

## The Death of Uzziah [Judah] (740t BC)

2 Kings 15:6–7

6 The remainder of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, *are* they not written on the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Judah?

7 So Azariah slept with his ancestors, and they buried him with his ancestors in the city of David,

and Jotham his son became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 26:22–23

22 Now the remainder of the words of Uzziah, *from* the first *to* the last,

Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, wrote *them*.

23 And Uzziah slept with his ancestors, and they buried him with his ancestors in the burial field which belonged to the kings, because, they said, “He *was* leprous.”

And Jotham his son reigned in his place.

## Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—A Vision of Yahweh (740t BC)

Isaiah 6

### A Vision of the Holy King

6:1 In the year of the death of Uzziah the king, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and raised throne, and the hem of his robe *was* filling the temple.

2 Seraphs *were* standing above him. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And the one called to the other and said,

“Holy, holy, holy *is* Yahweh of hosts!  
The whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 And the pivots of the thresholds shook from the sound of those who called, and the house was filled *with* smoke.

### The Prophet’s Purification

5 And I said, “Woe to me! For I am destroyed! For I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I *am* living among a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the king, Yahweh of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, and in his hand *was* a hot coal he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 And he touched my mouth, and he said,

“Look! This has touched your lips  
and has removed your guilt,  
and your sin is annulled.”

### A Hardening Message for a Calloused Audience

8 Then I heard *the* voice of the Lord saying,

“Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?”

And I said,

“I *am* here!  
Send me!”

9 And he said, “Go and say to this people,

‘Keep on listening and do not comprehend!  
And keep on looking and do not understand!’

10 Make the heart of this people insensitive,

and make its ears unresponsive,  
and shut its eyes  
so that it may not look with its eyes  
and listen with its ears  
and comprehend *with* its mind  
and turn back, and it may be healed *for* him.” [\[Matt 13:13–15; John 12:39–41\]](#)

**Hope in the Midst of Destruction**

11 Then I said, “Until when, Lord?” And he said,

“Until *the* cities lie wasted without inhabitant,  
and houses without people,  
and the land is ruined *and* a waste,

12 and Yahweh sends the people far away,

and the abandonment is great in the midst of the land.

13 And even if only a tenth part remain, again she will be destroyed

like *a* terebinth or like *an* oak,

which although felled, a tree stump *remains* in them.

*The* seed of holiness *will be* her tree stump.”

**Jotham, Uzziah’s Son, Begins Sole Reign of Judah (740t BC)**

2 Kings 15:34–35a

2 Chronicles 27:2

34 He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh,  
according to all that Uzziah his father had done.

2 And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh,  
according to all that his father Uzziah had done—  
only he did not go into the temple of Yahweh.

35a Only the high places were not removed;  
the people still *were* sacrificing and offering incense on the high  
places.

But the people still acted corruptly.

**Micah’s Prophecy to Judah—Judgment of Israel and Judah (c. 740–723 BC)**

Micah 1–2

1:1 The word of Yahweh that came to Micah the Morashtite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah, that he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem:

**The Divine Warrior Comes to Judge Samaria and Israel**

- 2 Hear, all you peoples;  
give heed, O earth and its fullness.  
And let the Lord Yahweh be against you as a witness,  
the Lord from his holy temple.
- 3 For behold, Yahweh is coming out from his place,  
and he will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.
- 4 The mountains will melt under him  
and the valleys will burst open,  
like wax before the fire,  
like water rushing down a slope.
- 5 All this *is* for the rebellion of Jacob,  
and for the sins of the house of Israel.  
What *is* the rebellion of Jacob?  
*Is it* not Samaria?  
And what *are* the high places of Judah?  
*Are they* not Jerusalem?
- 6 So I will make Samaria as a heap of rubble in the field,  
a place for planting a vineyard.  
And I will pour down her stones into the valley  
and uncover her foundations.
- 7 Then all her idols will be broken in pieces,  
and all her prostitution wages will be burned in the fire,  
and all her idols I will make a desolation,  
For from the wage of a prostitute she gathered *them*,  
and to the wage of a prostitute they will return.

**Micah Laments the Coming Invasion of Judah**

- 8 On account of this I will lament and wail.  
I will go about barefoot and naked.

- I will make a lamentation like the jackals,  
and a mourning ceremony like the ostriches.
- 9 For her wounds *are* incurable,  
because it has come to Judah.  
It has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.
- 10 Do not tell *it* in Gath;  
you must not weep at all.  
In Beth-le-Aphrah  
roll yourself *in* dust.
- 11 Pass on, you inhabitants of Shaphir,  
in naked shame.  
The inhabitants of Zaanan do not come forth;  
the wailing of Beth-ha-Ezel will take its protection from you.
- 12 For the inhabitants of Maroth  
writhed for good,  
because disaster has come down from Yahweh  
to the gate of Jerusalem.
- 13 Harness the chariot to the team of horses,  
O inhabitants of Lachish;  
*it is* the beginning of sin  
for the daughter of Zion,  
for the transgressions of Israel  
were found in you.
- 14 Therefore you will give parting gifts  
to Moresheth-Gath;  
the houses of Achzib *will be* a deception  
to the kings of Israel.
- 15 I will again bring the conqueror upon you,  
O inhabitants of Mareshah;  
the glory of Israel  
will come to Adullam.
- 16 Make yourselves bald  
and cut off your hair  
for the children of your pleasure.  
Expand your baldness as the eagle,  
for they will go into exile away from you.

### **Woe to Wealthy and Oppressive Land-grabbers**

- 2:1 Woe *to* those who plan wickedness  
and evil deeds upon their beds!  
In the light of the morning they did it,  
because they have power in their hands.
- 2 They covet fields and seize *them*,  
and houses, and they take *them* away.  
They oppress a man and his house;  
a man and his inheritance.
- 3 Therefore, thus says Yahweh: Look! I am planning disaster against this family from which you will not be able to remove your necks. You will not walk proudly, for it *is* a time of disaster.
- 4 In that day they will raise a proverb against you,  
and will wail a bitter wailing, saying,  
“We are utterly ruined;  
he exchanges *the* portion of my people.  
How he removes *it* from me;  
he apports our field to an apostate.”
- 5 Therefore you will have no one casting a line by lot  
in the assembly of Yahweh.

**The Wealthy Wicked and Their False Prophets versus Micah and His God**

- 6 “Do not preach!” they are preaching.  
They should not preach to these;  
disgrace will not overtake us.
- 7 Should *this* be said, O house of Jacob?  
Is the patience of Yahweh shortened?  
*Are* these his deeds?  
Are my words not pleasing  
to him who walks upright?
- 8 But recently my people have risen up as an enemy;  
from before the cloak you strip off the robe  
from those passing by *in* confidence,  
returning *from* war.
- 9 You have driven out the women of my people  
from the houses of their pleasure.  
From their children you have taken away  
my glory forever.
- 10 Arise and go,  
for this *is* no resting place,  
on account of uncleanness *that* destroys  
with painful destruction.
- 11 If a man walks about in a spirit of deception and lies,  
*saying* “I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,”  
then he would be a preacher *for* this people!

**The Restoration of a Remnant**

- 12 I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob;  
I will surely gather together the remainder of Israel.  
I will set them like sheep of Bozrah.  
Like a herd in the midst of their pasture  
they will be in tumult from people.
- 13 The one who breaks out before them goes up;  
they break through and pass the gate,  
going out through it.  
Their king passes before them,  
Yahweh at their head.

**Jotham [Judah] Obeys God and Prospers (c. 738t BC)**

2 Kings 15:35b

35b He built the upper gate of the temple of Yahweh.

2 Chronicles 27:3–6

3 He built the upper gate of the house of Yahweh,  
and he did much restoration on the wall of Ophel.  
4 And he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and he built  
forts and towers in the wooded places.  
5 Now he fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed  
against them. And the Ammonites gave to him in that year one  
hundred talents of silver and ten thousand measures of wheat  
and ten thousand *measures of* barley. This *is what* the  
Ammonites rendered to him, as well as in the second and third  
year.  
6 And Jotham strengthened himself, for he established his ways  
before Yahweh his God.

**Ahaz, Jotham’s Son, Begins Coregency With Jotham [Judah] (735n/735t BC)**

2 Kings 16:1–4

1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah,  
Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.

2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign,

2 Chronicles 28:1–4

1 Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he became king,

<p>and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do right in the eyes of Yahweh his God as David his ancestor.</p> <p>3 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel;</p> <p>he even let his son pass through the fire according to the detestable things of the nations which Yahweh drove out from before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 He sacrificed and offered incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.</p>	<p>and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what is right in the eyes of Yahweh like David his ancestor.</p> <p>2 But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made molten idols for the Baals.</p> <p>3 And he himself burned incense in the valley of Ben-Hinnom and burned his sons in the fire, according to the detestable <i>practices</i> of the nations whom Yahweh drove out before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 And he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops, and under every flourishing tree.</p>
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### Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin [Syria] and Pekah [Israel] Attack Ahaz [Judah] (734 BC)

2 Chronicles 28:5–15, 17–19

#### Ahaz is Defeated in Battle by Pekah and Rezin

5 Then Yahweh his God gave him into the hand of the king of Aram who defeated him and captured many captives from him and brought *them* to Damascus. Moreover, he was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, and he defeated him by a great attack.

6 And Pekah, the son of Remaliah, killed in one day one hundred and twenty thousand in Judah, all men of strength, because they forsook Yahweh the God of their ancestors.

7 And Zikri, a mighty warrior of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the son of the king, Azrikam the commander of the house, and Elkanah the second to the king.

8 And the Israelites captured two hundred thousand of their brothers, women, sons, and daughters. And they also plundered much booty from them and brought the booty to Samaria.

#### God, through Oded the Prophet, Forbids Israel to Enslave Judah

9 Now a prophet of Yahweh was there; Oded *was* his name. And he went out before the army that was coming to Samaria and said to them, “Look, *it is* on account of the anger of Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, against Judah *that* he gave them into your hands, and you killed them in a rage reaching to the heavens.

10 So now, you yourselves plan to subdue people of Judah and Jerusalem as slaves and female servants for yourselves. Is there not also guilt on your part against Yahweh your God?

11 So now, listen to me and return the captives of your brothers whom you have taken captive, for the fierce anger of Yahweh *is* against you.”

12 Then men from the heads of Ephraim—Azariah the son of Jehohanan, Berekiah the son of Meshillemoth, Hezekiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai—stood against those returning from the fight.

13 And they said to them, “You shall not bring the captives here, for *it is* as guilt *against* Yahweh upon us. You yourselves plan to add to our sins and to our guilt, but our guilt is very great, and *there is* great anger against Israel.”

14 So the soldiers left the captives and the plunder before the commanders and all the assembly.

15 Then the men designated by name arose and took the captives and from the plunder clothed all their nakedness. So they clothed them, gave them sandals, gave them food to eat, gave them water to drink, anointed them, and guided them with the donkeys *provided* for all those who stumbled, and brought them to Jericho, the city of the palm trees, next to their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.

#### Edom and Philistia Take Advantage of Judah’s Weakness and Attack

17 since again the Edomites came and struck against Judah and took captives.

18 And the Philistines sent raids into the cities of the Shephelah and the Negeb of Judah. And they captured Beth-Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Socoh with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages. And they settled there.

19 For Yahweh subdued Judah for the sake of Ahaz, king of Israel, for he created disorder in Judah and acted unfaithfully against Yahweh.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin and Pekah Besiege Jerusalem (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:5–6

Isaiah 7:1

5 Then Rezin the king of Aram went up *with* Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel against Jerusalem for battle, and they besieged Ahaz but were not able to defeat him.

1 This happened in the days of Ahaz, son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah. Rezin, king of Aram, and Pekah, son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up *to* Jerusalem for warfare against it, but he was not able to fight against it.

6 At that time, Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram and drove out the Judeans from Elath. The Arameans came to Elath and have lived there until this day.	
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### Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Urges Ahaz to Trust God (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:2–9

2 When it was reported to the house of David, saying “Aram stands by Ephraim,” his heart and the heart of his people shook like the shaking of the trees of *the* forest because of *the* wind.

3 Then Yahweh said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on *the* highway of *the* washer’s field.

4 And you must say to him, “Take heed and be quiet! You must not fear, and your heart must not be faint because of these two stumps of smoldering firebrands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah.

5 Because Aram has plotted evil against you *with* Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, saying,

6 “Let us go up against Judah and let us tear her apart, and let us lay it open and so bring it unto ourselves, and let us install the son of Tabeel *as* king in her midst.”

7 Thus says the Lord Yahweh, “It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.

8 For the head of Aram *is* Damascus, and the head of Damascus *is* Rezin, and in sixty-five years from now Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

9 And the head of Ephraim *is* Samaria, and the head of Samaria *is* the son of Remaliah. If you do not believe then you will not endure.” ”

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Ahaz [Judah] Asks Tiglath-Pileser III [Assyria] for Help (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:7–8

2 Chronicles 28:16, 21

7 Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, “I *am* your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the hand of the king of Aram and from the hand of the king of Israel who are rising up against me.”

8 Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasury rooms of the palace of the king, and he sent a gift to the king of Assyria.

16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria to help him,

21 for Ahaz took a portion *from* the house of Yahweh and the house of the king and the princes, and he gave *it* to the king of Assyria, but it was no help to him.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Gives Ahaz a Sign (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:10–8:17

#### The Sign of Immanuel

7:10 And Yahweh continued to speak to Ahaz, saying,

11 “Ask for a sign for yourself from Yahweh God; make *it* deep *as* Sheol or make *it* high as above.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put Yahweh to the test.”

13 Then he said, “Hear, house of David! *Is it* too little for you to make men weary, that you should also make my God weary?

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look! the virgin *is* with child and she is about to give birth *to* a son, and she shall call his name ‘God with us.’ [\[Matt 1:23\]](#)

15 He shall eat curds and honey until he knows to reject the evil and to choose the good.

16 For before the boy knows to reject the evil and to choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be abandoned.

#### Judgment of the Land

17 “Yahweh will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your ancestor days that have not come since *the* day Ephraim departed from Judah: the king of Assyria.”

18 And this shall happen: On that day, Yahweh will whistle for the fly that *is* at the end of the stream of Egypt and the bee that *is* in the land of Assyria.

19 And all of them will come and settle in the rivers of the cliffs and in the clefts of the rocks and on all of the thornbushes and watering places.

20 On that day, the Lord will shave the head and the hair of the feet with a razor of the one hired from beyond *the* river—with the king of Assyria—and it will even take off the beard.

21 And this shall happen: on that day, a young man will keep a young cow of *the* herd and two sheep alive.

22 And this shall happen: because of the abundance of milk production, he will eat curds, for every one that is left in the midst of the land will eat curds and honey.

23 And this shall happen on that day: Every place where there are a thousand vines for a thousand silver *pieces* will become briers, and it will be thornbushes.

24 One will go there with arrows and bow, for all of the land will be briers and thornbushes.

25 And *as for* all of the hills that they hoed with the hoe, you will not go there, *for* fear of briers and thornbushes. And it will become like pastureland *for* cattle and overtrodden land *for* sheep.

#### Isaiah Predicts the Destruction of Syria and Israel

8:1 Then Yahweh said to me, "Take yourself a large tablet and write on it with a common stylus pen: Maher-Halal-Hash-Baz.

2 And I will require reliable witnesses as a witness for me: Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah."

3 And I approached the prophetess, and she conceived, and she gave birth to a son. And Yahweh said to me, "Call his name Maher-Halal-Hash-Baz.

4 For before the boy knows to call 'my father' and 'my mother,' *one* will carry away the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria in the presence of the king of Assyria."

#### The Coming Assyrian Flood

5 And Yahweh continued to speak to me again, saying,

6 "Because this people has refused the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices *over* Rezin and the son of Remaliah,

7 therefore look! The Lord *is* bringing up the waters of the great and mighty river against them, the king of Assyria and all his glory.

And he will rise above all his channels,  
and he will flow over all his banks.

8 And he will sweep into Judah;  
he will overflow and he will flood up to *the* neck.  
He will reach, and he will spread his wings out over your entire land, God with us."

9 Be broken, *you* peoples, and be dismayed.  
And listen, all distant *parts of the* earth;  
gird yourselves and be dismayed;  
gird yourselves and be dismayed!

10 Make a plan, but it will be frustrated!  
Speak a word, but it will not stand,  
for God is with us!

#### Fear God, Not Human Armies

11 For Yahweh said this to me while his hand weighed heavily on me,  
and he warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying,

12 "You must not call conspiracy everything that this people calls conspiracy,  
and you must not share its fear, and you must not be in dread.

13 You shall regard Yahweh of hosts as holy,  
and he *is* your fear, and he *is* your dread.

14 And he will become like a sanctuary and a stumbling-stone,  
and like a stumbling-rock for the two houses of Israel,  
like a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

15 And many shall stumble among them,  
and they shall fall and they shall be broken,  
and they shall be ensnared and they shall be caught." [cf. [Rom 9:33](#); [1 Pet 2:8](#)]

16 Bind up *the* testimony;  
seal *the* teaching among my disciples.

17 And I will wait for Yahweh,  
who hides his face from the house of Jacob,  
and I will await him.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Assyria Defeats Syria and Israel (732 BC)

2 Kings 16:9; 15:29	1 Chronicles 5:26	2 Chronicles 28:20
16:9 So the king of Assyria listened to him and he went up to Damascus and captured it and deported them to Kir. He also killed Rezin.	26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, and the spirit of	

<p>15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser the king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel-Beth-Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, the Gilead, the Galilee, and all the land of Naphtali; then he deported them to Assyria.</p>	<p>Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, and he took them <i>into exile</i>, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. And he brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, until this day.</p>	<p>20 Then Tiglath-Pileser the king of Assyria came against him and brought trouble for him, instead of helping him,</p>
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### Syro-Ephraimite War: Pekah [Israel] is Assassinated by Hoshea (732n BC)

2 Kings 15:30–31

30 Hoshea the son of Elah conspired against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and he attacked and killed him. He reigned in place of him in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

31 Now the remainder of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, look, they are written in the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Israel.

### Syro-Ephraimite War: Hoshea Assumes the Throne of Israel (732n BC)

2 Kings 17:1–2

1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz the king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *reigning* nine years.  
2 He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, only not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

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#### Chronological Notes

1) Micah.

A) The first verse of Micah dates his prophecies to the reigns of “Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah” (Mic 1:1). The dates for these kings’ reigns are as follows:

- (1) Jotham (751t–736t). [coregent in 751t, sole reign in 740t, Ahaz coregent in 736t, death in 732t].
- (2) Ahaz (732t–716t).
- (3) Hezekiah (716t–687t).

B) I will be following J. T. Willis’ division of Micah into three sections: 1–2, 3–5 and 6–7.<sup>1</sup> Since the destruction of Samaria is foretold in Micah 1:2–7, I have chosen to date this oracle to c. 740–723. Micah 3:12 is dated to the reign of Hezekiah (cf. Jer 26:18) and so I have dated the remaining two oracles (3–5, 6–7) to the time when Hezekiah was coregent with Ahaz (c. 720–715).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bruce K. Waltke, “Micah,” *TOCT*, 157. Note that Waltke endorses Willis’ approach to the structure of Micah.

<sup>2</sup> Hezekiah was coregent with his father Ahaz from 729t/728n to 715. For more details on this coregency, see Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies,” *JETS* 47.4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.