

all for good
the story of Joseph in Genesis



Genesis 39

Introduction

- Joseph was brought from very far north in Israel, all the way down to Egypt.
- He was a slave in the house of Potiphar, a very influential officer in Pharaoh's army. He was the captain of the guard.
- God was with Joseph. He made everything Joseph did successful.
- Potiphar made Joseph overseer of all that he had, recognizing Joseph's success.
- God blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake.

Genesis 39:1-6a

God Was With Joseph

- The phrase “God was with Joseph” is repeated throughout this chapter (verses 2, 3, 21, 23), reminding us of the theological theme of Joseph’s story.
- God is with him. God is in control. God is working it all out for good.
- Nothing can thwart God’s plan for his life.
- No matter where Joseph went—from the bottom of a pit to the palace of the king—God would be with him.

God Was With Joseph

- God doesn't promise to keep us from the storms of life.
- He promises to be with us through the storms.
- As David wrote in his most well-known Psalm, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4).
- No matter where Joseph goes, God will go with him, bringing peace and blessing, using it all for good.

God Was With Joseph

- Two times in this chapter in Genesis it reminds us that the Lord was with Joseph are when he is in slavery (verses 2, 3) and in prison (verses 21, 23).
- Both are certainly low points in his life.
- God turned them both into high points. Even in the most unlikely of places, the presence of God brought Joseph success.

God Uses the Hard Times

- God uses the hard times in our lives to prepare us for the future.
- Three things are said about Potiphar: he was an Egyptian, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard (verse 1).
- That literally meant “chief of the slaughterers,” which means he was in charge of the bodyguard of Pharaoh and keeper of the prisons.
- He was well-connected, powerful and very close to Pharaoh. Also quite intimidating to anyone who tried to cross him.

God Uses the Hard Times

- God is giving Joseph practice in the exact skills he is going to need to be successful in running Pharaoh's kingdom later on.
- That would be: administration, leadership, organization, management.
- He is also learning Egyptian customs and language and business practices.
God was training Joseph.

God Uses the Hard Times

- In a similar way, God used Moses's time as a shepherd in Midian to prepare him for leading His people through the wilderness (Exodus 2–3).
- Just as He used David's time as a shepherd to prepare him for killing Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
- Just as God used the Israelite's time in the wilderness to teach them to trust Him to provide (Exodus 16).
- God uses our times in “the wilderness” to prepare us for what is to come.

God Uses the Hard Times

- God uses everything that happens in our lives, the good and the bad, to train us in righteousness.
- To make us more like Jesus.
- To mold us into who He wants us to be. Scripture says that God is the potter and we are the clay (Jeremiah 18:1–4; Isaiah 64:8).
- Sometimes the potter has to push pretty hard on the clay to get it to go the way he wants it to go. It can be a hard process, but it's all in the effort to make something beautiful and useful out of our lives.

God Uses the Hard Times

- God is working everything in your life, even your sufferings, even your own sins, to accomplish His good work in your life (Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20).
- God doesn't waste any of our experiences, He uses them all.
- Suffering produces perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope (Romans 5:3–5).
- Suffering makes us stronger, helps us grow and mature, helps us learn to trust in the Lord, and gives us a better perspective on life.

God Blesses Those Who are faithful.

- Jesus gives us some very surprising descriptions when He talks about people who are blessed (Matthew 5:3-10):
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
 - Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

God Blesses Those Who are faithful

- Why are those who mourn blessed?
- Because God will comfort them.
- If they didn't mourn, they would never get to experience God's comfort.
- Have you ever known anyone who said the time they felt closest to God was a time of great suffering or trial or struggle?
- Sometimes the hard times are when we experience the real blessing of God.

God Blesses Those Who are faithful

- Ephesians 3:16-19
- “According to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

God Blesses Those Who are faithful

- God's "riches" are the power of the Holy Spirit, of Christ dwelling in us. God's blessing is being rooted and established in love, knowing the love of Jesus that surpasses all knowledge. This is "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).
- Blessing can come in many forms.
- Whatever it is that will help you to learn contentment and peace, whatever will bring you into God's presence and help you to know His love for you, that is blessing (Philippians 4:11–13).

When God is with us, the World takes Notice

- When God is with us, the world takes notice.
- God made Joseph successful in all that he did as a slave in Potiphar's house.
- Potiphar took notice, "His master saw that the LORD was with Him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands" (verse 3).
- Potiphar recognized God's presence and God's hand in Joseph's life.
- Don't miss the significance of that sentence. Remember, Potiphar was an Egyptian and did not know Joseph's God. Yet he saw Him in Joseph's life.

When God is with us, the World takes Notice

- This was God's grand plan in choosing Israel to be His people. That through them, all the world would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). That every nation would look to them and see how powerful and how wonderful their God is and be drawn to Him.
- When God gave the law to His people before they entered the Promised Land, He said that if they followed His law carefully, other nations would look at them and say, "What an amazing nation, full of peace, love and joy. What a great God they must have!" (Deuteronomy 4:6–8).

When God is with us, the World takes Notice

- God desired Israel to be a light to the rest of the nations.
- When we reflect Jesus's light to the world, people will give glory to God (Matthew 5:16) and will want to know Him, too.
- When we live lives of integrity, when we work hard at our jobs, when we are kind to everyone, when we seek justice for those who cannot speak for themselves, when we reach out to the sick and the hurting, when we love the unlovable, people will take notice.

ASK KERBY

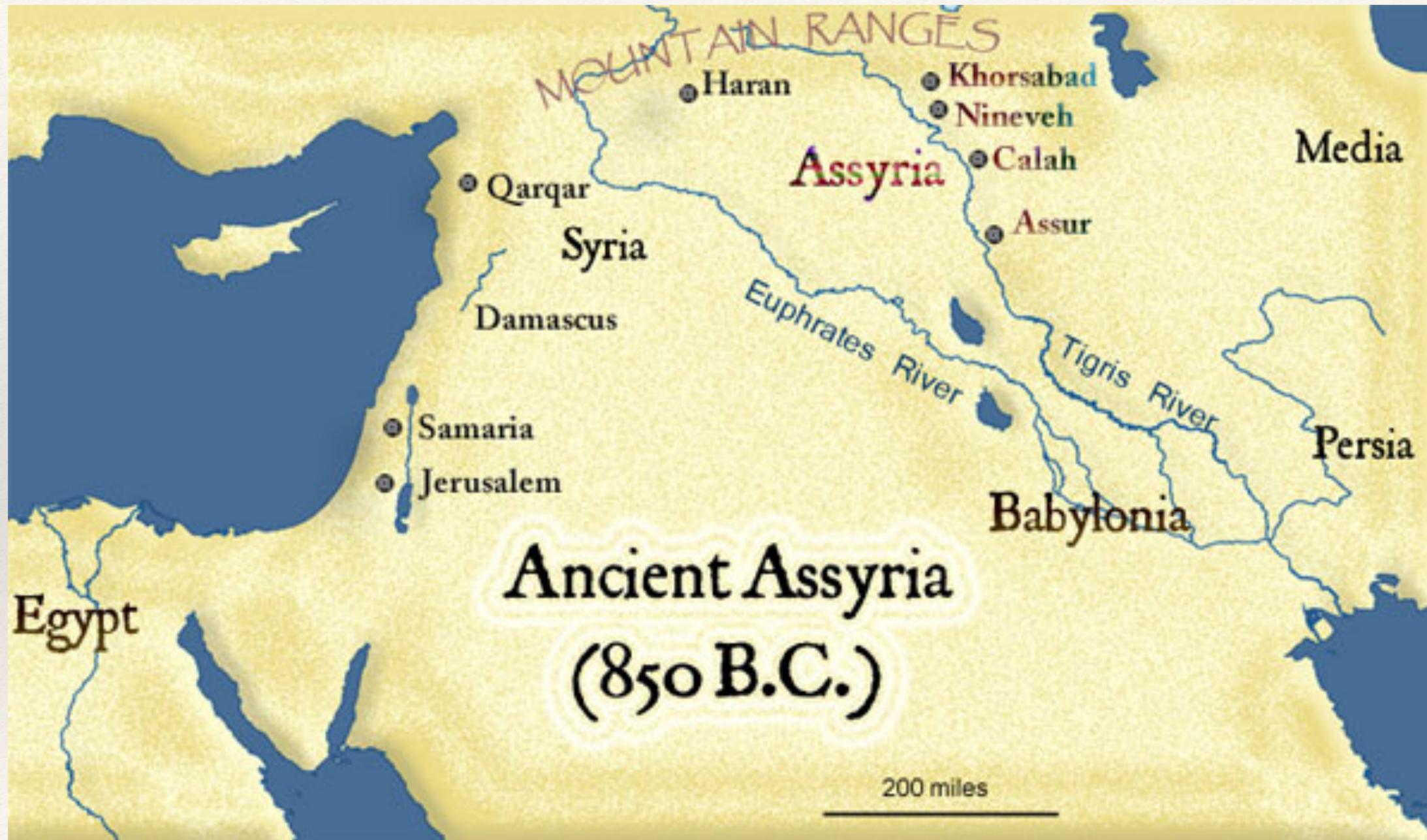


In the book of Isaiah, Assyria
is now what countries?

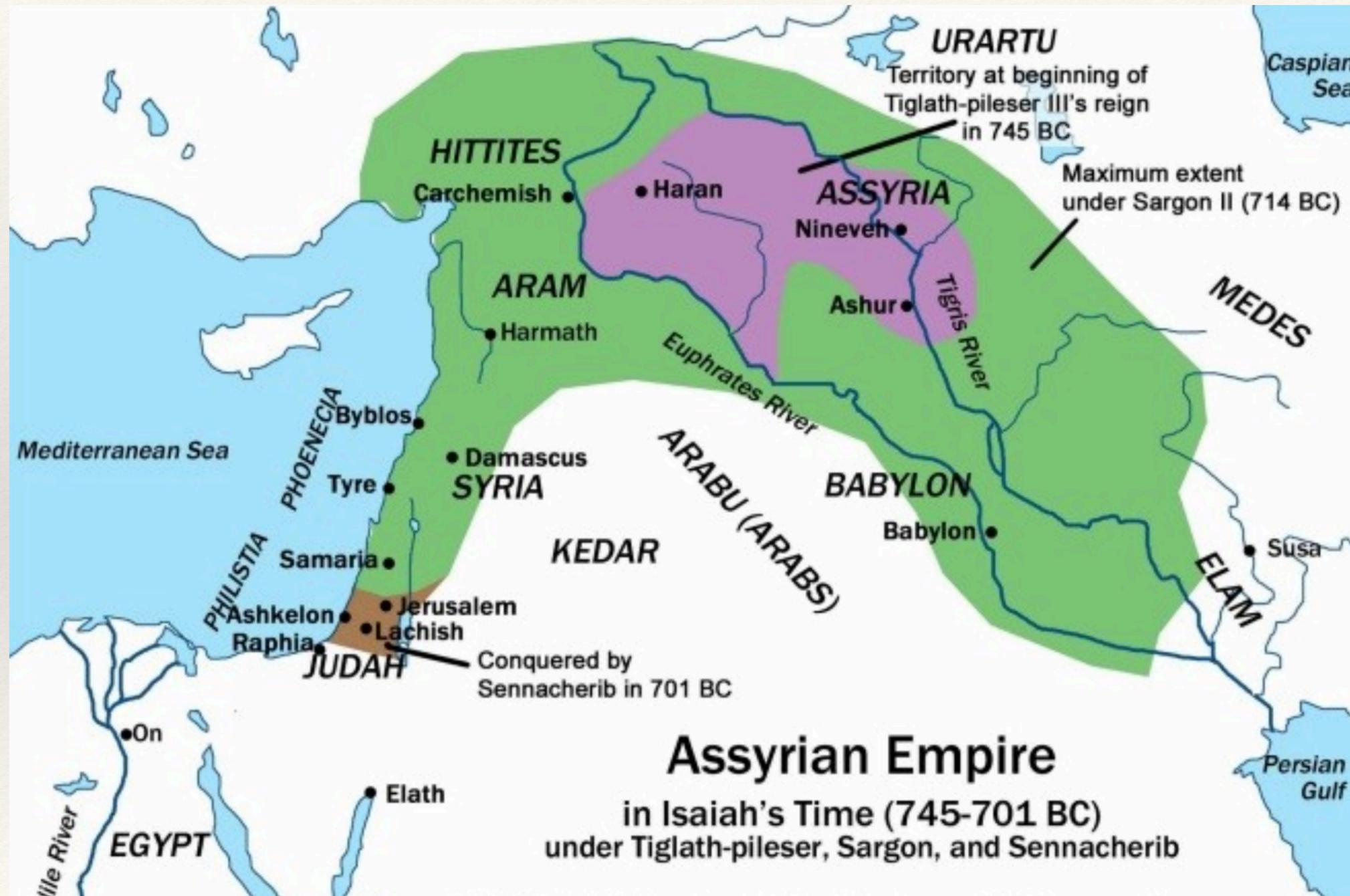
Babylon is now what countries?

Also, Moah, Philistia?

Ancient Assyria



Ancient World



Moab and Philistia



Middle East



Drone Attack on Saudi Arabia



Drone Attack on Saudi Arabia

- The recent drone attack on the Saudi Arabian oil processing plant raises lots of questions that our leaders will need to answer quickly.
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that it was an “act of war” by Iran. Confirming the link and deciding how to respond are just a few of the questions that need to be answered.
- The drone attack cut off an estimated 5% of the world’s oil supply.
- President Trump authorized the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, if needed. It may not even be needed.

1970's Oil Crisis



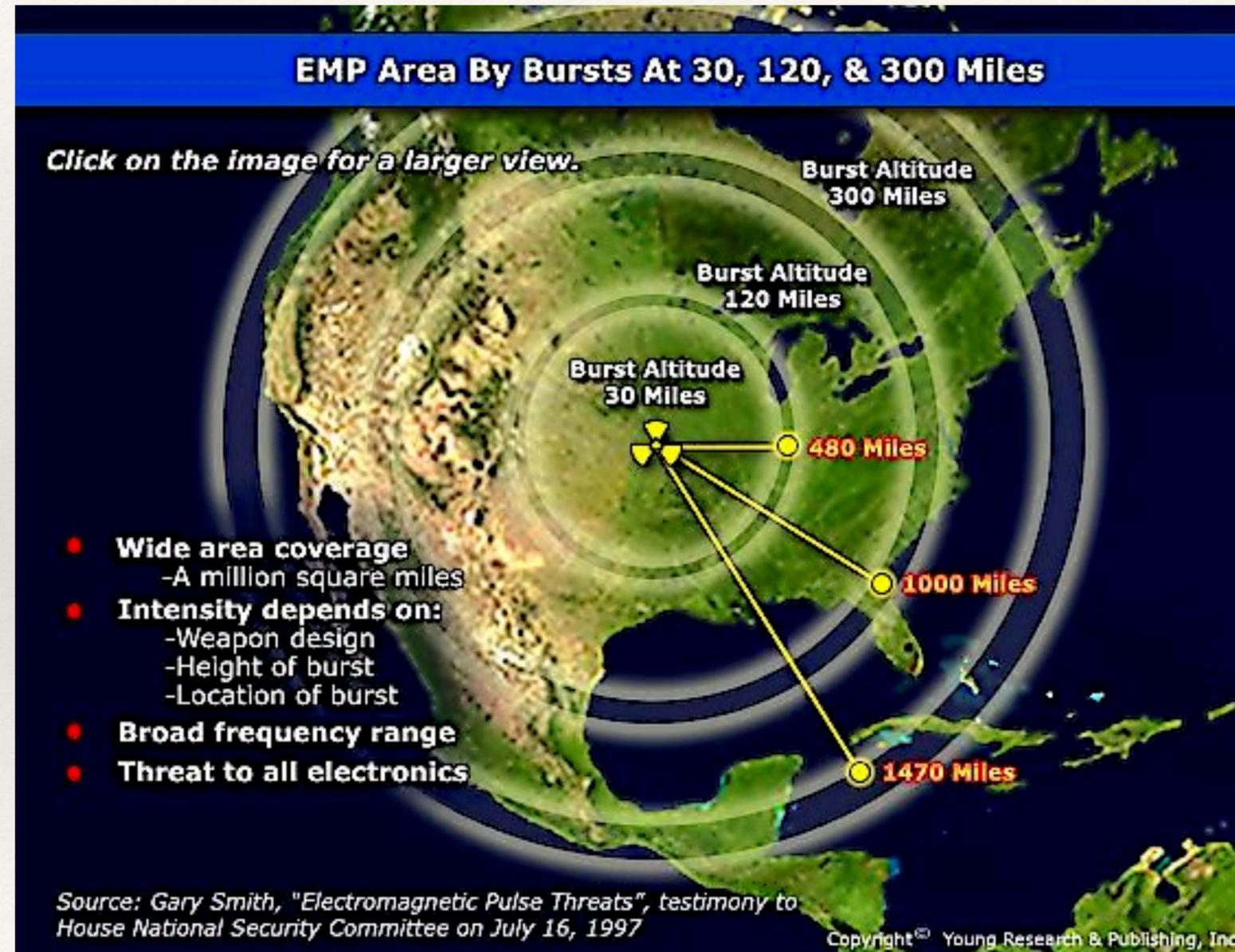
Drone Attack on Saudi Arabia

- The oil crisis and oil embargo in the 1970s with the oil embargo produced gas shortages and and gas lines that sometimes spread for a mile.
- A few economists and government officials estimated that the US (and a few others) could absorb the loss of Saudi oil production.
- The US is close to energy independence and less dependent on OPEC and oil producing countries like it was in the past.
- How different it is today compared to a few decades ago.

Electromagnetic Pulse

- The drone attack on the oil plant also illustrated what could happen in this country to our energy grid or oil production facilities.
- President Trump did issue an executive order last March requiring federal agencies to assess and fix vulnerabilities of our electric grid.
- Texas State Senator Bob Hall has introduced legislation to study and fix vulnerabilities in the Texas electric grid.
- It might collapse by design (through a foreign adversary like Iran) or by accident (through naturally occurring phenomenon).

Electromagnetic Pulse



Electromagnetic Pulse

- Frank Gaffney (Center for Security Policy) laments that some bureaucrats in the Deep State don't seem very serious about studying and fixing the vulnerabilities of the US energy grid.
- One bureaucrat in Homeland Security argued the risk of electromagnetic pulses taking down the electric grid is "overestimated."
- Frank Gaffney has a ready response:

"Want to bet? Think Saudi Arabia."

Prayer

- Pray for our political and military leaders that they would have wisdom.
- Pray for Congress and the Texas legislature to take any threat to our safety seriously and to instruct members of the bureaucracy to take action.
- Pray that those in the bureaucracy would take seriously any potential threat to America and take appropriate action.
- Pray for the growing number of Christians in the Middle East who might be caught in any future conflict.