

# Ahaz: Destined for success!



- His great grandfather Amaziah, grandfather Azariah (Uzziah) and father Jotham *“did what was right in the sight of the Lord”* (2 Kings 14:3; 15:3; 15:34)
- His son Hezekiah was one of the great reformers of Israel and removed all the idols and images (2 Kings 18:4)
- He ascended to the throne as a young man and ruled 16 years in Jerusalem (2 Kings 16:1-2)

*“...and he did not do right in the sight of the Lord his God”*

2 Kings 16:2

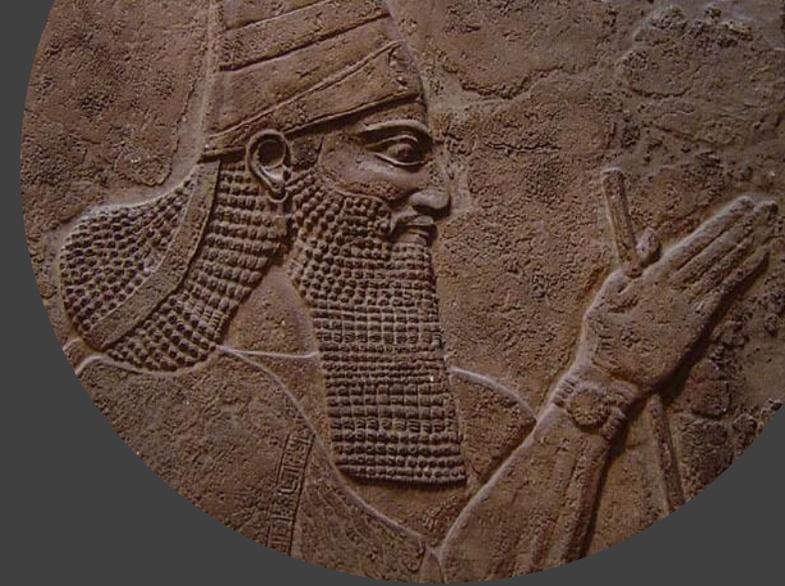
✓ Summary statement seven (729 BC): “In all the countries which [I received] the tribute of... Jehoahaz of Judah...gold, silver, tin, iron, antimony, linen garments with multicolored trimmings....”

✓ It is likely that his name was changed from Jehoahaz to Ahaz.

- Jehoahaz means “*Grasped by God*”; Ahaz “*Grasped*”
- Jehoahaz is Ahaz with a theophoric prefix attached.
- He was of Davids line but not of David’s faith

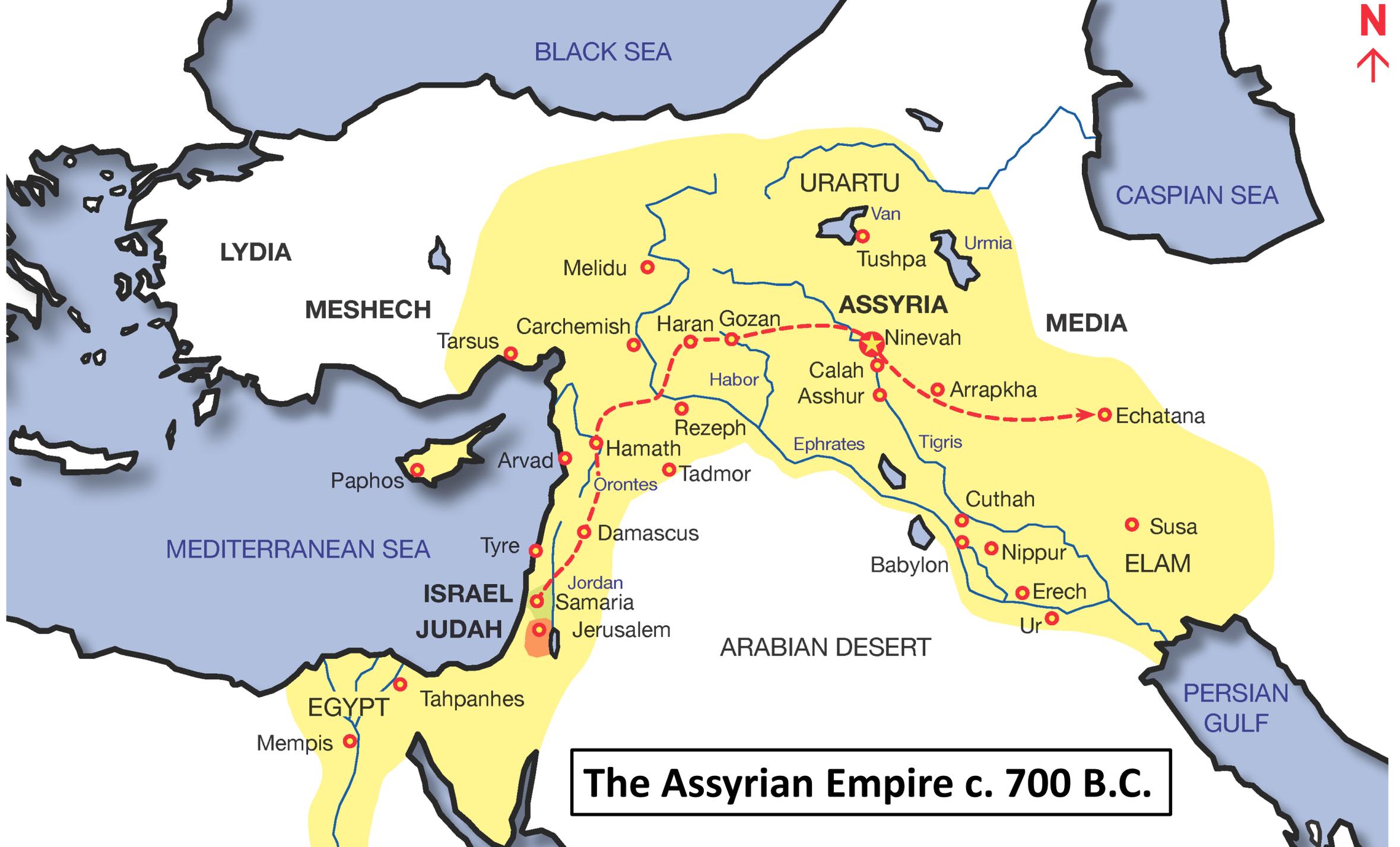


# Ahaz: What changed his destiny?



He looked to aids and associations of the world

- Walked in the way of the kings of Israel (2 Kings 16:3)
- He practiced the things the heathens did (2 Kings 16:3)
- He geared his religion toward the world around him (2 Kings 16:4)
- He sought help from the wrong sources (2 Kings 16:7)
- He was fooled by temporary success (2 Kings 16:9)



BLACK SEA

CASPIAN SEA

LYDIA

MESHECH

URARTU

MEDIA

ASSYRIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ISRAEL

JUDAH

ARABIAN DESERT

ELAM

EGYPT

PERSIAN GULF

**The Assyrian Empire c. 700 B.C.**



Van

Urmia

Tushpa

Melidu

Tarsus

Carchemish

Haran

Gozan

Ninevah

Calah

Asshur

Arrapkha

Echatana

Habor

Rezeph

Ephrates

Tigris

Paphos

Arvad

Hamath

Tadmor

Cuthah

Susa

Tyre

Damascus

Babylon

Nippur

Erech

Jordan

Samaria

Jerusalem

Ur

Mempis

Tahpanhes

# Ahaz: What changed his destiny?



He looked to aids and associations of the world

- Walked in the way of the kings of Israel (2 Kings 16:3)
- He practiced the things the heathens did (2 Kings 16:3)
- He geared his religion toward the world around him (2 Kings 16:4)
- He sought help from the wrong sources (2 Kings 16:7)
- He was fooled by temporary success (2 Kings 16:9)
  - ✓ He showed a lack of confidence in God's power (Is. 7:1-2)
  - ✓ He displayed a lack of faith in God's word (Is. 7:9)

# Ahaz: What changed his destiny?



## He synthesized his worship

- He “saw an altar” (2 Kings 16:10) that appealed to him
- He was guilty of a “cut and paste” system of religion (2 Kings 16:11-18)
- He soon found out that changing God’s plan only led him farther and farther away (2 Kings 16:7-8; 2 Chron. 28:20)

# Ahaz: What changed his destiny?

His faith was not centered on God

- It was a “hypocritical” faith (Is. 7:11-14)
- It was a “convenient” faith (2 Chron. 28:22)
- It was a “selfish” faith (2 Chron. 28:23)
- It was a “finite” faith (2 Chron. 28:27)