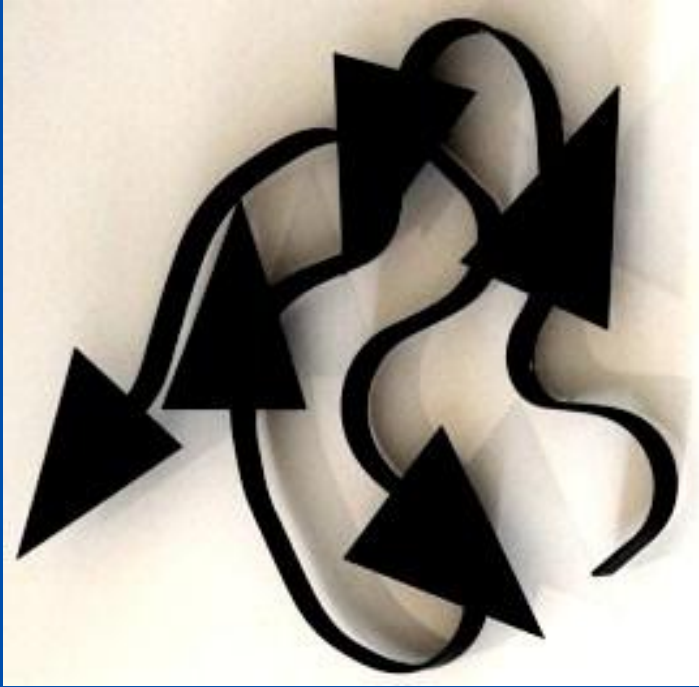# LINKS AND CONNECTIONS

- ➢ OT not always in chronological sequence
- ➢ In a nation several isolated things can be happening simultaneously that affect each other
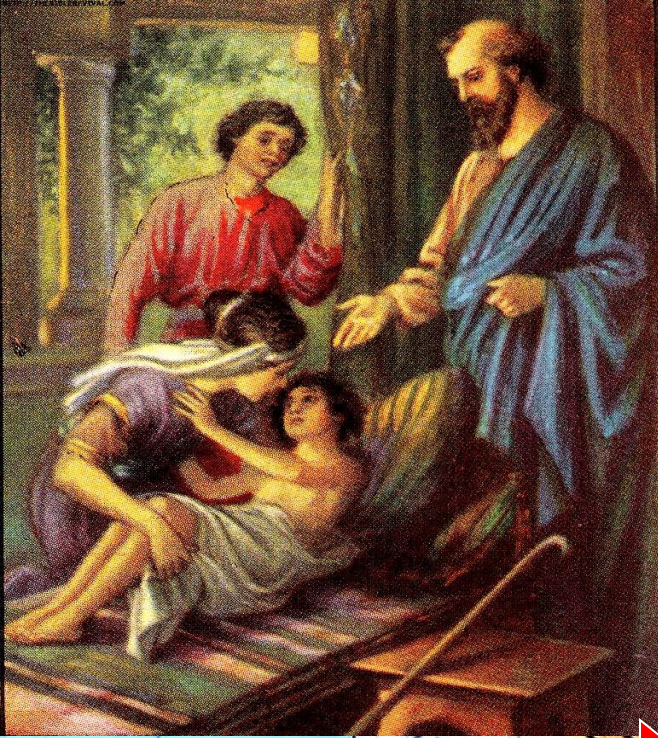- ➢ Secular history is seen to be coincidental
- ➢ But with God's people history is controlled by the Lord
- ➢ The issue for the writer becomes how to explain many events that work together to form the whole story

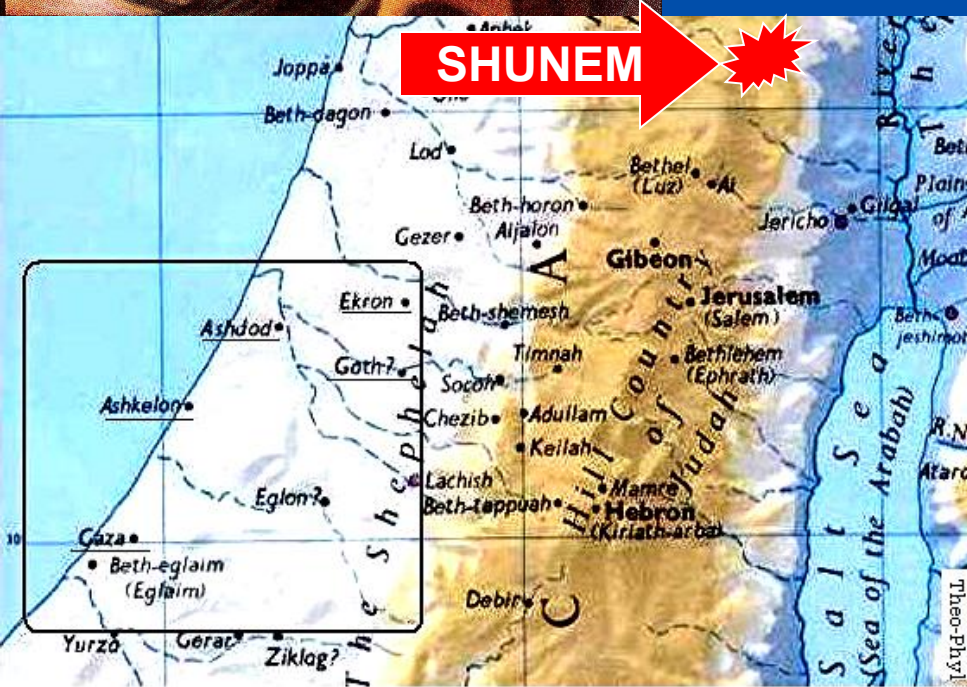# PUTTING TOGETHER THE PUZZLE PIECES OF HISTORY

- Timelines, footnotes, appendices and more all used to put the puzzle pieces of history back together

- Book of Kings dealing with 2 Israelite kingdoms, plus relationships with gentile nations

- Life of Elisha is providing the context for a more complete picture

- Chapter 8 begins with a flashback

2ND KINGS 8: RELATED STORIES

➤ Chapter 4, Shunammite woman whose son was resurrected by Elisha

➤ Now we find out that afterwards Elisha also warned her of a coming famine

➤ 1) 7 years of famine

➤ 2) Sojourn to a foreign land

➤ 3) Famine caused by God

➤ Famine to be in Israel and Judah but nowhere else

➤ 2Kings 4:35 - 38

SHUNEM

Joppa
Beth-dagon
Lod
Bethel (Luz)
Ai
Beth-horon
Aijalon
Gezer
Jericho
Gibeon
Jerusalem (Salem)
Moab
Ekron
Beth-shemesh
Ashdod
Gath?
Timnah
Socoh
Bethlehem (Ephrath)
Chezib
Adullam
Ashkelon
Keilah
R.Ne
Lachish
Mamre
Ataro
Eglon?
Beth-tappuah
Hebron (Kiriath-arba)
Gaza
Beth-eglaim (Eglaim)
Debir
Yurza
Gerar
Ziklag?

Philistines Pentapolis - Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza

WHY IS *GEICHAZI* WITH THE KING?

- ➢ Woman returns to find squatters occupying her home and property

- ➢ She goes to King *Y'horam* and *Geichazi*, Elisha's servant, is there

- ➢ Rabbis puzzled as according to 2nd Kings chronology by now *Geichazi* had *Tzara'at*, so shouldn't be at the palace

- ➢ Perhaps this was chronologically before the Na'aman incident

- ➢ Or.....perhaps his *Tzara'at* was hidden by his clothing
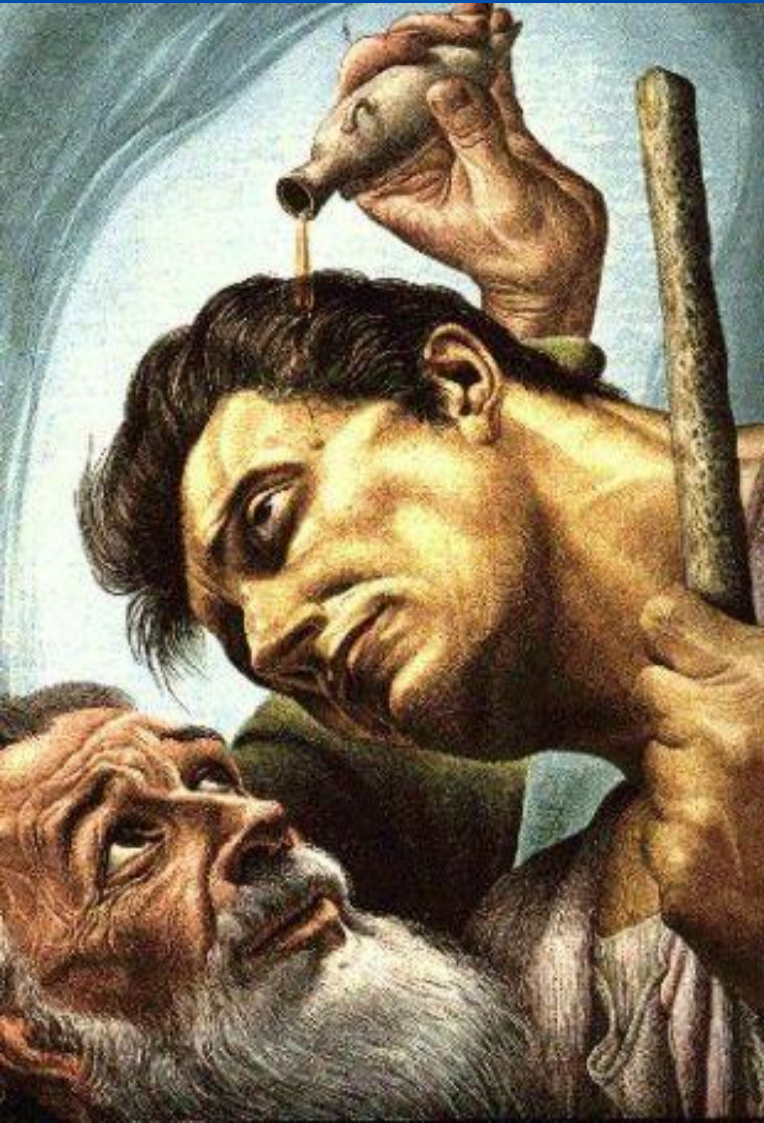
- ➢ A mystery

woman returns

WOMAN'S LAND RETURNED

➤ Most biblical famines are NOT the complete absence of food

➤ Shortages cause high prices, which cause hardship on the poor

➤ Woman to be compensated for food grown on her land

➤ No Israelite owned the land, it was like a lease

➤ God owned the land

➤ Kinsman Redeemer paid price based on crops grown

➤ Linked with siege of Chapter 7: faith**less**ness brings disaster, faith**ful**ness brings restoration
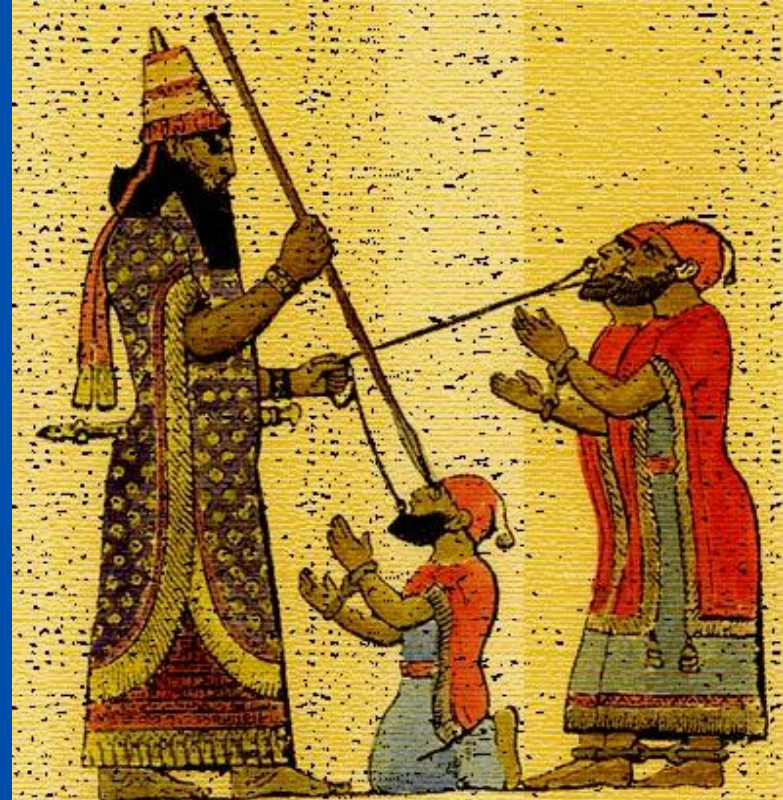
ELISHA SENT BY GOD TO ANOINT *HAZA'EL* AS KING OF ARAM

- Elisha goes to Damascus
- Syria = Aram
- Strange that a Syrian would accept being chosen by a Hebrew to become king!
- Elijah was first given this commission but left this earth before it happened
- 1st Kings 19:11 – 18
- Elisha must have been full of anxiety knowing in advance that Haza'el would be a cruel tormenter of Israel
- Alfred Edersheim, 19th century Christian Jewish scholar, godfather of Hebrew Roots movement
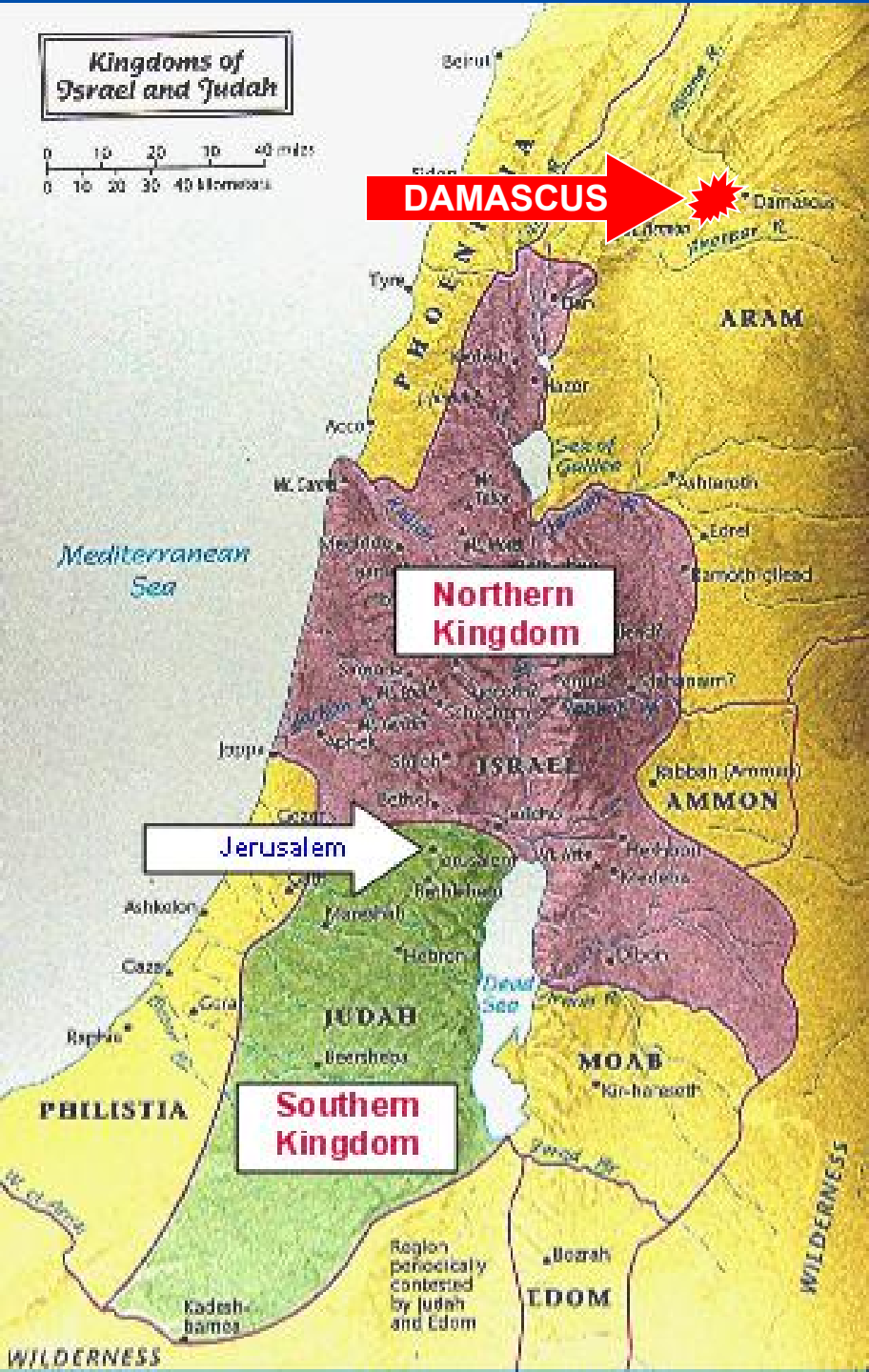
GOD USED GENTILES TO PUNISH HIS PEOPLE

➤ WHY ??? Should be asking WHICH??

➤ Faith and obedience don't judge God or His motives

➤ Haza'el would be anointed to punish the northern kingdom

➤ Nebuchadnezzar would be anointed to punish the southern kingdom

➤ Jeremiah 27: 1 - 10

ISRAEL AND SYRIA'S LONG RELATIONSHIP

Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

DAMASCUS

Jerusalem

Northern Kingdom

Southern Kingdom

➢ An on-again off-again relationship especially with Damascus

➢ Issues were with governments

➢ The people were probably intermarried and had family in each kingdom

➢ High Priest Zadok moved to Damascus and started a Levite colony

➢ Essenes of the Dead Sea Scrolls had a large community in Damascus

HAZA'EL GREETS ELISHA WITH GIFTS

➢ Ben-Hadad sent Haza'el to ask Elisha if he would survive his illness

➢ 40 camels to bring gifts

➢ Doesn't mean the camels were fully loaded

➢ The idea was for lots of pomp and circumstance

➢ *"Your son, Ben-Hadad.."*

➢ A son is under the authority of his father

➢ A brother is an equal

HAZA'EL:
A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

➢ Haza'el saw Ben-Hadad's deference to Elisha as a great insult to Syria and a sign of weakness

➢ "you WILL recover" ???

➢ *Va-yomer elay ve Elisha lek emor lo chayyah*

➢ *Lo* = no, not

➢ You will NOT recover

➢ Means: 1) you will NOT die of your illness, but 2)you will die of something else

➢ Haza'el already had been thinking of murdering Ben-Hadad