

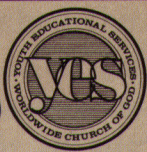
YOUTH



LEVEL 6

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 10



The Captivity of Israel

THE CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL

The Syrians now occupied the fortified city of Ramoth-gilead. This made the Syrians a potential threat to the not-too-distant capital of Israel, Samaria.

Realizing this, King Jehoram besieged Ramoth-gilead with the help of Ahaziah, king of Judah. During the siege, King Jehoram (also called Joram, II Kings 8:16) was seriously wounded. His officers quickly took him from the battle to Jezreel where he could heal from his wounds. While recovering, King Ahaziah came to visit him.

JEHU BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL

The prophet Elisha was well aware of what was taking place at Ramoth-gilead and at Jezreel. He was also aware that the time had come for God's plan to be fulfilled against Ahab's treacherous family (I Kings 21:20-21).

God inspired Elisha to send a young prophet to anoint a man named Jehu as the next king of Israel.

ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Ruins of the ancient capital of Israel, Samaria. This Israelite city was besieged for three years by King Shalmaneser of Assyria.

Matson Photo Service

“Gird up thy _____, and take this _____ of _____ in thine _____, and go to Ramoth-gilead: And when thou comest thither, look out there _____ . . . and go in, and make him _____ up from among his _____, and _____ him to an _____; Then take the _____ of _____, and _____ it on his _____, and say, Thus saith the _____, I have _____ thee _____ over _____” (II Kings 9:1-3).

Elisha considered this a difficult and dangerous task for the young man, and told him to do the job and leave quickly.

The young prophet hurriedly went to the camp of Israel's army. There he found Jehu sitting among the officers by a house.

“I have a message for you,” the young man said to Jehu. “I must speak to you in private.”

Jehu and the young man went into the house. Jehu listened intently as the young man spoke and poured the oil on his head. Summarize II Kings 9:6-10 on the lines below. _____

When the young prophet completed his task, he went to the door of the house and fled. Jehu, still shocked by the event, walked slowly outside to where the other military officers were sitting.

Because they had watched the young man run away moments after going inside, they thought he was insane. However, they changed their minds when Jehu told them he had just been anointed king of Israel.

Jehu acted immediately to seize the throne. He knew that King Jehoram was in Jezreel recovering from his wounds and that Ahaziah, king of Judah, was visiting with him. Jehu quickly gathered several men and set out for Jezreel.

DEATH OF JEZEBEL

King Jehoram soon heard the news that Jehu was on his way to Jezreel. So he and King Ahaziah prepared to go out in their chariots to meet him.

As the two kings met with Jehu in the field of Naboth the Jezreelite, they realized too late what Jehu intended. Jehoram quickly turned to flee, but Jehu drew his bow and sent an arrow that plunged into the king's chest. King Ahaziah also tried to escape, but Jehu and his men followed Ahaziah and killed him as well.

As Jehu and his men entered the city of Jezreel, Jezebel put makeup on her face and looked out a high window. The haughty queen jeeringly shouted to Jehu as he rode by.

"Do you think that you will have peace for what you have done?" she mocked. "You are just like Zimri who killed his master!"

Jehu ignored Jezebel's taunts and called out to the servants standing near the queen.

"Who is on my side?" Jehu shouted. "If you are on my side, throw her down!"

Immediately the servants grabbed the screaming queen and threw her out the window. Jezebel died a gruesome death as she was trampled by the horses below.



Queen Jezebel is thrown from the window by her servants.

After Jehu had eaten, he realized that he should have the queen's body buried. But when Jehu's men went to bury her, they found that the body had been almost completely eaten by wild dogs. You may recall Elijah's prophetic words about Jezebel's death (I Kings 21:23; II Kings 9:36-37).

Ahab had 70 sons in Samaria. Each son was being reared by wealthy guardians who were leaders in the city. Jehu thought perhaps one of these guardians might try to seize Israel's throne for one of Ahab's sons.

So Jehu sent a letter to each guardian and leader in the city, saying, "Look even out the _____ and _____ of your _____ sons, and set _____ on his _____, and _____ for your _____" (II Kings 10:3).

The guardians of Ahab's sons feared Jehu who had recently murdered the kings of Israel and Judah. They quickly agreed to do all that Jehu wanted.

Jehu then sent a second message to the guardians of Ahab's sons. "Bring the heads of Ahab's sons in a basket to Jezreel tomorrow," Jehu wrote. "Do not let one of them escape." The fearful men obeyed and murdered all 70 of Ahab's sons (II Kings 10:7-11).

God used Jehu to bring an end to Ahab's family and everyone Jehu thought was sympathetic to King Ahab. In addition, Jehu later killed all the priests and worshippers of Baal who were gathered into the temple of Baal (II Kings 10:18-25).

Do You Remember?

1. What two kings besieged the Syrian-held city of Ramoth-gilead? _____ and _____.
2. Who was the prophet that God was working through at the time of the two kings mentioned above? _____.
3. God chose a man named _____ to fulfill His plans for the family of Ahab.
4. Why did God choose to destroy the heirs of King Ahab? _____

_____.
5. Who was the evil queen who shouted taunting remarks to Jehu and his men? _____.

KINGS FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

Jehu had obediently completed the task of destroying Ahab's family and the priests of Baal. As a result of Jehu's obedience, God promised that Jehu's sons would be kings of Israel for four generations.

Had Jehu continued to obey, God may have extended Jehu's generations on the throne of Israel even further. However, Jehu did not obey the law of the Eternal God with his whole heart. Although he put away Baal worship in Israel, he still continued in the sins of Jeroboam (II Kings 10:28-31).

Because Israel would not obey God, God began allowing the territories of Israel to be overrun by the Syrians. Hazael, king of Syria, began to attack

and capture many Israelite cities (II Kings 10:32).

Jehu's reign in Samaria ended after 28 years. When Jehu died, his son Jehoahaz became king of Israel (II Kings 10:35-36).

Although God gave Jehoahaz 17 years on Israel's throne, Jehoahaz continued in the idolatry and sins of his father. The people of Israel also continued in idolatry. And, because of their sins, God allowed the Syrians to continue oppressing the Israelites (II Kings 13:1-3).

At the death of Jehoahaz, his son Jehoash (also called Joash, II Kings 14:23) occupied Israel's throne in Samaria. For 16 years he followed the idolatrous ways of his father and grandfather (II Kings 13:10-11).

The Syrian oppression of Israel continued during the reign of Jehoash. However, because of God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God did not allow the complete destruction of Israel at that time. Instead, God gave them a period of deliverance.

"And _____ besought the _____, and the _____ unto him: for he saw the _____ of _____, because the _____ of _____ them

"And the _____ was _____ unto them, and had _____ on _____, and had _____ unto _____, because of his _____ with _____, _____, and _____, and would not _____ them, neither _____ he _____ from his _____ as yet" (II Kings 13:4, 23).

DEATH OF ELISHA

When King Jehoash heard that Elisha was very sick, he went to visit the elderly prophet.

The prophet Elisha had served God faithfully for many years. He had also warned the people of Israel and Judah to turn from their sins.

Elisha now told Jehoash that God would deliver Israel from Syria: "Take the _____. And he [Jehoash] took them. And he [Elisha] said unto the king of Israel, _____ upon the _____. And he _____, and stayed. And the _____ of _____ was _____ with him, and said, _____ shouldest have _____ or _____ times; then hadst thou _____ till thou hadst _____ it: whereas now thou shalt smite _____ but _____" (II Kings 13:18-19).

Shortly after this, Elisha died. His prophecy regarding the Syrians was fulfilled just as he had said. Write out II Kings 13:25 on the lines below. _____

Through Elisha, God performed mighty miracles. Even after Elisha's death, God performed another miracle through him. Write out II Kings 13:21 on the lines below. _____

THE END OF JEHU'S LINE

During the time King Jehoash



Enraged by Jehoash, King Amaziah and his army march toward Samaria only to be met by the army of King Jehoash.

ruled Israel, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were not friendly toward each other. You may recall that Jehoash's grandfather, Jehu, killed many of Judah's royal lineage.

The king of Judah at the time of Jehoash was Amaziah. King Amaziah had won a battle against the Edomites and now wanted to fight Israel. So Amaziah challenged King Jehoash. During the battle, King Amaziah was captured and the palace and Temple in Jerusalem were stripped of their treasures.

Even though God allowed the Israelites to enjoy this victory, they still did not obey Him.

After Jehoash died, his son Jeroboam became king over Israel. As his father,

Jehoash, and great grandfather, Jehu, he followed in the sinful ways of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat (I Kings 12:26-32; II Kings 14:16, 24).

Jeroboam ruled Israel 41 years. During his reign, God used him to restore many territories to the kingdom of Israel. At his death, his son Zechariah succeeded to Israel's throne.

King Zechariah reigned over the kingdom or house of Israel for only six months. Shallum, a powerful man in Israel, conspired against the new king and killed him and seized the throne (II Kings 15:8-10).

Zechariah was the fourth generation of Jehu's descendants to rule over the house of Israel (II Kings 15:1-2).

Shallum, however, reigned only one month before he was murdered by a man named Menahem (II Kings 15:14).

Fill in the Blanks

1. After Jehu's 28-year reign in _____, his son _____ ruled over _____.
2. Following the reign of Jehoahaz, his son _____ occupied the throne.
3. Jehoash visited the prophet _____ prior to the prophet's death.
4. Jehoash hit the ground _____ times with his arrows.
5. When Jehoash died, his son _____ ruled Israel.
6. _____ restored many of Israel's _____ previously taken by the _____.

ASSYRIA INVADES ISRAEL

During Menahem's reign, Pul (also called Tiglath-pileser), king of Assyria, came against the kingdom of Israel. King Menahem paid tribute to Tiglath-pileser rather than battle the powerful Assyrian army. He took the necessary tribute money from the wealthy people of Israel (II Kings 15:19-20).

Menahem's struggle to maintain control of Israel lasted 10 years. Following his death, Pekahiah, his son, reigned over Israel (II Kings 15:17, 22).

Pekahiah was king only two years when one of his military leaders conspired against him. An officer named Pekah, in league with several other men, entered the palace at Samaria and killed King Pekahiah.

Pekah then made himself king and ruled over the kingdom of Israel for 20 years (II Kings 15:23-27).

JEWES ARE NOT THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

After King Pekah had reigned 17 years in Israel, Ahaz became king of Judah. King Pekah decided to form an alliance with Rezin, king of Syria, to besiege Judah's capital, Jerusalem. But the siege was unsuccessful (II Kings 16:5).

In II Kings 16, we notice a very important statement showing that the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were actually two separate nations.

"At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drove [drove] the *Jews* from Elath" (verse 6).

Here we see the first mention of the word "Jew" in the Bible. And, we find that *Israel* is at war with the Jews.

Remember that the term "Jew" is only a nickname for Judah, and applies to the kingdom or house of Judah only. They are a different nation altogether.

However, they are, individually, children of Israel. But they do not have that *national* title—house or kingdom of Israel.

The Jews are of the kingdom of Judah only, a part of the Israelites. Notice in Genesis 48:16 that the dying Israel said of Ephraim and Manasseh (the leading tribes of Israel): "Let my name be named on *them*." This also applied to the other nine tribes as well.

It is important to keep these points in mind as we continue our study of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

BEGINNING OF ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY

Ahaz, king of Judah, called upon Tiglath-pileser of Assyria to help him repel the Israel-Syrian invaders. Ahaz sent many treasures from the Temple and palace at Jerusalem to buy Assyria's aid.

Tiglath-pileser did help Ahaz. In so doing, Tiglath-pileser conquered portions of Israel and Syria and set up Assyrian control. The Assyrians invaded and conquered the areas of Galilee, Naphtali and others and took the Israelites to Assyria (II Kings 15:29).

God allowed Tiglath-pileser to conquer portions of Israel in this manner for a special reason. Israel had long been in direct conflict with the Eternal God who brought them out of the land of Egypt. Not one of Israel's kings since Jeroboam the son of Nebat obeyed the great Creator God and His laws. And because of their sins and the sins of the people, the kingdom of Israel would soon go into captivity.

ISRAEL'S LAST KING

Pekah's troubled reign ended when he was murdered by a man named Hoshea. Hoshea, Israel's last king, ruled Israel from Samaria for nine years (II Kings 15:20).

During those years, another king ascended to the throne of Assyria. This Assyrian king, Shalmaneser, also invaded Israel.

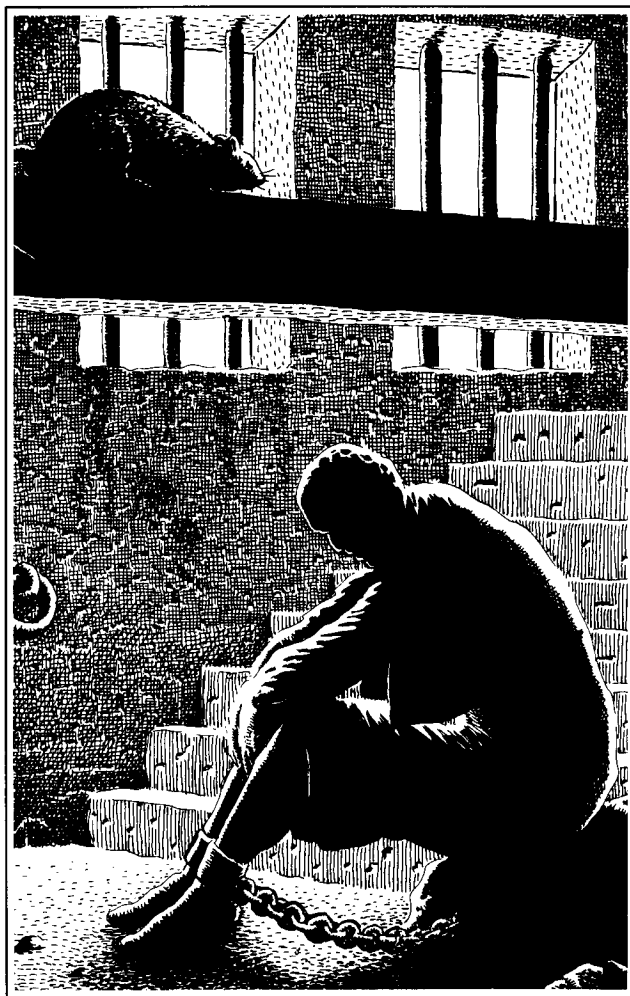
King Hoshea paid tribute to Shalmaneser for a time in order to maintain control over Israel. In the

meantime, he planned a way out of his dilemma by attempting to gain the aid of King So of Egypt. But his plan failed to throw off the Assyrian domination.

King Shalmaneser discovered the conspiracy and imprisoned Hoshea. Then Shalmaneser began a thorough invasion of Israel. After a three-year siege of Samaria, the kingdom of Israel fell completely (II Kings 17:1-5).

ISRAEL DRIVEN OUT

In the reign of Shalmaneser the kingdom of Israel was besieged and its



King Hoshea is imprisoned after his conspiracy against Shalmaneser is discovered.

people were taken captive out of the land. Shalmaneser and his successor Sargon took the captive Israelites to Assyria and placed them on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

“In the _____ year of _____ the _____ of _____ took _____, and _____ a w a y i n t o _____, and placed them in _____ and in _____ by the _____ of _____, and in the _____ of the _____” (II Kings 17:6).

The nation of Israel, not Judah, was taken captive out of their homeland. They were later lost from view and became known as the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.

“Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and *removed them out of his sight*: there was none left but the tribe of *Judah only*” (II Kings 17:18).

But why would God allow the entire nation of Israel to be conquered and carried away captive?

“For so it was, that the _____ of _____ had _____ against the _____ their _____, which had _____ them _____ out of the _____ of _____, from _____ the _____ of _____ king of _____, and had _____ other gods.

“And _____ in the _____ of the _____, whom the _____ cast out from before the _____ of _____, and of the _____ of _____, which they had made” (II Kings 17:7-8).

Notice that God did warn the people of Israel through His prophets.

Write out II Kings 17:13 on the lines below. _____

What was Israel’s response to the warnings of the prophets? Summarize verses 14-17 on the lines below. _____

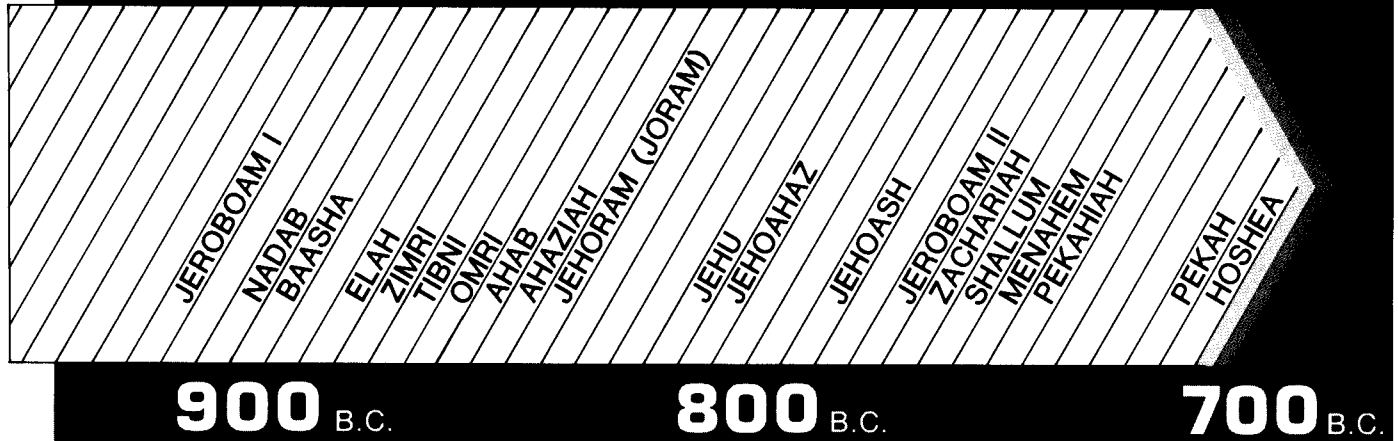
The children of Israel provoked the Eternal to anger because of their idolatry and Sabbath breaking. The people of Israel continually followed the idolatrous practices of the nations that surrounded them.

In Deuteronomy 32, God had expressly warned them, through Moses, of the consequences of sin. Write out Deuteronomy 32:26 on the lines below. _____

Finally, after hundreds of years of idolatry, God drove Israel into captivity.

The Assyrians then filled the land vacated by the captive Israelites with men from Babylon and other areas. Write out II Kings 17:24 on the lines below. _____

KINGS OF ISRAEL



The chart above shows the approximate times in which the kings of Israel ruled. The kingdom was finally conquered by the Assyrian kings Shalmaneser and his successor Sargon.

BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS

Hundreds of years before the Assyrian captivity, God specifically listed the many blessings He would give to Israel for obedience. At the same time God listed the curses for disobedience. These can be found in Deuteronomy 28, often called the “Blessings and Cursings” chapter.

Even today, God will bless those who obey Him and keep His commandments. Read through Deuteronomy 28 and summarize, in your own words, these blessings on a separate piece of paper. Do the same with the curses for disobedience.

As young people, we should resolve to learn how to receive God’s blessing and avoid the problems of disobedience. For obedience, God offers many blessings in this physical life and wonderful blessings in the World Tomorrow.

The people of Israel and their kings disobeyed God. They rejected His way of life.

God warned them that they would be punished if they continued in idolatry. They were warned by the prophets, but refused to listen until God removed them from their land to Assyria. There they lost their identity (II Kings 17:23).

However, God did not utterly destroy Israel. Many years later, they, along with other nations, migrated to North-western Europe where they have formed modern nations today. Britain and the United States are also actual modern-day descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh.

If you would like to learn more about this fascinating subject, write for the free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.

In our next lesson we will learn about the kings of Judah and the events leading to the destruction of the kingdom of Judah.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Another name for King Pul of Assyria is
 - A. Menahem
 - B. Shalmaneser.
 - C. Tiglath-pileser.
 - D. Ahaz.
2. The Jews are of the kingdom or house of
 - A. Israel.
 - B. Judah.
 - C. Assyria.
 - D. None of the above.
3. Israel's last king was
 - A. Hoshea.
 - B. Jehu.
 - C. Pekah.
 - D. Jeroboam.
4. The Assyrian king who eventually conquered the house of Israel was
 - A. Tiglath-pileser.
 - B. Ahaz.
 - C. Shalmaneser.
 - D. None of the above.
5. The Assyrians besieged the city of Samaria for
 - A. 1 year.
 - B. 2 years.
 - C. 3 years.
 - D. 4 years.
6. The nation Israel fell in the reign of
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar.
 - B. Zedekiah.
 - C. Hoshea.
 - D. Jehu.
7. The captive Israelites were taken to
 - A. Judah.
 - B. Egypt.
 - C. Israel.
 - D. Assyria.
8. The Israelites later lost their identity and moved to
 - A. Northwestern Europe.
 - B. Britain and America.
 - C. Both of the above.
9. God allowed the Israelites to be carried into slavery because
 - A. they provoked God to anger with their idolatry and Sabbath breaking.
 - B. God was looking for ways to hurt them.
 - C. God did not love them.
 - D. All of the above.
10. The land vacated by the captive Israelites was occupied by
 - A. men from Babylon.
 - B. the Assyrians.
 - C. Both of the above.
 - D. None of the above.
11. The fact that God blesses those who obey Him and keep His commandments
 - A. is irrelevant today.
 - B. still holds true today.
 - C. is the only way to true happiness.
 - D. Two of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
12. A lesson we can learn from the example of the Israelites is that
 - A. obedience to God brings blessings.
 - B. disobedience to God brings curses.
 - C. Both of the above.

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BIBLE MEMORY

Proverbs 6:20-22

KINGS OF ISRAEL

On the lines below, write the names of the kings of Israel found in this lesson in the order in which they appeared. Then match the numbered letters with the numbered spaces at the bottom to reveal the second part of your assignment.



1. — 5 — 17,53 23,37,67 9,36 —
2. — 11 31 —
3. — 16 — 1,46 7 43 3,20 —
4. — 49 52 73 44 4,66 —
5. — 69 8,33 — 45 32 68 —
6. — — 15,51 — — 25,40 26 71 —
7. 30 — 50 70 — 47 —
8. — 22 2,60 38 — 28,75 —
9. 6,21,42 14 — — — 13,59,65 29 —
10. 12,19 — 58 — —
11. 56 63 62 — 57 41

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 I 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 F 18
19 20 21 22 23 W 24 25 26 I 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 I 34
P 35 36 37 38 G 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 I 48 49 50 51 52 53 F 54
I 55 56 57 58 59 60 G 61 62 63 F 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 B 72 V 73 74 75