

## 2 Kings 23

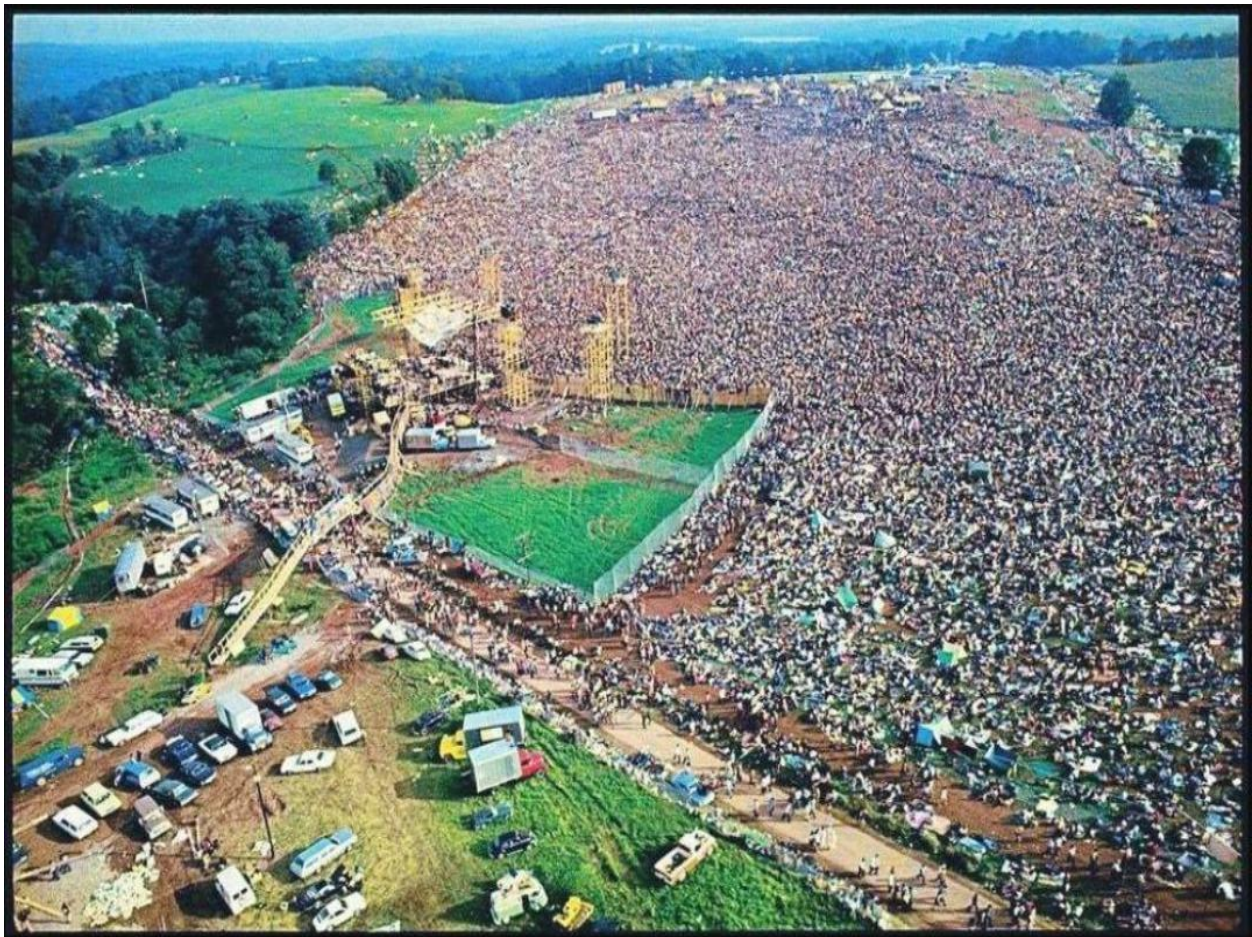
Verses 1 - 2

Then **the king** sent *messengers*, and they gathered to him **all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem**.<sup>2</sup> And the king went up to the house of the Lord and **every man of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem** with him, and **the priests, the prophets**, and **all the people, from the small to the great**; and he read in their presence all the words of the Book of the Covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

We don't know what the population of Judah and Jerusalem was at this time but this gathering had to be enormous.

Woodstock was a crowd of about 400,000

See Pic 2305

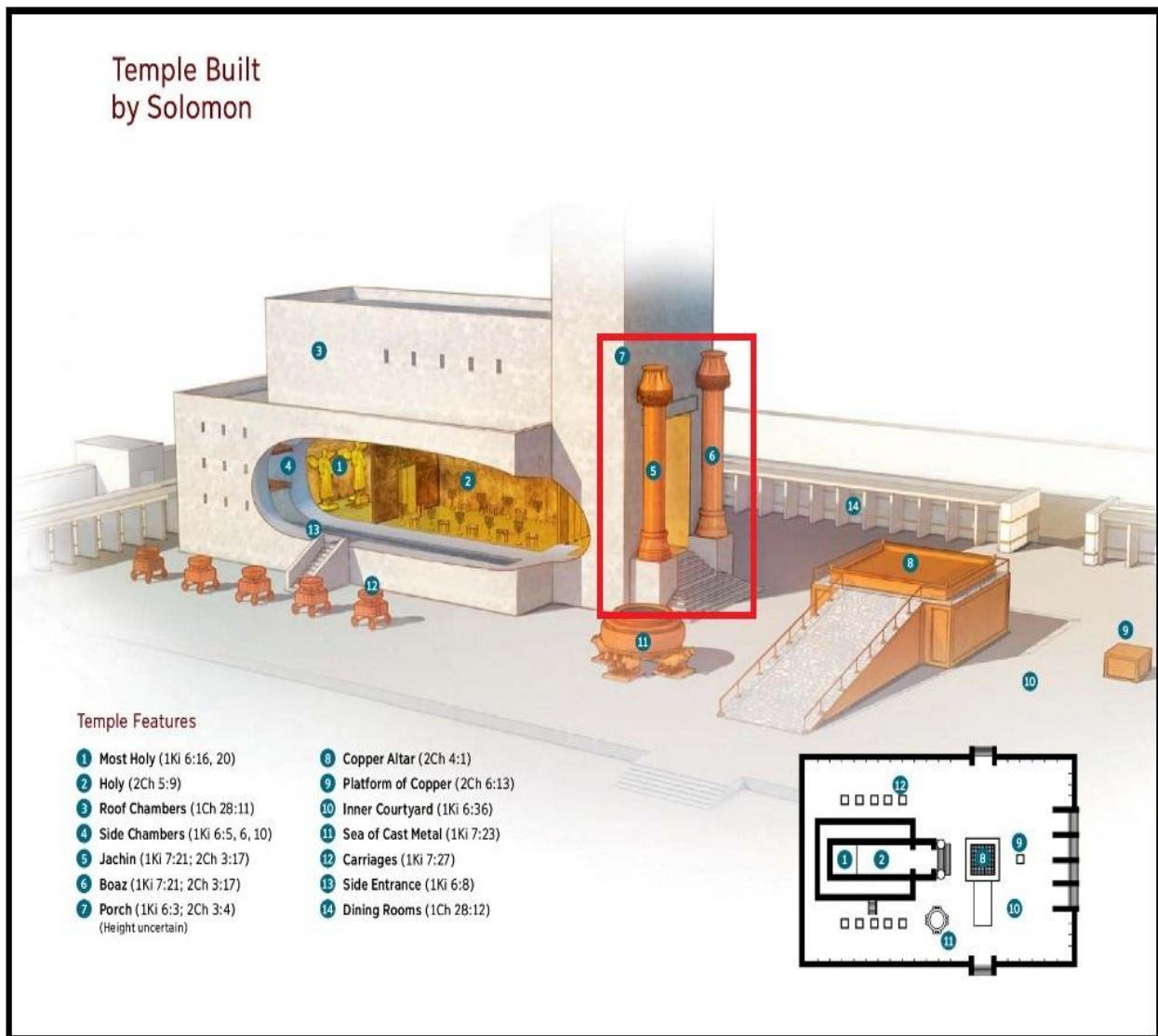


Verse 3

<sup>3</sup> And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments, His provisions, and His statutes with all *his* heart and all *his* soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.

The pillar refers to one of the two great pillars set up in front of the temple by Solomon.

See Pic 2310 and 2311



A description of these pillars is found in I Kings 7:15–22. A detailed drawing of these pillars is provided below.

See pic 2211

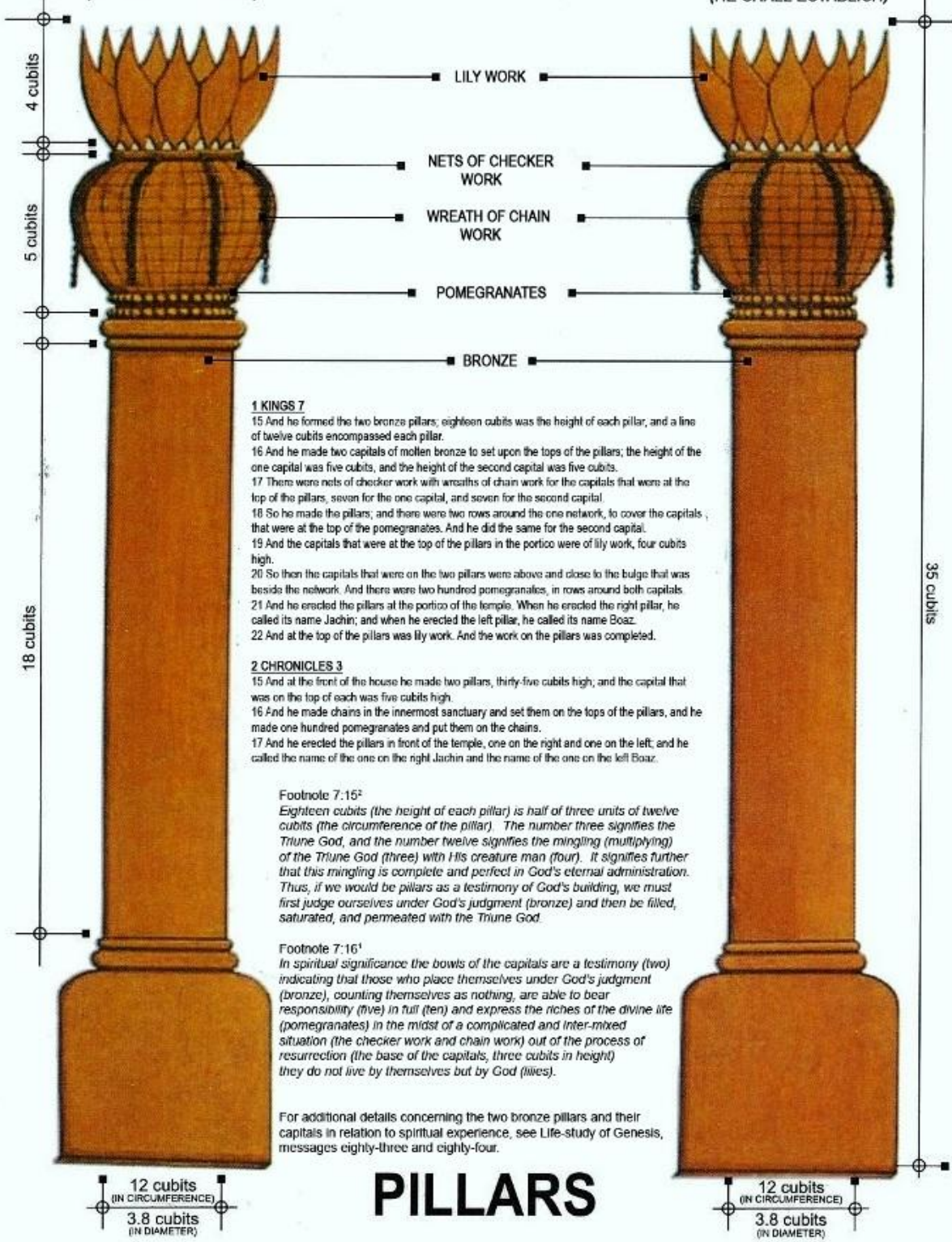


# BOAZ

(IN HIM IS STRENGTH)

# JACHIN

(HE SHALL ESTABLISH)



### 1 KINGS 7

15 And he formed the two bronze pillars; eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and a line of twelve cubits encompassed each pillar.  
 16 And he made two capitals of molten bronze to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the second capital was five cubits.  
 17 There were nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals that were at the top of the pillars, seven for the one capital, and seven for the second capital.  
 18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows around the one network, to cover the capitals that were at the top of the pomegranates. And he did the same for the second capital.  
 19 And the capitals that were at the top of the pillars in the portico were of lily work, four cubits high.  
 20 So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals.  
 21 And he erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. When he erected the right pillar, he called its name Jachin; and when he erected the left pillar, he called its name Boaz.  
 22 And at the top of the pillars was lily work. And the work on the pillars was completed.

### 2 CHRONICLES 3

15 And at the front of the house he made two pillars, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each was five cubits high.  
 16 And he made chains in the innermost sanctuary and set them on the tops of the pillars, and he made one hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains.  
 17 And he erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and one on the left; and he called the name of the one on the right Jachin and the name of the one on the left Boaz.

#### Footnote 7:15<sup>2</sup>

*Eighteen cubits (the height of each pillar) is half of three units of twelve cubits (the circumference of the pillar). The number three signifies the Triune God, and the number twelve signifies the mingling (multiplying) of the Triune God (three) with His creature man (four). It signifies further that this mingling is complete and perfect in God's eternal administration. Thus, if we would be pillars as a testimony of God's building, we must first judge ourselves under God's judgment (bronze) and then be filled, saturated, and permeated with the Triune God.*

#### Footnote 7:16<sup>1</sup>

*In spiritual significance the bowls of the capitals are a testimony (two) indicating that those who place themselves under God's judgment (bronze), counting themselves as nothing, are able to bear responsibility (five) in full (ten) and express the riches of the divine life (pomegranates) in the midst of a complicated and inter-mixed situation (the checker work and chain work) out of the process of resurrection (the base of the capitals, three cubits in height) they do not live by themselves but by God (lilies).*

For additional details concerning the two bronze pillars and their capitals in relation to spiritual experience, see Life-study of Genesis, messages eighty-three and eighty-four.

# PILLARS

12 cubits  
(IN CIRCUMFERENCE)  
3.8 cubits  
(IN DIAMETER)

12 cubits  
(IN CIRCUMFERENCE)  
3.8 cubits  
(IN DIAMETER)

The king was reestablishing the covenant that God had made with Israel at Sinai in 1446 BC. This covenant had been reinstated a number of times throughout their history because Israel had forsaken the Lord numerous times. This is the last time it will be restored until the remnant of Israel comes out of captivity in Babylon.

This restoring of the covenant included the following:

1. To walk after the Lord
2. To keep His commandments, His provisions, and His statutes
3. To carry out the words of the covenant that was written in the book.

Verses 4 – 7

**<sup>4</sup> Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the utensils that had been made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the heavenly lights; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley, and carried their ashes to Bethel. <sup>5</sup> Then he did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, as well as those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the *remaining* heavenly lights. <sup>6</sup> He also brought out the Asherah from the house of the Lord outside Jerusalem to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and ground *it* to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people. <sup>7</sup> And he tore down the cubicles of the *male* cult prostitutes which *were* in the house of the Lord, where the women were weaving hangings for the Asherah.**

**<sup>4</sup> Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the utensils that had been made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the heavenly lights; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley, and carried their ashes to Bethel**

The temple had once again become a place to worship many gods. Great reforms had been made under Hezekiah but after 55 years under Manasseh, an evil king, Judah had reverted back to their pagan ways.

See chart 2315

### Southern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

<sup>5</sup> Then he did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, as well as those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the remaining heavenly lights.

The only priests that the Jewish people were allowed to have were Levites that were descended from Aaron. The Law also strictly forbids the burning of incense except to the Lord and only in the temple.

<sup>6</sup> He also brought out the Asherah from the house of the Lord outside Jerusalem to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and ground it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people.

According to the law, anyone who touched a grave was unclean for 7 days. So this action was symbolic of the pagan god's complete defilement.

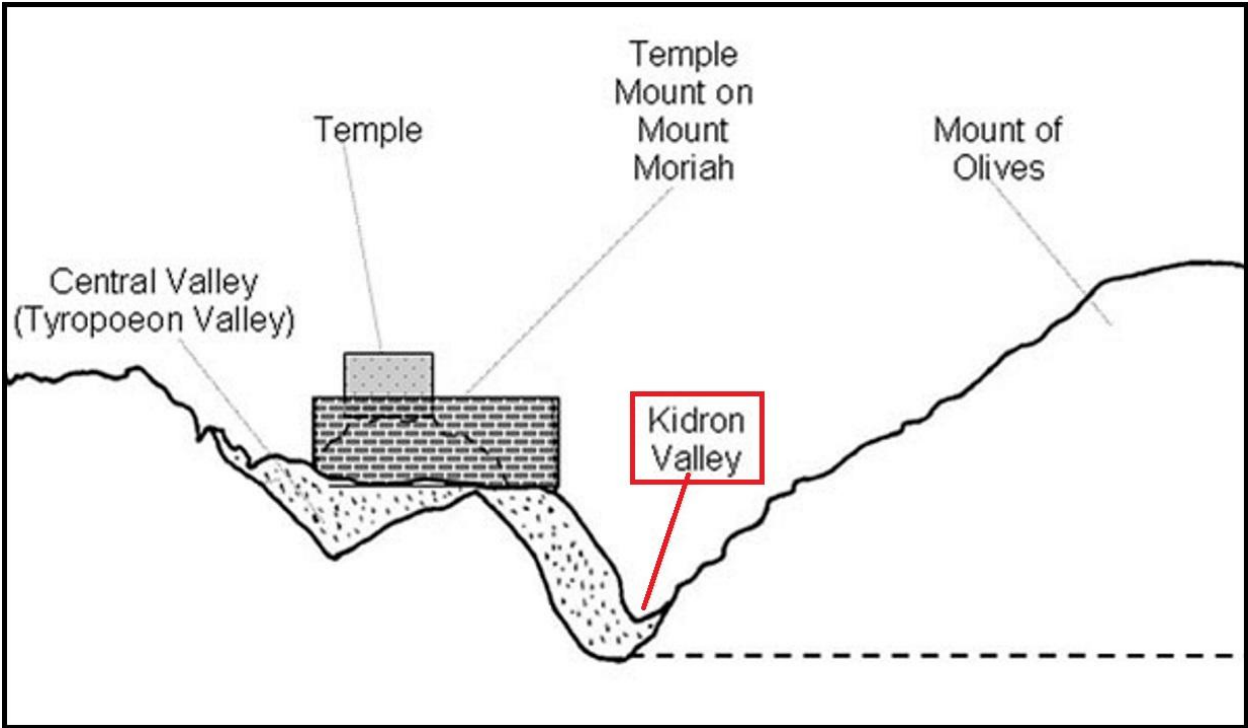
See Num. 19:16

<sup>16</sup> Also, anyone who in the open field touches one who has been killed with a sword or one who has died naturally, or touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days.



The Kidron Valley was on the eastern side of Jerusalem.

See Maps 2320 and 2321





<sup>7</sup> And he tore down the cubicles of the male cult prostitutes which were in the house of the Lord, where the women were weaving hangings for the Asherah.

Some scholars say the Hebrew word for male cult prostitutes includes both men and women and should not be limited to male prostitutes.

Verses 8 -10

Then he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; and he tore down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the city gate.

<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not go up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers. <sup>10</sup> He also defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, so that no one would make his son or his daughter pass through the fire for Molech.

See Map 2325



Geba was in the tribe of Benjamin but it was the northern boundary of “Judah”. Beersheba was the southern border of Judah.

**<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not go up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.**

The priests that were descended from Aaron and had previously offered sacrifices to the Lord for the people but had gone astray by offering sacrifices at the high places could not return to the privileged status they previously enjoyed as a priest to the Lord God. They had some responsibilities at the temple and were given an allotment of food but they were not allowed to offer sacrifices at the Lord’s Altar.

See Ezekiel 44:10-14

**<sup>10</sup> But the Levites who went far from Me when Israel went astray, who went astray from Me following their idols, shall suffer the punishment for their wrongdoing.**

**<sup>11</sup> Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the house and ministering *in* the house; they shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them.**

**<sup>12</sup> Since they ministered to them before their idols and became a stumbling block of wrongdoing to the house of Israel, for that reason I have sworn against them,” declares the Lord God, “that they shall suffer the punishment for their wrongdoing. <sup>13</sup> And they shall not approach Me to serve as priests for Me, nor approach any of My holy things, to the things that are most holy; but they will bear their shame and their abominations which they have committed.**

**<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless I will appoint them to take responsibility for the house, of all its service and of everything that shall be done in it.**

**<sup>10</sup> He also defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, so that no one would make his son or his daughter pass through the fire for Molech.**

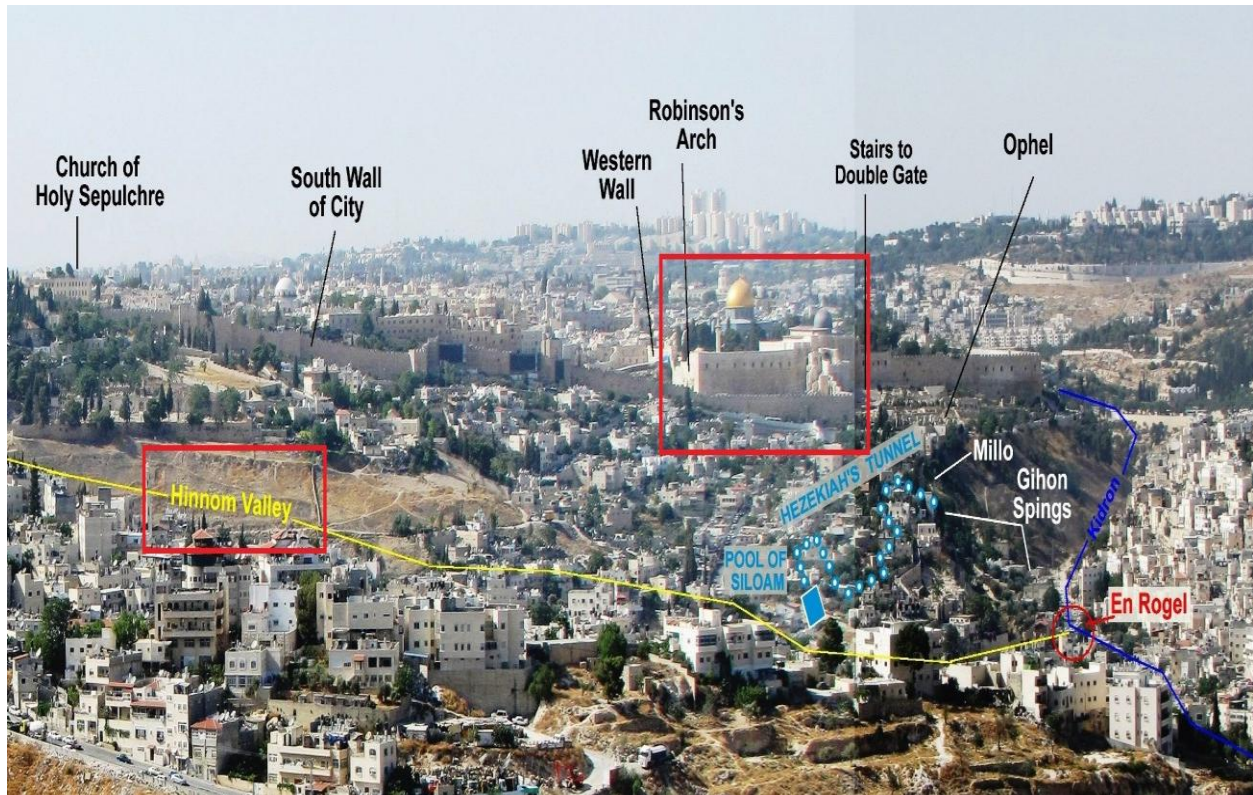
Tophet or Topheth is a location in the Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna), where worshipers engaged in child sacrifice to the pagan god Molech.

During the time of Christ the valley was used as a city dump, where trash was burned and dead animals were thrown. Jesus used this spot as an example of what hell will be like. In our time it has become a part of Jerusalem Walls National Park and is undergoing development. It is a popular tourist destination with a farm, a cafe, and plans for a cable car and suspension bridge.



The Hinnom Valley runs along the western & southern side of Jerusalem (the yellow line) with the Temple Mount to the north and the Kidron Valley to the east (purple line).

See pic 2330



Verses 11 -14

**And he did away with the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entrance of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the official, which was at the covered courtyard; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. <sup>12</sup> The king also tore down the altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the house of the Lord; and he smashed them there and threw their dust into the brook Kidron. <sup>13</sup> And the king defiled the high places that were opposite Jerusalem, which were on the right of the mount of destruction which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the sons of Ammon. <sup>14</sup> He also smashed to pieces the memorial stones and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with human bones.**

**And he did away with the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entrance of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the official, which was at the covered courtyard; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.**

The sun-god was pictured as driving a chariot across the sky. This “monument” was at the entrance of the temple. The kings of Judah had not overlooked any god and displayed them as close as they could to the temple of the Lord.

**<sup>12</sup> The king also tore down the altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the house of the Lord; and he smashed them there and threw their dust into the brook Kidron.**

The kings of Judah had constructed altars and dedicated them to the host of heaven and Manasseh had made altars in the two courtyards of the Lord. The temple area was no longer the holy sight it was intended to be for the Jewish people but rather it had become a place to worship any number of false gods. It is no wonder that God used Babylon to destroy this area.

**<sup>13</sup> And the king defiled the high places that were opposite Jerusalem, which were on the right of the mount of destruction which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the sons of Ammon.**

God had warned Israel that the Canaanite gods were to be destroyed. However, not long after David died Solomon built high places for the false gods that his many foreign wives worshipped and Israel followed in his footsteps.

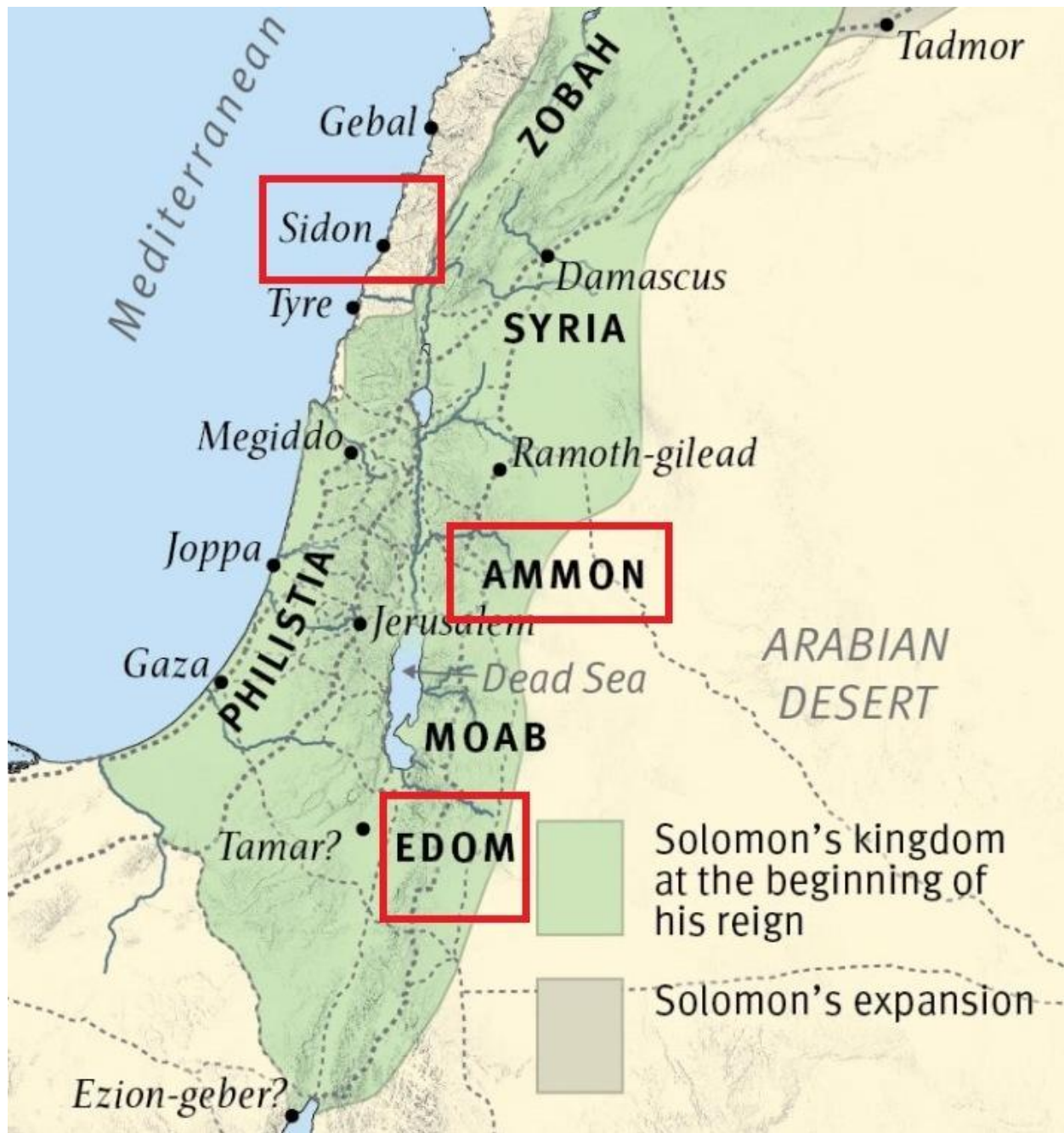
See Numbers 33:52

**<sup>50</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan *opposite Jericho*, saying, <sup>51</sup> “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, <sup>52</sup> you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from you, and destroy all their idolatrous sculptures, destroy all their cast metal images, and eliminate all their high places; <sup>53</sup> and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.**

The three nations mentioned above surrounded Israel.

See map 2335





<sup>14</sup> **He also smashed to pieces the memorial stones and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with human bones.**

The king wanted to prohibit the people from coming back to these spots and rebuilding the high places so he filled the area with human bones. Even though the Jews had ignored much of the law under many kings it seems that this law (Numbers 19:16) was one that they followed.

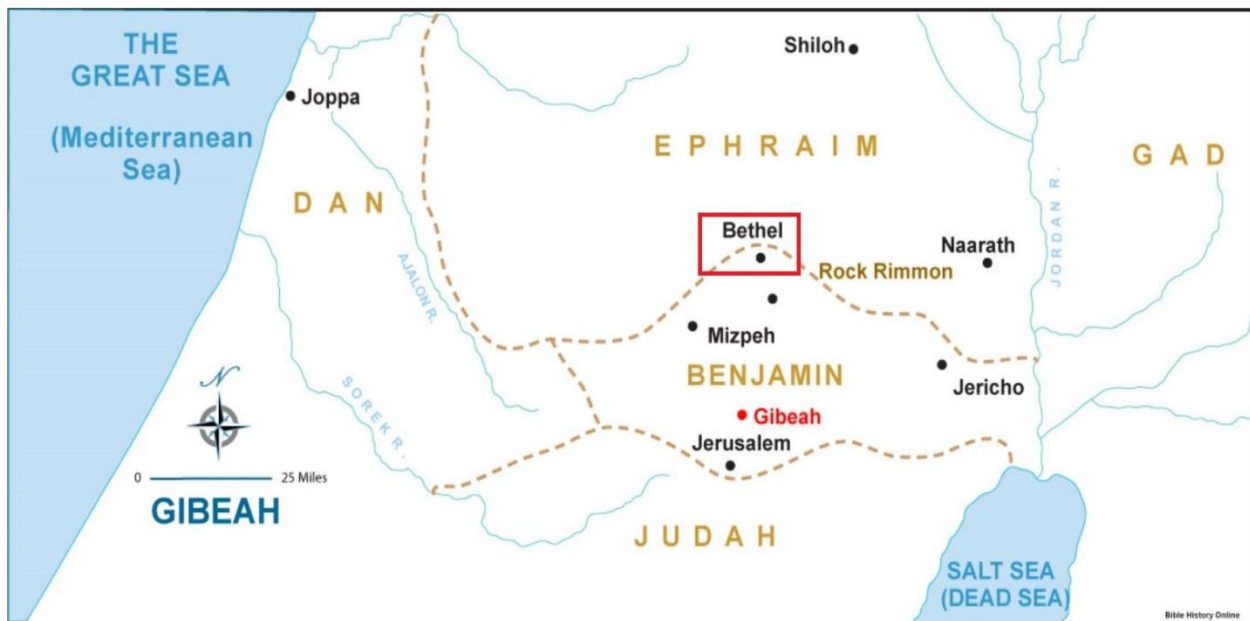
Verses 15 - 18

<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, the altar that was at Bethel *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who misled Israel into sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he tore down. Then he burned the high place, ground *the remains* to dust, and burned the Asherah. <sup>16</sup> Now when Josiah turned, he saw the graves that were there on the mountain, and he sent *men* and took the bones from the graves, and burned *them* on the altar and defiled it in accordance with the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, *the one* who proclaimed these things. <sup>17</sup> Then he said, “What is this gravestone there that I see?” And the men of the city told him, “*It is* the grave of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things which you have done against the altar of Bethel.” <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Leave him alone; no one is to disturb his bones.” So they left his bones undisturbed with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, the altar that was at Bethel *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who misled Israel into sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he tore down. Then he burned the high place, ground *the remains* to dust, and burned the Asherah.

Bethel was 1 of the 2 cities where Jeroboam instituted the worship of the golden calves. Josiah torn down and burned the altar and all the buildings connected with it.

See map 2340





<sup>16</sup> Now when Josiah turned, he saw the graves that were there on the mountain, and he sent *men* and took the bones from the graves, and burned them on the altar and defiled it in accordance with the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, the one who proclaimed these things.

See 1 Kings 13:1 – 2

Now behold, a man of God came from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, while Jeroboam was standing at the altar to burn incense. <sup>2</sup> And he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord and said, “Altar, altar, this is what the Lord says: Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall burn on you.”

This prophecy was given 310 years prior to the event taking place and the person’s name (Josiah) was given.

Isaiah prophesied the name of the king who would end the captivity of Israel.

See Isaiah 45:1, 3 - 7

This is what the Lord says to Cyrus His anointed,  
Whom I have taken by the right hand,  
To subdue nations before him  
And to undo *the weapons belt on the waist of kings;*  
To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:  
<sup>3</sup> I will give you the treasures of darkness  
And hidden wealth of secret places,  
So that you may know that it is I,  
The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup> For the sake of Jacob My servant,  
And Israel My chosen one,  
I have also called you by your name;  
I have given you a title of honor  
Though you have not known Me.  
<sup>5</sup> I am the Lord, and there is no one else;  
There is no God except Me.  
I will arm you, though you have not known Me,  
<sup>6</sup> So that people may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
That there is no one besides Me.  
I am the Lord, and there is no one else,

Verses 19 - 20

**<sup>19</sup> Then Josiah also removed all the houses of the high places which were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had constructed, provoking the Lord to anger; and he did to them just as he had done in Bethel. <sup>20</sup> And he slaughtered all the priests of the high places who were there on the altars, and burned human bones on them; then he returned to Jerusalem.**

The houses were made for the priests that oversaw the worship activities at the high places. These priests were from the pagan nations that had been hired by the evil kings of Israel that did not know or follow the tenants of the Law.

These priests were killed according to the word of God in 1 Kings 13:1 – 2 above.

Verses 21 - 23

**<sup>21</sup> Then the king commanded all the people, saying, “Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” <sup>22</sup> Truly such a Passover had not been celebrated since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. <sup>23</sup> But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the Lord in Jerusalem.**

**<sup>22</sup> Truly such a Passover had not been celebrated since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.**

Before we look at the time frame given here let’s look at 2 Chron. 35:18-19.

**<sup>18</sup> There had not been a Passover celebrated like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.**

2 Chron. seems to limit the time frame from 425 to 450 years.

The “days of Samuel” is somewhat vague but let’s assume it was around 1055 BC (when he was 45 years old, since he lived to be 90). It was 622 BC in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah. So the time frame here is about 433 years (1055 – 622).

Now let’s look at the time frame given in verse 22 of 2 Kings.



The period of the judges began around 1350 BC and ended around 1070 BC., a period of about 280 years. However, the phrase “since the days of the judges” is also somewhat vague so let’s assume the middle of that time period. This would put the number of years at 140 (half of the 280).

The period of the kings from Saul to Solomon (1050 BC to 930 BC) is not included in this sentence.

The days of the divided Kingdom started in 930 BC and it was 622 BC in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah. The time frame here is 308 years.

That gives us a total of 448 years (140 + 308)

So the writer of 2 Kings has it at 448 years and the writer of 2 Chron. at 433 years. It should be said that several assumptions have been made coming to this conclusion but we should also admit that the writer of these texts were “somewhat vague” in their description of the two time frames.

Verses 24 - 25

**<sup>24</sup> Moreover, Josiah removed the mediums, the spiritists, the household idols, the idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, so that he might fulfill the words of the Law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord. <sup>25</sup> Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart, all his soul, and all his might, in conformity to all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.**

**<sup>24</sup> Moreover, Josiah removed the mediums, the spiritists, the household idols, the idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, so that he might fulfill the words of the Law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.**

See Leviticus 20:27

**<sup>27</sup> ‘Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist must be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; *they have brought their own deaths upon themselves.*’”**

It seems obvious that Hilkiah found the Pentateuch (the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Law) and after hearing it Josiah reinstated the law.

**<sup>25</sup> Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart, all his soul, and all his might, in conformity to all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.**

Being a great king (political leader) is about spiritual reform. Unfortunately, only a few kings understood this out of the 41 kings that served Israel during the period of the kings. The 41 kings includes Saul, David, Solomon and the 38 kings of the divided kingdom.

Verses 26 - 27

**<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. <sup>27</sup> And the Lord said, “I will also remove Judah from My sight, just as I have removed Israel. And I will reject this city which I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the temple of which I said, ‘My name shall be there!’”**

The extensive reforms of Josiah would not avert the punishment about to come.

Why?

1. The principle of reaping and sowing cannot be set aside. God gives every nation a period of grace but when that time has passed, judgment comes. Judah was just like the Northern kingdom and they deserved the same punishment.
2. Israel as a nation never really changed their ways. The people of Judah felt compelled to follow a good king like Josiah but they would quickly return to their old ways when a king like Manasseh took over.

Verses 28 - 30

**<sup>28</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? <sup>29</sup> In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria at the river Euphrates. And King Josiah went to meet him, and when *Pharaoh Neco* saw him he killed him at Megiddo. <sup>30</sup> His servants carried his body in a chariot from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father.**

<sup>29</sup> In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria at the river Euphrates. And King Josiah went to meet him, and when *Pharaoh Neco* saw him he killed him at Megiddo.

Neco of Egypt went up to the Euphrates River to fight against Assyria.

See Map 2345



However, Josiah challenged the king of Egypt at Megiddo as he was on route to Assyria

See 2 Chronicles 35:20 - 22

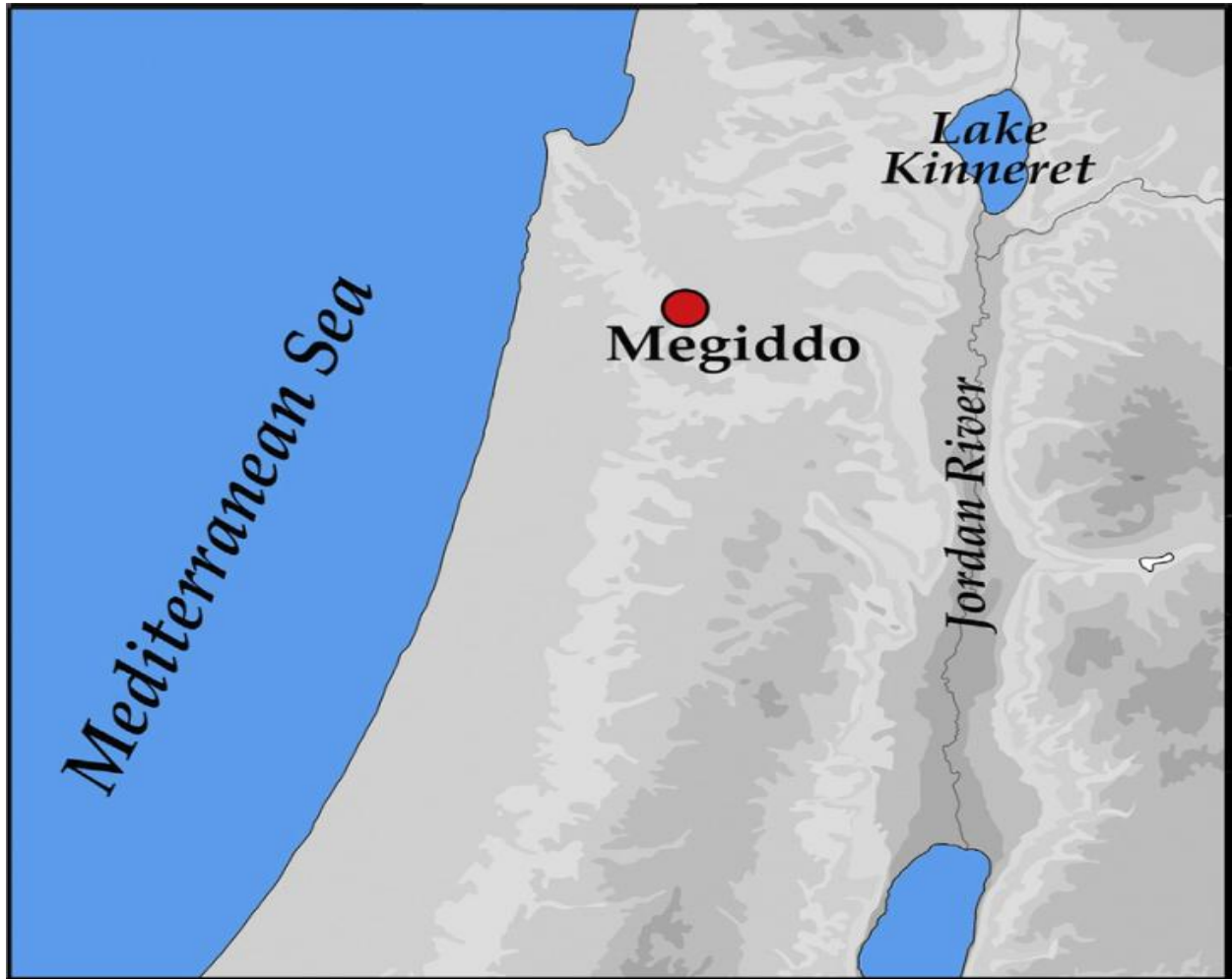
<sup>20</sup> After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to wage war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him. <sup>21</sup> But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, “What business do you have with me, King of Judah? *I am not coming* against you today, but against the house with which I am at war, and God has told me to hurry. For your own sake, stop interfering with God who is with me, so that He does not destroy you.”

<sup>22</sup> However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight against him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but he came to wage war on the plain of Megiddo.



Neco & Josiah battled at Megiddo.

See Map 2350



See video 2355      Megiddo

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.58.html>

Josiah should have listened to the King of Egypt.

See 2 Chronicles 35:23 - 24

**<sup>23</sup> The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, “Take me away, for I am badly wounded.” <sup>24</sup> So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him on the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.**

After Josiah died, Judah was no longer an independent nation. The last four kings of Judah were sons of David but they were subject to the King of Egypt and Babylon.

See chart 2360

	King	A son reigned after his father except in 4 cases	How the king died
10	Jotham		Natural Death
11	Ahaz		Natural Death
12	Hezekiah		Natural Death
13	Manasseh		Natural Death
14	Amon		Overthrown by his servants
15	Josiah		Killed by Pharaoh Neco
16	Jehoahaz		Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco
17	Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah	Bound & a donkey's burial
18	Jehoiachin		Imprisoned by king of Babylon
19	Zedekiah	Son of Josiah & uncle of Jehoiachin	Imprisoned by king of Babylon
NA	Gedaliah (Governor)	Not a descendant of David	Ishmael & 10 men kill him

Verses 31 - 36

<sup>31</sup> Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. <sup>32</sup> He did evil in the sight of the Lord, in accordance with all that his forefathers had done. <sup>33</sup> And Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in the land of Hamath, so that he would not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a fine of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. <sup>34</sup> Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of his father Josiah, and he changed his name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz and brought *him* to Egypt, and he died there. <sup>35</sup> So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh, but he assessed the land in order to give the money at the command of Pharaoh. He collected the silver and gold from the people of the land, each according to his assessment, to give to Pharaoh Neco. <sup>36</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. <sup>37</sup> He did evil in the sight of the Lord, in accordance with all that his forefathers had done.

<sup>31</sup> **Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.**

Jehoahaz was the younger brother of Jehoiakim who had been captured by Neco the king of Egypt.

See chart 2365

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

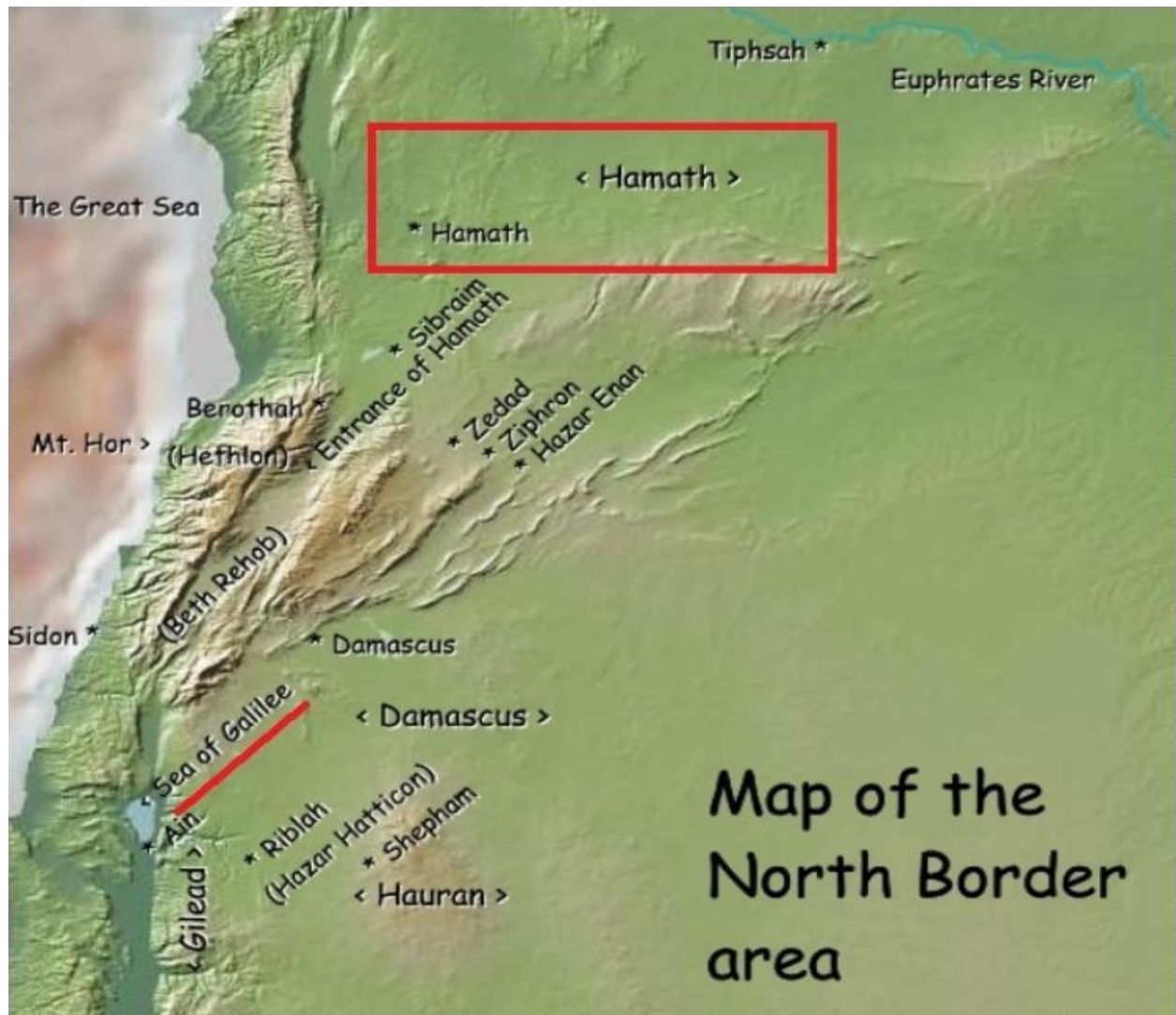
The Jeremiah mentioned here was not the prophet Jeremiah because he was from Anathoth.

<sup>33</sup> **And Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in the land of Hamath, so that he would not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a fine of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.**

King Neco imprisoned Jehoahaz at Hamath.

See Map 2370





<sup>34</sup> Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of his father Josiah, and he changed his name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz and brought *him* to Egypt, and he died there.

Neco replaced Jehoahaz with Jehoiakim. He must have served well as a puppet king, doing the will of King Neco, because he died a natural death.

<sup>36</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

See chart 2375

### Southern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

<sup>37</sup> **He did evil in the sight of the Lord, in accordance with all that his forefathers had done.**

See Jeremiah 22:18 - 21

<sup>18</sup> **Therefore this is what the Lord says regarding Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:**

**“They will not mourn for him:**

**‘Oh, my brother!’ or, ‘Oh, sister!’**

**They will not mourn for him:**

**‘Oh, for the master!’ or, ‘Oh, for his splendor!’**

<sup>19</sup> **He will be buried with a donkey’s burial,**

**Dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.**

<sup>20</sup> **Go up to Lebanon and cry out,**

**And raise your voice in Bashan;**

**Cry out also from Abarim,**

**For all your lovers have been crushed.**

<sup>21</sup> **I spoke to you in your prosperity;**

**But you said, ‘I will not listen!’**

**This has been your way from your youth,**

**That you have not obeyed My voice.**

Ignoring the Lord is the beginning of an evil life.

He also executed the prophet Uriah.

See Jeremiah 26:20-23

<sup>20</sup> Indeed, *there was also a man who used to prophesy in the name of the Lord, Uriah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim*; and he prophesied against this city and against this land words similar to all those of Jeremiah. <sup>21</sup> When King Jehoiakim and all his warriors and all the officials heard his words, *then the king sought to put him to death*; but Uriah heard *about it*, and he was afraid, so he fled and went to Egypt. <sup>22</sup> Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor and *certain* men with him, to Egypt. <sup>23</sup> And *they brought Uriah from Egypt and led him to King Jehoiakim, who killed him with a sword and threw his dead body into the burial place of the common people.*

He began with ignoring the Lord and this led to killing one of the Lord's prophets in a shameful and disgusting manor.