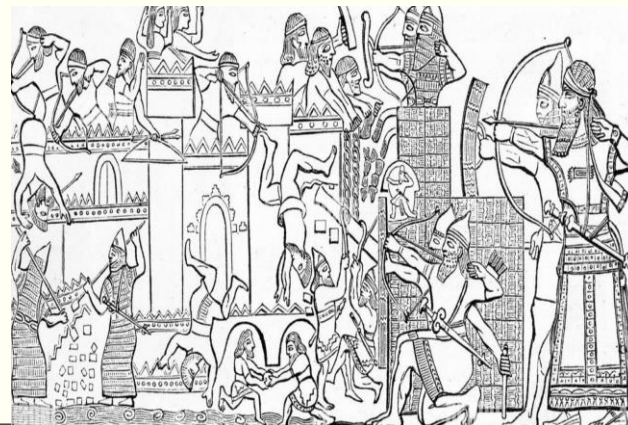
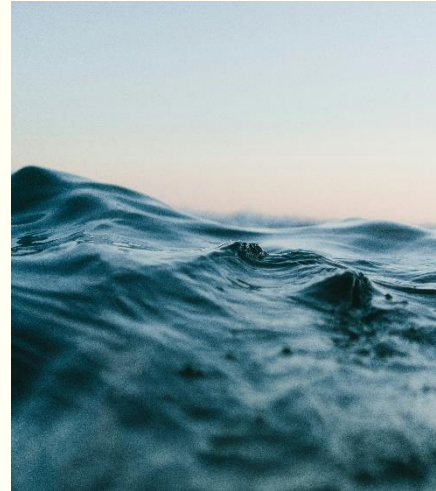


Understanding the Anger of God (Nahum)

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The “Oracle” Concerning Nineveh

Nahum 1:1 “An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.”

“oracle”

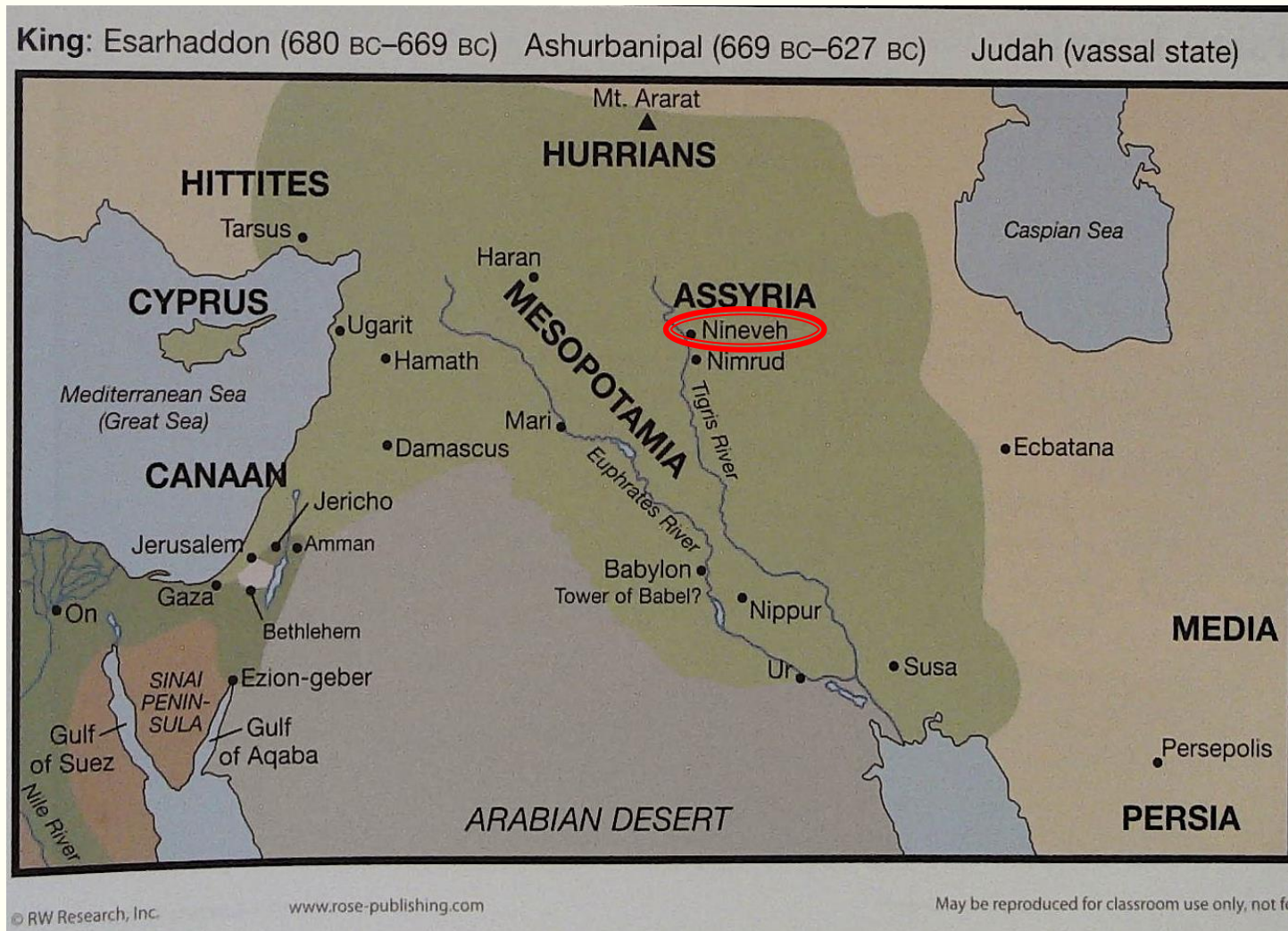
Nahum

Who/where is Nineveh?

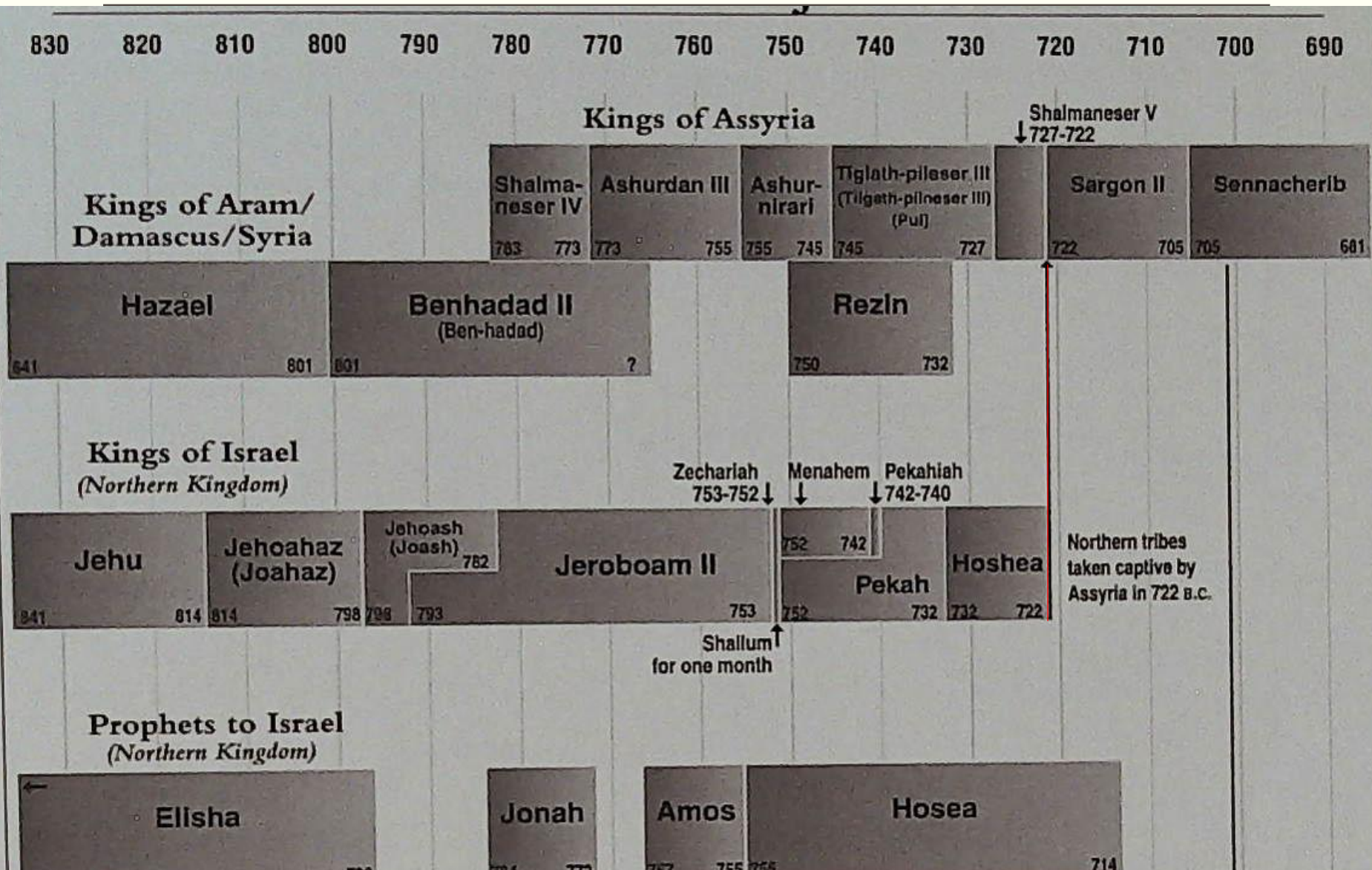
What does the oracle teach us about God’s character?

Nineveh

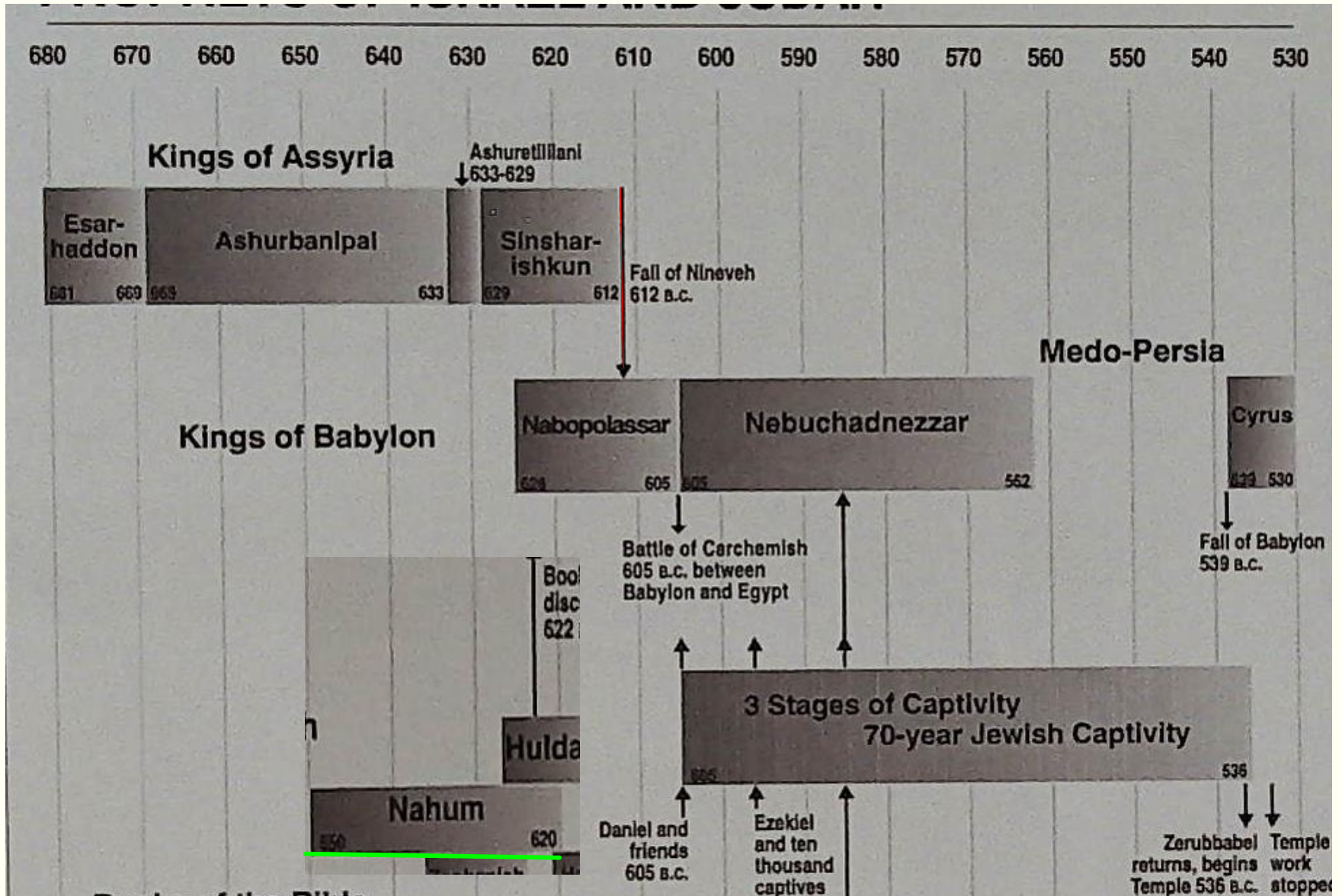
Assyrian Empire (In Green) (680-627 BC)



Assyria & Israel Timeline (841-681 BC)



Assyria Timeline (681-612 BC)



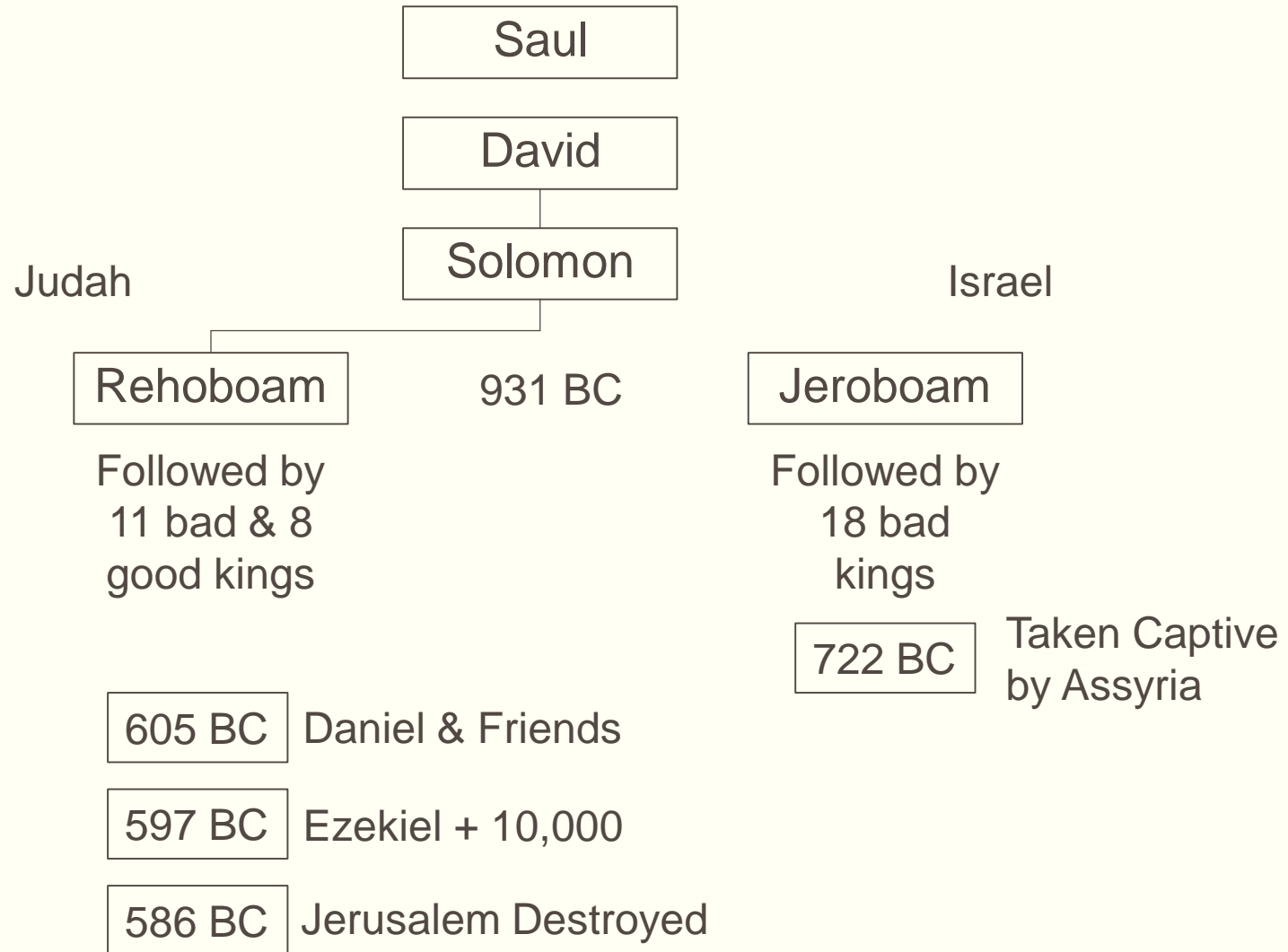
- Professionally trained standing army
- Iron weapons
- Advanced engineering skills (especially siege engine)
- Effective tactics
- Complete ruthlessness
 - Surrender or suffer
 - Impale people
 - Cast/burn children
 - Rip open pregnant women
 - Pile heads/skulls

(ghosts?)



Israel and Judah

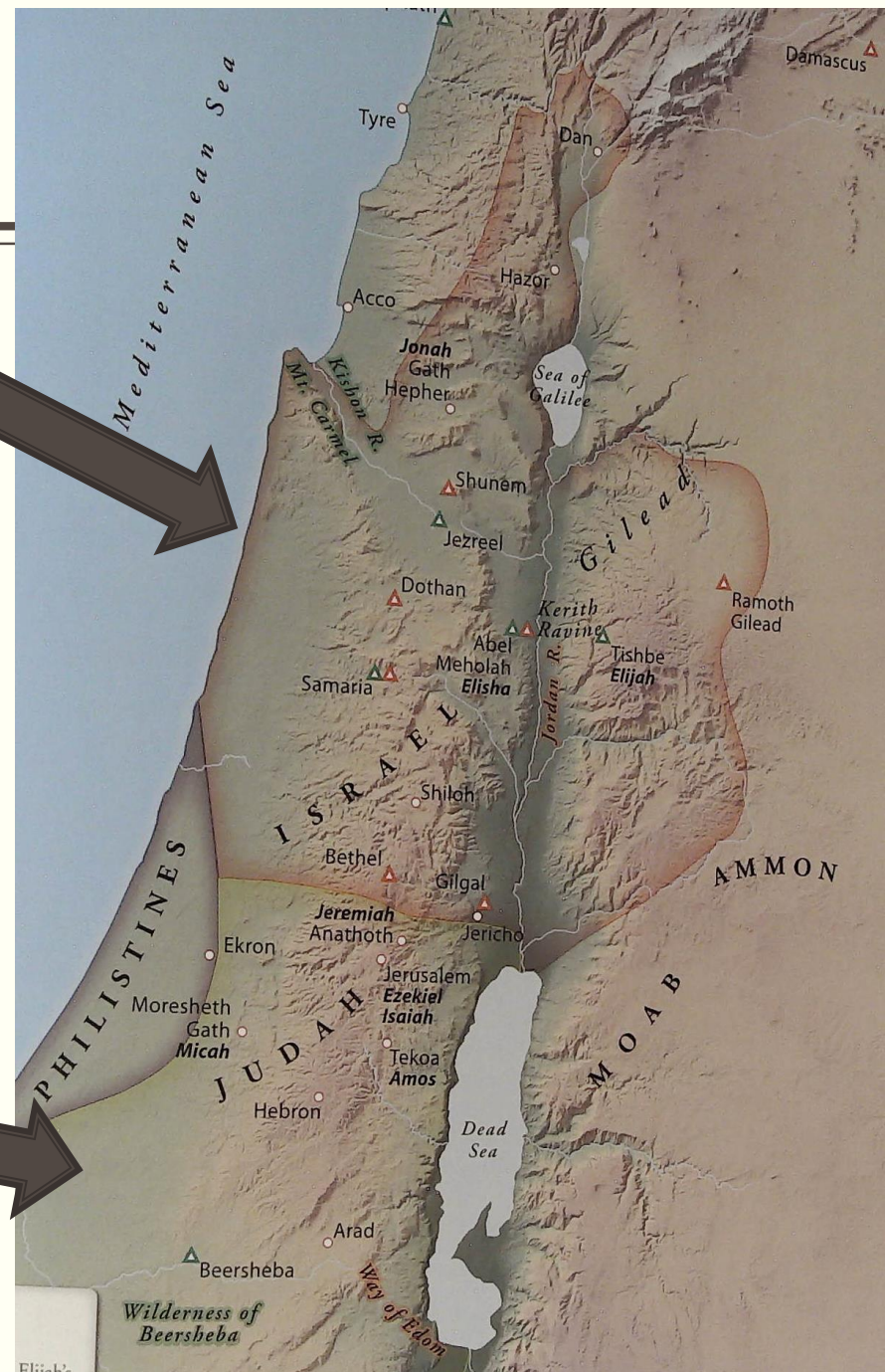
The Split



Israel and Judah

Israel (Northern Kingdom)

Judah (Southern Kingdom)



1 Kings 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David.

12:27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

1. He made two calves of gold (in Bethel & Dan) for the people to worship instead of God in Jerusalem
2. He made temples on high places
3. He appointed priests from among the people, who were not Levites
4. He appointed a feast in conflict with the one in Judah (15th day of 8th month)

1 Kings 14:7 Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over my people Israel

14:8 and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes,

14:9 but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back,

2 Kings 17:5 Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.

17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

17:7 And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods

2 Kings 17:14 But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

1:2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and wrathful;
the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries
and keeps wrath for his enemies.

1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,
and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

1:6 Who can stand before his indignation?
Who can endure the heat of his anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

1:7 The LORD is good, *(100 years ago)*
a stronghold in the day of trouble; *(Jonah)*
he knows those who take refuge in him.

1:8 But with an overflowing flood
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

1:9 What do you plot against the LORD?
He will make a complete end;
trouble will not rise up a second time

1:11 From you came one
who plotted evil against the LORD,
a worthless counselor.

1:14 The LORD has given commandment about you:
“No more shall your name be perpetuated;
from the house of your gods I will cut off
the carved image and the metal image.
I will make your grave, for you are vile.”

2:13 Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of
hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the
sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your
prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers
shall no longer be heard.

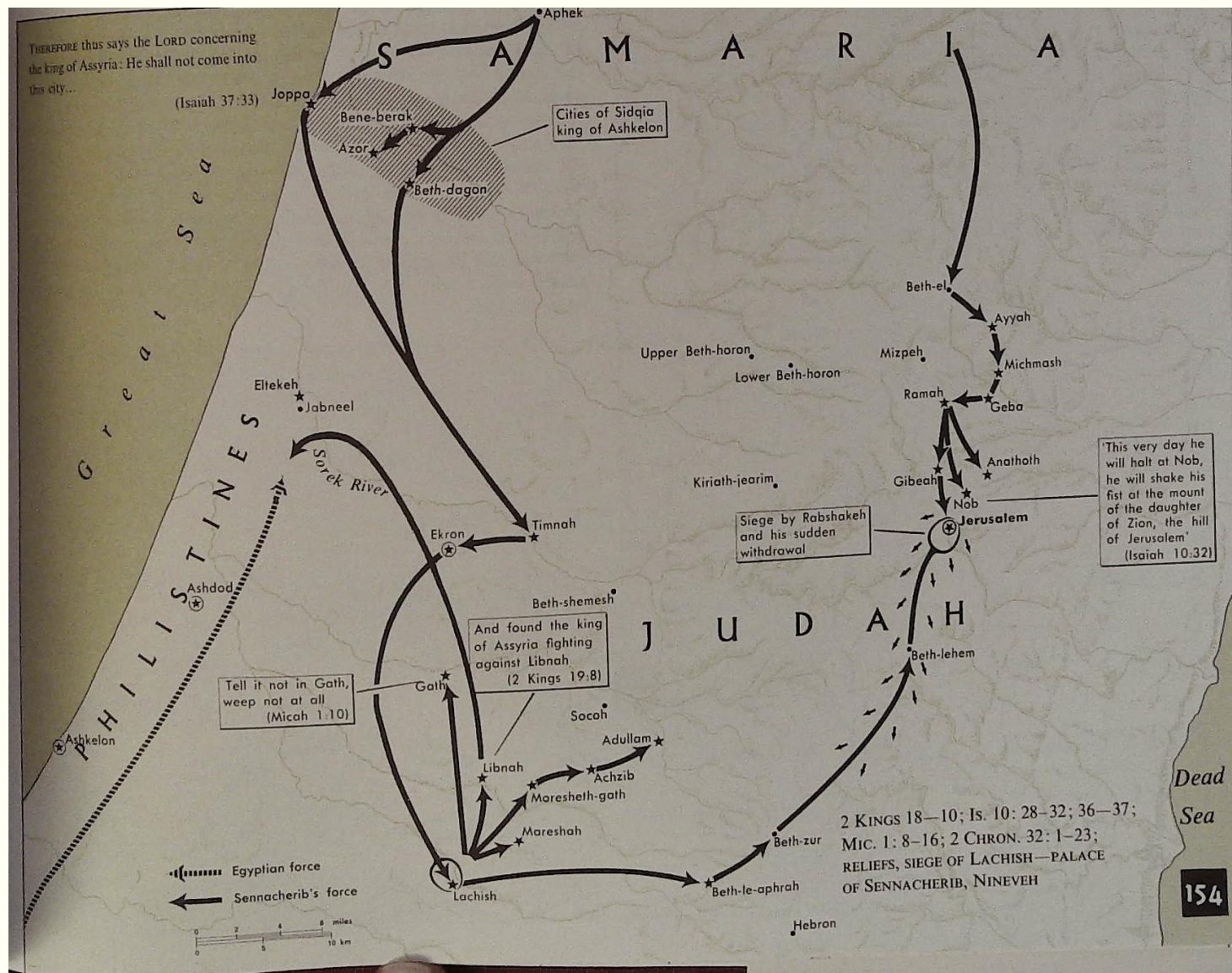
3:5 Behold, I am against you,
declares the LORD of hosts,
and will lift up your skirts over your face;
and I will make nations look at your nakedness
and kingdoms at your shame.

3:6 I will throw filth at you
and treat you with contempt
and make you a spectacle.

Judah

God's Tool to Get Their Attention

What did God do to get their attention?



2 Kings 18:28 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

18:30 Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’

18:35 Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?’”

2 Kings 19:16 Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

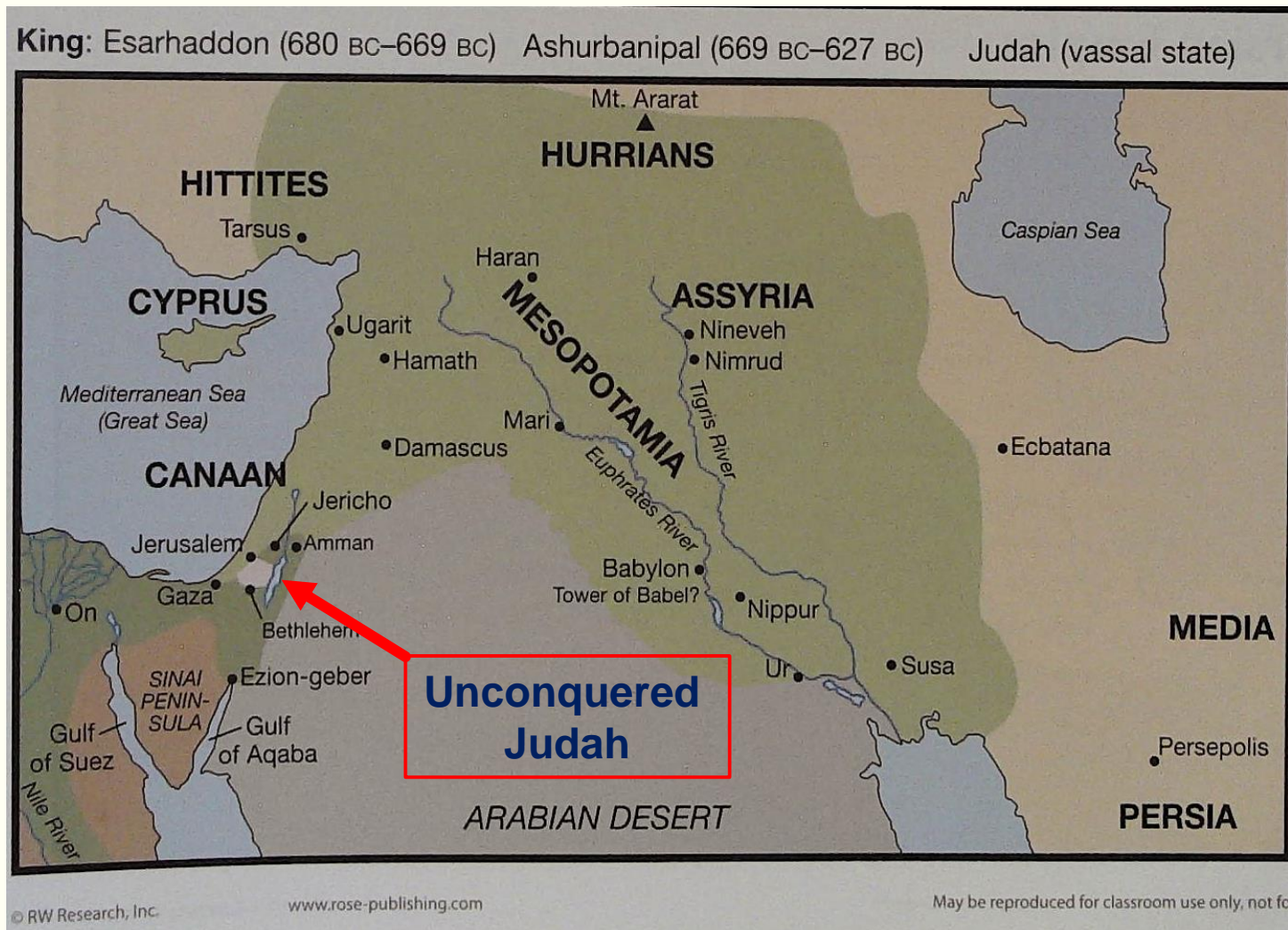
19:19 So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone.”

2 Kings 19:35 And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

2 Kings 19:36 Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh.

Judah

The Result



1:12 Thus says the LORD,
“Though they are at full strength and many,
they will be cut down and pass away.
Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.

1:13 And now I will break his yoke from off you
and will burst your bonds apart.”

1:15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him
who brings good news,
who publishes peace!
Keep your feasts, O Judah;
fulfill your vows,
for never again shall the worthless pass through you;
he is utterly cut off.

2:2 For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob
as the majesty of Israel,
for plunderers have plundered them
and ruined their branches.

Fulfillment

Babylon Empire After Taking Assyria





Reconstructed Nergal Gate (before ISIS destroyed it)



Remains of the Nergal Gate after ISIS destroyed it



Archaeologists at work at Nineveh



Nineveh (dirt mound) surrounded by the modern city of Mosul

Why would God permit or even direct adversity into our lives?

Will God use hardship for reasons other than punishment?

What good comes from hardship?

Hebrews 12:5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” (Ps 3:11-12)

12:7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

God's Dealing with Us

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

1:3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

1:4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

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