During this study, we have attempted to put a greater focus on the good kings. We have not examined each of the 39 Kings listed in the Scriptures. In this lesson, we are going to backtrack a bit and examine all of the Kings of the Northern Tribes of Israel. The Scriptures are clear, all of them were considered bad, or evil Kings.

Keep in mind, after Solomon died his son Rehoboam ruled in Jerusalem over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, while Jeroboam of the tribe of Ephraim ruled the other 10 tribes.

Jeroboam was seen as an exceptionally wicked person about whom the sages say that he had no portion in the world to come. He forced the people under his rule to participate in idolatrous practices in an effort to sever their connection to God’s Temple in Jerusalem. For over 200 years, Israel was divided into two parallel monarchies, until the Northern (non-Davidic) kingdom was exiled by a succession of Assyrian kings.[[1]](#endnote-1)

From Jeroboam to Hoshea! Let that sink in for a moment. Two hundred years of poor leadership. Twenty decades of disobedience. Two centuries of foolishness.

Who were the Kings of Israel?

1. Jeroboam – First king of Israel after the kingdom was divided. Son of Nebat. He reigned over Israel twenty-two years and did evil in God's sight.

2. Nadab – Son of Jeroboam. Reigned two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was killed by Baasha in a revolt.

3. Baasha – Son of Ahijah. Reigned twenty-four years. He did evil in the Lord's sight and walked in the way of Jeroboam.

4. Elah – Son of Baasha. He reigned two years. He was killed by Zimri.

5. Zimri – He reigned seven days and did evil. He burned the king's house over himself and died.

6. Omri – He reigned twelve years and did evil in the sight of the Lord.

7. Ahab – Son of Omri. He reigned twenty-two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He married Jezebel who served and worshiped Baal. King Ahab did more to provoke the Lord than all the kings before him.

8. Ahaziah – Son of Ahab. He was twenty-two years old when he began to reign and reigned two years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. He fell through a lattice in his upper chamber and was injured but never recovered.

9. Jehoram (Joram) – He was the brother of Ahaziah and son of Ahab. He did evil in the sight of the Lord, reigning for twelve years. He combined forces with two kings of Judah to defeat king Mesha of Moab. He was killed by Jehu who then ruled Israel.

10. Jehu – Son of Jehoshaphat. He reigned twenty-eight years. Elisha sent a prophet to anoint him king over Israel to smite Ahab and his house, including Jezebel, to avenge the blood of God's servants the prophets. He killed Jehoram, Ahaziah and Jezebel, all of Ahab's sons (seventy in all), all his great men, his kinsfolk and priests until none were left.

11. Jehoahaz – Son of Jehu. He reigned seventeen years and did evil in the sight of the Lord.

12. Joash (Jehoash) – Son of Jehoahaz. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. He reigned sixteen years.

13. Jeroboam II – Son of Joash. He reigned forty-one years and did evil in the sight of the Lord.

14. Zachariah – Son of Jeroboam II. He reigned six months and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was slain by Shallum, who ruled Israel in his stead.

15. Shallum – Son of Jabesh. He reigned one month and was killed by Menahem who reigned in his stead.

16. Menahem – Son of Gadi. He reigned ten years doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

17. Pekahiah – Son of Menahem. He reigned two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was killed by Pekah who ruled in his stead.

18. Pekah – Son of Remaliah. He reigned twenty years, doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

19. Hoshea – Son of Elah. He slew King Pekah and reigned in his stead, doing evil in the sight of the Lord. He reigned nine years. He was shut up in prison by the king of Assyria, who besieged Samaria and took Israel into captivity.

The voices of repentance

During these 200 years, the Lord attempted to bring the Northern Kingdom back into compliance with Him. He sent several people, known as Prophets, with harsh appeals for repentance. They were given clear choices of either restoration or judgment.

One difference between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms is that in the North, things never got better, but progressively worse. In the South, there were periods of peace and prosperity. The years of peace were a direct result of the leaders who appreciated the divine wisdom of God’s anointed prophets.

We know the names of a few of the prophets of God during the years of the divided Kingdom, but many of them are unnamed. The named prophets include Elijah and Elisha. Two of the Old Testament Books are attributed to the Prophets who spoke truth to the powers of the Northern Kingdom: Amos and Hosea.

Among the unnamed prophets was a man who spoke boldly to King Jeroboam. His actions and words are an example of the boldness of their day.

Consider I Kings 13:1-6

Can you imagine the courage it took to speak truth to power in that day.

By the time of King Ahab, we see two passages that show the relationship between the leaders of that day and the Prophets of that day.

Consider I Kings 18:4

This attitude against the Men of God continued as shown in I Kings 22:8, where the King declared clearly, “…I hate him…” The job of the Prophets in those days was neither fun nor admirable. However, it was extremely important.

Consider II Chronicles 20:20, II Chronicles 36:16, Amos 3:7

Although Isaiah was a prophet of Judah, his command in Isaiah 58:1 could clearly represent the instructions of all of the Prophets of this period.

Hosea and Amos

By God’s grace, two of the writings from Prophets sent to the Northern Kingdom have been preserved for us. They are the books of Hosea and Amos. Again, we know there were other Prophets, but these two were preserved for us.

**Hosea: Purpose of Writing:** Hosea wrote this book to remind the Israelites—and us—that ours is a loving God whose loyalty to His covenant people is unwavering. In spite of Israel’s continual turning to false gods, God’s steadfast love is portrayed in the long-suffering husband of the unfaithful wife. Hosea’s message is also one of warning to those who would turn their backs on God’s love. Through the symbolic presentation of the marriage of Hosea and Gomer, God’s love for the idolatrous nation of Israel is displayed in a rich metaphor in the themes of sin, judgment, and forgiving love.[[2]](#endnote-2)

Consider Hosea 1:2, Hosea 7:8-10

**Amos: Purpose of Writing:** Amos is a shepherd and a fruit picker from the Judean village of Tekoa when God calls him, even though he lacks an education or a priestly background. Amos' mission is directed to his neighbor to the north, Israel. His messages of impending doom and captivity for the nation because of her sins are largely unpopular and unheeded, however, because not since the days of Solomon have times been so good in Israel. Amos' ministry takes place while Jeroboam II reigns over Israel, and Uzziah reigns over Judah.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Consider Amos 4:1-13

The Fall

Eventually, God decided to bring an end to the Northern Kingdom. Even that was a process.

Consider I Chronicles 5:26 and II Kings 17:5-6 (nearly 20 years later).

The term “lost tribes of Israel” is derived from this study. The Assyrians dispersed thousands of people throughout their vast empire. Those people were absorbed into their new territories and there are no records to explain where they went. They are lost to history, but not to God.

There are many theories as to the outcomes of these tribes. However, more important to where they were sent, is why they were disbursed. It was due to their disobedience to God and their embrace of sin.

They should be a reminder of what happens to people who reject God and refuse to repent.

Numbers 14:18, II Chronicles 7:11-14, Ecclesiastes 8:11

Homework: Read II Chronicles 29-32, and 34-35-

1. [A History of the Hebrew Monarchy - The Kings of Israel, Judea and Onward - Chabad.org](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1935026/jewish/A-History-of-the-Hebrew-Monarchy.htm) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [Summary of the Book of Amos - Bible Survey | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-amos.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [Summary of the Book of Amos - Bible Survey | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-amos.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)