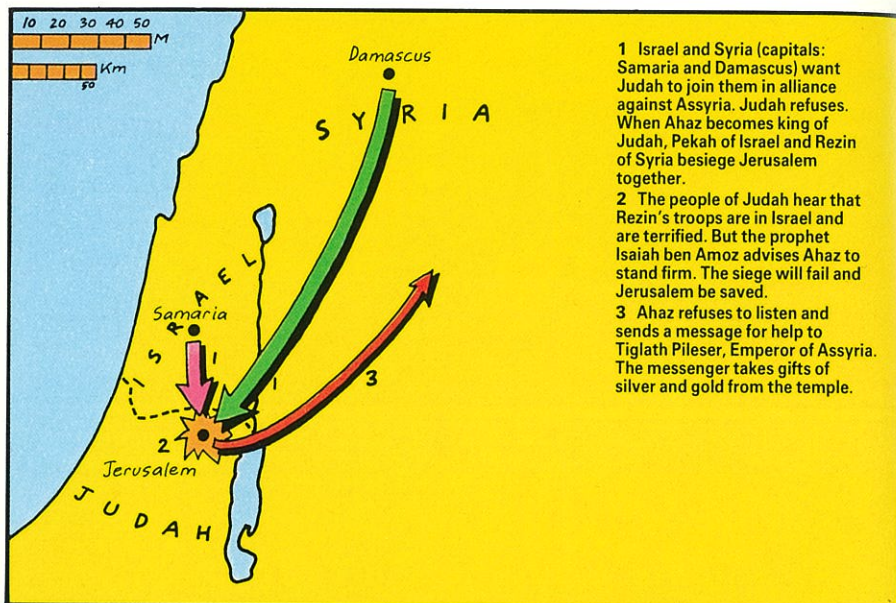
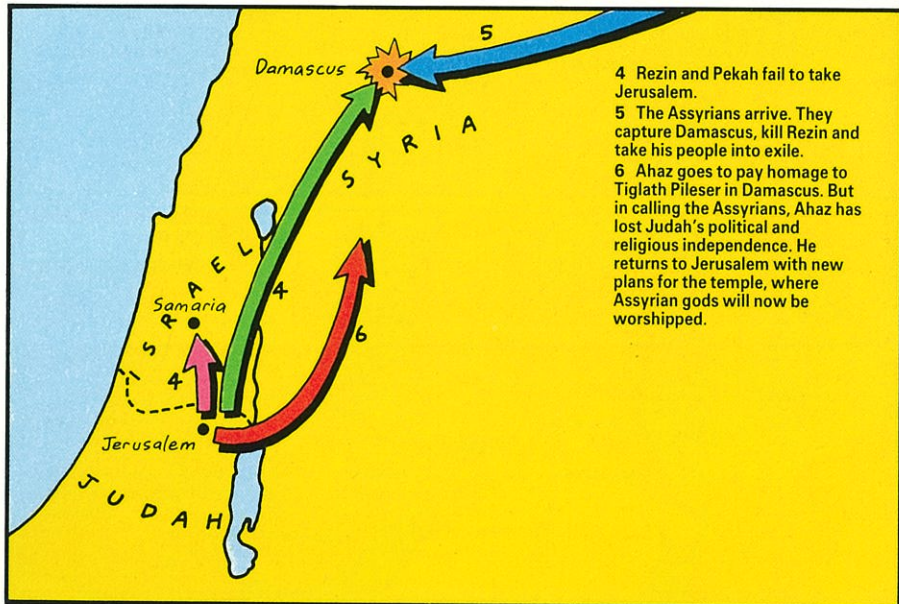


Ahaz Calls Assyria

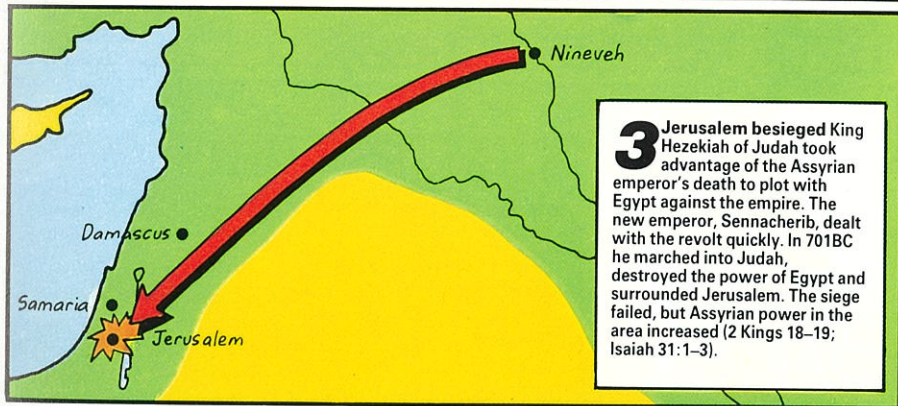
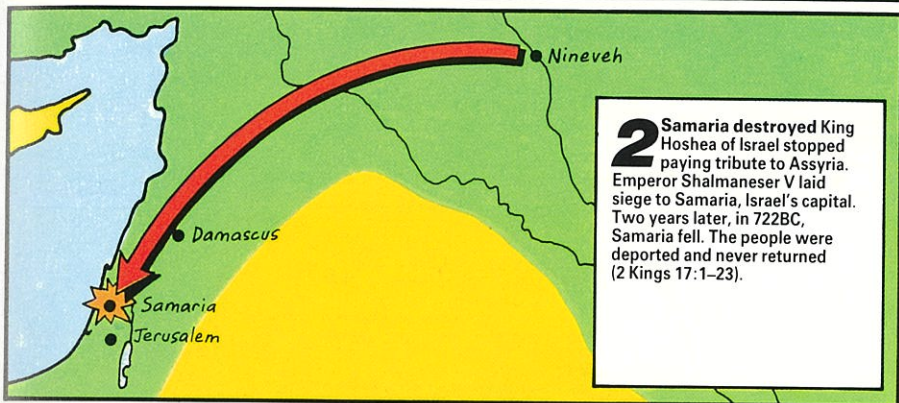
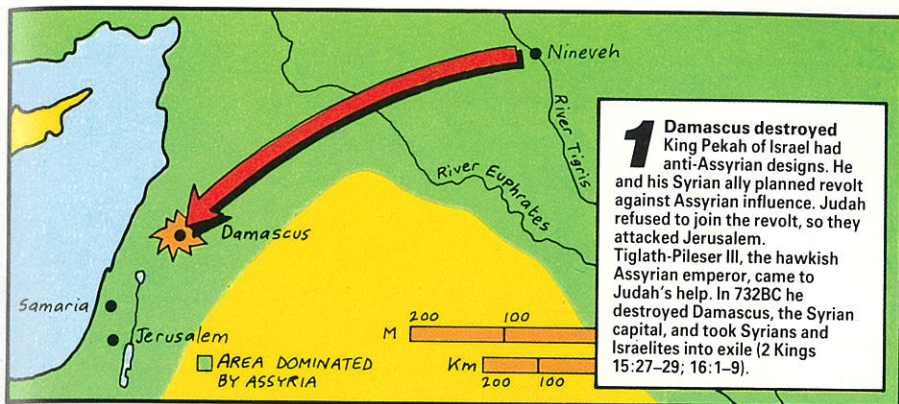


- 1 Israel and Syria (capitals: Samaria and Damascus) want Judah to join them in alliance against Assyria. Judah refuses. When Ahaz becomes king of Judah, Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria besiege Jerusalem together.
- 2 The people of Judah hear that Rezin's troops are in Israel and are terrified. But the prophet Isaiah ben Amoz advises Ahaz to stand firm. The siege will fail and Jerusalem be saved.
- 3 Ahaz refuses to listen and sends a message for help to Tiglath Pileser, Emperor of Assyria. The messenger takes gifts of silver and gold from the temple.

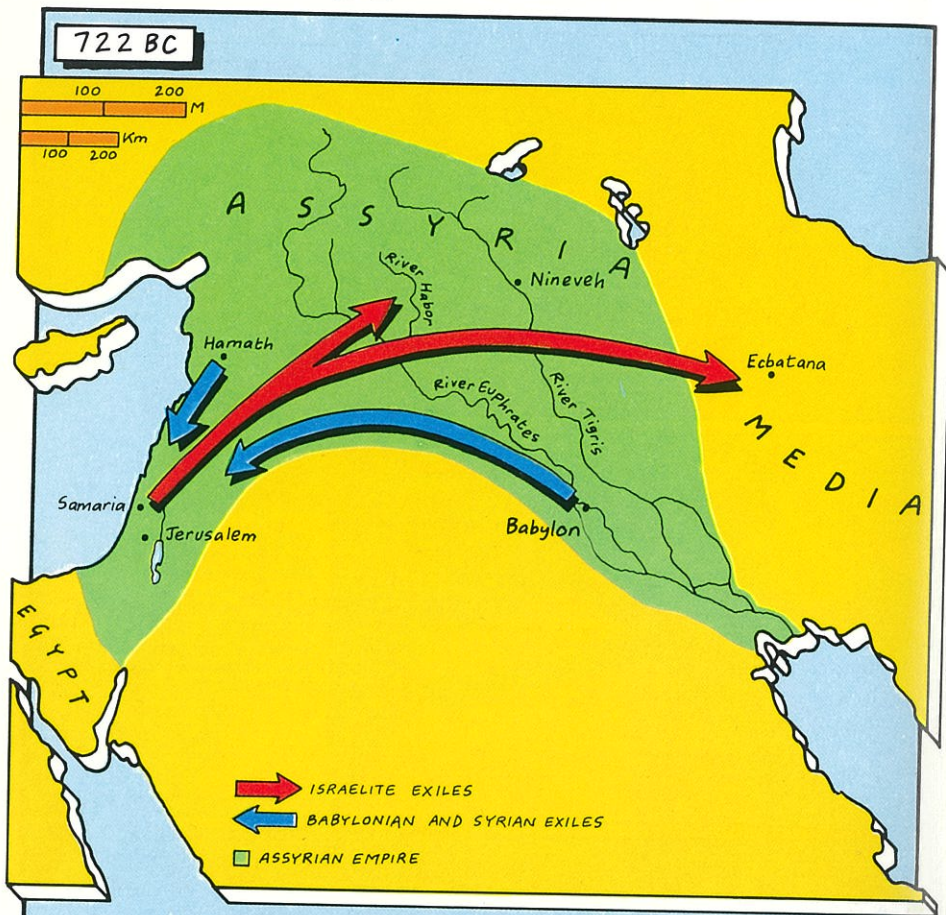


- 4 Rezin and Pekah fail to take Jerusalem.
- 5 The Assyrians arrive. They capture Damascus, kill Rezin and take his people into exile.
- 6 Ahaz goes to pay homage to Tiglath Pileser in Damascus. But in calling the Assyrians, Ahaz has lost Judah's political and religious independence. He returns to Jerusalem with new plans for the temple, where Assyrian gods will now be worshipped.

Assyria Flexes Its Muscles



Israel Dragged into Exile



The prophets Amos and Hosea had predicted that Israel would be destroyed. The people had betrayed their faith, worshipping false gods and oppressing the poor of the land. They did not trust God, but instead relied on foreign alliances.

Hosea had warned: 'Israel flits about like a silly pigeon; first her

people call on Egypt for help, and then they run to Assyria! But I will spread out a net and catch them like birds. . .'

The net fell in 722BC. Assyrian records claim that 27,290 Israelites were taken into captivity. They were deported to the region of the river Habor and to Media. For those who were

taken to Media, this meant a journey of over 800 miles on foot.

Israel became a province of the Assyrian empire. The land was filled with foreign exiles forcibly removed from Babylon and Syria.