

~DAMASCUS (884)

(Da-mas'cus)

.. History

.. Opposes Israel

.. Yehowah's judgments On Damascus

- An ancient and important city of Syria. **Damascus**, present-day esh-Sham, or Dimash, lies at the foot of the Anti-Lebanon Range, with the nearby Arabian-Syrian Desert stretching out before it to the East.
- Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are like the pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, which is looking out toward **Damascus**. (Song of Solomon 7:4)
- To the Southwest of the city, snowcapped Mount Hermon rises 2,814 meters (9,232 feet), marking the southern end of the Anti-Lebanon Range.
- The slopes behind **Damascus** to the West are quite barren, but the cool waters of the Barada River, the Abanah.
- Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of **Damascus**, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage. (2 Kings 5:12)
- Come rushing through a gorge in the mountains and flow onto the plain where the city is situated. Thereafter irrigation creates a luxuriant oasis some 16 kilometers (10 miles) wide and 48 kilometers (30 miles) long. This abundant water supply made **Damascus** a key point on the ancient military and trade routes between the lands of the eastern Mediterranean, the countries of Mesopotamia, and the Orient.
- Also serving to channel traffic by **Damascus** are the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges, since these act as a natural barrier to caravan traffic moving toward or from the Mediterranean seaboard.
- Near the city there is a break in the mountain range, and from ancient times, a major highway led through this pass, swung Southwest to the Jordan River at a point just South of the Hula Basin, then went down along the West side of the Sea of Galilee through the

Plains of Megiddo toward the seacoast, and continued South through Philistia and on to Egypt.

- **This was the road over which marched the armies of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. Another prominent route, commonly called the Kings Highway**
- **Let me pass through your land. We shall not turn off into a field or a vineyard. We shall drink water of no well. On the kings road we shall march until we pass through your territory. ([Numbers 21:22](#))**
- **Ran due South from [Damascus](#), following the edge of the plateau East of the Jordan on down to the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula. In yet another direction, caravans heading for Mesopotamia first went from [Damascus](#) to Tadmor and from there to the Euphrates region. Another route led north to Hamath, Aleppo, and Carchemish.**
- **The plain on which [Damascus](#) is situated is a plateau region some 700 meters (2,300 feet) above sea level, and the city enjoys a pleasant climate, with average temperatures varying from about 7° Centigrade (45° Fahrenheit) in winter to 29° Centigrade (84° Fahrenheit) in summer.**
- **The very fertile land produces fine orchards of olives, figs, and apricots, as well as rich grainfields. The city's prosperity, however, came primarily from the commercial traffic and also because it was a natural trading center for nomadic tribes.**
- **[Damascus](#) is called a merchant of Tyre by the prophet Ezekiel, evidently trading wine from the neighboring city of Helbon and reddish-gray wool in exchange for Tyre's exports of manufactured articles.**
- **[Damascus](#) was your merchant in the abundance of your works, because of the abundance of all your valuable things, with the wine of Helbon and the wool of reddish gray. ([Ezekiel 27:18](#))**
- **The streets that Ben-hadad II offered to be assigned to Ahab in [Damascus](#) were evidently for the establishment of bazaars, or markets, to promote Ahab's commercial interests in that Syrian capital.**
- **Ben-hadad now said to him; The cities that my father took from your father I shall return, and streets you will assign to yourself**

in **Damascus** the same as my father assigned in Samaria. And as for me, in a covenant I shall send you away. With that he concluded a covenant with him and sent him away. (1 Kings 20:34)

.. History

- The initial history of **Damascus** is unknown. Josephus [*Jewish Antiquities*, I, 145, vi, 4] presents the traditional Jewish view that it was founded by Uz, the son of Aram and grandson of Shem, though there are indications of a more southerly position for the descendants of Uz.
- And to Shem, the forefather of all the sons of Eber, the brother of Japheth the oldest, there was also progeny born. (Genesis 10:21)
- The sons of Shem were Elam and Asshur and Arpachshad and Lud and Aram. (Genesis 10:22)
- And the sons of Aram were Uz and Hul and Gether and Mash. (Genesis 10:23)
- Abraham likely passed by or through **Damascus** on his way to the Promised Land. Eliezer, the servant of childless Abraham, was a man of **Damascus**.
- At this Abram said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, what will you give me, seeing that I am going childless and the one who will possess my house is a man of **Damascus**, Eliezer? (Genesis 15:2)
- To a place North of **Damascus** called Hobah, Abraham pursued the invading kings to recover his captive nephew Lot.
- Now it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim. (Genesis 14:1)
- That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar. (Genesis 14:2)
- All these marched as allies to the Low Plain of Siddim, that is, the Salt Sea. (Genesis 14:3)
- Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth

year they rebelled. ([Genesis 14:4](#))

- And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. ([Genesis 14:5](#))
- And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to Elparan, which is at the wilderness. ([Genesis 14:6](#))
- Then they turned about and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and defeated the whole field of the Amalekites and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazontamar. ([Genesis 14:7](#))
- At this point the king of Sodom went on the march, and also the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar, and they drew up in battle order against them in the Low Plain of Siddim. ([Genesis 14:8](#))
- Against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against the five. ([Genesis 14:9](#))
- Now the Low Plain of Siddim was pits upon pits of bitumen, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah took to flight and went falling into them, and those who remained fled to the mountainous region. ([Genesis 14:10](#))
- Then the victors took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on their way. ([Genesis 14:11](#))
- They also took Lot the son of Abram's brother and his goods and continued on their way. He was then dwelling in Sodom. ([Genesis 14:12](#))
- After that a man who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. He was then tabernacling among the big trees of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and they were confederates of Abram. ([Genesis 14:13](#))
- Thus Abram got to hear that his brother had been taken captive. With that he mustered his trained men, three hundred and eighteen slaves born in his household, and went in pursuit up to

Dan. (**Genesis 14:14**)

- And by night he resorted to dividing his forces, he and his slaves, against them, and thus he defeated them and kept in pursuit of them up to Hobah, which is north of **Damascus**. (**Genesis 14:15**)
- And he proceeded to recover all the goods, and he recovered also Lot his brother and his goods and also the women and the people. (**Genesis 14:16**)

See Also UZ 4

.. Opposes Israel

- **Damascus** thereafter disappears from the Biblical account for nearly a thousand years, and when it reappears it is generally as an opponent of the nation of Israel. By then it was the center of one of the many Aramaean kingdoms of Syria.
- When David fought and defeated the king of Zobah, Syria of **Damascus** came to help the losers. David defeated them as well, stationed garrisons in the **Damascene** kingdom, and made **Damascus** tributary to Israel.
- And David went on to strike down Hadadezer the son of Rehob the king of Zobah as he was going his way to put his control back again at the river Euphrates. (**2 Samuel 8:3**)
- And David got to capture from him one thousand seven hundred horsemen and twenty thousand men on foot, and David proceeded to hamstring all the chariot horses, but he let a hundred chariot horses of them remain. (**2 Samuel 8:4**)
- When Syria of **Damascus** came to help Hadadezer the king of Zobah, David then struck down among the Syrians twenty-two thousand men. (**2 Samuel 8:5**)
- Further, David put garrisons in Syria of **Damascus**, and the Syrians came to be David's servants to carry tribute. And Yehowah continued to save David wherever he went. (**2 Samuel 8:6**)
- When Syria of **Damascus** came to help Hadadezer the king of Zobah, David went striking down among the Syrians twenty-two

thousand men. (1 Chronicles 18:5)

- After that David put garrisons in Syria of **Damascus**, and the Syrians came to be David's servants bearing tribute. And Yehowah kept giving salvation to David wherever he went. (1 Chronicles 18:6)
- During Solomon's reign, however, a fugitive named Rezon from the Aramaean kingdom of Zobah gained control of **Damascus**, setting himself up as king. His hatred for Israel was vented in acts of aggression.
- And God proceeded to raise up to him another resister, namely, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had run away from Hadadezer the king of Zobah his lord. (1 Kings 11:23)
- And he kept collecting men to his side and came to be chief of a marauder band, when David killed them. So they went to **Damascus** and took up dwelling in it and began reigning in **Damascus**. (1 Kings 11:24)
- And he came to be a resister of Israel all the days of Solomon, and that along with the injury that Hadad did, and he had an abhorrence of Israel while he continued reigning over Syria. (1 Kings 11:25)
- King Ben-hadad I of **Damascus**, after first making a covenant with Baasha of the northern kingdom of Israel, sold out to Asa of Judah, 977-937 B.C.E, and invaded his former ally's territory.
- At that Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the house of the king and put them in the hand of his servants, and King Asa now sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon the son of Hezion, the king of Syria, who was dwelling in **Damascus**, saying; (1 Kings 15:18)
- There is a covenant between me and you, between my father and your father. Here I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come, do break your covenant with Baasha the king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me. (1 Kings 15:19)
- Accordingly Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel and

- went striking down Ijon and Dan and Abel-beth-maacah and all Chinnereth, as far as all the land of Naphtali. ([1 Kings 15:20](#))
- Asa now brought out silver and gold from the treasures of Yehowah's house and the king's house and sent to Ben-hadad the king of Syria, who was dwelling at **Damascus**, saying; ([2 Chronicles 16:2](#))
 - There is a covenant between me and you and between my father and your father. Here I do send you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha the king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me. ([2 Chronicles 16:3](#))
 - So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel, so that they struck Ijon and Dan and Abel-maim and all the storage places of the cities of Naphtali. ([2 Chronicles 16:4](#))
 - At the head of a coalition of 32 allied kings, his successor Ben-hadad II made two invasions of the northern kingdom of Israel, suffering defeat both times.
 - As for Ben-hadad the king of Syria, he collected all his military forces together and also thirty-two kings with him and horses and chariots, and he proceeded to go up and lay siege to Samaria and fight against it. ([1 Kings 20:1](#))
 - And they began to go out at noon while Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he together with the kings, the thirty-two kings that were helping him. ([1 Kings 20:16](#))
 - When the young men of the princes of the jurisdictional districts came out first, Ben-hadad at once sent out, and they came telling him, saying; There are men that have come out from Samaria. ([1 Kings 20:17](#))
 - At that he said; Whether it is for peace that they have come out, you should seize them alive. Or whether it is for battle that they have come out, alive is how you should seize them. ([1 Kings 20:18](#))
 - And these were the ones that came out from the city, the young men of the princes of the jurisdictional districts and the military forces that were behind them. ([1 Kings 20:19](#))

- **And they began to strike down each one his man, and the Syrians took to flight, and Israel went in pursuit of them, but Ben-hadad the king of Syria got to escape upon a horse together with the horsemen. (1 Kings 20:20)**
- **But the king of Israel went out and kept striking down the horses and the chariots, and he struck down the Syrians with a great slaughter. (1 Kings 20:21)**
- **Later the prophet approached the king of Israel and said to him, Go, strengthen yourself and take note and see what you are going to do, for at the return of the year the king of Syria is coming up against you. (1 Kings 20:22)**
- **And it came about at the return of the year that Ben-hadad proceeded to muster the Syrians and to go up to Aphek for battle against Israel. (1 Kings 20:26)**
- **As for the sons of Israel, they were mustered and supplied and began to go out to meet them, and the sons of Israel went into camp in front of them like two tiny flocks of goats, while the Syrians, for their part, filled the earth. (1 Kings 20:27)**
- **Then the man of the true God approached and said to the king of Israel, yes, he went on to say; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that the Syrians have said; Yehowah is a God of mountains, and he is not a God of low plains, I shall have to give all this great crowd into your hand, and you men will certainly know that I am Yehowah. (1 Kings 20:28)**
- **And they continued encamped for seven days, these in front of those. And it came about on the seventh day that the engagement in battle began, and the sons of Israel went striking down the Syrians, a hundred thousand men on foot in one day. (1 Kings 20:29)**
- **And those that were left went fleeing to Aphek, to the city, and the wall came falling down upon twenty-seven thousand men that were left. As for Ben-hadad, he fled and finally came into the city into the innermost chamber. (1 Kings 20:30)**
- **So his servants said to him; Here, now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are kings of loving-kindness. Please,**

- let us carry sackcloth upon our loins and ropes upon our heads, and let us go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will preserve your soul alive. (1 Kings 20:31)
- Accordingly they girded sackcloth about their loins, with ropes upon their heads, and came in to the king of Israel and said; Your servant Ben-hadad has said; Please, let my soul live. To this he said; Is he still alive? He is my brother. (1 Kings 20:32)
 - So the men themselves took it as an omen and quickly took it as a decision of his own accord, and they went on to say; Ben-hadad is your brother. At that he said; Come, fetch him. Then Ben-hadad went out to him, and he at once had him get up into the chariot. (1 Kings 20:33)
 - Ben-hadad now said to him; The cities that my father took from your father I shall return, and streets you will assign to yourself in **Damascus** the same as my father assigned in Samaria. And as for me, in a covenant I shall send you away. With that he concluded a covenant with him and sent him away. (1 Kings 20:34)
 - Though captured on the second attempt, he was released by King Ahab, circa **940-920 B.C.E.**, and later, at the battle of Ramoth-gilead, directed his chariot forces against the combined forces of Judah and Israel, defeating them and causing Ahab's death.
 - And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah proceeded to go up to Ramoth-gilead. (1 Kings 22:29)
 - The king of Israel now said to Jehoshaphat; There will be a disguising and entering into the battle for me, but you, for your part, put on your garments. Accordingly, the king of Israel disguised himself and entered into the battle. (1 Kings 22:30)
 - As for the king of Syria, he had commanded the thirty-two chiefs of the chariots that were his, saying; You must fight, neither with the small nor the great, but with the king of Israel alone. (1 Kings 22:31)
 - And it came about that, as soon as the chiefs of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they, for their part, said to themselves; Surely it is the king of Israel. So they turned aside against him to fight, and Jehoshaphat began to cry for aid. (1 Kings 22:32)

- **And it came about that, as soon as the chiefs of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they immediately came back from following him. (1 Kings 22:33)**
- **And there was a man that bent the bow in his innocence, but he got to strike the king of Israel between the appendages and the coat of mail, so that he said to his charioteer; Turn your hand around, and take me out from the camp, because I have been badly wounded. (1 Kings 22:34)**
- **And the battle kept rising in intensity on that day, and the king himself had to be kept in a standing position in the chariot facing the Syrians, and gradually he died in the evening, and the blood of the wound kept pouring out upon the interior of the war chariot. (1 Kings 22:35)**
- **And the ringing cry began to pass through the camp about the setting of the sun, saying; Everyone to his city, and everyone to his land! (1 Kings 22:36)**
- **Thus the king died. When he was brought to Samaria, then they buried the king in Samaria. (1 Kings 22:37)**
- **During the reign of Jehoram of Israel, circa 917-905 B.C.E, Ben-hadad II mounted a final attempt to capture Samaria but was miraculously routed.**
- **And it came about afterward that Ben-hadad the king of Syria proceeded to collect all his camp together and to go up and besiege Samaria. (2 Kings 6:24)**
- **And Yehowah himself had caused the camp of the Syrians to hear the sound of war chariots, the sound of horses, the sound of a great military force, so that they said to one another; Look! The king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us! (2 Kings 7:6)**
- **Immediately they got up and went fleeing in the evening darkness and leaving their tents and their horses and their asses, the camp just as it was, and they kept fleeing for their soul. (2 Kings 7:7)**

- Fulfilling the commission given to his predecessor Elijah, the prophet Elisha went to **Damascus** and told Hazael he would replace Ben-hadad II as king of Syria.
- Yehowah now said to him; Go, return on your way to the wilderness of **Damascus**, and you must come in and anoint Hazael as king over Syria. (**1 Kings 19:15**)
- And Elisha proceeded to come to **Damascus**, and Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick. Accordingly the report was made to him, saying; The man of the true God has come as far as here. (**2 Kings 8:7**)
- At that the king said to Hazael; Take a gift in your hand and go and meet the man of the true God, and you must inquire of Yehowah through him, saying; Shall I revive from this sickness? (**2 Kings 8:8**)
- So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every sort of good thing of **Damascus**, the load of forty camels, and came and stood before him and said; Your son, Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, has sent me to you, saying; Shall I revive from this sickness? (**2 Kings 8:9**)
- Then Elisha said to him; Go, say to him, You will positively revive, and Yehowah has shown me that he will positively die. (**2 Kings 8:10**)
- And he kept a fixed look and kept it set to the point of embarrassment. Then the man of the true God gave way to weeping. (**2 Kings 8:11**)
- At this Hazael said; Why is my lord weeping? To this he said; Because I well know what injury you will do to the sons of Israel. Their fortified places you will consign to the fire, and their choice men you will kill with the sword, and their children you will dash to pieces, and their pregnant women you will rip up. (**2 Kings 8:12**)
- Upon that Hazael said; What is your servant, who is a mere dog, that he could do this great thing? But Elisha said; Yehowah has shown me you as king over Syria. (**2 Kings 8:13**)

- Prior to Ben-hadad's death, **Damascus** had been the focal point of Syrian resistance to the expansion of the Assyrian Empire, which was bent on dominating the lands bordering the Mediterranean. As a key junction point on the main route from Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean, **Damascus** was a principal target.
- At the head of a coalition of neighboring kingdoms, **Damascus** resisted with some success a series of attacks by Shalmaneser III of Assyria. One of Shalmaneser's inscriptions records the seizure of the Syrian throne by Hazael. After one major conflict, Shalmaneser bottled up Hazael in **Damascus**, besieging the city, but was unable to take it.
- As king of **Damascus**, Hazael continued an aggressive policy toward Israel.
- In those days Yehowah started to cut off Israel piece by piece, and Hazael kept striking them in all the territory of Israel. (2 Kings 10:32)
- Extending **Damascene** power as far as the Philistine city of Gath, he even invaded Judah, intimidating King Jehoash, 898-859 B.C.E, so that the Judean king paid a huge tribute to spare Jerusalem from Syrian attack.
- Then it was that Hazael the king of Syria proceeded to go up and fight against Gath and capture it, after which Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem. (2 Kings 12:17)
- At that Jehoash the king of Judah took all the holy offerings that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his forefathers, the kings of Judah, had sanctified and his own holy offerings and all the gold to be found in the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the house of the king and sent them to Hazael the king of Syria. So he withdrew from against Jerusalem. (2 Kings 12:18)
- And Yehowah's anger became hot against Israel, so that he gave them into the hand of Hazael the king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael all their days. (2 Kings 13:3)
- As for Hazael the king of Syria, he oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. (2 Kings 13:22)
- And it came about at the turn of the year a military force of Syria came up against him, and they began to invade Judah and

Jerusalem. Then they brought all the princes of the people to ruin from among the people, and all their spoil they sent to the king of **Damascus**. (2 Chronicles 24:23)

- For it was with a small number of men that the military force of the Syrians made an invasion, and Yehowah himself gave into their hand a military force of very great number, because they had left Yehowah the God of their forefathers, and upon Jehoash they executed acts of judgment. (2 Chronicles 24:24)
- Under Hazael's successor, Ben-hadad III, the yoke of **Damascus** was loosened from Israel's territory as Jehoash of Israel, circa **859-845 B.C.E**, inflicted three defeats on Syria.
- Finally Hazael the king of Syria died, and Ben-hadad his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 13:24)
- And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz proceeded to take back again from the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Jehoash struck him down, and he got to recover the cities of Israel. (2 Kings 13:25)
- Then Jeroboam II of Israel, circa **844-804 B.C.E**, pushed deep into Syria as far as the entering in of Hamath, and restored **Damascus** and Hamath to Judah in Israel.
- In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Jehoash the king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Jehoash the king of Israel became king in Samaria for forty-one years. (2 Kings 14:23)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, with which he caused Israel to sin. (2 Kings 14:24)
- He it was that restored the boundary of Israel from the entering in of Hamath clear to the sea of the Arabah, according to the word of Yehowah the God of Israel who spoke by means of his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet that was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:25)
- For Yehowah had seen the very bitter affliction of Israel. There was neither any helpless one nor any worthless one, nor was there a helper for Israel. (2 Kings 14:26)

- And Yehowah had promised not to wipe out the name of Israel from under the heavens. Consequently he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Jehoash. (2 Kings 14:27)
- As for the rest of the affairs of Jeroboam and all that he did and his mightiness, how he fought and how he restored **Damascus** and Hamath to Judah in Israel, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel? (2 Kings 14:28)
- This is generally understood to mean the making of these kingdoms tributary, similar to their position under David and Solomon.
- As for Solomon, he proved to be ruler over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the boundary of Egypt. They were bringing gifts and serving Solomon all the days of his life. (1 Kings 4:21)

· Yehowah's judgments On Damascus

- A century later, however, **Damascus** is shown again in its position as the head of Syria.
- For the head of Syria is **Damascus**, and the head of **Damascus** is Rezin, and within just sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered to pieces so as not to be a people. (Isaiah 7:8)
- During the reign of King Ahaz of Judah, 761-746 B.C.E, Rezin of **Damascus**, in league with Pekah of Israel, swept through Judah to Elath on the Gulf of `Aqaba.
- This so frightened King Ahaz that he sent a bribe to Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria, asking him to divert Syrian pressure from Judah. With alacrity, the Assyrian attacked **Damascus**, captured it, put Rezin to death, and exiled many of the **Damascenes**.
- It was then that Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel proceeded to come up against Jerusalem in war and laid siege against Ahaz, but they were not able to fight. (2 Kings 16:5)
- At that time Rezin the king of Syria restored Elath to Edom, after which he cleared out the Jews from Elath, and the Edomites, for their part, entered Elath and kept dwelling there down to this

day. (2 Kings 16:6)

- So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria, saying; I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me out of the palm of the king of Syria and out of the palm of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me. (2 Kings 16:7)
- Accordingly Ahaz took the silver and the gold that was to be found at the house of Yehowah and in the treasures of the king's house and sent the king of Assyria a bribe. (2 Kings 16:8)
- At that the king of Assyria listened to him and the king of Assyria went up to **Damascus** and captured it and led its people into exile at Kir, and Rezin he put to death. (2 Kings 16:9)
- Consequently Yehowah his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, so that they struck him and carried off from him a great number of captives and brought them to **Damascus**. And also into the hand of the king of Israel he was given, so that he struck him with a great slaughter. (2 Chronicles 28:5)
- At that time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria for them to help him. (2 Chronicles 28:16)
- Thereby Yehowah's prophecies through Isaiah and Amos were fulfilled.
- For before the boy will know how to call out, My father! And; My mother! One will carry away the resources of **Damascus** and the spoil of Samaria before the king of Assyria. (Isaiah 8:4)
- Aha, the Assyrian, the rod for my anger, and the stick that is in their hand for my denunciation! (Isaiah 10:5)
- For he will say; Are not my princes at the same time kings? (Isaiah 10:8)
- Is not Calno just like Carchemish? Is not Hamath just like Arpad? Is not Samaria just like **Damascus**? (Isaiah 10:9)
- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of **Damascus**, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of their threshing Gilead even with iron threshing instruments. (Amos 1:3)

- And I will send a fire onto the house of Hazael, and it must devour the dwelling towers of Ben-hadad. (**Amos 1:4**)
- And I will break the bar of **Damascus** and cut off the inhabitant from Bikath-aven, and the holder of the scepter from Beth-eden, and the people of Syria will have to go as exiles to Kir, Yehowah has said. (**Amos 1:5**)
- Yet Ahaz, on going to **Damascus** to meet, and likely pay homage to, Tiglath-pileser, senselessly had a copy made of the **Damascene** altar for false worship he saw there, and later he sacrificed upon it to the gods of **Damascus**.
- Then King Ahaz went to meet Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria at **Damascus**, and he got to see the altar that was in **Damascus**. So King Ahaz sent Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern as respects all its workmanship. (**2 Kings 16:10**)
- And Urijah the priest proceeded to build the altar. According to all that King Ahaz had sent from **Damascus** was the way that Urijah the priest made it, pending the time that King Ahaz came from **Damascus**. (**2 Kings 16:11**)
- When the king came from **Damascus**, the king got to see the altar, and the king began to go near to the altar and make offerings upon it. (**2 Kings 16:12**)
- And he continued to make his burnt offering and his grain offering smoke and to pour out his drink offering and to sprinkle the blood of the communion sacrifices that were his upon the altar. (**2 Kings 16:13**)
- And he began to sacrifice to the gods of **Damascus** that were striking him, and he went on to say; Because the gods of the kings of Syria are helping them, to them I shall sacrifice, that they may help me. And they themselves became to him a cause for making him and all Israel stumble. (**2 Chronicles 28:23**)
- **Damascus** never constituted a threat to Israel thereafter. Though weak militarily, the city evidently regained commercial strength, as is indicated by Ezekiel's prophecy.
- **Damascus** was your merchant in the abundance of your works,

because of the abundance of all your valuable things, with the wine of Helbon and the wool of reddish gray. (**Ezekiel 27:18**)

- But **Damascus**, once so highly praised, was also foretold by Jeremiah to suffer distress as a result of the bad report coming from Hamath and Arpad in northern Syria, a report likely relating to the harsh conquest of the Aramaean kingdoms by the advancing Babylonian armies of Nebuchadnezzar.
- For **Damascus**! Hamath and Arpad have become ashamed, for it is a bad report that they have heard. They have disintegrated. In the sea there is anxious care. It is not able to keep undisturbed. (**Jeremiah 49:23**)
- **Damascus** has lost courage. She has turned to flee, and sheer panic has seized her. Distress and birth pangs themselves have taken hold of her, as with a woman that is giving birth. (**Jeremiah 49:24**)
- How is it that the city of praise has not been abandoned, the town of exultation? (**Jeremiah 49:25**)
- Therefore her young men will fall in her public squares, and all the men of war themselves will be brought to silence in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. (**Jeremiah 49:26**)
- And I will set a fire ablaze on the wall of **Damascus**, and it will certainly devour the dwelling towers of Ben-hadad. (**Jeremiah 49:27**)
- **Damascus**, the jewel of the desert, would not escape the effects of that conquest. Still later **Damascus** is included in an adverse pronouncement through Yehowah's prophet Zechariah, whose prophecy was written in **518 B.C.E.**
- The prophecy likely found fulfillment in the time of Alexander the Great, who occupied Syria and Phoenicia following his victory at the Battle of Issus in **333 B.C.E.**
- A pronouncement. The word of Yehowah is against the land of Hadrach, and **Damascus** is where it rests, for Yehowah has an eye on earthling man and on all the tribes of Israel. (**Zechariah 9:1**)

- And Hamath itself will also border upon her, Tyre and Sidon, for she is very wise. (**Zechariah 9:2**)
- And Tyre proceeded to build a rampart for herself, and to pile up silver like dust and gold like the mire of the streets. (**Zechariah 9:3**)
- Look! Yehowah himself will dispossess her, and into the sea he will certainly strike down her military force, and in the fire she herself will be devoured. (**Zechariah 9:4**)
- During the Seleucid period, **Damascus** was replaced by Antioch as the Syrian provincial capital. King Aretas III of the Arabic Nabataean kingdom captured the city in **85 B.C.E.**
- Rome conquered all of Syria in **64-63 B.C.E.**, and **Damascus** continued as a Roman city until **33 C.E.** It was listed by Pliny, Roman historian of the **First Century C.E.**, as one of the original ten cities of the Decapolis.
- In the **First Century C.E.** when Saul of Tarsus headed for **Damascus** in his campaign of persecuting Christians, the city had a number of Jewish synagogues.
- But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest (**Acts of Apostles 9:1**)
- And asked him for letters to the synagogues in **Damascus**, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 9:2**)
- It evidently then formed part of the domain of Nabataean King Aretas IV and was ruled by an appointed governor.
- In **Damascus** the governor under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes to seize me. (**2 Corinthians 11:32**)
- But through a window in the wall I was lowered in a wicker basket and escaped his hands. (**2 Corinthians 11:33**)
- After his conversion, blinded Saul was led to a home on the street called Straight. Paul, Saul, preached for a time in the synagogues of

Damascus, but a murder plot made necessary his escape by night through an opening in the city wall.

- The Lord said to him; Rise, go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man named Saul, from Tarsus. For, look! He is praying. (**Acts of Apostles 9:11**)
- So Ananias went off and entered into the house, and he laid his hands upon him and said; Saul, brother, the Lord, the Jesus that appeared to you on the road over which you were coming, has sent me forth, in order, that you may recover sight and be filled with Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 9:17**)
- And immediately there fell from his eyes what looked like scales, and he recovered sight, and he rose and was baptized. (**Acts of Apostles 9:18**)
- And he took food and gained strength. He got to be for some days with the disciples in **Damascus**. (**Acts of Apostles 9:19**)
- And immediately in the synagogues he began to preach Jesus, that this One is the Son of God. (**Acts of Apostles 9:20**)
- But all those hearing him gave way to astonishment and would say; Is this not the man that ravaged those in Jerusalem who call upon this name, and that had come here for this very purpose, that he might lead them bound to the chief priests? (**Acts of Apostles 9:21**)
- But Saul kept on acquiring power all the more and was confounding the Jews that dwelt in **Damascus** as he proved logically that this is the Christ. (**Acts of Apostles 9:22**)
- Now when a good many days were coming to a close, the Jews took counsel together to do away with him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:23**)
- However, their plot against him became known to Saul. But they were closely watching also the gates both day and night in order to do away with him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:24**)
- So his disciples took him and let him down by night through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. (**Acts of Apostles 9:25**)

- But both to those in **Damascus** first and to those in Jerusalem, and over all the country of Judea, and to the nations I went bringing the message that they should repent and turn to God by doing works that befit repentance. (**Acts of Apostles 26:20**)
- To reveal his Son in connection with me, that I might declare the Good News about him to the nations, I did not go at once into conference with flesh and blood. (**Galatians 1:16**)
- Neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles previous to me, but I went off into Arabia, and I came back again to **Damascus**. (**Galatians 1:17**)

See Also STRAIGHT