

Royal Lessons for Life

Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea

(Israel)

Zachariah's and Shallum's Biographies

- There is a twelve-year gap between the death of Jeroboam II and the ascension of Zachariah (see back), probably because of political instability.
- After a six-month reign, he is assassinated by Shallum, ending the house of Jehu – II Kings 15:8-12, 10:30
- The usurper Shallum reigned only one month before being assassinated by Menahem – II Kings 15:13-14

Menahem's and Pekahiah's Biographies

- Menahem reigned for ten years over Israel – II Kings 15:17
- His first act as king was a merciless attack on Tiphseh, whose people opposed his ascension – II Kings 15:16
- The Assyrians appear for the first time when he gives them tribute (~\$35 million) to solidify his claim to the throne – II Kings 15:19-20
- His son Pekahiah inherited the throne and reigned for two years before being assassinated by Pekah – II Kings 15:23-26

Pekah's and Hoshea's Biographies

- Pekah's evil reign lasted for twenty years – II Kings 15:27
- He allies with Syria and attacks Judah (more on this next time) – II Kings 16:5-9
- The Assyrians take territory around Galilee and Transjordan – II Kings 15:29
- Hoshea assassinates Pekah, and becomes king after another gap of eight years (see back) – II Kings 15:30
- Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III claims on monuments to have placed Hoshea on the throne and demanded tribute of 10 talents of gold (~\$28 million) and 1,000 talents of silver (~\$35 million).
- In 722 B.C., the Assyrians under Shalmaneser V captured Samaria after a three-year siege and imprisoned Hoshea – II Kings 17:4-6

Lesson from the Final Kings of Israel

- God's judgment on His own comes through love and leaves hope – Hosea 1-3

Notes on the First Interregnum

- There appears to be a 12-year period without a king between Jeroboam II and his son Zachariah
- Amaziah ruled over Judah for 29 years – II Kings 14:2
- Jeroboam II was crowned in the 15th year of Amaziah’s reign and ruled for 41 years – II Kings 14:23
- Azariah/Uzziah followed Amaziah over Judah and ruled for 52 years – II Kings 15:2
- Jeroboam II’s rule of 41 years would coincide with the final 15 years of Amaziah and the first 26 of Uzziah.
- Therefore, Jeroboam II would have died in the 26th year of Uzziah’s reign, but his successor Zachariah is not crowned until the 38th year of Uzziah’s reign – II Kings 15:8

Notes on the Second Interregnum

- There appears to be an 8-year period between Pekah and Hoshea.
- Pekah took the throne in the last year (52nd) of Azariah/Uzziah’s reign and reigned for 20 years – II Kings 15:27
- After Azariah/Uzziah, both Jotham and Ahaz had 16-year reigns over Judah – II Kings 15:33, 16:2
- II Kings 15:30 says Hoshea began his rule during the “twentieth year of Jotham”
 - But didn’t we just say that they only reigned for 16 years?
 - Two simple solutions:
 - Jotham co-ruled with either his son Ahaz or his father Azariah/Uzziah for a few years.
 - The author uses the ascension of Jotham as a time marker because he has not introduced Ahaz yet.
 - I think refers to the 3rd or 4th year of Ahaz’s rule.
- Hoshea began to rule during the “twelfth year of Ahaz”, indicating a difference of about 8 years – II Kings 17:1
 - This later date is also seen working backwards from Hezekiah’s reign. Hoshea was dethroned when Samaria fell to Assyria, which occurred in the “sixth year of Hezekiah” and the “ninth year of Hoshea” (II Kings 18:10). Since Hoshea ruled for nine years, he would have begun his reign three years before Hezekiah began his. Allowing for one year split between Ahaz and Hezekiah, this would make it the 12th year of Ahaz’s reign.
- The simplest explanation for this gap is political instability. Two theories:
 - Hoshea made himself king at first, but his rule would not be solidified or confirmed until eight years later.
 - Hoshea made himself king but was imprisoned by the Assyrians for 8 years before being released and placed on the throne – II Kings 17:3-4