Hoshea 730-721 B C last king of Israel Reigned 9 yrs. He paid tribute to the king of Assyria; but made a secret alliance with the king of Egypt. Then came the Assyrians, and administered the final death-blow to the Northern Kingdom.

Samaria fell, and its people followed the rest of Israel into Captivity. The prophets at that time were Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah. The Northern Kingdom had lasted about 200 yrs. Every one of its 19 kings had walked in the sins of Jeroboam its founder. God had sent prophet after prophet and judgment after judgment, in an effort to turn the nation back from its sins but in vain. Israel was joined to its idols. There was no remedy; and the wrath of God arose and removed Israel out of the land.


ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE: Captivity of Israel. "The king of Assyria besieged Samaria 3 yrs . . . and took it and carried Israel away . . . and brought men from Babylon . . . and placed them in the cities of Samaria," 17:5,6,24. An inscription of Sargon, see page 216 says: "In my first year I captured Samaria. I took captive 27,290 people. People of other lands, who never paid tribute I settled in Samaria."

**Assyria**

It was by the Assyrian Empire that the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed. In recent years annals of Assyrian kings have been found in which they themselves had their own exploits recorded. In these annals names of ten Hebrew kings occur. Omri, Ahab, Jehu, Menahem, Pekah, Hoshea, Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh. Many statements are found which confirm Biblical statements. Nineveh its capital, see pages 287,291. Assyrian policy was to deport conquered peoples to other lands, to destroy their sense of nationalism, and make them more easily subject. Assyrians were great warriors. Most nations then were robber nations. Assyrians seem to have been about the worst of them all. They builded their State on the loot of other peoples. They practiced cruelty. They skinned their prisoners alive, or cut off their hands, feet, noses, ears, or put out their eyes, or pulled out their tongues, and made mounds of human skulls, just to inspire terror. Assyria was founded, previous to 2000 B C, by colonists from Babylon, and for many centuries was subject to, or in conflict with, Babylon. About 1300 B C Shalmaneser I, threw off the yoke of Babylon, and ruled the whole Euphrates Valley. Then Assyria declined. Tiglath-pileser I, 1120-1100, made Assyria again a great kingdom. Then another period of decline. Then followed the brilliant epoch of 300 yrs in which Assyria was a World-Empire under the following kings Assur-nasipal 885-860 B C. Warlike and cruel. Welded Assyria into the best fighting machine of the ancient world. Shalmaneser n, 860-825 B C. First Assyrian king to come in conflict with Israel. Ahab fought him. Jehu paid him tribute. Shansi-adad 825-808. Adad-nirari 808-783, Shalman III 783-771. Assur 771-753. Assiur-lush 753-747. Tiglath-pileser III. 747-727. "Piil" was his personal name. He carried North Israel into Captivity, 734 B C. See xnder Isa 7. Shalmaneser IV, 727-722. He besieged Samaria; died in the siege. Sargon n, 722-705. Completed destruction of Samaria and Israel's captivity. Sargon I was a Babylonian king of 2000 years earlier. Sennacherib, 705-681. Most famous of Assyrian kings. Defeated by an angel before Jerusalem. Burned Babylon. See under II Chron 32.
Esar-haddon, 681-668. Re-built Babylon. Conquered Egypt. Was one of the greatest of Assyrian kings. Assur-bani-pal, 668-626. (Sardanapalus, Osnapper). Destroyed Thebes. Collected a great library. Powerful, cruel, literary. Assur-etil-ilani, Sin-sar-iskim (Saracos), 626-607. Beset by Scythians, Medes and Babylonians, the brutal Empire fell. Chapters 18 to 25 tell of the remaining 9 kings of Judah, Hezekiah to Zedekiah. For notes on these kings, and on the Captivity of Judah, see Chronicles 29 to 36.

II KINGS
Captivity of Judah, by Babylon, 606 B.C.
The Captivity of Judah was accomplished in four installments.
597 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar came again, and took the rest of the treasures, and king Jehoiachin, and 10,000 of the princes, and chief men, and carried them to Babylon, n Kin 24:14-16.
586 B.C. The Babylonians came again, and burned Jerusalem, broke down its walls, put out the eyes of king Zedekiah, and carried him in chains to Babylon, with 832 captives, leaving only a remnant of the poorest class of people in the land, 11 Kings 25:8-12; Jeremiah 52:28-30. The summary is less in Jeremiah than in Kings, probably including only the more important. It took the Babylonians a year and a half to subdue Jerusalem. They besieged it in the 9th yr of Zedekiah, 10th month on 10th day. It fell in the 11th yr, 4th month, 9th day. A month later, the city was burned, on the 7th day of the 5th month.
Thus Nebuchadnezzar was 20 yrs in destroying Jerusalem. He could have done it at first, if he had wished to. But he only wanted tribute. Then Daniel, whom he took to Babylon at the beginning of the 20 yrs soon became Nebuchadnezzar's friend and adviser; and may have had a restraining influence on him: till Judah's persistence in making alliance with Egypt forced Nebuchadnezzar to wipe Jerusalem off the map.
581 B.C. 5 yrs after the burning of Jerusalem, the Babylonians again came and took 745 more captives, Jer 52:30, even after a considerable group, including Jeremiah, had fled to Egypt, Jer 43.
The Fall of Jerusalem brought forth the ministry of the three great prophets, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.
The Captivity of Judah by Babylon had been predicted 100 yrs before by Isaiah and Micah, Isa 39:6; Mic 4:10. Now that it was accomplished Jeremiah predicted that it would last 70 yrs, Jer 25:11,12. This was the end of David's earthly kingdom. It had lasted 400 yrs. It revived, in a spiritual sense, with the arrival of Christ, to be consummated in glory at His Return.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar. His Burning of the Cities of Judah, 25:9; Jer 34:7. In Lachish, Bethel, Kiriathsepher, and Beth-shemesh, there have been found layers of ashes from destructive fires that occurred about 600 B.C. These were Nebuchadnezzar's fires. In Lachish and at Beth-shemesh the fires had swept the cities so suddenly that underneath the great layers of debris and ashes and charcoal there were found: in Lachish, temple treasures, altar, censer, bowls, and bones of sacrifice; and In Beth-shemesh, stores of food supplies, lentils, raisins, olives.

Assyria took ISRAEL away in Captivity, 734-721 B.C.
Babylon took JUDAH away in Captivity, 606-586 B.C.
Assyria was the North part of the Euphrates-Tigris valley.
Babylon was the South part of the Euphrates-Tigris valley,
Nineveh was the Capital of the Assyrian Empire.
Babylon was the Capital of the Babylonian Empire.
Nineveh and Babylon, 300 miles apart, see Map.
The Old Babylonian Empire
Babylonia was the cradle of the Hunan race, see pages 26, 27.
About 2000 B.C Babylon was the dominating power of the world.
Then, 300 yrs of Assyrian Supremacy, 885-607 B.C.
The New Babylonian Empire 606-536 B.C. sometimes called the Neo-Babylonian Empire was the Empire that broke the power of Assyria, and destroyed JUDAH, and conquered Egypt. Its kings were:
Nabopolassar, 625-604 B.C, viceroy of Babylon. He threw off the yoke of Assyria, 625 B.C., and established the independence of Babylon. With the aid of Cyrus the Mede, he conquered and
destroyed Nineveh, 607 B C (or 612), see page 290. His son Nebuchadnezzar, 609 B C, became
commander of his father's armies; and, 606 B C, became co-regent with his father.
Nebuchadnezzar, 606-561 B C, greatest of all Babylonian kings, one of the mightiest monarchs of all
time. He reigned 45 yrs. The Babylonian Empire was largely his work. He extended the power of
Babylon over most of the then known world, and beautified the city of Babylon almost beyond
imagination, see pages 260, 265.
He was the one that carried the Jews into captivity, including Daniel and Ezekiel. He took a great liking to
Daniel, and made him one of his chief advisers. And Daniel's influence, no doubt, must have eased the lot
of Jewish captives. See further about
Nebuchadnezzar, and Babylon, pages 260-268.
Nabonidus, 555-536 B C. His son, Belshazzar, co-regent the last few years of his reign. Babylon fell.
Supremacy passed to Persia.
For the story of the Handwriting on the Wall, and the Fall of Babylon, see page 268.
The Babylonian Empire lasted 70 years. The 70 years of Judah's captivity was exactly the same 70 years
that Babylon ruled the world. The year that Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylon 536 B C, that same
year he authorized the Return of the Jews to their own land.
Babylon, oppressor of God's Old Testament people, gave its name to the Apostate Church, Rev 17.
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