Fourth Kings

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Slim Pickings IV: the Brewing Reckoning

- kingdom divided
- slim pickings: bad kings

The *Typical* King

The Sins of Jeroboam

Frequently-referenced concept in the books of Kings

Review about Jeroboam

Had a chance with God | *I Kings 11*

Instead Jeroboam proceeded to:

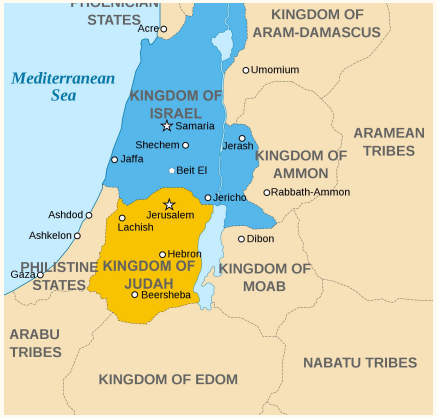
- Erect **idols** for worship
- **Derail worship** from where God had instructed
- Direct worship to **incorrect places of worship**
- Set up **the high places**

Chapter 13

King Jehoahaz of Israel (Northern Kd.)

- ✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord
- ✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam
- ✓ made Israel sin
- ✓ did not turn from these sins

Result: military decimation despite having some deliverance *(verse 5, probably thanks to King Joash of Judah)*







“the Lord listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel”

2 Kings 13: 4

God will heed even an evil king, for his own reasons, namely mercy.

Chapter 13, continued

(King Joash of Judah: His reign ends. His might recalled in battle.)

Pt. 2: King Jehoash "Joash" of Israel

- ✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord
- ✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam
- ✓ made Israel sin
- ✓ did not turn from these sins

Still had opportunity to seek help from Elisha and strike Israel's enemies.
Arrows: you could have done more.



“when the [dead] man touched the bones of Elisha he revived”

2 Kings 13:21b

“But the Lord was gracious … because of His covenant”

2 Kings 13:23a

Chapter 14

King Amaziah of Judah

! did *right* in the sight of the Lord

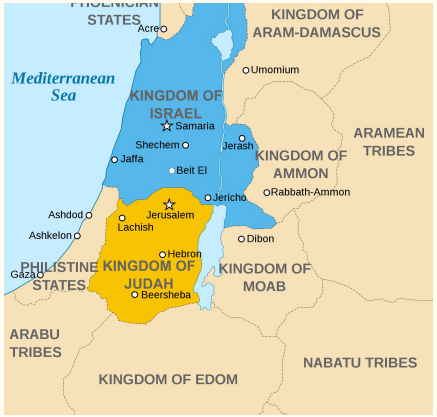
✓ but not like David

✓ kept the high places

! *obeyed*: didn't kill sons/fathers' sins

Result: military victory over Edom, Sela

Oops: challenged Israel, King Jehoash, and lost. Walls wrecked, temple looted.







Chapter 14, cont'd

King Amaziah of Judah (cont'd)

- spared by Jehoash

- not spared by his people



(King Azariah "Uzziah" crowned over Judah)



King Jeroboam ben Joash

✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord

✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam

✓ made Israel sin

✓ did not turn from these sins

(King Zechariah crowned over Israel)

“For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, which was very bitter”

2 Kings 14:26, explaining why Jeroboam II had success

Chapter 15

King Azariah of Judah

! did *right* in the sight of the Lord

✓ kept the high places

Mixed obedience.

Result: mixed blessing

! young king, very long reign

✓ leprosy from God

King Zechariah of Israel

✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord

✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam

✓ made Israel sin

✓ did not turn from these sins

Result: assassinated after 6-month reign.
His assassin-conspirator reigned 1 month.
A brutal man killed and replaced them.

Chapter 15, continued

King Menahem of Israel

- ✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord
- ✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam
- ✓ made Israel sin
- ✓ did not turn from these sins

Result: reigned a decade subject to Assyria, exacting tribute from God's people for a foreign king. Weak!

Kings Pekaniah and Pekah of Israel

- ✓ did evil in the sight of the Lord
- ✓ followed the sins of Jeroboam
- ✓ made Israel sin
- ✓ did not turn from these sins

Result—Pekaniah: killed by Pekah.
Pekah: reign riddled by military loss; died, ironically, at the hands of a conspiracy.

Chapter 15, end

King Jotham of Judah

! did *right* in the sight of the Lord

✓ but ...kept the high places

Mixed obedience.

Result: mixed blessing

! amazing prophecy during his time

✓ **God sent invaders** (Aram, Israel)

Chapter 16

King Ahaz of Judah

✓ did “not do right”

✓ kept the high places

✓ abomination: burned his children

Result: temple sold out to foreign power

Why was Ahaz allowed to sacrifice in the temple and loot it for the Assyrian king? God’s thoughts aren’t mentioned.

Chapter 17

King Hoshea of Israel

- Evil, just like the others
- More conspiracy, but this time against his boss, Assyria

Israel Falls under Hoshea: Exile

- Israel's men committed **secret sins** against God (v.9)
- High places everywhere, idols (vv.9-12)
- Ignored plentitude of prophetic warnings (v.13-16)
- Vanity, envy, brutal abominations—overrun by the world

Israel wanted to be like the world, so they got overrun by it.

My interpretation of chapter 17

“And the Lord was with him. Wherever he went he prospered.”

- 2 Kings 18:7, of Hezekiah

King Hezekiah of Judah

Chapter 18

! did *right* in the sight of the Lord

! like David

! **destroyed the high places**

! *“clung to the Lord… did not depart”*

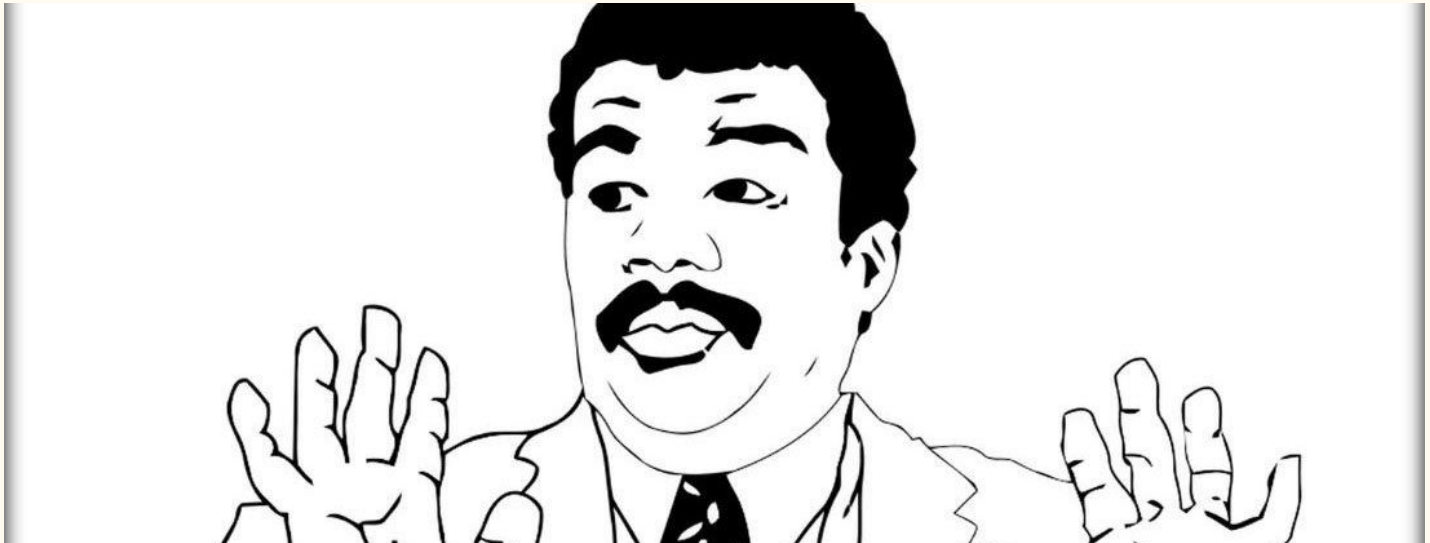
Result: success. Successfully threw off Assyrian reign and defeated Philistine territory





Chapter 18

- Assyrians level incorrect, scary threats in local language
- Hezekiah's officials: why are you speaking Judean, bro?
- Assyrians: oh you're dead, bro. Who's gonna help you?
- Israel: *silence*



“Do not be afraid of the words [by] which [they] have blasphemed Me.”

God, via Isaiah, to King Hezekiah

Chapter 19

- Hezekiah seems genuinely terrified but **asks God**
- **God explains** Assyria's offense against Him, and his plan
- Sennacherib of Assyria **says God is a liar!**
- Sennacherib **claims God is like all the other gods.**
- Hezekiah prays:
  - praises God
  - entreats God to see the situation
  - appeals to God's plan **to be known by the nations**

“Because you have prayed to Me about [___], I have heard you.”

My slight edit to take a liberty and templatize God’s words in 2 Kings 19:20

Chapter 19 (continued)

- **God answers, reassures** (through Isaiah)
- **God gives a sign: prosperous remnant**
- **“The zeal of the Lord will perform this” - God**
- God says he will send Assyria back
- **“For I will defend ...to save ...for My own sake” - God**
- Angel of the Lord strikes down a huge chunk of army
- Sennacherib retreated, is assassinated while worshiping a foreign idol

Chapter 20

- Hezekiah deathly ill, weeps bitterly, but **again, asks God**
- Hezekiah prays:
  - entreats God to see the situation
  - appeals using his previous decisions to obey God
- Isaiah *couldn't even get to the door* before **God answered**
- But then Hezekiah tries to align with worldly power
- Shows off his wealth to Babylon
- This does not mean diplomacy is bad, but God knows our hearts.

“I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears.”

- God, 2 Kings 20:5

Chapter 21

- **King Manasseh:** evil, abominations, high places, witchcraft
- Israel did more evil than those they had replaced.
- God promises calamity.
- **King Amon:** evil, like his dad. Killed by conspirators.

King Josiah of Judah

Chapter 22-23

- ! did *right* in the sight of the Lord
- ! like David
- ! **destroyed the high places**
- ! *"nor did he turn aside"*

Result: heard by God. Reinstated the Law. Successful reforms. Decades of reign. Reckoned to have the greatest righteousness among all the kings.



“there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart”

- 2 Kings 23:25

Chapters 22-24

- **King Hezekiah:** righteous
- But God was still angry with the nation.
- **King Jehoahaz:** evil. Pharaoh imprisoned him.
- **King Jehoiakim:** evil. Paid tribute to Pharaoh.
- Because of evil and innocent blood, **God sent invasions.**
- **King Jehoiachin:** evil. 3 months' reign.
- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon takes over.
- Nebby appoints **King Zedekiah**: evil, rebelled vs. Nebby

Chapters 25

- Turns out Nebby likes his puppet kings submissive
- Jerusalem under siege;
- Zedekiah tortured, his sons slaughtered
- Jerusalem burned
- **Temple is sacked and looted by foreigners (where's God?)**
- Nebby's governor cannot protect those left behind
- The people flee to Egypt.
- Last king of Judah, Jehoiachin, lives as a court pet.

“So Judah was led away into exile from its land.”

- 2 Kings 25:21