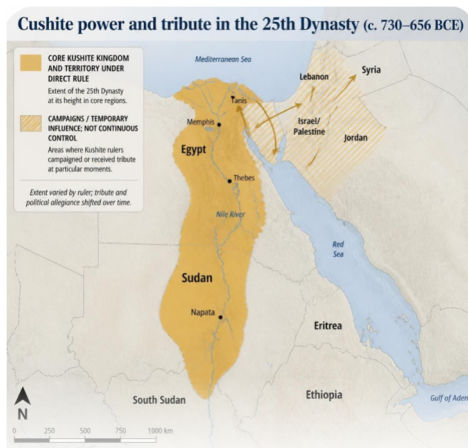


## Isaiah 18

This chapter is about ancient Cush. Cush can be referred to as Ethiopia at times. Ancient Cush does not really match up with modern national boundaries. It does not match up with today's Ethiopia, and it included a lot of Sudan and Egypt. This series of chapters is just the succession of cruel oppressors and agents of change taking turns influencing Judah.



Egypt ruled over Cush from 1500-1070 BC. Then Cush ruled Egypt during the 8<sup>th</sup> century. This chapter was written during that time, before 701 BC, before Assyria invaded Judah. Just like we read about Syria, Cush was also displaced by the Assyrian Empire. The Jews had been run over by the Cushites, and then those invaders were crushed by the Assyrians. Once again it could be said, that the serpent to Judah was replaced by a fiery flying (very mobile) serpent.



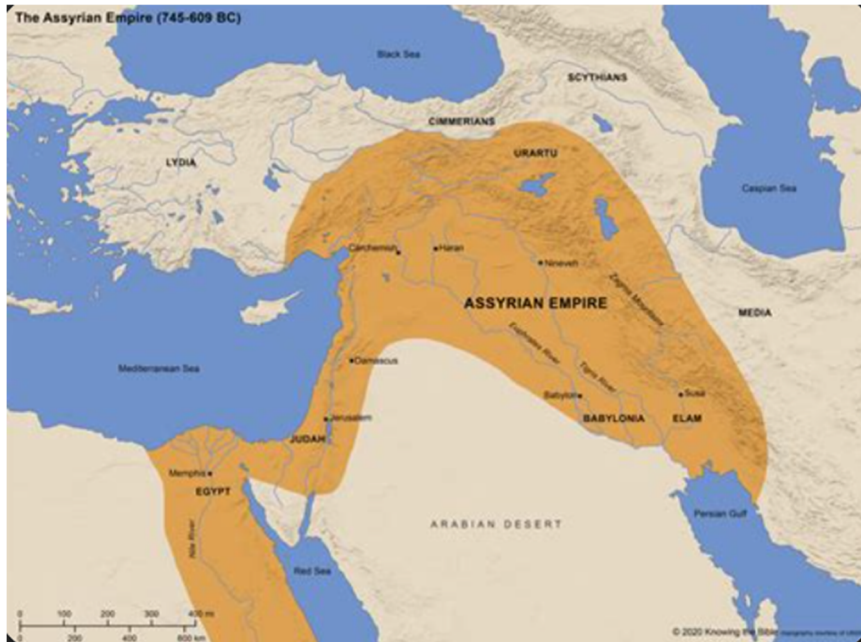
**Read Isaiah 18:1-3:** The Nile delta is being described as having many river tributaries and many birds. They are described as making use of their water transportation and even the local tule boats to send messengers and goods by sea. The people are described as being tall and smooth-skinned.



The Cushites were militaristic and powerful during their time. Just like Syria and Moab and Ammon, they attacked Judah, but were all displaced and defeated by Assyria.

**Read Isaiah 18:4-7:** Once again God exercises poetic justice. Ancient Ethiopia (Cush) was rich from the Nile Delta growing region. It was an area rich with wildlife and food. The rivers were used to advance transportation and business and their military causes. The bible uses comparative imagery. Like a Nile plant

spreading out and covering surrounding land, the Cushites had spread out their empire to feed off of surrounding peoples. God is going to cut off their greenery. These tall and sleek *birds* will fall prey to northern birds of prey (Assyria and eventually Babylon).



God's people had issues with their neighbors and those very far away. Judah became a political football, as it was in overlapping territories of world empires. Solving local issues is good, but has nothing to do with international issues. Ultimately, our arguments are only with God.