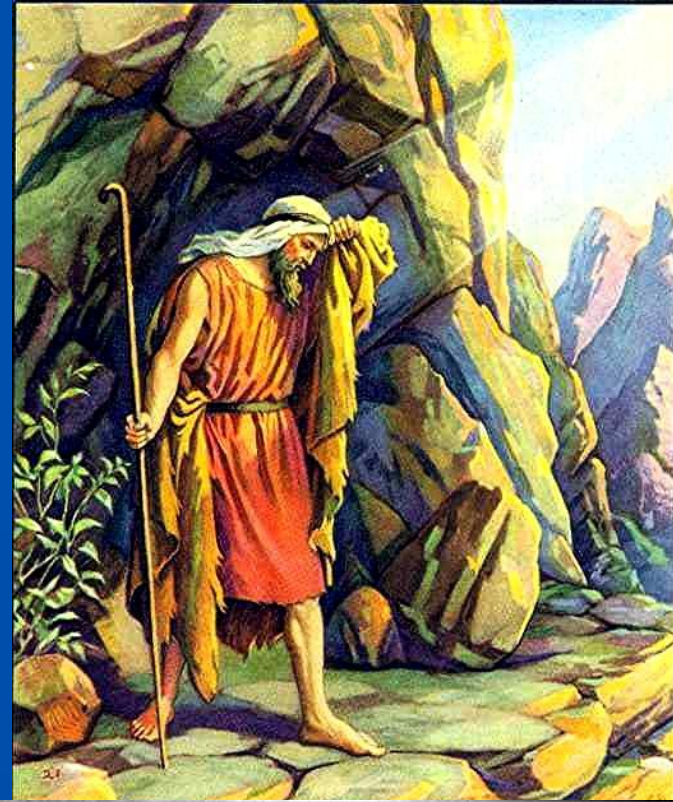


# ELIJAH LEAVES THE MISSION FIELD



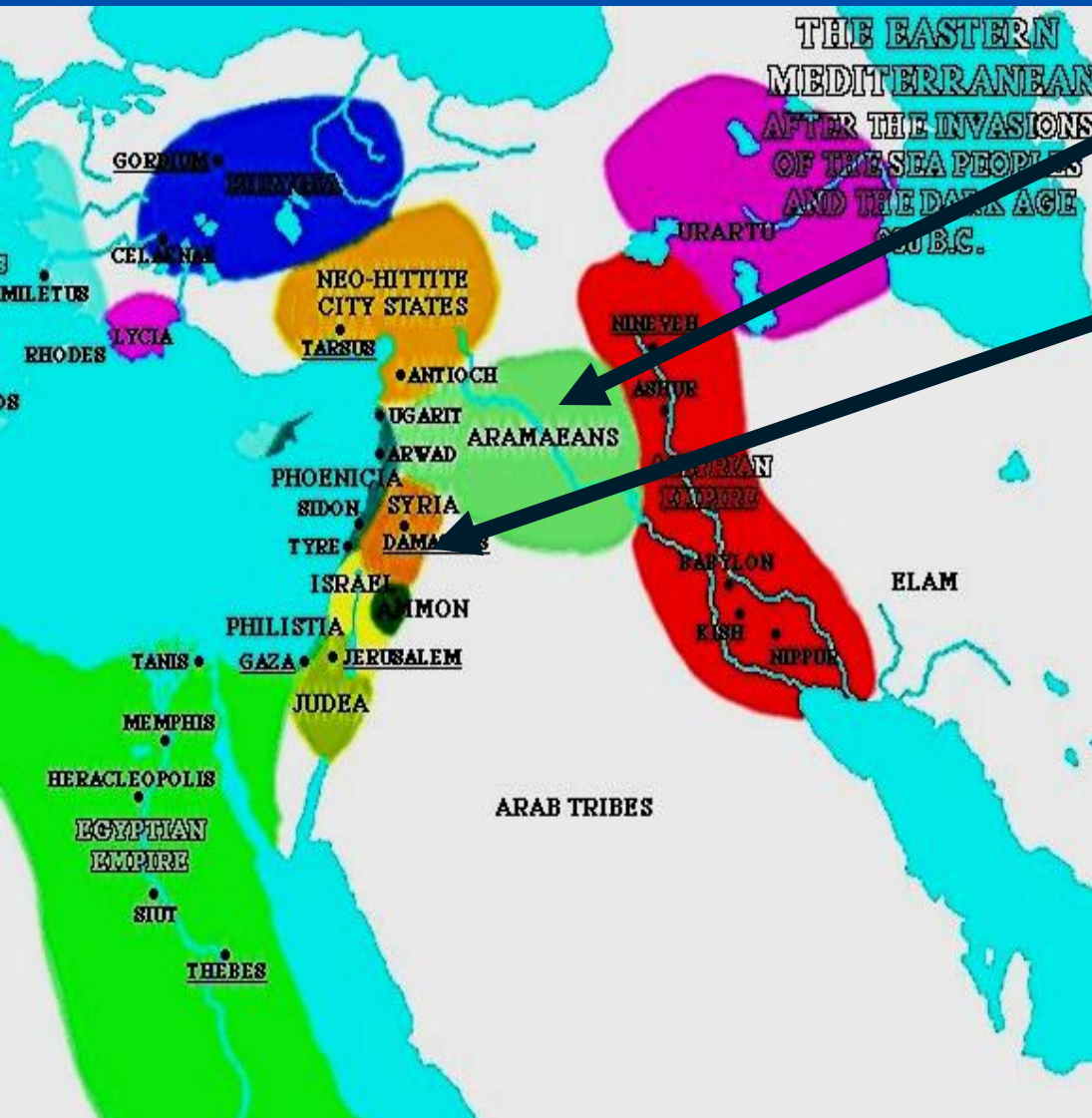
- It was Elijah's carnal expectations of the results of God's miracles that was his problem
- *Eliyahu* wanted the Lord to be harsh on Israel
- We'll find in later chapters that Elijah repented and God put him back to work
- *Elisha* was anointed as Elijah's eventual replacement

# 1<sup>ST</sup> KINGS 20: THE WAR WITH SYRIA

- *Achav* King of Israel at same time *Asa* King of Judah
- About 860 B.C., around 60 years after Solomon
- Civil war split Israel into 2 Kingdoms
- Jeroboam set up calf worship in the north
- A half-dozen kings have ruled over Israel



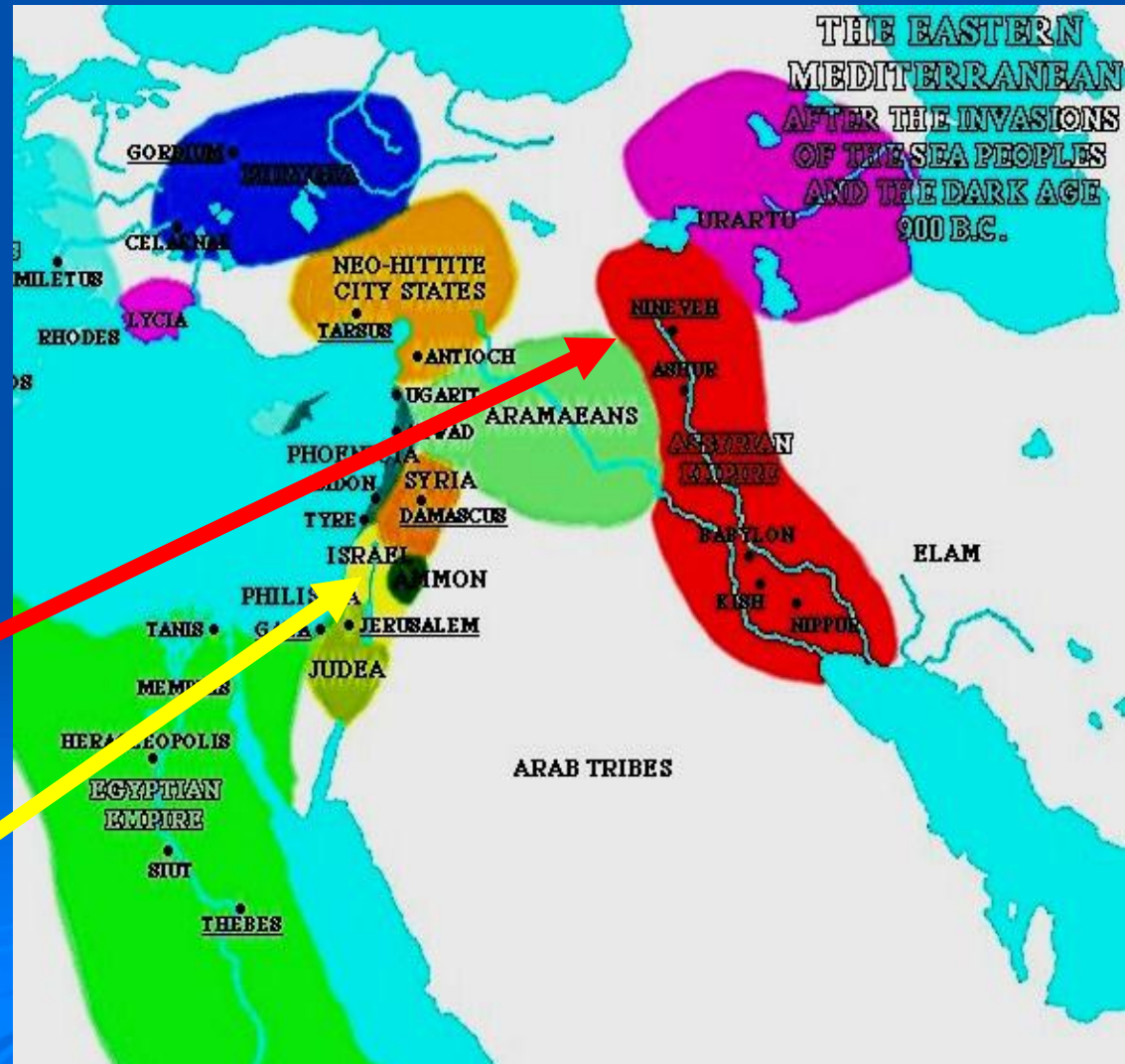
# BEN-HADAD KING OF ARAM

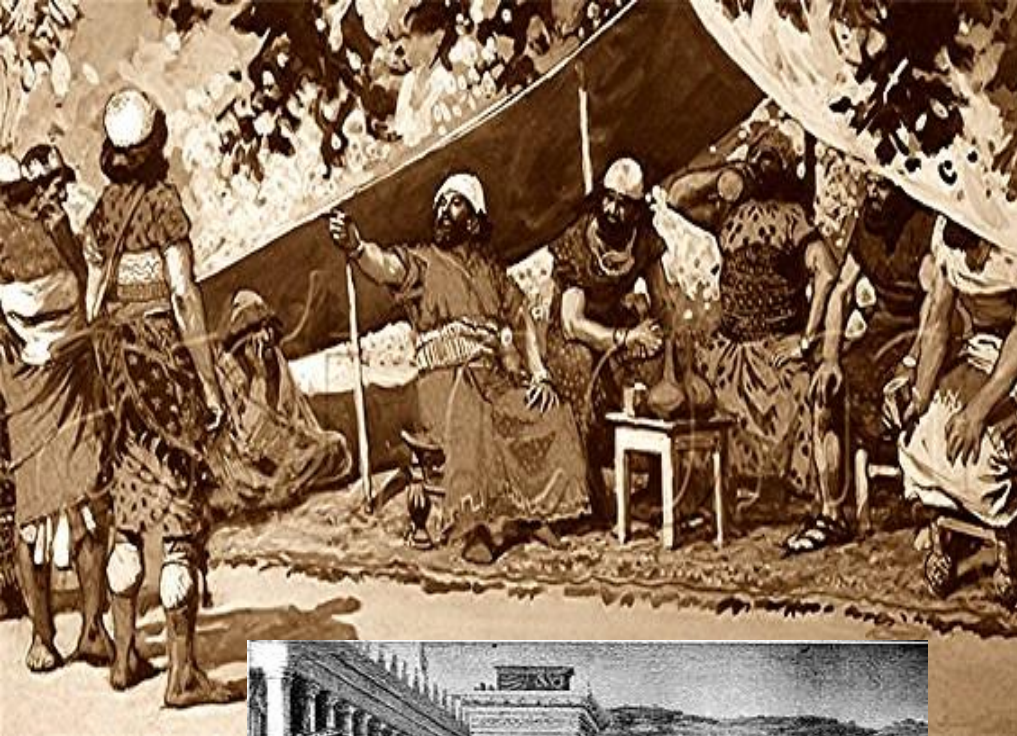


- Aram = Syria for convenience sake
- Syria only part of Aram
- Ben-Hadad = Son of Hadad
- Hadad = Sun god
- Ben-Hadad decides to attack Samaria, capital of Israel

# ARAM FACES DUAL THREAT

- Ben-Hadad's father made Judah an ally
- Ba'sha of Israel became Syria's ally for a short time
- Syria renounced allegiance with Israel in favor of Judah
- Assyria threatened Syria's northern & eastern border
- Israel threatened Syria's southern border





# ARAM ATTACKS SAMARIA

- Ben-Hadad's army consisted of the troops of 32 petty potentates
- They wanted loot !
- King *Achav* caught by surprise, retreated into the Samaria fortress
- Ben-Hadad offered his terms of surrender
- *Achav* accepts and thinks he's agreeing to become Syria's vassal



# THE ENEMY WANTS TO HUMILIATE ISRAEL

- After *Achav* accepts demands, Ben-Hadad demands more
- *Achav* takes demands to elders and tribal leaders who say, “NO!”
- Israel too often has chosen to appease irrational demands whose purpose is to humiliate
- In 1967 Israel GAVE BACK the Temple Mount to appease Islam and the West
- Ben-Hadad and his 32 potentates were drunk during these negotiations



# “BEHOLD!”

- **Hinneh** = behold, pay attention
- Through the **navi** (prophet) God says He will deliver Israel from Aram
- **“Through whom?”**
- A skeptical and desperate answer from **Achav**
- Provincial governors were over tax districts
- Their sons were hostages in Samaria to guarantee loyalty of their fathers when Aram attacked
- The young sons were to be the military commanders
- **Achav** told to lead the battle



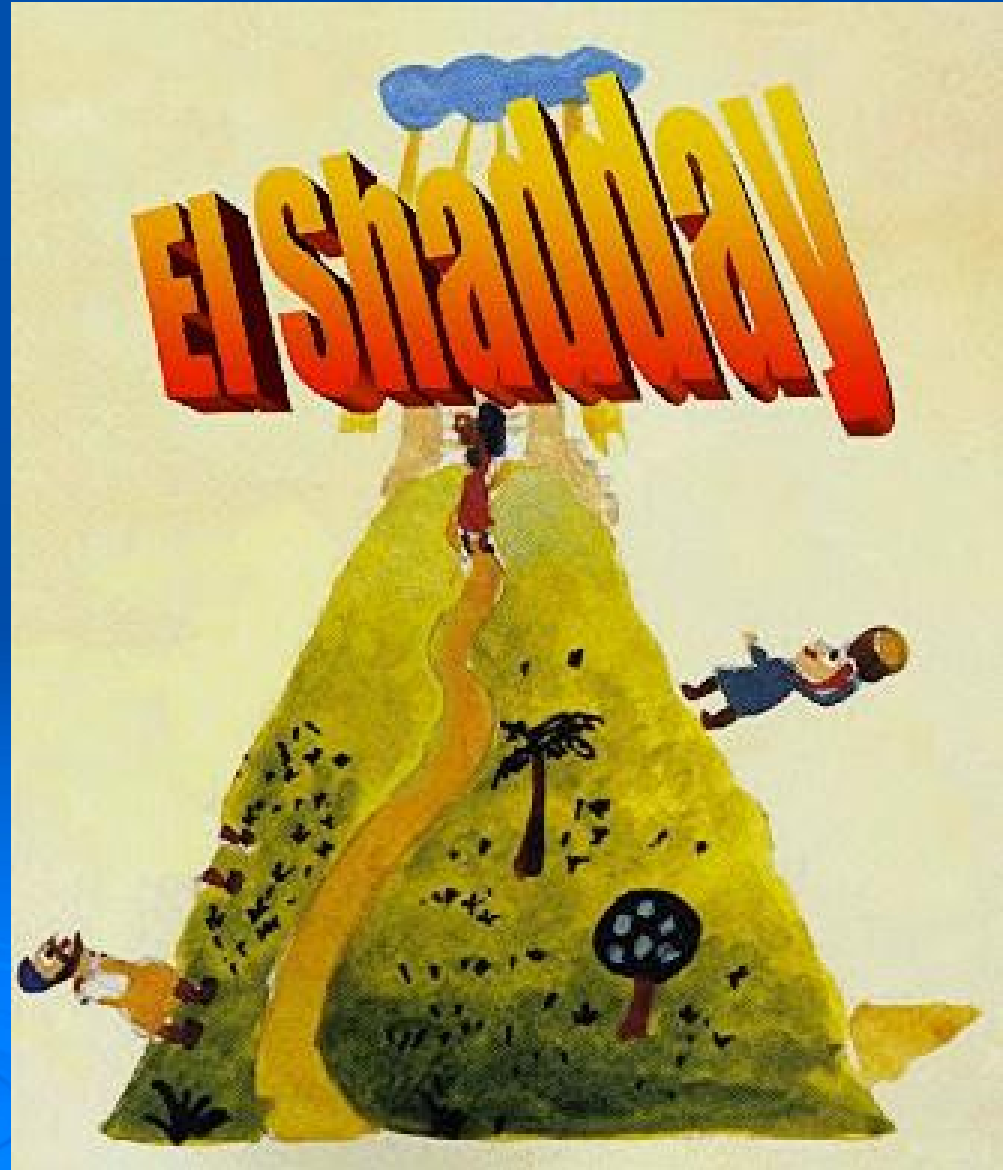
# ISRAEL ROUTS THE SYRIAN ARMY



- 232 of the young sons, and 7,000 fighters go out of Samaria against Aram
- The inebriated Ben-Hadad says to capture all the Israelites
- Israel mows down the Syrians and they flee
- **Achav** did not lead the battle, only came out after victory assured
- **Ish Elohim** (Man of God) says Aram will return after the turn of the year

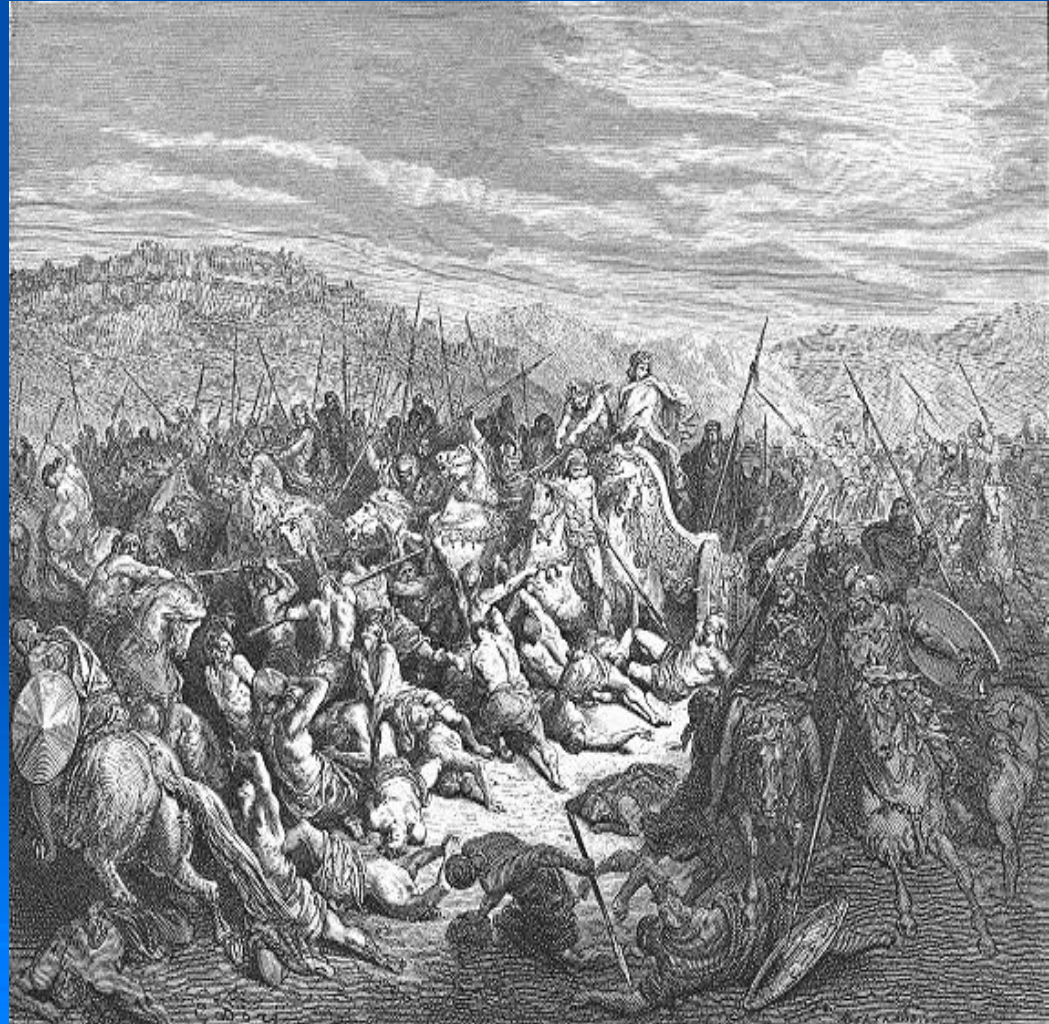


# THE GOD OF THE MOUNTAINS



# BEN-HADAD RETURNS TO RECLAIM HIS HONOR

- Ben-Hadad replaced the 32 potentates with hand picked fighters
- God says that because Aram believes He is a God of the Mountains and not of the Plains, He will defeat Aram
- Purpose is to show King *Achav* that YHWH is God of Israel



# THE BATTLE MOVES TO APHEK



- 100,000 Syrian soldiers are NOT killed, they are smote
- *Nacah* = smite (not kill)
- 27,000 escape to *Aphek*
- City wall collapses, kills or injures most of the remaining Syrian troops
- Ben-Hadad became trapped and his personal guard went to King Achav for mercy

# *“..My brother !....”*

- King Achav plays the fool and makes a friend of his arch-enemy Ben-Hadad
- Unworthy of being God's king for Israel
- The same pattern happens in modern times
- Poor national leaders still believe that capitulation, appeasement, and weakness will bring peace with brutal and evil enemies

