

Uzziah [Judah] Becomes Famous and Powerful (c. 757 BC)

2 Chronicles 26:6–15

Uzziah's Military Campaigns

6 And he went out and made war against the Philistines, and he broke down the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, and he built cities in Ashdod and among the Philistines.

7 And God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who were living in Gur-Baal and Meunim.

8 And the Ammonites gave tribute to Uzziah, and his fame went out to the boundary of Egypt, for he became very strong.

Uzziah's Infrastructure and Agricultural Improvements

9 And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the Angle, and he strengthened them.

10 And he built towers in the desert and hewed many cisterns, for he had much livestock, both in the Shephelah and on the plain, *along with* farmers and vinedressers in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

Uzziah's Army

11 And Uzziah had troops trained and ready for war in divisions according to the number of their enrollment at the hand of Jeuel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah of the king's commanders.

12 The whole number of the heads of the families for mighty warriors of strength *was* two thousand six hundred.

13 And under their hand *were* army troops *numbering* three hundred and seven thousand five hundred who could make war with power and strength to help the king against an enemy.

14 And Uzziah prepared small shields, spears, helmets, breastplates, bows, and slingstones for the whole army.

15 And he made siege machines in Jerusalem designed *by* skillful men to be *set* upon the towers and upon the corners to shoot arrows and large slingstones. And his fame went out far, for he helped marvelously, for he was strong.

Hosea's Prophecy to Israel—A Picture of Israel's Unfaithfulness (c. 755 BC)

Hosea 1–3

Title

1:1 The word of Yahweh that came to Hosea son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

The Command to Marry Gomer

2 At the beginning when Yahweh spoke through Hosea,
Yahweh said to Hosea,
"Go, take for yourself a wife and children of whoredom,
because the land commits great whoredom
forsaking Yahweh."

3a So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim,

The Naming of Hosea's Children

3b and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 And Yahweh said to him,
"Name him Jezreel;
because in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu
for the blood of Jezreel,
and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 On that day
I will break the bow of Israel
in the Valley of Jezreel."

6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter, and he said to him,

"Name her Lo-ruhamah,
for I will no longer have pity
on the house of Israel
or forgive them.

7 But I will have pity *on* the house of Judah
and I will save them by Yahweh their God,
and will not deliver them

by bow, sword, war,
horses, or horsemen.

8 And when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.

9 And he said, "Name him Lo-ammi,
for you *are* not my people
and I am not your *God*."

Future Restoration and Reversal

10 The number of the children of Israel
will be like the sand of the sea
that cannot be measured or counted;
and in the place where it is said to them,
"You are not my people,"
it will be said to them,
"Children of *the* living God." [[Rom 9:26](#)]

11 Then the children of Judah
and Israel will be gathered together,
and they will appoint for themselves
one head;
and they will take possession of the land,
for great *is* the day of Jezreel.

Transition

2:1 Say to your brother, "Ammi,"
and to your sister, "Ruhamah."

Idolatrous Israel Will Be Punished Like a Prostitute

2 Plead with your mother, plead—
because she *is* not my wife,
and I *am* not her husband.
Let her put away her whoring from before her,
and her adultery from between her breasts.

3 Lest I strip her naked
and expose her like the day when she was born;
I will make her like the desert
and turn her into parched land;
I will kill her with thirst.

4 And I will not have pity on her children,
because *they are* children of whoredom.

5 Because their mother was unfaithful;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully,
for she said:
"I will go after my lovers,
the ones who give *me* my bread, my water,
my wool, and my flax,
my oil, and my drink."

The Lord's Discipline Will Bring Israel to Repentance

6 Therefore, Look!
I *am* going to hedge her path with thorns,
and I will build a stone wall, a stone wall *against* her,
and she will not find her paths.

7 Then she will pursue her lovers,
but she will not overtake them;
she will seek them and not find *them*;
and she will say, "I will go
and return to my first husband
because *it was* better for me then than now."

Agricultural Fertility Withdrawn from Israel

- 8 But she did not know
that *it was* I who gave her
grain, new wine, and oil,
and who gave her silver in abundance,
and gold which they made into a Baal.
- 9 Therefore I will take again
my grain in its time,
and my wine in its season;
and I will take away my wool and my flax,
which were to cover her nakedness.
- 10 And now I will uncover her nakedness
before the eyes of her lovers,
and no one will rescue her from my hand.
- 11 And I will put an end to all her mirth,
her festivals, her new moons, and her Sabbaths,
and all her appointed festivals;
- 12 and I will lay waste to her vines and her fig trees,
of which she said,
“They *are* my payment for prostitution,
which my lovers gave to me.”
I will make them a forest,
and the wild animals of the field will devour them.
- 13 I will punish her *for* the days of the Baals,
to whom she burns incense,
and she decked herself *with* her ornamental ring and jewelry,
and she went after her lovers, and forgot me
—a declaration of Yahweh.

Future Repentance and Restoration of Israel

- 14 Therefore, Look!
I *am* going to allure her
and bring her *into* the desert,
and I will speak tenderly to her.
- 15 From there I will give her
her vineyards,
and the Valley of Achor as a doorway of hope.
And there she will respond,
as *in* the days of her youth,
just as *in* the day of her coming out
of the land of Egypt.
- 16 And on that day—
a declaration of Yahweh—
you will call me, “My husband;”
you will no longer call me, “My Baal.”
- 17 I will remove the names
of the Baals from her mouth,
and they will no longer be mentioned by their name.
- 18 I will make a covenant for them on that day,
with the animals of the field,
with the birds of the heaven,
and *with* the creeping things of the ground;
the bow, the sword, and the war I will abolish from the land, and I will let them lie down in safety.
- 19 And I will take you as my wife forever;
I will take you as a wife for myself in righteousness and in justice,
in steadfast love and in mercy.
- 20 I will take you as my wife in faithfulness,
and you will know Yahweh.

Agricultural Fertility Restored to the Repentant Nation

- 21 On that day I will answer, declares Yahweh,
I will answer the heavens,
and they will answer the earth.
- 22 And the earth will answer
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they will answer Jezreel.
- 23 I will sow her for myself in the land;
I will have pity on Lo-ruhama;
I will say to Lo-ammi,
“You are my people,”
and he himself will say, “*you are my God.*” [[Rom 9:25](#); [1 Pet 2:10](#)]

An Illustration of God’s Love for Idolatrous Israel

- 3:1 And Yahweh said to me again,
“Go, love a woman
who has a lover and *is* committing adultery,
just like the love of Yahweh *for* the children of Israel,
but they *are* turning to other gods
and love raisin cakes.”
- 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver
and a homer of barely and a measure of wine.
- 3 And I said to her,
“You must remain as mine for many days,
and you will not play the whore;
you will not belong to a man,
and I *will* belong to you.”
- 4 The children of Israel will remain for many days
without a king and prince,
without sacrifice and stone pillar, ephod and teraphim.
- 5 Afterward the children of Israel will return
and seek Yahweh their God and David their king.
They will come in fear to Yahweh
and to his goodness at the end of days.

The Death of Jeroboam II [Israel] (Elul [September] 753 BC)

2 Kings 14:28–29

- 28 Now the remainder of the acts of Jeroboam, all that he did, his powerful *deeds*, how he fought, and how he restored Damascus and Hamath of Judah to Israel, *are* they not written on the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Israel?
- 29 So Jeroboam slept with his ancestors the kings of Israel, and his son Zechariah became king in his place.

Zechariah, Jeroboam II’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (Elul [September] 753 BC)

2 Kings 15:8–9

- 8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria for six months.
- 9 He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh as his ancestors had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat which he caused Israel to sin.

Zechariah [Israel] is Assassinated by Shallum (Adar [March] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:10–12

- 10 Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, struck him in front of the people, killed him, and reigned in his place.
- 11 Now the remainder of the acts of Zechariah, look, they are written on the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Israel.
- 12 This is the word of Yahweh which he spoke to Jehu, saying, “Sons of a fourth *generation* shall sit for you on the throne of Israel,” and it was so.

Shallum Assumes the Throne of Israel (Adar [March] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:13

13 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.

Shallum is Killed by Menahem (Nisan [April] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:14–16

14 Then Menahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah, and he came to Samaria and struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him. Then he became king in place of him.

15 Now the remainder of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he conspired; look, they *are* written on the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Israel.

16 At that time Menahem destroyed Tiphshah, all who *were* in it, and all its territory from Tirzah, because *it* had not opened to *him*, so he destroyed it and ripped open all of its pregnant women.

Menahem Assumes the Throne of Israel (Nisan [April] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:17–18

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel *for* ten years in Samaria.

18 But he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. He did not depart all of his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat which he caused Israel to sin.

Uzziah's Pride Causes His Downfall (750 BC)

2 Kings 15:5a

2 Chronicles 26:16–21a

5a Yahweh struck the king, and he was infected with a skin disease until the day of his death. He lived in a separate house,

16 But on account of his [Uzziah's] strength his heart grew proud unto destruction. And he acted unfaithfully against Yahweh his God and went into the temple of Yahweh to offer an incense offering on the altar.

17 And Azariah the priest, along with eighty strong priests with him, went in after him.

18 And they stood against King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to Yahweh, but *it is* for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully. There will be no honor for you from Yahweh God."

19 Then Uzziah, his censer in hand to burn incense, became angry. And when he became angry with the priests, then leprosy appeared on his forehead in front of the priests in the house of Yahweh at the altar of incense.

20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned to him, behold, he *was* leprous in the forehead. So they rushed him away from there, and he also hastened to go out, for Yahweh had smitten him.

21a So King Uzziah was leprous until the day of his death, and he lived in a separate house as a leper, for he was cut off from the house of Yahweh.

Jotham [Judah] Begins His Coregency With Uzziah (750n/750t BC)

2 Kings 15:5b, 32–33

2 Chronicles 26:21b, 27:1

5b *while* Jotham the son of the king *was* over the house, governing the people of the land.

32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign.

33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and the name of his mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

26:21b And Jotham his son *was* over the house of the king, judging the people of the land.

27:1 Jotham *was* twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.

And the name of his mother *was* Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

Menahem [Israel] and Tiglath-Pileser III's [Assyria] First Campaign (743 BC)

2 Kings 15:19–20

19 Pul the king of Assyria came against the land, so Menahem gave a thousand talents of silver to Pul so that his hand would be with him to strengthen his hold on the kingdom.

20 Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very rich, to give to the king of Assyria fifty shekels of silver for each one. Then the king of Assyria returned and did not stay there in the land.

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Chronological Notes

1) Hosea.

A) The title of the book of Hosea states that Hosea's ministry took place "when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled Judah, and during the time when Jeroboam son of Joash ruled Israel" (Hos 1:1). These kings' reigns are as follows:

(1) Judah.

- (a) Uzziah (791t–740t; sole reign 767t).
- (b) Jotham (751t–736t; sole reign 740t).
- (c) Ahaz (732t–716t).
- (d) Hezekiah (716t–687t).

(2) Israel.

- (a) Jeroboam II (793n–753n; sole reign 781n).

B) When we examine the book itself for more precise indications of date, we find that Hosea warns that "in a little while I [God] will punish the dynasty of Jehu on account of the bloodshed in the valley of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel" (Hos 1:4). Jeroboam II was the great-grandson of Jehu, and his son Zechariah, who succeeded him, reigned only six months (753n) and was the last of the line of Jehu. Thus we can date the beginning of Hosea's recorded prophecies to a short time before the death of Jeroboam II: Elul [September] of 753 BC. For this reason, I have placed Hosea 1–3 at c. 755 BC in today's reading.

C) We can place a lower bound on the date of Hosea's recorded prophecies of 723n BC—the year of the fall of Samaria. This disaster is threatened in Hosea (cf. 10:14; 11:6; 13:16) but has not yet taken place. We may further refine this date by noting the verses that describe Israel seeking the aid of Assyria (cf. 5:13; 7:11; 8:9; 14:3). This took place during the reign of Menahem (752n–742n; 2 Kgs 15:19–20) and the struggle for power in Israel during these years provides a good background for the bulk of Hosea's prophecies. For this reason, I have placed Hosea 4–14 at c. 743 BC in the readings.¹

¹ "The complacency of the early days (2:5, 8, 13) gives way to a desperation in foreign (7:8–12; 12:1) and domestic (7:3–7; 13:10–11) affairs, evidenced in the latter chapters" (Douglas Stuart, "Hosea Jonah," *WBC*, 10.)