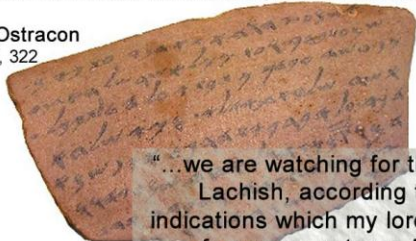


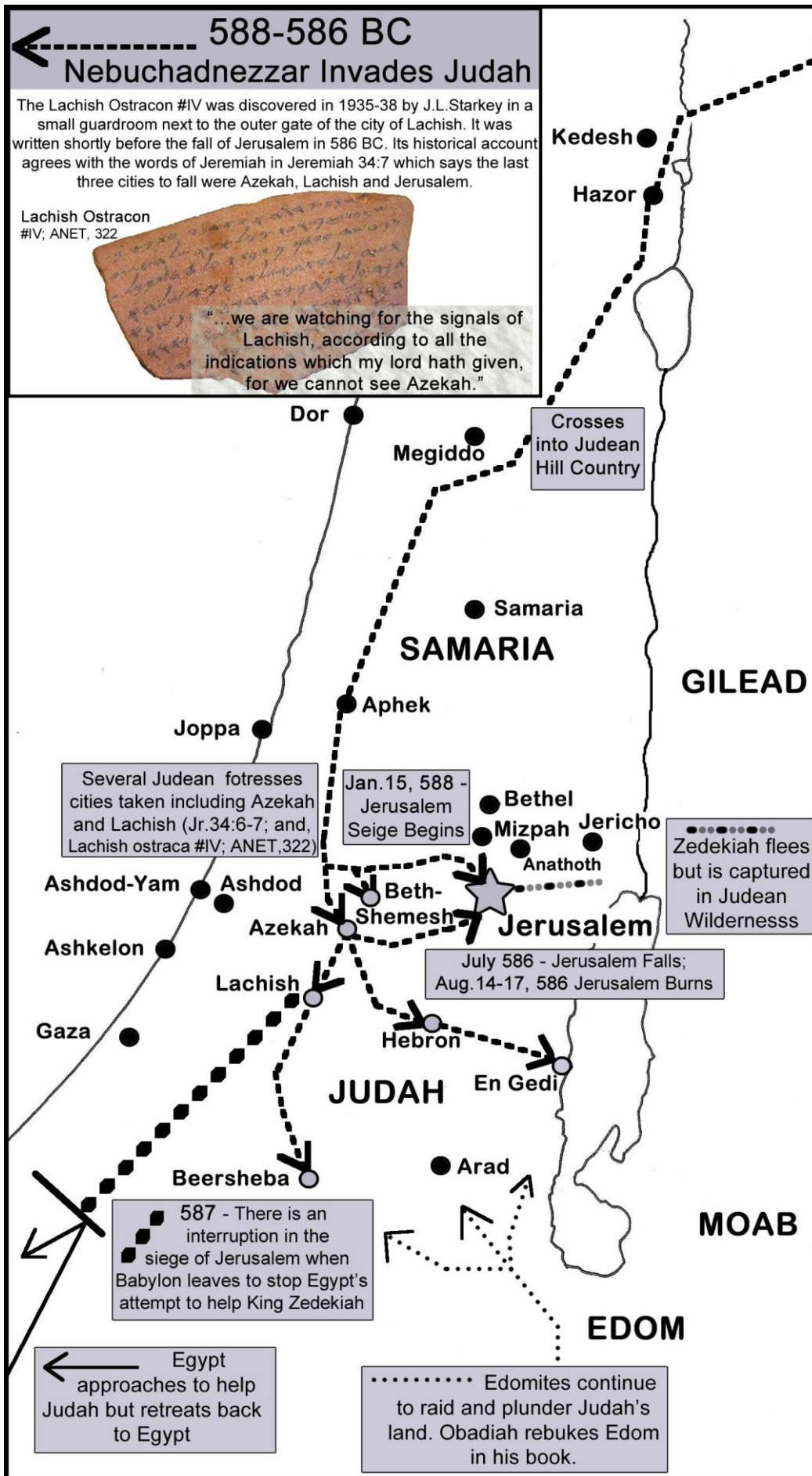
# 588-586 BC Nebuchadnezzar Invades Judah

The Lachish Ostrakon #IV was discovered in 1935-38 by J.L. Starkey in a small guardroom next to the outer gate of the city of Lachish. It was written shortly before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Its historical account agrees with the words of Jeremiah in Jeremiah 34:7 which says the last three cities to fall were Azekah, Lachish and Jerusalem.

Lachish Ostrakon #IV; ANET, 322

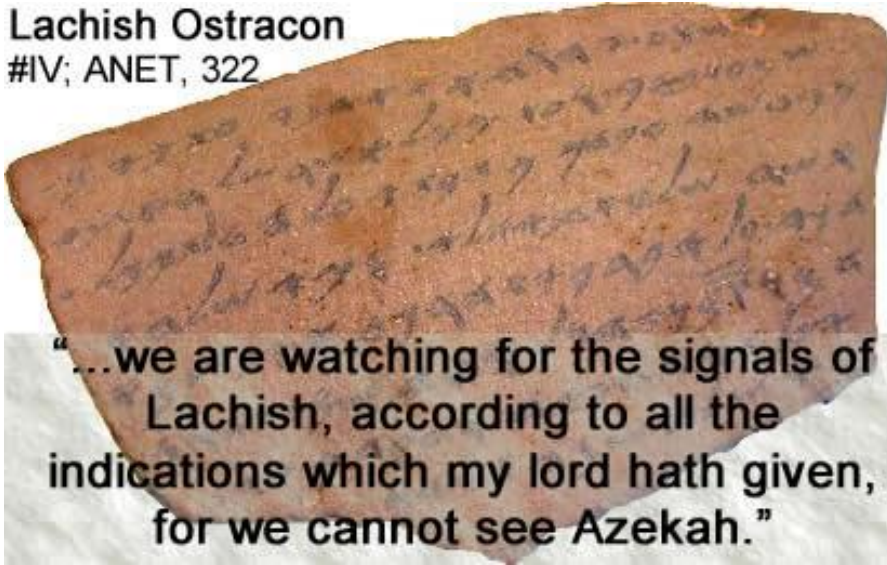


"...we are watching for the signals of Lachish, according to all the indications which my lord hath given, for we cannot see Azekah."



## Lachish Ostrakon

#IV; ANET, 322



This ostraca was discovered in 1935-38 by J.L. Starkey in a guardroom next to the outer gate of Lachish. It was written shortly before the sack of Jerusalem in 586 BC. This was written by an average soldier named Hoshniah and not by royalty. It was sent to a commanding officer at Lachish called Taosh. It is written in a short, abbreviated telegraphic style while using conventional expressions with a flowery salutation. Since the fire signals of Azekah could no longer be seen it is most likely that Azekah had fallen to the Babylonians at the time of this writing. This historical account agrees with the the words of Jeremiah in Jeremaih 34:7 which says the last three cities to fall were:

- 1) Azekah
- 2) Lachish
- 3) Jerusalem.

The translation reads:

*"May Yahweh cause my lord to hear this very day tidings of good!*

*And now according to everything that my lord hath written, so hath they servant done; I have written on the door according to all that my lord hath written to me.*

*And with respect to what my lord hath written about the matter of Beth-Hataphid there is no one there.*

*And as for Samachiah, Shemachiah hath taken him and brought him to the city. And as for thy servant, I am not sending anyone thither. (today(?), but I will send) tomorrow morning.*

*And let (my lord) know that we are watching for the signals of Lachish, according to all the indications which my lord hath given, for we cannot see Azekah."*