

~JERUSALEM, CITY OF UNDER DAVID - SOLOMON (307)

.. Kingdoms Surrounding Israel

- Ancient Jerusalem was the place where Yehowah chose to put his name.
- But I shall choose **Jerusalem** for my name to prove to be there, and I shall choose David to come to be over my people Israel. (2 **Chronicles 6:6**)
- It served as both the center of pure worship and the seat of government for Israel. Kings ruling from **Jerusalem** were said to sit on Yehowah's throne.
- And Solomon began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in place of David his father and to make a success of it, and all the Israelites were obedient to him. (1 **Chronicles 29:23**)
- King David wrested the stronghold of Mount Zion from the Jebusites and made it his capital. Solomon enlarged the **city** and built it up to the peak of its grandeur, constructing a magnificent temple as well as an impressive complex of governmental buildings on Mount Moriah and its slopes. **Jerusalem** was a city closely associated with Yehowah's name.
- This helps us to appreciate why Jerusalem is given such prominence in Bible prophecy. It serves as a fitting symbol of Yehowah's own heavenly organization and his Messianic Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ.

.. Kingdoms Surrounding Israel

- Dwelling in its God-given land, the nation of Israel found itself surrounded by nations that worshiped false gods. The Israelites had come out of Egypt, where animals were deified.
- To the east and southeast of them now lay Ammon, Moab, and Edom distant relatives of the Israelites but idol worshipers. The polytheistic Philistines occupied the coastal plain to the west.

- **North of Israel along the coast were the Phoenicians, whose religious practices included sodomy, bestiality, and child sacrifice. And the religion of the Syrians featured nude representations of goddesses whose gestures emphasized their sexuality.**
- **To continue to be acceptable to Yehowah, Israel had to keep separate from the nations around them.**
- **As a safeguard to Israel, Yehowah gave them the Mosaic Law, which constituted a wall of separation to keep them apart from the surrounding nations.**
- **For he is our peace, he who made the two parties one and destroyed the wall in between that fenced them off. ([Ephesians 2:14](#))**
- **They were not to form alliances with such nations, to intermarry with them, or to imitate their religious practices.**
- **And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa the king of Judah and then said to him; Because you leaned upon the king of Syria and did not lean upon Yehowah your God, for that reason the military force of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand. ([2 Chronicles 16:7](#))**
- **And Yehowah kept warning Israel and Judah by means of all his prophets and every visionary, saying; Turn back from your bad ways and keep my commandments, my statutes, according to all the Law that I commanded your forefathers and that I have sent to you by means of my servants the prophets. ([2 Kings 17:13](#))**
- **And they did not listen but kept hardening their necks like the necks of their forefathers that had not exercised faith in Yehowah their God. ([2 Kings 17:14](#))**
- **And they continued rejecting his regulations and his covenant that he had concluded with their forefathers and his reminders with which he had warned them, and they went following vain idols and became vain themselves, even in imitation of the nations that were all around them, concerning whom Yehowah had commanded them not to do like them. ([2 Kings 17:15](#))**
- **To the extent that Israel obeyed these Laws, they remained a holy people.**

- **Yet, individuals from surrounding nations were not barred from worshipping the true God. They could abandon their idolatrous ways and become worshipers of Yehowah. God is not partial.**
- **At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. ([Acts of Apostles 10:34](#))**
- **While he was keeping Israel separate, Yehowah was working out his purpose for the eventual blessing of people of all nations.**
- **And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice. ([Genesis 22:18](#))**

SURROUNDING NATIONS With Related Scriptures

- **Ammon**
- **And the sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of **Ammon** and the gods of the Philistines. So they left Yehowah and did not serve him. ([Judges 10:6](#))**
- **At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the sons of **Ammon**. ([Judges 10:7](#))**
- **Hence they shattered and heavily oppressed the sons of Israel in that year, for eighteen years all the sons of Israel that were on the side of the Jordan in the land of the **Amorites** that was in Gilead. ([Judges 10:8](#))**
- **And the sons of **Ammon** would cross the Jordan to fight even against Judah and Benjamin and the house of Ephraim, and Israel was greatly distressed. ([Judges 10:9](#))**
- **And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the **Ammonites**. ([1 Kings 11:5](#))**
- **Edom**

- But it occurred after Amaziah came from striking down the **Edomites** that he now brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up for himself as gods, and before them he began to bow down, and to them he began to make sacrificial smoke.
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- Consequently Yehowah's anger became hot against Amaziah, and so he sent a prophet to him and said to him; Why have you searched for the peoples gods that did not deliver their own people out of your hand? (2 **Chronicles 25:15**)
- **Moab**
- And Moab proceeded to say to the older men of Midian; Now this congregation will lick up all our surroundings like the bull licking up the green growth of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of **Moab** at that particular time. (**Numbers 22:4**)
- He now sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the River of the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying; Look! A people has come out of Egypt. Look! They have covered the earth as far as one can see, and they are dwelling right in front of me. (**Numbers 22:5**)
- And now do come, please, do curse this people for me, for they are mightier than I am. Perhaps I may be able to strike them and I may drive them out of the land, for I well know that the one whom you bless is a blessed one and the one whom you curse is cursed. (**Numbers 22:6**)
- So the older men of **Moab** and the older men of Midian traveled with the payments for divination in their hands and went to Balaam and spoke to him Balak's words. (**Numbers 22:7**)
- But it occurred after Amaziah came from striking down the **Edomites** that he now brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up for himself as gods, and before them he began to bow down, and to them he began to make sacrificial smoke. (2

Chronicles 25:14)

- **Consequently Yehowah's anger became hot against Amaziah, and so he sent a prophet to him and said to him; Why have you searched for the peoples gods that did not deliver their own people out of your hand? (2 Chronicles 25:15)**
- **Moab**
- **Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (Numbers 25:1)**
- **And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (Numbers 25:2)**
- **So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (Numbers 25:3)**
- **When the king of Moab saw that the battle had proved too strong for him, he at once took with him seven hundred men drawing sword to break through to the king of Edom, but they were not able to. (2 Kings 3:26)**
- **Finally he took his firstborn son who was going to reign in place of him and offered him up as a burnt sacrifice upon the wall. And there came to be great indignation against Israel, so that they pulled away from against him and returned to their land. (2 Kings 3:27)**

Philistia

- **And the sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the **Philistines**. So they left Yehowah and did not serve him. (Judges 10:6)**
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- As for the **Philistine** axis lords, they gathered together to sacrifice a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and for rejoicing, and they kept saying; Our god has given into our hand Samson our enemy! (**Judges 16:23**)
- Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (**2 Kings 1:2**)

Phoenicia

- And King Solomon himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, **Sidonian** and Hittite women. (**1 Kings 11:1**)
- From the **nations** of whom Yehowah had said to the sons of Israel; You must not go in among them, and they themselves should not come in among you, truly they will incline your heart to follow their gods. It was to them that Solomon clung to love them. (**1 Kings 11:2**)
- And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the **Sidonians** and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
- Then Ahaziah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (**2 Kings 1:2**)
- And Ahab the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. (**1 Kings 16:30**)
- And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the **Sidonians**

and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (**1 Kings 16:31**)

Syria

- And the sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of **Syria** and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the Philistines. So they left Yehowah and did not serve him. (**Judges 10:6**)
- Eventually Tilgath-pilneser the king of **Assyria** came against him and caused him distress, and did not strengthen him. (**2 Chronicles 28:20**)
- For Ahaz stripped the house of Yehowah and the house of the king and of the princes and thus made a gift to the king of **Assyria**, but it was of no assistance to him. (**2 Chronicles 28:21**)
- However, at the time that he was causing him distress, he acted unfaithfully still more toward Yehowah, that is, King Ahaz did. (**2 Chronicles 28:22**)
- 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**)
- The Moabites lived in rugged territory east of the Dead Sea. On the Moabite Stone, King Mesha boasts about his god Chemosh and refers to Yehowah with great disrespect.