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The Kings of Isra'el
First Kings 15:25 to 16:34

Now the story shifts to **the northern kingdom of Isra'el**, where it will stay until the last verse of **First Kings**. Two issues dominate the narrative. First, rapid turnover in leadership becomes commonplace in **Isra'el**. Nothing was more characteristic of **the northern kingdom** than its extreme internal instability. Few failures could be more damaging to a new nation. Second, the power of the prophetic word emerges again. Predictions old and new come true. Prophets old and new call on **kings** to account for **their** actions, which indicates that **God** had not abdicated **His** role as **LORD** of history.[383]



The sins of **Jeroboam** were visited on nineteen of the other **kings of Isra'el** (**to see link click Dd – Golden Calves at Dan and Bethel**). **Isra'el** got off on the wrong foot and never recovered. There was never one godly **king** in the history of **the Northern Kingdom of Isra'el**. What is a holy **God** doing amidst all this evil? **He** is not there because **He** relishes in it – obviously **He** hates **sin (Proverbs 6:16-19).** But **He** is there because **He** is simply that kind of **God**. **He** is sovereign, and no moment in history, however given to evil, will find **Him** absent from it. Hence, here we meet evil men in the hands of a good **God**.[384] All this was a result of **Solomon's** sin of spiritual adultery (see **Bx – Solomon's Wives**).

While the capital of the Davidic dynasty remained in Jerusalem, the northern kingdom had several capital cities. The first administrative capital established by **Jeroboam** following the division of the monarchy was located at **Shechem**, located on the eastern side of the pass between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim **(First Kings 12:25; Second Chronicles 10:1)**. The second northern kingdom capital was located at the Transjordan town of **Penuel**, a move possibly connected with Shishak's invasion of parts of **Jeroboam's** territory a few years into **his** reign **(1 Kings 12:25; 2 Chronicles 12:1)**. After **Penuel**, **Jeroboam** set up a capital at **Tirzah**, located at the junction of important roads about six miles north of **Shechem**. **Tirzah** remained the capital city for the subsequent northern kingdom rulers until the establishment of Samaria during the sixth year of **Omri's** reign (879 BC). Not that **Omri** ruled for six years from **Tizrah** while battling against **Tibni** for control of the northern kingdom. **Samaria** remained the capital of the northern kingdom until its fall in **722 BC**.[385]

Jeroboam I 931-910 BC 22 years

Nadab 910-909 BC 2 years

Ba'asha 909-886 BC 24 years

Elah 866-885 BC 2 years

Zimri 885 BC 7 days

Tibni/Omri 885-880 BC 6 years

Omri 885-874 BC 12 years

Ahab 874-853 BC 22 years

Ahaziah 853-852 BC 2 years

Joram 852-841 BC 12 years

Jehu 841-814 BC 28 years

Jehoahaz 814-798 BC 17 years

Joash 798-782 BC 16 years

Jeroboam II 783-752 BC 41 years

Zechariah 752 BC 6 months

Shallum 752 BC 1 month

Menahem 752-742 BC 10 years

Pekahiah 742-740 BC 2 years

Pekah 752-732 BC 20 years

Hoshea 732-722 BC 9 years

Assyrians conquered Northern Kingdom in 722 BC

Following the general conquest policy, **the Assyrians** replaced the deported **Israelites** with refugees from other lands. **Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria (First Kings 17:24)**.