


2 Kings 23:30-24:20
2 Chronicles 36:1-21

Kings of Judah: The Final Four

The Divided Kingdom
Sojourners Fellowship



Theme: Those who persist in rejecting the Word of the Lord are destined for a terrible outcome.

**THE
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KINGDOM**

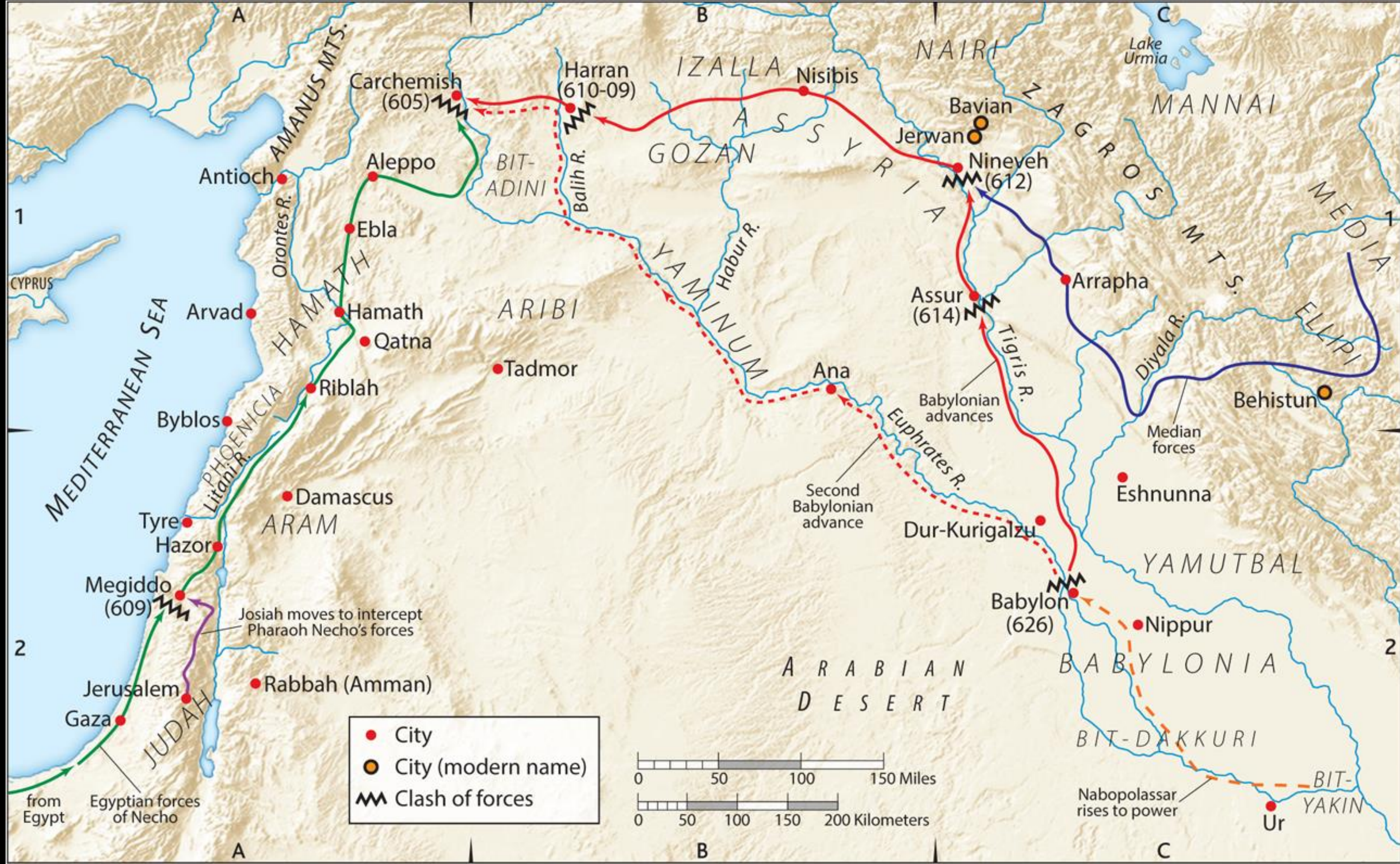
Judah's Final Four Kings

(2 Kings 23:30-24:20; 2 Chronicles 36:1-21)

The Historical Setting

- A span of about 23 years
- Judah in the midst of two great powers
- Egypt and the Babylonian Empire

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King Jehoahaz a.k.a Joahaz – 609 BC

(2 Kings 23:30 -34; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:1-4)

Lineage: Son of King Josiah (30)

Became King at Age 23 (31)

Duration of his Reign: 3 Months (31)

Nature of his Reign: Evil (32)

Key Events:

- Pharaoh Neco deposed and imprisoned him (33a)
- Neco demanded a large tribute payment (33b)
- Pharaoh Neco placed Eliakim on Judah's throne (34a)
- Neco changed his name to Jehoiakim (34b)
- Took Jehoahaz to Egypt where he died (34c)

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King Jehoiakim – 609-598 BC

(2 Kings 23:35-24:7; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:5-8)

Lineage: Son of King Josiah (34)

Became King at Age 25 (36a)

Duration of his Reign: 11 Years (36b)

Nature of his Reign: Evil (37)

Key Events:

- He paid the tribute to Egypt (35)
- Nebuchadnezzar made Judah a vassal state to Babylon
- Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah later in 605 BC and took the first group of Jews into exile (Daniel 1:1-4)

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King Jehoiakim – 609-598 BC

(2 Kings 23:35-24:7; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:5-8)

Key Events:

- Jehoiakim served Nebuchadnezzar for three years and then rebelled (24:1)
- The Lord responded in judgment (2-4)
- Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem and bound Jehoiakim in chains for exile (2 Chronicles 36:6)

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King Jehoiakim – 609-598 BC

(2 Kings 23:35-24:7; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:5-8)

A Closer Look at the Character of Jehoiakim

- He oppressed his people while building a palace for himself (Jeremiah 22:13-19)
- He killed the prophets who opposed him (Jeremiah 26:20-23)
- He burned the Word of the Lord (Jeremiah 36:1-3, 20-26)
- His reign was characterized by abominations (2 Chr. 36:8)

Jehoiakim died in late 598 BC

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King Jehoiachin – 598-597 BC

(2 Kings 24:6-17; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:9-10)

Lineage: Son of King Jehoiakim, Grandson of Josiah (6)

Became King at Age 18 (8a)

Duration of his Reign: 3 Months (8b)

Nature of his Reign: Evil (9)

Key Events:

- Nebuchadnezzar's troops laid siege to Jerusalem (10)
- Nebuchadnezzar himself came to the city (11)
- Jehoiachin surrendered (12)

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King Jehoiachin – 598-597 BC

(2 Kings 24:6-17; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:9-10)

Key Events:

- Nebuchadnezzar took treasures from the temple and from the king's palace (13)
- All the leading people were led away into exile (14-16)
- Nebuchadnezzar made Mattaniah king of Judah and changed his name to Zedekiah (17)

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King Zedekiah – 597-586 BC

(2 Kings 24:17-20; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21)

Lineage: Uncle of Jehoiachin, youngest son of Josiah (17)

Became King at Age 21 (18a)

Duration of his Reign: 11 years (18b)

Nature of his Reign: Evil (19)

Key Events:

- Rebelled against Babylon (20b)
- Rejected the Word of the Lord spoken thru Jeremiah (12)
- He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and ultimately against the Lord (13)

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King Zedekiah – 597-586 BC

(2 Kings 24:17-20; c.f. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21)

Key Events:

- His reign was characterized by even greater depths of religious apostasy (14)
- A brief summary of Judah's spiritual state (15-16)
- The unleashing of God's wrath (17-21)

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Implications & Application

1. Most people today have no concept of the danger they are in because they don't believe they are under God's wrath and destined for His judgment.
2. God is always faithful to His word and that includes the reality that He will judge all who are unrepentant.
3. Jesus has issued a universal call to repentance that is fully in effect today.
4. The only hope for any of us is to respond to that call by repenting of our sins and putting our faith in Christ Jesus.
5. Praise God for the gift of His Son! *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1

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