



The Prophecy of Immanuel: When God Pierces Us

Isaiah 7:10-16

Luke 1:18-25

[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*[23] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

(which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



The Prophecy of Immanuel: A Biblical Recap

BEHOOLD
A VIRGIN
SHALL
CONCEIVE
AND BEAR

HOLY
PROPHET
ISAIAH

The Two Kingdoms

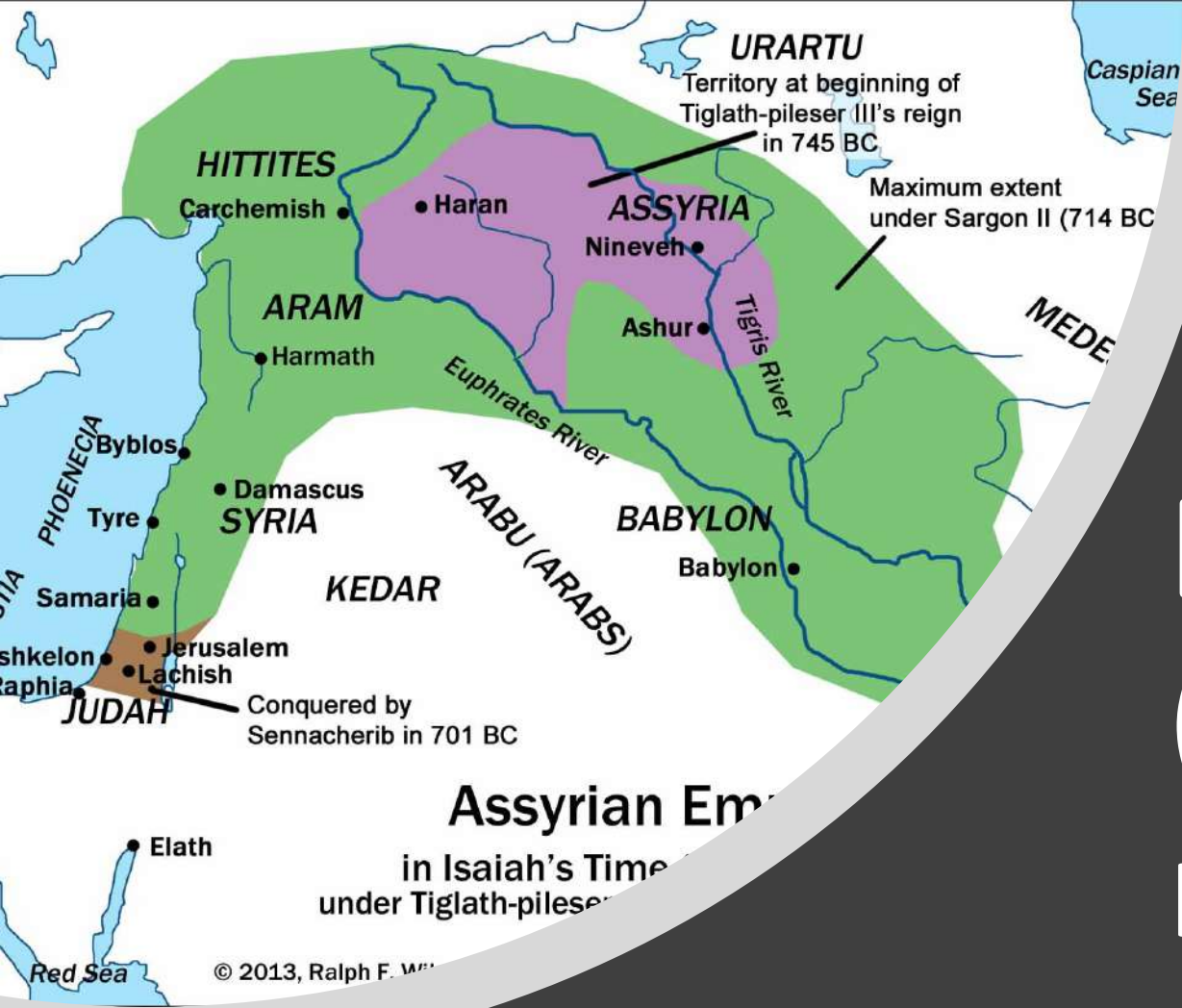
Kingdom of Israel

Kingdom of Judah



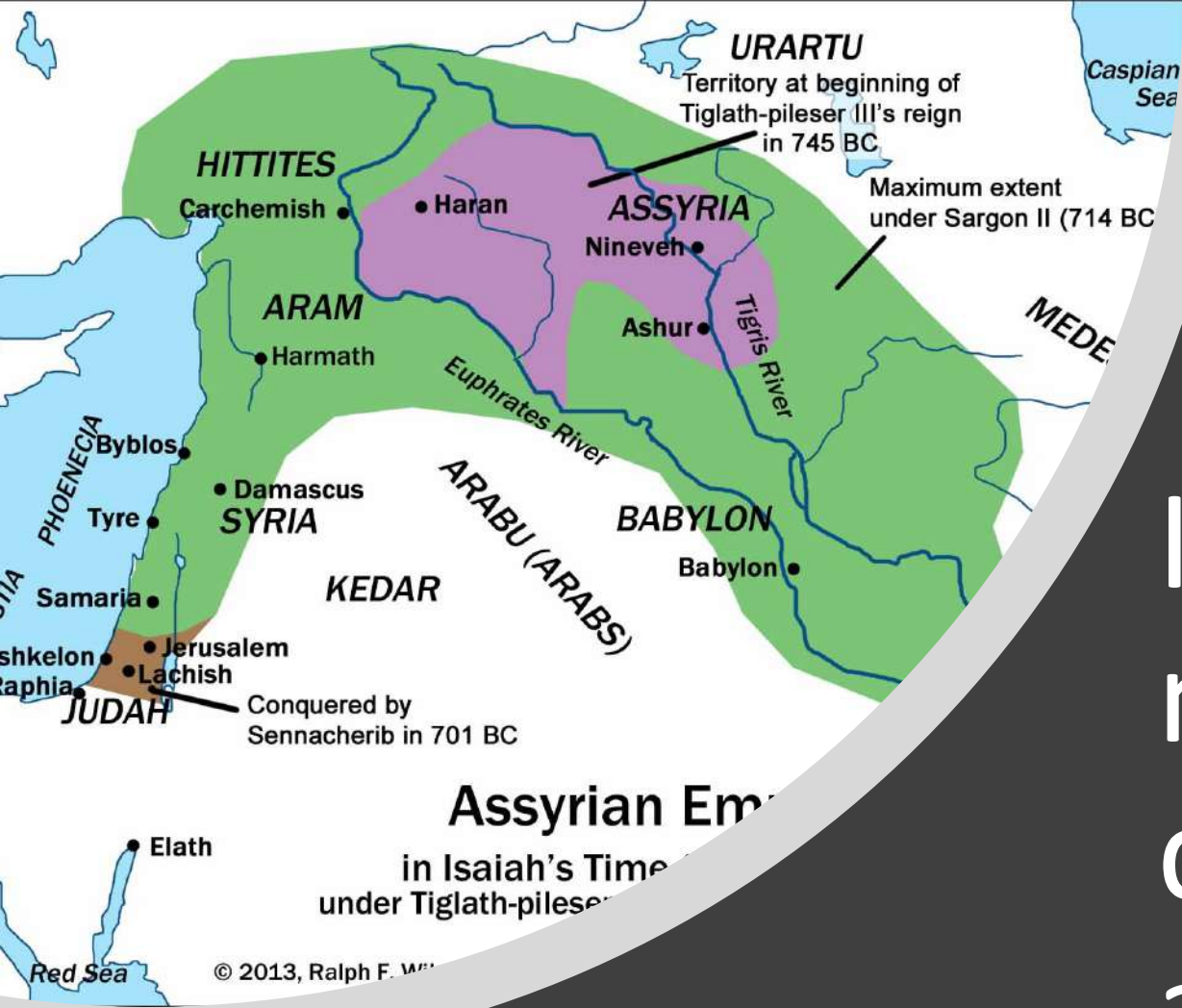
Biblical Recap: The Two Kingdoms

After King Solomon, Israel and Judah split into two separate kingdoms that became bitter enemies.



Biblical Recap: Under New Management

During this time (Around 740 BC, a new empire rose and ruled both kingdoms: Assyria.



Biblical Recap: Rebellion and War

Israel and its neighbor Syria decided to rebel and asked Judah to join them. Judah refused.



Biblical Recap: Ahaz and Isaiah

In Isaiah 7:1-9, Isaiah, God's prophet, meets with Ahaz the new king of Judah and tells him to stand firm and trust God.

[10] Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: [11] “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” [12] But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” [13] And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. [15] He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. [16] For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

A detailed oil painting of a lion's face, looking directly at the viewer. The lion has a thick, golden-brown mane and striking, glowing green eyes. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. The text "The Prophecy of Immanuel: A Study" is overlaid in white, centered on the lion's face.

The Prophecy of Immanuel:
A Study

Vs. 10-13: The Test

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

- God, in testing Ahaz's faith, asks to be tested in return.
- Ahaz doesn't refuse out of respect towards God; he refuses out of indifference.

Vs. 10-13: The Test

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

- This frustrates God, for in not testing God Ahaz is ultimately not putting his faith in God.

Vs. 14-16: The Proof

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

- Ahaz's lack of faith does not stop God from acting.
- The key here is not "virgin", but "Immanuel", which means "God with us" – the power is God's presence.

Vs. 14-16: The Proof

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

- This child will know good and evil *before* fully transitioning from soft foods to hard foods—a very young age.

Vs. 14-16: The Proof

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

- *Before this young age, the kingdoms of Syria and the Israel will be destroyed.*
- *Virgin getting pregnant—before child transitions off milk/soft food= less than 2 years.*



The Prophecy of Immanuel:
Why Immanuel?

Why
Immanuel:
When the OT
Pierces the NT

- In both, the dreams of Israel had failed.
- In both, faith had become little more than tradition and prerequisites to power.
- In both, the evil ruled and the righteous suffered.
- In both, destruction loomed on the horizon.
- In both, God seemed silent to suffering.



Why Immanuel?

*In the gathering darkness, God
could have given any sign of His
Power. He gave us His Presence—
GOD WITH US.*



The Prophecy of Immanuel:
When God Pierces Us



Matthew 27:50-51a

*[50] And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice
and yielded up his spirit.*

*[51] And behold, the curtain of the temple was
torn in two, from top to bottom..*

When God Pierces Us: Testing God

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Romans 8:38-38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



When God Pierces Us

God's answer to us today is the same as His answer to Ahaz and His answer to the people of the NT: *Immanuel, God With You*