

God Rules in the Kingdom of Men

- Establish the Fact
- How does God execute Judgments?



God Rules in the Kingdom of Men

“Righteous exalts a nation but wickedness is a disgrace to any people” (Prov 14:34).



George Washington

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”



“The Unseen Hand in History”

“I have lived sir, a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: **That God governs in the affairs of men.** If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?”



Benjamin Franklin

God Rules in Affairs of Men

- Genesis 6 – The Flood
 - God destroys the world because of man's wickedness and the earth “was corrupt and **filled with violence**” (6:11).
- Gen 18 – Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 18:20 “Sin was very grievous.”
 - **Homosexuality!**
 - II Peter 2:8 “Lawless deeds.”
 - God would have saved many wicked if . . . find a *few righteous*. (Gen 18:32) “**10 sake**”

God Rules in Affairs of Men

- God arranged for the rise and fall of Israel
 - Gen 15:18 **Promises Abraham**
“To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.”





Divided Kingdom

c. 925 B.C.

 Kingdom of Israel

 Kingdom of Judah



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Scale of Miles

0

Why Israel taken captive?

722 BC Samaria falls

- Internal political instability.
- External threat of Assyria.
 - Failure of the alliance to defend themselves.
 - King So of Egypt – “broken reed.”
- Divine Interpretation: II Kings 17:7-18
 - II Kgs 17:7 “Now this came about because the **sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God.**”

What *really* caused the fall?

- Forgot their heritage -- 17:7
- Feared other gods---idolatry 17: 7,12
- Immorality – Asherah – Baal worship 17:16
- Religious apostasy 17: 6-10, 16a
- Hardened their neck – 17:14
- Infant sacrifice – 7:17
- Divination & occult – 7:16-17



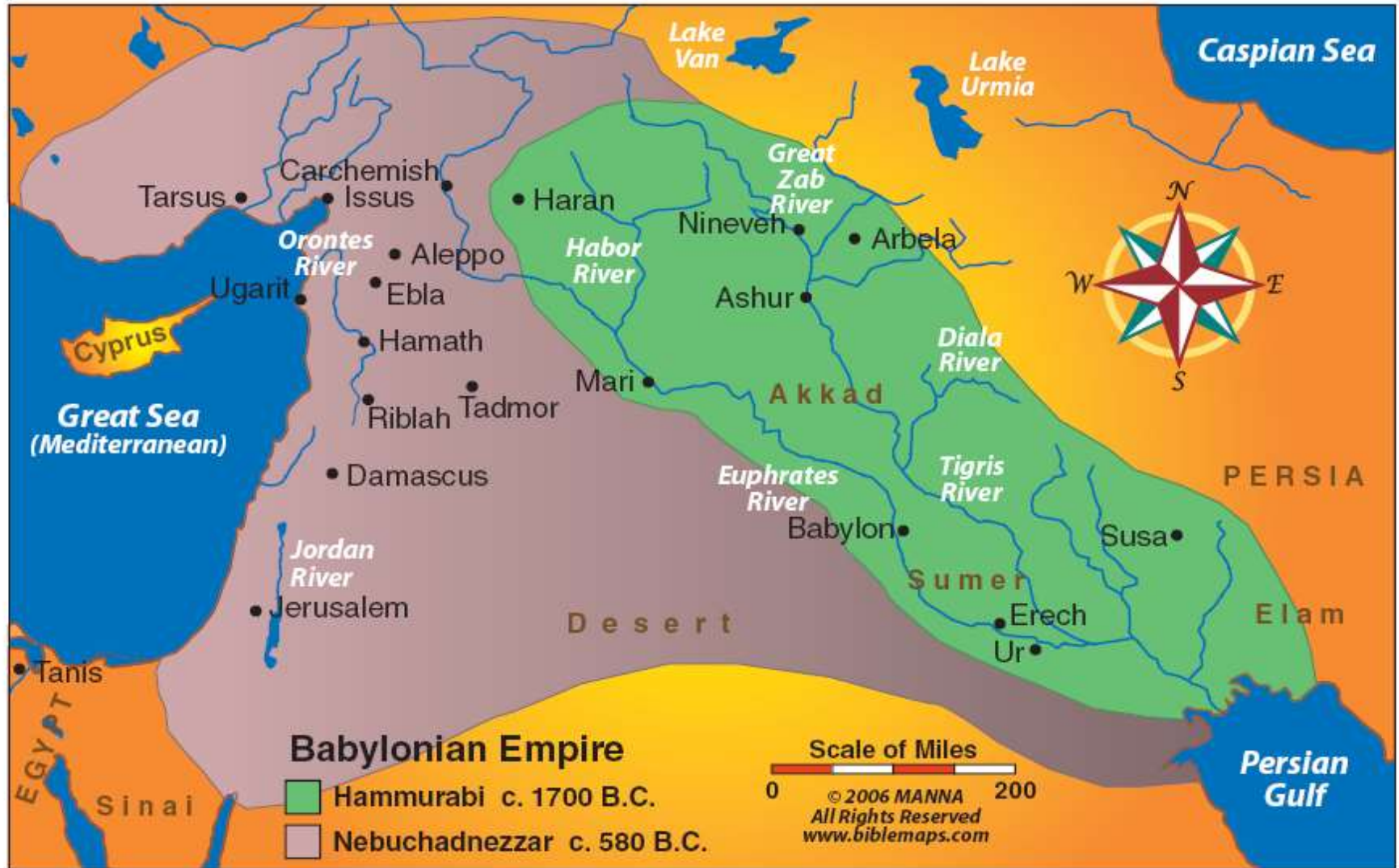
God took credit for Assyria's conquests!

- II Kgs 18: 33-35 – “Why do you think God will deliver Jerusalem, when He did not deliver Samaria?”
- II Kgs 19:1 “Hezekiah rent his clothes and went into the house of Jehovah...”
- II Kgs 19:6 Isaiah – “Fear not. He will return home and fall by the sword.”
- II Kgs 19:21-22 We are laughing at you!!
- II Kgs 19: 25-27, 34-36





Babylonian Empire



Babylonians take Jerusalem!

- Habakkuk complains: “The wicked compass about the righteous and justice is perverted.”
- Why use them to destroy Judah?
- Trust me! “Jehovah is in his holy temple let all the earth keep silent before Him.”
- They will be judged!



God rules in affairs of Nations



Dan 5:20-21 "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him."

God rules in affairs of Nations

"He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts . .



God rules in affairs of Nations

- “Until he recognizes that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.



Belshazzar's down fall

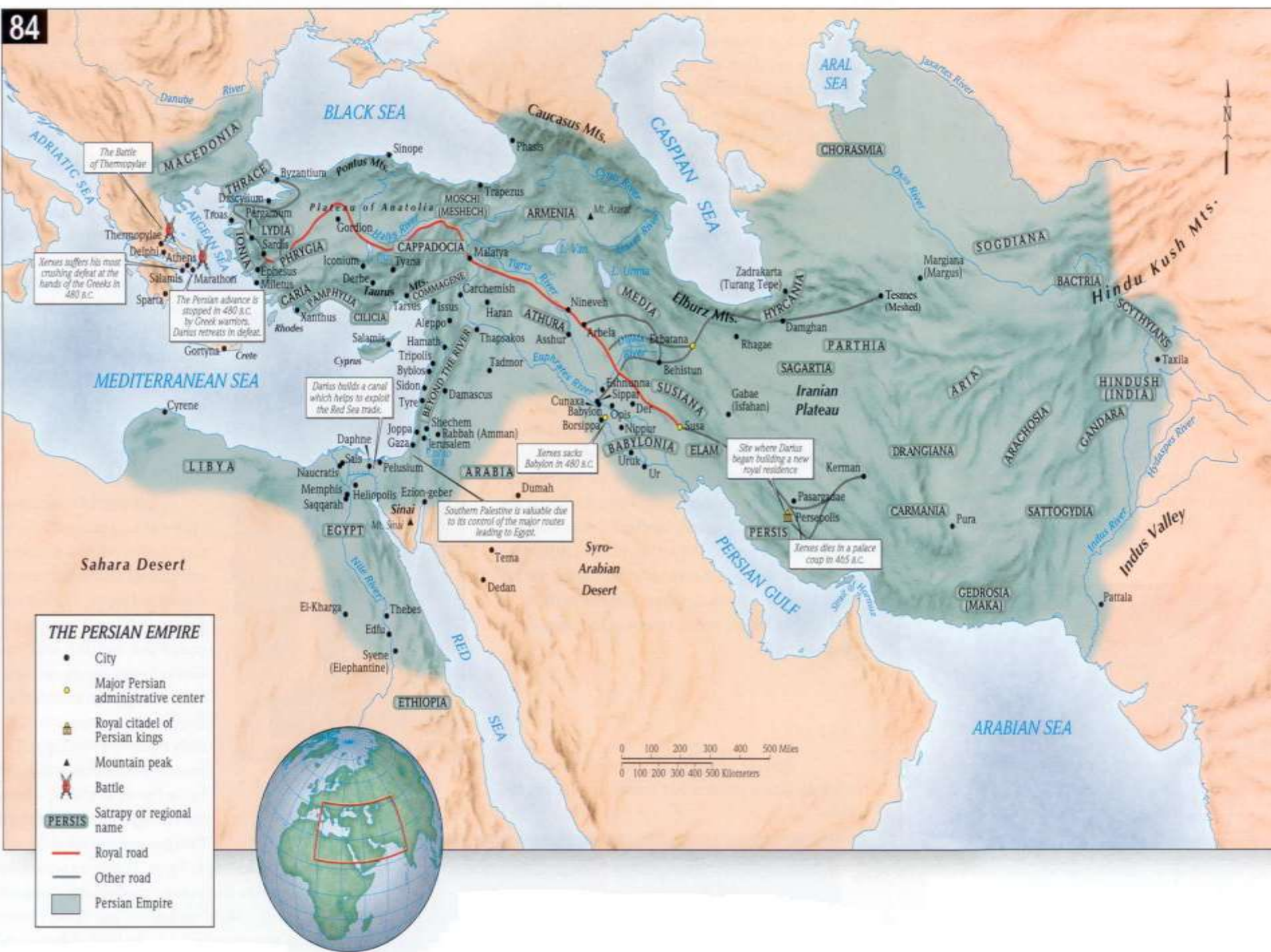


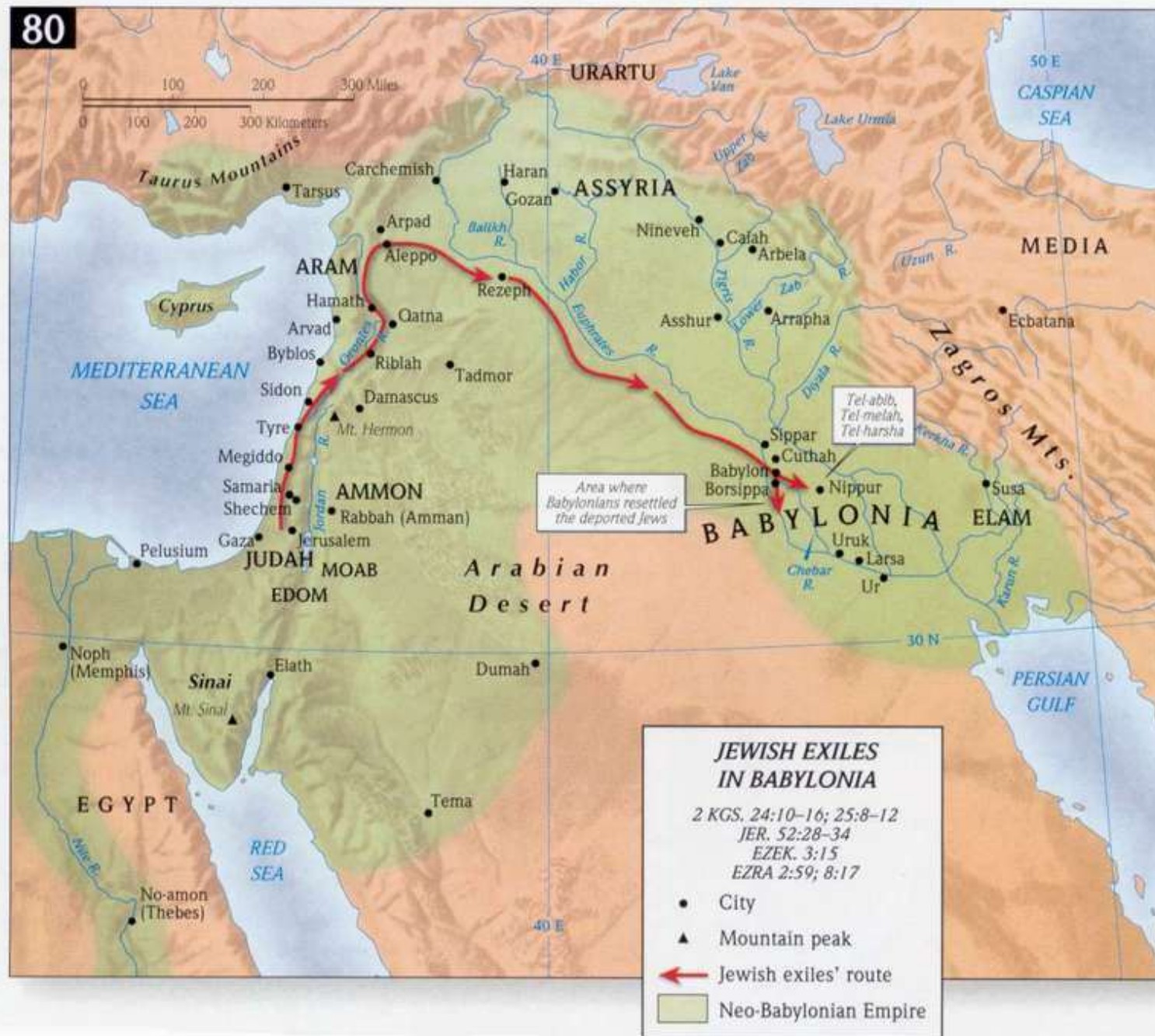
Handwriting of the Wall

Belshazzar's down fall

- Dan 5:26-28 "This is the interpretation of the message:
- 'MENE' — God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.
- 'TEKEL' — you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.
- 'PERES' — your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."







God Judges Other Nations

- Ninevah – Jonah and Nahum
 - “Slow to anger..” (Nahum 1:3).
 - “Woe to the bloody city, it is all full of lies and fully of whoredoms and witchcraft” (3:1-4).
- Edom - Obadiah
- “Pride of Edom shall be humbled.”
- “Obadiah 10: “For the violence done to thy brother Jacob.”
- Tyre – Isa 23:9 “The Lord hath planned it.”
- Rome – Rev 18:24 “In her was found the blood of the prophets and of saints.”

Statement of Judgement

Isa 24: 5-6

- The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they **transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.** 6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

NASU



God Rules in the Universe

- Ps 22:28 “For the kingdom is Jehovah’s and He is ruler over all the nations.”
- Jer 10:17 “Who shall not fear thee, Oh king of the nations?”
- Amos 3:6 “Shall evil befall a nation and Jehovah hath not done it?”



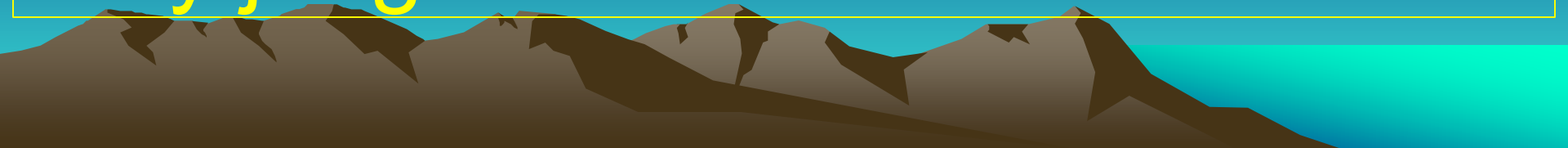
NT References

- Acts 17:26-27 “He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation**”
- Rev 1:5 “Jesus Christ, the **ruler of all the earth.**”
- Rev 12:5 “He **rules all nations with a rod of iron, treading them in the winepress of the wrath of God.**”



How does God execute judgments?

- Key principle: Righteously!
- Gen 18:25 “Will the judge of all the earth do that which is right?”
- Rev 16:7 “Lord, God, the Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”



How does God execute National Judgments?

- Not arbitrary but **as deserved!**
 - Gen 15:6 Had to wait in Egypt until Amorites were wicked enough to be cast out!
 - Lev 18:24-29 “Vomited out of the land.”



How does God execute National Judgments?

- **Different than an individual.. as a group!**
 - Rm 14:12 “Each man must give account of **himself** unto God.”
 - Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sins...”
 - Pulpit: ***“For a nation’s sin, the punishment is on the earth, because the nation goes on while individuals die; so there is time for the deadly fruit of sin to ripen”*** (Gal 6:7-8, Hosea 8:7).

How does God execute National Judgments?

- There is a **cumulative effect of wickedness.**
 - Ex 20:5 “**Sins will be visited upon the fourth and fifth generation..**”
 - Reach the point of no return!
 - Reign of **Manasseh** –verdict sealed!
 - **Josiah** could postpone but not stop.




Nation's judged based upon principles of morality versus personal salvation.

- Prov 14:34 **Ethical wisdom** not theological
- People of **Nineveh** – not converted to the Law of Moses.
- Yet the **truly righteous** can keep an **overwhelming majority** from being destroyed!
- **Nations are judged in time, individuals are judged in eternity.**





 **Maccabean Kingdom**
c. 90 B.C.



Scale of Miles

0 50

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Alexis de Tocqueville

French statesman, 1800's



- "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and the genius of America. America is good.
- **And if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."**

