

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

2 Chronicles 26:6–15

Uzziah's Military Campaigns

6 Uzziah attacked the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod and throughout Philistine territory.

7 God helped him in his campaigns against the Philistines, the Arabs living in Gur Baal, and the Meunites.

8 The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah and his fame reached the border of Egypt, for he grew in power.

Uzziah's Infrastructure and Agricultural Improvements

9 Uzziah built and fortified towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, Valley Gate, and at the Angle.

10 He built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, for he owned many herds in the lowlands and on the plain. He had workers in the fields and vineyards in the hills and in Carmel, for he loved agriculture.

Uzziah's Army

11 Uzziah had an army of skilled warriors trained for battle. They were organized by divisions according to the muster rolls made by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer under the authority of Hananiah, a royal official.

12 The total number of family leaders who led warriors was 2,600.

13 They commanded an army of 307,500 skilled and able warriors who were ready to defend the king against his enemies.

14 Uzziah supplied shields, spears, helmets, breastplates, bows, and slingstones for the entire army.

15 In Jerusalem he made war machines carefully designed to shoot arrows and large stones from the towers and corners of the walls. He became very famous, for he received tremendous support and became powerful.

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

Hosea 1–3

Title

1:1 This is the word of the LORD which was revealed to Hosea son of Beeri during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled Judah, and during the time when Jeroboam son of Joash ruled Israel.

The Command to Marry Gomer

2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, he said to him, "Go marry a prostitute who will bear illegitimate children conceived through prostitution, because the nation continually commits spiritual prostitution by turning away from the LORD."

3a So Hosea married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim.

The Naming of Hosea's Children

3b Then she conceived and gave birth to a son for him.

4 Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Name him 'Jezreel,' because in a little while I 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.

5 At that time, I will destroy the military power of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

6 She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her 'No Pity' (Lo-Ruhamah) because I will no longer have pity on the nation of Israel. For I will certainly not forgive their guilt.

7 But I will have pity on the nation of Judah. I will deliver them by the LORD their God; I will not deliver them by the warrior's bow, by sword, by military victory, by chariot horses, or by chariots."

8 When she had weaned 'No Pity' (Lo-Ruhamah) she conceived again and gave birth to another son.

9 Then the LORD said: "Name him 'Not My People' (Lo-Ammi), because you are not my people and I am not your God."

Future Restoration and Reversal

10 However, in the future the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea which can be neither measured nor numbered. Although it was said to them, "You are not my people," it will be said to them, "You are children of the living God!" [[Rom 9:26](#)]

11 Then the people of Judah and the people of Israel will be gathered together. They will appoint for themselves one leader, and will flourish in the land. Certainly, the day of Jezreel will be great!

Transition

2:1 Then you will call your brother, "My People" (Ammi)! You will call your sister, "Pity" (Ruhamah)!

Idolatrous Israel Will Be Punished Like a Prostitute

2 Plead earnestly with your mother

(for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband),
so that she might put an end to her adulterous lifestyle,
and turn away from her sexually immoral behavior.

- 3 Otherwise, I will strip her naked,
and expose her like she was when she was born.
I will turn her land into a wilderness
and make her country a parched land,
so that I might kill her with thirst.
- 4 I will have no pity on her children,
because they are children conceived in adultery.
- 5 For their mother has committed adultery;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, “I will seek out my lovers;
they are the ones who give me my bread and my water,
my wool, my flax, my olive oil, and my wine.

The Lord’s Discipline Will Bring Israel to Repentance

- 6 Therefore, I will soon fence her in with thorns;
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.
- 7 Then she will pursue her lovers, but she will not catch them;
she will seek them, but she will not find them.
Then she will say, “I will go back to my husband,
because I was better off then than I am now.”

Agricultural Fertility Withdrawn from Israel

- 8 Yet until now she has refused to acknowledge that I was the one
who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil;
and that it was I who lavished on her the silver and gold—
which they used in worshiping Baal!
- 9 Therefore, I will take back my grain during the harvest time
and my new wine when it ripens;
I will take away my wool and my flax
which I had provided in order to clothe her.
- 10 Soon I will expose her lewd nakedness in front of her lovers,
and no one will be able to rescue her from me!
- 11 I will put an end to all her celebration:
her annual religious festivals,
monthly new moon celebrations,
and weekly Sabbath festivities—
all her appointed festivals.
- 12 I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
about which she said, “These are my wages for prostitution
that my lovers gave to me!”
I will turn her cultivated vines and fig trees into an uncultivated thicket,
so that wild animals will devour them.
- 13 “I will punish her for the festival days
when she burned incense to the Baal idols;
she adorned herself with earrings and jewelry,
and went after her lovers,
but she forgot me!” says the LORD.

Future Repentance and Restoration of Israel

- 14 However, in the future I will allure her;
I will lead her back into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
- 15 From there I will give back her vineyards to her,
and turn the “Valley of Trouble” into an “Opportunity for Hope.”
There she will sing as she did when she was young,

- when she came up from the land of Egypt.
- 16 “At that time,” declares the LORD,
“you will call, ‘My husband’;
you will never again call me, ‘My master.’”
- 17 For I will remove the names of the Baal idols from your lips,
so that you will never again utter their names!”
- 18 “At that time I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals,
the birds of the air, and the creatures that crawl on the ground.
I will abolish the warrior’s bow and sword—
that is, every weapon of warfare—from the land,
and I will allow them to live securely.”
- 19 I will commit myself to you forever;
I will commit myself to you in righteousness and justice,
in steadfast love and tender compassion.
- 20 I will commit myself to you in faithfulness;
then you will acknowledge the LORD.”

Agricultural Fertility Restored to the Repentant Nation

- 21 “At that time, I will willingly respond,” declares the LORD.
“I will respond to the sky,
and the sky will respond to the ground;
22 then the ground will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil;
and they will respond to ‘God Plants’ (Jezreel)!”
- 23 Then I will plant her as my own in the land.
I will have pity on ‘No Pity’ (Lo-Ruhamah).
I will say to ‘Not My People’ (Lo-Ammi), ‘You are my people!’
And he will say, ‘You are my God!’” [[Rom 9:25](#); [1 Pet 2:10](#)]

An Illustration of God’s Love for Idolatrous Israel

- 3:1 The LORD said to me, “Go, show love to your wife again, even though she loves another man and continually commits adultery. Likewise, the LORD loves the Israelites although they turn to other gods and love to offer raisin cakes to idols.”
- 2 So I paid fifteen shekels of silver and about seven bushels of barley to purchase her.
- 3 Then I told her, “You must live with me many days; you must not commit adultery or have sexual intercourse with another man, and I also will wait for you.”
- 4 For the Israelites must live many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred fertility pillar, without ephod or idols.
- 5 Afterward, the Israelites will turn and seek the LORD their God and their Davidic king. Then they will submit to the LORD in fear and receive his blessings in the future.

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

2 Kings 14:28–29

- 28 The rest of the events of Jeroboam’s reign, including all his accomplishments, his military success in restoring Israelite control over Damascus and Hamath, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
- 29 Jeroboam passed away and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Zechariah replaced him as king.

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 King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Jeroboam’s son Zechariah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for six months.
- 9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his ancestors had done. He did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

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

2 Kings 15:10–12

- 10 Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against him; he assassinated him in Ibleam and took his place as king.

11 The rest of the events of Zechariah's reign are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
 12 His assassination brought to fulfillment the LORD's word to Jehu, "Four generations of your descendants will rule over Israel." That is exactly what happened.

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

2 Kings 15:13

13 Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah's reign over Judah. He reigned for one month in Samaria.

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

2 Kings 15:14–16

14 Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah to Samaria and attacked Shallum son of Jabesh. He killed him and took his place as king.
 15 The rest of the events of Shallum's reign, including the conspiracy he organized, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
 16 At that time Menahem came from Tirzah and attacked Tiphshah. He struck down all who lived in the city and the surrounding territory, because they would not surrender. He even ripped open the pregnant women.

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

2 Kings 15:17–18

17 In the thirty-ninth year of King Azariah's reign over Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over Israel. He reigned for twelve years in Samaria.
 18 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

Uzziah's Pride Causes His Downfall (750 BC)

2 Kings 15:5a

2 Chronicles 26:16–21a

5a The LORD afflicted the king with an illness; he suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters,

16 But once he [Uzziah] became powerful, his pride destroyed him. He disobeyed the LORD his God. He entered the LORD's temple to offer incense on the incense altar.
 17 Azariah the priest and eighty other brave priests of the LORD followed him in.
 18 They confronted King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not proper for you, Uzziah, to offer incense to the LORD. That is the responsibility of the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who are consecrated to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have disobeyed and the LORD God will not honor you!"
 19 Uzziah, who had an incense censer in his hand, became angry. While he was ranting and raving at the priests, a skin disease appeared on his forehead right there in front of the priests in the LORD's temple near the incense altar.
 20 When Azariah the high priest and the other priests looked at him, there was a skin disease on his forehead. They hurried him out of there; even the king himself wanted to leave quickly because the LORD had afflicted him.
 21a King Uzziah suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters, afflicted by a skin disease and banned from the LORD's temple.

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

2 Kings 15:5b, 32–33

2 Chronicles 26:21b, 27:1

5b while his son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land.
 26:21b His son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land.

<p>32 In the second year of the reign of Israel's King Pekah son of Remaliah, Uzziah's son Jotham became king over Judah.</p> <p>33 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.</p>	<p>27:1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.</p>
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Menahem [Israel] and Tiglath-Pileser III's [Assyria] First Campaign (743 BC)

2 Kings 15:19–20

19 During his [Menahem's] reign, Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem paid him a thousand talents of silver to gain his support and to solidify his control of the kingdom.

20 Menahem got this silver by taxing all the wealthy men in Israel; he took fifty shekels of silver from each one of them and paid it to the king of Assyria. Then the king of Assyria left; he 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.)