

Paging Through The Scriptures

The End of Northern Israel

2 Kings 14-17

1. An Overview of the Last ~70 Years* of Israel (2 Kings 14:16-17:6)

A. > Jeroboam II - (2 Kings 14:16, 23-29) = 41 years

He is the last successful king in the line of Jehu. His reign was marked by reasonable peace and prosperity before the quick decline and destruction of the northern kingdom. Jonah, Hosea, and Amos all prophesied during his reign (2 Kings 14:25; Hos. 1:1; Amos 1:1).

B. > Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8-12) = 6 months

Very little is said about the three shortest reigning kings of Israel except that some are noted to have done evil in the sight of God (2 Kings 15:9, 24), but they are primarily mentioned more as chronological markers of the passing of time. One thing noted for the reign of Zechariah is the prophecy made to Jehu (2 Kings 15:12; cf. 2 Kings 10:30).

C. Shallum (2 Kings 15:13-14) = 1 month

D. Menahem (2 Kings 15:14-22) = 10 years

His rise to power was the assassination of Shallum. His primary historical notation is that he exacted a hard tax from the land in order to pay tribute to Assyria. This was levied from the wealthy people of Israel (2 Kings 15:20), but this would have ultimately come at the abuse of the poor.

E. > Pekahiah (2 Kings 15:23-26) = 2 years

F. Pekah (2 Kings 15:27-29) = 20 years*

There is a chronological concern in that if the timing of the kings is consecutive then the Assyrian exile occurred 10 years later than archeologists and historians have concluded. One possible way that this can be rectified is if Pekah's first 10 years of power began as a rival of Menahem.

G. Hoshea (2 Kings 15:29ff; 17:1-6) = 9 years

He may have been the least wicked king, but he was the last. He began his reign by appeasing Assyria (2 Kings 17:3) but ended when he tried to conspire with Egypt against them (v.4).

2. Assyrian Captivity (2 Kings 17:6ff)

The destruction of northern Israel was certain because of God's promise (cf. Deut 28:15ff). The Lord sent them hardship (Amos 4:1ff) and He sent them prophets (2 Kings 17:13-16) but they refused to repent, believe, and turn from their wickedness but instead became hardened and entrenched in their rebellion (2 Ki. 17:17).