

Azariah & Jotham of Judah; Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, & Pekah of Israel

2 Kings 15

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Series of Kings: Azariah (Uzziah) over Judah	15	1-7	Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah
Zechariah over Israel		8-12	Zechariah of Israel
		13-16	Shallum of Israel
Menahem over Israel		17-18	Menahem of Israel
		19-22	Pul of Assyria invaded Israel; Menahem taxed the people to gain favor with Assyria and remain on the throne
Pekahiah over Israel		23-26	Pekahiah of Israel
Pekah over Israel		27-28	Pekah of Israel
		29-31	Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria invades Israel; Pekah assassinated
Jotham over Judah	32-38	Jotham of Judah	

Themes in the Chapter ²	Discipleship, Evil, History, Prophecy, Sin
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Reflections

In this chapter we see a contrast of the longer reigns of the kings of Judah as opposed to the shorter reigns, often ending in assassination, of the kings of Israel and the eventual taking of a portion of the lands and the people being taken captive by the Assyrians.

Questions

1. What are the basic details of Azariah's (Uzziah's) reign in Judah? V1-4
2. What affliction did the Lord send upon Azariah, how long did it last, and how was the kingdom ruled as a result? V5-7, xref: 2 Chronicles 26
3. How is Zechariah's reign in Israel described? V8-12
4. How is Shallum's reign in Israel described? V13-16
5. How is Menahem's reign in Israel described? V17-18, 21-22
6. Who was the King of Assyria during Menahem's reign and what did he do and how did Menahem respond? V19-20
7. How is Pekahiah's reign in Israel described? V23-26
8. How is Pekah's reign in Israel described? V27-31
9. How is Jotham's reign in Judah described? V32-36

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

² (Full Color Bible) Theme suggestions without references to allow the reader to discover them in their reading.

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Conclusion

The leadership in Israel had become so hardened in their idol worship that they continued to refuse to worship God which only resulted in men with selfish ambition assassinating their rulers, taxing their citizens for personal gain, and eventually a portion of the land taken from them and the people carried into captivity.

We also saw that the kings in Judah who were at least partially faithful to the Lord were able to continue the family line of David as the kings of Judah, just as the Lord had promised. However the people of Judah continued to worship on the high places. While not stated specifically in the text, the object of their worship were probably some of the false gods of the Caananites and Egyptians which they began worshiping in Egypt and while conquering the land during the time of the judges.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study³: *my LOG vs others SPECK. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.*

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

•

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

•

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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³ *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

Response to Questions

1. He became king while Jeroboam II was king in Israel at the age of 16 and reigned for 52 years. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. He was a good king in the eye's of the Lord following in the example of his father, Amaziah. The one thing that he didn't do, which most of the kings of Judah didn't do, was not removing the high places where people would worship other God's.
2. The Lord struck Azariah (Uzziah) with leprosy. In 2 Chronicles 26, we learn that it was a result of his pride after victory in battle. Neither text tells what his age was when this happened but in 2 Chronicles 26 it says that he continued to seek the Lord through the reign of Zechariah of Israel. Zechariah became king in Azariah's (Uzziah's) 38th year (2Ki 15:8) and then reigned for 6 months. So if you add 38 to 16 it equals 54 and then add another 6 months we get his age. As a result, he was no longer seen in public for another 13 or 14 years (52-38 + 6 months). He lived to be 68 years old and his son, Jotham, ruled as his regent the rest of his years. He was buried with the other kings of Judah, in the family burial plot of David. The annals of his reign are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah. (For more on these, see my article "[OT Written Records of the Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah](#)".)
3. Zechariah reigned for 6 months in Samaria after the death of his father, Jeroboam II. He, like most of the kings of Israel, did evil in the sight of the Lord by continuing to worship the golden calves that were set up by Jeroboam I. As a result, Shallum assassinated him and took the throne in his place after 6 months.
4. Shallum reigned for 1 month and was assassinated by Menahem.
5. Menahem assassinated Shallum and reigned for 10 years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord by continuing the worship of the golden calves set up by Jeroboam I.
6. Pul was king of Assyria and when he invaded Israel Menahem taxed the people of Israel to collect 1,000 talents of silver to give to Pul to secure the kingdom of Israel for himself. As a result, Pul returned to Assyria and never invaded Israel again.
7. Pekahiah reigned two years after his father's death and then was assassinated by Pekah, who then took the throne. Pekahiah followed in his father's footsteps and continued the worship of the golden calves of Jeroboam I.
8. Pekah reigned twenty years after he became king of Israel in Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah's last year. Pekah continued the worship of the golden calves. During his reign, Tiglath-pileser of Assyria began a series of incursions into Israel and capturing many cities and taking captives to Assyria. During this process, Hoshea the son of Elah assassinated Pekah and became king in his place.
9. Jotham officially became king at age 25 after Azariah (Uzziah) died, even though he had been acting as his father's regent for the last 13 ½ years of his father's life, and reigned for sixteen years. He followed in his father's example and was seen as doing right in the sight of the Lord. However, he too failed to remove the high places where people offered sacrifices and burned incense. While king, he constructed the upper gate of the house of the Lord. During his reign, Rezin of Aram and Pekah of Israel had skirmishes with the armies of Judah. After his death, he was buried in the royal burial plot and Ahaz his son became king in Judah.

Key Words: Old Testament, History, 2 Kings, Azariah, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah,

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Jotham, Idolatry, Prophecy, Faithfulness



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