

## Aram (Syria) vs Israel

- Genesis 10:22 – Aram is the fifth son of Shem
- Amos 9:7 – Arameans come from Kir (in Mesopotamia) to settle in Syria
- (1000 BC) - 2 Samuel 8:5 – David slaughters 2/3 of Aramean's military
- (950 BC) – 1 Kings 11:23-25 – Arameans regain independence from Solomon
- (900 BC) – 1 Kings 15:18-20 – Ben Hadad I breaks treaty with King Baasha of Israel to side with King Asa of Judah
- (865 BC) – 1 Kings 19:15-18 – Elijah told to Anoint:
  - Hazael king of Aram (Elisha does this about 22 years later in 843 BC in 2 Kings 8:7-15)
  - Jehu king of Israel (Elisha does this about 24 years later in 841 BC in 2 King 9:1-13 by sending Jonah to anoint Jehu in Gilead)
  - Elisha to replace Elijah as prophet (Elijah does this immediately in 865 in 1 Kings 19:19)
- 1 Kings 20:1-43 – Israel (King Ahab) has continuous battles with Ben Hadad II of Aram:
  - Samaria is besieged by Ben-Hadad II of Damascus (aligned with 32 Aramean kings) (1 Kings 20:1-25)
  - Israel vs Aram at Aphek (east of Sea of Galilee) (1 Kings 20:26-43)
- 853 BC – 1 Kings 22:1-40 – Israel king Ahab killed in battle against Aram when Israel allied with Judah go to battle against Aram at Ramoth-gilead.
  - Aram and Israel (King Ahab) united against the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (860-825) at Qarqar on the Orontes River in 853. Shalmaneser III records this event on the monument stone called the Shalmaneser Kurkh Monolith. Shalmaneser III:

- “Karkar, his royal city, I destroyed, I devastated, I burned with fire. 1,200 chariots, 1,200 cavalry, 20,000 soldiers, of Hadad-ezer, of Aram (? Damascus); 700 chariots, 700 cavalry, 10,000 soldiers of Irhulêni of Hamath, **2,000 chariots, 10,000 soldiers of Ahab, the Israelite**, 500 soldiers of the Gueans, 1,000 soldiers of the Musreans, 10 chariots, 10,000 soldiers of the Irkanateans, 200 soldiers of Matinuba'il, the Arvadite, 200 soldiers of the Usanateans, 30 chariots, [ ],000 soldiers of Adunu-ba'il, the Shianean, 1,000 camels of Gindibu', the Arabian, [ ],000 soldiers [of] Ba'sa, son of Ruhubi, the Ammonite, - these twelve kings he brought to his support; to offer battle and fight, they came against me. (Trusting) in the exalted might which Assur, the lord, had given (me), in the mighty weapons, which Nergal, who goes before me, had presented (to me), I battled with them. From Karkar, as far as the city of Gilzau, I routed them. 14,000 of their warriors I slew with the sword. Like Adad, I rained destruction upon them. I scattered their corpses far and wide, (and) covered (*lit.*, filled) the face of the desolate plain with their widespreading armies. With (my) weapons I made their blood to flow down the valleys(?) of the land. The plain was too small to let their bodies fall, the wide countryside was used up in burying them. With their bodies I spanned the Arantu (Orotes) as with



a bridge(?). In that battle I took from them their chariots, their cavalry, their horses, broken to the yoke.

- (848 BC) – 2 Kings 5:1-26 – Aramean General Naaman appeals to King Joram (Ahab and Jezebel's 2<sup>nd</sup> son to reign) in Samaria where he is sent to Elisha in Samaria who sends Naaman 25 miles to the Jordan River to dip in the water.
- 2 Kings 6:8-23 –
- 2 Kings 6:24-33 –
- 2 Kings 7:1-20 –
- 843 BC – 2 Kings 8:7-15 – Elisha anoints Hazael to replace Aram's king Ben Hadad II; Hazael murders King Ben Hadad II and usurps the Aramean throne.
- 843 BC – 2 Kings 8:12 – Elisha predicts Hazael's violence against Israel
- 841 BC – 2 Kings 9:1-13 – Elisha sends Jonah (?) to anoint Jehu, a general of Israel's king Joram serving at an outpost in Ramoth-gilead, to be the next king of Israel.
- 841-814 BC – 2 Kings 10:32-36 – Aramean king Hazael defeats Israel and takes all their territory on the east side of the Jordan called Gilead and Bashan. History and inscriptions record that Israel king Jehu goes to the Assyrians for help against the Arameans.
- 814-792 BC – 2 Kings 13:3-7 – Under King Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, Israel was conquered and oppressed by Aramean king Hazael:
  - The Lord “gave them continually into the hand of Hazael (842-796 BC) king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad III (796-792 BC) son of Hazael.”
  - The Lord “saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them.”
  - “There was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen and ten chariots and ten thousand footmen”
  - “for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.”
  - The Tel Dan Stele is a piece of a broken stele set up in the city of Dan in the north part of Israel on Aram's border. It is the boasting words of a Syrian king, most likely Hazael (842-796 BC), who had defeated Israel. The names “Israel”, “Jehoram”, “Ahab”, “Ahaziah”, “Jehoram” (Judah king), “Jehu” and “the House of David” (referring to Judah) are mentioned:
    - 1. [ ]...[ ] and cut [ ]
    - 2. [ ] my father went up [against him when h]e fought at [ ]
    - 3. and my father lay down, he went to his [ancestors (viz. became sick and died)]. And the king of I[s-]
    - 4. rael entered previously in my father's land, [and] Hadad made me king,
    - 5. And Hadad went in front of me, [and] I departed from the seven [ ]
    - 6. s of my kingdom, and I slew [seve]nty kin[gs], who harnessed th[ousands of cha-]
    - 7. riots and thousands of horsemen (or: horses). [I killed Jeho]ram son [of Ahab]
    - 8. king of Israel, and [I] killed [Ahaz]jahu son of [Jehoram kin-]



**Tel Dan Stele**  
Set up in Dan, Israel by Aram king Hazael around 840-810 BC. It mentions the Bible names of:  
- Israel - House of David  
- Israel Kings: Ahab, Jehoram, Jehu  
- Judah Kings: Jehoram, Ahaziah

- 9. g of the House of David, and I set [their towns into ruins and turned ]
- 10. their land into [desolation ]
- 11. other [... and Jehu ru-]
- 12. led over Is[rael and I laid]
- 13. siege upon [ ]

- 806 BC – 2 Kings 13:4-5 - “Then Jehoahaz (814-798 BC) sought the favor of the Lord, and the Lord listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them. (Therefore the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.”

- Assyrian king Adad-nirari III (reigned 808-783 BC) may have been the “savior” or “deliverer” the Lord gave Israel. Adad-nirari III attacked Damascus in 806 BC
- Israel could have returned to live on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead and Bashan if the Assyrians pressured Syria from the north.

- 796 BC - 2 Kings 13:24-25 – Hazael dies and his son Ben Hadad III begins to reign (796-792 BC)
  - Jehoash (Joash), grandson of Jehu and Father of Jeroboam II, defeats Ben Hadad III three times.

- 793-753 BC - 2 Kings 14:23-29 Jeroboam II King in Israel

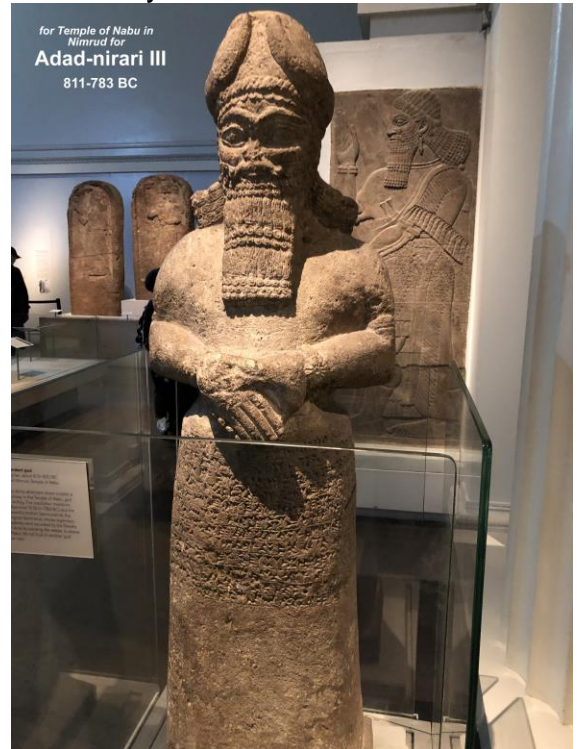
- (800-790 BC?) -2 Kings 14:25 – Jonah prophecies the restoration of the boundaries of Israel: *“(Jeroboam II) was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.”*

- 762 – Amos prophecies against Israel (and, Aram and other nations)

- 760 BC – about this time the great earthquake with a magnitude of around 8.0 recorded:
  - in the Dead Sea fault zone (or, Dead Sea Rift),
  - stratigraphically at six archaeological sites (Hazor, Deir 'Alla, Gezer, Lachish, Tell Judeideh, and 'En Haseva)
  - Amos 1:1-2 – “...the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel...”
  - Zechariah 14:5 – “You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.”
  - (possibly in Isaiah 2:19; 21; 6:4 and Joel 3:16)

- (759 BC?) – Jonah goes to Nineveh (book of Jonah) (If Jonah also anointed Jehu for Elisha then Jonah would be 90-100 years old. If not, Jonah could be 60-70 years old.)

- 753 BC – King **Jeroboam II** dies and his son **Zechariah** (the fifth generation of Jehu’s dynasty) becomes king, but is assassinated after only six months.
  - Israel’s king Zechariah was assassinated by **Shallum** who then reigned as Israel’s king in Samaria for one month.
  - Clearly, this was a time of great instability in Israel, the northern kingdom.

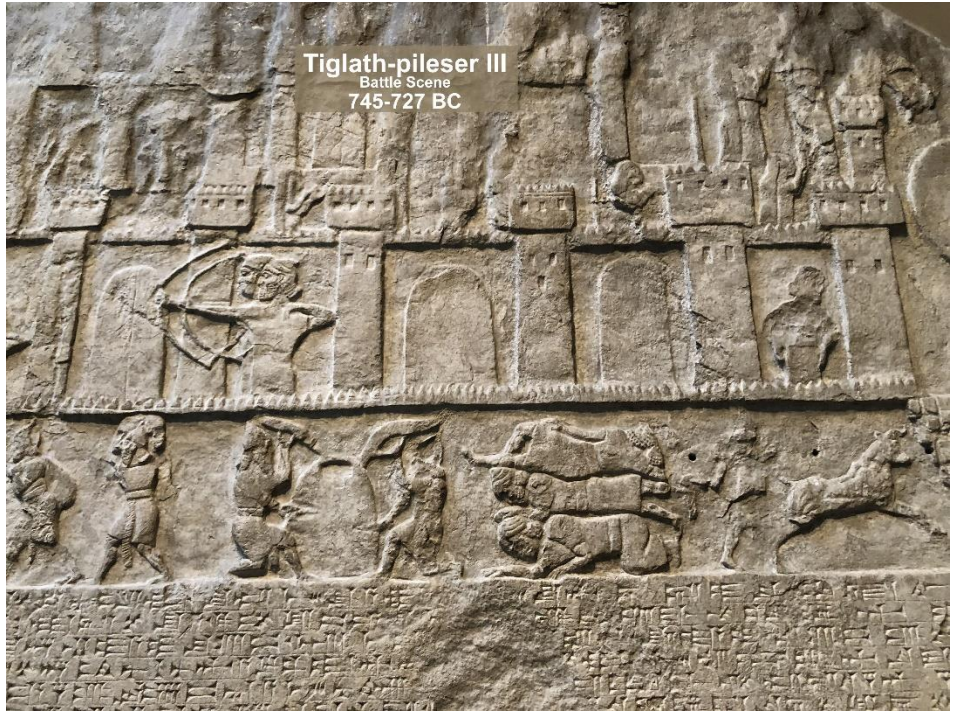


- This is within 10 years of Amos' ministry. It is possible that Amos was still ministering the word of God in Israel.
- This same year Shallum, after reigning for one month, is assassinated by **Menahem** who came up from Tirzah to Samaria (Tirzah is half way between Shechem and Samaria).
  - At this same time Menahem attacked and conquered Tiphseh, a city on the Euphrates which was on the extreme northern border of Jeroboam's kingdom when Jeroboam died that same year.
- 752-742 BC – Menahem reigned in Samaria for ten years.

- 745 BC - During those ten years Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III (known as Put in the Hebrew text and as Pulu in the Babylonian king lists) came against Menahem and Israel.

- Menahem gave Tiglath-pileser III (745-727 BC) 1,000 talents of silver to secure his position as king of Israel in Samaria.

- 742 BC - Menahem dies and his son Pekahiah becomes king of Israel



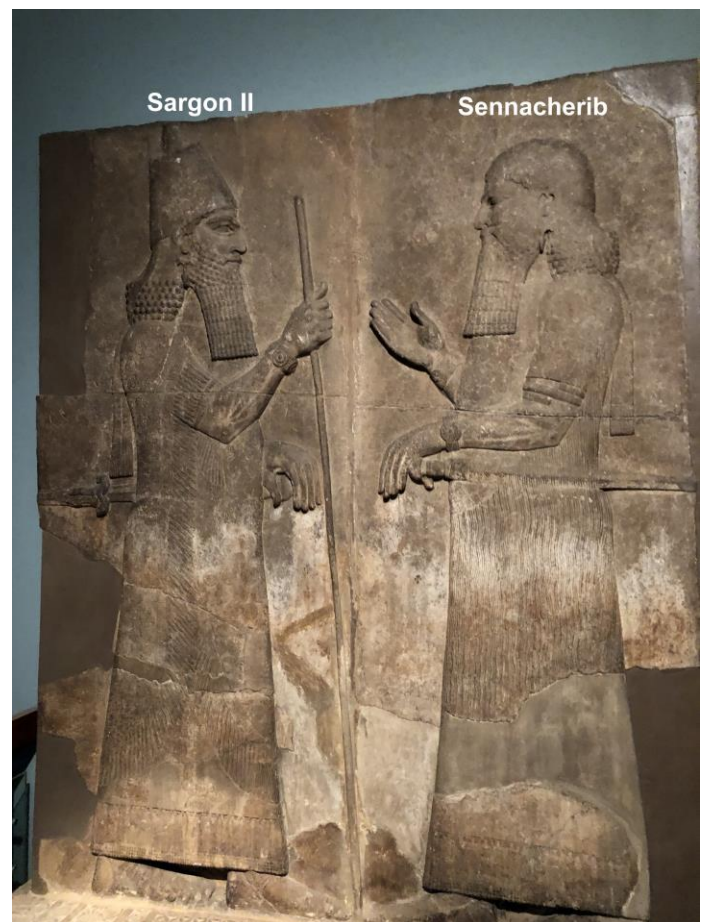
A battle scene from a Tiglath-pileser III attack on a Syrian (Aramean) city

- 742-740 BC – Pekahiah is king of Israel for two years
  - General Pekah, one of Pekahiah's generals stationed in Gilead, went with 50 men to the citadel in the palace in Samaria and assassinated Israel's king Pekahiah. (This is similar to how Jehu, a general of Israel king Joram, the fourth generation of Omri's dynasty, came from Gilead to assassinate his king Joram.)
- 740-732 BC – Pekah son of Remaliah reigned over Israel in Samaria.
  - Pekah reigned in Samaria for 8 years
  - But, 2 Kings 15:27 says he reigned for 20 years
  - During those 8 years Tiglath-pileser III moved through Aram (Syria) and then took from Israel: Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Jonoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, Galilee, the land of Naphtali. And, Tiglath-pileser III carried the people away into captivity.



Tiglath-pileser III's troops carrying away the gods/idols of a defeated city in Aram

- 732 BC - 2 Kings 15:20 (1 Chron. 5:26) – Tiglath-pileser III captures Gilead and deports inhabitants
- 731-721 BC – Hoshea assassinated King Pekah and reigned in Israel for the nine years of the nation's existence.
- 725-722
- 722 BC – Sargon II (722-705) began to rule Assyria
  - Sargon was the son of Tiglath-Pileser III
  - Sargon was the father of Sennacherib



## King Pekah and the Two Kingdoms: Israel and Ephraim

**Hosea 5:5** – Israel and Ephraim are two separate kingdoms. In the Hebrew text both Israel and Ephraim have “vav” in front of them as in “vav Israel” and “vav Ephraim” which is the Hebrew way of saying “both” or “and”. Thus, “Israel, even Ephraim” is a bad translation. Even the Septuagint says “both Israel and Ephraim.”

- *New International Version*: “Israel's arrogance testifies against them; **the Israelites, even Ephraim**, stumble in their sin; Judah also stumbles with them.”
- *New Living Translation*: “The arrogance of Israel testifies against her; **Israel and Ephraim will stumble under their load of guilt**. Judah, too, will fall with them.”
- *English Standard Version*: “The pride of Israel testifies to his face; **Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt**; Judah also shall stumble with them.”
- *Berean Study Bible*: “Israel's arrogance testifies against them; **both Israel and Ephraim** stumble in their iniquity; even Judah stumbles with them.”
- *New American Standard Bible*: “Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him, **And Israel and Ephraim** stumble in their iniquity; Judah also has stumbled with them.”
- *King James Bible*: “And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: **therefore shall Israel and Ephraim** fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.”
- *Christian Standard Bible*: “Israel's arrogance testifies against them. **Both Israel and Ephraim** stumble because of their iniquity; even Judah will stumble with them.”
- *Contemporary English Version (?????)*: “Israel, your pride testifies to your guilt; it makes you stumble, and Judah stumbles too.”
- *Good News Translation (?????)*: “The arrogance of the people of Israel cries out against them. Their sins make them stumble and fall, and the people of Judah fall with them.”
- *Holman Christian Standard Bible*: “Israel's arrogance testifies against them. **Both Israel and Ephraim** stumble because of their wickedness; even Judah will stumble with them.”

Assyrian records of Tiglath-Pileser III distinguish between 2 kingdoms in the north claiming himself to have united the northern part (Naphthali) with Assyria, but the southern part, he writes, “Israel (bit-Humrai) I overthrew their king Pekah and I placed Hoshea as king over them.”

2 Kings 15:19 – Menahem's tribute to Tiglath-pileser III indicates he was seeking support against his rival king Pekah. The text says, to “Help him confirm his hold on the royal power”

Isaiah 7:1-2 – there was a league between Pekah and King Rezin of Aram that threatened Ahaz of Judah.

- Ahaz (Judah) and Menahem (Israel) were pro-Assyria
- Pekah (Gilead) and Rezin (Aram) were anti-Assyria

2 Kings 15:25 – Pekah as an officer under Pekahiah is merely a time when the two rival sided together in opposition to a threat (Assyria). Pekah waited and slew Pekahiah as soon as the time was right.

## **Pekah began to reign:**

1. 2 Kings 15:27 - Pekah's 20 year reign which began in 752 since Pekah died in 732 BC. But, Uzziah (Azariah) died in 740 after reigning 52 years which means Pekah only reigned 8 years when he died in 732. But, the text says 20 years.
2. 2 Kings 15:32 says that Jotham began his reign in Judah in Pekah's second year which was 750, two years after Pekah's 20 year reign would have begun in 752.
3. 2 Kings 16:1 says Ahaz, son of King Jotham, began to reign in Pekah's 17<sup>th</sup> year which would be 735 if Pekah began to reign in 752 for a twenty year reign.

762 BC – Amos is dated

753 BC – Jeroboam II dies

- Zechariah his son becomes king for 6 months
- Shallum kills Zechariah
- Shallum is king for one month
- Menahem comes from Tirzah to kill Shallum
- Manahem becomes king

752 BC – Menahem is king for 10 years

Pekah begins his 20 year reign in Gilead

- Menahem attacks/conqueros Tiphshah

742-740 BC – Menahem dies; Son Pekahiah is king

- Pekahiah is king for 2 years
- Pekah from Gilead kills Pekahiah

740-732 – Pekah son of Remaliah is king in Samaria for 8 years

738 – Menahem pays tribute to Tiglath-pileser III

- Rezin and Pekah raid Judah:
  - o Take captives
  - o Rebuked by Obed
  - o Aram and Israel demand Jerusalem surrender
  - o Isaiah speaks with Ahaz
  - o Ahaz goes to Assyria for help and pays tribute
  - o Tiglath attacks Aram at Damascus

733 Tiglath attacks Damascus

732 Tiglath takes Damascus and Rezin is gone leaving Pekah without an ally.

- Pekah turns to Manahem

2 Kings 16:9 – Aram is deported and Rezin executed

2 Kings 15:29 – Tiglath attacks Israel taking Ijon, Abel Beth Maacha, Janoah, Kadesh, Hazor, Gilead, Galilee, Naphtali

- Tiglath-pileser deports the people from these locations. Tiglath also records this

732 – Pekah is assassinated by one of his officers Hoshea

- Tiglath records that people killed Hosea and submitted the kingdom to Assyria.