

The Death of Jotham [Judah] (732t BC)

2 Kings 15:36–38	2 Chronicles 27:7–9
<p>36 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>37 In those days the LORD prompted King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah to attack Judah.</p> <p>38 Jotham passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.</p>	<p>7 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including all his military campaigns and his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll of the kings of Israel and Judah.</p> <p>8 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>9 Jotham passed away and was buried in the City of David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.</p>

Ahaz [Judah] Compounds His Idolatry (732 BC)

2 Kings 16:10–18	2 Chronicles 28:22–25
<p>10 When King Ahaz went to meet with King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria in Damascus, he saw the altar there. King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a drawing of the altar and a blueprint for its design.</p> <p>11 Uriah the priest built an altar in conformity to the plans King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. Uriah the priest finished it before King Ahaz arrived back from Damascus.</p> <p>12 When the king arrived back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and offered a sacrifice on it.</p> <p>13 He offered his burnt sacrifice and his grain offering. He poured out his libation and sprinkled the blood from his peace offerings on the altar.</p> <p>14 He moved the bronze altar that stood in the LORD’s presence from the front of the temple (between the altar and the LORD’s temple) and put it on the north side of the new altar.</p> <p>15 King Ahaz ordered Uriah the priest, “On the large altar offer the morning burnt sacrifice, the evening grain offering, the royal burnt sacrifices and grain offering, the burnt sacrifice for all the people of Israel, their grain offering, and their libations. Sprinkle all the blood of the burnt sacrifice and other sacrifices on it. The bronze altar will be for my personal use.”</p> <p>16 So Uriah the priest did exactly as King Ahaz ordered.</p> <p>17 King Ahaz took off the frames of the movable stands, and removed the basins from them. He took “The Sea” down from the bronze bulls that supported it and put it on the pavement.</p> <p>18 He also removed the Sabbath awning that had been built in the temple and the king’s outer entranceway, on account of the king of Assyria.</p>	<p>22 During his time of trouble King Ahaz was even more unfaithful to the LORD.</p> <p>23 He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus whom he thought had defeated him.</p> <p>He reasoned, “Since the gods of the kings of Damascus helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me.” But they caused him and all Israel to stumble.</p> <p>24 Ahaz gathered the items in God’s temple and removed them.</p> <p>He shut the doors of the LORD’s temple and erected altars on every street corner in Jerusalem.</p> <p>25 In every city throughout Judah he set up high places to offer sacrifices to other gods. He angered the LORD God of his ancestors.</p>

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Righteous King (c. 730 BC)

Isaiah 8:18–12:6

Isaiah Addresses His Followers

8:18 Look, I and the sons whom the LORD has given me are reminders and object lessons in Israel, sent from the LORD who commands armies, who lives on Mount Zion. [[Heb 2:13](#)]

19 They will say to you, “Seek oracles at the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, from the magicians who chirp and mutter incantations. Should people not seek oracles from their gods, by asking the dead about the destiny of the living?”

20 Then you must recall the LORD's instructions and the prophetic testimony of what would happen. Certainly they say such things because their minds are spiritually darkened.

21 They will pass through the land destitute and starving. Their hunger will make them angry, and they will curse their king and their God as they look upward.

22 When one looks out over the land, he sees distress and darkness, gloom and anxiety, darkness and people forced from the land.

The Reign of a Righteous King—The Messiah and the Millennium

9:1 The gloom will be dispelled for those who were anxious. In earlier times he humiliated the land of Zebulun, and the land of Naphtali; but now he brings honor to the way of the sea, the region beyond the Jordan, and Galilee of the nations.

- 2 The people walking in darkness
see a bright light;
light shines
on those who live in a land of deep darkness. [[Matt 4:14–16](#)]
- 3 You have enlarged the nation;
you give them great joy.
They rejoice in your presence
as harvesters rejoice;
as warriors celebrate when they divide up the plunder.
- 4 For their oppressive yoke
and the club that strikes their shoulders,
the cudgel the oppressor uses on them,
you have shattered, as in the day of Midian's defeat.
- 5 Indeed every boot that marches and shakes the earth
and every garment dragged through blood
is used as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born to us,
a son has been given to us.
[And the government will be on his shoulders;
and he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor],
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
- 7 His dominion will be vast
and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.
He will rule on David's throne
and over David's kingdom,
establishing it and strengthening it
by promoting justice and fairness,
from this time forward and forevermore.
The LORD's intense devotion to his people will accomplish this.

God's Wrath against Proud Israel

- 8 The sovereign master decreed judgment on Jacob,
and it fell on Israel.
- 9 All the people were aware of it,
the people of Ephraim and those living in Samaria.
Yet with pride and an arrogant attitude, they said,
- 10 “The bricks have fallen,
but we will rebuild with chiseled stone;

the sycamore fig trees have been cut down,
but we will replace them with cedars.”

- 11 Then the LORD provoked their adversaries to attack them,
he stirred up their enemies—
- 12 Syria from the east,
and the Philistines from the west,
they gobbled up Israelite territory.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God's Wrath against Unrepentant Leaders

- 13 The people did not return to the one who struck them,
they did not seek reconciliation with the LORD who commands armies.
- 14 So the LORD cut off Israel's head and tail,
both the shoots and stalk in one day.
- 15 The leaders and the highly respected people are the head,
the prophets who teach lies are the tail.
- 16 The leaders of this nation were misleading people,
and the people being led were destroyed.
- 17 So the sovereign master was not pleased with their young men,
he took no pity on their orphans and widows;
for the whole nation was godless and did wicked things,
every mouth was speaking disgraceful words.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God's Destruction of the Nation

- 18 For evil burned like a fire,
it consumed thorns and briars;
it burned up the thickets of the forest,
and they went up in smoke.
- 19 Because of the anger of the LORD who commands armies, the land was scorched,
and the people became fuel for the fire.
People had no compassion on one another.
- 20 They devoured on the right, but were still hungry,
they ate on the left, but were not satisfied.
People even ate the flesh of their own arm!
- 21 Manasseh fought against Ephraim,
and Ephraim against Manasseh;
together they fought against Judah.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

Lament: Judah's Oppression Will Lead to Its Demise

- 10:1 Those who enact unjust policies are as good as dead,
those who are always instituting unfair regulations,
- 2 to keep the poor from getting fair treatment,
and to deprive the oppressed among my people of justice,
so they can steal what widows own,
and loot what belongs to orphans.
- 3 What will you do on judgment day,
when destruction arrives from a distant place?
To whom will you run for help?
Where will you leave your wealth?
- 4 You will have no place to go, except to kneel with the prisoners,
or to fall among those who have been killed.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God Will Judge Assyria for Its Pride

- 5 Assyria, the club I use to vent my anger, is as good as dead,
a cudgel with which I angrily punish.
- 6 I sent him against a godless nation,
I ordered him to attack the people with whom I was angry,
to take plunder and to carry away loot,
to trample them down like dirt in the streets.
- 7 But he does not agree with this,
his mind does not reason this way,
for his goal is to destroy,
and to eliminate many nations.
- 8 Indeed, he says:
“Are not my officials all kings?
9 Is not Calneh like Carchemish?
Hamath like Arpad?
Samaria like Damascus?
10 I overpowered kingdoms ruled by idols,
whose carved images were more impressive than Jerusalem’s or Samaria’s.
11 As I have done to Samaria and its idols,
so I will do to Jerusalem and its idols.” [cf. [2 Kgs 18:33-35](#)]

12 But when the sovereign master finishes judging Mount Zion and Jerusalem, then I will punish the king of Assyria for what he has proudly planned and for the arrogant attitude he displays.

13 For he says:

- “By my strong hand I have accomplished this,
by my strategy that I devised.
I invaded the territory of nations,
and looted their storehouses.
Like a mighty conqueror,
I brought down rulers.
- 14 My hand discovered the wealth of the nations, as if it were in a nest,
as one gathers up abandoned eggs,
I gathered up the whole earth.
There was no wing flapping,
or open mouth chirping.”
- 15 Does an ax exalt itself over the one who wields it,
or a saw magnify itself over the one who cuts with it?
As if a scepter should brandish the one who raises it,
or a staff should lift up what is not made of wood!
- 16 For this reason the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies,
will make his healthy ones emaciated.
His majestic glory will go up in smoke.
- 17 The light of Israel will become a fire,
their Holy One will become a flame;
it will burn and consume
the Assyrian king’s briars and his thorns in one day.
- 18 The splendor of his forest and his orchard
will be completely destroyed,
as when a sick man’s life ebbs away.
- 19 There will be so few trees left in his forest,
a child will be able to count them.

God Will Save a Remnant

20 At that time those left in Israel, those who remain of the family of Jacob, will no longer rely on a foreign leader that abuses them. Instead they will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

21 A remnant will come back, a remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

22 For though your people, Israel, are as numerous as the sand on the seashore, only a remnant will come back. Destruction has

been decreed; just punishment is about to engulf you. [\[Rom 9:27\]](#)

23 The sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, is certainly ready to carry out the decreed destruction throughout the land.

24 So here is what the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, says: “My people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of Assyria, even though they beat you with a club and lift their cudgel against you as Egypt did.

25 For very soon my fury will subside, and my anger will be directed toward their destruction.”

26 The LORD who commands armies is about to beat them with a whip, similar to the way he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb. He will use his staff against the sea, lifting it up as he did in Egypt.

27 At that time the LORD will remove their burden from your shoulders, and their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be taken off because your neck will be too large.

Invading Assyrians Will Be Cut Off

28 They attacked Aiath,
moved through Migron,
depositing their supplies at Micmash.

29 They went through the pass,
spent the night at Geba.
Ramah trembled,
Gibeah of Saul ran away.

30 Shout out, daughter of Gallim!
Pay attention, Laishah!
Answer her, Anathoth!

31 Madmenah flees,
the residents of Gebim have hidden.

32 This very day, standing in Nob,
they shake their fist
at Daughter Zion’s mountain—
at the hill of Jerusalem.

33 Look, the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies,
is ready to cut off the branches with terrifying power.
The tallest trees will be cut down,
the loftiest ones will be brought low.

34 The thickets of the forest will be chopped down with an ax,
and mighty Lebanon will fall.

Millennium: The Just and Peaceful Millennial Reign of a Davidic Branch

11:1 A shoot will grow out of Jesse’s root stock,
a bud will sprout from his roots.

2 The LORD’s spirit will rest on him—
a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom,
a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans,
a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the LORD.

3 He will take delight in obeying the LORD.
He will not judge by mere appearances,
or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.

4 He will treat the poor fairly,
and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and order the wicked to be executed.

5 Justice will be like a belt around his waist,
integrity will be like a belt around his hips.

6 A wolf will reside with a lamb,
and a leopard will lie down with a young goat;
an ox and a young lion will graze together,
as a small child leads them along.

7 A cow and a bear will graze together,
their young will lie down together.
A lion, like an ox, will eat straw.

- 8 A baby will play
over the hole of a snake;
over the nest of a serpent
an infant will put his hand.
- 9 They will no longer injure or destroy
on my entire royal mountain.
For there will be universal submission to the LORD's sovereignty,
just as the waters completely cover the sea.

Millennium: The Gathering of the Nations to God

- 10 At that time a root from Jesse will stand like a signal flag for the nations. Nations will look to him for guidance, and his residence will be majestic. [[Rom 15:12](#)]
- 11 At that time the sovereign master will again lift his hand to reclaim the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the seacoasts.
- 12 He will lift a signal flag for the nations;
he will gather Israel's dispersed people
and assemble Judah's scattered people
from the four corners of the earth.
- 13 Ephraim's jealousy will end,
and Judah's hostility will be eliminated.
Ephraim will no longer be jealous of Judah,
and Judah will no longer be hostile toward Ephraim.
- 14 They will swoop down on the Philistine hills to the west;
together they will loot the people of the east.
They will take over Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be their subjects.
- 15 The LORD will divide the gulf of the Egyptian Sea;
he will wave his hand over the Euphrates River and send a strong wind,
he will turn it into seven dried-up streams,
and enable them to walk across in their sandals.
- 16 There will be a highway leading out of Assyria
for the remnant of his people,
just as there was for Israel,
when they went up from the land of Egypt.

Millennium: A Song of Trust in God

- 12:1 At that time you will say:
"I praise you, O LORD,
for even though you were angry with me,
your anger subsided, and you consoled me.
- 2 Look, God is my deliverer!
I will trust in him and not fear.
For the LORD gives me strength and protects me;
he has become my deliverer."
- 3 Joyfully you will draw water
from the springs of deliverance.
- 4 At that time you will say:
"Praise the LORD!
Ask him for help!
Publicize his mighty acts among the nations!
Make it known that he is unique!
- 5 Sing to the LORD, for he has done magnificent things,
let this be known throughout the earth!
- 6 Cry out and shout for joy, O citizens of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel acts mightily among you!"

Hezekiah, Ahaz's Son, Begins Coregency With Ahaz [Judah] (729t/728n BC)

2 Kings 18:1

1 In the third year of the reign of Israel's King Hoshea son of Elah, Ahaz's son Hezekiah became king over Judah.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) For more information regarding Hezekiah's coregency with Ahaz, see the following resources:
 - A) Siegfried H. Horn, "The Chronology of King Hezekiah's Reign," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, Vol. 2 (1964): 40–52.
 - B) Leslie McFall, "Did Thiele Overlook Hezekiah's Coregency?" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 146:584 (Oct 1989): 394–404.
 - C) Leslie McFall, "Some Missing Coregencies in Thiele's Chronology," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, Vol. 30, (Spring 1992): 35–38.
 - D) Rodger C. Young, "When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies," *JETS* 47/4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.