

After Nineveh had been destroyed, the Assyrian Empire persisted for a time, with headquarters at Harran, the city where Abraham had made his first stopping point on his progress from Ur to Canaan. The Israelite Prophets have given us vivid pictures of the pride of the Assyrian and of the ruthlessness with which they overwhelmed all the nations surrounding them. Zephaniah predicts complete destruction for Nineveh (2.13-15). Nahum gives a most terrible picture of the fate that will befall the city. (Give quotations from both of these).

The destruction of the Assyrian Empire put an end to one of the great periods of biblical history.

Some of those traditions were carried on by the Babylonians or even by the Persians, but an epoch had ended. The great movement of the Assyrian power constantly forward, conquering the many small nations in its path and presenting a terrible menace of cruelty and death, played a part which cannot possibly be over estimated in the history of Israel and Juda. The downfall of Assyria and the complete disappearance of the race which had once been masters of the world, ends one period and begins another.

In connection with the downfall of the Assyrian Empire, occurred an incident which has repercussions in the Bible. We read in 2d Kings 23 and 2d Chronicles 36 that Josiah the king of Juda went out to meet Pharaoh-necho, king of Egypt who was on his way to enter into the events connected with the fall of the Assyrian Empire. Necho seems to have ordered Josiah not to meddle, saying that he had come up for other purposes, but Josiah tried to hold him back and was killed at Megiddo. Pharaoh-necho then put the land under tribute and dethroned the son of Josiah whom the people had made king, placing another son as king in his stead. Egyptian records mention Pharaoh-necho and give his name in the same form as it is found in the Old