

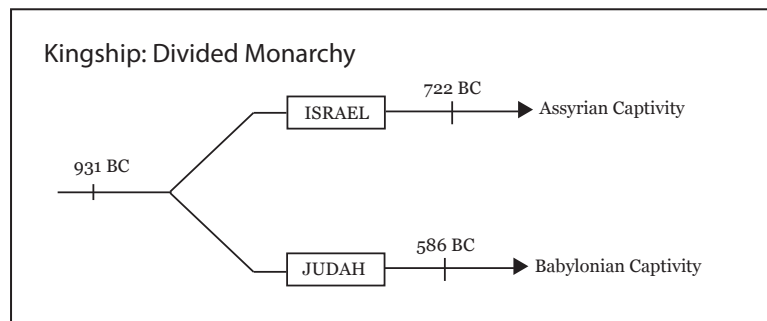
# SESSION 2

## Kings of Israel

### I. PRAYER (REVIEW)

### II. MOVEMENT 7: TIMELINE

#### Kingship: Divided Monarchy



### III. THE SPLIT WITHIN THE KINGDOM

#### A. Major Reasons

1. Longstanding tribal jealousies existed (see Session 1, p. 17 for brief discussion).
2. Natural geographical boundaries reinforced suspicions and occasional skirmishes.
3. Strong leadership of Judahite kings, David and Solomon, added to alienation of north and south.
4. Solomon exercised favorable treatment by exempting Judah from his oppressive taxation policy; also he turned away from the Lord (1Kgs 11:9).
5. Rehoboam's (son of Solomon) complete failure in handling his own accession to the throne thus created a divisive debacle (cf. 1 Kgs 12).

## B. Nations Around the Israel/Judah Split

### 1. Assyria

- a. Ancient empire that rose to dominance in the 9th-7th centuries BC. (see map, p. 48 for breadth of the Assyrian empire at its peak).
- b. Expansionists in nature, Assyria made inroads into the land of Palestine (Israel-Judah) under various kings. Among the most prominent in Biblical history are:
  - (1) Asshur-nasirpal II (884-860 BC)
  - (2) Shalmaneser III (859-825 BC)
  - (3) Tiglath-pileser III (745-728 BC)

Also known as Pul or Pulu, he broke up the Aramean alliance and took many prisoners.
  - (4) Shalmaneser V (727-723 BC)

Began the attack on Samaria, capital of Israel, but died before completion.
  - (5) Sargon II (722-706 BC)

Captured Samaria, occupied the land, took captives, brought in foreigners to intermarry; effectively ended the northern kingdom.
- c. Dominated the ancient Near East with few rivals. On the horizon (end of 8th century BC), the Medes and the Babylonians were beginning to stir.
- d. Theologically, Assyria was used as God's instrument of judgment upon Israel.

Isaiah 10:5-6

*"Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath!<sup>6</sup> I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.*

### 2. Egypt

- a. The glory of the 18th and 19th dynasties of Egypt were a past memory as Egypt exerted less and less influence (with respect to Palestine).

- b. With the rise of Shishak I (935?-914 BC) the attention of Egypt was turned to the Near East. He penetrated into the land as far north as Galilee leaving behind steles (monuments) and other evidences of his activities.
  - c. The next king of Egypt, Osorkon I (914-874), sent forth his general to invade the land of the Hebrews. This general (Zerah) was defeated by Asa, the king of Judah (the southern kingdom—2 Chron 14:7-12).
  - d. Later in time (7th century BC) Egypt, with Assyrian permission, pushed into Palestine; the move was temporary and ineffectual.
3. Arameans
- a. Semites were located north of Israel in the land called Aram or Paddan-Aram (Mesopotamia).
  - b. During the days of Saul and David the Arameans were in constant conflict with the united monarchy as they pushed ever southward.
  - c. Important cities: Hamath, Damascus, Zobah.
  - d. They were removed entirely from the world scene with the militaristic campaigns of the Assyrian, Tiglath-pileser III (near the end of the eighth century BC).
4. Babylonia
- a. Famed king, Hammurabi, established his capital at Babylon; known for his legal law code, the code of Hammurabi (ca 1700 BC).
  - b. Neo-Chaldean empire (605-539 BC) rose to prominence. Nabopolassar, with the aid of Cyaxares (king of the Medes), destroyed Nineveh of the Assyrians in 612 BC. Nabopolassar's son, Nebuchadnezzar, defeated Neco of Egypt at Carchemish in 605 BC.
  - c. Nebuchadnezzar defeated Judah, ransacked the Temple at Jerusalem, took captives (eg. Daniel and friends), and subjected Judah to vassal-state status. This ended the Divided Monarchy.

## IV. KINGS OF ISRAEL (NORTH)

### A. Kings of the Divided Monarchy

ISRAEL (North)	
Jeroboam I	931-910
Nadab	910-909
Baasha	909-886
Elah	886-885
Zimri	885
Omri	885-874
Ahab	874-853
Ahaziah	853-852
Joram	852-841
Jehu	841-814
Jehoahaz	814-798
Jehoash	798-782
Jeroboam II	793-753
Zechariah	753
Shallum	752
Menahem	752-742
Pekahiah	742-740
Pekah	752-732
Hoshea	732-722

\*Based upon Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 320  
\*All dates (BC)

## V. BIBLICAL DEVELOPMENT

### A. Jeroboam I (#1 of Israel)

1. Father: Nebat; Tribe: Ephraim
2. Dates of Reign: 931-910 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

- a. Led the rebellion and split from Judah.

1 Kings 12:12-16

*Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days."<sup>13</sup> The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,<sup>14</sup> he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."<sup>15</sup> So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.<sup>16</sup> When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!" So the Israelites went home.*

- b. Established two centers for worship.

1 Kings 12:26-30 (cf. Deut 12:1-14)

*Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David."<sup>27</sup> If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."<sup>28</sup> After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."<sup>29</sup> One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.<sup>30</sup> And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.*

- c. Spurned the prophetic words sent to him.

1 Kings 13:33-34

*Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places.<sup>34</sup> This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.*

Jeroboam rejected the Word of the Lord from a sent prophet from Judah. The prophet prophetically declared that Jeroboam would lose his sick son, lose his dynasty, and ultimately lose the nation (prophecy of Assyrian captivity to come). This narrative is found in 1 Kings 13-14.

- d. Received the Lord's rebuke upon his actions as king.

1 Kings 14:9

*You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.*

- e. Summarized

1 Kings 14:20

*He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his ancestors. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.*

## **B. Nadab (#2 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jeroboam I; Tribe: Ephraim
2. Dates of Reign: 910-909 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad

#### 4. Key Events

- a. Continued the evil pattern of his father.

1 Kings 15:25-26

*Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.<sup>26</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the ways of his father and committing the same sin his father had caused Israel to commit.*

- b. Assassinated by Baasha while at war (1 Kgs 15:27-28).

- c. Fulfilled the prophecy of the prophet of Judah that Jeroboam's dynasty would end.

1 Kings 15:29-30

*As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite.<sup>30</sup> This happened because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel.*

### **C. Baasha (#3 of Israel)**

1. Father: Ahijah; Tribe: Issachar
2. Dates of Reign: 909-886 BC—3rd longest of Israel
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key Events
  - a. Became king by assassinating Nadab, son of Jeroboam.
  - b. Received a prophetic word from the prophet Jehu foreseeing the end of his short dynasty (cf. 1 Kgs 16:2-4).

1 Kings 16:7

*Moreover, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani to Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he had done in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger by the things he did, becoming like the house of Jeroboam—and also because he destroyed it.*

#### **D. Elah (#4 of Israel)**

1. Father: Baasha; Tribe: Issachar
2. Dates of Reign: 886-885 BC
3. Theological Evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Ended at his death the dynasty of his father, Baasha.
  - b. Assassinated by one of his own military leaders.

1 Kings 16:9-10

*Zimri, one of his officials, who had command of half his chariots, plotted against him. Elah was in Tirzah at the time, getting drunk in the home of Arza, the palace administrator at Tirzah. <sup>10</sup> Zimri came in, struck him down and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah. Then he succeeded him as king.*

- c. Fulfilled by his death the prophetic word brought against his father, Baasha, and his father's lineage.

1 Kings 16:12-13

*So Zimri destroyed the whole family of Baasha, in accordance with the word of the Lord spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu—<sup>13</sup> because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, so that they aroused the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.*



### **E. Zimri (#5 of Israel)**

1. Father: unknown; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 885 BC... 7 days
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Found Elah, the king, drunk at the palace in Tirzah and assassinated him (1 Kgs 16:9-11).
  - b. Reigned seven days; Omri proclaimed commander of the army and new king by his supporters (1 Kgs 16:16, 21).
  - c. Set the royal palace on fire and died in the flames (suicide likely—1 Kgs 16:18).
  - d. Aligned with Jeroboam's policies (albeit briefly).  
1 Kings 16:18<sup>b</sup>-19  
*So he died,<sup>19</sup> because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD and following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.*

### **F. Omri (#6 of Israel)**

1. Father: unknown; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 885-874 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Came to power at death of Zimri; opposed by the supporters of Tibni for king; Tibni slain and Omri pronounced king (1 Kgs 16:21-22).
  - b. Moved the capital from Tirzah (after six years) to the new capital at Samaria (1 Kgs 16:23-24).

- c. Evaluated harshly in his twelve year reign.

1 Kings 16:25-26

*But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him.<sup>26</sup> He followed completely the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat, committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit, so that they aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.*

### **G. Ahab (#7 of Israel)**

1. Father: Omri; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 874-853 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Succeeded his father as king (the Omride dynasty).
  - b. Considered to be an exceptionally bad king in the eyes of the Lord.

1 Kings 16:30

*Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him.*

- c. Married the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, named Jezebel (1 Kgs 16:31); Ahab was compliant with her introducing Baal and Asherah worship.

1 Kings 16:31-33

*He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.<sup>32</sup> He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria.<sup>33</sup> Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.*

- d. Faced the prophet, Elijah, who opposed Ahab and Jezebel.

Note that this conflict will be discussed in Session 3: Elijah and Elisha.

- e. Repelled the Syrian king's (Ben-Hadad) invasion successfully on two separated occasions; forged a treaty with his invader-king and spared his life (though Ahab was rebuked by an unnamed prophet of the Lord, "You have set free a man I had determined should die..."—1 Kgs 20:42b).
- f. Went to war with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, against Aram to recapture Ramoth-Gilead (east, southeast of Sea of Galilee). The attack was supported by false, court prophets but opposed by the true prophet of the Lord, Micaiah (1 Kgs 22). Ahab died during battle.

1 Kings 22:37-38

*So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there.<sup>38</sup> They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria (where the prostitutes bathed), and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared.*

#### **H. Ahaziah (#8 of Israel)**

1. Father: Ahab; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 853-852 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Succeeded his father for a brief reign over Israel.
  - b. Injured in a fall, Ahaziah sent messengers to call Baal-Zebub, the false god of Ekron; the Lord sent Elijah with a true prophetic message for the king (by way of the king's messengers).

2 Kings 1:3-4

*But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"<sup>4</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD says: "You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!"* So Elijah went.

- c. Evaluated harshly as to his limited kingship.

1 Kings 22:52-53

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, because he followed the ways of his father and mother and of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin.<sup>53</sup> He served and worshiped Baal and aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, just as his father had done.*

#### **I. Joram or Jehoram (#9 of Israel)**

1. Father: Ahab; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 852-841 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Came to kingship at the death of his brother, Ahaziah (2 Kgs 3:1).
  - b. Evaluated less harshly than his father, Ahab, though still considered an evil king.

2 Kings 3:2-3

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, but not as his father and mother had done. He got rid of the sacred stone of Baal that his father had made.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless he clung to the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he did not turn away from them.*

- c. Joined with Jehoshaphat (king of Judah) to face the revolting Moabites; Jehoshaphat (as he did previously with Ahab) requested that a prophet of God be consulted. The prophet was Elisha, formerly servant to Elijah.

2 Kings 3:14-19

*Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not pay any attention to you." <sup>15</sup> But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha <sup>16</sup> and he said, "This is what the LORD says: I will fill this valley with pools of water. <sup>17</sup> For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. <sup>18</sup> This is an easy thing in the eyes of the LORD; he will also deliver Moab into your hands. <sup>19</sup> You will overthrow every fortified city and every major town. You will cut down every good tree, stop up all the springs, and ruin every good field with stones."*

- d. Faced on–again, off–again animosities and attacks from Arameans.
- e. Died at the hands of Jehu (the next king of Israel); Jehu also killed Ahaziah (6th king of Judah) who was meeting with Jehu to plan their war against the Arameans. The death of Jehu ends the Omride dynasty.

#### **J. Jehu (#10 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 841-814 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad; though some good acknowledged

#### 4. Key events

- a. Served as a commander at Ramoth Gilead under King Joram (2 Kgs 9:4-5).
- b. Anointed with oil as the next king by a young man sent by Elisha the prophet (2 Kgs 9:1-6); previously, Elijah had been commanded by the Lord to anoint Jehu (cf. 1 Kgs 19:15-18) but there is no evidence that the task had been accomplished by Elijah personally.
- c. Tasked by God through the prophet to destroy the house of Ahab and Jezebel who introduced Baal worship to Israel.

2 Kings 9:7-10

*"You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD's servants shed by Jezebel. <sup>8</sup> The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. <sup>9</sup> I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. <sup>10</sup> As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her."* Then he opened the door and ran.

- d. Killed Joram son of Ahab (9th king of Israel) and Ahaziah (6th king of Judah); the two kings together were in battle conflict with Hazael the king of Aram; these deaths had been prophesied by Elijah.

1 Kings 19:15-17

*The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.*

- e. Exterminated the descendants (perhaps future claimants to the throne) of the house of Ahab.

2 Kings 10:9-12a

*The next morning Jehu went out. He stood before all the people and said, "You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these?"<sup>10</sup> Know, then, that not a word the LORD has spoken against the house of Ahab will fail. The LORD has done what he announced through his servant Elijah."<sup>11</sup> So Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests, leaving him no survivor.<sup>12</sup> Jehu then set out and went toward Samaria.*

- f. Killed Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, in fulfillment of the prophecy of her death (2 Kgs 9:30-37; cf. 1 Kgs 21:23).
- g. Destroyed the prophets of Baal by deception (2 Kings 10:18-27).
- h. Failed to complete the task of ridding Israel of false worship by not destroying the calf idols at Dan and Bethel (2 Kgs 10:28-29).
- i. Evaluated with positive and negative accomplishments.

2 Kings 10:30-31

*The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."<sup>31</sup> Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit.*

#### **K. Jehoahaz (#11 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jehu; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 814-798 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

a. Succeeded father and reigned seventeen years (2 Kgs 13:1).

b. Did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

2 Kings 13:2-3

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD by following the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit, and he did not turn away from them. <sup>3</sup> So the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and for a long time he kept them under the power of Hazael king of Aram and Ben-Hadad his son.*

c. Called upon the Lord during the stressful attacks of Hazael and his son Ben-Hadad of Aram; the Lord answered his prayer and delivered Israel (2 Kgs 13:4-5). But the armies of Israel were decimated; only a small contingent of soldiers remained (2 Kgs 13:7).

d. The effect spiritually of the deliverance was not impactful on the people of Israel; they remained in idolatry.

2 Kings 13:6

*But they did not turn away from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit; they continued in them. Also, the Asherah pole remained standing in Samaria.*

**L. Jehoash (#12 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jehoahaz; Tribe: unknown

2. Dates of Reign: 798-782 BC

3. Theological evaluation: Bad



4. Key events

- a. Evaluated theologically in line with all other Israelite kings (of the north).

2 Kings 13:11

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them.*

- b. Evaluated historically by Josephus:

“He was a good man, and in disposition was not at all like his father” (i.e. Jehoahaz) (Ant. 9.8.6 as cited by Unger, *New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 658).

- c. Prevailed against the Arameans on three occasions as prophesied by Elisha (2 Kings 13:14-19).
- d. Defeated Amaziah (8th king of Judah), broke down a portion of the walls around Jerusalem, took plunder and captives (to discourage retaliation and further warfare) (2 Kgs 14; cf. 2 Chron 25).
- e. Maintained a certain fondness for Elisha (2 Kgs 13:14-20; for more, see Session 3 of this study: Elijah and Elisha).

**M. Jeroboam II (#13 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jehoash; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 793-753 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Evaluated in light of perpetuating (or permitting) false worship introduced by his namesake, Jeroboam I.  

2 Kings 14:24

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.*

- b. Regained much lost territory and extended Israel's northern borders and eastern transjordan borders to more like the celebrated days of Solomon (2 Kgs 14:25). Thus, Jeroboam was used by God in spite of, not because of, his piety (which was lacking – cf. 2 Kgs 14:25-27).
- c. Reigned during the ministry of Amos the prophet (765-755 BC); see chart of the Book of Amos for details (p 44).

#### **N. Zechariah (#14 of Israel)**

- 1. Father: Jeroboam; Tribe: unknown
- 2. Dates of Reign: 753 BC
- 3. Theological evaluation: Bad
- 4. Key events
  - a. Evaluated as one who did as his fathers (ancestors) did.  
 2 Kings 15:9  
*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his predecessors had done. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.*
  - b. Reigned only six months; assassinated publicly by Shallum who claimed the kingship (2 Kgs 15:10).
  - c. Ended the dynasty of Jehu as was prophesied by the LORD to Jehu (2 Kgs 15:12).  
 2 Kings 10:30  
*The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."*

**O. Shallum (#15 of Israel)**

1. Father: Jabesh; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 752 BC
3. Theological evaluation: not specifically given, however due to his manner of succession and in light of the previous kings, bad.
4. Key events
  - a. Assassinated Zechariah to become king; reigned one month (2 Kgs 15:13).
  - b. Assassinated by Menahem (son of Gadi who left Tirzah to go to Samaria to seize the kingship– 2 Kgs 15:14).

**P. Menahem (#16 of Israel)**

1. Father: Gadi; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 752-742 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Evaluated negatively in light of previous kings.  
2 Kings 15:18  
*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. During his entire reign he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.*
  - b. Likely one of Zechariah's generals who was dismayed by the assassination of his king by the usurper-assassin Shallum. He attacked Shallum and became king (2 Kgs 15:14).
  - c. Exercised harsh cruelty against Tiphseh (the city) for apparently refusing to acknowledge his kingship.

2 Kings 15:16

*At that time Menahem, starting out from Tirzah, attacked Tiphshah and everyone in the city and its vicinity, because they refused to open their gates. He sacked Tiphshah and ripped open all the pregnant women.*

- d. Enacted a treaty with Pul (or Tiglath-Pileser), king of Assyria, whereby Menahem paid tribute to safeguard his fragile kingdom and “buy protection” from Assyria (2 Kgs 15:19).

#### **Q. Pekahiah (#17 of Israel)**

1. Father: Menahem; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 742-740 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
  - a. Evaluated as the other kings of Israel.

2 Kings 15:24

*Pekahiah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.*

- b. Assassinated by one of his chief officers, Pekah, in the citadel of the royal palace; reigned but two years.

#### **R. Pekah (#18 of Israel)**

1. Father: Remaliah; Tribe: unknown
2. Dates of Reign: 752-732 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

- a. Evaluated as previous kings of Israel.

2 Kings 15:28

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.*

- b. Strongly anti-Assyrian and likely broke the treaty enacted by Menahem; caused Assyria to retaliate.

2 Kings 15:29

*In the time of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maakah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and deported the people to Assyria.*

- c. Assassinated by Hoshea, son of Elah (2 Kgs 15:30).

**S. Hoshea (#19 of Israel—last king of Israel in the North)**

1. Father: Elah; Tribe: unknown

2. Dates of Reign: 732-722 BC

3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

- a. Evaluated somewhat differently, “bad but not as bad.”

2 Kings 17:2

*He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.*

- b. Previously was a vassal (“puppet king”) of the Assyrian king but had secretly attempted to forge other alliances (Egypt) to oppose Assyria (2 Kgs 17:3-4).

- c. Attacked by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria; defeat ended the reign of the northern kings of Israel.

2 Kings 17:5-6

*The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. <sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.*

## VI. WRITING PROPHETS: NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

### A. Amos (prophetic ministry: 765-755 BC)

1. Profession: sheepherder - Amos 7:14, then prophet
2. Meaning of "Amos": Burden or Burden-bearer
3. Home: Tekoa in Judah... yet sent north to Israel
4. Book of Amos: charted

THE BOOK OF AMOS							
8 Judgments		3 Sermons		5 Visions		3 Promises	
1. Damascus 2. Gaza 3. Tyre 4. Edom 5. Ammon 6. Moab 7. Judah 8. Israel		1. Sins Against God and Man 2. Women, Worship, Stubbornness and Unrighteousness 3. Injustice		1. Locusts 2. Devouring Fire 3. Plumbline 4. Basket of Summer Fruit 5. Altar		1. Messianic Kingdom 2. Millennial Blessings 3. Restoration of Israel	
1:1	2:16	3:1	6:14	7:1	9:10	9:11	9:15
Key Verse: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream!" (Amos 5:24 NIV)							

**B. Hosea**

1. Profession: called by God to be a prophet (Hos 1:1)
2. Meaning of "Hosea": Yahweh Has Saved
3. Home: son of Beer, most likely from Israel
4. Book of Hosea: charted

<b>THE BOOK OF HOSEA</b>				
<b>Adulterous Wife/ Faithful Husband</b>		<b>Adulterous Nation (Israel)/ Faithful Lord</b>		
Hosea Chapters 1-3		Hosea Chapters 4-14		
First Marriage	Remarriage	Israel's Indictment (Court Case)	Punishment	Restoration
1:1    2:23	3:1    3:5	4:1    7:16	8:1    10:15	11:1    14:9
<p>Key Verse:            "A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD."            (Hosea 5:4b NIV)</p>				

## VII. TAKEAWAYS

### A. God's Sovereignty

With the rise and fall of so many kings, with the threats and actual wars with so many adversaries, the believer of Biblical times (and also our time as well) could wonder, "Where is God in all the chaos?" This reaction suggests that the Lord of Heaven and Earth has somehow lost control or if not, doesn't care for His people. The Scriptures flatly deny such thinking.

Psalm 135:5-6 (cf. Dan 4:35)

*I know that the LORD is great, that our LORD is greater than all gods. <sup>6</sup> The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.*

Psalm 103:19 (cf. 115:1-3)

*The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.*

Ephesians 1:11

*In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...*

### B. Existence of the Nations

Note also how the existence of diverse nations fit within God's rule.

Acts 17:22-28

*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did*



*this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.<sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

**C. A Lesson From the Various Kings**

If the Sovereign Lord expected His kings to seek Him, to embrace His will and ways, what might that suggest to us (rulers not over kingdoms, but over our lives)?

2 Chronicles 16:9a

*"For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."*

**D. Thought Question**

As each king was evaluated as to faithfulness and their measure of following or not following the Lord, how would you rate your personal "kingship"?

