

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LAST OF ISRAEL'S KINGS
2 KINGS 15:8-31; 17:1-6

Introduction

In our Bible Study this evening, we swing back north to deal with **ISRAEL'S** last six kings in short order prior to them being carried away into captivity!

In the Old Testament Book of **HOSEA**, we can read how the **LORD** sent Him to cry out against the **ISRAEL'S SINS** in the days of King **JEROBOAM 2** of Israel. *(Sometimes he refers to them as **ISRAEL**, sometimes he refers to them as **EPHRAIM**—the prominent tribe of the northern kingdom, and sometimes he calls them **SAMARIA**—which was the capital city of Israel.)*

We will see that the **LORD** used the king of **ASSYRIA** to invade **ISRAEL** and carry them away into captivity! However, that did not come to them before the **LORD** sent them **sufficient warning** and **gave them more than a sufficient amount of time** to repent and turn back to the **HIM!**

When would **ASSYRIA** invade? Well, God didn't give them a time table! And the way that **ISRAEL** and her kings continued in their sin, it doesn't appear that they believed the **LORD!** God was gracious in His longsuffering toward them!

But, when we get to **2 KINGS 17** we will see it happen under King **HOSHEA**, who was the last King of **ISRAEL**, approximately 42 years, after **JEROBOAM 2'S** death whom we looked at the last time we up north! During these 42 years there were six more kings of **ISRAEL** who occupied the throne and that is who we want to look at in our study:

By the way, it will become evident of why we don't spend much time on most of these kings as we get into the Scripture.

- I. WE SEE THE REIGN OF JEREBOAM 2'S SON, ZACHARIAH!**
(2 KINGS 15:8-12)
ZACHARIAH was the last of **JEHU'S** line to reign on **ISRAEL'S** throne! (We see in *verse 12* how the **LORD** fulfilled His promise to **JEHU** that his children unto the fourth generation would sit on the throne of **ISRAEL**) *Cf. 2 Kings 10:30*

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ZACHARIAH reigned, but we see a couple of other things about his reign.

- A. ZACHARIAH'S Reign Was A Short-Lived Reign! (Vs 8)**
He reigned only six months before he was assassinated by **SHALLUM!** We are not told a reason why **SHALLUM** decided to this...it could have been as simple as he was power hungry and saw **ZACHARIAH** as weak!
(e.g. Some of what we see reminds me of the "King of the Hill!" game we used to play on top of a mound of dirt!)
- B. ZACHARIAH'S Reign Was A Wicked Reign! (Vs 9)**
ZACHARIAH'S name means "**JEHOVAH is renowned,**" but he certainly didn't live up to his name!

The legacy of **JEROBOAM**, the son of Nebat, continued on in the short reign of **ZACHARIAH!**

Israel's kings never learned the source of their problems even though the **LORD** sent prophets to them to point it out to them!

- C. ZACHARIAH'S Death Was A Public Assassination! (Vs 10)**
SHALLUM smote **ZACHARIAH** and killed him before the people of **ISRAEL!**

We are not told specifically, but this may have been done before a large gathering of the people at a special event! Ever how it was done, **SHALLUM** conspired to do it! That means he had help! Others were in on it to do in the king and to elevate **SHALLUM** to the throne!

- II. WE SEE THE REIGN OF THE ASSASSIN, SHALLUM!**
(2 KINGS 15:10, 13-15)
A. SHALLUM Came To The Throne By Assassinating ZACHARIAH.

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B. SHALLUM'S Reign Was Shorter-Lived Than The Man He Assassinated!

He reigned for only 1 month!

C. SHALLUM'S Reign Ended In The Same Way It Began!

He killed the king to get his throne! He was killed and the throne was taken from him by a man named **MENAHEM**, the son of Gadi.

SHALLUM'S name means *recompense, retribution, or spoilation*. Well, he was *recompensed* by receiving what he dished out! (*i.e. A takeover by assassination*)

III. WE SEE THE REIGN OF THE ASSASSIN, MENAHEM!
(2 KINGS 15:14, 16-23)

Now, **MENAHEM'S** name means "*comforter*".

Of course he wasn't much of a *comforter* to **SHALLUM!**

And he wasn't much of a *comforter* to some of the people of **ISRAEL!**

A. MENAHEM'S Slaughter Of Tiphseh! (Vs 16)

MENAHEM assumed power but was not accepted by the district around the city of Tiphseh which was not far from where **MENAHEM** came from.

In revenge, **MENAHEM** slaughtered the city's inhabitants, including pregnant women with horrible cruelty!

It never ceases to amaze me the cruelty expressed by some!

B. MENAHEM'S Reign Was Counted In Years Rather Than Months! (Vs 17)

He reigned for 10 years!

C. MENAHEM'S Reign Was Wicked! (Vs 18)

The legacy of **JEROBOAM**, the son of Nebat, just kept on going like energizer bunny!

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D. MENAHEM Exacted Heavy Taxes To Pay Heavy Tribute To Pul, The King Of Assyria To Leave Him And Israel Alone! (Vs 19-20)

E. MENAHEM Died And His Son, PEKAHIAH Reign In His Stead. (Vs 21-22)

IV. WE SEE THE REIGN OF PEKAHIAH, SON OF MENAHEM!
(2 KINGS 15:23-26)

A. PEKAHIAH'S Reign Was Another Short Reign! (Vs 23)
Though counted in years, his reign was only two years!

B. PEKAHIAH'S Reign Was Wicked! (Vs 24)

He also continued the legacy of **JEROBOAM**, the son of Nebat! Though his name means "*Jehovah hath given sight*," he was as blinded to the ways of the LORD by idolatry just as much as **ISRAEL'S** previous kings!

C. PEKAHIAH Was Assassinated By One Of His Captains By The Name Of PEKAH! (Vs 25-26)

Scripture says that **PEKAH** conspired against him and smote him in Samaria right in the palace of the king's house along with two named co-conspirators here and fifty men of Gilead.

V. WE SEE THE REIGN OF PEKAH, SON OF REMALIAH!
(2 KINGS 15:27-31)

A. PEKAH'S Reign For 20 Years! (Vs 27)

Which is twice as many years as any of the other kings in this group that we are studying here! (*MENAHEM was 10 years*)

B. PEKAH'S Reign Was Wicked! (Vs 28)

That same old phrase is a bitter refrain for Israel!

Though **PEKAH'S** name means "*opening of the eyes*" or "*watchfulness*", he was just as spiritually blinded as all the kings of **ISRAEL** before him!

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C. PEKAH'S Reign Was Marred By The Beginning Of Israel Being Carried Into Assyrian Captivity! (Vs 29)

D. PEKAH'S Reign Was Also Terminated By Assassination! (Vs 30-31)

It was done to him just as he had done to **PEKAHIAH** before him! **HOSHEA** and a group of conspirators smote **PEKAH** and slew him and **HOSHEA** took the throne!

VI. WE SEE THE REIGN OF HOSHEA, SON OF ELAH!
(2 KINGS 17:1-6)

A. HOSHEA Reigned For 9 Years! (Vs 1)

B. HOSHEA'S Reign Was Wicked! (Vs 2)

He did not follow in the ways of the kings of **ISRAEL** before him! That was a switch! Nevertheless, he was wicked!

Wicked is wicked no matter what form the wickedness may be!

C. HOSHEA'S Reign Was A Controlled Reign! (Vs 3)

The Assyrian king came against him and **HOSHEA** became his servant and started giving him presents (*i.e. paying tribute*).

D. HOSHEA'S Reign Was Terminated By The Assyrian King Who Shut Him Up And Bound Him In Prison! (Vs 4)

Toward the end of **HOSHEA's** reign, he stopped paying the tribute to the Assyrian king and went down into Egypt to find an ally in So the king of Egypt!

E. All The Land Of Israel Was Invaded By Assyria And SAMARIA Was Besieged For Three Years That Ended With ISRAEL Being Carried Away Captive To Assyria! (Vs 5-6)

Thus we see the nation of ISRAEL was no more! The LORD did to ISRAEL just as HE had said through the Prophet HOSEA!