

Where was Assyria?

Assyria was an ancient nation located in the regions of modern-day Iraq, Turkey, and Syria. These three present nations each occupy part of what was once the Assyrian Empire much like Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania all share portions of Lake Victoria.

Today, however, there is no nation called Assyria. After those modern nations emerged, the Assyrian state itself ceased to exist.

The capital city of Assyria was Nineveh

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the very city to which the prophet Jonah was commanded to go and preach. Instead, Jonah tried to flee to Tarshish. (For more on the location of Nineveh, see [here](#): Nineveh. For more about Tarshish, see [here](#): Tarshish.)

According to the Bible, the origin of Assyria can be traced back to Nimrod.

*Genesis 10:8-12*

*“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

*He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.*

*And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

*Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah,*

*And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.”*

It was the Assyrians who later conquered Israel and carried them away into captivity. But in time, by the decree of Cyrus the Persian, the Israelites were allowed to return to their homeland.

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