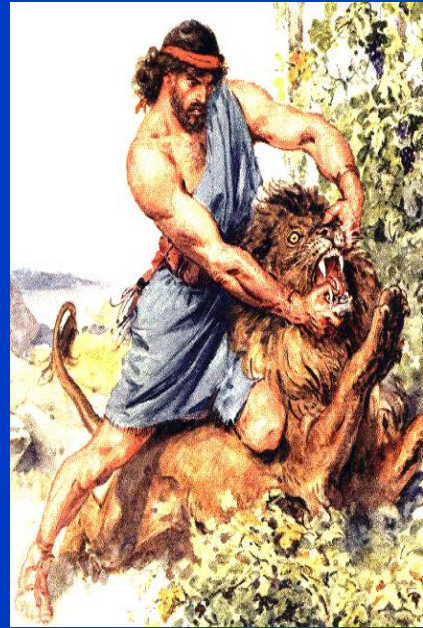




- Israel is who they are based on two things:
 - 1) God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt
 - 2) A homeland taken from the Canaanites and given to Israel
- Two ends of a spectrum: at one end, a people who never should have existed (products of the *Nephilim*), at the other end, a people identified with God (Israel)
- The Amorites represent the quasi-human *Nephilim*

PROPHETS AND NAZARITES



- A continuous chain of Prophets and Nazarites to bless Israel with God's guidance
- Israel had strayed so far from their salvation history, that it devolved into their judgment history
- Jesus did NOT change the pattern we read about in Amos

GOD'S CHOSEN ARE PERSECUTED

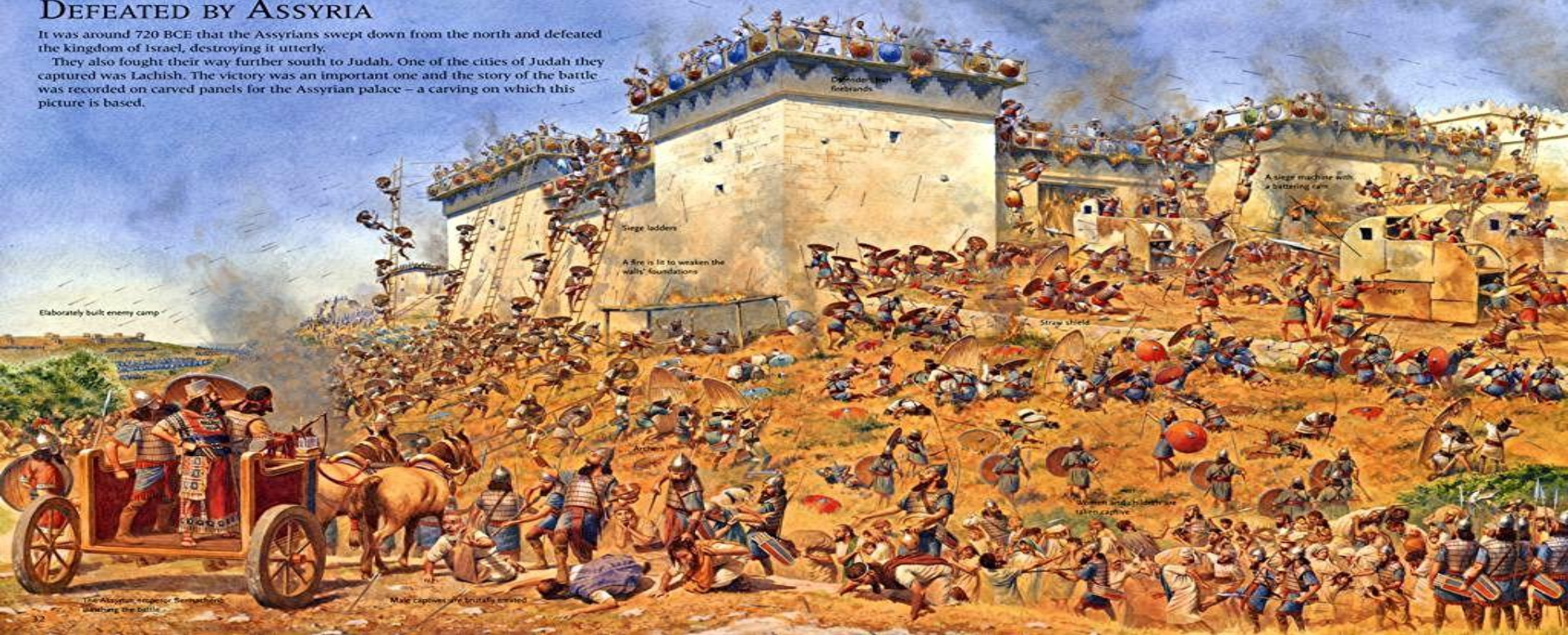
- Nazarites forced to drink wine
- Prophets told not to prophesy
- 1Kings 13 1Kings 18
- Isaiah 30
- The overloaded cart represents abundance turned to judgment
- Israel will be frozen in fear, unable to run away



DEFEATED BY ASSYRIA

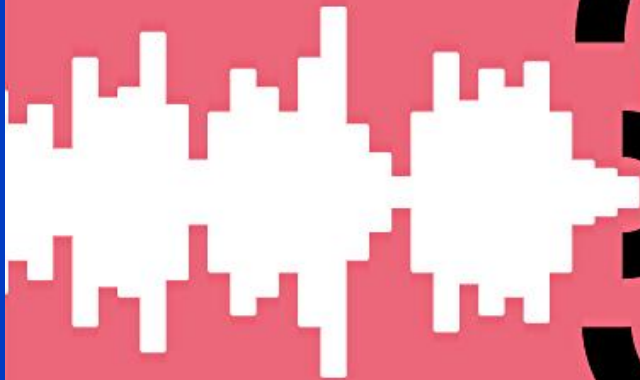
It was around 720 BCE that the Assyrians swept down from the north and defeated the kingdom of Israel, destroying it utterly.

They also fought their way further south to Judah. One of the cities of Judah they captured was Lachish. The victory was an important one and the story of the battle was recorded on carved panels for the Assyrian palace – a carving on which this picture is based.



- Final 3 verses offer examples of the helplessness of the Israelite military against the invaders
- Amos told Israel about this many years before it came to pass. Why didn't Israelites prepare by leaving?
- God is giving Israel sufficient time to prepare
- Vss.14 – 16 speak of Israel's military collapse

SHEMA!



- Amos chapter 3: something of utmost importance is about to be said
- **Shema** = hearing that includes acting upon it
- Ba'al = a generic Canaanite term meaning "lord"
- God had a choice of families to set-apart as His own, but He chose Israel

AMOS

CHAPTER 3

7 Rhetorical questions



- Primary message: nothing is an accident
- Question 1: do two people traveling together share food if they had never before met?
- Question 2: Does a lion roar when he's hunting?
- Question 3: Does a lion roar in his lair if he's caught nothing to eat?



There is no such thing as an accident.
What we call by that name is the effect
of some cause which we do not see.

Voltaire

- Question 4: Can a bird be caught if there's no bait in the snare?
- Question 5: If a trap is sprung, does it mean that nothing is in it?
- Question 6: If a Rams horn is blown in a town, won't the people be startled?
- Question 7: If a town suffers, didn't God do it?

WHEN GOD WILLS IT, IT IS....



written
in stone

- With sufficient rebellion and disobedience God reserves the right to punish His own worshippers
- Israel's fate is a done deal (the Lion HAS growled)
- A true Prophet acts under divine compulsion
- Amos's and all other biblical prophecies have come or are becoming true, or are happening again

A diatribe
against the
wealthy and elite



- Ashdod and Egypt chosen as witnesses against Ephraim/Israel in the siege of Samaria
- Torah requires 2 witnesses to bear testimony against an accused (Israel)
- Later on, some editors changed Ashdod to “Assyria”
- The tumult in Samaria is about the oppression of the people by their leaders and aristocrats

**My
People are
destroyed
for lack of
knowledge..**
Hosea 4:6

www.madepet.com

- God says that Israel is no longer capable of doing right because.....
- They had abandoned their moral compass
- Abandoning the Law of Moses IS abandoning knowledge
- Leaders of Ephraim/Israel replaced the Law of Moses with their doctrines
- Deuteronomy 28:49 -53

A NEW FLUID MORAL CODE



- It has always fallen to God's people to be the advocates of His code of morality and ethics
- In the last ½ century, there has been a complete abandonment in many denominations of God's morality in favor of what pleases society
- God says that like a lion leaves only a little after eating, only a remnant of His people shall remain