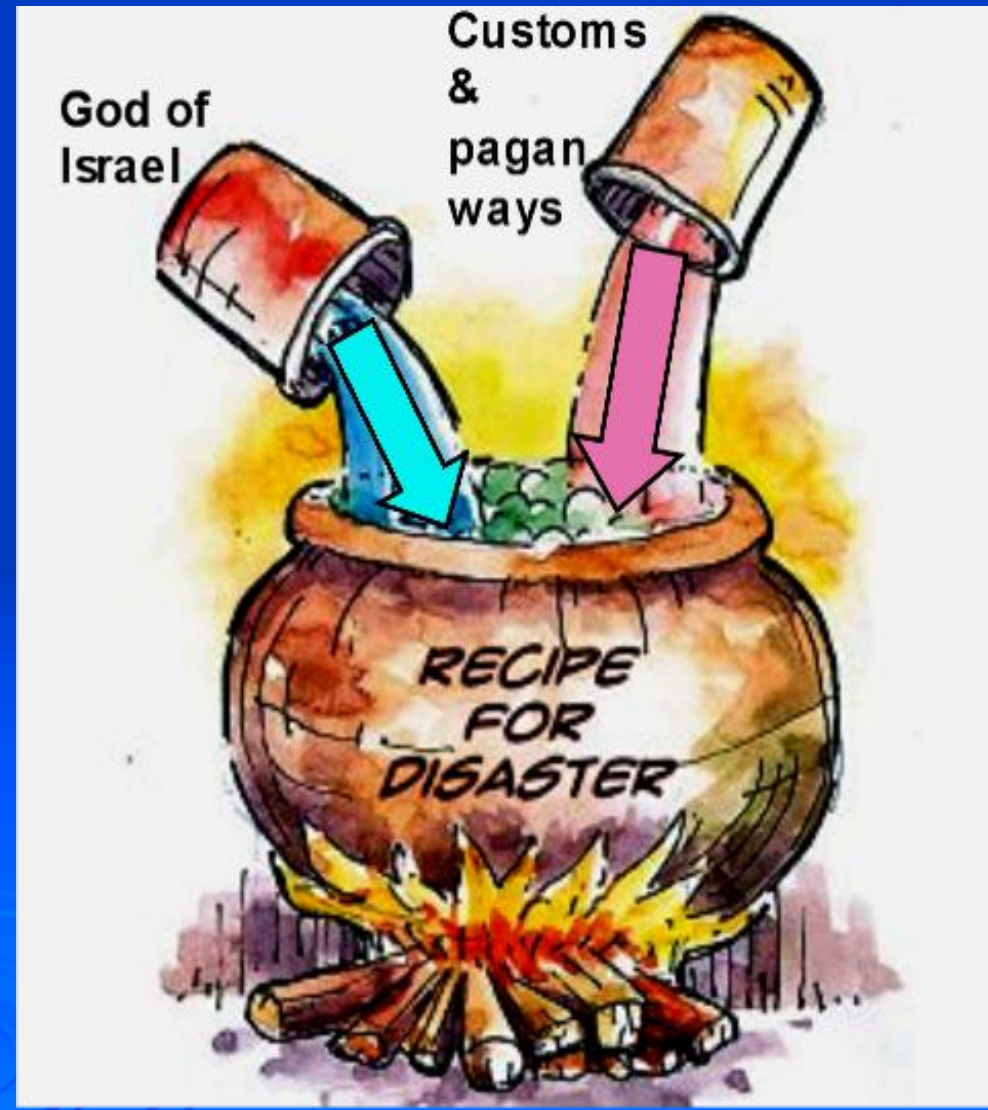


HOSEA CHAPTER 1: THE PROBLEM OF SYNCRETISM

- Hosea prophesied in the 700's B.C.
- Israel had long ago split into 2 kingdoms: Judah and Ephraim/Israel
- King Jeroboam II made treaties with gentile nations
- For the sake of the economy, tolerance and security Israel ruined their relationship with God



The “Writing Prophets” in the Old Testament are so-called because their writings are recorded in the Bible

MALACHI

OBADIAH

ZECHARIAH

JOEL

HAGGAI

JONAH

EZEKIEL

AMOS

DANIEL

HOSEA

HABAKKUK

“The word of the Lord came to the prophet.”

ISAIAH

2 Samuel 24:11

JEREMIAH

MICAH

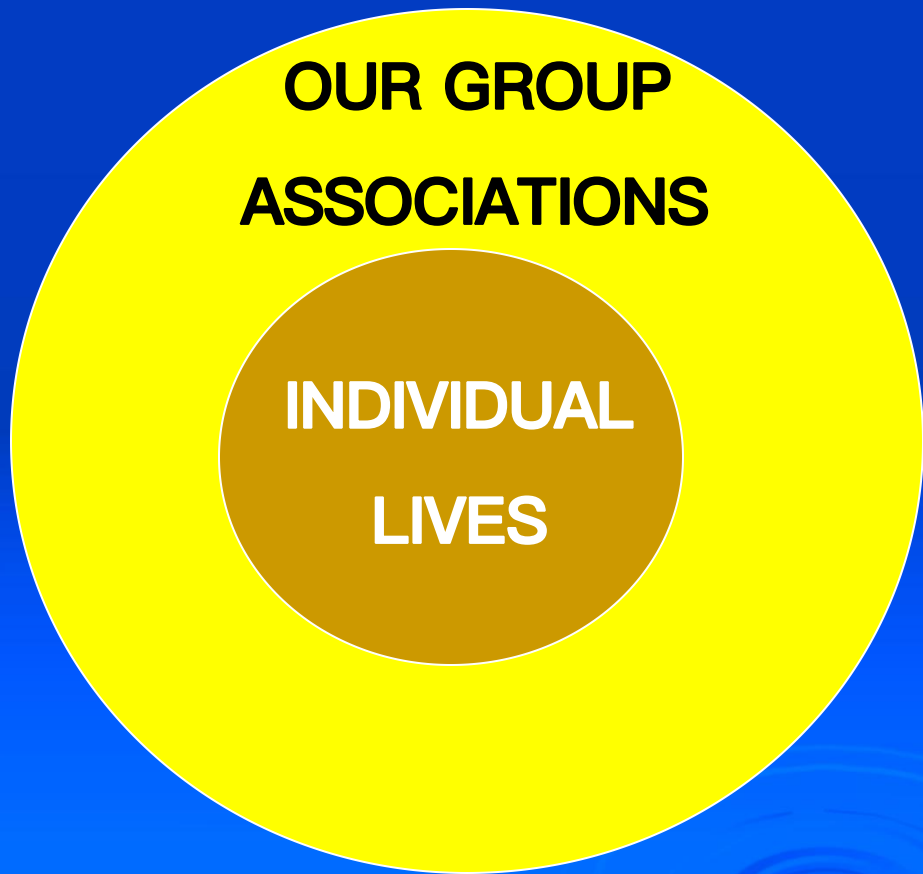
ZEPHANIAH

NAHUM

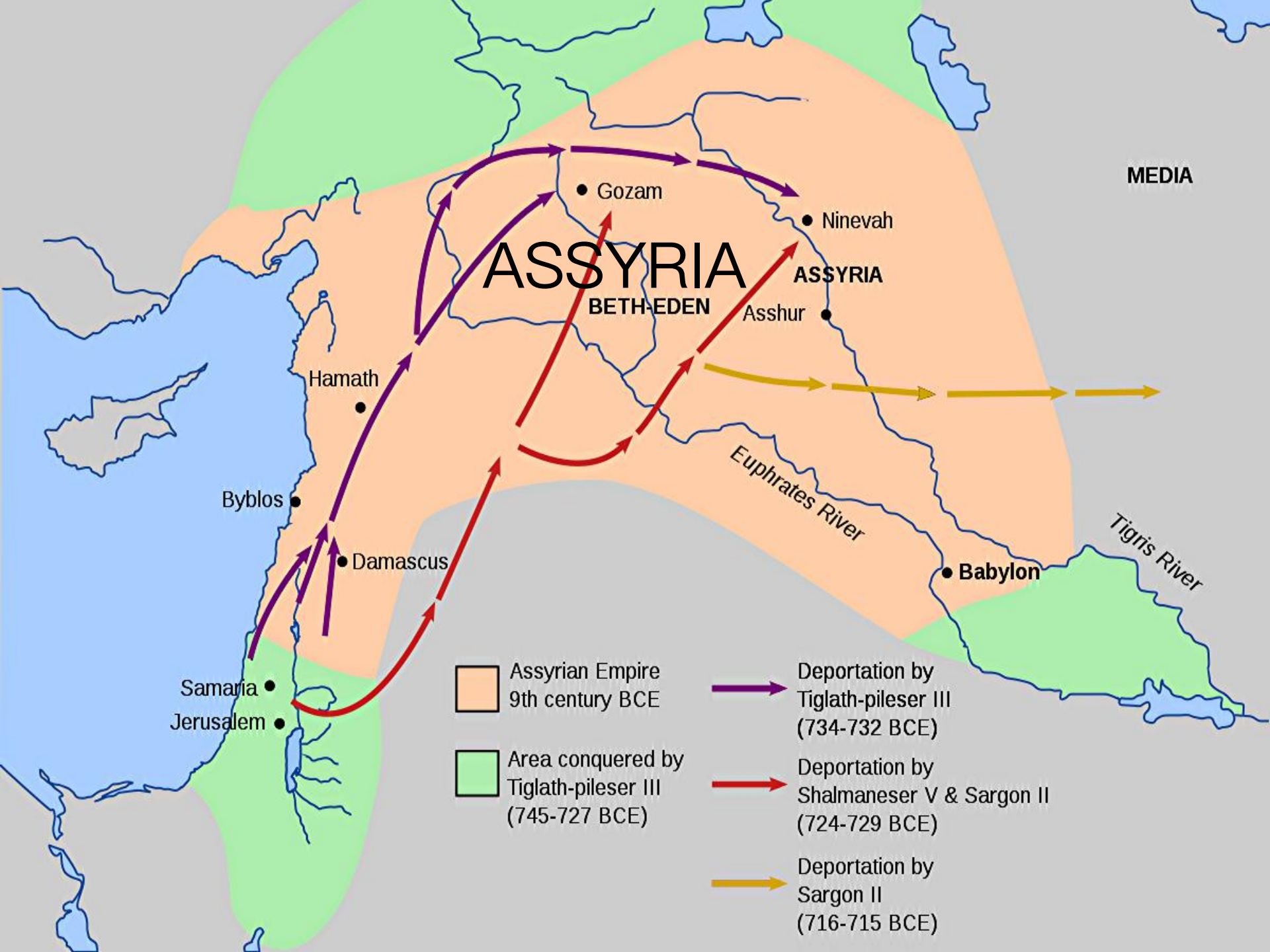


- After Jeroboam’s death Israel declined into chaos
- Hosea prophesied over a 35 year period
- Elijah and Hosea similar as both promised God’s wrath was coming, and led a battle against Ba’al
- Although the Northern Kingdom would go into exile, the Southern Kingdom didn’t until 130 years later
- Assyria was the vehicle of God’s wrath upon Israel

WRATH THEN REDEMPTION



- All of Ephraim/Israel would be judged as a single entity
- No individual would be spared even if they were righteous
- Israel's exile reflects the same pattern as the Exodus from Egypt
- It has been a 2700 year wait from exile to return for Israel... but it is happening now in the 21st century!

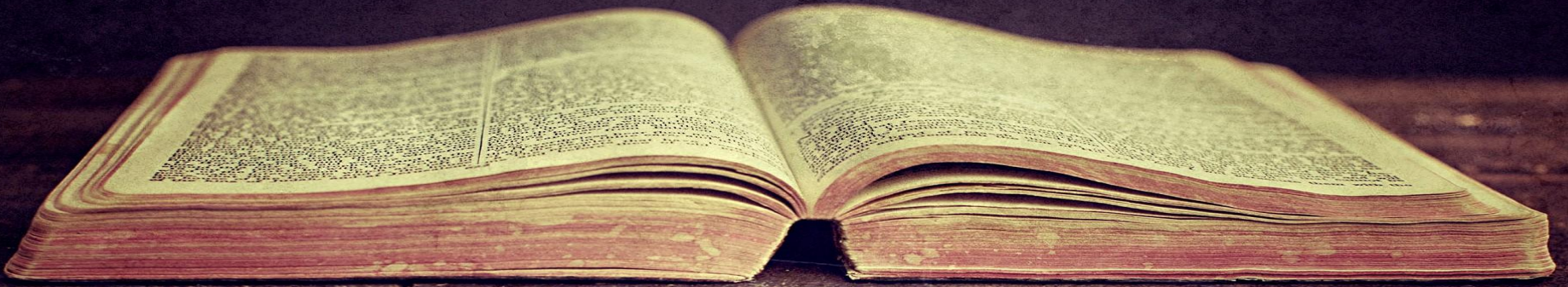


THE USE OF SCRIBES

- First 2 chapters of Hosea are in the 3rd person (he/she/they)
- Scribes were writing experts, and in the most ancient times used for important documents
- The scribe wrote an introduction passage
- ***Dabbar Yehoveh asher haya'el*** = the Word of Yehoveh which was unto
- Several prophets use this same introduction



The
Word



THE WORD OF GOD?

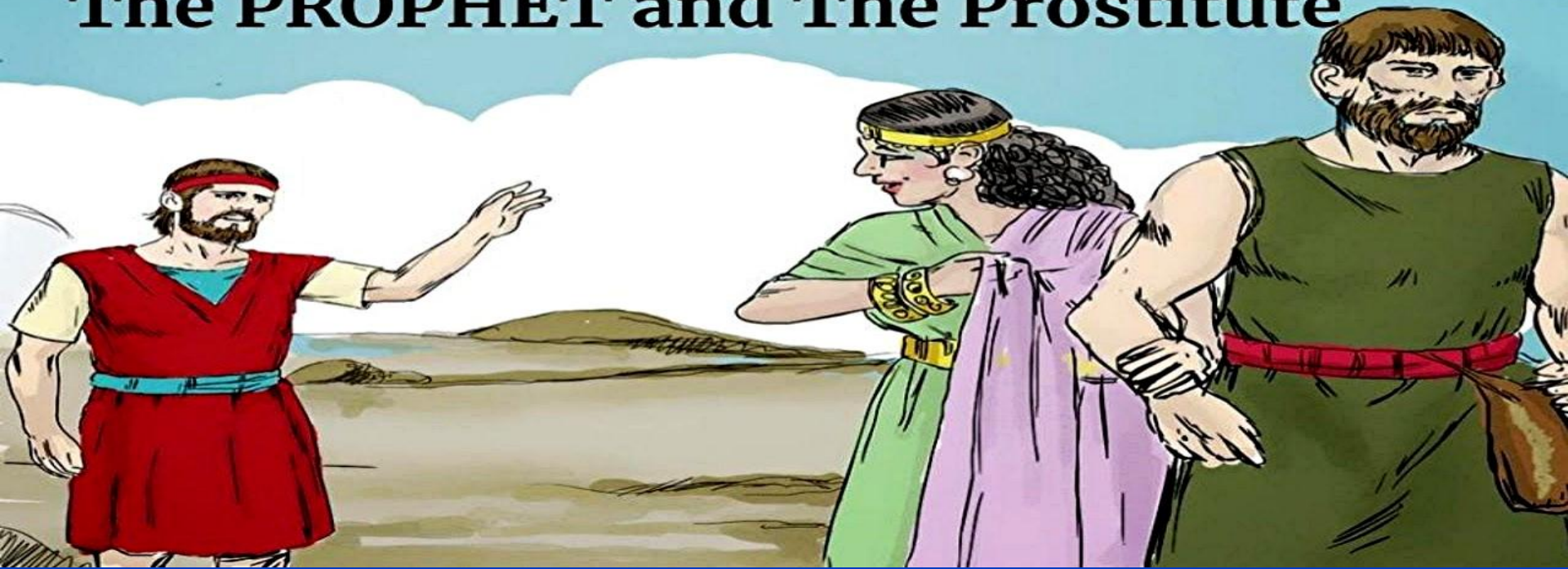
- Yeh-ho-veh more likely than Yah-weh
- **dabbar** = word In Hebrew thought it is a complex concept
- **Dabbar** was a divine substance from Heaven, a living entity with power (similar to how Wisdom was thought of)
- John 1:1 ***In the beginning was The Word, and The Word was with God, and The Word was God***
- The Word was NOT the Holy Scriptures to the Hebrews
- The Word speaks of the actual presence of Yehoveh



THE WORD: A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

- The Word = Yehoveh's living agent
- The king list is of Judean kings (except for Jeroboam)
- King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam II of Israel came into power within a 1 year of each other
- ***Dibber*** = speech, talking
- Hosea received speech; not a dream or vision

The PROPHET and The Prostitute



- This was the “beginning” of all God would tell Hosea
- Vs. 2 *“Go and marry a whore...”*
- The Book of Hosea is sexually explicit
- **Zonah** = Whore, prostitute, harlot
- Most often in the OT the term **zonah** is used as a metaphor and is not meant literally

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COVENANT

- At Mt. Sinai the entire nation of Israel agreed to the Covenant of Moses
- Ex. 19:8
- From Exodus to Revelation, the Covenant is likened to a marriage and so uses marriage metaphors
- Covenant of Moses is like a marriage contract but is not identical
- There is a husband (God), and a wife (Israel and all God worshippers), yet this is meant metaphorically



THE PROBLEM OF SYMBOLISM



- No clear-cut way to distinguish literal from symbolic
- The key is the historical/culture context
- Symbolism is at the heart of what Hosea is being told to do
- Symbolic things can also be carried out literally
- The core dynamic of marriage is faithfulness

COVENANT TERMS



- Vows are made
- Obligations are set down
- Parties not necessarily of equal standing
- Not equivalent roles
- Marriage is a strong legal bond
- Commitment and exclusivity are foundational in marriage
- Prostitution is the opposite
- Hosea marrying a whore is symbolic of Israel's unfaithfulness to God