

# 2 Kings 15 - Annals of Both Kingdoms: Azariah's Good Reign in Judah; Evil Reigns of Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah & Pekah in Israel; Jotham's Good Reign in Judah

II. The divided kingdom from the North-South division until the Assyrian invasion (1 Kings 12:1—2 Kings 17:41)

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- (24) Zachariah's reign in the North (15:8-12)
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## 2 Kings 15

(23) Uzziah's reign in the South (15:1-7) (Cf. 2 Chr 26)

**1** In the **twenty-seventh year** of Jeroboam king of Israel, **Azariah** son of Amaziah king of Judah became king.

**1** In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah became king.

**1** Amaziah's son Azariah began reigning during the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Jeroboam, king of Israel.

**1** In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

- "...twenty-seventh year" - the 27th year of Jeroboam II's co-regency with Jehoash was 767 BC

— In that year Azariah began to reign over Judah as sole ruler. He had previously served as king in his father's place while Amaziah was imprisoned in Israel and as co-regent with him after Amaziah returned to Judah.

- "...Azariah" - "Yahweh has helped"; he is also called Uzziah ("Yahweh is my strength") in the OT (Cf. v13,30,32,34; 2 Chr 26; Is 1:1; Hosea 1:1; Amos 1:1; Zech 14:5; etc.)

— It appears that Uzziah was the king's throne name (Cf. Is 6:1); Azariah was his personal name

2 He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

2 He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

2 He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

- Azariah was 16 years old when he began his co-regency (in 790 BC) and he reigned a total of 52 years (790-739 BC) in Jerusalem

— Azariah's 52-year reign (790-739 BC) was longer than any other king of Israel or Judah so far; King Manasseh reigned the longest in Judah (55 years)

— Azariah ruled Judah while seven of the last eight kings of the northern kingdom ruled— all but the last king, Hoshea

3 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, in accordance with everything that his father Amaziah had done.

3 He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

3 He did what the LORD considered to be right, just as his father Amaziah had done in everything,

3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;

4 Only the high places were not eliminated; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

4 Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

4 except that the high places were never removed, and the people kept on sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.

4 Save that the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places.

- Azariah was a good king like his father (Cf. 2 Chr 26:4-5), but he too failed to remove the high places (Cf. comments on 1 Kings 22:43) where the people worshiped *Yahweh* in

disobedience to the Law (Cf. Deut 12:2-7,13-14)

5 And the LORD afflicted the king, so that he had leprosy to the day of his death. And he lived in a separate house, while Jotham the king's son was in charge of the household, judging the people of the land.

5 The LORD struck the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death. And he lived in a separate house, while Jotham the king's son was over the household, judging the people of the land.

5 The LORD struck the king so that he was afflicted with leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house while his son Jotham managed the household and ruled the people who lived in the land.

5 And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land.

- In many ways Azariah (Uzziah) was a good king. However, he did something that he should not have done: he intruded into the priest's office.

— For this he was smitten with leprosy (2 Chr 26:15-21). It broke Isaiah's heart when he died because Isaiah was afraid Azariah's successors would lead the nation back into idolatry.

— Isaiah's fears were well-grounded, for Azariah's grandson did just that. When Azariah became a leper (in 750 BC) he shared the throne with his son Jotham as co-regent until he died in 739 BC.

— Azariah lived a life of limited seclusion as required of lepers in Israel, but still played a part in leading the nation, with his son Jotham serving as executor of the palace.

It is important to point out here that Uzziah's sin was not in his offering incense per se but in his doing so in the very temple itself and on the altar of incense. This was a privilege reserved to the priests of the Aaronic line. As the Davidic heir—the priest after the order of Melchizedek—he did, indeed, enjoy priestly prerogatives as had David and Solomon before him. But his role as messianic priest was not to be confused with the specific function of the Aaronic priest.

6 Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Azariah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

6 Now the rest of the acts of Azariah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

6 Now the rest of Azariah's activities, including everything he did, are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, are they not?

6 And the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

7 And Azariah lay down with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Jotham became king in his place.

7 And Azariah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jotham his son became king in his place.

7 Later, Azariah died, as had his ancestors, and they buried him with his ancestors in the City of David. His son Jotham then reigned in his place.

7 So Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

- When the king died he was buried in the City of David, undoubtedly in the royal tombs, and Jotham his son continued reigning in his place.

- Azariah was one of Judah's most effective and influential kings:

— He expanded Judah's territories southward to Elath (2 Kings 14:22), eastward so that the Ammonites paid him tribute (2 Chr 26:8), and westward by defeating the Philistines (2 Chr 26:6-7).

— He fortified Jerusalem and other parts of Judah (2 Chr 26:9-10,15), and reorganized the army (2 Chr 26:11-14)

— The combined territories of Azariah and Jeroboam II approximated those of David and Solomon

- After Jeroboam II's death Azariah became even more powerful and was looked to for leadership by his neighbors who formed a coalition with him to resist the threat of Assyria

— Unfortunately he became proud, intruded into the priest's office, and was tragically humbled by God (2 Chr 26:16-21)

(24) Zachariah's reign in the North (15:8-12)

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Zechariah** the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in Samaria for six months.

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in Samaria *for* six months.

8 During the thirty-eighth year of the reign of Azariah, king of Judah, Jeroboam's son Zachariah began a six-month reign in Samaria.

8 In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months.

- "...Zechariah" - "Yahweh Remembers"; he succeeded Jeroboam II in Azariah's 38th year (753 BC), but he reigned only six months (753-752 BC)

9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his fathers had done; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel.

9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

9 He did what the LORD considered to be evil, just as his ancestors had done. He never abandoned the sins of Nebat's son Jeroboam, who caused Israel to sin.

9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

10 Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck him in the presence of the people and killed him, and reigned in his place.

10 Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him before the people and killed him, and reigned in his place.

10 So Jabesh's son Shallum conspired against him and attacked him in full view of the people, killed him, and reigned in his place.

10 And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

- He was assassinated publicly by Shallum

— The fact that Shallum was allowed to assume the throne suggests that Zechariah did not enjoy strong public support

11 Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Zechariah, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

11 Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

11 The rest of Zachariah's activities are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

**11** And the rest of the acts of Zachariah, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

12 This is the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, "Your sons *to* the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel." And so it was.

12 This is the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, "Your sons *to* the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel." And so it was.

12 This is what the LORD told Jehu: "Your children will sit on Israel's throne for the next four generations." And that is what happened:

**12** This was the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth generation. And so it came to pass.

- Zechariah's death fulfilled God's word to Jehu that four generations would succeed him on Israel's throne (10:30). Thus Israel's fifth dynasty came to an end.

The death of this last king of the dynasty of Jehu (v12) saw the end of the Northern Kingdom proper. In the last 20 years, six rulers were to follow each other, but only one was to die naturally. Anarchy, rivalry and regicide led to terminal bloodshed which fulfilled Hosea's prophecies (1:4).

(25) Shallum's reign in the North (15:13-15)

**13** Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned for one month in Samaria.

**13** Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Samaria.

**13** Jabesh's son Shallum began his reign in the thirty-ninth year of the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah. He reigned a full month in Samaria,

**13** Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.

- Shallum's one-month reign in 752 BC was the second shortest in Israel's history (after Zimri's seven-day reign, 1 Kings 16:15-20)

14 Then **Menahem** the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and struck Shallum son of Jabesh in Samaria, and killed him and became king in his place.

14 Then Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and struck Shallum son of Jabesh in Samaria, and killed him and became king in his place.

14 then Gadi's son Menahem approached Samaria from Tirzah and attacked Jabesh's son Shallum, executed him, and reigned in his place.

14 For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

- "...Menahem" - may have been the commander-in-chief of Jeroboam II's army

— He regarded Shallum as a usurper to the throne, believing that as commander of the army, that he should have succeeded Zechariah

15 Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Shallum and his conspiracy which he formed, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

15 Now the rest of the acts of Shallum and his conspiracy which he made, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

15 The rest of Shallum's activities, including the conspiracy that he carried out, are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, are they not?

15 And the rest of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

(26) Menahem's reign in the North (15:16-22)

16 Then Menahem attacked Tiphshah and all who were in it and its borders from Tirzah, because they did not open up *to him*; so he attacked *it* and ripped up all its women who were pregnant.

16 Then Menahem struck Tiphshah and all who were in it and its borders from Tirzah, because they did not open *to him*; therefore he struck *it* and ripped up all its women who were with child.

16 At another time, Menahem attacked Tiphshah and all of its inhabitants, including its coastlands from Tirzah, because they would not open the city gate for him. After defeating them, he ripped open all of their pregnant women.

16 Then Menahem smote Tiphshah, and all that were therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.

- Menahem apparently attacked Tiphshah, perhaps near Tirzah and Samaria, because its inhabitants refused to acknowledge him as king and shut their gates against him

— His violent destruction of the city, even down to murdering all the pregnant women, was probably intended to intimidate other Israelite towns into supporting him

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Menahem** the son of Gadi became king over Israel *and reigned* for ten years in Samaria.

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over Israel *and reigned* ten years in Samaria.

17 In the thirty-ninth year of the reign of Azariah, king of Judah, Gadi's son Menahem began a ten-year reign over Israel from Samaria.

17 In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria.

- "...Menahem" - began ruling in the 39th year of Azariah and reigned 10 years (752-742 BC). He instituted Israel's seventh dynasty.

18 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; for all his days he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel.

18 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

18 He did what the LORD considered to be evil by never abandoning the sins of Nebat's son Jeroboam, who caused Israel to sin, as long as he lived.

18 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

**19 Pul**, the king of Assyria, came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver so that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his rule.

**19** Pul, king of Assyria, came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver so that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his rule.

19 Later on, King Pul of Aram attacked the land, and Menahem paid Pul 1,000 silver talents so Pul would join forces with Menahem to secure his hold on the kingdom.

19 And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

- "Pul" - has been identified from Assyrian inscriptions as Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC; Cf. v29; 16:7,10; 1 Chr 5:26)

— This is the first mention of Assyria in 2 Kings

— Pul was one of Assyria's strongest rulers

- This invasion of Israel took place in 743 BC and resulted in Menahem's paying tribute to Pul

— Because of Israel's apostasy, God delivered her over to the clutches of a foreign power that would one day swallow her up (Cf. Deut 28:32-33)

— In return for the 1,000 talents (ca. 37 tons) of silver, Menahem raised from the wealthy men of Israel, the Assyrian king gave Menahem his support and helped him retain his crown

20 Then Menahem collected the money from Israel, from all the mighty men of wealth, from each man fifty shekels of silver to pay the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria returned and did not stay there in the land.

20 Then Menahem exacted the money from Israel, even from all the mighty men of wealth, from each man fifty shekels of silver to pay the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria returned and did not remain there in the land.

20 Menahem exacted the money from all of Israel's powerful and wealthy men, 50 shekels from each, to pay the king of Aram. As a result, the king of Aram retreated and did not remain there in the land.

20 And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

21 Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

21 Now the rest of the acts of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

21 The rest of Menahem's activities, including everything that he did, are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, are they not?

**21** And the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

22 And Menahem lay down with his fathers, and his son Pekahiah became king in his place.

22 And Menahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahiah his son became king in his place.

22 Then Menahem died, as did his ancestors, and his son Pekahiah reigned in his place.

22 And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

- After Menahem died, he was succeeded by his son Pekahiah

(27) Pekahiah's reign in the North (15:23-26)

**23** In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, **Pekahiah** the son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* for two years.

**23** In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* two years.

**23** Menahem's son Pekahiah became king over Israel for two years during the fiftieth year of the reign of King Azariah of Judah.

**23** In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

- "...Pekahiah" - "Yahweh Has Opened the Eyes"; he reigned two years in Samaria (742-740 BC)

24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel.

24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

24 He did what the LORD considered to be evil. Just as Nebat's son Jeroboam had led Israel into sin, so also Pekahiah did not stop doing the same thing.

24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

25 Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, his officer, conspired against him and struck him in Samaria, in the castle of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of the Gileadites, and he killed him and became king in his place.

25 Then Pekah son of Remaliah, his officer, conspired against him and struck him in Samaria, in the castle of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of the Gileadites, and he killed him and became king in his place.

25 Then Remaliah's son Pekah, Pekahiah's officer, conspired against him with Argob and Arieah. Accompanied by 50 Gileadite men, Pekah attacked Pekahiah inside the palace of the king's compound in Samaria, executed him, and reigned as king in his place.

25 But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room.

- His reign ended when one of his military officers, Pekah, led 50 men, under his command from Gilead in Transjordan, to Samaria and there assassinated the king. Argob and Arieah, possibly princes, were also killed.

— This took place in the citadel, the most secure part of the palace, in Samaria

— Pekah then assumed the throne of Israel

26 Now as for the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and everything that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

26 The rest of Pekahiah's activities, including everything he did, are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

**26** And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

(28) Pekah's reign in the North 15:27-31)

**27** In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and he reigned* for twenty years.

**27** In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* twenty years.

**27** Remaliah's son Pekah began a 20-year reign as Israel's king during the fifty-second year of King Azariah of Judah.

**27** In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.

- The 52nd year of Azariah was 740 BC (his 52nd year, the last, extended into part of 739). At this time Pekah began to rule over Israel from Samaria.

— Although the writer did not clarify this point, it seems that Pekah had been ruling over Israel in Gilead since 752 BC, the year Menahem assassinated Shallum. This must be the case based on the chronological references given in the text.

- He had apparently never accepted Menahem's claim to the throne and had set up a rival government east of the Jordan River in Gilead
- There Pekah lived as a military officer under the Samarian government, until the time was right for him to assert himself
- In 740 BC he assassinated Pekahiah and started ruling in Samaria where he remained until he was overthrown in 732 BC

28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel.

28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

28 He did what the LORD considered to be evil by never abandoning the sins of Nebat's son Jeroboam, by which he caused Israel to sin.

28 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

**29** In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he led their populations into exile to Assyria.

**29** In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

29 During the lifetime of King Pekah of Israel, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria attacked. He captured the cities of Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, and Hazor. He also captured Gilead, Galilee, and the entire territory of Naphtali, and carried its people off to Assyria.

29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

- Part of Pekah's reason for opposing Menahem and his son Pekahiah seems to have been a different conviction regarding Israel's foreign policy toward Assyria

— Menahem was conciliatory and willing to submit to Assyrian control (Cf. v19-20); Pekah, on the other hand, apparently favored a harder line of resistance

- Popular reaction against Menahem's taxing of the people may have encouraged Pekah to make his move

— When Pekah had taken power in Samaria he made a treaty with Rezin, king of Damascus, against Assyria

— This resulted in Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) leading a campaign into Philistia, Israel, and later Aram in 734-732 BC. In these battles he took Ijon, a town in Naphtali, Abel Beth Maacah, just south of Ijon, Janoah, another neighboring village, Kedesh, just west and north of Lake Huleh, and Hazor, south of Kedesh. He took all of Gilead east of the Jordan River and Galilee, the northern portion of Israel, including the territory of Naphtali, and he deported the people to Assyria.

— This first deportation of the Israelites probably took place in 733 BC. A second deportation followed 11 years later in 722 BC.

This was the beginning of the elimination of Israel as an independent state.

30 And Hoshea the son of Elah formed a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck him and put him to death, and he became king in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck him and put him to death and became king in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

30 So during the twentieth year of the reign of Uzziah's son Jotham, Elah's son Hoshea conspired against Remaliah's son Pekah, attacked him, executed him, and became king in his place.

30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

- As a result of Israel's defeat, Hoshea conspired against Pekah assassinated him, and succeeded him as king of Israel in 732 BC

— On one of the Assyrian inscriptions, Tiglath-Pileser III claims to have had a hand in establishing Hoshea on the throne

— Evidently Hoshea submitted to being a pawn of Assyria as Menahem and Pekahiah had done

31 Now as *for* the rest of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

31 The rest of Pekah's activities, including everything that he accomplished, are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

**31** And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

(29) Jotham's reign in the South (15:32-38)

**32** In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel, **Jotham** the son of Uzziah king of Judah became king.

**32** In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah became king.

**32** Uzziah's son Jotham became king over Judah during the second year of the reign of 20 Remaliah's son Pekah, king of Israel.

**32** In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.

- "...Jotham" - "Yahweh is Perfect"

33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

33 He was 25 years old when he became king. He reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. Zadok's daughter Jerusha was his mother.

33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.

- Jotham reigned over Judah for 16 years (750-735 BC); it began while Pekah was in power in Gilead

— He shared the last four years as co-regent with his son Ahaz (until 732 BC)

34 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he acted in accordance with everything that his father Uzziah had done.

34 He did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

34 He did what the LORD considered to be right, following everything his father Uzziah had done,

34 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

35 Only the high places were not eliminated; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD.

35 Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD.

35 except the high places were not torn down, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. But he rebuilt the upper gate of the LORD's Temple.

35 Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.

- Jotham was a good king, but he did not remove the high places (Cf. comments on 1 Kings 22:43)

— Only one of Jotham's accomplishments is recorded in 2 Kings: he rebuilt the Upper (north) Gate (aka Benjamin Gate, Jer 20:2; new gate, Jer 26:10; 36:10; north gate, Ezek 8:3; altar gate, Ezek 8:5) of the temple, perhaps to encourage the worship of *Yahweh*

— Jotham's other building projects and his subjection of the Ammonites are recorded in 2 Chr 27:3-5

— The reason he became a powerful king is that "he walked steadfastly before the LORD his God" (2 Chr 27:6)

36 Now as for the rest of the acts of Jotham which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

36 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

36 The rest of Jotham's activities, including everything that he accomplished, are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, are they not?

**36** Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

37 In those days the LORD began to send Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah.

37 In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah.

37 Right about that time, the LORD began to send King Rezin of Aram and Remaliah's son Pekah against Judah.

37 In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.

- The Syro-Ephraimitic alliance referred to here features significantly in 16:5-8 and Is 7:1-17  
— Judah's neighbors to the north and east were eager to secure Judah's help in combating the growing Assyrian threat

— They turned against Judah because Judah did not join them (v37). The reasons for this will follow in the discussion of Ahaz, Judah's king (2 Kings 16).

38 And Jotham lay down with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of his father David; and his son Ahaz became king in his place.

38 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Ahaz his son became king in his place.

38 Meanwhile, Jotham died, as did his ancestors, and was buried with them in the City of David, his ancestor. Then Jotham's son Ahaz reigned in his place.

38 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.