

Unit II: The Divisions Deteriorate--
And the Ten Tribes are Lost

I read: 1) II Kings 9-17, 2) Albright, The Biblical Period, pp 67-74, Syllabus, pp 17-25

1. What Happened: The reading covers the period from 841 B.C. to 722 B.C. roughly.

Israel: Elisha appoints one of the sons of the Prophet to anoint Jehu King of Israel. He is the general of the King. This results in a blood-bath, unprecedented in Israel up until this time, as he kills ~~the~~ King Jehoram of Israel as well as King Ahaziah, King of Judah who is visiting him (Jehoram) at the time. He then wipes out all descent of the house of Omri in Israel, and the Priests of Baal and the temples of Baal. (Still the high-places remain. One wonders why.) *They were out door shrines, maybe like a dark-maybe very pleasant & so left to disuse (they thought!)* Strong ties to Tyre and Syria are destroyed at the same time and soon Hazael comes against Israel and Jehu is forced to pay tribute. Under Jehu's son, Joahaz, Israel pays tribute to Aram. In 1801 Joash becomes King of Israel and recovers the territory lost to Aram, and also reduces Judah to a vassal state. On this strength his son, Jeroboam II becomes a strong leader and Israel reaches the summit of material wealth. (Albright 69-70) Prophets Hosea and Amos are horrified by the selfish luxury and immorality of Israel during this time of prosperity. *Albright, p. 71* Under The last king before the loss of Samaria to the Assyrians was Ahaz. In 732 B.C. the Assyrians swept over Israel and devastated Galilee, and annexed all of Israel except Ephraim and Western Manasseh. *Albright, p. 73* They appointed Hoshea as the last king of Samaria and as a result of a rebellion led by him (on the strength of promised help from Egypt) *which is not forthcoming* the Assyrians take Thousands of Israelites into captivity and replace them with minorities from other places controlled by Assyria. Although the King of Assyria allowed them to have priests of their own, the religion of the Israelites in Samaria become corrupted, and remain so until the time of Christ.

In Judah, another revolution wipes out Athaliah, and installs Jehoash, miraculously saved by the High Priest Jehoiada. This revolution was not as bloody as the one in Israel (pg 69, Albright) Under the long reign of Uzziah, 783-742 Judah reached the summit of a power surpassed only by that of Solomon's reign. Uzziah controlled the northern and eastern part of the Philistine plain, thus controlling the caravan routes from Arabia. (Pg 72, Albright) the last king of this reading is Jotham (750-740 B.C.) The fate of Judah under the Assyrian strength remains to be told.

2. How long did the House of Omri rule in Israel and what brought about its end? Bright, A History of Israel, really gives a good account of the rise and fall of the House of Omri. Omri takes over at a time when Israel is very weak and saves her from destruction. His house rules from 876 B.C. to 842 B.C. when Jehoram is killed by Jehu and the entire house of Omri *is* mercilessly and bloodily destroyed. Even

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after the fall of the House of Omri the Assyrians refer to Israel as the "House of Omri." The Lord had to raise up two of his finest prophets to get rid of the idolatrous house of Omri. Bright questions whether Jehu was really given the authority to commit the blood bath that the scriptures seem to give him, but the Scriptures indicate that it was the will of the Lord that Jehu do this. (11Kings 10:30)

3. Obedience to the Lord's commandments, and the necessity to obey and listen to his Prophets is still carried out in this section of the reading. If I were memorizing from this section I would memorize the scriptures from II King chapter 17: 35-41, which reiterates the need to keep the covenants and commandments of the Lord: (I put these down for my own keeping)

34: Unto this day they do after the former manners: They fear not the Lord, neither do they after their statues, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

35: With whom the Lord had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them.

36: But the Lord, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

37: And the statues, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other Gods.

38 And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

39: But the Lord your God ye shall fear, and he shall deliver you out of the hands of all your enemies.

40: Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.

41: So these nations feared the Lord, and served their graven images, both ~~the~~ their children, and their children's children; as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

(Probably mistranslated.. Probably should read So these nations feared NOT the Lord.)

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