

~ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (52)

- Assyria was an empire whose record was dominated by **military conquest**, frequently coupled with **sadistic treatment of captives**. One of the **foremost influences** in Assyrian life was **religious**, and **war was viewed as a true expression of their religion**.
- Historian **W. B. Wright** reports; **Fighting was the business of the nation, and the priests were incessant fomenters of war. They were supported largely from the spoils of conquest, of which a fixed percentage was invariably assigned them before others shared, for this race of plunderers was excessively religious.** [Ancient Cities, 1886, p. 25]
- Both the Bible and secular history report repeated contacts between Israel and Assyria. In time Israel was forced to pay tribute to the king of Assyria.
- Then in **740 B.C.E**, Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, was conquered, and thereafter thousands were sent into exile.
- The fact that Yehowah allowed this to occur reflects the low level to which apostate Israel had sunk. But when Sennacherib attempted to add Jerusalem to his list of conquests, an angel of Yehowah annihilated 185,000 of Assyria's troops in one night.
- Now it came about in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah that Sennacherib the king of **Assyria** came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and proceeded to seize them. (**Isaiah 36:1**)
- And it came about that as he was bowing down at the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his own sons, struck him down with the sword, and they themselves escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son began to reign in place of him. (**Isaiah 37:38**)
- As Yehowah's prophets foretold, **Assyria** in time became a desolate ruin, and Babylon succeeded it on the world scene.
- Look! The land of the Chaldeans. This is the people, Assyria did not prove to be the one, they founded her for the desert haunters. They have erected their siege towers, they have stripped bare her dwelling towers, one has set her as a crumbling

ruin. (**Isaiah 23:13**)

- **And he will stretch out his hand toward the north, and he will destroy Assyria. And he will make Nineveh a desolate waste, a waterless region like the wilderness. (**Zephaniah 2:13**)**