

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

2 Kings 15:6–7	2 Chronicles 26:22–23
<p>6 The rest of the events of Azariah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>7 Azariah passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David.</p> <p>His son Jotham replaced him as king.</p>	<p>22 The rest of the events of Uzziah’s reign, from start to finish,</p> <p>were recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.</p> <p>23 Uzziah passed away and was buried near his ancestors in a cemetery belonging to the kings. (This was because he had a skin disease.)</p> <p>His son Jotham replaced him as king.</p>

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

Isaiah 6

A Vision of the Holy King

- 1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the sovereign master seated on a high, elevated throne. The hem of his robe filled the temple.
- 2 Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly.
- 3 They called out to one another,
- “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord who commands armies!
His majestic splendor fills the entire earth!”
- 4 The sound of their voices shook the door frames, and the temple was filled with smoke.

The Prophet’s Purification

- 5 I said, “Too bad for me! I am destroyed, for my lips are contaminated by sin, and I live among people whose lips are contaminated by sin. My eyes have seen the king, the LORD who commands armies.”
- 6 But then one of the seraphs flew toward me. In his hand was a hot coal he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, “Look, this coal has touched your lips. Your evil is removed; your sin is forgiven.”

A Hardening Message for a Calloused Audience

- 8 I heard the voice of the sovereign master say, “Whom will I send? Who will go on our behalf?” I answered, “Here I am, send me!”
- 9 He said, “Go and tell these people:
- ‘Listen continually, but don’t understand!
Look continually, but don’t perceive!’
- 10 Make the hearts of these people calloused;
make their ears deaf and their eyes blind!
Otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
their hearts might understand and they might repent and be healed.” [\[Matt 13:13–15; John 12:39–41\]](#)

Hope in the Midst of Destruction

- 11 I replied, “How long, sovereign master?” He said,
- “Until cities are in ruins and unpopulated,
and houses are uninhabited,
and the land is ruined and devastated,
- 12 and the LORD has sent the people off to a distant place,
and the very heart of the land is completely abandoned.
- 13 Even if only a tenth of the people remain in the land,
it will again be destroyed,
like one of the large sacred trees or an Asherah pole,
when a sacred pillar on a high place is thrown down.
That sacred pillar symbolizes the special chosen family.”

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

2 Kings 15:34–35a

2 Chronicles 27:2

34 He did what the LORD approved,
just as his father Uzziah had done.

35a But the high places were not eliminated;
the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the
high places.

2 He did what the LORD approved,
just as his father Uzziah had done.
(He did not, however, have the audacity to enter the temple.)

Yet the people were still sinning.

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

Micah 1–2

Title

1:1 This is the prophetic message that the LORD gave to Micah of Moresheth. He delivered this message during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The prophecies pertain to Samaria and Jerusalem.

The Divine Warrior Comes to Judge Samaria and Israel

- 2 Listen, all you nations!
Pay attention, all inhabitants of earth!
The sovereign LORD will testify against you;
the LORD will accuse you from his majestic palace.
- 3 Look, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling place!
He will descend and march on the earth's mountaintops!
- 4 The mountains will disintegrate beneath him,
and the valleys will be split in two.
The mountains will melt like wax in a fire,
the rocks will slide down like water cascading down a steep slope.
- 5 All this is because of Jacob's rebellion
and the sins of the nation of Israel.
How has Jacob rebelled, you ask?
Samaria epitomizes their rebellion!
Where are Judah's pagan worship centers, you ask?
They are right in Jerusalem!
- 6 "I will turn Samaria into a heap of ruins in an open field—
vineyards will be planted there!
I will tumble the rubble of her stone walls down into the valley,
and tear down her fortifications to their foundations.
- 7 All her carved idols will be smashed to pieces;
all her metal cult statues will be destroyed by fire.
I will make a waste heap of all her images.
Since she gathered the metal as a prostitute collects her wages,
the idols will become a prostitute's wages again."

Micah Laments the Coming Invasion of Judah

- 8 For this reason I will mourn and wail;
I will walk around barefoot and without my outer garments.
I will howl like a wild dog,
and screech like an owl.
- 9 For Samaria's disease is incurable.
It has infected Judah;
it has spread to the leadership of my people
and has even contaminated Jerusalem!
- 10 Don't spread the news in Gath!
Don't shed even a single tear!
In Beth Leaphrah sit in the dust!
- 11 Residents of Shaphir, pass by in nakedness and humiliation!
The residents of Zaanan can't leave their city.
Beth Ezel mourns, "He takes from you what he desires."

- 12 Indeed, the residents of Maroth hope for something good to happen,
though the LORD has sent disaster against the city of Jerusalem.
- 13 Residents of Lachish, hitch the horses to the chariots!
You influenced Daughter Zion to sin,
for Israel's rebellious deeds can be traced back to you!
- 14 Therefore you will have to say farewell to Moresheth Gath.
The residents of Achzib will be as disappointing
as a dried up well to the kings of Israel.
- 15 Residents of Mareshah, a conqueror will attack you,
the leaders of Israel shall flee to Adullam.
- 16 Shave your heads bald as you mourn for the children you love;
shave your foreheads as bald as an eagle,
for they are taken from you into exile.

Woe to Wealthy and Oppressive Land-grabbers

- 2:1 Those who devise sinful plans are as good as dead,
those who dream about doing evil as they lie in bed.
As soon as morning dawns they carry out their plans,
because they have the power to do so.
- 2 They confiscate the fields they desire,
and seize the houses they want.
They defraud people of their homes,
and deprive people of the land they have inherited.
- 3 Therefore the LORD says this: "Look, I am devising disaster for this nation!
It will be like a yoke from which you cannot free your neck.
You will no longer walk proudly,
for it will be a time of catastrophe.
- 4 In that day people will sing this taunt song to you—
they will mock you with this lament:
'We are completely destroyed;
they sell off the property of my people.
How they remove it from me!
They assign our fields to the conqueror.'
- 5 Therefore no one will assign you land in the LORD's community.

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

- 6 'Don't preach with such impassioned rhetoric,' they say excitedly.
'These prophets should not preach of such things;
we will not be overtaken by humiliation.'
- 7 Does the family of Jacob say,
'The LORD's patience can't be exhausted—
he would never do such things'?
- To be sure, my commands bring a reward
for those who obey them,
- 8 but you rise up as an enemy against my people.
You steal a robe from a friend,
from those who pass by peacefully as if returning from a war.
- 9 You wrongly evict widows among my people from their cherished homes.
You defraud their children of their prized inheritance.
- 10 But you are the ones who will be forced to leave!
For this land is not secure!
Sin will thoroughly destroy it!
- 11 If a lying windbag should come and say,
'I'll promise you blessings of wine and beer,'
he would be just the right preacher for these people!

The Restoration of a Remnant

- 12 I will certainly gather all of you, O Jacob,

I will certainly assemble those Israelites who remain.
 I will bring them together like sheep in a fold,
 like a flock in the middle of a pasture;
 they will be so numerous that they will make a lot of noise.

13 The one who can break through barriers will lead them out
 they will break out, pass through the gate, and leave.
 Their king will advance before them,
 The LORD himself will lead them.

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

2 Kings 15:35b	2 Chronicles 27:3–6
35b He built the Upper Gate to the LORD's temple.	<p>3 He built the Upper Gate to the LORD's temple and did a lot of work on the wall in the area known as Ophel.</p> <p>4 He built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests.</p> <p>5 He launched a military campaign against the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. That year the Ammonites paid him 100 talents of silver, 10,000 kors of wheat, and 10,000 kors of barley. The Ammonites also paid this same amount of annual tribute the next two years.</p> <p>6 Jotham grew powerful because he was determined to please the LORD his God.</p>

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

2 Kings 16:1–4	2 Chronicles 28:1–4
<p>1 In the seventeenth year of the reign of Pekah son of Remaliah, Jotham's son Ahaz became king over Judah.</p> <p>2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased the LORD his God, in contrast to his ancestor David.</p> <p>3 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel.</p> <p>He passed his son through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out from before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.</p>	<p>1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased the LORD, in contrast to his ancestor David.</p> <p>2 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel; he also made images of the Baals.</p> <p>3 He offered sacrifices in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and passed his sons through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.</p>

Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin [Syria] and Pekah [Israel] Attack Ahaz [Judah] (734 BC)

2 Chronicles 28:5–15, 17–19
<p>Ahaz is Defeated in Battle by Pekah and Rezin</p> <p>5 The LORD his God handed him over to the king of Syria. The Syrians defeated him and deported many captives to Damascus. He was also handed over to the king of Israel, who thoroughly defeated him.</p> <p>6 In one day King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel killed 120,000 warriors in Judah, because they had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors.</p> <p>7 Zikri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed the king's son Maaseiah, Azrikam, the supervisor of the palace, and Elkanah, the king's second-in-command.</p> <p>8 The Israelites seized from their brothers 200,000 wives, sons, and daughters. They also carried off a huge amount of plunder and took it back to Samaria.</p> <p>God, through Oded the Prophet, Forbids Israel to Enslave Judah</p> <p>9 Oded, a prophet of the LORD, was there. He went to meet the army as they arrived in Samaria and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your ancestors was angry with Judah he handed them over to you. You have killed them so mercilessly that God has taken notice.</p>

10 And now you are planning to enslave the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Yet are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?
 11 Now listen to me! Send back those you have seized from your brothers, for the LORD is very angry at you!”
 12 So some of the Ephraimite family leaders, Azariah son of Jehochanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jechizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai confronted those returning from the battle.
 13 They said to them, “Don’t bring those captives here! Are you planning on making us even more sinful and guilty before the LORD? Our guilt is already great and the LORD is very angry at Israel.”
 14 So the soldiers released the captives and the plunder before the officials and the entire assembly.
 15 Men were assigned to take the prisoners and find clothes among the plunder for those who were naked. So they clothed them, supplied them with sandals, gave them food and drink, and provided them with oil to rub on their skin. They put the ones who couldn’t walk on donkeys. They brought them back to their brothers at Jericho, the city of the date palm trees, and then returned to Samaria.

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

17 The Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried off captives.
 18 The Philistines had raided the cities of Judah in the lowlands and the Negev. They captured and settled in Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco and its surrounding villages, Timnah and its surrounding villages, and Gimzo and its surrounding villages.
 19 The LORD humiliated Judah because of King Ahaz of Israel, for he encouraged Judah to sin and was very unfaithful to the LORD.

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

2 Kings 16:5–6

Isaiah 7:1

5 At that time

King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel attacked Jerusalem.

They besieged Ahaz, but were unable to conquer him.

6 (At that time King Rezin of Syria recovered Elat for Syria; he drove the Judahites from there. Syrians arrived in Elat and live there to this very day.)

1 During the reign of Ahaz son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel marched up to Jerusalem to do battle,

but they were unable to prevail against it.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Urges Ahaz to Trust God (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:2–9

2 It was reported to the family of David, “Syria has allied with Ephraim.” They and their people were emotionally shaken, just as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

3 So the LORD told Isaiah, “Go out with your son Shear-jashub and meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth.

4 Tell him, ‘Make sure you stay calm! Don’t be afraid! Don’t be intimidated by these two stubs of smoking logs, or by the raging anger of Rezin, Syria, and the son of Remaliah.

5 Syria has plotted with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah to bring about your demise.

6 They say, “Let’s attack Judah, terrorize it, and conquer it. Then we’ll set up the son of Tabeel as its king.”

7 For this reason the sovereign master, the LORD, says:

“It will not take place;
it will not happen.

8 For Syria’s leader is Damascus,
and the leader of Damascus is Rezin.
Within sixty-five years Ephraim will no longer exist as a nation.

9 Ephraim’s leader is Samaria,
and Samaria’s leader is the son of Remaliah.
If your faith does not remain firm,
then you will not remain secure.”

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

2 Kings 16:7–8

7 Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and your dependent. March up and rescue me from the power of the king of Syria and the king of Israel, who have attacked me.”
8 Then Ahaz took the silver and gold that were in the LORD’s temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as tribute to the king of Assyria.

2 Chronicles 28:16, 21

16 At that time King Ahaz asked the king of Assyria for help.
21 Ahaz gathered riches from the LORD’s temple, the royal palace, and the officials and gave them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help.

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

Isaiah 7:10–8:17

The Sign of Immanuel

7:10 The LORD again spoke to Ahaz:

11 “Ask for a confirming sign from the LORD your God. You can even ask for something miraculous.”

12 But Ahaz responded, “I don’t want to ask; I don’t want to put the LORD to a test.”

13 So Isaiah replied, “Pay attention, family of David. Do you consider it too insignificant to try the patience of men? Is that why you are also trying the patience of my God?”

14 For this reason the sovereign master himself will give you a confirming sign. [Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.] (ESV) [[Matt 1:23](#)]

15 He will eat sour milk and honey [until he knows] how to reject evil and choose what is right.

16 Here is why this will be so: Before the child knows how to reject evil and choose what is right, the land whose two kings you fear will be desolate.

Judgment of the Land

17 The LORD will bring on you, your people, and your father’s family a time unlike any since Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

18 At that time the LORD will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria.

19 All of them will come and make their home in the ravines between the cliffs, and in the crevices of the cliffs, in all the thorn bushes, and in all the watering holes.

20 At that time the sovereign master will use a razor hired from the banks of the Euphrates River, the king of Assyria, to shave the head and the pubic hair; it will also shave off the beard.

21 At that time a man will keep alive a young cow from the herd and a couple of goats.

22 From the abundance of milk they produce, he will have sour milk for his meals. Indeed, everyone left in the heart of the land will eat sour milk and honey.

23 At that time every place where there had been a thousand vines worth a thousand shekels will be overrun with thorns and briers.

24 With bow and arrow men will hunt there, for the whole land will be covered with thorns and briers.

25 They will stay away from all the hills that were cultivated, for fear of the thorns and briers. Cattle will graze there and sheep will trample on them.

Isaiah Predicts the Destruction of Syria and Israel

8:1 The LORD told me, “Take a large tablet and inscribe these words on it with an ordinary stylus: ‘Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.’

2 Then I will summon as my reliable witnesses Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah.”

3 I then had sexual relations with the prophetess; she conceived and gave birth to a son. The LORD told me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz,

4 for before the child knows how to cry out, ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.”

The Coming Assyrian Flood

5 The LORD spoke to me again:

6 “These people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and melt in fear over Rezin and the son of Remaliah.

7 So look, the sovereign master is bringing up against them the turbulent and mighty waters of the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria and all his majestic power. It will reach flood stage and overflow its banks.

8 It will spill into Judah, flooding and engulfing, as it reaches to the necks of its victims. He will spread his wings out over your entire

land, O Immanuel.”

- 9 You will be broken, O nations;
you will be shattered!
Pay attention, all you distant lands of the earth!
Get ready for battle, and you will be shattered!
Get ready for battle, and you will be shattered!
- 10 Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted!
Issue your orders, but they will not be executed!
For God is with us!

Fear God, Not Human Armies

11 Indeed this is what the LORD told me. He took hold of me firmly and warned me not to act like these people:

- 12 “Do not say, ‘Conspiracy,’ every time these people say the word.
Don’t be afraid of what scares them; don’t be terrified.
- 13 You must recognize the authority of the LORD who commands armies.
He is the one you must respect;
he is the one you must fear.
- 14 He will become a sanctuary,
but a stone that makes a person trip,
and a rock that makes one stumble—
to the two houses of Israel.
He will become a trap and a snare
to the residents of Jerusalem.
- 15 Many will stumble over the stone and the rock,
and will fall and be seriously injured,
and will be ensnared and captured.” [cf. [Rom 9:33](#); [1 Pet 2:8](#)]

16 Tie up the scroll as legal evidence, seal the official record of God’s instructions and give it to my followers.

17 I will wait patiently for the LORD, who has rejected the family of Jacob; I will wait for 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
<p>16:9 The king of Assyria responded favorably to his request; he attacked Damascus and captured it. He deported the people to Kir and executed Rezin.</p> <p>15:29 During Pekah’s reign over Israel, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, including all the territory of Naphtali.</p> <p>He deported the people to Assyria.</p>	<p>26 So the God of Israel stirred up King Pul of Assyria</p> <p>(that is, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria),</p> <p>and he carried away the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh and took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan, where they remain to this very day.</p>	<p>20 King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came,</p> <p>but he gave him more trouble than support.</p>

Syro-Ephraimite War: Pekah [Israel] is Assassinated by Hoshea (732n BC)

2 Kings 15:30–31

30 Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah son of Remaliah. He assassinated him and took his place as king, in the twentieth year of the reign of Jotham son of Uzziah.

31 The rest of the events of Pekah's reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals 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 King Ahaz's reign over Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for nine years.

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not to the same degree as the Israelite kings who preceded 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 6–7.¹ 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).²

¹ Bruce K. Waltke, “Micah,” *TOCT*, 157. Note that Waltke endorses Willis' approach to the structure of Micah.

² 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.