

LESSON SIX

THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

A. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL:

The Kingdom of Israel consisted of the ten tribes that broke away under Jeroboam. The name "Israel" is sometimes used for the Jews as a whole but in the record of the kings, it is usually used for the ten tribes.

This Kingdom of Israel lasted for almost 250 years under the reign of 19 kings belonging to 9 different families. All of these kings were idolaters. It was not said of any of these kings that they "did right in the sight of the Lord." The overthrow of Israel by the Assyrians under Shalmaneser took place about 722 BC.

After the Israelites were carried into Assyria, people were brought from different parts of the Assyrian Empire to occupy the country. At first, they worshipped idols but later they turned to the worship of Jehovah mixed with their worship of idols. The Samaritans of the New Testament were descendants of this mixed race. The kingdom of the ten tribes was never restored.

B. THE KINGS OF ISRAEL:

During the history of the kingdom, there were 19 kings belonging to 9 families or dynasties. The longest reign was that of Jeroboam II who reigned for 41 years. The shortest reign was that of Zimri who reigned for seven days. Because of idolatrous worship, there was much violence. Seven kings met death by violence: Nadab, Elah, Tibni, Jeroram, Zachariah, Shallum and Pekahiah.

Here is the list of the kings of Israel with the length of time each reigned:

<u>First Dynasty</u>	- Jeroboam I	- 22 years
	- Nadab	- 2 years
<u>Second Dynasty</u>	- Baasha	- 24 years
	- Elah	- 2 years
<u>Third Dynasty</u>	- Zimri	- 7 days
<u>Fourth Dynasty</u>	- Omri	- 12 years
	- Ahab	- 22 years
	- Ahaziah	- 2 years
	- Jeroram	- 12 years
<u>Fifth Dynasty</u>	- Jehu	- 28 years
	- Jehoahaz	- 17 years
	- Jehoash	- 16 years
	- Jeroboam II	- 41 years
	- Zachariah	- 6 months
<u>Sixth Dynasty</u>	- Shallum	- 1 month
<u>Seventh Dynasty</u>	- Menahem	- 10 years
	- Pekahiah	- 2 years
<u>Eighth Dynasty</u>	- Pekah	- 20 years
<u>Ninth Dynasty</u>	- Hoshea	- 9 years

This comes to a total of 241 years, 7 months & 7 days.

C. JEROBOAM I: (I Kings 11:26-40; 12:1-14:20).

Israel's first king was a religious apostate. He was the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite. His mother's name was Zeruch. One version states that she was a harlot. His wife was Anō, an Egyptian princess.

Fearing a continuation of religious pilgrimages to Jerusalem, he made two calves of gold and set them up at Bethel and Dan. He founded a new priesthood and started popular pagan festivals.

In the 21 times that Jeroboam's name is mentioned, his apostasy is linked with it, *"Who did sin, and made Israel to sin."* Every king of Israel followed his example of idolatry.

D. NADAB: (I Kings 14:20; 15:25-31).

Nabad was Jeroboam's son and followed his father's bad example. He was murdered within two years.

E. BAASHA: (I Kings 15:27-16:7).

His name meant "wicked" and he was true to his name. To protect his throne, he massacred all the relatives of Jeroboam.

F. ELAH & ZIMRI: (I Kings 16:5-20).

Elah was a drunkard and was known as a "debauchee." While drunk, Zimri who conspired against the king murdered him. Zimri reigned only one short week for the people did not accept him. He was rejected because of his treason. Zimri set fire to the palace and died in the flames.

G. OMRI: (I Kings 16:15-28; 20:34).

The Bible states that Omri did worse than all the others that were before him (I Kings 16:25).

He moved the capital to Samaria where he built a new palace. Samaria now became the capital and sometimes the Northern Kingdom was called Samaria because of the capital.

H. AHAB: (I Kings 16:29-22:40).

He was Omri's son and succeeded him as king. His father had arranged his marriage with Jezebel, a Phoenician woman. Jezebel dominated her husband. Ahab was one of the strongest and at the same time, one of the weakest kings. Baal worship was introduced and everything possible was done to destroy the worship of the one true God.

I. AHAZIAH: (I Kings 22:51; II Kings 1:18).

He was a weak king and followed in the steps of his wicked parents. During his reign, the Moabites successfully rebelled. He fell from the lattice of his apartment and died after reigning two years.

J. JEHORAM: (II Kings 1:17; 2; 6; 9).

Jehoram was also called Joram. Ahaziah had no children so Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother, succeeded him. During Jehoram's reign, the translation of Elijah took place. He deeply respected the warning and miracles of the prophet Elisha. The healing of Naaman and the overthrow of the Syrian hosts took place during his rule.

Jehoram was wounded in battle with Syria. Jehu was anointed king by one of the sons of the prophets. He set out for Jezreel and killed Jehoram on the very land Ahab had taken from Naboth. He had Jezebel flung from a window and eaten by dogs.

K. JEHU: (II Kings 9-10:36).

Throughout his 28 years of reign, Jehu was a bloody king. His character was revealed by the way that he drove. He was a furious driver and a ferocious man. He abolished the worship of Baal but allowed the worship of golden calves to continue. His purge of Baalism created serious political problems with the Phoenicians. He was forced to pay tribute to the Assyrian King.

L. JEHOAHAZ: (II Kings 13).

His son, Jehoahaz, succeeded Jehu. During his reign, Hazael of Syria reduced Israel to little more than the hill country of Ephraim. Because of oppression, he prayed unto God for help and God promised deliverance, which came during his son's reign (II Kings 13:4,5).

M. JEHOASH: (II Kings 13:10-25).

Jehoash is also called Joash. He attacked Syria and regained the cities, which had been lost by his father.

He respected Elisha and paid respect to him during his final illness. It was at this time that Elisha gave him an object lesson with the arrows.

During the last years of his reign, he attacked Amaziah of Judah, plundering Jerusalem and the Temple and carried off palace treasures.

N. JEROBOAM II: (II Kings 14:23-29; Amos).

He was the son of Joash and the 13th king. He regained the territory lost to the Syrians. His reign was one of expansion and prosperity.

During his reign, both Amos and Hosea prophesied that Israel would be taken into captivity.

O. THE FINAL REIGNS:

A state of anarchy followed the death of Jeroboam II. One king after another was murdered.

Hoshea was the last king. Shalmaneser, the Assyrian king, threatened Israel. Hoshea agreed to pay him tribute. After a time, the tribute was withheld and Hoshea looked to Egypt for help. Shalmaneser invaded and ravaged the land. The Israelites were taken captive.

LESSON SIX

SELF HELP TEST

Place the correct name in each of the following blanks:

1. _____ He was the son of Omri.
2. _____ He was a bloody king and reigned 28 years.
3. _____ He was Jeroboam's son.
4. _____ He was Israel's thirteenth king.
5. _____ The healing of Naaman took place under his reign.
6. _____ He fell from the lattice of his apartment.
7. _____ He was the last king of Israel.
8. _____ He reigned only eight days.
9. _____ He moved the capital to Samaria.
10. _____ He married an Egyptian princess named Anu.
11. _____ He attacked Jerusalem and plundered the Temple.
12. _____ He took the Israelites captive.
13. _____ He married Jezebel, a Phoenician woman.
14. _____ His name meant "wicked."
15. _____ He was a drunkard.
16. _____ Amos prophesied during his reign.
17. _____ He reigned for twenty years.
18. _____ The Bible connects his name with apostasy 21 times.
19. _____ Elisha gave him an object lesson with arrows.
20. _____ He set fire to the palace and died in the flames.