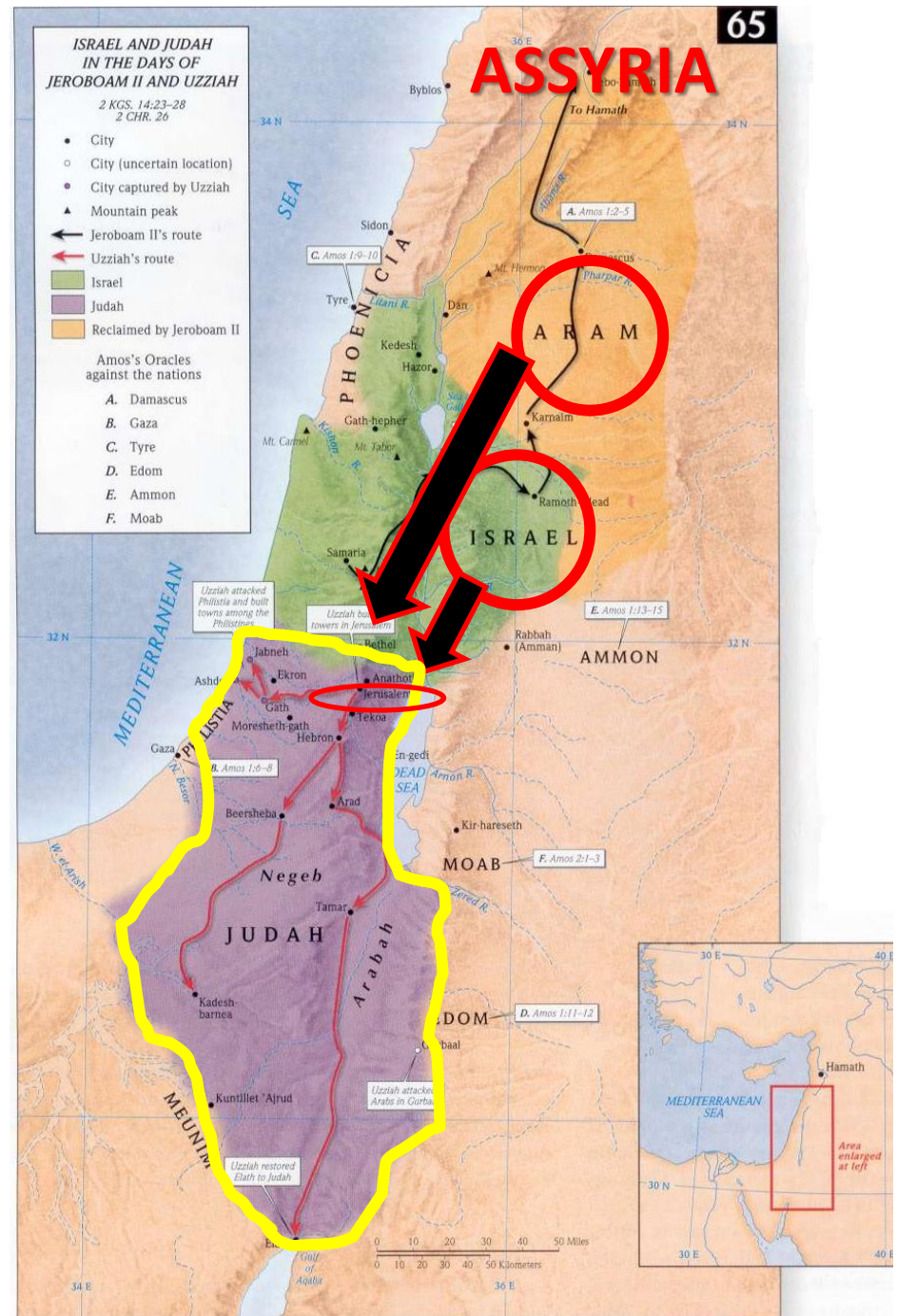


King Ahaz

Israel and Aram (Syria) are threatening. He is afraid. This is a very real and present national security threat.

Isaiah tells him to put his TRUST in the Lord. Offers a sign.

Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign. He has already decided what he is going to do. **He puts his trust in the King of Assyria.**

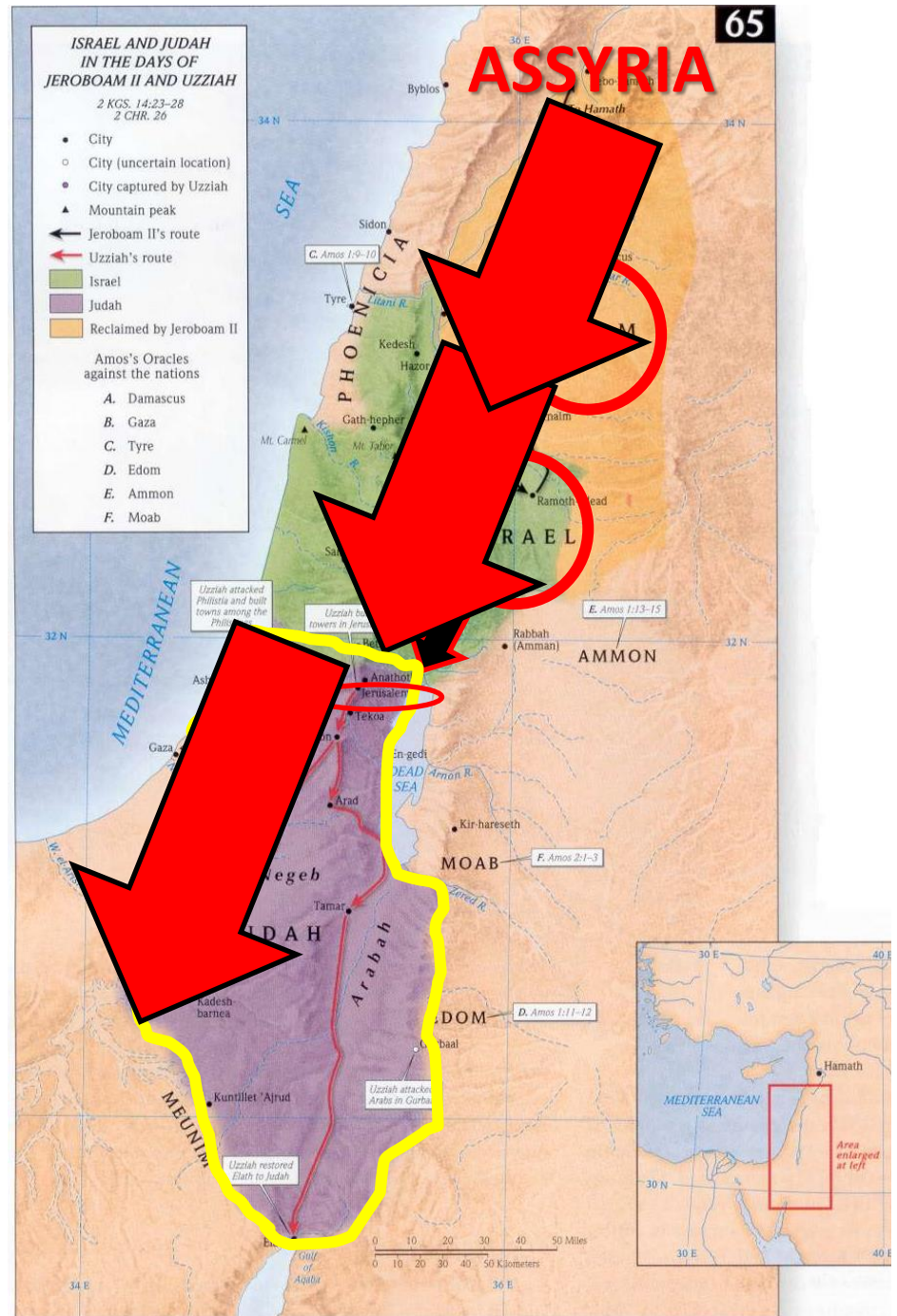


King Ahaz

Isaiah tells him that instead of Assyria helping him, Assyria is going to hurt him.

Assyria does capture
Damascus and Samaria—
totally annihilating the
countries of Syria and Israel.

Seven years later, Assyria invades Judah, takes over the fortified cities and surrounds **King Hezekiah** in Jerusalem.



King Hezekiah makes preparations:

1. He builds a wall around the Western part of the city.



**Assyrian
THREAT**

Western W

Temple Mount

David's palace?

**Kidron
Valley**

**Probable borders of Jerusalem
in time of David**

Hinnom Valley

King Hezekiah makes preparations—

1. He builds a wall around the Western part of the city.



King Hezekiah makes preparations:

2. He re-routes the Gihon Spring under the city through a tunnel to provide a water supply inside the walls.



**Assyrian
THREAT**

Western

Temple Mount

David's palace?

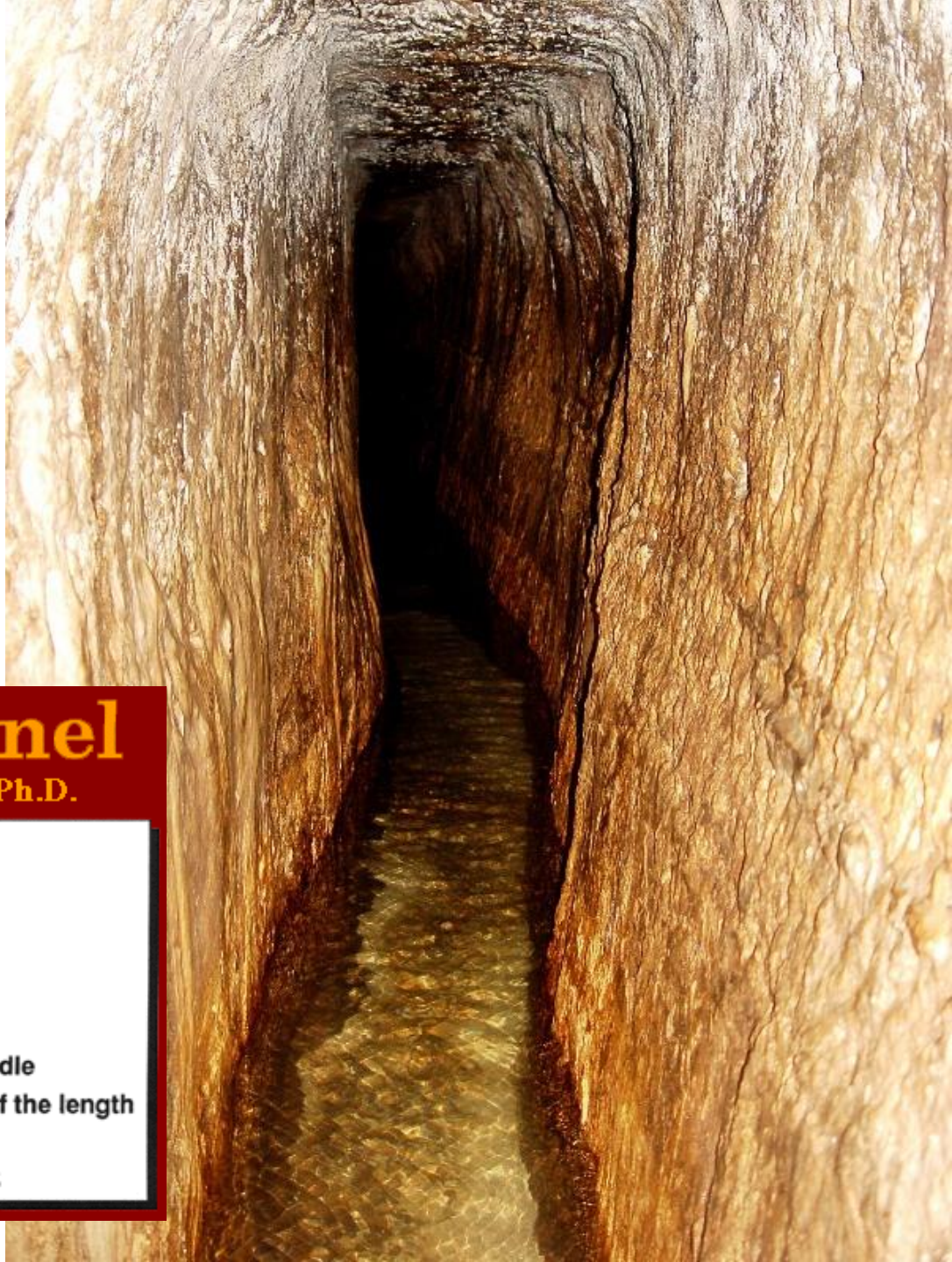
**Kidron
Valley**

**Probable borders of Jerusalem
in time of David**

Hinnom Valley

King Hezekiah makes preparations:

2. He re-routes the Gihon Spring under the city through a tunnel to provide a water supply inside the walls.



Hezekiah's Tunnel

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Date of Construction	701 B.C.
Length	1750 Feet (1/3 Mile)
Direct Distance	About 1000 Feet
Entrance	Gihon Spring, Kidron Valley
Exit	Pool of Siloam, Central Valley
Elevation Drop	2 Feet
Lighting	None: Carry Flashlight or Candle
Height	5 1/2 - 6 1/2 Feet along most of the length
Minimum Height	4 Feet, 9 Inches
Water Depth	3 - 3 1/2 Feet on June 26, 1995



The passage reads:

... the tunnel ... and this is the story of the tunnel while ...

the axes were against each other and while three cubits were left to cut? ... the voice of a man ...called to his counterpart, (for) there was ZADA in the rock, on the right ... and on the day of the tunnel (being finished) the stonecutters struck each man towards his counterpart, ax against ax and flowed water from the source to the pool for 1200 cubits. and 100? cubits was the height over the head of the stonecutters ...

King Hezekiah makes preparations:

3. He pays off the King of Assyria.

Now in the **fourteenth year** of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them. Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, **“I have done wrong. Withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear.”** So the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. Hezekiah gave him all the silver which was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king’s house. At that time Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the doorposts which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

II Kings 18:13-16

For which of these three things did Isaiah rebuke Hezekiah?

Isaiah 22

The Lord stripped away the defenses of Judah,

and you looked in that day to the weapons in the Palace of the Forest.

You saw that the walls of the City of David were broken through in many places;
you stored up water in the Lower Pool.

You counted the buildings in Jerusalem and tore down houses to strengthen the wall. You built a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the Old Pool,

but you did not look to the One who made it, or have regard for the One who planned it long ago.

The Lord, the LORD Almighty, called you on that day to weep and to wail, to tear out your hair and put on sackcloth.

But see, there is joy and revelry, slaughtering of cattle and killing of sheep,
eating of meat and drinking of wine!

“Let us eat and drink,” you say, “for tomorrow we die!”

Hezekiah listens to the rebuke and CHANGES his ways.

Isaiah 37—

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the LORD. He sent Eliakim the **palace administrator**, Shebna **the secretary**, and the **leading priests**, **all wearing sackcloth**, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

They told him, “This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them. It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the LORD your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives.”

Isaiah 37—

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then **he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.**

And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: “LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word the LORD has spoken against him...

When a nation is in national distress
And the people of God in that nation are in moral
decline—holding on to all the old religious traditions but
not following God in their actions or from their hearts—

It is not a time to rely on man's "business as usual" way of
getting out of the situation.

It is a time for the leaders and the people of God to weep
and fast—ready to change their ways.