

OT Term2: Week 9

The Divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel and two prophets of the 8th century, Amos; Hosea;

Read 2 Kings 11-17; 2 Chronicles 22:10-28:27; Joel; Amos; Hosea; Jonah.

ATHALIAH, daughter of Ahab, mother of Ahaziah of Judah (841-835)

2 Kings 11 // 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:1-15

She reigned 7 years

1 When Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, his mother, Athaliah murdered all the survivors of the Judean royal family. Then she usurped the throne. Jehoash only was saved and kept hidden for 6 years.

4 The young king was under the custody of Jehoiada the priest, who organised a plot to restore the throne to him. Athaliah was put to death.

JEHOASH, (JOASH) son of Ahaziah, king of Judah (835-796)

2 Kings 11 // 2 Chronicles 23:11-21

He was crowned king by the priest, Jehoiada, at the age of seven in rebellion against Athaliah. Under the direction of Jehoiada, the covenant was renewed between God and the people and the king and people. the Baal worship was cleaned out.

2 Kings 12 // 2 Chronicles 24:1-14, 23-27.

1 He reigned 40 years in Jerusalem.

2 He was very much under the priestly influence so religious practice was reformed and the damaged temple rebuilt.

17 He was forced to pay tribute to Hazael, king of Aram, from the temple treasury.

19 He was murdered by a conspiracy of his servants.

2 Chronicles 24:15-22

When Jehoiada died he was buried in honour with the kings but, influenced by other officials, Joash and the leaders turned to idolatry; even ordering the stoning of Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, who had rebuked them.

JEHOAHAZ, son of Jehu (814-798) Of Israel

2 Kings 13:1-9

1 He reigned 17 years at Samaria.

2 Religiously the Israelites continued to worship idols set up by Jeroboam and Asherah.

3 He was continually harassed by Hazael of Aram and his son Benhadad. Their army was reduced to a very small force.

JEHOASH, (JOASH) son of Jehoahaz (798-782) Of Israel

2 Kings 13:10-25

10 He reigned 16 years in Samaria.

11 He followed the traditions of his father and Jeroboam.

14 Elisha died during his reign, but before he did he indicated to the visiting

Jehoash that he would have some success over the Arameans. He defeated them 3 times, recapturing some cities of Israel.

20 After Elisha's death a man was raised from the dead when he came into contact with his bones.

AMAZIAH, son of Jehoash (Joash) (796-767) king of Judah

2 Kings 14:1-20

2 He was 25 years old; reigned 29 years in Jerusalem.

3 He was a fairly good king, following the Lord, although the idolatry at the high places continued.

5 He avenged his father's murder, sparing the murderers' children according to the law of Moses.

7 He defeated Edom but was seriously beaten by Israel, when he challenged them.

19 He was killed in a conspiracy.

2 Chronicles 25:1-28

5 He counted the strength of his army; and hired some Israel mercenaries, whom he sent back when he was warned by a man of God. Later they raided Judah when he was fighting against the Edomites, whom he defeated.

14 But he brought back gods from Edom and worshiped them, provoking the Lord to cause his defeat at the hands of Israel.

27 The conspiracy against him arose when he stopped following the Lord.

JEROBOAM II, son of Joash, King of Israel (782-753)

2 Kings 14:23-29

23 He reigned 41 years in Samaria.

24 He practised the idolatry of his forefathers.

25 He expanded the territory of Israel into Aram to Damascus and Hamath and south to the Sea of Arabah (ie. the Dead Sea).

[He was one of Israel's greatest kings. During his long and prosperous reign, trade flourished and there was much high quality building shown in excavations of this time. Yet the religious idolatry also flourished and the prophets, Amos and Hosea, speaking during this period, illustrate the prosperity but as well the lack of love for the Lord God, the false idolatry, immorality, lack of concern for justice and the poor.]

AZARIAH (UZZIAH), son of Amaziah (767-740) King of Judah

[he overlapped with Amaziah 792-740]

2 Kings 15:1-7

2 He was 16 years old; reigned 52 years

3 He served the Lord.

15 He contracted leprosy and was confined to his house, causing his son, Jotham, to help rule as co-regent.

2 Chronicles 26:1-23

- 5 God prospered him. His reign was long and peaceful.
- 6 He expanded his territory into Philistine, taking the cities of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod and building cities in the area. [He gained an access to the sea from Jabneh to the mouth of the Jarkon river]. As well, he completed the conquest of Edom and the southern desert area in his wars against the Meunim and the Arabians. He received tribute from the Ammonites and respect from the Egyptians. He also opened the port of Elath [Ezion-geber]. [To ensure this trade in the Negeb and to the south he built a series of settlements and fortresses along the borders in the area, which have been uncovered in archaeological research.]
- 9 He also fortified Jerusalem.
- 10 In the desert he built settlements and encouraged animal husbandry and agriculture throughout the land, for "he loved the soil".
- 11 He built an elite army, reequipping it and inventing siege machines.
- 16 He contracted leprosy because he overstepped his position by burning incense in the temple, a task confined to the priests alone, and becoming angry when they opposed him. After that he was confined to his house and was forced to give the power to his son.

ZECHARIAH, son of Jeroboam II (753) Of Israel

2 Kings 15:8-12

He only reigned for 6 months and the line of Jehu finished. He was murdered by Shallum.

SHALLUM, son of Jabesh (752) VI Dynasty of Israel.

2 Kings 15:13-15

He came to power through murder; reigned 1 month and was murdered himself.

MENAHHEM, son of Gadi (752-742) VII Dynasty of Israel

2 Kings 15:14-22

He reigned 10 years in Samaria.

He came to the throne by liquidating Shallum; he was a vassal of Assyria, having been attacked by Pul, king of Assyria. Israel was heavily taxed to pay the tribute.

PEKAHIAH, son of Menahem (742-740) Of Israel

2 Kings 15:23-26

Reigned 2 years in Samaria.

He was also assassinated by one of his army officers, Pekah.

PEKAH, son of Remaliah (740-732) VIII Dynasty Of Israel

2 Kings 15:27-31

He reigned 20 years.

The Assyrians, under Tiglath-pileser raided Israel, taking Galilee, the land of Naphtali and Transjordan. many captives were taken away.

He formed an alliance with Rezin of Damascus and they went up to wage war

against Jerusalem (Isaiah 7) to set up an alternative king, the son of Tabeel to help them oppose Assyria. They did not succeed. Damascus was taken and Pekah was killed by another conspiracy, led by Hoshea.

JOTHAM, son of Uzziah, (750-735) king of Judah.

2 Kings 15:32-38 // 2 Chronicles 27:1-9

He was 25 years old, and reigned 16 years in Jerusalem.

He began to reign as co-regent with his leprous father.

He followed the Lord as his father had done, except for entering the temple but the people acted corruptly.

He continued his father's building program. He warred with Ammon, won and received tribute from them.

Israel, under Pekah, and Aram, under Rezin of Damascus began to interfere.

Judah's time of quiet was now past.

AHAZ, son of Jotham (735-715) King of Judah.

2 Kings 16:1-20

2 He reigned 16 years in Jerusalem

3 He set up idolatrous practices of Israel in Judah.

5 He survived the attack of Israel, under Pekah and Aram, under Rezin, losing Elath by making an alliance with Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, who attacked Damascus.

10 As a sign of loyalty, he set up an Assyrian cult in the temple itself.

2 Chronicles 28:1-27

5 In the war with Aram and Israel, many captives were taken from Judah and heavy casualties inflicted. However when a prophet warned Israel not to keep the captives, they were returned.

16 Because of his troubles on every side,- Edom, Philistines, Aram, Israel and even Assyria, to whom he had appealed for help - he turned further away from God to idols, provoking God's wrath.

HOSHEA, son of Elah (732-722) IX Dynasty of Israel

2 Kings 17:1-41

1 He reigned 9 years in Samaria, having killed Pekah.

3 Assyria, under Shalmaneser, besieged Israel; Hoshea became his vassal and paid tribute for a time. Then Hoshea conspired with the king of Egypt so the king of Assyria imprisoned him, invaded Israel until in the 9th year of Hoshea's reign, Samaria was captured and Israel was taken into exile by Assyria.

7 An understanding of the history of Israel's apostasy explains its downfall.

4 The king of Assyria imported settlers from other nations into Israel, who were taught about the Lord but worshiped their own gods.

THE PROPHETS DURING THIS PERIOD

Nothing is known of Joel, except that he lived in Judah. Also it is difficult to date when he prophesied as there is little internal evidence, that is the book itself gives few clues.

JOEL - Major Breakdown

1. The plague of locusts 1:1-20

It is unclear whether these are real locust plague or an invading army. It is a time marked by destruction of Palestine, famine, mourning. The Day of the Lord is near.

2. The day of the Lord 2:1-11

- 1 Time to sound an alarm, blow the trumpet.
- 2 Darkness and gloom.
- 2 A mighty army who scorch the earth, move swiftly through the land bringing great dread of them.
- 11 This comes about by the Lord's hand.

3. The call to repentance 2:12-17

There is still time for the people of Israel to repent.

4. The consequent blessings 2:18-32

- 18 The Lord will be zealous for His land and have pity on His people. The people will not be put to shame; the land will again be fruitful and the invading army removed. He will pour on them early and latter rain.
- 28 After this, His spirit will be poured out on all mankind.
- Signs will be seen in the sky and on the earth - blood, fire and columns of smoke; the sun will be darkened and the moon turned to blood.
- 31 Before the Day of the Lord.
- 32 Those who call on the Name of the Lord will be delivered.

5. Universal Judgment 3:1-21

- 1 The Jews are restored
 - 2 The nations are gathered in the Valley of Jehoshaphat where they will be judged according to how they have treated the Jews.
 - 16 The Lord is resident in Jerusalem.
 - 18 Judah will be fertile and be inhabited forever.
- There will be no shame after this for they know God is their God.

JONAH

There is some debate about the dating of this book. Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25. What he spoke to Jeroboam, was probably different to that in the book of Jonah, which speaks of the Lord's call to him to go to Nineveh to preach against it.

Chapter 1

Jonah is called by the Lord to go to Nineveh in Assyria to preach against their wickedness. He ran away and joined a boat that was going in the opposite direction. During a huge storm he was thrown overboard and finished up in a fishes belly.

Chapter 2

Inside the fish, he prayed and was vomited onto land.

Chapter 3

He received the Lord's word a second time to go to Nineveh, where, in response to his preaching the king and people repent. As a result the Lord stays their destruction.

Chapter 4

Jonah was angry with the Lord's deliverance of the Ninevites and sulks. The Lord rebukes him, showing him the parable of the vine.

AMOS

Apart from his writings, little is known of Amos. He lived in Tekoa, an uplands village in the mountains of Judah, 5 miles SE of Bethlehem. He was a sheep raiser and it seems that for part of the year he went to the western area of Judah, where sycamore trees grew, working as a dresser of these trees. A dresser of sycamore trees performed an incision on the fig of about an inch in length 3 or 4 days before it was harvested. This allowed the fruit to ripen quickly and consequently when harvested it did not have a large amount of water inside the fruit. This would have been the task of Amos; it would have been seasonal work and would necessitate him traveling to the area of their growing.

Background to Amos' prophecy

During whose reigns did he live?

What were the social conditions of the time? see 2 Kings 14:23- 15:7 & 2 Chron.26 :1-23. and earlier comment - Materialistic wealth, much trade and commerce, shift of population from country to the cities; bribery of officials common and judicial system was corrupt; powerful aristocracy with a huge gap between the rich and the poor.; religiously, great depravity.

External conditions

Israel and Damascus were temporarily at peace, owing to the rise of Assyria and the need for Aram to guard its eastern border. This preoccupation allowed Jeroboam to regain certain of his territories east of the Jordan. Egypt was weak and Judah strong which buffered Israel allowing peace.

Amos was familiar with the Northern cities, yet he lived quietly in a remote village in the south. He perceived the issues clearly due to his austere life and his understanding that a holy and just God could only be served by the nation that remembered its own morality and service to God.

THE CONTENT OF AMOS

The prophecies can be divided into the following sections;

EIGHT PROPHECIES Chapters 1 & 2

Amos 1

- 1 The times of Amos
- 2 Oracle against Damascus who made war savagely.
- 6 Gaza, Philistia who deported entire peoples
- 9 Tyre who forgot the covenant of brotherhood
- 11 Edom who did not pity his brother
- 13 Ammon who ripped open pregnant women

Amos 2

- 1 Moab who did not honor the dead
- 4 Judah - for they rejected the law
- 6 Israel for their social injustices and disregard of the Lord;
retribution will come.

FOUR ORACLES AGAINST ISRAEL Chapters 3-6

1st word to Israel

Amos 3

- 1 Israel will be punished for its sins and as the Lord has spoken this it will surely happen.
- 11 They will be snatched away with only a few remaining

2nd Word to Israel

Amos 4

- 1 The complaint against the women who will be lead away.
- 4 Sarcasm about their religious practices.
- 6 The Lord has given ample opportunity to repent but they have not so He will overthrow them.

3rd Word against Israel

Amos 5

- 1 A lament for fallen Israel and an appeal to seek the Lord and change their ways.
- 18 They long for the Day of the Lord but, rather than release for them it will be a disaster.
- 21 The Lord hates their offerings, preferring that they practise justice and righteousness so they will go into exile beyond Damascus.

4th Word against Israel

Amos 6

- 1 An indictment against their luxurious indifference, arrogance and social injustice for they will be smashed.

FIVE VISIONS chapters 7-9

Amos 7

- 1-3 The 1st vision of the locust swarm
- 4-6 The 2nd vision of Fire
- 7-9 The 3th vision of the Plumbline
- 10-17 Amaziah accuses Amos of conspiracy

Amos 8

- 1 The 4th vision of basket of summer fruit
- 4 God's judgments unavoidable

Amos 9

1 The 5th vision of the destruction of the sanctuary so they will have nowhere to hide.

11 Promise of restoration of the people and the land.

HOSEA

He is unique among the literary prophets because he came from the northern Kingdom.

During whose reign did he prophecy?

Contents of the Prophecy

1. The personal history of Hosea 1:1 - 3:5

2. Prophetic discourses

The indictment and the warning of Israel 4:1 - 5:15

Tender appeals and the exposure of immorality 6:1 - 8:14

The inevitable judgment proclaimed 9:1 - 11:11

The last hope is found in Judah 11:12 - 12:14

The restoration of the repentant people 13:1 - 14:9