

## CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab, became the ruler of Judah upon the death of Ahaziah, even though she was not a descendant of king David. Explain how this happened. Who was the rightful heir to the throne?
2. Who killed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada? Why was he killed?
3. Azariah (Uzziah), king of Judah, became a leper and was relieved of his position. What did he do that precipitated such a punishment?
4. Describe the final days of the kingdom of Israel.
5. How did Ahaz, king of Judah, compare with his predecessors?

This and much more will be addressed in the seventh lecture of this series:  
**"Renaissance in Judah and the Fall of Israel".**

To derive maximum benefit from this lecture, keep these questions in mind as you listen to the lecture and read through the outline. Go back to these questions once again at the end of the lecture and see how well you answer them.

PLEASE NOTE: This outline and source book were designed as a powerful tool to help you appreciate and understand the basis of Jewish History. Although the lectures can be listened to without the use of the outline, we advise you to read the outline to enhance your comprehension. Use it, as well, as a handy reference guide and for quick review.

**This lecture is dedicated to the memory and *Li-ilui Nishmas***

טובה חיה בת אברהם ע"ה

**Mrs. Tillie Adler of blessed memory**

THE EPIC OF THE ETERNAL PEOPLE  
Presented by Rabbi Shmuel Irons

Series XVII Lecture #7

RENAISSANCE IN JUDAH AND THE FALL OF ISRAEL

I. Athalia and Joash

A.

וְעַתְלִיָּה אִם אַחְזִיָּהּ רָאָתָהּ כִּי מֵת בָּנָהּ וַתִּקַּם וַתֵּאבֵד אֶת כָּל זֶרַע הַמַּמְלָכָה: וַתִּקַּח יְהוֹשֻׁבֶעַ בֵּת הַמֶּלֶךְ יוֹרָם אַחֹת אַחְזִיָּהּ אֶת יוֹאָשׁ בֶּן אַחְזִיָּהּ וַתִּגְנֹב אֹתוֹ מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמּוֹמְתִים אֹתוֹ וְאֶת מִנְקָתוֹ בַּחֲדָר הַמְטוֹת וַיִּסְתְּרוּ אֹתוֹ מִפְּנֵי עַתְלִיָּהּ וְלֹא הוֹמְתָה: וַיְהִי אִתָּהּ בֵּית ד' מִתְחַבֵּא שָׁשׁ שָׁנִים וְעַתְלִיָּה מְלַכְתָּ עַל הָאָרֶץ: וּבִשְׁנֵה הַשְּׂבִיעִית שָׁלַח יְהוֹיָדָע וַיִּקַּח | אֶת שְׂרֵי הַמְּאוֹת לְכָרִי וְלְרָצִים וַיָּבֵא אֹתָם אֵלָיו בֵּית ד' וַיְכַרֵת לָהֶם בְּרִית וַיִּשְׁבַּע אֹתָם בְּבֵית ד' וַיֵּרָא אֹתָם אֶת בֶּן הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיִּצְוּם לֵאמֹר זֶה הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּן הַשְּׁלִשִׁית מִכֶּם בָּאֵי הַשְּׂבַת וְשִׁמְרֵי מִשְׁמֶרֶת בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ: וְהַשְּׁלִשִׁית בְּשַׁעַר סוּר וְהַשְּׁלִשִׁית בְּשַׁעַר אַחֵר הָרָצִים וְשִׁמְרֵתָם אֶת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַבַּיִת מִסָּח: וּשְׁתֵּי הַיָּדוֹת בְּכֶם כָּל יֹצְאֵי הַשְּׂבַת וְשִׁמְרוּ אֶת מִשְׁמֶרֶת בֵּית ד' אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ: וְהִקְפַּתֶּם עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ סָבִיב אִישׁ וְכָלְיוּ בְּיָדוֹ וְהִבֵּא אֶל הַשְּׂדֵרוֹת יוֹמֵת וְהָיוּ אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּצִאתוֹ וּבִבְאוֹ: וַיַּעֲשׂוּ שְׂרֵי הַמְּאוֹת כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ אֶת אֲנָשָׁיו בָּאֵי הַשְּׂבַת עִם יֹצְאֵי הַשְּׂבַת וַיָּבֵאוּ אֶל יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן: וַיִּתֵּן הַכֹּהֵן לְשְׂרֵי הַמְּאוֹת אֶת הַחֲנִיָּת וְאֶת הַשְּׁלֹטִים אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ דָּוִד אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית ד': וַיַּעֲמְדוּ הָרָצִים אִישׁ | וְכָלְיוּ בְּיָדוֹ מִכְּתָף הַבַּיִת הַיְמָנִית עַד כְּתָף הַבַּיִת הַשְּׂמָאלִית לְמִזְבֵּחַ וּלְבַיִת עַל הַמֶּלֶךְ סָבִיב: וַיּוֹצֵא אֶת בֶּן הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּתֵּן עָלָיו אֶת הַנֹּזֵר וְאֶת הָעֵדוּת וַיִּמְלְכוּ אֹתוֹ וַיִּמְשָׁחֻהוּ וַיִּכּוּ כָף וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְחִי הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַתִּשְׁמַע עַתְלִיָּה אֶת קוֹל הָרָצִין הָעֵם וַתָּבֵא אֶל הָעֵם בֵּית ד': וַתֵּרָא וְהָיָה הַמֶּלֶךְ עֹמֵד עַל הָעֵמוּד כַּמְשָׁפֵט וְהַשְּׂרִים וְהַחֲצִצְרוֹת אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל עַם הָאָרֶץ שָׂמַח וַתִּקַּע בַּחֲצִצְרוֹת וַתִּקְרַע עַתְלִיָּה אֶת בְּגָדֶיהָ וַתִּקְרָא קָשָׁר קָשָׁר: וַיִּצּוּ יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן אֶת שְׂרֵי הַמְּאוֹת | פְּקֻדֵי הַחֵיל וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֵיהֶם הוֹצִיאוּ אֹתָהּ אֶל מַבֵּית לְשְׂדֵרֹת וְהִבֵּא אַחֲרֶיהָ הַמֵּת בְּחֶרֶב כִּי אָמַר הַכֹּהֵן אֶל תּוֹמֵת בֵּית ד': וַיִּשְׁמוּ לָהּ יָדִים וַתָּבֹא דֶרֶךְ מְבֹא הַסּוֹסִים בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וַתּוֹמֵת שָׁם: מַלְכִים יֵא-טו

And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal seed. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons who were killed; and they hid him, him and his nurse, in the bed chamber, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. - And he was with her hidden in the house of the L-rd six years. And Athaliah reigned over the land. - And in the seventh year, Jehoiada - sent and brought the rulers over hundreds of the Kari, - with the runners, - and brought them to him to the house of the L-rd, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath from them in the house of the L-rd, and showed them the king's son. And he commanded them, saying, This is the thing that you shall do; A third part of you who enter in on the sabbath shall guard the king's house; - And a third part shall be at the Gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the runners; - so shall you guard the house, as a defense. And the two parts of you who go forth on the sabbath, - they shall guard the house of the L-rd around the king. And you shall surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand; and he who comes inside the ranks, let him be killed; and be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in. And the captains over the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded; and they took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with those who should go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. And to the captains over hundreds the priest gave king David's spears and shields, which were in the temple of the L-rd. And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, around the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple. And he

brought out the king's son, and placed the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; - and they proclaimed him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, Long live the king! And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people in the temple of the L-rd. And when she looked, behold, the king stood (by a pillar) at his station, as the custom was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets; and Athaliah tore her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason! But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, Bring her out between the ranks; and he who follows her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be killed in the house of the L-rd. And they laid hands on her (they moved away to make place for her to be taken out); and she went by the way by which the horses came to the king's house; and there she was killed. **Kings II 11:1-16**

B.

וַיִּכְרַת יְהוֹיָדָע אֶת הַבְּרִית בֵּין דָּ' וּבֵין הַמֶּלֶךְ וּבֵין הָעָם לְהִיּוֹת לָעָם לְדָ' וּבֵין הַמֶּלֶךְ וּבֵין הָעָם: וַיָּבֹאוּ כָּל עַם הָאָרֶץ בֵּית הַבַּעַל וַיִּתְצְהוּ אֶת מִזְבְּחֹתָיו וְאֶת צִלְמֵיו שִׁבְרוּ הֵיטֵב וְאֶת מִתָּן כֹּהֵן הַבַּעַל הָרְגוּ לִפְנֵי הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת וַיִּשֹׁם הַכֹּהֵן פְּקֻדָּתוֹ עַל בֵּית דָּ': וַיִּקַּח אֶת שְׂרֵי הַמְּאוֹת וְאֶת הַכֹּרֵי וְאֶת הָרָצִים וְאֶת | כָּל עַם הָאָרֶץ וַיְרִידוּ אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ מִבֵּית דָּ' וַיָּבֹאוּ דְרָךְ שַׁעַר הָרָצִים בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל כִּסֵּא הַמְּלָכִים: וַיִּשְׁמַח כָּל עַם הָאָרֶץ וְהַעִיר שָׁקֵטָה וְאֶת עֵתְלֵיהוּ הַמִּיתוּ בַּחֶרֶב בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ: מַלְכִים ב יא-ז-כ

And Jehoiada made a covenant between the L-rd and the king and the people, that they should be the L-rd's people; also between the king and the people. And all the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and broke it down; his altars and his images broke they in pieces thoroughly, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. - And the priest appointed officers over the house of the L-rd. And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the L-rd, and came by the way of the Gate of the Guard to the king's house. - And he sat on the throne of the kings. And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet; and they killed Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. **Kings II 11:17-20**

C.

אמר רב יהודה אמר רב: אלמלא לא נשתייר אביתר לאחימלך בן אחיטוב לא נשתייר מזרעו של דוד שריד ופליט. סנהדרין צה:

Rav Yehudah said in Rav's name: Had not Aviathar been left of Ahimelech the son of Ahituv, not the slightest remnant would have remained of David's seed. **Sanhedrin 95b**

D.

בֵּן שִׁבְעֵי שָׁנִים יְהוֹאָשׁ בְּמִלְכוֹ: בְּשָׁנַת שִׁבְעָה לַיהוָה מָלַךְ יְהוֹאָשׁ וְאַרְבַּעִים שָׁנָה מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ צִבְיָה מִבְּאֵר שִׁבְעָה: וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוֹאָשׁ הַיֵּשָׁר בְּעֵינֵי דָ' כָּל יָמָיו אֲשֶׁר הוֹרָהוּ יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן: רַק הַבָּמֹת לֹא סָרוּ עוֹד הָעָם מִזְבְּחִים וּמִקְטָרִים בְּבָמֹת: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹאָשׁ אֶל הַכֹּהֲנִים כָּל כֶּסֶף הַקְּדוּשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יוֹבֵא בֵּית דָּ' כֶּסֶף עוֹבֵר אִישׁ כֶּסֶף נִפְשׁוֹת עָרְכוּ כָּל כֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר יַעֲלֶה עַל לֵב אִישׁ לְהֵבִיא בֵּית דָּ': יִקְחוּ לָהֶם הַכֹּהֲנִים אִישׁ מֵאֵת מִכְרוּ וְהֵם יִחְזְקוּ אֶת בְּדֵק הַבַּיִת לְכָל אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא שָׁם בְּדֵק: וַיְהִי בְּשָׁנַת עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנָה לַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוֹאָשׁ לֹא חֲזְקוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים אֶת בְּדֵק הַבַּיִת: וַיִּקְרָא הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוֹאָשׁ לַיהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן וּלְכֹהֲנִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מְדוּעַ אֵינְכֶם מְחַזְּקִים אֶת בְּדֵק הַבַּיִת וְעַתָּה אֵל תִּקְחוּ כֶּסֶף מֵאֵת מִכְרֵיכֶם כִּי לְבָדֵק הַבַּיִת תִּתְנָהוּ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים לְבַלְתִּי קָחַת כֶּסֶף מֵאֵת הָעָם וּלְבַלְתִּי חֲזַק אֶת בְּדֵק הַבַּיִת: וַיִּקַּח יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן אַרְוֹן אַחֵד וַיִּקַּב חוֹר בְּדִלְתּוֹ וַיִּתֵּן אֹתוֹ אֶצְלַת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִמִּיָּן בְּבֹאֵ אִישׁ בֵּית דָּ' וַנִּתְּנוּ שָׁמָּה הַכֹּהֲנִים שְׂמֵרֵי הַסֶּף אֶת כָּל הַכֶּסֶף הַמּוֹבֵא בֵּית דָּ': וַיְהִי כִּפְרָאוֹתָם כִּי רַב הַכֶּסֶף בְּאֶרְוֹן וַיַּעַל סֶפֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל וַיִּצְרוּ וַיִּמְנוּ אֶת הַכֶּסֶף הַנִּמְצָא בֵּית דָּ': וַנִּתְּנוּ אֶת הַכֶּסֶף הַמִּתְכַּן עַל יְדֵי עֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה הַמְּפֻקְדִים

בית ד' ויוציאהו לחרשי העץ ולבנים העשים בית ד': ולגדרים ולחצבי האבן ולקנות עצים ואבני מחצב לחזק את בֶּדֶק בית ד' ולכל אשר יצא על הבית לחזקה: אך לא יעשה בית ד' ספות כסף מזמרות מזרקות חצצרות כל כלי זהב וכלי כסף מן הכסף המובא בית ד': כי לעשי המלאכה יתנהו וחזקו בו את בית ד': ולא יחשבו את האנשים אשר יתנו את הכסף על ידם לתת לעשי המלאכה כי באמנה הם עשים: כסף אשם וכסף חטאות לא יובא בית ד' לפהנים יהיו: אז יעלה חזאל מלך ארם וילחם על גת וילכדה וישם חזאל פניו לעלות על ירושלים: ויקח יהואש מלך יהודה את כל הקדשים אשר הקדישו יהושפט ויהורם ואחזיהו אבתיו מלכי יהודה ואת קדשיו ואת כל הזהב הנמצא באצרות בית ד' ובית המלך וישלח לחזאל מלך ארם ויעל מעל ירושלים: ויתר דברי יואש וכל אשר עשה הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי יהודה: ויקמו עבדיו ויקשרו קשר ויכו את יואש בית מלא היורד סלא: ויוזכר בן שמעת ויהוזבד בן שמר | עבדיו הכהו וימת ויקברו אתו עם אבתיו בעיר דוד וימלך אמציה בןו תחתיו: מלכים ב יב:א-כא

Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign. In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the L-rd all his days (that) because Jehoiada the priest instructed him. - But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense in the high places. - And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the consecrated things (money which is consecrated) that is brought to the house of the L-rd, the money of persons [who pass to be counted] (כסף עובר), - for which each man is assessed (ערכו), - and the money that any man is prompted by his heart to bring to the house of the L-rd, Let the priests take it to them, every man from his acquaintance; and let them repair the breaches of the house, wherever any breach shall be found. But it was so, that in the twenty third year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house. Then king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest, and the other priests, and said to them, Why do you not repair the breaches of the house? - Now therefore receive no more money from your acquaintances, but deliver it for the breaches of the house. And the priests agreed to receive no more money from the people, nor to repair the breaches of the house. But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the L-rd; and the priests who guarded the door put in there all the money that was brought to the house of the L-rd. - And it was so, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they counted and tied up in bags the money that was found in the house of the L-rd. And they gave the money, that was counted, to the hands of the workmen, who supervised the house of the L-rd; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders, who worked upon the house of the L-rd. And to the masons, and the stone cutters, and to buy timber and quarried stones to repair the breaches of the house of the L-rd, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it. But there were not made for the house of the L-rd bowls of silver, snuffers, basins, trumpets, any utensils of gold, or utensils of silver, from the money that was brought to the house of the L-rd; - But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired with it the house of the L-rd. And they did not ask an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to the workmen; for they dealt in good faith. - The money for guilt offerings and the money for sin offerings was not brought to the house of the L-rd; it was delivered to the priests. - Then Hazael king of Aram went up, and fought against Gath, and took it; and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. And Jehoash king of Judah took all the consecrated things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had consecrated, and his own consecrated things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the L-rd, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Aram; and he went away from Jerusalem. - And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written

in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And his servants arose, and conspired, and killed Joash in the house of Millo, on the way that goes down to Silla. For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David; and Amaziah his son reigned in his place. -

### **Kings II 12:1-22**

D.

וַיִּזְקֶן יְהוֹיָדָע וַיִּשְׁבַּע יָמָיו וַיָּמָת בֶּן מֵאָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה בְּמוֹתוֹ: וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ בְּעִיר דָּוִד עִם הַמְּלָכִים כִּי עָשָׂה טוֹבָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְעִם הָאֱלֹהִים וּבֵיתוֹ: וְאַחֲרֵי מוֹת יְהוֹיָדָע בָּאוּ שְׂרֵי יְהוּדָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לַמֶּלֶךְ אֲזַ שָׁמַע הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲלֵיהֶם: וַיַּעֲזְבוּ אֶת בֵּית ד' אֶל־לֹהִי אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם וַיַּעֲבְדוּ אֶת הָאֲשֵׁרִים וְאֶת הָעִצְבִּים וַיְהִי קֶצֶף עַל יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם בְּאֲשַׁמְתָם זֹאת: וַיִּשְׁלַח בָּהֶם נְבִאִים לְהַשִּׁיבָם אֶל ד' וַיַּעֲיְדוּ בָם וְלֹא הִאֲזִינוּ: וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים לָבָשָׁה אֶת זְכָרְיָה בֶּן יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן וַיַּעֲמֵד מַעַל לָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כֹּה | אָמַר הָאֱלֹהִים לָמָּה אַתֶּם עוֹבְרִים אֶת מִצְוֹת ד' וְלֹא תִצְלִיחוּ כִּי עֲזַבְתֶּם אֶת ד' וַיַּעֲזֹב אֶתְכֶם: וַיִּקְשְׁרוּ עָלָיו וַיִּרְגְּמוּהוּ אֲבָן בְּמִצְוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּחֲצַר בֵּית ד': וְלֹא זָכַר יוֹאֵשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ הַחֹסֵד אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוֹיָדָע אָבִיו עִמּוֹ וַיְהַרֵּג אֶת בָּנָו וּכְמוֹתוֹ אָמַר יִרְאֵה ד' וַיִּדְרֹשׁ: וַיְהִי | לְתַקּוּפַת הַשָּׁנָה עָלָה עָלָיו חֵיל אָרֶם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם וַיִּשְׁחִיתוּ אֶת כָּל שְׂרֵי הָעָם מֵעַם וְכָל שְׁלָלָם שְׁלָחוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ דַּרְמָשְׁקִי: כִּי בְמַצָּעַר אֲנָשִׁים בָּאוּ | חֵיל אָרֶם וּד' נָתַן בְּיָדָם חֵיל לָרֶב מֵאֹד כִּי עֲזַבוּ אֶת ד' אֶל־לֹהִי אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם וְאֶת יוֹאֵשׁ עָשׂוּ שְׁפָטִים: וּבְלִכְתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי עֲזַבוּ אֹתוֹ בְּמַחֲלוּיָם רַבִּים הִתְקַשְּׁרוּ עָלָיו עֲבָדָיו בְּדַמִּי בְנֵי יְהוֹיָדָע הַכֹּהֵן וַיְהַרְגוּהוּ עַל מִטָּתוֹ וַיָּמָת וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ בְּעִיר דָּוִד וְלֹא קִבְּרוּהוּ בַקְּבֻרֹת הַמְּלָכִים: וְאַלְהָה הַמִּתְקַשְּׁרִים עָלָיו זָבַד בֶּן שִׁמְעֵת הָעַמּוֹנִית וַיְהוּזְבַד בֶּן שִׁמְרִית הַמוֹאֲבִית: וּבְנָיו יָרַב הַמִּשְׁאָא עָלָיו וַיִּסּוּד בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים הֵנָּה כְּתוּבִים עַל מִדְרָשׁ סֵפֶר הַמְּלָכִים וַיִּמְלֹךְ אֲמַצְיָהוּ בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים ב כד-טו-כו

And Jehoiada grew old, and was full of days when he died; a hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward G-d, and toward his house. And after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance (prostrated themselves) to the king. - Then the king listened to them. And they left the house of the L-rd G-d of their fathers, and served Asherim and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for their trespass. - And He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the L-rd; and they testified against them; but they would not give heed. And the spirit of G-d came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, Thus said G-d, Why do you transgress the commandments of the L-rd, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the L-rd, He has also forsaken you. - And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the L-rd. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had shown him, but slew his son. And when he (Zechariah) died, he said, May the L-rd see and avenge! And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the army of Aram came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all their booty to the king of Damascus. - For the army of the Arameans came with a small company of men, and the L-rd delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the L-rd G-d of their fathers. And they executed judgment against Joash. And when they had departed from him, leaving him seriously wounded, his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died; and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings. And those who conspired against him were: - Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess. Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burden laid against him, and the repairing of the house of G-d, behold, they are written in the story of the Book of the Kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his place. **Chronicles II 24:15-27**

## II. Amaziah

## A.

בשנת שתים ליואש בן יואחז מלך ישראל מלך אמציהו בן יואש מלך יהודה: בן עשרים וחמש שנה היה במלכו ועשרים ותשע שנה מלך בירושלם ושם אמו יהועדן מן ירושלם: ויעש הישר בעיני ד' רק לא כדוד אביו ככל אשר עשה יואש אביו עשה: רק הבמות לא סרו עוד העם מזבחים ומקטרים בבמות: ויהי כאשר חזקה הממלכה בידו ויד את עבדיו המכים את המלך אביו: ואת בני המכים לא המית ככתוב בספר תורת משה אשר צוה ד' לאמר לא יומתו אבות על בנים ולא יבנים על בניהם לא יומתו על אבות כי אם איש בחטאו יומת: הוא הכה את אדום בגי מלח עשרת אלפים ותפש את הסלע במלחמה ויקרא את שמה יקתאל עד היום הזה: אז שלח אמציה מלאכים אל יואש בן יואחז בן יהוא מלך ישראל לאמר לכה נתראה פנים: וישלח יואש מלך ישראל אל אמציהו מלך יהודה לאמר החוח אשר בלבנון שלח אל הארו אשר בלבנון לאמר תנה את בתך לבני לאשה ותעבר חית השדה אשר בלבנון ותרמס את החוח: הכה הכית את אדום ונשאך לך הכבד ושב בביתך ולמה תתגרה ברעה ונפלתה אתה ויהודה עמך: ולא שמע אמציהו ויעל יואש מלך ישראל ויתראו פנים הוא ואמציהו מלך יהודה בבית שמש אשר ליהודה: וינגף יהודה לפני ישראל וינסו איש לאהלו: ואת אמציהו מלך יהודה בן יואש בן אחזיהו תפש יואש מלך ישראל בבית שמש ויבא ירושלם ויפרץ בחומת ירושלם בשער אפרים עד שער הפנה ארבע מאות אמה: ולקח את כל הזהב והכסף ואת כל הכלים הנמצאים בית ד' ובאוצרות בית המלך ואת בני התערבות וישב שמרונה: ויתר דברי יואש אשר עשה וגבורתו ואשר נלחם עם אמציהו מלך יהודה הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי ישראל: וישכב יואש עם אבתיו ויקבר בשמרון עם מלכי ישראל וימלך ירבעם בנו תחתיו: ויחי אמציהו בן יואש מלך יהודה אחרי מות יואש בן יואחז מלך ישראל חמש עשרה שנה: ויתר דברי אמציהו הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי יהודה: ויקשרו עליו קשר בירושלם וינס לכישה וישלחו אחריו לכישה וימתהו שם: וישאו אתו על הסוסים ויקבר בירושלם עם אבתיו בעיר דוד: מלכים ב יד:א-כ

In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah. He was twenty five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the L-rd, yet not like David his father; he did according to all things as Joash his father did. - But the high places were not taken away; the people still slaughtered and burned sacrifices (incense) on the high places. And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he killed his servants who had killed the king his father. But the children of the murderers he did not kill; according to that which is written in the book of the Torah of Moses, because the L-rd commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin. He killed of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Sela by war, and called the name of it Yoktehel to this day. Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face. - And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give your daughter to my son for a wife; and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trampled down the thistle. - You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up; keep your glory, and remain at home; for why should you provoke trouble, that you should fall, you, and Judah with you? But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Beth-Shemesh, which belongs to Judah. And Judah was defeated by Israel; and they fled every man to their tents. And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-Shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and

broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. - And he took all the gold and silver, and all the utensils that were found in the house of the L-rd, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, - and returned to Samaria. And the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his place. And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and killed him there. And they brought him on horses; and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. **Kings II 14:1-20**

B.

וּיִקְבֹּץ אֶמְצִיָּהוּ אֶת יְהוּדָה וַיַּעֲמִידֵם לְבֵית אָבוֹת לְשָׂרֵי הָאֲלָפִים וּלְשָׂרֵי הַמֵּאוֹת לְכֹל יְהוּדָה וּבְנֵימָן וַיִּפְקְדֵם לְמִבְּנֵי עָשָׂרִים שָׁנָה וּמַעֲלָה וַיִּמְצָאם שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף בַּחֹר יוֹצֵא צָבָא אַחֲזוּ רִמְח וְצִנָּה: וַיִּשְׁכַּר מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל מֵאָה אֶלֶף גְּבוּר חֵיִל בְּמֵאָה כֹּכַר כֶּסֶף: וַאִישׁ הָאֶלֶף-לְהִים בָּא אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵל יְבוֹא עִמָּךְ צָבָא יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אֵין ד' עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל בְּנֵי אֶפְרָיִם: כִּי אִם בָּא אַתָּה עֲשֵׂה חֲזֹק לְמִלְחָמָה יִכְשִׁילְךָ הָאֶלֶף-לְהִים לְפָנָי אוֹיֵב כִּי יֵשׁ כַּח בָּא-לְהִים לְעִזּוֹר וּלְהַכְשִׁיל: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶמְצִיָּהוּ לְאִישׁ הָאֶלֶף-לְהִים וּמָה לַעֲשׂוֹת לְמֵאת הַכֹּכָר אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְגִדּוֹד יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אִישׁ הָאֶלֶף-לְהִים יֵשׁ לְד' לְתַת לְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְזָה: וַיְבַדִּילֵם אֶמְצִיָּהוּ לְהַגְדוֹד אֲשֶׁר בָּא אֵלָיו מֵאֶפְרָיִם לְלָכֶת לְמִקּוֹמָם וַיַּחַר אַפָּם מְאֹד בִּיהוּדָה וַיֵּשׁוּבוּ לְמִקּוֹמָם בְּחָרֵי אָף: וַאֲמַצְיָהוּ הִתְחַזַּק וַיִּנְהַג אֶת עַמּוֹ וַיִּלְךְ גֵּיא הַמֶּלֶח וַיִּךְ אֶת בְּנֵי שְׁעִיר עֲשָׂרַת אֲלָפִים: וְעֲשָׂרַת אֲלָפִים חַיִּים שָׁבוּ בְנֵי יְהוּדָה וַיְבִיאוּם לְרֹאשׁ הַסֶּלַע וַיִּשְׁלִיכוּם מֵרֹאשׁ הַסֶּלַע וְכָלם נִבְקָעוּ: וּבְנֵי הַגְּדוֹד אֲשֶׁר הֵשִׁיב אֶמְצִיָּהוּ מִלְּכַת עַמּוֹ לְמִלְחָמָה וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ בְעָרֵי יְהוּדָה מִשְׁמֶרוֹן וְעַד בֵּית חוּרוֹן וַיִּכּוּ מֵהֶם שְׁלֹשׁת אֲלָפִים וַיִּבְזּוּ בְזָה רַבָּה: וַיְהִי אַחֲרָי בּוֹא אֶמְצִיָּהוּ מֵהַכּוֹת אֶת אֲדוּמִים וַיָּבֵא אֶת אֱלֹהֵי בְנֵי שְׁעִיר וַיַּעֲמִידֵם לוֹ לְאֱלֹהִים וּלְפָנֵיהֶם יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְלָהֶם יִקְטֹר: וַיַּחַר אֶף ד' בְּאֶמְצִיָּהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח אֵלָיו נְבִיא וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לְמָה דַרְשַׁת אֶת אֱלֹהֵי הָעַם אֲשֶׁר לֹא הִצִּילוּ אֶת עַמָּם מִיָּד: וַיְהִי | בְּדַבְּרוֹ אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲלִיוּעֵץ לְמֶלֶךְ נִתְּנוֹךְ חֹדֶל לְךָ לְמָה יִכּוֹף וַיַּחְדֵּל הַנְּבִיא וַיֹּאמֶר יָדַעְתִּי כִּי יַעֲץ אֶלֶף-לְהִים לְהִשְׁחִיתְךָ כִּי עֲשִׂיתָ זֹאת וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתָּ לַעֲצָתִי: וַיּוֹעֵץ אֶמְצִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶל יוֹאָשׁ בֶּן יְהוֹאָחָז בֶּן יְהוּא מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר לְכָה נִתְרָאָה פָּנִים: . . . דַּבְּרֵי הַיָּמִים ב כה-ה-יז

And Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he counted them from twenty years old and above, and found that they were three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, who could handle spear and shield. He hired also a hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for a hundred talents of silver. And a man of G-d came to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with you; for the L-rd is not with Israel, with all these men of Ephraim. But if you go, act, and are strong for the battle, G-d shall make fall before you the enemy; for G-d has power to help, and to cast down. And Amaziah said to the man of G-d, But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of G-d answered, The L-rd is able to give you much more than this. Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim, to go home again. And their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger. And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck ten thousand of the men of Seir. And another ten thousand who were left alive were carried away captive by the men of Judah, who brought them to the top of the rock, and threw them down from the top of the rock, and they were all dashed to pieces. - And the soldiers of the

army whom Amaziah sent back, so that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria as far as Beth-Horon, and killed three thousand in them, and took much booty. - And it came to pass, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the men of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and worshipped them, and burned (incense) to them. - And the anger of the L-rd was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent to him a prophet, who said to him, Why have you sought after the gods of the people, who could not save their own people from your hand? And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, Have we made you a royal counsellor? Stop! Why should you be put to death? And the prophet stopped, and said, I know that G-d has determined to destroy you, because you have done this, and have not listened to my counsel. Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel, and sent word to Joash, the son of Jehohaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face. . . . **Chronicles II 25:5-17**

### III. Azariah

#### A.

(1) וַיִּקְחוּ כָּל עַם יְהוּדָה אֶת עֲזַרְיָה וְהוּא בֶן שֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וַיִּמְלְכוּ אֹתוֹ תַּחַת אָבִיו אֲמַצְיָהוּ: הוּא בָּנָה אֶת אֵילַת וַיִּשְׁבְּהָ לַיהוּדָה אַחֲרֵי שֶׁכַּב הַמֶּלֶךְ עִם אֲבֹתָיו: מַלְכִים ב יד:כא-כב

And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. He built Elath, - and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers. - **Kings II 14:21-22**

(2) בַּשָּׁנָה עֶשְׂרִים וְשֶׁבַע שָׁנָה לִירְבֵּעָם מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל מֶלֶךְ עֲזַרְיָה בֶן אֲמַצְיָה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה: בֶּן שֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָה בְּמִלְכוֹ וַחֲמִשִּׁים וּשְׁתַּיִם שָׁנָה מֶלֶךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ יְכַלְיָהוּ מִירוּשָׁלַם: וַיַּעַשׂ הַיֵּשֶׁר בְּעֵינֵי ד' כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֲמַצְיָהוּ אָבִיו: רַק הַבָּמֹת לֹא סָרוּ עוֹד הָעַם מִזְבָּחִים וּמִקְטָרִים בַּבָּמֹת: וַיִּנְגַע ד' אֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיְהִי מְצָרַע עַד יוֹם מָתוֹ וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּבֵית הַחֲפְשִׁית וַיּוֹתֵם בֶּן הַמֶּלֶךְ עַל הַבַּיִת שִׁפְטָא אֶת עַם הָאָרֶץ: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי עֲזַרְיָהוּ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הֵלֵא הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה: וַיִּשְׁכַּב עֲזַרְיָה עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ עִם אֲבֹתָיו בְּעִיר דָּוִד וַיִּמְלֹךְ יוֹתָם בְּנוֹ תַּחְתָּיו: מַלְכִים ב טו:א-ז

In the twenty seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign. - Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, - and he reigned fifty two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecoliah - of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the L-rd, according to all that his father Amaziah had done; Save that the high places were not removed; the people sacrificed and burned incense still on the high places. And the L-rd struck the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and lived in a separate house. - And Jotham - the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land. And the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David; and Jotham his son reigned in his place. **Kings II 15:1-7**

#### B.

וְעַל יָדָם חֵיל צָבָא שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף וְשִׁבְעַת אֲלָפִים וַחֲמִשׁ מֵאוֹת עוֹשֵׁי מְלַחְמָה בְּכַח חֵיל לְעוֹר לְמֶלֶךְ עַל הָאוֹיֵב: וַיִּכֶן לָהֶם עֲזִיָּהוּ לְכָל הַצָּבָא מְגַנִּים וְרַמְחִים וְכוּבְעִים וְשִׁרְיָנוֹת וּקְשָׁתוֹת וְלֹאבָנֵי קִלְעִים: וַיַּעַשׂ בִּירוּשָׁלַם חֲשִׁבְנוֹת מַחְשָׁבֹת חוֹשֵׁב לְהִיּוֹת עַל הַמְּגַדְלִים וְעַל הַפְּנֹת לִירוּא בַחֲצִים וּבְאֲבָנִים גְּדוּלוֹת וַיֵּצֵא שְׁמוֹ עַד לְמַרְחוֹק כִּי הִפְלִיא לְהַעֲזוֹר עַד כִּי חָזַק: וַיִּכְחָזְקוּ גְבַהּ לְבוֹ עַד לְהַשְׁחִית וַיִּמְעַל בְּד' א-לְהִיוּ וַיָּבֵא אֶל הַיִּכָּל ד' לְהַקְטִיר עַל מִזְבַּח הַקְּטָרֶת: וַיָּבֵא אַחֲרָיו עֲזַרְיָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן וְעָמּוֹ כַּהֲנָיִם לְד' שְׁמוֹנִים בְּנֵי חֵיל: וַיַּעֲמְדוּ עַל עֲזִיָּהוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא לָךְ עֲזִיָּהוּ לְהַקְטִיר לְד' כִּי לְכַהֲנָיִם בְּנֵי אֶהֱרָן



הַמְקֻדְּשִׁים לְהִקְטִיר צֵא מִן הַמְקֻדֵּשׁ כִּי מֵעֵלְתָּ וְלֹא לָךְ לְכַבֹּד מִד' א--לֵהִים: וַיִּזְעַף עֲזִיָּהוּ וּבִידוֹ מִקְטֹרֶת לְהִקְטִיר וּבִזְעָפוֹ עִם הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַצָּרֶעֶת זָרְחָה בְּמִצְחוֹ לִפְנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים בְּבֵית ד' מֵעַל לְמִזְבַּח הַקְטֹרֶת: וַיִּפֶן אֵלָיו עֲזִרְיָהוּ כֹהֵן הָרֹאשׁ וְכָל הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהִנֵּה הוּא מִצָּרַע בְּמִצְחוֹ וַיִּבְהַלּוּהוּ מִשָּׁם וְגַם הוּא נִדְחָף לְצֵאת כִּי נִגְעוּ ד': וַיְהִי עֲזִיָּהוּ הַמֶּלֶךְ מִצָּרַע עַד יוֹם מוֹתוֹ וַיָּשָׁב בֵּית הַחֲפָשִׁית מִצָּרַע כִּי נִגְזַר מִבֵּית ד' וַיּוֹתֵם בְּנוֹ עַל בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ שׁוֹפֵט אֶת עַם הָאָרֶץ: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי עֲזִיָּהוּ הָרֹאשָׁנִים וְהָאַחֲרֹנִים כְּתֹב יִשְׁעִיהוּ בֶן אֲמוּץ הַנְּבִיא: וַיִּשְׁכַּב עֲזִיָּהוּ עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ עִם אֲבֹתָיו בַּשָּׂדֶה הַקְּבוּרָה אֲשֶׁר לְמַלְכִים כִּי אָמְרוּ מִצָּרַע הוּא וַיִּמְלֹךְ יוֹתָם בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים ב כו:יג-כג

And under their hand was an army, three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, who made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the army shields, and spears, and helmets, and coats of mail, and bows, and stones for slinging. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong. But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction; for he transgressed against the L-rd his G-d, and went into the temple of the L-rd to burn incense upon the altar of incense. - And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him eighty priests of the L-rd, who were brave men; And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said to him, It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the L-rd, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed; and it shall bring you no honor from the L-rd G-d! And Uzziah was angry, and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense; and when he became angry with the priests, the leprosy broke out in his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the L-rd, by the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they thrust him out quickly from there; and he himself also hastened to go out, because the L-rd had struck him. And Uzziah the king was a leper to the day of his death, and lived in the house of separation, - being diseased; for he was cut off from the house of the L-rd; and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. And the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, wrote. And Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper; - and Jotham his son reigned in his place. **Chronicles II 26:13-23**

#### IV. Jotham

##### A.

בֶּן עֶשְׂרִים וְחָמֵשׁ שָׁנָה יוֹתָם בְּמָלְכוֹ וְשֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ יְרוּשָׁה בַת צָדוֹק: וַיַּעַשׂ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֵי ד' כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה עֲזִיָּהוּ אָבִיו רַק לֹא בָא אֶל הַיֵּכָל ד' וְעוֹד הָעָם מִשְׁחִיתִים: הוּא בָּנָה אֶת שַׁעַר בֵּית ד' הָעֵלְיוֹן וּבַחֹמַת הָעֵפֶל בָּנָה לְרַב: וְעָרִים בָּנָה בְּהַר יְהוּדָה וּבְחָרְשִׁים בָּנָה בִּירְנָיוֹת וּמִגְדָּלִים: וְהוּא נִלְחַם עִם מֶלֶךְ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וַיִּחְזַק עֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְּנוּ לוֹ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִיא מֵאָה כֶּסֶף וְעֶשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים כָּרִים חֲטִים וּשְׁעוּרִים עֶשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים זֹאת הִשִּׁיבוּ לוֹ בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן וּבַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיָּה וְהַשְּׁלִישִׁית: וַיִּתְחַזַּק יוֹתָם כִּי הֵכִין דְּרָכָיו לִפְנֵי ד' א--לֵהִיו: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי יוֹתָם וְכָל מַלְחַמָּתוֹ וּדְרָכָיו הֵנָּה כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהוּדָה: בֶּן עֶשְׂרִים וְחָמֵשׁ שָׁנָה הָיָה בְּמָלְכוֹ וְשֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם: וַיִּשְׁכַּב יוֹתָם עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ בְּעִיר דָּוִד וַיִּמְלֹךְ אַחָז בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים ב כז:א-ט

Jotham was twenty five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. And he did that which was right in the sight of the L-rd, according to all that his father Uzziah did; but he did not enter into the Sanctuary of the Temple of the L-rd. And the people still acted corruptly. He built the

High Gate of the house of the L-rd, and on the wall of Ophel he built much. And he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers. And he fought with the king of the Ammonites, and prevailed against them. And the Ammonites gave him the same year a hundred talents of silver, and ten thousand measures of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. And the Ammonites paid to him the same in the second and third years. And Jotham became mighty, because he directed his ways before the L-rd his G-d. And the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. He was twenty five old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. - And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Ahaz his son reigned in his place. **Chronicles II 27:1-9**

B.

(1) אמר חזקיה אמר רבי ירמיה משום שמעון בן יוחי: יכול אני לפטור את כל העולם כולו מן הדין מיום שנבראתי עד עתה, ואילמלי אליעזר בני עמי מיום שנברא העולם ועד עכשיו, ואילמלי יותם בן עוזיהו עמנו מיום שנברא העולם עד סופו. סוכה מה:

Hizkiah further stated in the name of R. Yirmiah who said it in the name of R. Shimon b. Yohai, I am able to exempt the whole world from judgment from the day that I was born until now, and were Eliezer, my son, to be with me [we could exempt it] from the day of the creation of the world to the present time, and were Jotham the son of Uzziah with us, [we could exempt it] from the creation of the world to its final end. **Sukkah 45b**

(2) יותם בן עוזיהו: צדיק היה, ועניו יותר משאר מלכים, וזכה בכיבוד אביו, ועליו נאמר בן יכבד אב (מלאכי א), שכל הימים שהיה אביו מצורע והוא היה שופט עם הארץ, כדכתיב (מלכים ב טו), ויותם בן המלך על הבית שופט וגו' לא נטל עליו כתר מלכות בחייו, וכל דינין שהיה דן אומרן בשם אביו. רש"י סוכה מה:

**Yosom (Jotham) ben Uziahu:** He was a *tzaddik* (holy person) and more humble than the other kings and merited this through the honor he bestowed upon his father. Regarding him did Scripture state (Malachi 1:6), “. . . a son honors his father,” for he administrated (lit. judged) the land during the whole time that his father was a leper, as it says (Kings II 15:5), “And Jotham the king’s son was over the house, judging the people of the land.” During his father’s lifetime, he didn’t take for himself the crown of royalty and whenever he pronounced judgement, he would attribute the decision to his father. **Rashi ibid.**

V. Upheaval in Israel

A.

בשנת חמש עשרה שנה לאמציהו בן יואש מלך יהודה מלך ירבעם בן יואש מלך ישראל בשמרון ארבעים ואחת שנה: ויעש הרע בעיני ד' לא סר מכל חטאות ירבעם בן נבט אשר החטיא את ישראל: הוא השיב את גבול ישראל מלבוא חמת עד ים הערבה כדבר ד' א-להי ישראל אשר דבר ביד עבדו יונה בן אמתיה הנביא אשר מגת החפר: כי ראה ד' את עני ישראל מרה מאד ואפס עצור ואפס עזוב ואין עזר לישראל: ולא דבר ד' למחות את שם ישראל מתחת השמים ויושיעם ביד ירבעם בן יואש: ויתר דברי ירבעם וכל אשר עשה וגבורתו אשר נלחם ואשר השיב את דמשק ואת חמת ליהודה בישראל הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי ישראל: וישכב ירבעם עם אבתיו עם מלכי ישראל וימלך זכריה בנו תחתיו: מלכים ב יד:כג-כט

In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. - He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the sea of the Arabah, - according to the word of the L-rd G-d of Israel, which He spoke by the hand of His servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-Hepher. - For the L-rd saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter; for there was not any shut up, nor any left free, nor any helper for Israel. And the L-rd did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he fought, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which had belonged to Judah, for Israel, - are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, with the kings of Israel; and Zechariah his son reigned in his place. **Kings II 14:21-29**

B.

(1) בַּשָּׁנָה שְׁלֹשִׁים וּשְׁמֹנֶה שָׁנָה לְעִזְרִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ זְכַרְיָהוּ בֶן יִרְבְּעָם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשִׁמְרוֹן שָׁשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ אֲבֹתָיו לֹא סָר מִחַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן נְבֹט אֲשֶׁר הִחְטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּקְשֶׁר עָלָיו שָׁלֹם בֶּן יִבְשׁ וַיִּכְהוּ קָבֵל עִם וַיִּמִּיתֵהוּ וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי זְכַרְיָה הַנֶּחֱמָה כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: הוּא דְּבַר ד' אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר אֵל יְהוָה לְאֹמֵר בְּנֵי רְבִיעִים יֵשְׁבוּ לָךְ עַל כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי כֵן: מַלְכִים ב טו-ח-יב

In the thirty eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd, as his fathers had done; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck him before the people, and killed him, and reigned in his place. And the rest of the acts of Zechariah, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. This was the word of the L-rd which He spoke to Jehu, saying, Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation. And so it came to pass. **Kings II 15:8-12**

(2) וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֵל יְהוָה יַעַן אֲשֶׁר הִטִּיבְתָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֵי כָל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבִּי עָשִׂיתָ לְבֵית אַחָאב בְּנֵי רְבִיעִים יֵשְׁבוּ לָךְ עַל כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב יל

And the L-rd said to Jehu, Because you have done well in doing that which is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. **Kings II 10:30**

C.

שְׁלוֹם בֶּן יִבְשׁ מֶלֶךְ בַּשָּׁנָה שְׁלֹשִׁים וּתְשַׁע שָׁנָה לְעִזְרִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וַיִּמְלֹךְ יָרַח יָמִים בְּשִׁמְרוֹן: וַיַּעַל מְנַחֵם בֶּן גָּדִי מִתִּירְצָה וַיָּבֵא שִׁמְרוֹן וַיִּךְ אֶת שְׁלוֹם בֶּן יִבְשׁ בְּשִׁמְרוֹן וַיִּמִּיתֵהוּ וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי שְׁלוֹם וַקְשְׁרוּ אֲשֶׁר קָשְׁרָה הֵנָּה כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב טו-יג-טו

Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria. For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and struck Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and killed him, and reigned in his place. And the rest of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. **Kings II 15:13-15**

D.

אִז יָכָה מִנְחָם אֶת תְּפֹסֶח וְאֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּהּ וְאֶת גְּבוּלֶיהָ מִתְרַצָּה כִּי לֹא פָתַח וַיֵּךְ אֶת כָּל הַהֲרוּתֶיהָ בְּקֶעַע: בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלֹשִׁים וְתֵשַׁע שָׁנָה לְעִזְרִיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ מִנְחָם בֶּן גָּדִי עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂר שָׁנִים בְּשִׁמְרוֹן: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' לֹא סָר מֵעַל חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבָּעָם בֶּן נֹבֵט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל יָמָיו: בָּא פּוֹל מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר עַל הָאָרֶץ וַיִּתֵּן מִנְחָם לְפוֹל אֶלֶף כֶּכֶר כֶּסֶף לְהִיּוֹת יָדָיו אִתּוֹ לְהַחְזִיק הַמְּמַלְכָה בְּיָדוֹ: וַיֵּצֵא מִנְחָם אֶת הַכֶּסֶף עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל כָּל גְּבוּרֵי הַחֵיַל לְתֵת לְמֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר חֲמִשִּׁים שְׁקָלִים כֶּסֶף לְאִישׁ אֶחָד וַיָּשֵׁב מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וְלֹא עָמַד שָׁם בְּאָרֶץ: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי מִנְחָם וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הֲלוֹא הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁכַּב מִנְחָם עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּמְלֹךְ פִּקְחִיָּה בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: מַלְכִים ב טו:טז-כב

Then Menahem struck Tiphseh, and all who were there, and its borders from Tirzah; because they opened not to him, therefore he struck it; and all the women there who were with child he ripped up. - In the thirty ninth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd; he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. - And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand. And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, from all the mighty men of wealth, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria turned back, and did not remain in the land. And the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his place. **Kings II 15:16-22**

E.

בְּשָׁנַת חֲמִשִּׁים שָׁנָה לְעִזְרִיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ פִּקְחִיָּה בֶּן מִנְחָם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשִׁמְרוֹן שְׁנָתַיִם: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' לֹא סָר מִחַטָּאוֹת יִרְבָּעָם בֶּן נֹבֵט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּקְשֶׁר עָלָיו פִּקַּח בֶּן רִמְלִיָּהוּ שְׁלִישׁוֹ וַיִּכְהוּ בְּשִׁמְרוֹן בְּאֶרְמוֹן בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת אַרְגֹּב וְאֶת הָאֲרִיָּה וְעָמְדוּ חֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי גִלְעָדִים וַיִּמְיֹתוּהוּ וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי פִקְחִיָּה וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הֵנָּם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב טו:כג-כו

In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and struck him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, by Argob and Arieah, - and with him fifty men of the Gileadites; and he killed him, and reigned in his place. And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. **Kings II 15:23-26**

F.

בְּשָׁנַת חֲמִשִּׁים וּשְׁתַּיִם שָׁנָה לְעִזְרִיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ פִּקַּח בֶּן רִמְלִיָּהוּ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשִׁמְרוֹן עָשָׂרִים שָׁנָה: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' לֹא סָר מִן חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבָּעָם בֶּן נֹבֵט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל: בַּיָּמִים פִּקַּח מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא תַגְלַת פְּלֹאֶסֶר מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וַיִּקַּח אֶת עִיּוֹן וְאֶת אָבֵל בֵּית מַעֲכָה וְאֶת יְנוּחַ וְאֶת קָדֵשׁ וְאֶת חֲצוֹר וְאֶת הַגִּלְעָד וְאֶת הַגְּלִילָה כָּל אֶרֶץ נַפְתָּלִי וַיְגַלֵּם אֲשׁוּרָה: וַיִּקְשֶׁר קֶשֶׁר הוֹשַׁע בֶּן אֵלָה עַל פִּקַּח בֶּן רִמְלִיָּהוּ וַיִּכְהוּ וַיִּמְיֹתוּהוּ וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו בְּשָׁנַת עָשָׂרִים לְיוֹתָם בֶּן עִזְיָה: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי פִקַּח וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הֵנָּם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב טו:כז-לא

In the fifty second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. In the days of Pekah, king of Israel, came Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, and took - Iyon, and Abel-Beth-Maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, - and carried them captive to Assyria. And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck him, and killed him, and reigned in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. - And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. **Kings II 15:27-31**

G.

וַיִּמְעַלוּ בֵּא-לֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם וַיַּזְנוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהֵי עַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁמִיד אֱלֹהִים מִפְּנֵיהֶם: וַיַּעַר אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת רוּחַ | פּוּל מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וְאֶת רוּחַ תִּלְגַּת פִּלְנֶסֶר מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וַיִּגְלֹם לְרֵאוּבֵנֵי וְלַגָּדִי וְלַחֲצִי שֵׁבֶט מְנַשֶּׁה וַיְבִיאֵם לַחֲלָח וְחָבוּר וְהָרָא וְנָהָר גּוֹזָן עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים אֵלֶּה: כו

And they transgressed against the G-d of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom G-d destroyed before them. And the G-d of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-Pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, till this day. **Chronicles I 5:25-26**

## VI. Hoshea and the Destruction of the Kingdom of Israel

A.

בְּשָׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם עָשְׂרָה לְאַחַז מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה מֶלֶךְ הוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן אֵלָה בְּשִׁמְרוֹן עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּשְׁעֵי שָׁנִים: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' רַק לֹא כַמְלֹכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ לְפָנָיו: עָלְיוּ עָלָה שְׁלֹמֶנְאֶסֶר מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וַיְהִי לוֹ הוֹשֵׁעַ עֶבֶד וַיָּשָׁב לוֹ מִנְחָה: וַיִּמְצָא מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר בְּהוֹשֵׁעַ קָשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח מְלָאכִים אֵל סוּא מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וְלֹא הֵעֲלָה מִנְחָה לְמֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר כְּשִׁנָּה בְּשָׁנָה וַיַּעֲצְרֵהוּ מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וַיֹּאסְרֵהוּ בֵּית כְּלָא: וַיַּעַל מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר בְּכָל הָאָרֶץ וַיַּעַל שִׁמְרוֹן וַיַּצַּר עָלֶיהָ שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים: בְּשָׁנַת הַתְּשִׁיעִית לְהוֹשֵׁעַ לְכַד מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר אֶת שִׁמְרוֹן וַיִּגְלֵל אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשׁוּרָה וַיָּשָׁב אֲתָם בְּחָלָח וּבְחָבוּר נָהָר גּוֹזָן וְעָרֵי מְדִי: מַלְכִּים ב' יז-ו

In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. - And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him. - Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute. - And the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. **Kings II 17:1-6**

B.

מֵה נִשְׁתַּנָּה הוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן אֵלָה שֶׁגָּלוּ עִשְׂרֵת הַשְּׁבֹטִים בִּימֵיו אֲלֵא עַד עַכְשָׁיו הִיטָה עֲבוּדַת אֱלִילִים קְשׁוּרָה בִּיחִיד וְקִשָּׁה לְפָנֵי ד' לְהַגְלוֹת אֶת הַצְּבוּר בַּעוֹן יַחִיד, כִּיּוֹן שָׁבָא הוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן אֵלָה וּבִיטַל כָּל הַמְּשֻׁמְרוֹת כּוֹלֵן וְאָמַר כָּל מִי שִׁיעֲלָה לִירוּשָׁלַיִם יַעֲלָה וְלֹא אָמַר הַכֹּל יַעֲלֹ לִירוּשָׁלַיִם, עָלְיוּ הוּא אֹמֵר וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי ד' רַק לֹא כַמְלֹכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, עָלְיוּ עָלָה שְׁלֹמֶנְאֶסֶר, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁשָּׁמַט קוֹלָר מִצְּאוּרָו וְנִתְּנָו בְּצוּרָר הַרְבִּים. יִלְקוּט שְׁמַעוֹנֵי מַלְכִּים ב' יז

Why was Hoshea singled out that the ten tribes were exiled in his reign? Up until now idolatry was connected with an individual (king) and it was difficult to condemn the community because of the sin (of coercion) done by the individual. But when Hoshea came and took away the border guards and said "anyone who wants to go up to Jerusalem to the Bais Hamikdash is allowed" but failed to say "all *must* go to Jerusalem." Scripture refers to him "and he (Hoshea) did evil in the eyes of G-d, however not to the extent of the other kings of Israel." It was he that Shalmanessar attacked because he lifted the guilt (lit. chains) from himself and put it on the community.  
**Yalkut Shimoni Kings II 17**

## VII. Ahaz

### A.

(1) בֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה אָחָז בְּמֶלְכוֹ וְשֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מֶלֶךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְלֹא עָשָׂה הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵינֵי ד' כְּדָוִד אָבִיו: וַיֵּלֶךְ בְּדַרְכֵי מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגַם מִסְכּוֹת עָשָׂה לְבַעֲלִים: וְהוּא הִקְטִיר בְּגִי' בֶן הַנֶּסֶם וַיִּבְעַר אֶת בְּנָיו בָּאֵשׁ כְּתַעֲבוֹת הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר הָרִישׁ ד' מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּזְבַּח וַיִּקְטֹר בְּבָמֹת וְעַל הַגְּבָעוֹת וְתַחַת כָּל עֵץ רַעֲנָן: וַיִּתְּנָהוּ ד' אֶל־לְהִיוּ בְּיַד מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם וַיִּכּוּ בוֹ וַיִּשְׁבּוּ מִמֶּנּוּ שְׁבִי' גְדוֹלָה וַיָּבִיאוּ דַרְמָשֶׁק וְגַם בְּיַד מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִתָּן וַיִּךְ בוֹ מִכָּה גְדוֹלָה: וַיִּהְרַג פֶּקַח בֶּן רְמִלְיָהוּ בִיהוּדָה מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אֶלֶף בְּיוֹם אֶחָד הַכֹּל בְּנֵי חֵיל בְּעֶזְבְּם אֶת ד' אֶל־לְהִי אַבּוֹתָם: וַיִּהְרַג זְכַרְיָא | גְּבוּר אֶפְרַיִם אֶת מַעֲשֵׂיהוּ בֶן הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאֶת עֲזַרְיָקָם נְגִיד הַבַּיִת וְאֶת אֶלְקָנָה מִשְׁנֵה הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיִּשְׁבּוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֲחִיהֶם מֵאֲתִים אֶלֶף נָשִׁים בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת וְגַם שָׁלַל רַב בְּזוֹז מֵהֶם וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת הַשָּׁלָל לְשֹׁמְרוֹן: וְשֵׁם הָיָה נְבִיא לְד' עֲדָד שְׁמוֹ וַיֵּצֵא לְפָנָי הַצָּבָא הַבָּא לְשֹׁמְרוֹן וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הִנֵּה בַחֲמַת ד' אֶל־לְהִי אַבּוֹתֵיכֶם עַל יְהוּדָה נִתְּנָם בְּיַדְכֶם וְתִהְיֶה כִּם בְּזַעַף עַד לְשָׁמַיִם הַגִּיעַ: וְעַתָּה בְנֵי יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם אַתֶּם אֲמַרְיִם לְכַבֵּשׁ לְעַבְדִּים וְלִשְׁפָחוֹת לְכֶם הֲלֹא רַק אַתֶּם עִמְכֶם אֲשָׁמוֹת לְד' אֶל־לְהִיכֶם: וְעַתָּה שְׁמַעוֹנֵי וְהַשִּׁיבוּ הַשְּׁבִי' אֲשֶׁר שְׁבִיתֶם מֵאֲחֵיכֶם כִּי חָרוֹן אַף ד' עֲלֵיכֶם: וַיִּקְמוּ אֲנָשִׁים מֵרַאשֵׁי בְנֵי אֶפְרַיִם עֲזַרְיָהוּ בֶן יְהוֹחָנָן בְּרַכְיָהוּ בֶן מִשְׁלֹמוֹת וַיַּחֲזִיקוּהוּ בֶן שָׁלֹם וְעַמְשָׂא בֶן חֲדָלִי עַל הַבָּאִים מִן הַצָּבָא: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶם לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת הַשְּׁבִי' הִנֵּה כִי לֹא־שָׁמַת ד' עָלֵינוּ אַתֶּם אֲמַרְיִם לְהוֹסִיף עַל חַטָּאתֵינוּ וְעַל אֲשָׁמֹתֵינוּ כִּי רַבָּה אֲשָׁמָה לָנוּ וְחָרוֹן אַף עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיַּעֲזֹב הַחֲלוּץ אֶת הַשְּׁבִי' וְאֶת הַבְּזָה לְפָנֵי הַשָּׂרִים וְכָל הַקְּהָל: וַיִּקְמוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר נָקְבוּ בְשֵׁמוֹת וַיַּחֲזִיקוּ בְשְׁבִי' וְכָל מַעֲרַמְיָהֶם הִלְבִּישׁוּ מִן הַשָּׁלָל וַיִּלְבָּשׁוּם וַיַּנְעִלוּם וַיֹּאכְלוּם וַיִּשְׁקוּם וַיִּסְכּוּם וַיַּנְהִלוּם בַּחֲמַרִּים לְכָל כּוֹשֵׁל וַיָּבִיאוּם יָרְחוֹ עִיר הַתְּמָרִים אֶצֶל אֲחֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁבּוּ שֹׁמְרוֹן: דְּבַרֵי הַיָּמִים ב כח:א-טו

Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; but he did not do that which was right in the sight of the L-rd, like David his father; For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for the Baalim. And he burned (incense) sacrifices in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the L-rd had cast out before the people of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned (incense) sacrifices in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. And the L-rd his G-d delivered him into the hand of the king of Aram; and they defeated him, and carried away captive a great multitude of them, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter. And Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah a hundred and twenty thousand in one day, who were all brave men; because they had forsaken the L-rd G-d of their fathers. And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah - the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah who was viceroy (next to the king). And the people of Israel carried away captive of their brothers two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much booty from them, and brought the booty to Samaria. But a prophet of the L-rd was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them, Behold, because the L-rd G-d of your fathers was angry with Judah, he has

delivered them into your hand, and you have slain them in a rage that reaches up to heaven. And now you intend to keep the people of Judah and Jerusalem as male and female slaves to you. Do you not have sins of your own against the L-rd your G-d? And now hear me, and send back the captives, whom you have taken captive of your brothers; for the fierce wrath of the L-rd is upon you. Then some of the heads of the men of Ephraim, - Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, and Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war, And they said to them, You shall not bring in the captives here; for whereas we have offended against the L-rd already, you intend to add more to our sins and to our trespass; for our trespass is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel. And the armed men left the captives and the booty before the princes and all the congregation. And the men who were mentioned by name rose up, and took the captives, and clothed with the booty all who were naked among them, and dressed them, and gave them shoes, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all the weak ones on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria. **Chronicles II 28:1-15**

(2) משוח מלחמה בשעה שמדבר אל העם בלשון הקודש היה מדבר, שנאמר: (דברים כ) והיה כקרבכם אל המלחמה ונגש הכהן זה כהן משוח מלחמה, (דברים כ) ודבר אל העם בלשון הקודש, (דברים כ) ואמר אליהם שמע ישראל וגו' על אויביכם ולא על אחיכם, לא יהודה על שמעון ולא שמעון על בנימין, שאם תפלו בידם ירחמו עליכם, כמה שנאמר: (דברי הימים ב' כח) ויקומו האנשים אשר נקבו בשמות ויחזיקו בשביה וכל מערומיהם הלבישו מן השלל וילבישום וינעילום ויאכילום וישקום ויסכום וינהלום בחמורים לכל כושל ויביאום יריחו עיר התמרים אצל אחיהם וישבו שומרון וגו', על אויביכם אתם הולכים, שאם תפלו בידם אין מרחמין עליכם. סוטה מב.

At the time when the *mishuach milchama* (priest that was expressly anointed to address the troops before battle) addresses the people, he speaks in the holy tongue (*loshon hakodesh*), as it is said (Deuteronomy 20:2), “And it shall be, when you draw near unto the battle, that the priest shall approach, i.e., the anointed for battle, and speak unto the people, i.e. in the holy tongue, and shall say unto them (ibid. 3), ‘Hear, O Israel, (you draw near this day unto battle against your enemies.’” [The implication of,] “against your enemies” is, “but not against our brothers.” Not Yehudah against Shimon, nor Shimon against Binyamin, so that if you fall into their hands they shall have mercy upon you, as it is said (Chronicles II 28:15), “And the men who were mentioned by name rose up, and took the captives, and clothed with the booty all who were naked among them, and dressed them, and gave them shoes, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all the weak ones on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.” “Against your enemies do you march, so that if you fall into their hands they will have no mercy upon you. **Sota 42a**

B.

בַּעַת הַהֵיא שְׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אָחָז עַל מַלְכֵי אַשּׁוּר לַעְזֹר לוֹ: וְעוֹד אֲדוֹמִים בָּאוּ וַיִּכּוּ בִיהוּדָה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שְׂבִי: וּפְלִשְׁתִּים פָּשְׁטוּ בְעָרֵי הַשְּׁפֵלָה וְהִנְגַּב לַיהוּדָה וַיִּלְכְּדוּ אֶת בֵּית-שֶׁמֶשׁ וְאֶת אֵילֹן וְאֶת הַגְּדֵרוֹת וְאֶת שׂוֹכֵי וּבְנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת תְּמַנָּה וּבְנוֹתֶיהָ וְאֶת גְּמִזוֹ וְאֶת בְּנֵי־הַיָּבֵשׁ: כִּי הִכְנִיעַ ד' אֶת יְהוּדָה בְּעֶבֶר אָחָז מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי הִפְרִיעַ בִּיהוּדָה וּמַעוֹל מַעַל בַּד': וַיָּבֵא עָלָיו תִּלְגַּת פְּלִנְאָסֶר מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וַיִּצַר לוֹ וְלֹא חָזַק: כִּי חָלַק אָחָז אֶת בֵּית ד' וְאֶת בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ וְהַשָּׂרִים וַיִּתֵּן לְמֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר וְלֹא לַעְזָרָה לוֹ: וּבַעַת הַצָּר לוֹ וַיּוֹסֶף לְמַעוֹל בַּד' הוּא הַמֶּלֶךְ אָחָז: וַיִּזְבַּח לְאֱלֹהֵי דַרְמָשֶׁק הַמַּכִּים בּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֱלֹהֵי מַלְכֵי אֲרָם הֵם מַעֲזָרִים אוֹתָם לָהֶם אֲזַבַּח וַיַּעֲזֹרוּנִי וְהֵם הָיוּ לוֹ לְהַכְשִׁילוֹ וְלִכְלֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֵּאָסֶף אָחָז אֶת כָּלֵי בֵית הָא-לֹהִים וַיִּקְצָץ אֶת כָּלֵי בֵית ה-אֱלֹהִים וַיִּסְגֹר אֶת דְּלֹתוֹת בֵּית ד' וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ מִזְבְּחוֹת בְּכָל פְּנֵי בִירוּשָׁלַם: וּבְכָל עִיר וְעִיר לַיהוּדָה עָשָׂה בְמוֹת לְקַטֵּר לֹא-לֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וַיִּכְעַס אֶת ד' א-לֹהֵי אֲבֹתָיו:

וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרָיו וְכָל דְּרָכָיו הָרָאשֹׁנִים וְהָאַחֲרוֹנִים הֵנָּם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁכַּב אַחַז  
 עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ בְּעִיר בִּירוּשָׁלַם כִּי לֹא הֵבִיאוּהוּ לְקַבְרֵי מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּמְלֹךְ יְחִזְקִיָּהוּ בְּנֹו תַחְתָּיו:  
 דברי הימים ב כח:טז-כו

At that time king Ahaz sent word to the kings of Assyria to help him. For again the Edomites had come and struck Judah, and carried away captives. And the Philistines had invaded the cities of the Shephelah, and the Negev of Judah, and had taken Beth-Shemesh, and Ayalon, and Gederath, and Soco with its villages, and Timnah with its villages, Gimzo also and its villages; and they lived there. For the L-rd brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he caused disorder in Judah, and transgressed greatly against the L-rd. And Tilgath-Pilneser king of Assyria came to him, and distressed him, but did not strengthen him. For Ahaz took away a portion from the house of the L-rd, and from the house of the king, and from the princes, and gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him. And in the time of his distress he trespassed still more against the L-rd; this is that king Ahaz. For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, which had defeated him; and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Aram helped them, I will sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel. And Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of G-d, and cut in pieces the utensils of the house of G-d, and shut the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. And in every city of Judah he made high places to burn sacrifices (incense) to other gods, and provoked to anger the L-rd G-d of his fathers. And the rest of his acts and of all his ways, from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him to the tombs of the kings of Israel; and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place. **Chronicles II 28:16-27**

C.

כך אמר אחז אם אין גדיים אין תישים אם אין תישים אין צאן אם אין צאן אין רועה אם אין רועה אין עולם כך היה סבור בדעתו לומר אם אין קטנים אין תלמידים אם אין תלמידים אין חכמים אם אין חכמים אין זקנים אם אין זקנים אין נביאים אם אין נביאים אין הקב"ה משרה שכינתו עליהם הה"ד (ישעיה ח) צור תעודה חתום תורה בלמודי רבי חוניה בר אלעזר אמר למה נקרא שמו אחז שאחז בתי כנסיות ובתי מדרשות. מדרש בראשית רבה מב:ג

This is what Ahaz said: If there are no young goats there will [eventually] be no mature goats. If there are no mature goats there will [eventually] be no more flocks. If there will be no more flocks there will be no more shepherds. If there will be no more shepherds there will be no more world. This is what he planned: If there are no children [attending school] there will be no more students. If there are no students there will be no more scholars. If there are no more scholars there will be no more elders. If there will be no more elders there will be no more prophets. If there will be no more prophets then the Holy One, blessed be He, will not rest his Presence upon them. This is what is meant by the verse (Isaiah 8:16), "Bind up the testimony, seal the Torah among my disciples." Rabbi Hunia bar Elazar said: Why was he called Ahaz (literally: he held)? because he held [under lock and key] the synagogues and study halls. **Midrash Bereishis Rabbah 42:3**



TIMELINE (ACCORDING TO THE GAON OF VILNA)

<u>DATE</u> (סדר עולם)	<u>KINGS OF JUDAH</u>	<u>KINGS OF ISRAEL</u>
835 BCE - ב' תתקכ"ה	Solomon שלמה	Solomon שלמה
795 BCE - ב' תתקס"ה	Rehoboam רחבעם	Jeroboam ירבעם בן נבט
778 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ב	Abijam אבִים	
775 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ה	Asa אסא	
774 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ו		Nadab נָדָב בֶּן יִרְבֵּעַם
773 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ז		Baasha בַּעֲשָׂא בֶּן אֶחְזִיָּה
750 BCE - ג' י'		Elah אֵלָה בֶּן בַּעֲשָׂא
749 BCE - ג' י"א		Zimri זִמְרִי
749 BCE - ג' י"א		Omri עֲמֹרִי
738 BCE - ג' כ"ב		Ahab אַחָאָב בֶּן עֲמֹרִי
734 BCE - ג' כ"ו	Jehoshaphat יְהוֹשָׁפָט	
717 BCE - ג' מ"ג		Ahaziah אֶחְזִיָּהוּ בֶּן אַחָאָב
716 BCE - ג' מ"ד		Jehoram יְהוֹרָם בֶּן אַחָאָב
709 BCE - ג' נ"א	Jehoram יְהוֹרָם	
705 BCE - ג' נ"ה	Ahaziah אֶחְזִיָּהוּ	
704 BCE - ג' נ"ו	Athaliah עֲתַלְיָהוּ בַת אַחָאָב	Jehu יְהוּא בֶּן יְהוֹשָׁפָט
698 BCE - ג' ס"ב	Joash יוֹאָשׁ בֶּן אֶחְזִיָּהוּ	
676 BCE - ג' פ"ד		Jehoahaz יְהוֹאָחָז בֶּן יְהוּא
659 BCE - ג' ק"א		Jehoash יְהוֹאָשׁ בֶּן יְהוֹאָחָז
658 BCE - ג' ק"ב	Amaziah אַמְצִיָּה	
645 BCE - ג' קט"ו		Jeroboam יִרְבֵּעַם בֶּן יוֹאָשׁ
630 BCE - ג' ק"ל	Azariah (עוזיה) עֲזַרְיָה	
607 BCE - ג' קנ"ג		Zechariah זְכַרְיָהוּ בֶּן יִרְבֵּעַם
606 BCE - ג' קנ"ד		Shallum שְׁלוֹם בֶּן יִבְשׁ
606 BCE - ג' קנ"ד		Menahem מְנַחֵם בֶּן גְּדִי
596 BCE - ג' קס"ד		Pekahiah פְּקַחְיָה בֶּן מְנַחֵם
594 BCE - ג' קס"ו		Pekah פְּקַח בֶּן רְמִלְיָהוּ
593 BCE - ג' קס"ז	Jotham יוֹתָם	
577 BCE - ג' קפ"ג	Ahaz אַחָז	
574 BCE - ג' קפ"ז		Hoshea הוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן אֵלָה
561 BCE - ג' קצ"ט	Hezekiah חֲזַקְיָה	
555 BCE - ג' ר"ה	גלות של עשרת השבטים	End of the Monarchy in Israel
532 BCE - ג' רכ"ח	Manasseh מְנַשֶּׁה	
477 BCE - ג' רפ"ג	Amon אָמוֹן	
475 BCE - ג' רפ"ה	Josiah יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ	
444 BCE - ג' שט"ז	Jehoahaz יְהוֹאָחָז	
444 BCE - ג' שט"ז	Jehoiakim יְהוֹיָכִים	
433 BCE - ג' שכ"ז	Jehoiachin יְהוֹיָכִין	
432 BCE - ג' שכ"ח	Zedekiah צְדַקְיָהוּ	
421 BCE - ג' של"ט	חורבן הבית וגלות יהודה	End of the Monarchy in Judah