

## Lesson 8 – 2 Kings 15

Text: 2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 27

Main Characters: God, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Jotham

### Key Passages:

- 2 Kings 15:9; 2 Chronicles 27:2 – The wickedness of the kings of Israel influenced the people of Israel to sin; on the other hand, Jotham’s righteousness did not correct the people of Judah.
- 2 Chronicles 27:6 – Jotham was only blessed because of his righteousness and faithfulness.

### Main Storyline:

Zechariah became king in Israel after his father, Jeroboam II, died. He was an evil king, just as his father had been, continuing in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. One day, a man named Shallum attacked and killed Zechariah in front of all the people, usurping the throne. Zechariah had only been king over Israel for 6 months before he was murdered. In this way, the prophecy which God had given to Jehu regarding his sons’ reigns over Israel (only four generations, 2 Kings 10:30) had come true.

Shallum became king over Israel and reigned in Samaria. After only 1 month on the throne, another man named Menahem came to Samaria and killed Shallum and reigned in his place. Just as Shallum had done to Zechariah, so it had been done to him by Menahem.

Menahem was an evil king, as well, continuing in the sins of Jeroboam. He also attacked a nearby city, Tiphshah, and ripped open all of the pregnant women there. Menahem also took money from the men of Israel in order to bribe the king of Assyria at the time, Pul, to leave Israel alone. After reigning over Israel for 10 years, Menahem died, and his son, Pekahiah, became king in his place.

Pekahiah was evil, just as the kings before him. He reigned in Israel for 2 years before one of his officer’s sons, Pekah, conspired against him and killed him in order to take the throne of Israel.

Pekah reigned in Israel for 20 years. As every other king in Israel, Pekah was an evil king, continuing in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. During Pekah’s reign, Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, came and attacked Israel. He took a large portion of the land for the Assyrian empire and carried many of Israel’s people away into captivity. Following these defeats, a man named Hoshea conspired against Pekah and killed him and took the throne for himself. Just as Pekah had done to Pekahiah, so it was done to him by Hoshea.

While Pekah was reigning in Israel, Jotham became king over Judah following the death of his father, Uzziah. Jotham was a very good king, as he did what was right in the sight of God. Despite the fact that he was such a good king and a good example, the people of Judah still acted corruptly.

Jotham did much good for the people of Judah. He fortified the temple and the walls of Jerusalem. He built cities in the mountains of Judah and constructed fortresses and towers in its forests. He fought with the Ammonites and subdued them; the Ammonites gave a large tribute to Jotham for three years. Jotham became a very powerful king because he prepared himself to serve the Lord and continued to do so throughout his life. After 16 years of being king over Judah, Jotham died, and his son, Ahaz, became king over Judah.

### Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) God’s promises ultimately are fulfilled; we must learn to trust in God’s guidance and teachings.
- 2.) God often punishes us according to the sins we have committed (Obadiah 15).
- 3.) Bloodshed and violence are often symptoms of godlessness and worldliness.
- 4.) While leaders have a great influence over those they lead, people always choose their own way.
- 5.) Spiritual success can only be had by preparing oneself to serve God and continuing in His ways.