



Lesson 142

The Fall of the Northern Kingdom: From Joash to Assyrian Captivity

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 14:8-16; 14:23-29; 15:8-31; 17:1-23 • Setting: circa 798 – 722 B.C., in Samaria • Main Characters: God, Joash, and the succeeding kings of Israel • Plot: Israel's failure in keeping the covenant results in their removal from the Promised Land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “ _____ ” • Climax: <i>2 Kings 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.</i> |
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King Joash Humiliates King Amaziah

1. (2 Ki. 14:8) In Judah, Amaziah came to the throne following the death of his father Joash. Meanwhile, in the northern kingdom, Joash the son of Jehoahaz sat on the throne. Amaziah sent a message to Joash saying, “Let us look one another in the face.” This was a challenge to open _____ .
 - a) (2 Ki. 14:9-10) Joash responded smugly; his thistle and cedar parable illustrated that Amaziah was nothing more than a useless weed compared to Joash the majestic cedar. Joash felt Amaziah was overconfident after his defeat of the _____ (14:10) and that his thinking he was at least an equal to Joash (implied in v 9) was delusional. He warned Amaziah against making war with Israel, lest he “bite off more than he can chew.”
 - b) (2 Ki. 14:11-14) Amaziah ignored Joash's warning, and the two nations went to battle in Bethshemesh. The northern army soundly defeated the southern army, and Joash captured Amaziah. Unsatisfied with merely defeating Judah, Joash continued on to _____ where he tore down the northwest wall, plundered the temple and palace, and took hostages back to Samaria, leaving Jerusalem vulnerable and humiliated.

From Jeroboam II to Hoshea

2. (2 Ki. 14:23-29) After the death of Joash, Jeroboam his son became king of Israel.
 - a) Jeroboam was a wicked king who ruled for 41 years. Despite his sinfulness, the LORD used him to save Israel from oppression (according to the word of the LORD through the prophet _____ – 2 Ki. 14:25).
 - b) (2 Ki. 15:8-12) After Jeroboam II died, his son Zechariah ruled for 6 months. Zechariah was assassinated by Shallum, who took over the throne. Thus, the LORD fulfilled his promise to Jehu that his sons would sit on the throne to the _____ generation.¹
3. (2 Ki. 15:13-14) Shallum reigned a full month before he was killed by Menahem.
 - a) During Menahem's 10-year reign, the Assyrians grew in power, conquering the Syrians and threatening Israel.
 - b) (2 Ki. 15:17-22) Menahem bought some time by paying the Assyrian king Pul a heavy tribute

¹ The four kings descending from Jehu were Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam II, and Zechariah.

(approximately 37 ____ of silver). Despite this, the captivity of Israel began as Assyrian kings removed the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh from the Promised Land (1 Ch. 5:26).

4. (2 Ki. 15:23-26) After Menahem's death, his son Pekahiah ruled a short two years before he was assassinated by his captain _____, who reigned in his stead.
5. (2 Ki. 15:27-31) Pekah reigned twenty years in Samaria. During his reign, Tiglath-pileser, the Assyrian king captured many Israelite cities. _____ conspired against Pekah and killed him.
6. (2 Ki. 17:1-5) Hoshea reigned for nine years in Samaria.
 - a) He ruled as a _____ king, paying tribute to the powerful Assyrian empire. Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, discovered that Hoshea was conspiring with the Egyptians, so he invaded Samaria, captured Hoshea, and carried off the remaining tribes of northern Israel.
 - b) Shalmaneser died during his three-year siege of Samaria and his son _____ completed the defeat of Israel² – thus, northern kingdom of Israel had come to an end. Only the kingdom of Judah remained in the land given to the original 12 tribes of Israel.

Application

7. The end of the kingdom of Israel is a sad and sobering story. To see them fade from blessed of God to scattered among the nations should serve as a warning to all. _____³ (the prophet) warned of their doom when he named his children *Lo-ammi* (meaning: not a people) and *Lo-ruhamah* (unpitied). Matthew Henry adds, "Now Canaan spued them out. When we read of their entry under Hoshea the son of Nun who would have thought that such as this should be their exit under Hoshea the son of Elah?"⁴
8. 2 Kings 17:7-23 recounts the reasons why the Israelites were removed from the land: paganism and syncretism had turned the hearts of the Hebrews against the LORD. They failed to uphold the covenant God made with them at Sinai. This shows the mercy of the New Covenant where God promises to give his people new _____ that will obey and not apostatize. *Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "captive" • 1. warfare; a) Edomites; b) Jerusalem • 2. a) Jonah; b) fourth • 3. b) tons • 4. Pekah • 5. Hoshea • 6. a) vassal; b) Sargon II • 7. Hosea • 8. hearts

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

² MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) p 459.

³ see Hosea 1:8, 9

⁴ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.