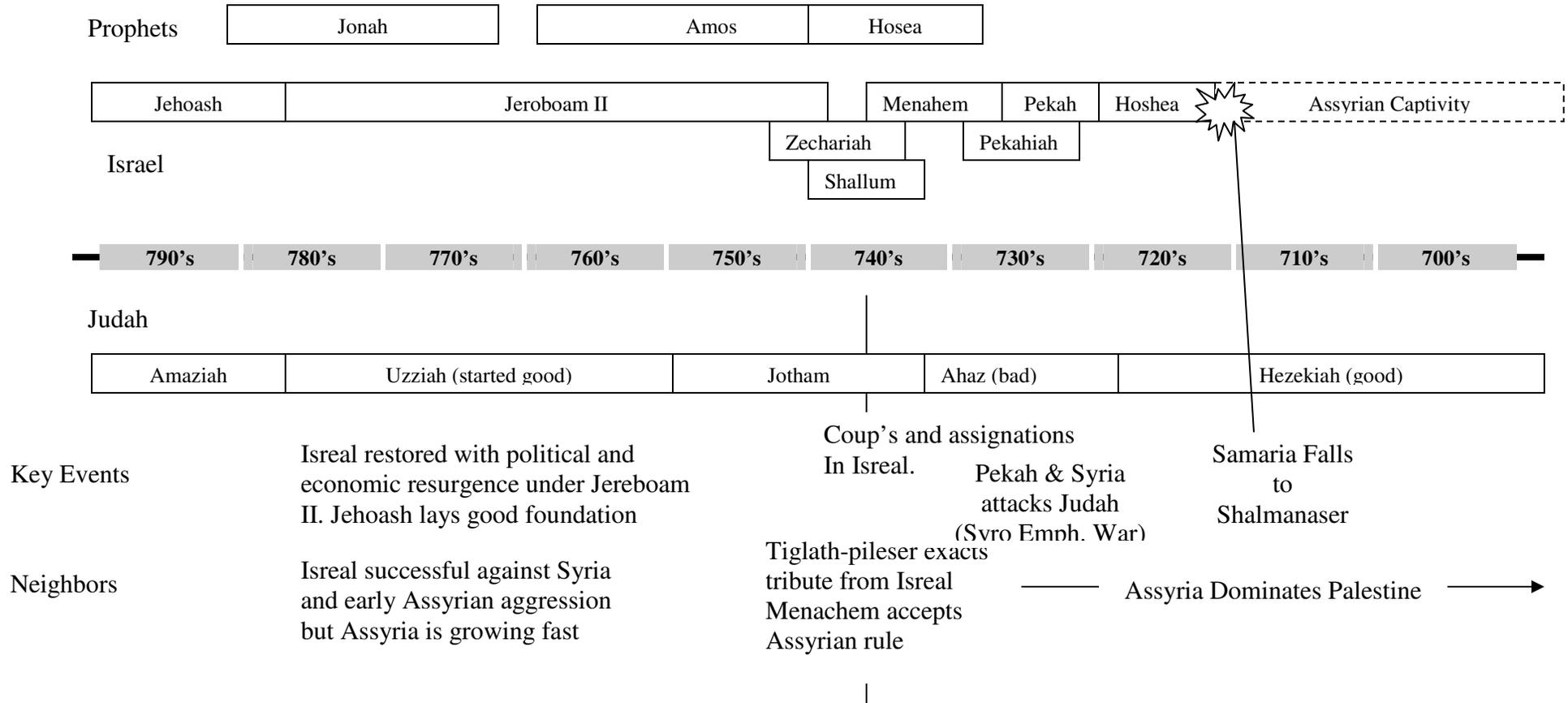


## Eighth Century B.C. – Israel’s Timeline



## Summary of the Century:

In the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC, Israel continued as a divided kingdom but with much greater external pressures. During this time the Assyrian Empire invaded Palestine, subjugated the northern kingdom of Israel and ultimately carried them into captivity. The Southern kingdom of Judah remained intact but was also subject to some extent to Assyria.

## Details:

Assyria was the big external player in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Not only were they the regional super power but they also were the scene of God's ministry via the prophet Jonah. Assyria afflicted Israel and Judah but mostly the northern kingdom which it ultimately crushed and carried its people into captivity. Of interest is the process by which Assyria dominated other nations. First Assyria would demonstrate its power and military might to a nation and then demand tribute and submission. If this was accepted then Assyria did not crush the nation nor meddle in its social or religious system. As long as tribute was paid and the nation supported the military objectives of Assyria, they could remain self governing to some extent. However if submission and tribute were not accepted then Assyria conquered the nation militarily and setup a government of their own which did change the administration of the social and economic systems. The third aspect of Assyrian rule was should a subjugated nation rebel, it was then devastated, the upper crust taken captive to Assyria and the rest of the peoples deported to other vassal states. Israel passed through all of these phases in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.

Israel gained some restoration from its weakened state of the late 9<sup>th</sup> century BC under Jehoash and his son Jeroboam II. Its wealth is attested to by Amos's Oracles against a complacent wealthy people. At the end of Jeroboam II reign, judgment against Israel grew as God used Assyria to punish them. Jeroboam built on the foundations of his father and built up the military reestablishing the nations boundaries of Solomons time. He recreated a sort of golden years II environment which were known for making Israel more wealthy but also more apostate. It was against this environment that Hosea wrote his story of Israel's harlotry. During this time Israel also joined forces against Assyria with some early success. When Jeroboam II died as series of military coups and assassinations made being a king a short term job. During this time, Assyria was successful in subjugating the northern kingdom Assyria as (Tiglath-pileaser) managed to exact tribute from Menahem. When Menahem was replaced by Pekah, Pekah led Israel and Syria against Judah in the Syro Ephr. war in an effort to gain their support against Assyria. This failed and Assyria continued to subjugate Israel until the time of Hoshea when an failed attempt to generate an alliance with Egypt and the withholding of tribute sealed the fate of Israel. Assyria's response was to crush Samaria, the capital of Israel and take its people captive to northern Mesopotamia

Judah fared better during the eight century B.C largely due the two kings Uzziah and Hezekiah who sought after God. Were it not for the interspersed failures of Ahaz and ultimately Manasseh. Uzziah though God seeking was judged for violating temple protocol. The ensuing leprosy cut his reign short pushing Jotham into power. Unlike Israel, Judah did not resist Assyria and Ahaz began paying them tribute in 734BC to

avoid being conquered and resisted Israel and Syria's attempt to compel them to join against Syria. In Hezekiah's day Judah rebelled against Assyria setting the stage for the memorable story of the Angel of the Lord killing 185,000 Assyrians in one night to protect Judah. Hezekiah is remembered as one of the few good kings receiving the unheard of gift of 15 extra years of life from God. It is odd that his own son Manasseh should have become so evil.

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