

The CHRONICLES of the KINGS

Continuing Saga of Israel

Deuteronomy 28:47-52

June 13, 2026

Elisha devoted his life to ministry in Israel. Unfortunately, for all the good he did in his years of service, the rest of 2nd Kings tells the story of the gradual decay of both Israel and Judah. Today, we will focus on the remaining 11 kings of Israel.

Joram – 2 Kings 3:1-27; 8:28-29; 9:11-26

In the 18th year of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, Joram, son of Ahab, became king of Israel. He reigned for 12 years. He did evil, but not like his parents (Ahab and Jezebel). He got rid of the sacred pillars of Baal that Ahab had made, but he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them.

When Ahab died, Moab, who had been in servitude to Israel, rebelled. Joram mobilized Israel and sent word to Jehoshaphat, requesting he join the fight. Jehoshaphat agreed.

It was decided that the army would go south, collect the army of the king of Edom, then go back north to attack Moab.

After a roundabout journey of 7 days, the army ran out of water. Joram exclaimed, *"Has Yahweh called us together only to hand us over to Moab?"* – nowhere does it say that Yahweh told Joram to go to war against Moab.

"Is there a prophet of Yahweh around?" Jehoshaphat asked.

It was reported that Elisha was available, so Joram, Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went to see him.

When the 3 men arrived, Elisha got straight to the point, addressing the king of Israel, *"What do we have to do with each other? Go to your parent's prophets."*

Joram responded, *"I came to you because Yahweh called us 3 kings to hand us over to Moab."*

I love Elisha's response - *"As surely as El Shaddai lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you. But now bring me a harpist."*

While the harpist played quietly in the background, Yahweh came to Elisha and declared that water would be supplied and Moab would be defeated.

That's exactly what happened and when the king of Moab saw that he was losing, he tried to break through Israel's lines, but failed, so he took his first-born son and offered him as a sacrifice on the city wall.....

Over in Judah, both Jehoshaphat and Jehoram have died and now Ahaziah (Jehoram and Athaliah's son) is king – he reigned for just 1 year. Together, he and Joram (Israel) went to war against Hazael, king of Aram. Joram was wounded in battle, so returned to Jezreel to recover. Ahaziah went to visit him (Joram was Ahaziah's uncle).

Enter Jehu – 2 Kings 9:1-10:36.

While Joram was away at war, Elisha sent a young prophet to anoint Jehu as Israel's next king and tasked him with fulfilling the judgments against the house of Ahab, *"You are to destroy the house of Ahab. As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her."*

Joram was now recovering from his wounds, so Jehu (keeping his anointing a secret) road with his troops to Jezreel. The messenger Joram sent to see if the little group of men had come in peace, did not return, joining Jehu instead.

Joram sent another messenger – he didn't return either. The lookout reported that it looked like Jehu because, "he drives like a madman," so Joram (Israel) and Ahaziah (Judah) got into their chariots and went out to meet him. Interestingly, they met on the land that had once belonged to Naboth.....

Asked if he had come in peace, Jehu responded, "How can there be peace as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?"

Joram turned to flee. Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram in the back, piercing his heart. Jehu ordered his charioteer to throw Joram's body in Naboth's field. "Remember, Bidkar when we were riding together in the chariot behind Ahab when Yahweh declared a prophecy against him, 'Yesterday I saw the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons, declares Yahweh. I will surely make you pay for it on this plot of ground.' Now, pick him up and throw him on that plot, in accordance with the word of Yahweh."

When Ahaziah saw what had happened, he too, fled, but was wounded and would later die at Megiddo. He would be buried at Jerusalem.

Jehu returned to Jezreel and found Jezebel – all made up and waiting for him on her balcony. When she saw him, she mockingly asked if he had come in peace, calling him Zimri. By calling Jehu, "Zimri" she was implying that his reign wouldn't last any longer than Zimri's (7 days), who assassinated king Elah in 1 Kings 16.

In turn, Jehu asked if there was anyone on his side and then ordered 2 of Jezebel's eunuchs to throw her over the wall – they did. Her blood splattered against the wall and the horses trampled her underfoot.

Jehu went in to eat and drink but ordered that Jezebel be buried because she was royalty. However, by the time the burial party returned, there was nothing left of Jezebel but her hands and feet.

After the death of Jezebel, Jehu searched for the 70 sons of Ahab and when he found them, he killed them all.

2 Kings 10:11 - So Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests, leaving him no survivor.

Between Jezreel and Samaria he killed even more of Ahab's family.

2 Kings 10:17 - When Jehu came to Samaria, he killed all who were left there of Ahab's family; he destroyed them, according to the word of Yahweh spoken to Elijah.

Finally, Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel.

Yet.... Jehu was not careful to keep Yahweh's law with all his heart. He continued to worship the golden calves of Jeroboam.

Yahweh promised that his descendants would sit on the throne of Israel to the 4th generation.

Jehu reigned for 28 years and is the only king of Israel credited with doing right.

He died and his son, Jehoahaz, became king.

Jehoahaz – 2 Kings 13:1-9

Jehoahaz reigned 17 years. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam.

Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz.

2 Kings 13:4-6 - *Then Jehoahaz sought Yahweh's favor, and Yahweh listened to him, for he saw how severely the king of Aram was oppressing Israel. Yahweh provided a deliverer and they escaped from the power of Aram.... But they did not turn away from the sins of the house of Jeroboam - they continued in them. Also, the Asherah pole remained standing in Samaria.*

Jehoahaz died and his son, Jehoash, became king.

Jehoash – 2 Kings 13:10-14:16

Jehoash reigned 16 years and did evil. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam.

After Hazael died, Jehoash recaptured all the Israelite towns taken by Hazael – defeating, Hazael's son, Ben-Hadad, 3 times.

Back in Judah - Amaziah became king.

Israel and Judah went to war and Judah lost. Jehoash captured Amaziah then went to Jerusalem and broke down 600-ish feet of wall – from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. He took all the gold and silver that was found in the Temple and in the treasury of the king as well as hostages then he returned to Samaria.

Jehoash died and his son, Jeroboam II, became king

Jeroboam II – 2 Kings 14:23-29

Jeroboam II reigned 41 years and yet the Bible devotes just 7 verses to him. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam I.

He restored the boundaries of Israel in accordance with the word of Yahweh, spoken through his servant Jonah, son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hephher (yes, THAT Jonah).

Jeroboam II died and his son, Zechariah, became king.

Zechariah – 2 Kings 15:8-12

Zechariah reigned 6 months. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam I. Shallum killed him.

Shallum – 2 Kings 15:13-16

Shallum reigned 1 month. He did evil. Menahem killed him.

Menahem – 2 Kings 15:17-22

Menahem reigned 10 years. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam I.

Pul – also known as Tiglath-Pileser III - king of Assyria invaded the land. Menahem gave him 1000 talents of silver – taken from the wealthy of Israel – to gain his support and strengthen his own hold on the kingdom. Tiglath-Pileser went back to Assyria.

Menahem died and his son, Pekahiah, became king.

Pekahiah – 2 Kings 15:23-26

Pekahiah reigned 2 years. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam I. Pekah killed him.

Pekah – 2 Kings 15:27-31

Pekah reigned 20 years. He did evil and did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam I. Pekah was from Gilead, on the east side of the Jordan while Menahem and Pekahiah were on the west side of the Jordan. He counted his time on the throne as beginning in 752 BC when Menahem ascended the throne – what historians call an overlapping reign or “dual dating”. However, he only enjoyed a solo reign of 8 years.

Pekah discontinued the pro-Assyrian policy and made an alliance with Rezin II of Damascus. Together they made war against Judah to force participation in their anti-Assyrian revolt. Judah asked for assistance from Tiglath-Pileser III and received it. Assyria came to occupy the greater part of Galilee and Gilead (in Israel) and deported its inhabitants to the eastern part of the Assyrian empire, as was their policy, replacing them with foreigners gathered from across the empire (see 17:24-41). Then the Assyrian’s conquered Damascus and captured Rezin II.

Hoshea, son of Elah, led a conspiracy against Pekah and killed him.

Hoshea – 2 Kings 17:1-24

Hoshea reigned 9 years and was the last king of Israel. He did evil, but not as the kings before him.

Hoshea decided to stop paying tribute to Assyria and allied himself with So, pharaoh of Egypt, so Shalmaneser V, now king of Assyria, seized Hoshea, put him in prison then invaded Israel and laid siege to Samaria for 3 years. Sometime during the siege, Shalmaneser V died and Sargon II became king of Assyria – both men were credited for deporting the inhabitants of Samaria, but it is Sargon who claimed the destruction of Samaria. When Samaria fell, its people were scattered across the northwestern reaches of the Assyrian Empire.

2 Kings 17:7-23 - *Now this happened because the Israelites had sinned against Yahweh their God when he brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt and they feared other gods. They walked in the statutes of the nations whom Yahweh had driven out from before the Israelites, which the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things that were not right against Yahweh their God; they built high places for themselves in all their towns, from the watchtower up to the fortified city. They set up for themselves stone pillars and poles of Asherah worship on every high hill and under every green tree. They burned incense there on all the high places, like the nations which Yahweh deported before them, and they did evil things to provoke Yahweh. They served idols of which Yahweh had said to them, “You shall not do this thing!” Yahweh warned Israel and Judah by the hand of his every prophet, with every seer saying, “Turn from all of your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my ordinances, according to all the law which I commanded your ancestors, which I sent to you by the hand of my servants the prophets.” But they did not listen and they stiffened their necks, like the necks of their ancestors who did not believe in Yahweh their God. They rejected his statutes, his covenant which he made with their ancestors, and his warnings which he gave to them; and they went after the idols, became vain, and went after all the nations which were all around them, which Yahweh had commanded them not to do as they did. They abandoned all the commands of Yahweh their God and made for themselves two molten calf-shaped idols; they made a pole of Asherah worship and bowed down to the army of the heavens and served Baal. They made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, they practiced divination and read omens, and they sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of Yahweh to provoke him. So Yahweh was very angry with Israel and he removed them from his presence; none remained except the tribe of Judah alone. Even Judah did not keep the commands of Yahweh their God, and they walked in the customs of Israel which they introduced, so Yahweh rejected all the offspring of Israel and punished them, and he gave them into the hand of the plunderers until he banished them from his presence. For he had torn Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king, but Jeroboam detached Israel from following Yahweh, and he made them sin a great sin. The Israelites walked in all the sins of Jeroboam that he committed, and they did not depart from it, until Yahweh removed Israel from his presence as he had foretold by the hand of all his servants, the prophets. And so he deported Israel from upon his land to Assyria until this day.*

The fall of Samaria, in 722 BC, marked the end of the Northern Kingdom after a tragic history of less than 250 years.

Had it not been for the tireless efforts of Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea and others, Israel may not have lasted as long as it did.

As noted, clear back in Deuteronomy 28-30 – BEFORE The Children of Israel ever set foot in Canaan – Yahweh had spelled out the consequences of faithfulness and unfaithfulness to the covenant relationship they had WILLINGLY entered into.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love Yahweh your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For Yahweh is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

Israel CHOSE infidelity. They CHOSE freedom from God. Ultimately, they CHOSE the destruction Yahweh desperately tried to save them from.

Until Next Time.....