

~MENAHEM (85)

(Men'a-hem) [One Who Comforts]

- Son of Gadi and king of Israel for ten years from about 790 B.C.E. Upon learning that Shallum had assassinated King Zechariah, **Menahem** went from Tirzah to Samaria and killed the assassin there. He then assumed rulership.
- Evidently during the early part of his reign **Menahem** struck down Tiphseh and all that was in it and its territory out from Tirzah, because it did not open up. The town was apparently reluctant to open its gate to him. LXX, Vg, Sy
- Harsh treatment was meted out to the populace; All its pregnant women he ripped up.
- Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:10)
- As for Shallum the son of Jabesh, he became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah the king of Judah, and he continued to reign for a full lunar month in Samaria. (2 Kings 15:13)
- Then **Menahem** the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria and struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and put him to death, and he began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:14)
- As for the rest of the affairs of Shallum and his conspiracy with which he conspired, there they are written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel. (2 Kings 15:15)
- It was then that **Menahem** proceeded to strike down Tiphseh and all that was in it and its territory out from Tirzah, because it did not open up, and he went striking it down. All its pregnant women he ripped up. (2 Kings 15:16)
- In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah the king of Judah, **Menahem** the son of Gadi became king over Israel for ten years in Samaria. (2 Kings 15:17)

- **Menahem** did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. He promoted calf worship, failing to depart from the sins of Jeroboam, the first king of the ten-tribe kingdom.
- During his reign, King Pul, Tiglath-pileser III, invaded Israel, and **Menahem** was forced to pay that Assyrian monarch a thousand talents of silver (\$6,606,000). He acquired this sum by imposing an assessment of 50 silver shekels upon each of the valiant, mighty men of Israel.
- Since a talent of silver equaled about 3,000 shekels, the silver was obtained from about 60,000 persons. **Menahem** gave the silver to the Assyrian king, that his hands might prove to be with him to strengthen the kingdom in his own hand. Upon receiving this amount, Pul withdrew from the land.
- Pul the king of Assyria came into the land. Consequently **Menahem** gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hands might prove to be with him to strengthen the kingdom in his own hand. (2 Kings 15:19)
- So **Menahem** brought forth the silver at the expense of Israel, at the expense of all the valiant, mighty men, to give to the king of Assyria fifty silver shekels for each man. At that the king of Assyria turned back, and he did not stay there in the land. (2 Kings 15:20)
- **Menahem** is named in an inscription of Tiglath-pileser III as **Menahem of Samaria**, *Me-ni-hi-im-me a/Sa-me-ri-na-a-a*, being listed there, along with Syrian King Rezon or *Ra-hi-a-nu* and King Hiram or *Hi-ru-um-mu* of Tyre, different from the Hiram of David's day, as a ruler from whom that Assyrian monarch claims to have received tribute. [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, pp. 282,283]
- **Menahem** died about 781 B.C.E, and his son Pekahiah succeeded him on Israel's throne.
- Finally **Menahem** lay down with his forefathers, and Pekahiah his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:22)