

In our last lesson, we talked about Jonah the prophet. God caused a big fish to swallow Jonah because of his sin. Jonah prayed to God and God forgave him. Jonah preached to the people in Nineveh and they changed from their wicked ways.

We have talked about so many kings who ruled over God's people. Some ruled in the North and some in the South. Many bad kings ruled over the Israelites in the North and the South.

God's people had sinned because they were worshipping idols. They were not worshipping God. This made God very unhappy with his people. God loved the Israelites and gave them many things. They turned away from God and built altars and images to worship. God had sent prophets to warn the people, but they did not want to listen.

Here are the Northern kings of Israel during the time of today's lesson.

Jeroboam II - He was a good military Leader, but he sinned by worshipping idols.

Zechariah, son of Jeroboam- He was an evil king and was killed after only six months.

Shallum - became king after he murdered Zechariah. He reigned one month.

Menahem - He became king after murdering Shallum and reigned for ten years.

Pekahiah - He became king after Menahem died. He reigned for two years.

King Pekah - He became king after murdering Pekahiah and reigned over Israel for twenty years. Hoshea - He became king after murdering Pekah. King Hoshea was the last king of Israel. Hoshea went into battle against Assyria and was arrested and put in prison. Shalmaneser, the Assyrian king, took over Israel's capital city of Samaria.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel would never be a nation again. The people of Assyria went in and took over Israel. They captured the people of Israel and took them into foreign lands. The people of Israel became slaves. That was their punishment for worshipping idols and turning away from God. More people were brought in to live in the land of Israel. Those people worshipped idols.

There was only a small part of God's people left. The tribe of Judah in the Southern Kingdom. Only three kings ruled over Judah during the time of the last seven kings of the Northern kingdom.

King Azariah became king of Judah when he was 16 years old. (2 Kings 15:1) Azariah was also called Uzziah. (2 Chron. 26:1) King Uzziah was the son of Amaziah. King Uzziah was a very good king. He reigned for 52 years in Jerusalem. Uzziah did what was "right in the sight of the Lord". (2 Chron. 26:4) King Uzziah did many good things. He was a great leader.

As King Uzziah became more powerful, he began to think that he did not have to follow all of God's laws anymore. One day, Uzziah went into the temple and started to burn incense at the altar. According to God's laws, only priests were allowed to burn incense. The priests tried to stop him. They told him it was not his place to burn incense. (2 Chron. 26:18) The priests told him to get out of the temple.

King Uzziah was very upset at the priests for telling him what to do. As the king grew angrier, his forehead suddenly broke out with leprosy. (2 Chron. 26:19) The priests took him out of the temple, but it was too late. Because Uzziah disobeyed God, he had leprosy for the rest of his life.

After Uzziah died, his son, Jotham, became king. He was a good king who reigned for sixteen years. When Jotham died, his son Ahaz became king. King Ahaz was a very wicked king. He tried to make friends with the Assyrians and go against Israel. He brought idol worship to Jerusalem. King Ahaz was the worst man who ever reigned over Judah.

Two prophets named Hosea and Amos prophesied that Israel would fall because of their sins. God had blessed the Israelites, but still they turned away from God. They built altars and made idols to worship. God sent prophets to warn them, but they would not listen. That is why God allowed the Assyrians to take over. The kingdom of Israel was gone.

The people who were brought in to live in the land of Israel worshipped idols. They did not know the Lord. God sent lions among them and some of the people were killed. The people asked if a priest could teach them about the true God so no one else would be hurt. The king of Assyria sent a priest who taught them about God. But they continued to worship idols. They tried to worship God and idols at the same time.

The Kingdom of Israel was finished. Only the Kingdom of Judah was left. The scriptures start to speak of the Kingdom of Judah. Judah is the tribe through which God would bring Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

We have talked about so many kings who ruled God's people. On the following page is a list of all the kings. Remember that we started our study with King Saul, King David, and King Solomon. Then, the kingdom was divided. The kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah are listed in red. The kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel are listed in blue. All the kings are on the list. We have not studied all of them yet. The ones in larger and bolder print are the ones we studied this quarter. The ones in smaller print we will study next quarter.