

Study Aids
Discussion Questions
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 64

As we have briefly documented, during the international history of the period from King Ahaz (about 730 B.C.) to the fall of Nineveh in 612 (approximately 112 years) it was one world – an Assyrian controlled world. During this time it was generally accepted as appropriate to bow down not only to the victor of battle, but also to his gods. And paganism was always ready to accept new followers, so it flourished in such an environment. Yet, there was a time when Josiah came to the throne (and the rulers of Assyria had bigger fish elsewhere to fry than tiny Judah) that the stranglehold of Assyria seemed weak enough to act with some independence, and a theological reform could take place.

Questions:

Into this opportunity steps Josiah. Was it mere coincidence owing strictly to the political situation that the reform of Josiah was taking place, or was the hand of God present in creating this opportunity?

How does your answer relate to our lives today?

Because of the extent of violation of God’s law was so bad under Manasseh, even during the time of the reform of Josiah, we read in 2nd Kings 23:27: *And the Lord said, “I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.”* Did it make any difference whether the agent of that punishment was the king of Assyria or the king of Babylon? Does it make any real difference which agent in the world today God might use to punish us, should He so conclude?

Are we also under His judgment?