

~PEKAH (208)

(Pe'kah) [from a root meaning, open]

- King of Israel for a 20-year period beginning in about 778 B.C.E., contemporaneous with Judean Kings Azariah, or Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz.
- Earlier, **Pekah** had served as adjutant to Israelite King Pekahiah. But in the 52nd year of Uzziah's reign, **Pekah** the son of Remaliah, with the cooperation of 50 men of Gilead, assassinated Pekahiah and seized the kingship over Israel in Samaria.
- Then **Pekah** the son of Remaliah his adjutant conspired against him and struck him down in Samaria in the dwelling tower of the king's house with Argob and Arieah, and with him there were fifty men of the sons of Gilead. So he put him to death and began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:25)
- In the fifty-second year of Azariah the king of Judah, **Pekah** the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria for twenty years. (2 Kings 15:27)
- During **Pekah's** reign idolatrous calf worship continued.
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, with which he caused Israel to sin. (2 Kings 15:28)
- This ruler also formed an alliance with Rezin the king of Syria. Toward the close of Judean King Jotham's reign, which began in the second year of **Pekah**, both **Pekah** and Rezin caused trouble for Judah.
- In the second year of **Pekah** the son of Remaliah the king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 15:32)
- In those days Yehowah started to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria and **Pekah** the son of Remaliah. (2 Kings 15:37)
- Finally Jotham lay down with his forefathers and was buried with his forefathers in the City of David his forefather, and Ahaz his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:38)

- After Jotham's son Ahaz began his reign in the 17th year of **Pekah**, Rezin and Pekah invaded Judah, intending to dethrone that monarch and install a certain son of Tabeel as king. They did not succeed in taking Jerusalem
- In the seventeenth year of **Pekah** the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham the king of Judah became king. (**2 Kings 16:1**)
- It was then that Rezin the king of Syria and **Pekah** the son of Remaliah the king of Israel proceeded to come up against Jerusalem in war and laid siege against Ahaz, but they were not able to fight. (**2 Kings 16:5**)
- Now it came about in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham the son of Uzziah, the king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria and **Pekah** the son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem for war against it, and he proved unable to war against it. (**Isaiah 7:1**)
- And a report was made to the house of David, saying; Syria has leaned upon Ephraim. And his heart and the heart of his people began to quiver, like the quivering of the trees of the forest because of a wind. (**Isaiah 7:2**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Isaiah; Go out, please, to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, to the end of the conduit of the upper pool by the highway of the laundryman's field. (**Isaiah 7:3**)
- And you must say to him; Watch yourself and keep undisturbed. Do not be afraid, and do not let your heart itself be timid because of the two tail ends of these smoking logs, because of the hot anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. (**Isaiah 7:4**)
- For the reason that Syria with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah has advised what is bad against you, saying; (**Isaiah 7:5**)
- Let us go up against Judah and tear it apart and by breakthroughs take it for ourselves, and let us make another king reign inside it, the son of Tabeel. (**Isaiah 7:6**)
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; It will not stand, neither will it take place. (**Isaiah 7:7**)

- But Judah sustained heavy losses. In one day **Pekah** killed 120,000 valiant men of Judah. The Israelite army also took 200,000 Judeans captive.
- However, on the advice of the prophet Oded, supported by a number of leading men of Ephraim, these captives were returned to Judah.
- Accordingly **Pekah** the son of Remaliah killed in Judah a hundred and twenty thousand in one day, all valiant men, because of their leaving Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 28:6)
- Moreover, the sons of Israel took two hundred thousand of their brothers captive, women, sons and daughters, and also a great deal of spoil they took from them as plunder, after which they brought the spoil to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 28:8)
- And there happened to be a prophet of Yehowah there whose name was Oded. So he went out before the army that was coming to Samaria and said to them; Look! It was because of the rage of Yehowah the God of your forefathers against Judah that he gave them into your hand, so that you did a killing among them with a raging that has reached clear to the heavens. (2 Chronicles 28:9)
- And now the sons of Judah and of Jerusalem you are thinking of reducing to menservants and maidservants for yourselves. Nevertheless, are there not with you yourselves cases of guilt against Yehowah your God? (2 Chronicles 28:10)
- And now listen to me and return the captives that you have captured from your brothers, for Yehowah's burning anger is against you. (2 Chronicles 28:11)
- At that certain men of the heads of the sons of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Jehohanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth and Jehizkiah the son of Shallum and Amasa the son of Hadlai, rose up against those coming in from the military campaign. (2 Chronicles 28:12)
- And they said to them; You must not bring in the captives here, for it will result in guilt against Yehowah on our part. You are thinking of adding to our sins and to our guilt, for abundant is the

guilt we have, and there is burning anger against Israel. (2 Chronicles 28:13)

- **Accordingly the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the princes and all the congregation. (2 Chronicles 28:14)**
- **Then the men that were designated by their names rose up and took hold of the captives, and all their naked ones they clothed from the spoil. So they clothed them and furnished them with sandals and fed them and gave them drink and greased them. Furthermore, in the case of anyone tottering, they gave them transportation on the asses and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, beside their brothers. After that they returned to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 28:15)**
- **Though assured through the prophet Isaiah that the Syro-Israelite combine would fail in deposing him as king.**
- **Let us go up against Judah and tear it apart and by breakthroughs take it for ourselves, and let us make another king reign inside it, the son of Tabeel. (Isaiah 7:6)**
- **This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; It will not stand, neither will it take place. (Isaiah 7:7)**
- **Faithless Ahaz bribed Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III to come to his assistance. In response, the Assyrian monarch captured Damascus and put Rezin to death.**
- **So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria, saying; I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me out of the palm of the king of Syria and out of the palm of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me. (2 Kings 16:7)**
- **Accordingly Ahaz took the silver and the gold that was to be found at the house of Yehowah and in the treasures of the king's house and sent the king of Assyria a bribe. (2 Kings 16:8)**
- **At that the king of Assyria listened to him and the king of Assyria went up to Damascus and captured it and led its people into exile at Kir, and Rezin he put to death. (2 Kings 16:9)**

- Apparently also at this time Tiglath-pileser captured the regions of Gilead, Galilee, and Naphtali, as well as a number of cities in northern Israel.
- In the days of **Pekah** the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (**2 Kings 15:29**)
- Thereafter Hoshea the son of Elah killed **Pekah** and became Israel's next king.
- Finally Hoshea the son of Elah formed a conspiracy against **Pekah** the son of Remaliah and struck him and put him to death, and he began to reign in place of him in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. (**2 Kings 15:30**)
- A fragmentary historical text of Tiglath-pileser III reports about his campaign against Israel; **All its inhabitants and their possessions I led to Assyria. They overthrew their king **Pekah**, *Pa-qa-ha*, and I placed Hoshea, *A-ú-si-*, as king over them.** [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, edited by J. B. Pritchard, 1974, p. 284]