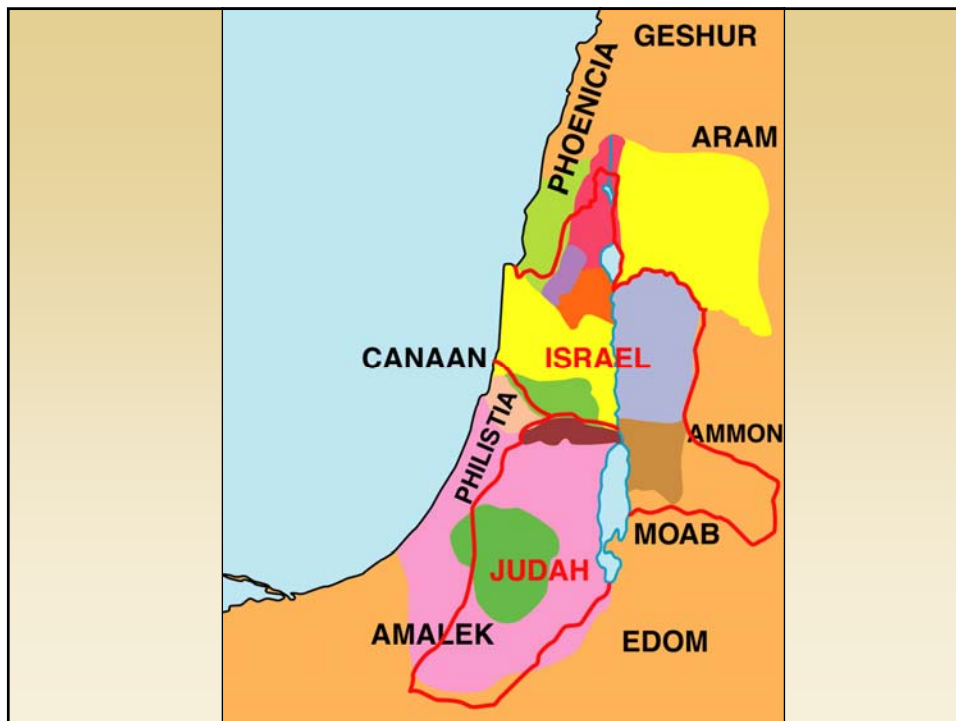




Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus

Week 4

Amos and the Death of the Kingdom of Israel





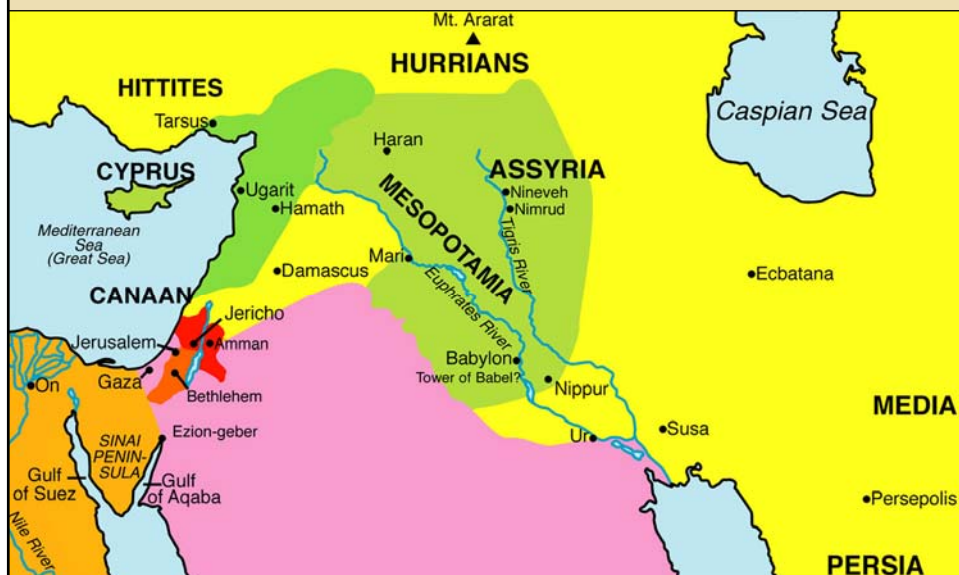
Pressures on Israel and Judah Build

- ❖ During the time of Elijah and Elisha the Assyrians grew in power and territory, often bringing great pressure on Israel.
- ❖ However, 800BC-750BC was a time of relative prosperity and peace for the two kingdoms. Things were looking pretty good!
- ❖ But . . . Peace and prosperity breed complacency!
- ❖ In this time of relative prosperity, Amos comes bringing words of judgment and a look ahead to the coming death of Israel.
 - Amos' ministry began about 760-750BC. He was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel.

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Assyrian Expansion in the eighth century BC





Amos (outline from Donald Gowen's commentary)

- ❖ Messages for Israel and her enemies (1:1-2:16)
- ❖ Israel's inability to hear (3:1-4:13)
 - 4:1-2 Israel ignores the needy
- ❖ The death of Israel (Ch. 5) – 5:1-3 A funeral song
 - Life as usual – but disaster is near! (Ch. 6)
- ❖ Visions and a confrontation
 - 7:10-17 is the only story we have from Amos' life. Here, he confronts a priest who wants Amos to go away!
- ❖ The end has come (Ch. 8)
- ❖ There is no escape . . . God is Lord of all . . . A message of hope (Ch. 9)
 - 9:11-15 A promise of restoration for Judah, but not Israel



Hosea (outline from Gale Yee's commentary)

- ❖ The Wife/Israel and God (1:1-3:5)
 - 1:1-10 Hosea, Gomer, and their children
 - 1:14-23 Images of wooing and marriage
- ❖ The Son/Israel and God (4:1-11:1)
 - A perverse priesthood, a wanton cult, and a licentious people
 - The politics of self-destruction
 - The people's history of infidelity
- ❖ The Wife & Son/Israel and God
 - God's indictment of the nation – 11:8-9; 13:7-9,16
 - God's blessing of the nation – Chapter 14
- ❖ What is most striking about this book is its use of such personal, relational language to portray God and his people.



Meanwhile, in the south – Isaiah and Micah

- ❖ Though the greatest pressure from the Assyrians is on Israel, it must have seemed that Judah would fall also.
- ❖ So, both Isaiah and Micah bring oracles, messages, for Israel and for Judah. At times, it seems that they expect to see the fall of Jerusalem in their lifetime – but they do not.
- ❖ These two were roughly contemporaries, both working in the last half of the eighth century BC.
 - Isaiah seems to be pretty active in providing advice to Judah's king – advice *against* relying on alliances as the key to survival; God's people are to rely on God!



Isaiah 1-39 (outline from Gene Tucker's commentary)

- ❖ Prophecies of judgment and salvation concerning Judah and Jerusalem (Chapters 1-12)
 - *Chapter 6* – Isaiah's commission; *Ch. 9* The light of a new king
- ❖ Messages concerning foreign nations (Chptrs 13-23)
- ❖ The Isaiah "Apocalypse" (Chapters 24-27)
 - These chapters deal with 'last things,' emphasizing a radical transformation
- ❖ Jerusalem in the eye of the Assyrian Storm (Chptrs 28-33)
 - *29:13-14* Jesus cites v. 13 when he attacks hypocrisy
- ❖ Eschatological prophecies concerning Edom and the exiles (Chptrs 34 & 35) – *35:1-7* The exiles return
- ❖ Isaiah, Hezekiah, and the fate of Jerusalem (Chptrs 36-39)



Micah (outline from Daniel Simundson's commentary)

- ❖ Perhaps a younger contemporary of Isaiah. Worked in Judah – probably both before and after the fall of Israel. Identified with the poor and oppressed. Angry with the leadership in Jerusalem – he sees where it is headed!
- ❖ Terrible days are coming – for good reason! (Chptrs 1-3)
 - 1:6-7 & 2:1-2 God's case against Israel and Judah
 - 1:8-9 God's lament
- ❖ Hope will finally prevail (Chapters 4 & 5)
 - 4:1-5 Peace in the days to come
 - 5:2a-5 The promised ruler from Bethlehem
- ❖ From judgment to hope (Chapters 6 & 7)
 - 6:3-8 What God has done and what he expects in return
 - 7:18-20 A final hymn of hope in God



The Death of Israel

- ❖ In the end, Israel fell to the Assyrians. Samaria, the capital of Israel was sacked. Nearly 30,000 Israelites were carried off into exile; many ended up near Nineveh.
- ❖ Judah dodged the bullet that killed Israel and would hold out for another 140 years or so.
- ❖ At times, they would enjoy relative independence and prosperity. But, once the Babylonians defeated the Assyrians and built an empire of their own, the pressure on them would build again.

Assyrian Expansion in the eighth century BC

