KINGS AND PROPHETS

King Jeroboam II
793-753 BC
KING JEHOAHAZ

- Jehu’s son
- ruled 17 years from 814-798 BC
- did evil, worshiping Jeroboam’s idols, setting up an Asherah pole
- Hazael of Aram captured:
  - the Transjordan (2 Ki 10:32-33)
  - Gath (Philistines) (2 Ki 12:17)
  - Jerusalem. Was paid off by King Joash of Judah to go away (2 Ki 12:18)
- Israel was defeated repeatedly by:
  - Hazael (2 Ki 13:22)
  - his son, Ben-Hadad III
  - down to 50 horseman, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers (2 Ki 13:7)
Jehoahaz prayed for relief from Aram (2 Ki 13:4-5)

God heard his prayer

God sent a deliverer

- Adad-nirari III of Assyria
- ruled Assyria 810-873
- launched western campaigns in 805
- beat back Aram under Ben-hadad III
- gave Israel relief from Aram
- Assyria dominant in the west under Adad-nirari III, declined after him
Jehu’s grandson
ruled 16 years from 798-782 BC
did evil, worshiping idols
at the beginning of his reign, Adad-nirari III attacked Damascus and defeated Aram (796 BC)
Assyria collected tribute from Tyre, Sidon, Edom, Philistia, and Israel
The victories and tribute are recorded on a victory stele. It mentions tribute exacted from “Joash the Samarian”
On his deathbed, Elisha prophesied limited victory of Israel over Aram (2 Ki 13:19)
- told Jehoash to shoot an arrow out the window
- and to strike the ground with a bundle of arrows

Jehoash was victorious against a weakened Ben-Hadad III of Aram three times (2 Ki 13:25)
- the same number of times that he struck the ground with the arrows

He regained Israelite towns that Aram had conquered

He also fought against King Amaziah of Judah and defeated him (2 Ki 14:8-14)
- Amaziah had defeated Edom and was feeling cocky
- he challenged Israel to battle; Jehoash warned him to desist
- Jehoash won and took Amaziah captive but didn’t kill him
- took gold, silver from Temple and took treasures from the palace
- demolished 600 ft of Jerusalem’s wall
reigned for 41 years, from 793-753
longer than any other Northern king
God graciously used Jeroboam to save his people (2 Ki 14:27)
Aram was in decline after defeats by Assyria and by Israel under Jehoash
Assyria was in decline after reign of Adad-nirari III
the Northern Kingdom prospered
  - greatest extent
  - greatest prosperity
  - the “golden years”
from Lebo-hamath (north of Damascus)
to the Dead Sea in the south
took back the Transjordan
- Aram (Damascus, Hamath)
- Ammon
as prophesied by Jonah (2 Ki 14:25)
- Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had promised through Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher.
- Yes, THAT Jonah, the same one!
Prosperity Under Jeroboam II

Samaria Ostraca

- ancient shipping records
- written on potsherds
- year of the king’s reign
- place, clan and sender
- amount of oil or wine sent
- clan names, many the same as those in Joshua 17 for the tribes of Ephraim

- Ostracon, No. 18 In the tenth year. From Hazeroth to Gaddiyau. A jar of fine oil.
- Ostracon, No. 30 In the fifteenth year. From Shemida to Hillez (son of) Gaddiyau. Gera (son of) Hanniab.
- Samaria Ostracon, No. 55 In the tenth year. (From the) vineyard of Yehau-eli. A jar of fine oil.
How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall. You sing trivial songs to the sound of the harp and fancy yourselves to be great musicians like David. You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. You care nothing about the ruin of your nation. Therefore, you will be the first to be led away as captives. Suddenly, all your parties will end.
Cows of Bashan from Amos 4:1-2

Listen to me, you fat cows living in Samaria,

you women who OPPRESS THE POOR and crush the needy,

and who are always calling to your husbands,

“Bring us another drink!”

The Sovereign LORD has sworn this by his holiness:

“The time will come when you will be led away with hooks in your noses.

Every last one of you will be dragged away like a fish on a hook!”
CORRUPTION UNDER JEROBOAM II

- idol worship (idolatry)
  - of the idols of Jeroboam I at Dan and Bethel
  - at Gilgal and Beersheba (Amos 4:4, 5:5, 8:14)
  - hypocrisy and false piety (Amos 4:4-5, 5:21-23)

- oppression of the poor (injustice)
  - oppression of the poor (Amos 2:6, 5:12, 8:4,6)
  - injustice in the courts (Amos 2:7, 5:7,12, 6:12)
  - sexual immorality (Amos 2:7)
  - violence (Amos 3:10)
  - corrupt business practices (Amos 8:5)
  - opulence at the expense of others (Amos 5:16-17, 6:4-7)
Who were the writing prophets?

- to the North (Amos, Hosea)
- to the North and South (Isaiah, Micah)
- to Assyria (Jonah)

- originally oral, then written down
- literary form - poetry
  - parallelism
  - metaphors
  - allegories (parables)
  - visions
  - covenant lawsuit

http://www.crosswalk.com/home-page/todays-features
8th Century Prophets

- Hosea
- Amos
- Jonah
- Micah
- Isaiah
Who was Amos?
- writing to North in the time of Jeroboam II
- but he was from the South, from Tekoa in Judah
- occupation - raised sheep, tended sycamore trees
- not mentioned in the Bible outside of his own book

His book contains:
- God’s judgment on other nations
- condemnation of idolatry and injustice in Israel
- condemnation of opulence
- call to repentance
- prediction of judgment
- 5 visions
  - a swarm of locusts
  - judgment by fire
  - a plumb line
  - a basket of ripe fruit
  - God at the altar
God’s Call for Justice (Amos 5:21-24)
I hate, I despise your religious feasts; 
  I cannot stand your assemblies.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, 
  I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, 
  I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs! 
  I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river, 
  righteousness like a never-failing stream!
# Last Kings of the Northern Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of King</th>
<th>Length of Reign</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zechariah</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Son of Jeroboam II. Assassinated by Shallum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shallum</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Assassinated by Menahem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menahem</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Paid silver tribute to Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria, extorted that money from the rich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pekahiah</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Menahem’s son. Assassinated by Pekah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pekah</td>
<td>20 years (some of it concurrently)</td>
<td>During his reign, Tiglath-pileser III attacked and took captives. Assassinated by Hoshea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoshea</td>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Stopped tribute to Assyria. Appealed to Egypt for help. Put in prison by the Assyrians and Samaria besieged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
usurped Assyrian throne
reigned 745-727 BC
reorganized kingdom
developed an efficient Assyrian army with superior equipment
- iron weapons (for bronze)
- composite bow
- siege engines
- army boots! (for sandals)
subdued
- Babylon (south)
- Urartu (north)
- Aram (west)
defeated Aram and incorporated it into the Assyrian Empire

Alabaster panel from TP III’s palace showing the king in his war chariot
“As for Menahem, I overwhelmed him like a snowstorm...”

His records give a list of the kings he received tribute from including Menahem of Samaria

tribute “which included gold, silver, tin, iron, elephant-hides, ivory, linen garments, blue wool, purple wool, ebony, boxwood, wild birds mounted with their wings extended, as well as horses, mules, large cattle, small cattle, and camels, some already bred.”

Later records show tribute also received from Pekah and Hoshea
Hoshea revolted when TP III died
he withheld tribute to Assyria
he asked Egypt for help, violating his treaty with Assyria
When Shalmaneser V discovered this treachery, he seized Hoshea and put him in prison (2 Ki 17:4)
he then laid siege to Samaria for 3 years (725-722 BC)
Shalmaneser V only reigned 5 years (727-722 BC)
ASSYRIA: SARGON II

- younger brother of Shalmaneser V, both were sons of TP III
- ruled from 722-705 BC
- great military leader, patron of the arts, builder
- built a new capital city, Dur Sharrukin (Fortress of Sargon)
- Samaria was conquered either by Shalmaneser V or Sargon II
- Claimed to be the conqueror of the “Land of Omri”

Sargon II and dignitary, from his palace at Dur Sharrukin (Iraq)
Sargon II’s annals:
“The ruler of Samaria defaulted on his taxes and declared Samaria’s independence from Assyria. I conquered Samaria and took 27,290 prisoners of war along with their chariots. I rebuilt Samaria, bigger and better than before. I repopulated it with people from other states which I had conquered, and I appointed one of my officials over them, and made them Assyrian citizens.”

parallel between Bible and written Assyrian records
the Assyrians would conquer a nation, make it swear loyalty and pay tribute

if the nation rebelled, then it was:
- incorporated into an Assyrian province
- appointed a vassal-governor
- ruling classes were deported to distant parts of the Empire
- deportees from the opposite side of the empire were moved there
- nationalities and religions were thereby mixed, reducing the chance of rebellion

Halah - NE of Nineveh
Gozan on Habor River
cities of the Medes

http://www.ancient.eu/assyria/
http://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/map-gallery/m/map-mesopotamia.aspx
development of the “Samaritans”

- Mesopotamian people forcibly settled in the lands of Israel by the kings of Assyria from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, Sepharvaim (2 Ki 17:24)
- resettlement continued over many years
- mixed with the remaining local population
- “God sent lions among them because they had not worshipped him correctly” (2 Ki 17:26)
- added the worship of Yahweh to the worship of their own pagan gods
- later built a temple to Yahweh on Mt. Gerizim (4th C BC)
- reference by the woman at the well (Jn 4)
END OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

- exiled to Assyria
  - assimilated, lost
- a mixed people in Israel
  - Samaritans
  - mixed religious practices
- moved to Judah
  - some moved south
  - at Hezekiah’s invitation
  - 2 Chron 30:1-12
TABLE DISCUSSION

2 Kings 17
- What happened to Israel?
- Why?
- What were their wrong actions?
- What were their wrong attitudes?
- What had the Lord done to bless Israel?
- In the end, what was their relationship with the Lord?

Amos 7
- What prophetic roles are demonstrated in this text?
- What literary techniques (both oral and written) does Amos use to get his message across?
- How was his message received?
- What were prophets often mistreated?
What could Israel have done to avoid defeat and exile?
- What could the prophets have done?
- What could the king have done?
- Was there a priesthood? What could they have done?

What role did history play in the trajectory of the Northern Kingdom?
- On what principles was the Northern Kingdom founded?
- Could anyone have altered those underlying principles?
- How?
This is what the Lord says to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live.”

Do what is good and run from evil so that you may live!

Then the LORD God of Heaven's Armies will be your helper, just as you have claimed.

(Amos 5:1,14)
FOR NEXT WEEK

Easter!!!
- no class

Southern Kingdom
- Ahaz, Hezekiah’s father
- Ahaz’ story is told in:
  - 2 Kings 16
  - 2 Chronicles 28