#972 The Whore's Latter Rain – In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon registered a Pair of Victories over (i) Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish, and (ii) Judah, for the purpose of connecting to the future Revelation 6:05 Black Horse Rider, part 1, Sennacherib fails to conquer Judah



After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided into the northern kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) and the southern kingdom of Judah (2 tribes). The book of 2 Kings covers the time period of the defeats of Israel by Assyria and Judah by Babylon, and the subsequent deportations.

Sargon II (*right*), king of Assyria (r. 722-705 B.C.), with the crowned prince, Sennacherib (*left*)

The defeat of Israel, the northern 10 tribes, by Assyria in 722 B.C. In 725 B.C., Assyrian king Shalmanesar V invaded Israel and marched on the region of Samaria, the land of the northern kingdom. He besieged it for three years (2 Kings 17:3-6; 18:9-12) and apparently

died shortly before its fall. Sargon II (722-705 B.C.), king of Assyria and Babylonia, then took Samaria in 722 B.C. (2 Kings 17:6). The northern kingdom was taken captive and carried away to Assyria. In 720 B.C., the kingdom of Judah, under King Ahaz, paid tribute to Sargon II.

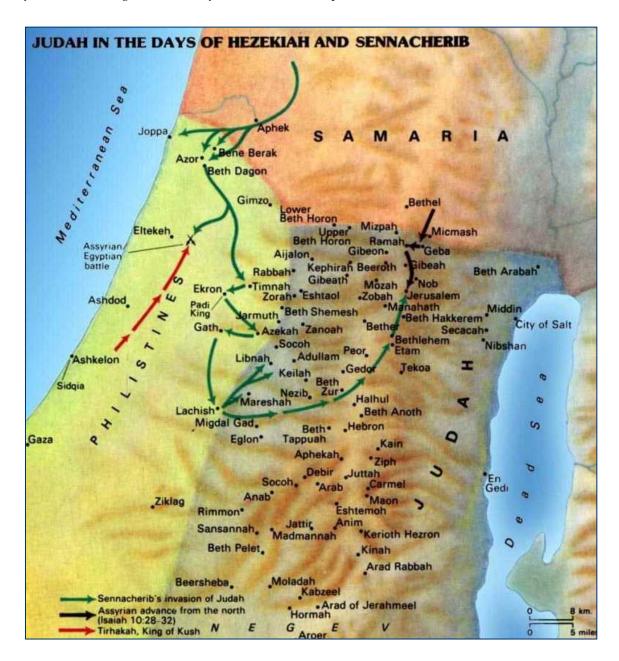
Sennacherib, the son and successor of Sargon II, was the Assyrian king from 705-681 B.C. Sennacherib began his military campaign toward the west in 701 B.C., when Tyre and Sidon refused to pay tribute to Assyria. He marched down the Phoenician coast and captured Sidon

and many other cities. The cities that refused to submit were destroyed. After the Assyrians defeated the Egyptians, they laid siege to Lachish, which, along with Jerusalem, was one of the best-fortified cities in Judah. The account of Sennacherib's campaign in Judah is found in 2 Kings 18:13-19:37 and Isaiah 36-37. After a cruel siege, Lachish fell. Sennacherib sacked 46 towns and villages in Judah, taking away thousands of prisoners and much spoil. King Hezekiah refused Sennacherib's demand to surrender Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:17; Isaiah 36:1-21), but he did agree to pay 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold in tribute. The siege of Jerusalem proved unsuccessful for Sennacherib for two reasons: (1) Hezekiah protected his water supplies (2 Kings 20:20), and (2) Hezekiah steadfastly trusted in God rather than in material and military support from his allies (2 Kings 19:32-34). Sennacherib, in his description of the siege of Jerusalem, boasts of shutting up Hezekiah "like a bird in a cage," but makes no reference to the outcome of the siege – evidence that his campaign failed. 2 Kings 19:35 narrates what happened:



The Assyrian army slain. 2 Kings 19:35

2 Kings 19:35 (KJV) And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.



Key Understanding: Why Sennacherib failed to conquer Jerusalem. Actually, Sennacherib and Assyria were not destined to conquer Judah, for it was ordained by the Lord that Babylon was to be the conqueror of Judah, and for that to occur in 605 B.C., for the purpose of prophetically connecting to the Revelation 6:05 Black Horse Rider of the distant future.

**Revelation 6:5** (KJV) And when he had opened <u>THE THIRD SEAL</u>, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo <u>A BLACK HORSE</u>; and he that sat on him had <u>A PAIR OF BALANCES IN HIS HAND</u>.

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