

# project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

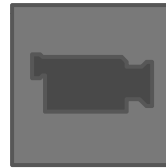
## Isaiah's Judgments Lesson 27

July 4, 2010

# A Video

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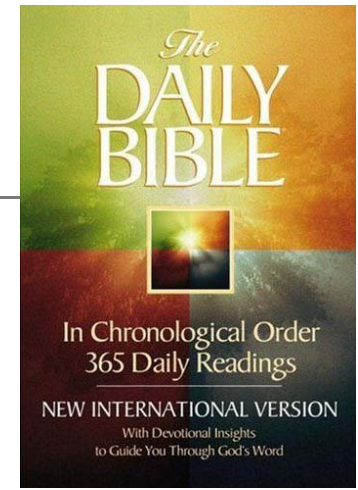
- ▶ I want to be like Jason when (if) I grow up ...



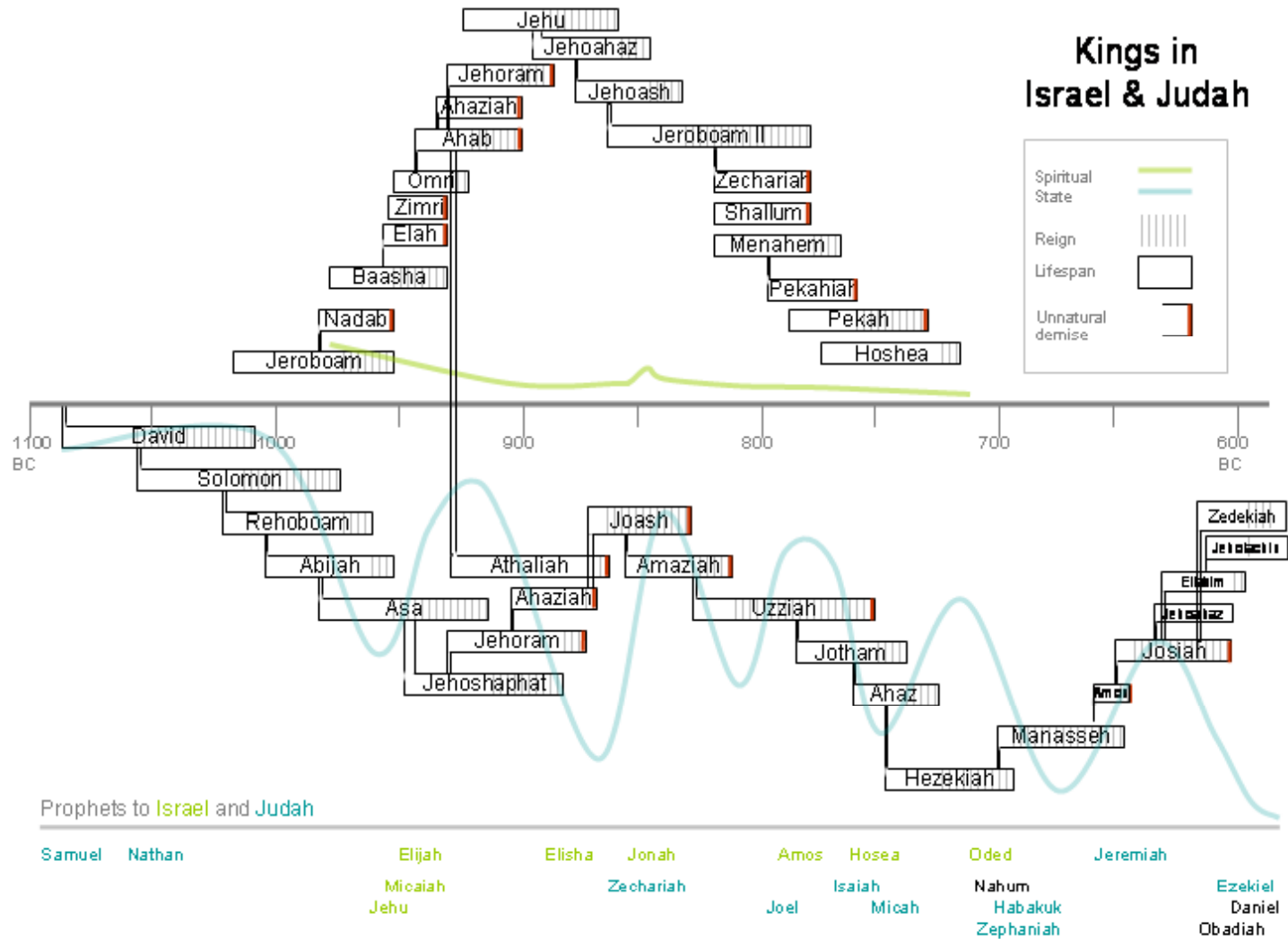
# This Week

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- ▶ We'll cover readings for June 27-July 3
- ▶ Portions of Micah, Isaiah, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles
  - ▶ **The Prophecies of Micah**
    - ▶ Micah preaches to Judah that God does not want empty worship from people who are morally and ethically bankrupt. Micah specifically prophesies the fall of Samaria, the fall of Jerusalem, the exile in Babylon, and the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem.
  - ▶ **Isaiah Prophecies about a Savior (Isaiah 7-12)**
    - ▶ Isaiah predicts the fall of Syria and Israel and the eventual arrival of the Messiah.
  - ▶ **Isaiah Prophecies against Nations (Isaiah 13-23)**
    - ▶ Through Isaiah, God pronounces judgment against the wicked nations around Judah.



# Introduction



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# Apostasy in Israel

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- ▶ Israel is in a terrible state of spiritual decline
  - ▶ God has sent prophets to call the people back to Him
  - ▶ However, the people become more and more wicked with time
- ▶ Yahweh, the God of infinite love, is also the God of righteousness and cannot allow the sin of His chosen nation to go unpunished
- ▶ ***It is time for the day of reckoning***
- ▶ **What caused God to send judgment against Israel?**



# The Punishment of Israel

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## ▶ Isaiah 5:26-30

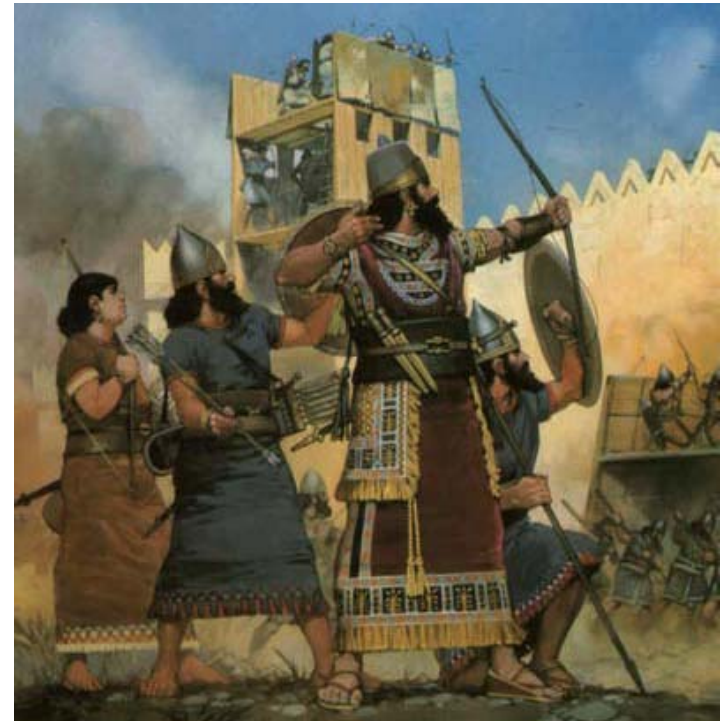
- ▶ <sup>26</sup>He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come, swiftly and speedily! <sup>27</sup>Not one of them grows tired or stumbles, not one slumbers or sleeps; not a belt is loosened at the waist, not a sandal thong is broken. <sup>28</sup>Their arrows are sharp, all their bows are strung; their horses' hoofs seem like flint, their chariot wheels like a whirlwind. <sup>29</sup>Their roar is like that of the lion, they roar like young lions; they growl as they seize their prey and carry it off with no one to rescue. <sup>30</sup>In that day they will roar over it like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks at the land, he will see darkness and distress; even the light will be darkened by the clouds.



# The Assyrians

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- ▶ Assyria was the first truly effective military state
  - ▶ It was a fierce and highly-effective war machine
- ▶ The Assyrian army was composed of regulars, along with militia in times of war
  - ▶ Well-equipped and trained military force
  - ▶ Highly-effective military tactics
  - ▶ Also experts in the use of siege warfare
- ▶ A formidable enemy
- ▶ A powerful tool in the hands of God



# The Assyrians (cont.)

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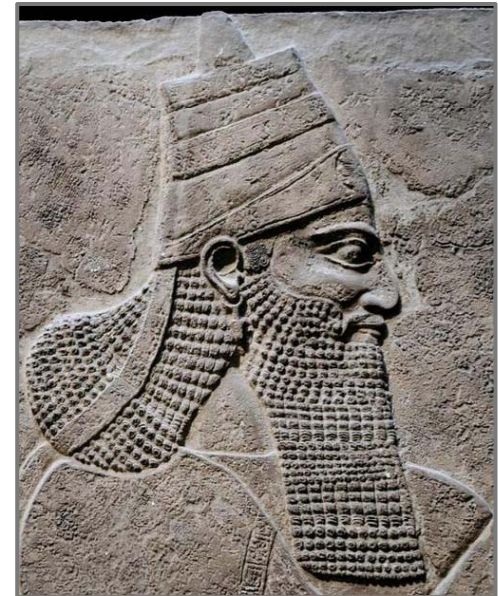
- ▶ The Assyrians made conquest an art form
  - ▶ Often murdered all men, women and children to serve as examples to other nations
- ▶ Upon conquering a nation, they immediately deported all of the upper-class citizens
- ▶ Replaced them with people from other conquered lands, which served two purposes
  - ▶ Organized rebellion would most likely come from the leadership of the conquered people
  - ▶ A population of people with diverse nationalities would have hard time organizing a rebellion



# Expansion of the Assyrian Empire

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- ▶ Under the leadership of Pulu, or Tiglath-Pileser III, the Assyrians began to move westward
  - ▶ Menahem of Samaria had already become his vassal and paid him tribute (gold and silver)
  - ▶ After his death, his son Pekahiah continued as a vassal, until assassinated by one of his officers named Pekah
  - ▶ Pekah entered into an anti-Assyrian revolt with Rezin of Aram and tried to pressure Ahaz of Judah to join them, resulting in civil war
  - ▶ Ahaz remained “loyal” and called for Assyria's “help”



# The Exile Begins

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- ▶ 2 Kings 15:29

- ▶ <sup>29</sup>In the time of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and deported the people to Assyria.

- ▶ Several years before the fall of Samaria, the northern tribes of Israel (Reuben, Gad, Manasseh, Zebulun and Naphtali) are taken captive by Tiglath-Pileser

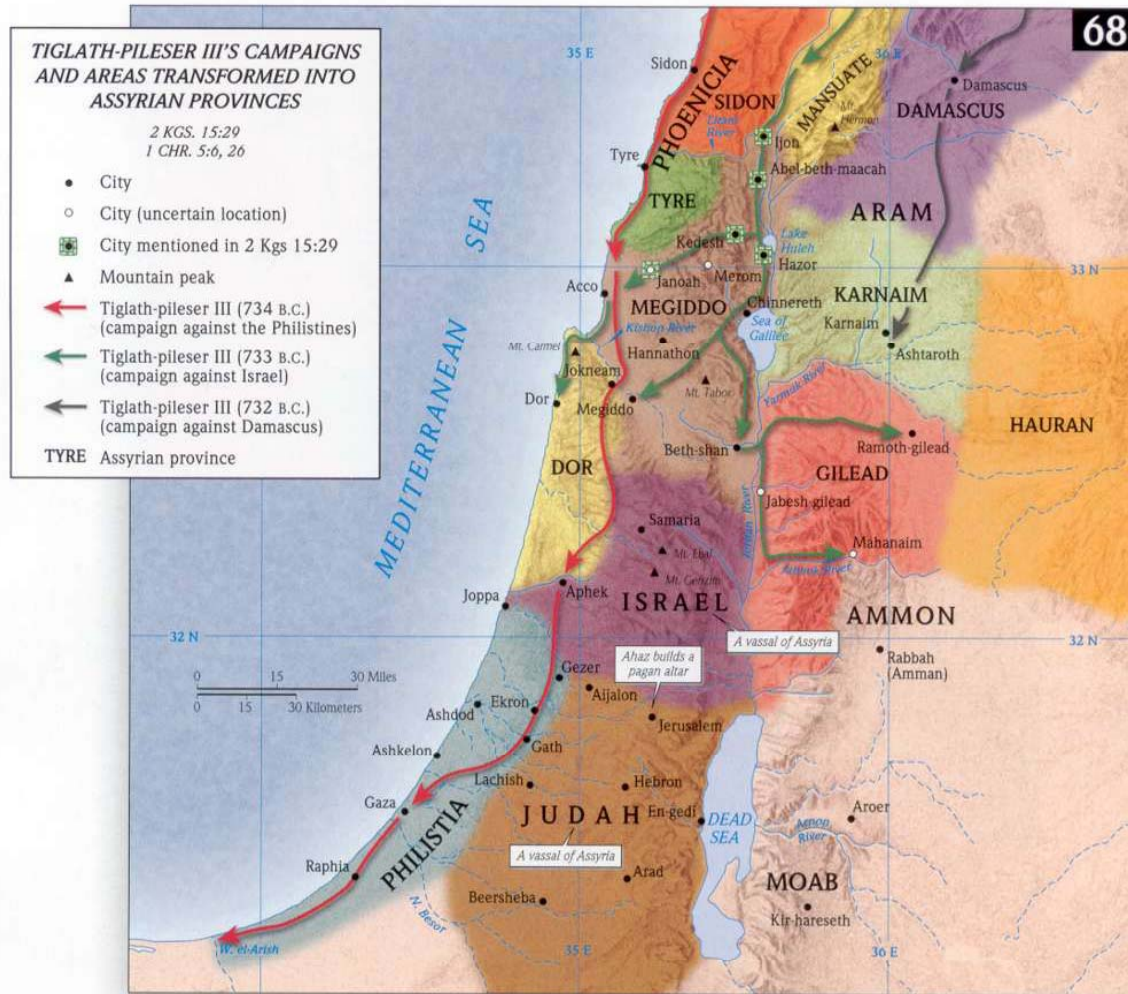
- ▶ What is the purpose of the exile?



# The Assyrian Empire



# Assyrian Campaigns in Israel



# God is in Control

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## ▶ Isaiah 10:12-15

- ▶ <sup>12</sup>When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, “I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes. <sup>13</sup>For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done this, and by my wisdom, because I have understanding. I removed the boundaries of nations, I plundered their treasures; like a mighty one I subdued their kings. <sup>14</sup>As one reaches into a nest, so my hand reached for the wealth of the nations; as men gather abandoned eggs, so I gathered all the countries; not one flapped a wing, or opened its mouth to chirp.” <sup>15</sup>**Does the ax raise itself above him who swings it**, or the saw boast against him who uses it? As if a rod were to wield him who lifts it up, or a club brandish him who is not wood!



# King Ahaz

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## ▶ 2 Chronicles 28:1-5a

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>2</sup>He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made cast idols for worshiping the Baals. <sup>3</sup>He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and **sacrificed his sons in the fire**, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree. <sup>5</sup>Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram.



# King Ahaz (cont.)

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- ▶ One of the evil kings of Judah
- ▶ His name apparently was Jehoahaz, and is referenced in the annals of Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria
- ▶ It appears that the writer of Chronicles could not refer to a man of Ahaz' character with an element of Yahweh's name (Jeho)
  - ▶ His full name, Jehoahaz, would have meant "Yahweh has taken hold"
- ▶ Moved the Altar of the Lord from in front of the Temple and erected an altar to the Assyrian gods



# Ahaz Asked to Test God

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- ▶ When Israel and Aram threatened Jerusalem, God challenged Ahaz to test Him
- ▶ Isaiah 7:10-12
  - ▶ <sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”
- ▶ Why would Ahaz refuse?
- ▶ Where else does scripture reference “testing” God?
- ▶ God’s Answer
  - ▶ Isaiah 7:13-15 (DB Page 816)



# The Lord's Instruction to Isaiah

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## ▶ Isaiah 8:1-4

▶ <sup>1</sup>The LORD said to me, “Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. <sup>2</sup>And I will call in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me.” <sup>3</sup>Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. <sup>4</sup>Before the boy knows how to say ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.”

▶ Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz means “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil”



# The Lord Speaks to Judah

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## ▶ Isaiah 8:5-10

- ▶ <sup>5</sup>The LORD spoke to me again: <sup>6</sup>“Because this people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, <sup>7</sup>therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the River—the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks <sup>8</sup>and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it, passing through it and reaching up to the neck. Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, O Immanuel!” <sup>9</sup>Raise the war cry, you nations, and be shattered! Listen, all you distant lands. Prepare for battle, and be shattered! Prepare for battle, and be shattered! <sup>10</sup>Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us.



# Judah a Vassal State

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- ▶ 2 Kings 16:7-8

- ▶ <sup>7</sup>Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, “I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me.” <sup>8</sup>And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria.

- ▶ Instead of trusting in God to provide deliverance, he trusted in Assyria and Judah became a vassal state



# Judgment of the Nations

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- ▶ What was God's objective in punishing the nations around Israel?

<b>Assyria</b>	<b>Arabia</b>
<b>Moab</b>	<b>Tyre</b>
<b>Damascus</b>	<b>Philistines</b>
<b>Edom</b>	<b>Babylon</b>

- ▶ It is fascinating that God uses these nations to punish Israel, but then punishes them for their pride and arrogance in attacking His people



# The Nature of God

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- ▶ Intermingled with the pronouncements of judgment are promises of restoration and blessing
  - ▶ Do this indicate that God can't make up his mind?
- ▶ These passages of prophecy, judgment and restoration tell the story of a righteous, all-knowing God who:
  - ▶ Cannot bear the sin of His people, yet
  - ▶ Cannot bear the thought of His people in exile



# What God Wants from His People

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- ▶ Hosea 6:6

- ▶ <sup>6</sup>For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

- ▶ Micah 6:8

- ▶ <sup>8</sup>He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- ▶ We begin to see a pronounced shift in the prophetic writings toward God wanting His people's hearts, not just their ritual offerings

- ▶ Is this something new?



# The Promise

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## ▶ Isaiah 9:6-7

▶ <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

▶ See pages 822-823 in *The Daily Bible*

▶ Why does God choose this point in history to highlight the coming of the Messiah?



# The God We Serve

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## ▶ Micah 7:18-20

- ▶ <sup>18</sup>Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.  
<sup>19</sup>You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup>You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.



## Your Turn ...

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- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



# Next Week

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- ▶ Readings for July 4-10
  - ▶ Israel Falls and Judah Declines

# Questions?

