

SICK OF HIS SICKNESS WHEREOF HE DIED

2 KINGS 13:1 – 15:38

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~ The world incessantly repeats the tired old phrase: “... *the king is dead; long live the king!*” One world leader after another comes to the throne in endless succession. Well, this portion of Scripture regarding the kings of Israel and Judah has turned into exactly that type of repetition; and becomes about as confusing as it can possibly be. Following through with a competent study from this section through the end of Chronicles is a feat of determination. There is Jeroboam I and Jeroboam II, Jehoash, Joash, Jehoahaz, Ahaziah, Azariah, Amaziah, Remaliah, Pekah and Pekahiah; do you know which ones were good kings and which ones were bad? Which ones were kings of Israel, and which were kings of Judah? If you have thrown your hands up in frustration, then just refer to the chart provided below. It details all of the kings and prophets that prophesied to them. When we have these basic Biblical understandings, the Word of God will become much more meaningful to us.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

| JUDAH | | | | | ISRAEL | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|--|--|---|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| King | Reign | Character | Prophet | | King | Reign | Character | Prophet | |
| 1. Rehoboam | 931-913 BC | (17 yrs.) Bad | Shemaiah | | 1. Jeroboam I | 931-910 BC (22 yrs.) | Bad | Ahijah | |
| 2. Abijam | 913-911 | (3 yrs.) Bad | | | 2. Nadab | 910-909 | (2 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 3. Asa | 911-870 | (41 yrs.) Good | | | 3. Baasha | 909-886 | (24 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 4. Elah | 886-885 | (2 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 5. Zimri | 885 | (7 days) Bad | | |
| 4. Jehoshaphat | 870-848* | (25 yrs.) Good | | | 6. Omri | 885-874 | (12 yrs.) Bad | Elijah Micaiah | |
| 5. Jehoram | 848-841* | (8 yrs.) Bad | Obadiah | | 7. Ahab | 874-853 | (22 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 6. Ahaziah | 841 | (1 yr.) Bad | | | 8. Ahaziah | 853-852 | (2 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 7. Athaliah | 841-835 | (6 yrs.) Bad | | | 9. Joram | 852-841 | (12 yrs.) Bad | Elisha | |
| 8. Joash | 835-796 | (40 yrs.) Good | Joel | | 10. Jehu | 841-814 | (28 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 9. Amaziah | 796-767 | (29 yrs.) Good | | | 11. Jehoahaz | 814-798 | (17 yrs.) Bad | Jonah Amos Hosea | |
| 10. Azariah (or Uzziah) | 767-740* | (52 yrs.) Good | Isaiah | | 12. Jehoash | 798-782* | (16 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 13. Jeroboam II | 782-753* | (41 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 14. Zechariah | 753-752 | (6 mo.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 15. Shallum | 752 | (1 mo.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 16. Menahem | 752-742* | (10 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | 17. Pekahiah | 742-740 | (2 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 11. Jotham | 740-732* | (16 yrs.) Good | Micah | | 18. Pekah | 740-732* | (20 yrs.) Bad | | |
| 12. Ahaz | 732-716* | (16 yrs.) Bad | | | 19. Hoshea | 732-722 | (9 yrs.) Bad | | |
| | | | | | <i>(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)</i> | | | | |
| 13. Hezekiah | 716-687* | (29 yrs.) Good | | | | | | | |
| 14. Manasseh | 687-642* | (55 yrs.) Bad | Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah | | | | | | |
| 15. Amon | 642-640 | (2 yrs.) Bad | | | | | | | |
| 16. Josiah | 640-608 | (31 yrs.) Good | | | | | | | |
| 17. Jehoahaz | 608 | (3 mo.) Bad | | | | | | | |
| 18. Jehoiachim | 608-597 | (11 yrs.) Bad | | | | | | | |
| 19. Jehoiachin | 597 | (3 mo.) Bad | | | | | | | |
| 20. Zedekiah | 597-586 | (11 yrs.) Bad | | | | | | | |
| <i>(Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| *Co-regency | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | *Co-regency | | | | |

2 KINGS 13:1 – 15:38

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This report from our Spiritual Safari traverses a rugged portion of Scripture; and, quite frankly, it's also a little boring – so, we're going to hop-scotch through the highlights. When we understand these chapters properly, they minister to our hearts immensely; so, I hope you will pray for wisdom, understanding and discernment from the Holy Spirit, and that you will read the text very carefully in your own Bible. I would say this is a great place for the rulers of any nation, politician or the would-be politician to undertake a sincere, educated, correct and complete study of the Bible. Understanding this part of the Word of God is also very good for any nation, in and of itself.

We have been following both kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Ten tribes constitute the northern kingdom of Israel; and Judah and Benjamin comprise the southern kingdom of Judah. The line of David is still reigning in the southern kingdom at the time in which we are studying. As we know, the line of David will be followed right into the New Testament and on to the birth of the Lord Jesus – but not through Solomon; David's lineage to Christ ascends through another son, Nathan.

In our previous report, we saw David's family line nearly eliminated by Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, who had intermarried into the royal family of David. Only *one* grandson of Athaliah, Joash, escaped her murderous plot to kill them all. Joash was stolen away by a nurse and hidden for many years. Then, when the time was right Jehoiada, the high priest, destroyed Athaliah and brought Joash out as the rightful king of Judah. Joash reigned until he was forty-seven years old, when he was murdered by his own servants. We're examining a very bloody historical period – it isn't pretty. Even so, during this time of Joash's reign, it was a period of strong national revival. In fact, this was the first revival Judah had experienced. Further, this revival came at a most unlikely time; which may be the *ONLY* reason I still believe a revival is possible in our contemporary world. We'll see four more revival accounts in this Book of Kings before we complete it. When we get to Chronicles, we'll consider all of these again – in depth – from God's perspective.

As we begin this lengthy report, we see Jehoahaz come to the throne of Israel; and there is nothing sensational about him. People are allured into

believing sin and its seductively associated behaviors bring excitement and intrigue into one's life. Well, may I say, there's nothing quite as boring and mundane as a sinful lifestyle after a while. I'll admit the first few experiences of a decadent life can be dazzling; but the man who begins on a path of willful disobedience always reaches the day of regret. Sometimes they can't stop. By the time they get to that point, their lives are usually ruined, and they are as boring and repulsive to their friends and family as a criminal. They usually are criminals by that time. That's when life loses meaning and purpose. Sadly, this is an axiom of truth regarding sinfulness that holds for every man and woman who engages it. The real excitement and wonder of life happens only when God is moving and working through our existence. Most never realize that fulfillment; nor do they recognize how close He can be on the scene of our lives....

XIII

1 In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

~ Jeroboam was the benchmark of evil God used when comparing the kings in the northern kingdom of Israel; just as David was made the standard of righteousness for the few good kings in the southern kingdom of Judah. You will recall Jeroboam is the one who originally set up the two golden calves in Bethel and in Samaria. The children of Israel just never broke away from those golden calves. They are what kept the northern kingdom from worshipping the True and Living God in Jerusalem as commanded after the kingdom was divided.

When Ahab and Jezebel came to the throne, they redefined wicked lasciviousness on a whole new level of evil. They began the open and active worship of Baal and Ashteroth – which was straight demonism combined with mind-altering substance worship – psychoactive pharmaceutical drugs

and alcohol. This man, Jehoahaz, was like Jehu his father; he didn't go directly into worshipping Baal – and he never plumbed the depths of hell that Ahab and Jezebel did – but he did love those golden calves and all that they stood for. And that was bad enough.

As we read on Hazael, king of Syria – whom you will remember Elisha prophesied to – begins doing the very bad things in Israel Elisha had said he would do. As a result, Jehoahaz turns to the Lord and, amazingly, the Lord hears him cry out and sends a savior. To me, that is remarkable. It displays an utmost graciousness by God and how merciful He truly is towards the lost sinner. The minute he called upon the Lord – God heard him. His prayers were answered, and he was given the opportunity to deliver his people. Friends, you and I do not realize exactly how loving and good God really is. We have no concept of how good He has been, is being or will be to us. God is nothing *BUT* wonderful on display – even in the life of this bad king.

I know some of us would have advised the Lord to take some time to test Jehoahaz and determine if he truly intended to trust and obey Him. Most of us would have wanted some promises made up front denouncing calf worship. I thought we would have to see repentance before God would have lifted a finger to help him. Well, the Lord heard his prayer and He answered. Period. Now, let's be clear, this doesn't mean Jehoahaz will get by with his sins. In fact, even after this deliverance, they departed not from their sins; as we read in verse six.

Prosperity is *NOT* the evidence a nation or individual is walking with God, my friends. What happens in verse seven makes that perfectly clear. After this deliverance, and after God helped him – and when Jehoahaz didn't turn genuinely to God – he never was able to defend his kingdom again. God gives everyone a chance. We all have a free-will. After that, all we have is the record of Jehoahaz's death. It's the record of the average man, too. Immediately after that, another king assumes the throne with no ceremonial passage whatsoever, as Jehoahaz is immediately forgotten....

3 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

4 And Jehoahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.

5 (And the LORD gave Israel a Saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime.

6 Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria)

7 Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

9 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead.

10 In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years.

~ This section of Scripture becomes increasingly confusing as the names of both kings in the north and south are very similar; in fact, they're identical. It's easy to lose track completely regarding who is reigning and where and at what time. We also lose sight of the circumstances surrounding both kings. I think God left this mind-boggling section of Scripture this way for a very definite reason, too. When any king sank to this level of sin, God judged them at that time. To compound our inability to understand, we see another Jeroboam come up and we could begin to think history is repeating

itself. Of course, this a different Jeroboam, and he is going to take over the kingdom....

11 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein.

12 And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

13 And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

14 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

~ Elisha had been a mighty tower of strength in the northern kingdom. Quite frankly, Elisha had been what Elijah never quite was. This king is desperately heartbroken when Elisha gets sick – but the king in Elijah’s day wanted to kill him. That’s intriguing. When Elijah went up in a chariot of fire, they had a party in the palace. When Elisha passed away, the whole nation Israel mourned – you may be sure of that.

As we read on, Elisha accepts the visitation from Joash, but Elisha isn’t accepting sympathy! I think the flower bouquet from the royal family was rejected! Elisha is still a prophet of God on his death bed, and this is his death bed prophecy. Joash may be weepy, but he isn’t known for his faith in God. I don’t think he believed he would be victorious over Syria; because Joash didn’t believe God could or would deliver them! That discouragement and lack of faith causes Joash to quit.

I wonder how many wonderful projects for God never come to fruition today. Many are abandoned before they begin because the child of God meets some opposition, discouragement or disappointment; and he just quits. Those are the people who say, “... it wasn’t God’s will!” We have

more weak believers hiding behind that little phrase than we have strong believers who actually accomplish something in the Lord's work. It's piously simple to say, '... *it's not the will of God in my life.*' That's exactly what Joash said when he only smote the ground three times. If Joash had persisted, God *WOULD* have utterly destroyed the enemy and the entire course of Israel's national history would have been altered.

All we seem to have today is a cheap, easy believism. It's a soft and flimsy faith. It renders most Christian work pointless; which is all Satan cares about. If the devil can keep you busy doing nothing for God – he wins. This is particularly true when it comes to Christian *giving*; and it results in a Christian Tragedy's wishful thinking. Expectations are always dashed. Friends, God expects us to move for Him and believe He can and will use us. That should be our motivation to get busy – but – it's not. Many people say they want to do something for God, or support His work but, years later, they hare still sitting there like a bump on a log doing nothing; and they are usually more ashamed of themselves than they ever were. God can and will use us, but we have to put in a little effort. These are some awesome spiritual lessons in this seemingly dry and dusty section of Scripture. It's a shame no one ever reads or recognizes these truths any more...

15 And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.

16 And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

17 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

22 But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

23 And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.

24 So Hazael king of Syria died; and Benhadad his son reigned in his stead.

25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

~ Even after his death, Elisha was a great influence of power and pillar of strength. I ask you – do you believe the Bible record of Elisha? There are several recorded things that are quite difficult to accept as reality. Do you believe verse twenty-one? What about the account of the ax head? How about the woman whose sons had been sold into slavery and how she sold the pots of oil to pay her debt? We can't just believe some parts of the Bible; because if we don't believe it *all* – then we don't believe any of it. Jehoash beat the Syrians according to the faith he had. Those were three times of great deliverance for Israel; and God would have given them many more *IF* the king had only trusted and obeyed Him....

XIV

1 In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.

2 He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

~ So, another confusing chapter introduction brings us to the reign of Amaziah – a good king. In fact, Amaziah was an exceptionally good king; in spite of the fact that he didn't *quite* meet the standard set by God – that standard being that of what David did. As we have seen time and time again, all kings of Judah – good and bad – have their mothers name listed with them. If you ladies have a son, you are responsible for that little monster! God's records will tell us clearly whether a momma was a good or bad mom. They will get credit for a good son; and be responsible on some level for a bad son.

Moving on, a civil war between the two kingdoms rages on. We also see Jeroboam II become king over the northern kingdom of Israel. Well, we also learn from our reading we are going to revisit all of these kings when we get to Chronicles. Verse nineteen finds Amaziah fleeing to Lachish – which is *WAY* up in the north – and they kill him and bring him back to Jerusalem....

3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.

4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

5 And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.

6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded,

saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

7 He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.

8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face.

9 And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.

10 Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldest thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?

11 But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah.

12 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents.

13 And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Bethshemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

14 And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

15 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

16 And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his stead.

17 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

18 And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

19 Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem: and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there.

20 And they brought him on horses: and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

21 And all the people of Judah took Azariah, which was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

22 He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years.

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

25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

26 For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.

27 And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

28 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.

XV

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

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 Jeholiah of Jerusalem.

~ Azariah is also known as Uzziah – and Isaiah is the prophet who prophesied to him. We don't read much about Azariah/Uzziah at this time; but we'll learn all about him in Chronicles. Remember, Kings is the history of Israel and Judah given from *man's* point of view. Chronicles is the same historical period presented from *God's* perspective. One thing Uzziah did that he shouldn't have done was intrude into the office of the priests. That was when he became smitten with leprosy. Even so, Uzziah was a good king. Isaiah will be heartbroken when Uzziah dies because the nation will slip back into idolatry and be taken in captivity soon after. As we read on in this chapter, we see Jeroboam's story; and he didn't do well. All we can say is he was a bad king. Again, this isn't the most fun and exciting history lesson that we have in the Word of God....

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

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

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.

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 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.

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.

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

16 Then Menahem smote Tiphsah, 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.

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.

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 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.

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

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.

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.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God concludes this report passing through dark days, and seemingly endless years of intermittent reigns by various kings in Israel. We went over this rather quickly; but we'll meet all of these kings again in Chronicles. In the next leg of our expedition, we'll pick up again right here. I hope you'll read along with us and, until then, may God richly bless you ~