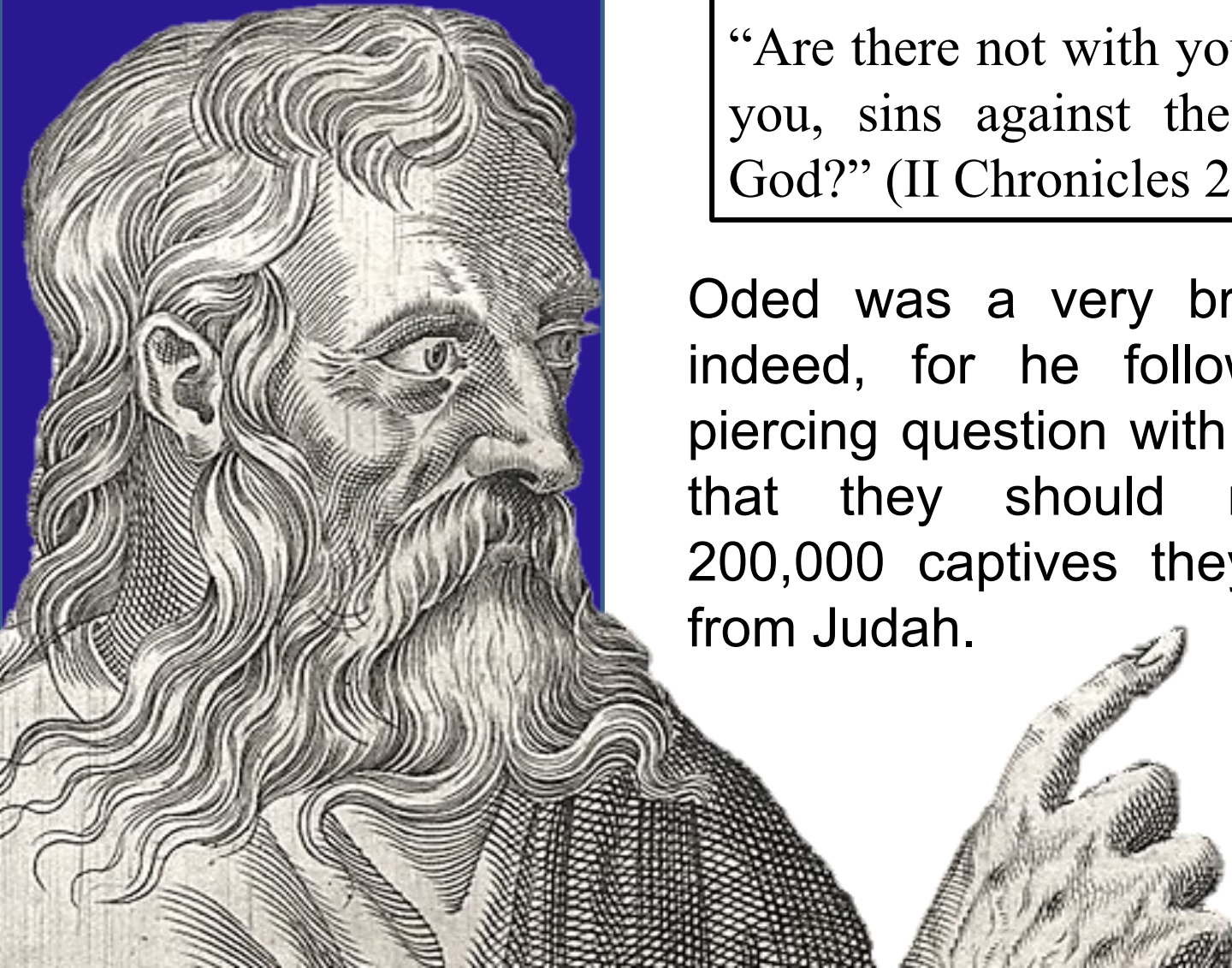
Following Israel's attack against Judah a prophet named Oded proclaimed to the citizens of **Samaria** (Israel's capital) that the reason God had given them the victory was because he was angry at the sins of Judah.



Then Oded posed this question to the men of Israel,

“Are there not with you, even with you, sins against the Lord your God?” (II Chronicles 28:9-10).

Oded was a very brave prophet indeed, for he followed up his piercing question with the demand that they should release the 200,000 captives they had taken from Judah.



It is surprising that some of those listening to Obed agreed with him!

The names of these Israelite men who feared God and stood on the side of Obed were:

Azariah
Berechiah
Jehizkiah
Amasa



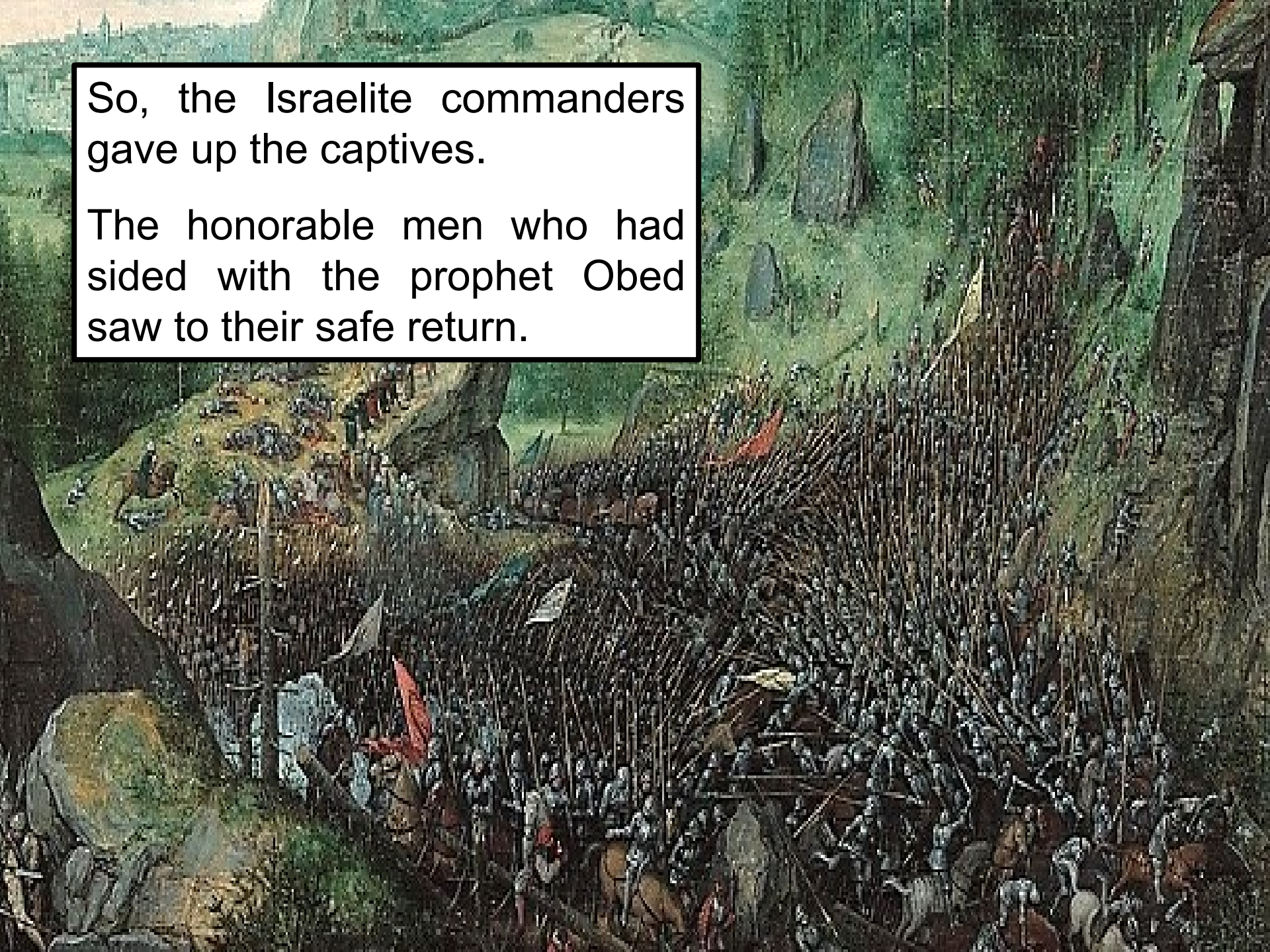
These four men told their military commanders:

“Ye shall not bring in the captives hither: for whereas we have offended against the Lord already, ye intend to add more to our sins and to our trespass.”



So, the Israelite commanders gave up the captives.

The honorable men who had sided with the prophet Obed saw to their safe return.



They clothed the captives that were naked, put shoes on them, fed them, anointed them, and returned them to their land. They even carried the feeble on donkeys. What an enormous task for 200,000 captives!



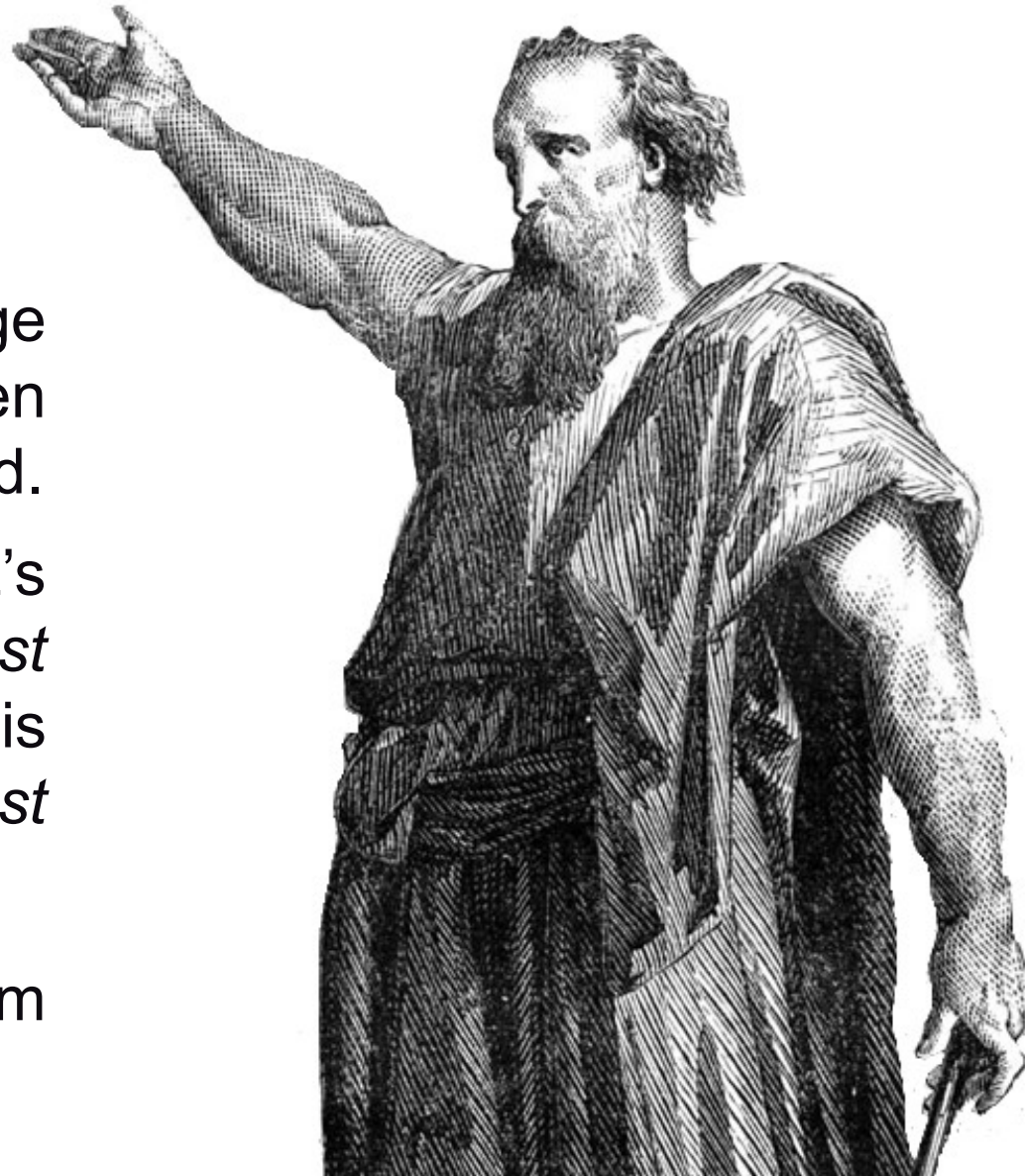
THIS MUST BE WHEN ISAIAH GOT INVOLVED.

“Then the Lord said unto Isaiah, go forth now to meet Ahaz” (Isaiah 7:3).

God had Isaiah encourage Ahaz in his distress even though Ahaz was so wicked.

His kindness was for Ahaz’s father’s sake, “*Who must not be forgotten,*” and for his people’s sake, “*Who must not be abandoned.*”

Ahaz’s father was Jotham King of Judah.



The reference to Jotham King of Judah

causes us to want to take a quick look at his reign: When Jotham was 25 years old his father, King Uzziah, was struck with leprosy and Jotham took on the responsibilities of the kingdom. From then on Uzziah was king in name only for his illness isolated him.



Jotham proved to be a good king though the moral condition of the kingdom was corrupt. He increased the kingdom by building towers, castles, and cities. He built a gate for the upper court of the temple. He respected the temple and did not profane it as other kings had done.

REFERENCES: II Kings 15:5; II Chronicles 26:21; 27:2-3

BACK TO ISAIAH 7

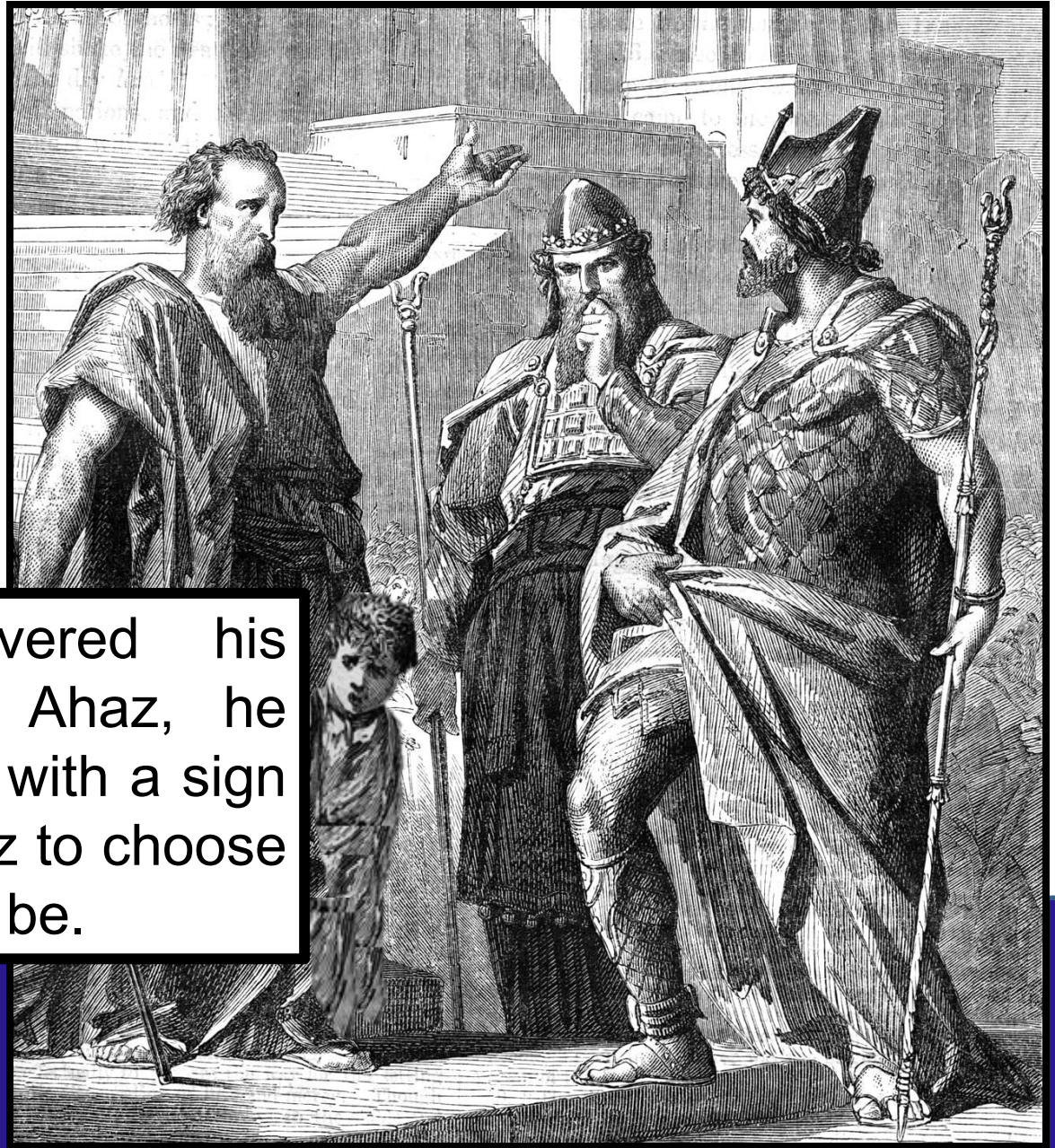


**Isaiah told
Ahaz King of Judah
that
Rezin King of Syria
and
Pekah King of Israel
were two tails of
smoking firebrands.**



Yes, these kings were angry and fierce, but they were only smoking firebrands—smoldering into a dying ember. They would eventually be defeated.

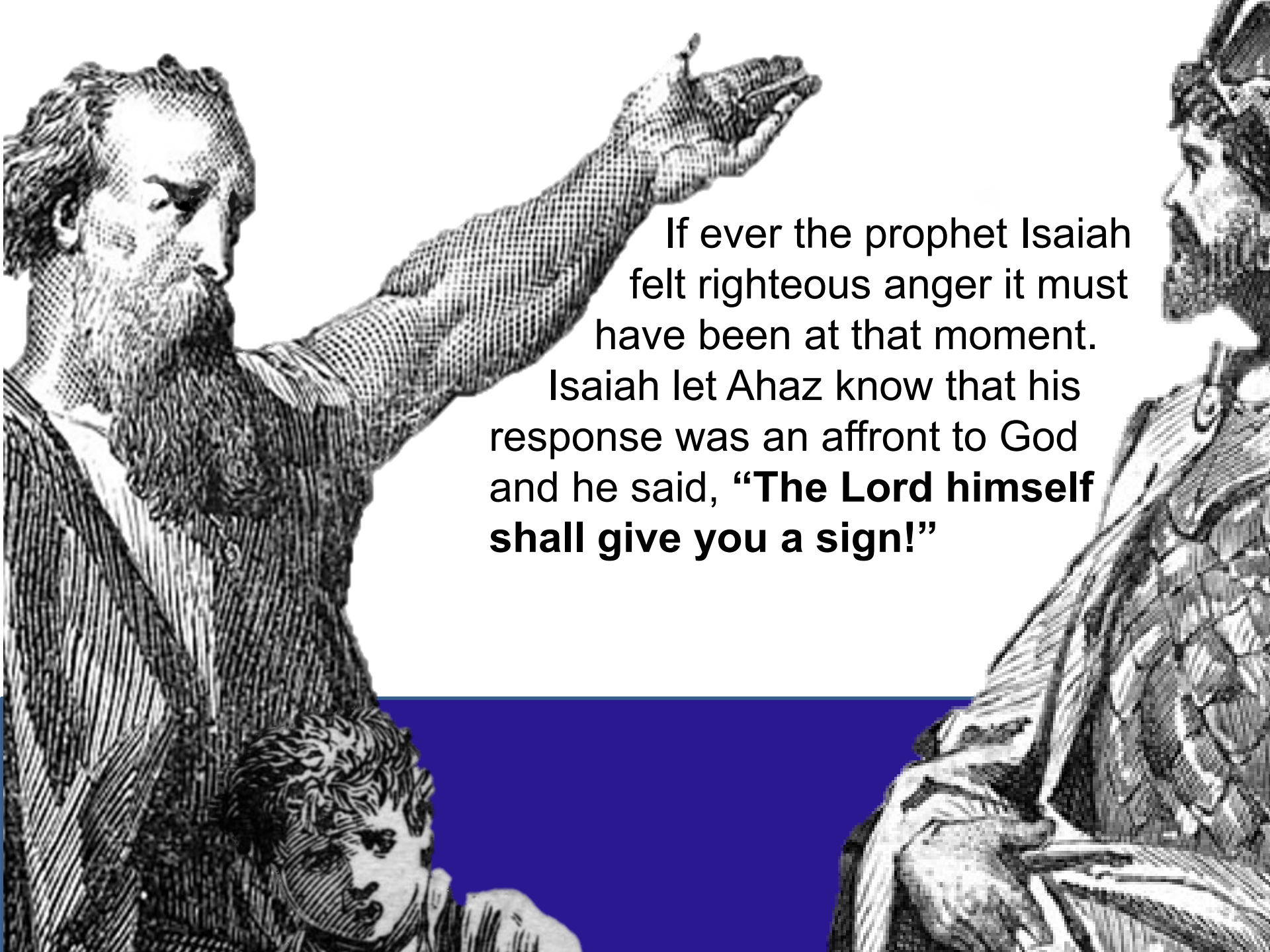
After Isaiah delivered his prophecy to King Ahaz, he offered to confirm it with a sign and left it up to Ahaz to choose what the sign would be.



King Ahaz was wicked and had no respect for Isaiah's message. He was so loyal to his heathen gods that he did not want to give a prophet of God the gratification of confirming his prophecy. But, since the prophecy was favorable to Ahab, he gave this hypocritical answer—

“I will not tempt the Lord.”





If ever the prophet Isaiah felt righteous anger it must have been at that moment. Isaiah let Ahaz know that his response was an affront to God and he said, **“The Lord himself shall give you a sign!”**



The sign from the Lord was . . .

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

This prophecy of the coming Savior was God’s favor to the house of David and to all who are his loving obedient children.

Isaiah continued with a prophecy that the kings of Syria and Israel would not only be defeated but they would die. It would happen soon—before Isaiah’s small child, who was with him that day, was old enough to know how to refuse evil and choose good (Isaiah 7:3).



Isaiah 7:3

God had instructed Isaiah to take his son with him when he spoke to Ahaz because he carried a sermon in his name:

Shearjashub—*A remnant shall return*

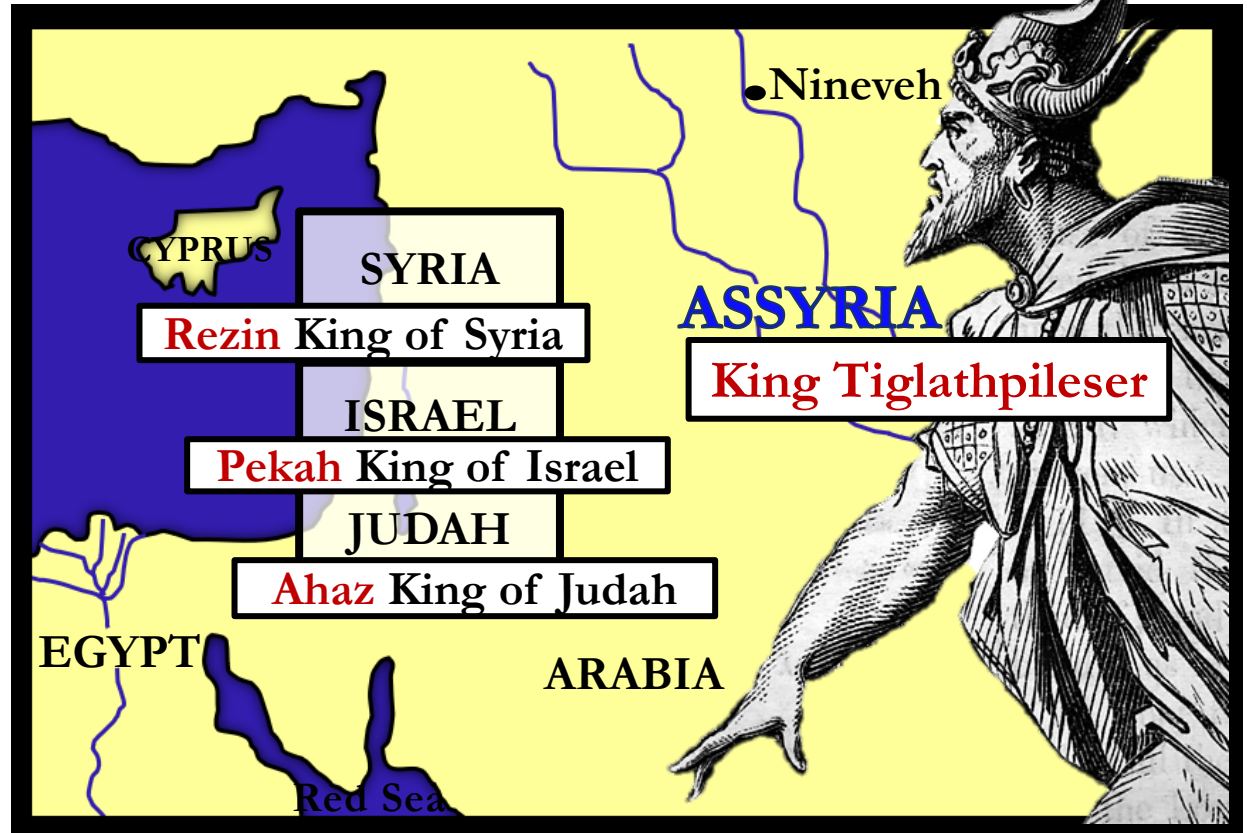
Isaiah's prophecies gave King Ahaz hope of revenge upon Syria and Israel for their attacks upon Judah.

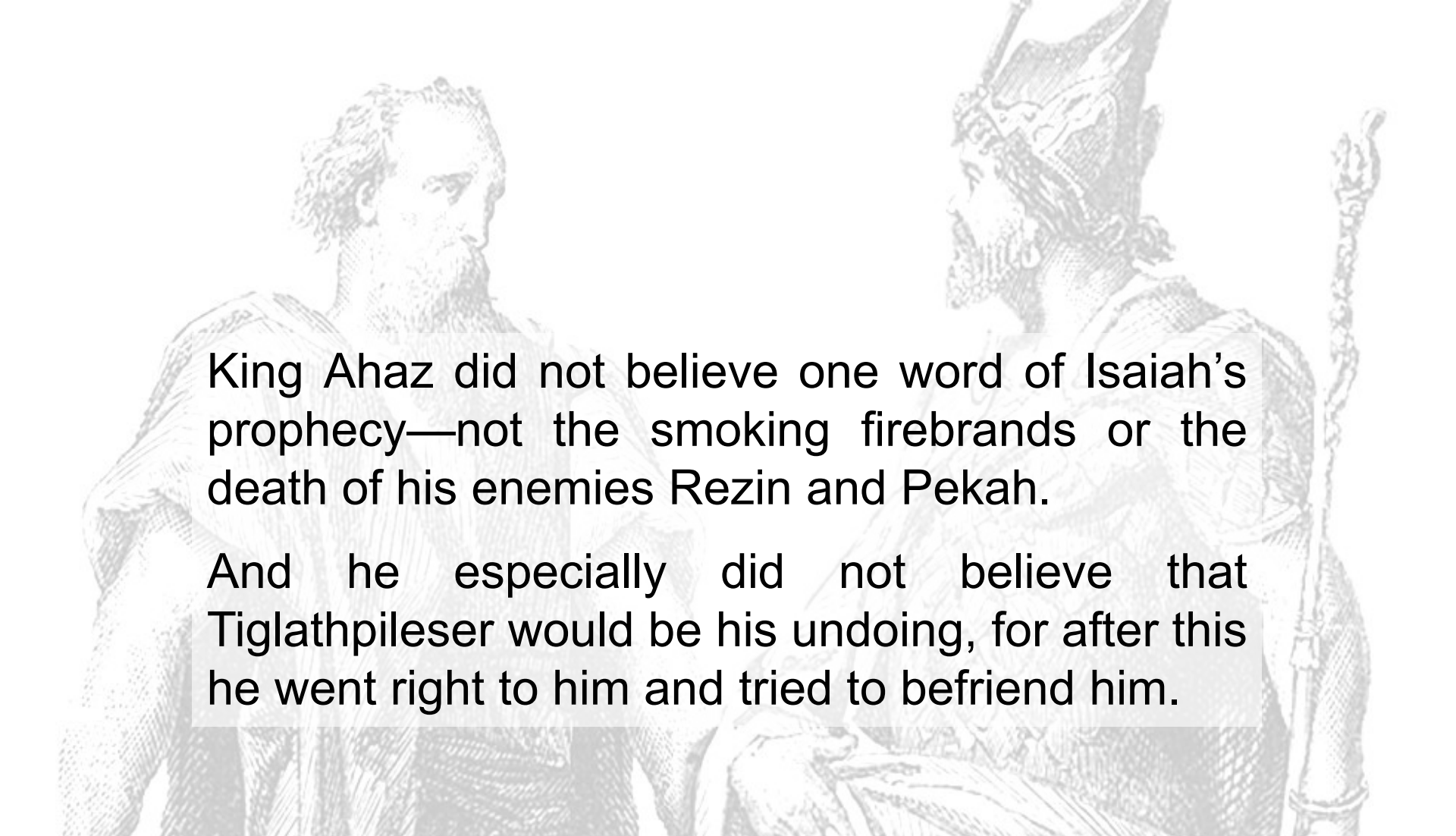
Isaiah ended his meeting with King Ahaz by delivering God's judgment against Ahaz and Judah.

The instrument of his judgment?

**Tiglathpileser
King of Assyria**

(Isaiah 7:17).





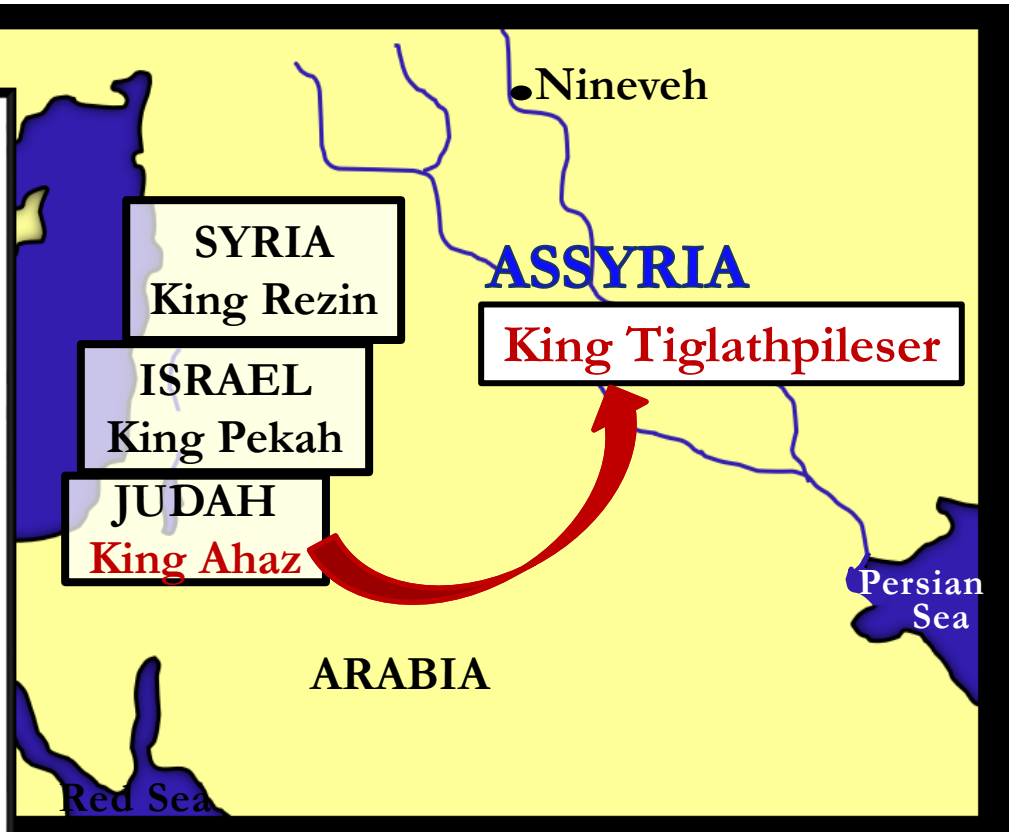
King Ahaz did not believe one word of Isaiah's prophecy—not the smoking firebrands or the death of his enemies Rezin and Pekah.

And he especially did not believe that Tiglathpileser would be his undoing, for after this he went right to him and tried to befriend him.

Ahaz went to Tiglathpileser for help against Syria and Israel.

II Kings 16

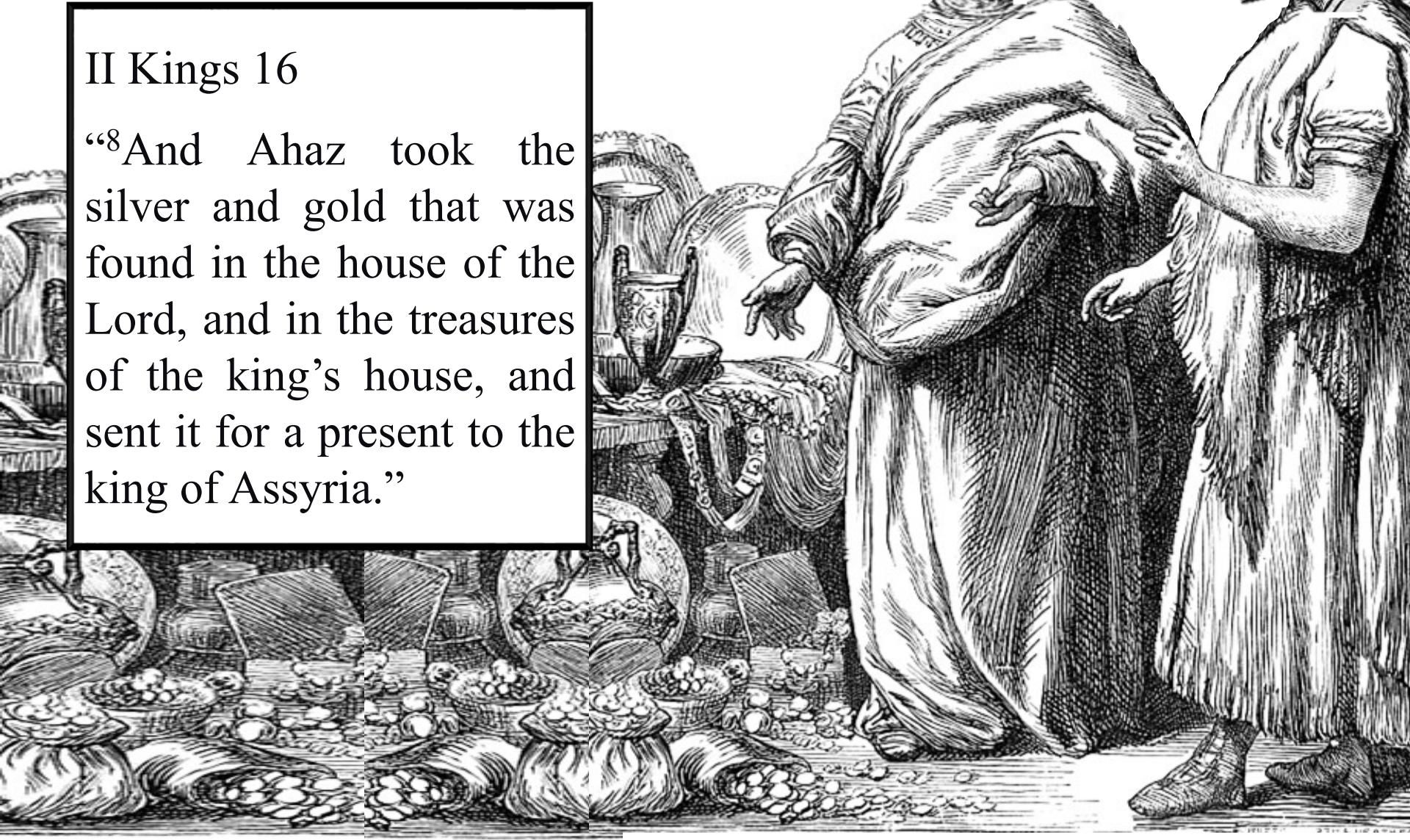
“⁷So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.”



Ahaz sent a bribe to Tiglathpileser to get his help.

II Kings 16

“⁸And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king’s house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria.”



Tiglathpileser accepted King Ahaz's gifts but did not help him.

Ahaz was desperate. He even sacrificed to the gods of his enemy Syria.

II Chronicles 28

“²³[Ahaz] said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. **But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.**”

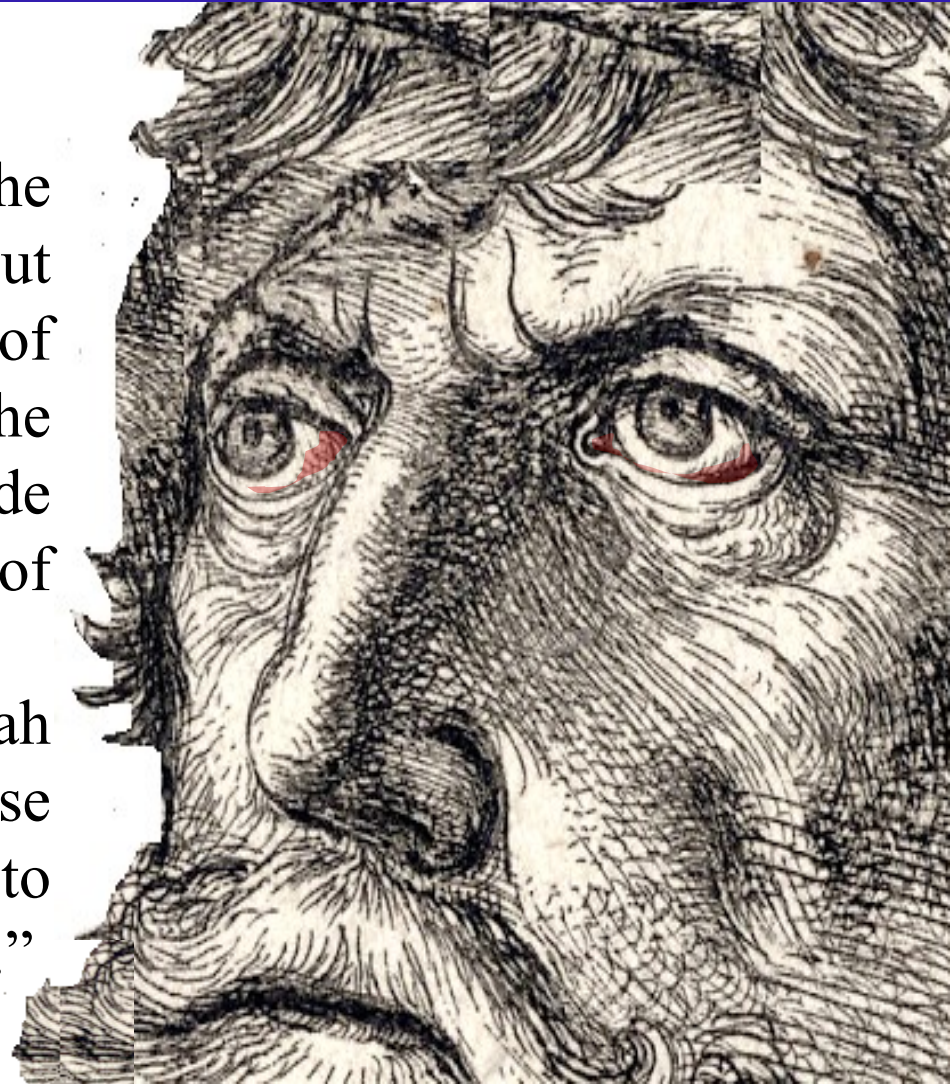


Ahaz fought against God in every way he knew how.

II Chronicles 28

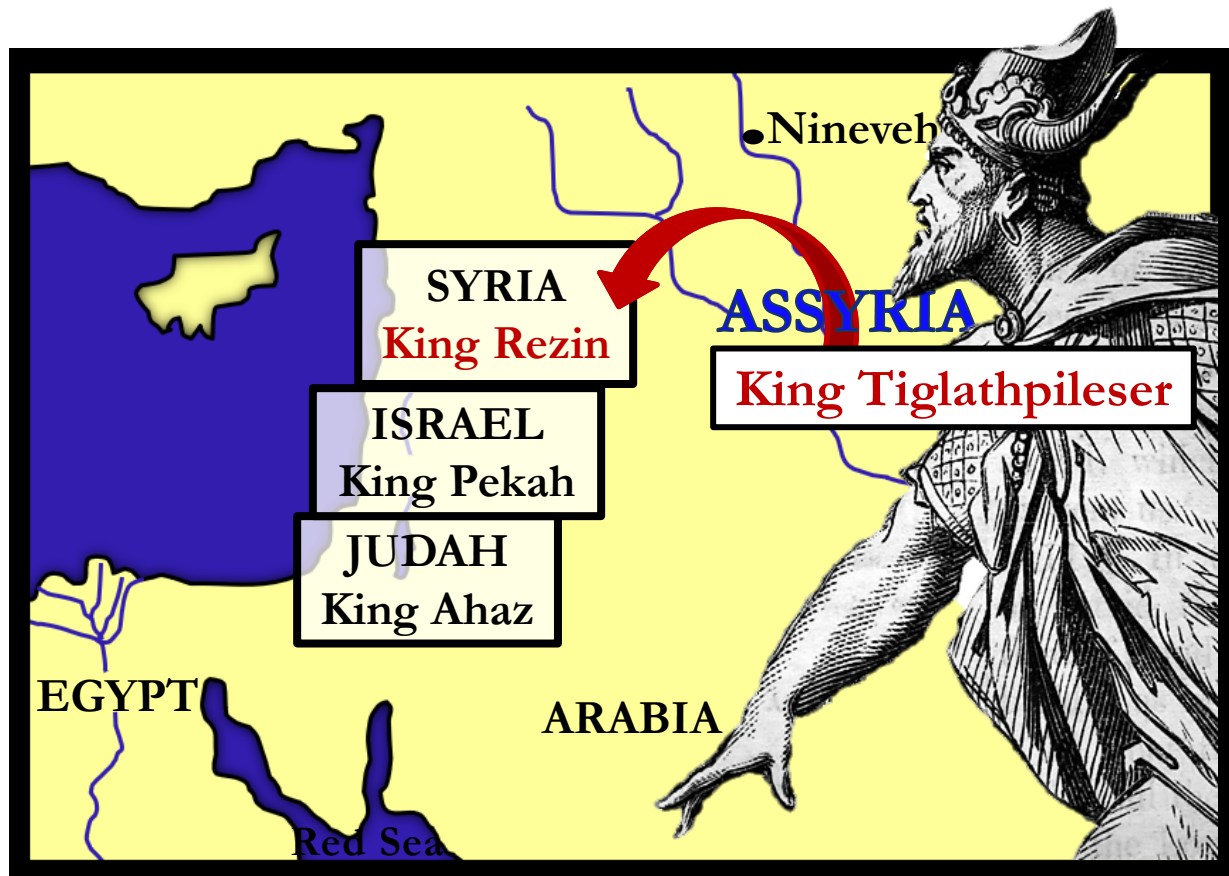
“²⁴ And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵ And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.”

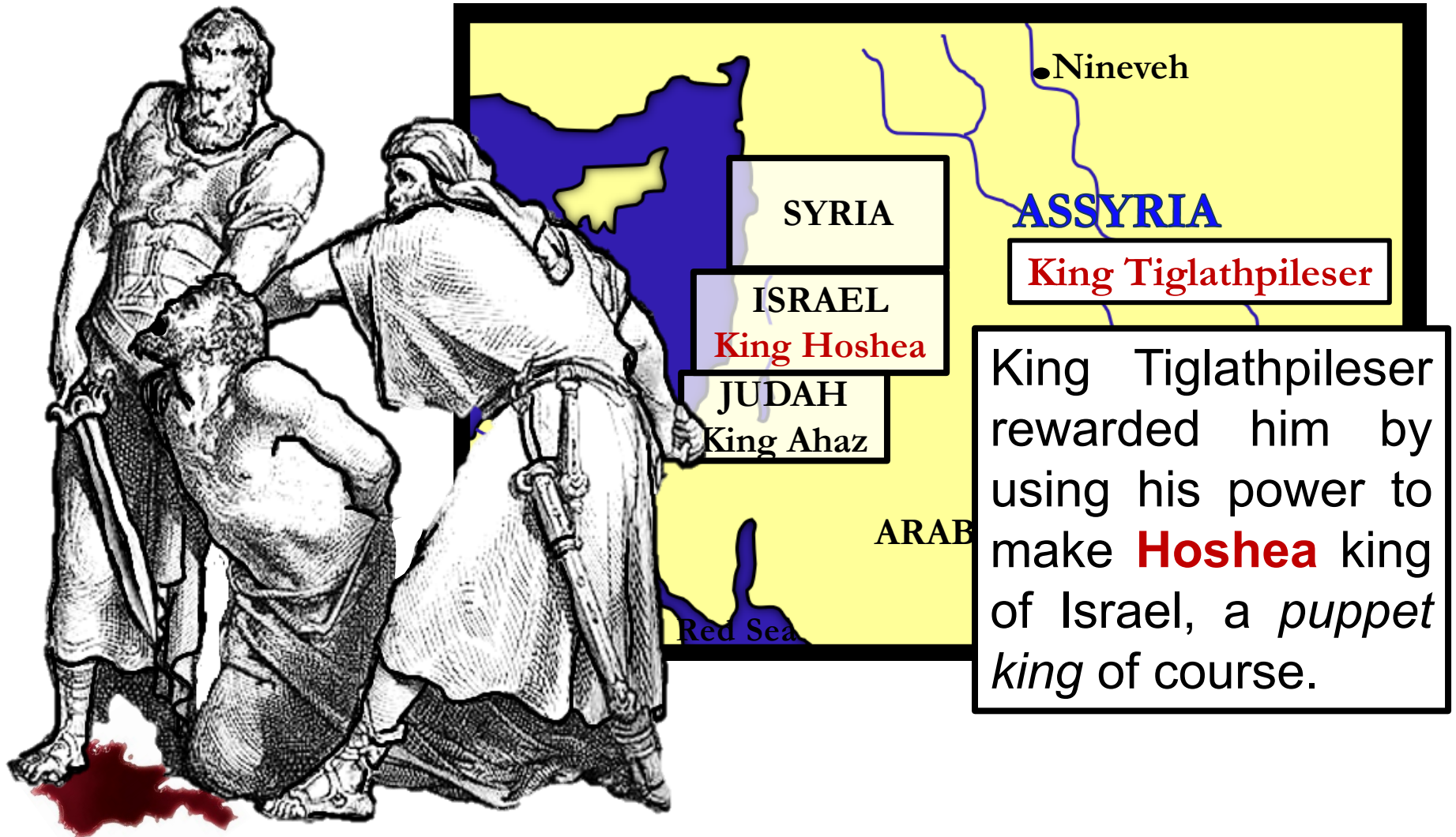


Tiglathpileser attacked Damascus the capital city of Syria, and King Rezin was killed in the attack.

This was not done because his “friend” King Ahaz had bribed him, for Tiglathpileser was seeking to dominate all these surrounding nations way before they started fighting each other.

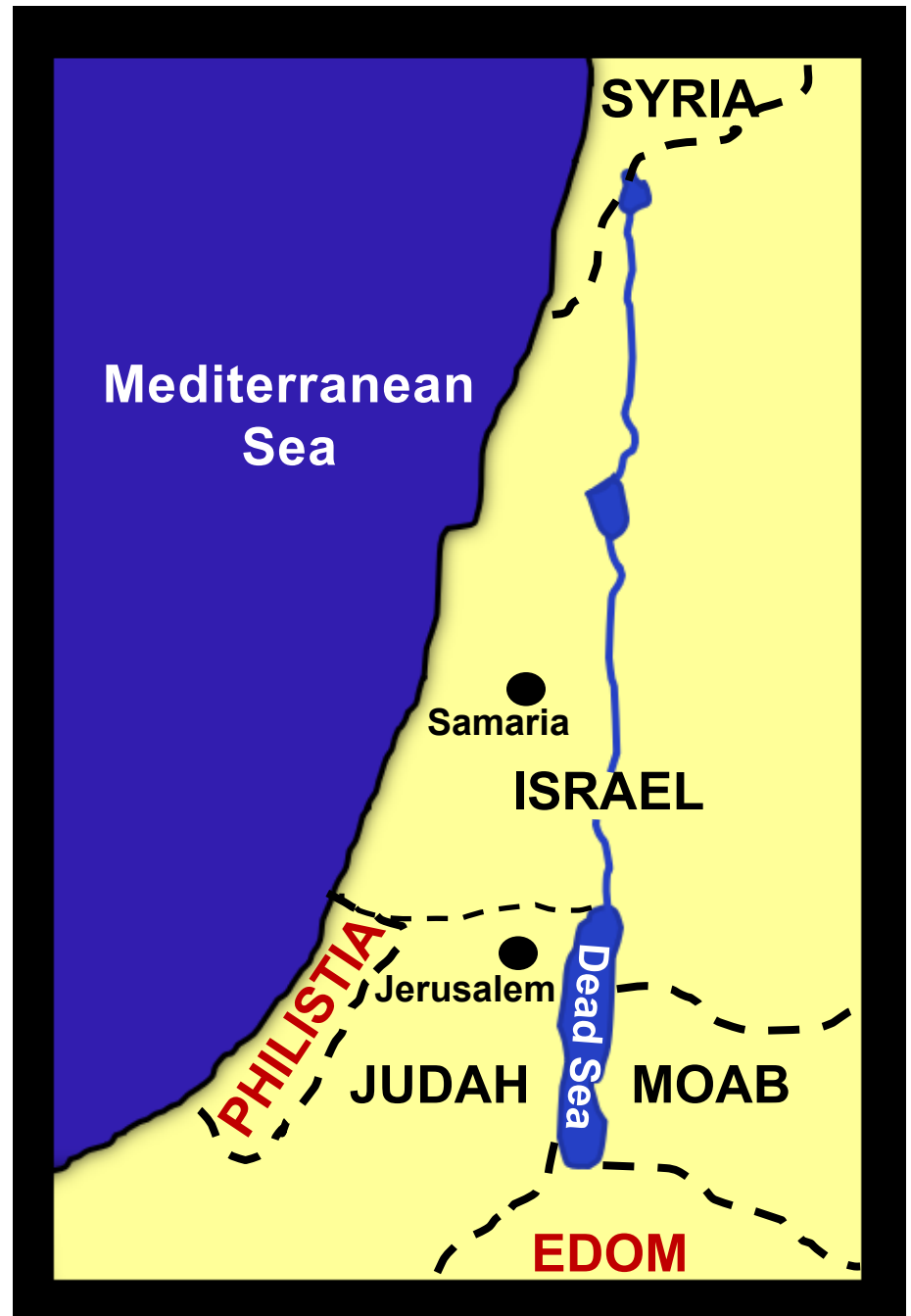


Hoshea, a captain in Israel's army assassinated his king, Pekah.



More troubles came upon Ahaz when it was seen that he could not defend Judah. **Edom** and **Philistia** attacked and took captives.

Judah was brought to her knees because of the sins of King Ahaz. But these raids and conflicts by the Edomites and Philistines did not interest Tiglathpileser. He sat back and watched.



Ahaz never recovered from Tiglathpileser's world domination.

II Chronicles 28

“²⁷And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.”



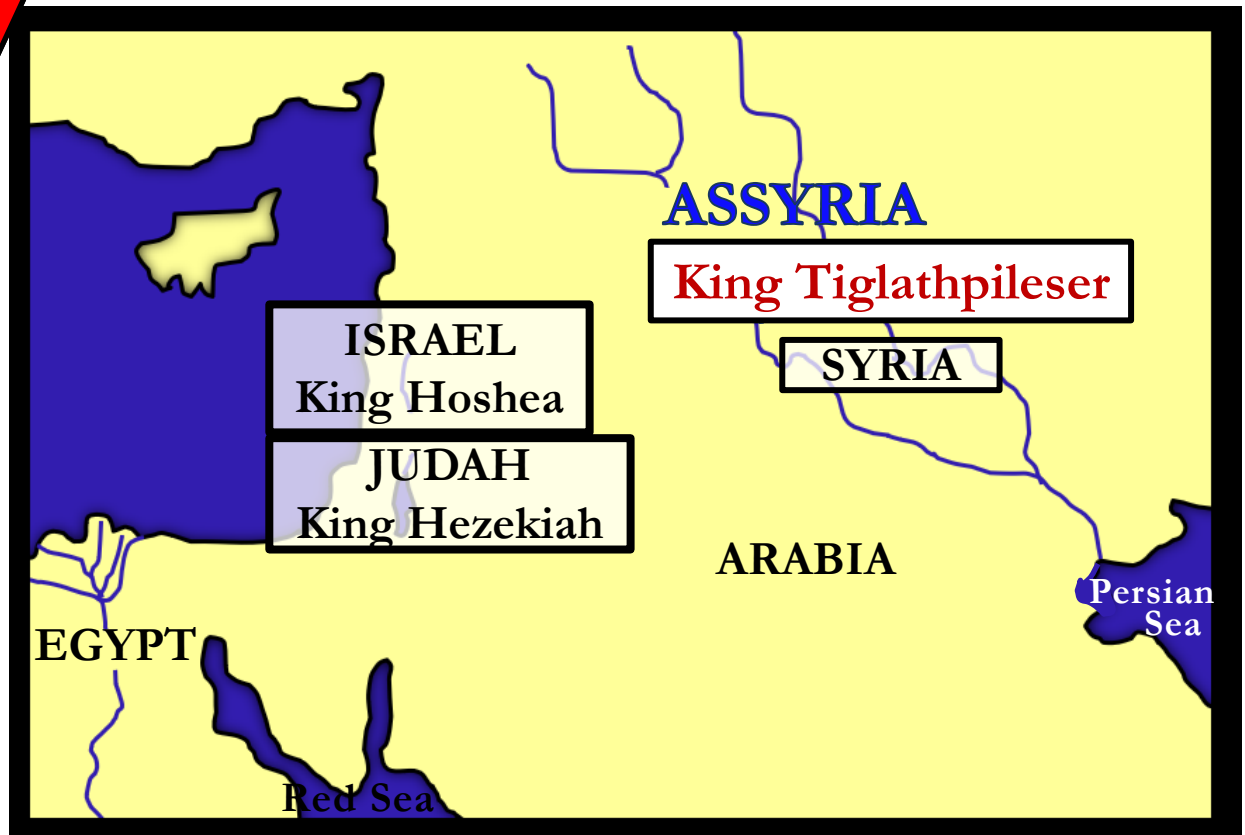
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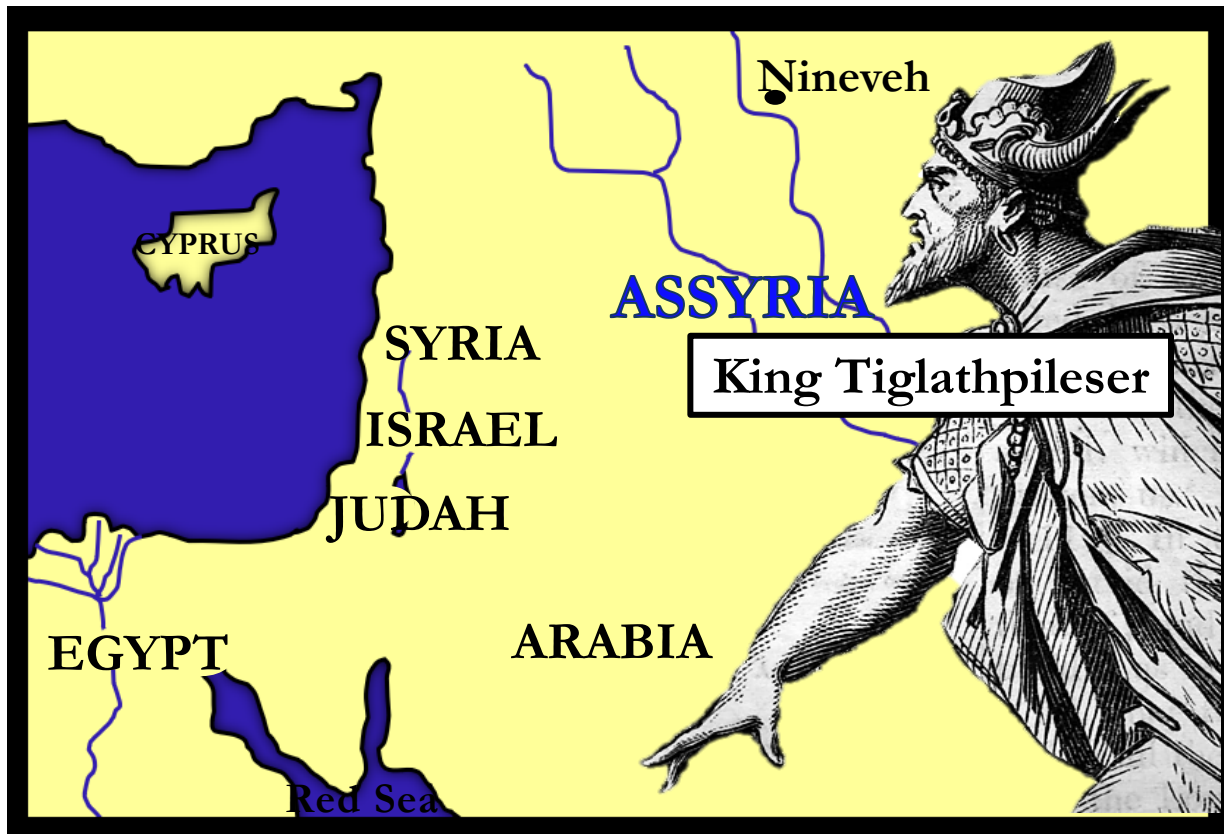
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Syria fell first to Tiglathpileser. Israel would be next though not until after Tiglathpileser's death. Judah would hang on through **7 more kings** before going into captivity.



Tiglathpileser never lost his power. He probably died in his old age of natural causes. Shalmaneser IV was the next king of Assyria.



Lesson 9

The Story of Tiglathpileser

THE END