



2 KINGS 9-15

It's a time of deterioration ...

Among the rulers there's political intrigue, new ideology, pride, deceit, apostasy, moral decay, corruption and selfish ambition

Both Israel and Judah are sinking to the level of their surrounding culture

God seems to put one question to each king ...

"Will you follow your will ... or Mine?"

LESSON THEME: They never got past the temptation to follow their own will

Israel's "My Will" Kings

20 kings from Jeroboam I (930 BC) to Hoshea (732 BC)

All 20 declared "evil" in the sight of the Lord

Many were assassinated by their successors

All succumbed to the temptation to pursue their own wills/idolatry rather than God's will

Finally deported by the Assyrians in 722 BC, per Deuteronomy 28-29

They Gave In to Temptation

They followed their own wills, not God's ...

Put enhancing or protecting themselves first

Desired power, prestige or some kind of payoff

Believed the ends justified the means and so used deception, or even tried to use evil, that good would result (e.g. lying; cf. Rom 3:8)

Settled for what they could take rather than waiting for what God might give them

Planned first and prayed second ... if at all

Called on the Lord in times of trouble, but ignored Him once the danger had passed

Entered partnerships with the ungodly

Pursued their own agenda, not the Lord's counsel

May have gotten what they wanted; not satisfied

Developed an increasing spiritual callousness

Their reward: the inevitable spiritual barrenness of a self-gratifying life

Judah's Kings Were Inconsistent

20 kings from Rehoboam (930 BC) to Zedekiah (597 BC)

At most only 10 (50%) of them were declared "good" in the Lord's sight

8-10 avoided the temptation to pursue their own wills and pursued God's for the most part

5 of 10 did it "swimming upstream," meaning they didn't inherit a godly situation

They Avoided the Temptation

They followed God's will, not their own ...

Loved God most and put obedience to Him first

Trusted Him and His promises even when He couldn't easily be seen

Courageously walked by faith as a minority

Walked in the patience born of faith

Promoted obedience, worship, righteousness and peace
Produced revival among the "lukewarm" godly
Received what they needed and were satisfied
Driven by love, gratitude and humility
Took time to seek the Lord's counsel *before* settling on an agenda
Grew in spiritual sensitivity and responsiveness
Received victory, the spiritual fruitfulness of God's blessing and His "well done" regarding the contribution of their lives to history

APPLICATION: We never get past the temptation to follow our own will

Danger: High Temptation Zone!

When you're out of fellowship with God and/or other believers
When there's an opportunity for personal enhancement (e.g. power, prestige, pay, etc.)
When there's a felt need for self-protection or there's fear (e.g. job, peer pressure, sin, etc.)
When you let feelings or even reason usurp your faith (e.g. relationships, impatience, etc.)

Avoiding the Temptation

Follow God's will, not your own ...
Love God most and put obedience to Him first
Courageously trust Him and His promises even when you can't see Him or your path clearly
Walk in the patience born of faith (Heb 6:12)
Promote obedience, worship, righteousness and peace wherever you are
Practice contentment regardless of your circumstances

Follow God's will, not your own ... (Romans 8)
The Spirit fulfills the law in us (v. 4)
The Spirit stands against the sinful nature (5-13)
The Spirit leads us in the present (14-17)
The Spirit guarantees our future (18-25)
The Spirit aids our prayers (26-27)
The Spirit is conforming us to Christ (28-30)
Through the Spirit, God is forever for us (31-39)

Follow God's will, not your own ...
Walk in the Spirit (Romans 8)
Move at the speed of the Spirit

You'll grow in spiritual sensitivity *and* responsiveness
You'll receive victory, the spiritual fruitfulness of God's blessing and His "well done" regarding the contribution of your life

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS *Private link; page is not searchable*: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

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Reigns of the Kings

The years of reign of each king

Kings of Judah

Kings of Israel

Rehoboam 1 Kings 14:21

17 (years)

Abijah 1 Kings 15:1-2

3

Asa 1 Kings 15:9-10

41

Jehoshaphat 1 Kings 22:41-42

25

Jehoram 2 Kings 8:16-17

8

Ahaziah 2 Kings 8:25-26

1

Athaliah (Queen) 2 Kings 11:1-4

7

Joash 2 Kings 12:1

40

Amaziah 2 Kings 14:1-2

29

Azariah 2 Kings 15:1-2

52

Jotham 2 Kings 15:32-33

16

Ahaz 2 Kings 16:1-2

16

Hezekiah 2 Kings 18:1-2

29

Manasseh 2 Kings 21:1

55

Amon 2 Kings 21:19

2

Josiah 2 Kings 22:1

31

Jehoahaz 2 Kings 23:31

<1 (3 months)

Jehoiakim 2 Kings 23:36

11

Jehoiachin 2 Kings 24:8

<1 (3 months)

Zedekiah 2 Kings 24:18

11

Jeroboam I 1 Kings 14:20

22 (years)

Nadab 1 Kings 15:25

2

Baasha 1 Kings 15:33

24

Elah 1 Kings 16:8

2

Zimri 1 Kings 16:15

<1 (7 days)

Tibni 1 Kings 16:21-22

4

Omri 1 Kings 16:23

12

Ahab 1 Kings 16:29

22

Ahaziah 1 Kings 22:51

2

Joram 2 Kings 3:1

12

Jehu 2 Kings 10:36

28

Jehoahaz 2 Kings 13:1

17

Jehoash 2 Kings 13:10

16

Jeroboam II 2 Kings 14:23

41

Zechariah 2 Kings 15:8

<1 (6 months)

Shallum 2 Kings 15:13

<1 (1 month)

Menahem 2 Kings 15:17

10

Pekahiah 2 Kings 15:23

2

Pekah 2 Kings 15:27

20

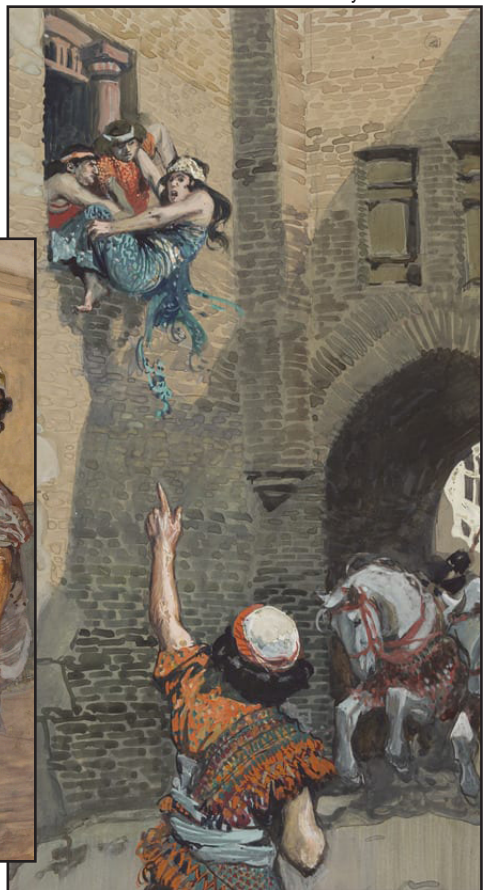
Hoshea 2 Kings 17:1

9

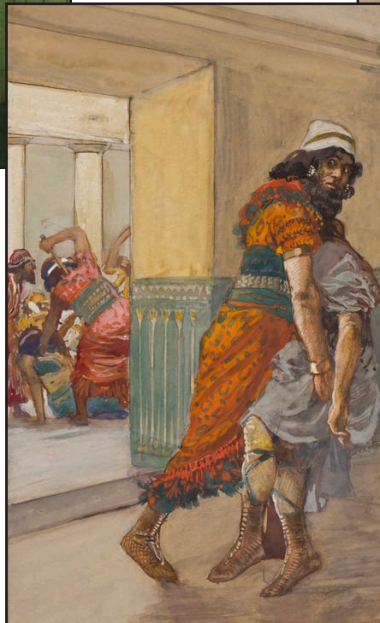
The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.co



"Joash Shooting the Arrow of Deliverance" by William Dyce



"The Death of Jezebel" by James Tissot



"Jotham Is Saved" by James Tissot



"Athaliah and Joash" by James Tissot

WHO WERE THESE PROPHETS?

Who? When? (B.C.) Ministered during the reign of these kings Main message Significance

Prophets of the Northern Kingdom
 Elijah 870-850 BC
 Elisha 853-798 BC
 Jonah 793-750? BC
 Amos 760-750 BC
 Hosea 760-722 BC

Prophets of the Southern Kingdom
 Micah 735-725 BC
 Isaiah 740-685 BC
 Nahum 645-615 BC
 Zephaniah 635-621 BC
 Huldah 632 BC
 Jeremiah 627-586 BC
 Habakkuk 612-589 BC
 Obadiah 598-580? BC

KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH
 After Solomon, the kingdom split in two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Here are the lineages of both dynasties. Jesus, the "Ion of Judah," eventually came from the kingly line of Judah.

2 Chr 3:10-16

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AHIJAH 934-909 Jeroboam I of Israel (1 Kings 11:29-39) Israel would split in two, and God had chosen Jeroboam to lead the 10 tribes. Warned him to remain obedient to God.

ELIJAH 875-848 Ahab of Israel (1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:11) In fiery style, urged wicked Ahab to turn back to God. Proved on Mount Carmel who the one true God is (1 Kings 18).

MICAH 865-853 Ahab would be unsuccessful in fighting the Arameans. It is foolish to move ahead with plans that are contrary to God's Word.

JEHU 853 Jehoshaphat of Judah (2 Chronicles 19:1-3) Partnerships with immoral people can lead us into trouble.

OBADIAH 855-840 (?) Jehoram of Judah (The book of Obadiah) God would judge the Edonites for taking advantage of God's people. Pride is one of the most dangerous sins because it causes us to take advantage of others.

ELISHA 848-797 Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash, all of Israel (2 Kings 2:1-9:1; 13:10-21) Expressed by his actions the importance of helping ordinary people in need. God is concerned about the everyday needs of his people.

JOEL 835-796 (?) Joash of Judah (The book of Joel) Because a plague of locusts had come to punish the nation, called the people to turn back to God before an even greater judgment occurred. While God judges all people for their sins, he gives eternal salvation only to those who have turned to him.

JONAH 793-753 Jeroboam II of Israel (2 Kings 14:25; the book of Jonah) Warned Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, to repent of its sins. God wants all nations to turn to him. His love reaches out to all peoples.

AMOS 760-750 Jeroboam II of Israel (The book of Amos) Warned those who exploited or ignored the needy. (In Amos's day, Israel was an affluent and materialistic society.) Believing in God is more than a personal matter. God calls all believers to work against injustices in society and to aid those less fortunate.

HOSEA 753-715 The last seven kings of Israel: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah (The book of Hosea) Condemned the people of Israel because they had sinned against God as an adulterous woman against her husband. When we sin, we sever our relationship to God, breaking our commitment to him. While all must answer to God for their sins, those who seek God's forgiveness are spared from eternal judgment.