



**A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE**  
**The Messianic Prophecies of Isaiah**  
**Isaiah 7**



*Caspian Sea*

**A S S Y R I A**

Nineveh

Asshur

*River Euphrates*

*River Tigris*

Babylon

**BABYLONIA**

Damascus

Jerusalem

*The Great Sea*

*Sinai*

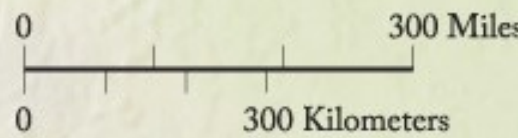
**EGYPT**

*River Nile*

*Red Sea*

*The Lower Sea*

**The Ancient Near East**



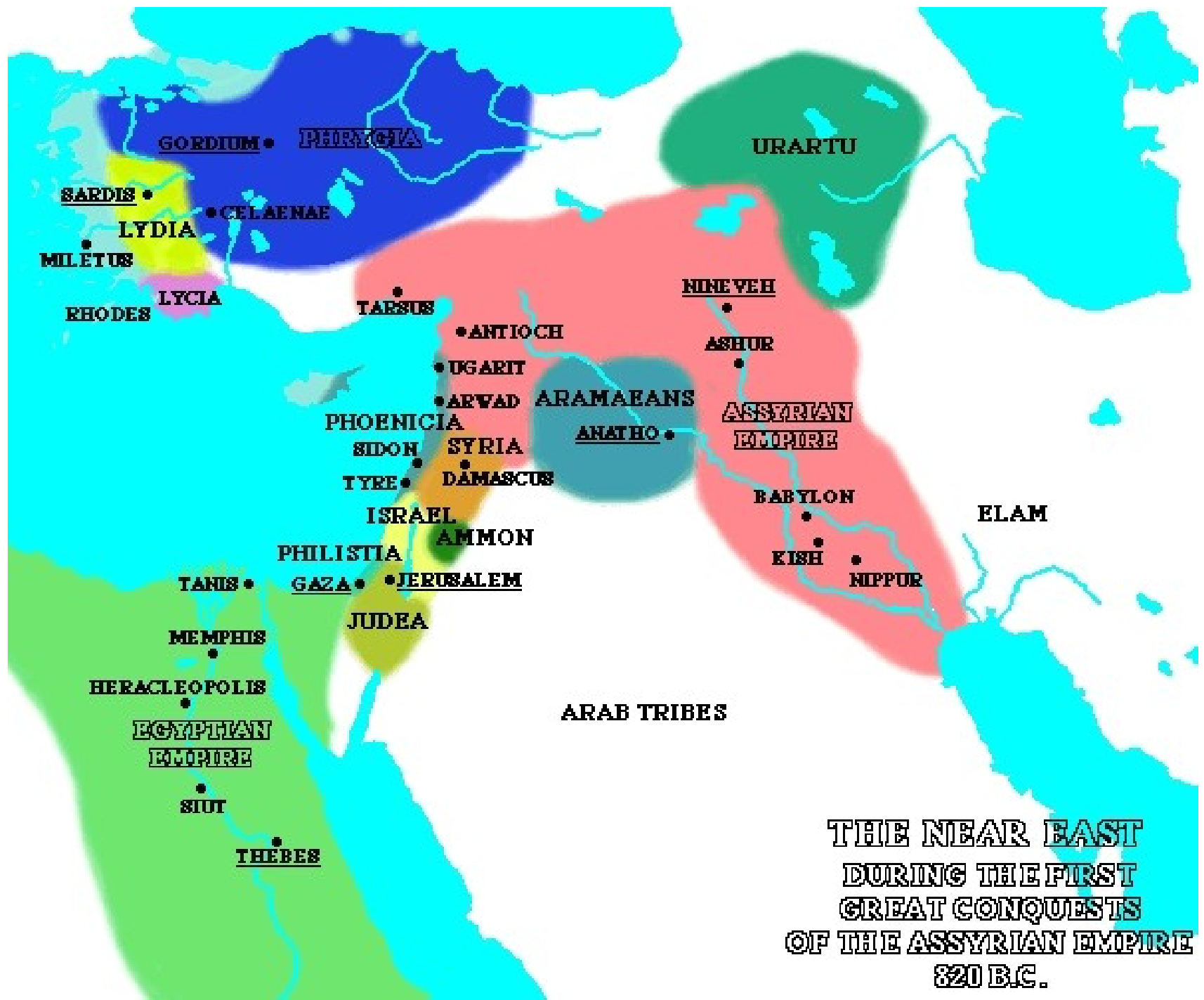






# The Assyrian Army

- (Isaiah 5: 28-30) Their arrows are sharp,  
all their bows bent,  
their horses' hoofs seem like flint,  
and their wheels like the whirlwind.  
<sup>29</sup> Their roaring is like a lion,  
like young lions they roar;  
they growl and seize their prey,  
they carry it off, and none can rescue.  
<sup>30</sup> They will growl over it on that day,  
like the roaring of the sea.  
And if one look to the land,  
behold, darkness and distress;  
and the light is darkened by its clouds.



THE NEAR EAST  
DURING THE FIRST  
GREAT CONQUESTS  
OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE  
820 B.C.

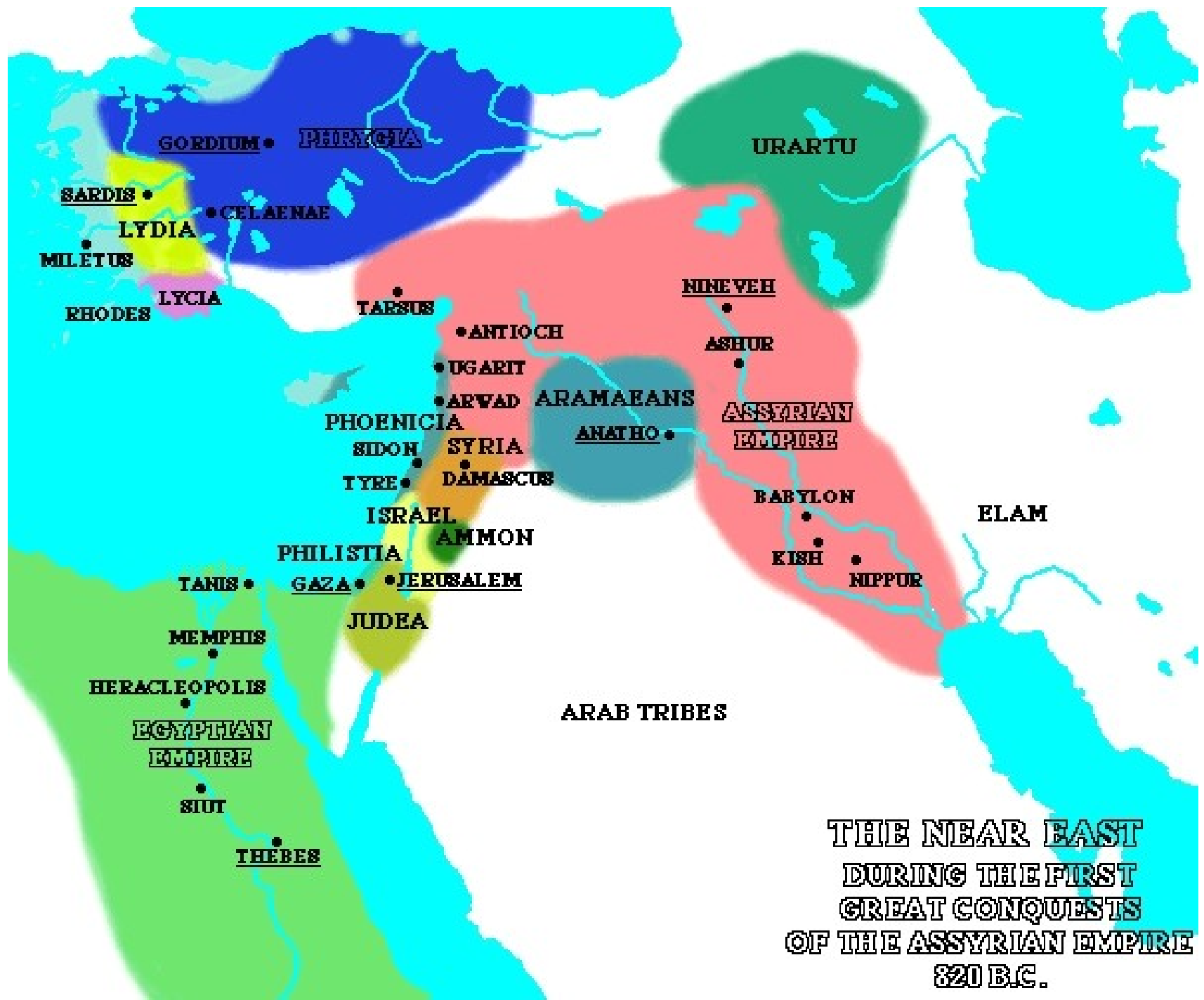
## 2 Kings 15

- <sup>19</sup> When Assyria's King Tiglath-pileser (Pul) marched against the land, Menahem gave Tiglath-pileser one thousand silver kikkars in order to become his ally and to strengthen his hold on the kingdom. <sup>20</sup> Menahem taxed Israel for this money. All the wealthy people had to give fifty silver shekels each to Assyria's king. So Assyria's king went home and didn't stay there in the land.

# Rebellion

- Menahem paid tribute to Tigalth-Pileser throughout his ten-year reign
- His son, Pekahiah, became king upon his death and continued to pay tribute, but there was growing dissent in the land
- Pekah led a coup and assassinated Pekahiah
- He joined forces with Rezin the King of Syria to rebel against Assyria





# Isaiah 7

- In the days of Ahaz (Jotham's son and grandson of Judah's King Uzziah), Aram's King Rezin and Israel's King Pekah (Remaliah's son) came up to attack Jerusalem, but they couldn't overpower it.
- <sup>2</sup> When the house of David was told that Aram had become allies with Ephraim, their hearts and the hearts of their people shook as the trees of a forest shake when there is a wind.

# Fear or Faith?

- Young King Ahaz is scared to death
- He is about to make a foolish decision
- He is desperate—see II Kings 16: 2-3
- Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king, and he ruled for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He didn't do what was right in the LORD's eyes, unlike his ancestor David.  
<sup>3</sup> Instead, he walked in the ways of Israel's kings. He even burned his own son alive, imitating the detestable practices of the nations that the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

# The House of David

- David-Solomon-Rehoboam
- Uzziah was the 10<sup>th</sup> King of Judah
- His son was Jotham, the 11<sup>th</sup> King
- Ahaz was the 12<sup>th</sup> King of Judah, a direct descendent of King David
- He is of the "House of David" and, therefore, an heir of the Promise



# The Promise: 2 Samuel 7

- And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you. <sup>12</sup> When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. . . . <sup>16</sup> Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. **Your throne will be established forever.**

# The Encounter with the King

- King Ahaz was inspecting his water supply (verse 3)
- The Upper Pool
- Two ancient tunnels that provided water to Jerusalem
- Jebusite Tunnel
- Hezekiah's Tunnel











# Isaiah's Son

- Shear-Yashub
- "A Remnant Shall Return"
- His presence was a powerful message

# The Message: Vs. 4

- Keep watch (watch your emotions)
- Keep Calm (Don't make a rash decision)
- Do not fear (God is with you)
- Do not lose heart (Remember the promise)

# Two Smoldering Stumps!

- King Rezin of Damascus and King Pekah of Israel are nothing but burned out logs—just smoldering, no fire
- You don't need to fear them!
- What does it matter what they say!
- What matters is what God says!

# What does God say? Vs. 7-9

- It won't happen; it won't take place. <sup>8</sup>The chief of Aram is Damascus; the chief of Damascus is Rezin (in sixty-five more years Ephraim will be shattered as a nation); <sup>9</sup>the chief of Ephraim is Samaria; and the chief of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you don't believe this, you can't be trusted.'"
- This was taking place around 735 BC
- Israel (Ephraim) was destroyed in 722 BC



# If You Don't Believe This . . .

- If you do not believe (*ta' aminu*)
- You will not be established (*te' amenu*)
- If your faith is not strong, your throne (House of David) will not be established
- Faith is not a matter of intellectual content or cognitive belief. It is rather a matter of quite practical reliance on God in a context of risk where one's own resources are not adequate. **Brueggemann**

# Martin Luther

- **A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing.**
- **Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.**
- **Christ Jesus, it is he, Lord Sabaoth his Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the battle.**

# So Ahaz—Whom Do You Trust?

- The Lord is now speaking to Ahaz again
- Ask a sign—any sign—as high as heaven, as deep as Sheol
- At this point Ahaz becomes pious!!!!!!
- I will not put the Lord to the test!
- (Numbers 14:22, Deut. 6: 16)
- Don't you love it when politicians suddenly become pious!



# I Will Give You a Sign Anyway

- Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son . . . (7:14)
- Virgin or Young Woman?
- The Hebrew word 'alma means a woman who is past puberty and therefore, of marriageable age, presumably capable of bearing children
- The young woman may or may not be a virgin

# Not the Hebrew Bible but the LXX

- The Septuagint (LXX) translates the word "virgin"
- When Matthew quoted this Scripture (1:23) he was using the LXX not the Hebrew
- The Latin Vulgate followed the LXX
- KJV closely followed the Latin Vulgate

# God is Sending a Sign

- Of hope and promise through an uncommon, even miraculous, birth
- Sarah
- Rebekah
- Jochebed
- Hannah
- Elizabeth
- Mary



# What was the Message?

- Immanuel God is with us
- Vs 16 Israel and Syria will fall
- Vs 17 The LORD will bring upon you, upon your people, and upon your families days unlike any that have come since the day Ephraim broke away from Judah—the king of Assyria.”
- This is the real danger that Ahaz does not see

# Did He Listen?

- Ahaz sent messengers to Assyria's King Tiglath-pileser, saying, "I'm your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the power of the kings of Aram and Israel. Both of them are attacking me!"  
⁸ And Ahaz took the silver and the gold that was in the LORD's temple and in the palace treasuries, and sent a gift to Assyria's king. ⁹ The Assyrian king heard the request and marched against Damascus. He captured it and sent its citizens into exile to Kir. He also killed Rezin. (2 Kings 16: 7-9)



# O Brother Where Art Thou

- [Ulysses Everett McGill](#): What'd the devil give you for your soul, Tommy?
- [Tommy Johnson](#): Well, he taught me to play this here guitar real good.
- [Delmar O'Donnell](#): Oh son, for that you sold your everlasting soul?
- [Tommy Johnson](#): Well, I wasn't usin' it.

# No, Ahaz wasn't usin' his soul!

- King Ahaz acted on fear rather than faith
- His decision to sell his soul to the devil reflected short-term panic and long-term foolishness
- The message of Immanuel is that "God is with us"—a message Ahaz did not hear

- But not



# Who Was Immanuel?

- Some say Isaiah's own son
- Jewish scholars have traditionally identified Immanuel as Hezekiah who initiated religious reforms and saved Jerusalem from the Assyrians



# The Big Question

- Was this prophecy fulfilled in Isaiah's time?
- Or, was this prophecy predicting the birth of the Messiah that would over 700 years later
- The answer is



# The Short Term Fulfillment

- The Assyrians destroyed Syria in 732
- Israel fell in 722
- The Assyrians, now under the rule of Sennacherib, attacked Jerusalem in 701
- But King Hezekiah, who had completed one of the engineering marvels of the ancient world (the tunnel) put his faith in God and was delivered

# Psalm 46

- God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present<sup>[a]</sup> help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth  
should change,  
    though the mountains shake in the heart of  
the sea;  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
    though the mountains tremble with its  
tumult. *Selah*

# Verses 4-7

- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;  
God will help her right early.  
<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. [\[b\]](#) *Selah*

## II Chronicles 32

- “Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is one greater with us than with him. <sup>8</sup> With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezeki’ah king of Judah.

# The Lord of Hosts is With Us!

- Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
how he has wrought desolations in the earth.  
<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
he burns the chariots with fire!  
<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God.  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth!”  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.[\[c\]](#)

# An Angel of the Lord

- And that night the angel of the LORD went forth, and slew a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. 2 Kings 19





# Long Term Fulfillment

- Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. **Your throne will be established forever**
- **The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew)**
- 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

# The Fulfillment

- “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; <sup>21</sup> she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:<sup>23</sup> “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman’u-el”
- (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

