

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Kings Chapters 14-15! 4/20-21/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221
NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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One tap mobile: +16699006833,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUX7eWEpN>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).
TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or MapQuest (mapquest.com), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjn0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

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OPENING PRAYER

Review: 2 KINGS – Chapter 12 – Jehoash Repairs the Temple; Hazael Threatens Jerusalem; Death of Joash; Chapter 13 – Jehoash Reigns in Israel; Death of Elisha; Israel Recaptures Cities from Syria.

THIS WEEK: 2 KINGS – Chapter 14 – Amaziah Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-22); Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel – (vs. 23-29); Chapter 15 – Azariah Reigns in Judah – (vs. 1-7); Zechariah Reigns in Israel – (vs. 8-12); – Shallum Reigns in Israel – (vs. 13-16); Menahem Reigns in Israel – (vs. 17-22); Pekahiah Reigns in Israel – (vs. 23-26); Pekah Reigns in Israel – (vs. 27-31); Jotham Reigns in Judah – (vs. 32-38).

Below is a summary substantiating the truthfulness of the Bible. It is so encouraging as we go through the kings of Israel and realizing that we are being given the truth! THE WORD OF GOD IS ALL TRUE!

“WHAT IS AN EXPERT?”

From an address by Robert Dick Wilson (1856-1930) made called “*What is an Expert?*” It was printed in the Bible league quarterly in 1955.

Robert Dick Wilson was a scholar at the turn of the last century; taught at Princeton; was the head of Semitic languages. He could read and write in forty-five ancient Semitic languages. When he was 25 yrs old he could read the NT in nine different languages. He had the NT memorized in Hebrew and could

quote the NT from Matthew to Revelation in Hebrew without missing a syllable and had many of the OT books memorized in Hebrew.

He said this, "For 45 years continuously I have devoted myself to one great study of the OT. In all its languages, in all its archaeology, in all of its translations. The critics of the Bible who go to it to find fault, claim themselves all knowledge, all virtue, all love of the truth, one of their favorite phrases is 'All Scholars agree.' Well, when a man says that I wish to know who the scholars are and what they agree on. Where do they get their evidence? I defy any man to make an attack on the OT on the ground of evidence that I cannot investigate.

After I learned the necessary languages, I set about the investigation of every single consonant in the Hebrew OT there are about **one million two hundred fifty thousand** of them. it took me many years to achieve my task. I had to observe variations in the text in the manuscripts, notes of the Massorites, and older various versions, parallel passages, and conjectural emendations of critics; and then I had to classify the results of every character, every consonant, to reduce the OT criticism to an absolutely objective science, something which is based on evidence and not opinion. The result of those 45 years of study which I have given to the text has been this, I can affirm that there is not a page of the OT concerning which you need to have any doubt!

For example, to illustrate its accuracy, there are twenty-nine ancient kings whose names are mentioned not only in the Bible but also on monuments we've uncovered of their own time. There are also 195 consonants in those twenty-nine proper names. Yet we find that in the documents of the Hebrew OT there are only two consonants out of the 195 that have ever been called into question, and they are all in the same way as they are inscribed on their monuments, which archaeologists have dated and discovered. Some of these go back four thousand years."

He says the names in the OT are **exactly spelled the way** that they have been turned up on the monuments (some of them with four thousand years of time on them) and every letter is clear and correct. Compare this accuracy with the greatest scholar of his age, the Librarian at Alexandria Egypt 200 BC. He compiled a catalog of the kings of Egypt 38 in all and of the entire number only 3 or 4 are recognizable. He also made a list of the kings of Assyria and in only one case can we tell who he's talking about, and that one is not spelled correctly.

Or take Ptolemy who drew up a register of the eighteen kings of Babylon, not one of them is properly spelled, you could not make them out at all if you didn't know some of the outside sources.

If anyone talks about the Bible ask him about the kings mentioned in it. There are twenty-nine kings referred to, ten different countries among these twenty-nine. **All of which are included in the Bible**, and on the monuments, **every one of these is given their right name in the Bible, their right country, their right place in correct chronological order.**

Think what this means!!! What do we hold in our hands?!?!?! Jesus says this in Revelation chapter 3 to the last day's Church.

His Word, hold to it!!! Hold fast! The Word of God, inspired, preserved, every word important, every letter important, integrity of the text handed to us! (*Matt 24:34-35*) Jesus talking, "*Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*"

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

2Ki 14:1 *In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king.*

- Now, there are kings by same names, both in the north and the south, close to each other. The king in the north, Joash the son of Jehoahaz, and then Amaziah, who was the son of Joash, the king of the south.

2Ki 14:2-4 *He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. [3] And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD (2Ch 25:2b) but not with a loyal heart), yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done. [4] However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.*

- **Most of those high places around Jerusalem were mountain or hilltop places** where altars were built to the LORD, but it was against the law to worship outside of the temple precincts, to sacrifice or to burn incense. There were still some of the high places that were dedicated to Baal and to Ashtoreth, but primarily these were places where people would go to worship Jehovah, but unprescribed by God, but because it was more convenient than traveling to Jerusalem. We must always be aware of a “more convenient” religion.
- **There are wonderful things about what we believe but everything we believe is not convenient.** It is not convenient to turn the other cheek, nor to give a soft answer to turn away wrath. It is not convenient when people are picking on you and stabbing you. It is not convenient all the time, but it is wonderful if we are in a living relationship with Jesus Christ, to lay our heads on the pillow at night, hearing Him say, “You did well today, returning good for evil.”
- **Amaziah, like too many kings before him, encouraged the worship of the LORD at the temple,** as the law of Moses required, but they did not go far enough, demanding that the people of the land cease their worship up on the various mountain tops around Israel.

2Ki 14:5 *Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.*

- **He did bring justice upon those** who had killed his father, who was the king.

2Ki 14:6 *But the children of the murderers he did not execute, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses (Deu 24:16), in which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for his own sin."*

- **Notice that Amaziah is following a command** that is in (Deu 24:16) "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin. Also, in (Eze 18:20) The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.
- **In the ancient pagan culture when you killed the father,** The response would be to kill all of his kids. Because you couldn't run the risk that one of them would become your enemy and then try and kill you. But here it is, and there's some risk involved with him taking this step to obey the word of God.
- **Amaziah obeyed the word of God.** He says, All right, I'm going to stay within those boundaries and then trust the complications that occur related to my obedience to the LORD. God blessed him in his reign. Because of his obedience, God gave him victory over the Edomites.

2Ki 14:7 *He killed ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt, and took Sela (Petra) by war, and called its name Joktheel to this day.*

- **In 2 Chronicles chapter 24:5-16 we are told the details of Amaziah's war** with Edom. God blessed him in giving him victory over Edom, even though he had hired 100,000 mercenaries from Israel. The anger of the Lord was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent a prophet who told him that that was not right, that he was not trusting in God, So Amaziah discharged them. The LORD gave Amaziah victory over the Edomites.
- **After the victory, Amaziah foolishly brought back to Israel the gods of the people of Seir,** setting them up to be his gods and bowed down before them! This showed his deep idolatry, worshipping the gods of the enemy, who were unable to defend or help the Edomites! This victory brought out the worst in Amaziah, as he turned to idolatry, persecution, revenge, pride, and apostasy.

2Ki 14:8 *Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."*

- **This is a declaration of war with his brethren in the north, in the kingdom of Israel.** The problem here is that Jehoash's forces were very seasoned warriors. They have just come from of a series of victories with Syria, one of the dominant powers in the region at that time. It was like Amaziah, who is basically a single-A baseball team wanting to take on the New York Yankees! Amaziah is completely outclassed in what he is doing, but he is so lifted up in pride that he makes this declaration of war.

2Ki 14:9 *And Jehoash king of Israel sent (a parable) to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.*

- **In the parable, the thistle was Amaziah, the cedar tree was Jehoash,** and the desire to have his daughter as the husband's bride was setting himself on an equal, with Jehoash. But Jehoash said, “A wild animal came by, and knocked over and trampled the thistle.” In other words, “You are nothing man!”

- As Jehosh's clever parable indicates, Amaziah was but a little thistle. The result? (*Pro 16:18*) *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.* Judah was soundly defeated by Israel; Jerusalem was partly destroyed, and the LORD's treasury emptied. Had Amaziah remained in his own land and given God the glory for his victories, he would not have become captive to Israel. (*Isa 42:8*) *I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.* Amaziah did both!
- **We are to give all the glory and praise to God! Here is a great example of the result of not giving God the glory, but taking it for ourself! And giving his praise to another god! (Like Amaziah did)**

2Ki 14:10 You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?"

- Jehosh sent back a message with a parable, and said, "Look, you are excited, you are proud, because you have had a victory over Edom. Do not get carried away. Just enjoy the victory that you have. Stay at home, and glory in your past accomplishments, but do not meddle with trouble so that you fall."
- Amaziah has no leading from the LORD here, so God allows him in his pride to enter into this, to chasten him.
- Oh, that we would learn the lesson of the danger of meddling. How often that we as Christians meddle in areas that we have no business being there, which usually ends in defeat. We meddle around with things the Lord specifically tells us we are not to have anything to do with it. You meddle around in the world. The Lord said, (*1Jn 2:15*) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- **Do not meddle! Being lifted in pride leads us into conflicts that we should never, ever be involved in, and then accompanying defeat, which it causes. Whenever the LORD greatly uses us, we are susceptible to being lifted up in pride and to meddle. Help us LORD in such situations to simply say, Lord, You were amazing, using me in that situation. Now, God, I know myself well enough that I am going to get lifted up in pride and will probably stick my nose into somebody's business that I should not. Please help me not to do that!**

2Ki 14:11 But Amaziah would not heed. Therefore Jehosh king of Israel went out; so he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh (Samson country), which belongs to Judah.

- Rather than waiting to be attacked, Jehosh sent his troops south to Beth Shemesh. He and Amaziah faced each other.

2Ki 14:12-14 And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent. [13] Then Jehosh king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehosh, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh; and he went to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits. [14] And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

- Amaziah had been warned not to meddle. He would not listen to the warning, and as a result he was defeated. Amaziah lost part of his defenses, as the wall of Jerusalem was torn down on the north side. His defenses were destroyed, and his treasures were taken. Just because he would not listen but insisted on meddling. So often it is the case with us. We insist on meddling around until the enemy defeats us.
- With that defeat comes the destruction of our defenses. You are not as strong as you once were, having once given in, you do not have the same defenses the second time, or the third, or the fourth. A valuable treasure is lost.
- **How susceptible am I to meddling, getting into areas into which I should not ever get into? Do I recognize how meddling leads to sin? That once I have sinned, my defense is lowered. I become much more likely to repeat or continue in that sin, which leads to further separation from my Lord!**

2Ki 14:15-17 Now the rest of the acts of Jehosh which he did—his might, and how he fought (defeated) with Amaziah king of Judah—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [16] So Jehosh rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place. [17] Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehosh the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

- Amaziah was restored into the position of king for an additional fifteen years after the death of Jehosh. His reign was ineffective due to the hostility of the people.

2Ki 14:18-19 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [19] And they formed a conspiracy against him (Amaziah) in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

- **Amaziah was slain by his own subjects, who hated him** for his meddling in going to battle against Israel and being defeated. They were too upset with him, especially for the unthinkable breach made in their walls by Joash, king of Israel.

2Ki 14:20 Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.

- **Like father; like son!** Joash, Amaziah's father had been assassinated, and now Amaziah is assassinated.

2Ki 14:21 And all the people of Judah took Azariah (also called Uzziah – (2 Chr 26:1), who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

- **Azariah (Uzziah) probably had begun to reign at the age of sixteen** in 790 BC when his father Amaziah was captured by Jehoash (2Ki 14:13). Azariah ruled with him as co-regent from 782-767 BC (2Ki 14:17). In 767 BC when Amaziah was killed (2Ki 14:19), Azariah began his sole rule (2Ki 15:1).

2Ki 14:22 He (Azariah) built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king (Amaziah) rested with his fathers.

- **After his ascent of the throne, Uzziah built and fortified, Elath**, the Idumaeen port (1Ki 9:26), and restored it to Judah again. It is evident from this that Uzziah completed the renewed subjugation of Edom which his father had begun. Elath is down on the Red Sea, in the area of the Gulf of Aqaba, it is across from present Eilat, which means that he again went into the area of Edom, and conquered the area of Edom.
- **The name Azariah may be more familiar to you, as the name of Uzziah**. He is called by both names. The name Azariah means, "The LORD is my help." Uzziah means, "The LORD is my strength." We have a more complete history of him in 2 Chronicles than we have here in 2 Kings. He reigned for fifty-two years. He was a popular king, having had a powerful rule. During his reign, Judah prospered immensely. At the death of Azariah, is when Isaiah began to prophesy.
- **We are beginning to get into the ministries of Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea** at this point in the Old Testament.
- **We read in (Isa 6:1, 5-8) In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. [5] So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." [6] Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. [7] And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." [8] Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."**

Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel

2Ki 14:23-24 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam (3rd generation of Jehu Dynasty) the son of Joash (2nd generation of Jehu Dynasty), king of Israel, became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years. [24] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

- **He did evil in the sight of the LORD** as did all of the other kings in the northern kingdom. Think of this as Jeroboam II. He was a strong king from a military standpoint.

2Ki 14:25 He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath (150 miles north of Galilee) to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher.

- **Jeroboam II restored the territory of Israel**. His greatest accomplishment was the restoration of Israel's boundaries to approximately their extent in Solomon's time, excluding the territory belonging to Judah.
- **This is the time of the prophet of Jonah and of his prophecy**. Also in the northern kingdom, during the reign of Jeroboam, there came Amos from Tekoa, south, and east of Bethlehem. Amos came up to Jeroboam, and prophesied, concerning Jeroboam, and all. Also, during this time, Hosea and Jonah were prophesying.

2Ki 14:26-27 For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter; and whether bond or free, there was no helper for Israel. [27] And the LORD did not say 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.

- **The explanation for Jonah's prophecy is given here**. The LORD had witnessed the heavy, bitter affliction borne by everyone in Israel with no human help available (2Ki 14:26). Further, the LORD had not decreed

Israel's final doom (2K 14:27). To "blot out the name of Israel from under heaven" meant to annihilate Israel totally, leaving no trace or memory of her (Deu 9:14; 29:20). Thus, moved with compassion, the LORD used Jeroboam II's reign to rescue His suffering people. However, as the books of Hosea and Amos show, Israel did not respond to God's grace with repentance.

2Ki 14:28-29 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did—his might, how he made war, and how he recaptured for Israel, from Damascus and Hamath, what had belonged to Judah—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? [29] So Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. Then Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

- Now, the northern kingdom goes through some real times of anarchy.

Azariah (Uzziah) Reigns in Judah

2Ki 15:1-2 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel (who reigned forty-one years), Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king. [2] He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jeholiah of Jerusalem.

- *Fifty-two years.* (792-740 BC) Azariah was sixteen when he began his fifteen year co-regency with his father Amaziah.

2Ki 15:3-4 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done, [4] except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

- **Uzziah was a leper unto the day of his death** and dwelt in a separate house. Being a leper, he was cut off from the house of the LORD, and Jotham his son was over the king's south, judging the people of the land. So, his son comes and serves alongside him as a co-regent. It tells us here that which was right in the sight of the LORD, as did Amaziah's father, yet he did not remove all of the high places which he should have done.

2Ki 15:5 Then the LORD struck the king, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; so he dwelt in an isolated house. And Jotham the king's son was over the royal house, judging the people of the land.

- **In 2 Chronicles 26, we are given the story of how it happened.** He was a very popular and powerful king. He went into the holy place in the temple to burn incense before the altar of incense. The high priest, along with eighty other priests, came in and challenged him. It has not been arranged for you to burn incense before the LORD. That is the job of the priest. "Get out of here!" Uzziah raised his hand against the high priest, but as he did, they were amazed, because they saw leprosy just break out all over his body. So, the LORD smote him with this leprosy, because of his intrusion into an office to which he was not called! Now God called him to be a king. God did not call him to be a priest! Thus, he had no right intruding into the area of the priesthood.
- **It is important to know what God has called you to be and not try to be something God did not make you.** One of the frustrations of the Christian experience, is created by our endeavor to be something that God did not make us.
- **Is there any part of my ministry that I am trying to fulfill, that the Lord has not called me into? Lord, help me to be sure that I am spending my time and effort only on those things that You have called me to do, especially when new areas of ministry opportunities arise.**

2Ki 15:6 -7 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? [7] So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

- **Azariah (Uzziah) was a popular king.** Everybody was talking about him. He had developed a very strong and powerful reign.
- **Now back to the north, there is much chaos!** During fifty-two years that the one fellow is king down there in Judah. But, up in the north, man they are going through kings like they are going out of style.

Zechariah Reigns in Israel

2Ki 15:8-10 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah (4th generation of Jehu Dynasty) the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. [9] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD (same description as other kings of Israel), as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. [10] Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck and killed him in front of the people; and he reigned in his place.

- **Shallum assassinated Zechariah** and took over the throne.

2Ki 15:11-12 Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. [12] This was the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it was.

- Earlier when Jehu wiped out the worship of Baal, and Jezebel, the LORD said, "Because of your zeal in doing this, I will give you four generations to sit upon the throne." It was a longer dynasty than any other dynasty in the nation of Israel. He had more generations, and so this was the fulfillment of the word of the LORD, from Elisha to Jehu.

Shallum Reigns in Israel

2Ki 15:13 Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.

- Shallum, who murdered the king to get the throne, reigned for a full month! Things are getting bad.

2Ki 15:14-15 For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, came to Samaria, and struck Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; and he reigned in his place. [15] Now the rest of the acts of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he led, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

- Real anarchy is setting in as they are just murdering off the kings, one after another, taking over the throne. It was a real period of deterioration, as far as the nation goes. They are heading downhill quickly, heading on to the end of the history of the northern kingdom. It is rapidly approaching in this period of spiritual and civil confusion. It is now about 753 BC. In about thirty years, in 722 BC, Assyria will take the northern ten tribes of Israel captive.

2Ki 15:16 Then from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphshah, all who were there, and its territory. Because they did not surrender, therefore he attacked it. All the women there who were with child he ripped open.

- They refused to recognize him, this assassin king as the king of Israel. He gets upset over all of that. He not only conquers the city and destroys human life, but he does it to such a degree that he kills every pregnant woman in the city, ripping open their bellies! This is ruthless! It is brutal! Menahem does it to intimidate the rest of the nation! He is a military man. He is hardened. The Syrians and the Assyrians, they were famous for doing this to pregnant women. It is unbelievable what man is capable of doing once we move away from God and His Word! (*Amo 1:13*) Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, that they might enlarge their territory."

Menahem Reigns in Israel

2Ki 15:17-18 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi became king over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. [18] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD (same description as other kings of Israel); he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

- Menahem's description is the same story for all of the kings of Israel. "He did evil in the sight of the LORD."

2Ki 15:19-20 Pul king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave (bought off) Pul a thousand talents of silver (37 tons, worth millions), that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control. [20] And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land.

- Menahem exacted fifty talents of silver from each very wealthy man, and bought off Pul, the Assyrian king. This is the first mention in *Kings* of Assyria, but it begins to rise now, in power. The king, Pul, took the title of Tiglath-Pileser. There is an Assyrian historical account that has been discovered by the archeologists, in which he makes mention of this Menahem, king of Samaria, paying him tribute.

2Ki 15:21-22 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? [22] So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

Pekahiah Reigns in Israel

2Ki 15:23 *In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.*

- Just think how unstable this government is here in the ten northern tribes. They have somebody who reigns for a full month; somebody who reigns for 10 months; somebody who reigns for 10 years; somebody who reigns here for two years.

2Ki 15:24-25 *And he did evil in the sight of the LORD (same description as other kings of Israel); he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. [25] Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, an officer of his, conspired against him and killed him in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house, along with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of Gilead. He killed him and reigned in his place.*

- Pekahiah was assassinated by Pekah, so again it gets, a little confusing.

2Ki 15:26 *Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.*

Pekah Reigns in Israel

2Ki 15:27-28 *In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. [28] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins (same description as other kings of Israel) of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.*

- This is the fifth time in today's study that we have this phrase. "he did evil in the sight of the LORD." We also have "he did what was right" three times!
- Notice how the LORD can encapsulate anyone of our lives in two sentences! We were either "a saint or an ain't" in terms of salvation (J. Vernon McGee). Then once you get past that, it is either "well done thou good and faithful servant, enter in the joy of the Lord," or you do not hear that! It is not really that complicated. The LORD takes all these lives, 29 years, 52 years, 10 years, 6 months, and He just looks at a life and says, I do not care how much you accomplished in life; how long you reigned: how many titles you held. I can encapsulate your life in one sentence!
- **What is my Lord's summary of my life? You either did that which is right in the eyes of the LORD, or you did not do that! How am I doing with regard to that conclusive summary of my life? On that Day, will I hear "Well done, good and faithful servant?"**

2Ki 15:29 *In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria (744-727BC) came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.*

- This is the first Assyrian incursion into the northern ten tribes. The first deportation was 733 BC. The second will be 11 years later in 722 BC when Israel will be carried away in full as a nation.
- Tiglath-Pileser carried away these cities. It should have been a warning now to Pekah, to the kings that will be there. God now sends Jonah to go to Nineveh. His ministry is active now.

2Ki 15:30 *Then Hoshea the son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck and killed him; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.*

- Now it was dangerous to become the king over Israel. You are really signing your death warrant!

2Ki 15:31 *Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.*

Jotham Reigns in Judah

2Ki 15:32-34 *In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, began to reign. [33] He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. [34] And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.*

- If you take the eight good kings of Judah; Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah (Uzziah), Jotham, Hezekiah, and Joram, their combined reign was about three hundred years. There were no good kings in Israel (Samaria). That would be a reason for the ten northern ten tribes (Israel) falling about 140 years before Judah was conquered by Babylon.

2Ki 15:35-38 However the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the Upper 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 Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah. [38] So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz, his son reigned in his place.

- We come to the beginning of the reign of Ahaz over Judah, Ahaz was one of the exceptions to the four preceding kings, as far as Judah is concerned in that he was a wicked king, and we will get into his reign in our next lesson.

SUMMARY:

- **2Ki 14:9** We are to give all the glory and praise to God! Here is a great example of the result of not giving God the glory, but taking it for ourself! And giving his praise to another god! (like Amaziah did)
- **2Ki 14:10** Do not meddle! Being lifted in pride leads us into conflicts that we should never, ever be involved in, and then accompanying defeat, which it causes. Whenever the LORD greatly uses us, we are susceptible to being lifted up in pride and to meddle. Help us LORD in such situations to simply say, Lord, You were amazing, using me in that situation. Now, God, I know myself well enough that I am going to get lifted up in pride and will probably stick my nose into somebody's business that I should not. Please help me not to do that!
- **2Ki 14:14** How susceptible am I to meddling, getting into areas into which I should not ever get into? Do I recognize how meddling leads to sin? That once I have sinned, my defense is lowered. I become much more likely to repeat or continue in that sin, which leads to further separation from my Lord!
- **2Ki 15:5** Is there any part of my ministry that I am trying to fulfill, that the Lord has not called me into? Lord, help me to be sure that I am spending my time and effort only on those things that You have called me to do, especially when new areas of ministry opportunities arise.
- **2Ki 15:28** What is my Lord's summary of my life? You either did that which is right in the eyes of the LORD, or you did not do that! How am I doing with regard to that conclusive summary of my life? On that Day, will I hear "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

Oh, the goodness of God!

GOODNESS OF GOD - Bethel Music (4:46/4:49)

I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in the goodness of God (Chorus)

Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.

With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything

Your goodness is running after; It's running after me. (2x)

(Chorus) (2x)

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Kings, Chapters 16-17