

21.20 Jeroboam II¹³ ☹, Zechariah¹⁴ ☹, Shallum¹⁵ ☹, Menahem¹⁶ ☹ (2 Kings 14:23–29; 15:8–22)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- A four-generation photo, preferably of someone the children know (Alternatively, a photo is found at the end of this lesson.)
- Paper sack

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *generation*: A person is in the same family generation as his or her siblings and cousins; however, one’s parents are the generation before. Four generations would include great grandparents, grandparents, parents, and the person.
- *to sack*: to capture a city, slay its people, and *spoil* it (take away everything), perhaps burning it and leaving it abandoned and useless. [Illustrate with a paper sack. Inflate the sack, smash it, and throw it away.]
- *to exile*: to take away people from their homeland to another country against their will. This is what nations did when they conquered another nation.
- *to conspire*: to gather some people secretly to enact a plan, like slaying a king

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. 24 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. 25 He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. 26 For the Lord saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. 27 But the Lord had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

28 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam and all that he did, and his might, how he fought, and how he restored Damascus and Hamath to Judah in Israel, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

15:8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. 9 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. 10 Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and reigned in his place. 11 Now the rest of the deeds of Zechariah, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. 12 (This was the promise of the Lord that he gave to Jehu, “Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” And so it came to pass.)

13 Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Samaria. 14 Then Menahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and he struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and put him to death and reigned in his place. 15 Now the

rest of the deeds of Shallum, and the conspiracy that he made, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. 16 At that time Menahem sacked Tiphshah and all who were in it and its territory from Tirzah on, because they did not open it to him. Therefore he sacked it, and he ripped open all the women in it who were pregnant.

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten years in Samaria. 18 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. 19 Pul the king of Assyria came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that he might help him to confirm his hold on the royal power. 20 Menahem exacted the money from Israel, that is, from all the wealthy men, fifty shekels of silver from every man, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back and did not stay there in the land. 21 Now the rest of the deeds of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? 22 And Menahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

Introduction/Review:

Long before this story took place, when King Ahab had slain Naboth for his vineyard, God had warned Ahab that his whole family would be destroyed and that some would die in the very location of Naboth's vineyard. Jehu did the job of destroying Ahab's family. For this, God promised Jehu that his grandsons would be kings in Israel to the fourth generation.

We've been talking about Judah's kings: One was Amaziah, who worshiped idols of the people he conquered and was punished for it when Israel defeated Judah in battle and broke down part of Jerusalem's wall. Amaziah's son, Uzziah, served the Lord pretty well until he got proud and tried to offer incense at the altar of incense inside the Temple. What happened to Uzziah? [He got leprosy.]

In Israel Jehoash had died. He's the king who had torn down part of Jerusalem's wall.

Story:

Jeroboam II

Jehoash's son became king. This man, like the first king of Israel, was named Jeroboam. We call him Jeroboam II (the second). This Jeroboam, like all the other kings of Israel, led the people to worship false gods. However, God did do some good things through King Jeroboam II.

Jonah, the prophet of God who was later swallowed by a great fish, told Jeroboam II, "Israel will get back some cities and land that David got from Syria" (2 Kings 14:25).

Remember the Syrian kings, Hazael and his son Ben-Hadad, and all the raiding and warring they had done against Israel? These kings had taken cities and land from Israel. The Bible states that God saw "how bitterly everyone in Israel, whether slave or free, was suffering; there was no one to help them. And since the Lord had not [yet] said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash" (2 Kings 14:27)

This is exactly what the prophet Jonah had said would happen. So, although God had taken vengeance upon Israel for turning away from Him, He now showed His care and pity for His people by giving them some land back.

Zechariah

When Jeroboam II died, his son, Zechariah, became king. Whereas King Jeroboam II had ruled for forty-one years, Zechariah ruled . . . only . . . *six months*! That's half a year—like from Easter to Thanksgiving. Being king of Israel, we know he was an evil king, leading the people to worship false gods.

It was time for God's prophecy to come true—the prophecy about Jehu's sons' reigning as kings until the fourth generation. [Show chart of Jehu's descendants found at the end of this lesson.] Zechariah was the

fourth generation. Zechariah's son would not become king of Israel. No more sons and grandsons of Jehu would ever again be kings in Israel.

Shallum

This is how Zechariah died: Only six months after becoming king, in front of all the people, a man named Shallum attacked King Zechariah and slew him. The Bible doesn't tell us Shallum's motive, but we know God's purpose was to end the bloodline of Jehu. Shallum exalted himself to become king. Was it worth it to Shallum? I hardly think so. He had ruled over Israel only *one month* when another usurper, Menahem, assassinated him in order to become king himself.

Menahem

Although King Menahem eventually ruled Israel ten years, he was a very wicked and cruel king. At the beginning of his reign, one town, Tappuah [pronounced "TAP yoo ah"; locate north of Samaria on the border between Ephraim and Manasseh] refused to recognize Menahem as its king. When Menahem came to their city, the people wouldn't even open up their gates to let Menahem in!

Oooh! that's not a good way to treat a king, especially a cruel and wicked one! Menahem took revenge and sacked Tappuah. That means he conquered it, slew its people, and took away all its goods, leaving the city useless. But Menahem didn't stop at Tappuah; he sacked towns and villages in this area all the way to Tirzah [locate ten miles east of Samaria].

Near the end of Menahem's ten years as king, the king of Assyria [locate] came to do battle with Israel. The king of Assyria had a funny name: it was Pul [pronounced "pull"]. He had another name that was even funnier—Tiglath Pileser [pronounced "TIG-lath pi-LEE-zer"]. [Have students pronounce these names.]

Now, remember, Israel had become very poor and hardly had enough soldiers to make up an army. Did King Menahem want to fight with Pul? No. Rather, he decided to pay off Pul, King of Assyria, but he still had a problem. He didn't have money. Therefore, he commanded all the rich men in Israel, "Pay me fifty shekels of silver so that I can send the king of Assyria away. Give me fifty shekels of silver—✓now." Sixty thousand wealthy men each gave fifty shekels of silver so that King Menahem could pay off the Assyrians.¹ But when King Menahem paid Assyria, he also made a condition that Assyria had to help him remain king. Menahem needn't have worried about that, for within two years he died.

¹If 3,000 shekels equaled one silver talent, it took 60,000 men, each paying 50 shekels, to make up the one thousand talents of silver that Menahem gave to Assyria. Sixty thousand people would be like seven times the population of our town, Lamar, CO.]

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

We do *not* see Him in the brutal acts of the usurping kings, for He was obedient to God in every respect. However, one day He will judge the nations and call to account the evil kings in this lesson.

- When you know you are not following the Lord with all your heart, stop and repent. Turn to the Lord with all of your heart.

Activities:

- Play dough: swords; city gates; form or cookie-cut the numerals 6 and 1 for the months Zechariah and Shallum reigned.
- Snack: Sandwich stacks of four (for four generations) crackers with cold cuts (lunch meat), cheese, and a pickle between crackers.

- Since this lesson is a little shorter than others, it might be a good time to review old songs and “Who Am I?” cards.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the names of the four kings (found below) on card stock or, if using flannelgraph, on paper backed with flocked scraps or paper towel. Cut the names apart. Place them in a pocket chart or on the flannel board. Students will answer questions by pointing to the correct king.)
 1. Which king was named after the first king of Israel when it was divided from Judah? [Jeroboam II.]
 2. Which king was the fourth generation of Jehu’s line? [Zechariah.]
 3. (2 points) Which two kings slew the previous king? [Shallum and Menahem.]
 4. Which of these kings was most cruel? [Menahem.]
 5. (2 points) Which two kings ruled for one month or six months? [Zechariah and Shallum.]
 6. (Bonus) How many more kings of Jehu’s line ruled after Zechariah? [None.]

Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Handwork:

- (Prepare ahead of time with a book of names and their meanings.) As a reminder of the lesson on the meanings of Hosea's children's names, make posters of each student's name and its meaning. Make a nice border, or have the student decorate it with crayons or stickers. Older students may write their own names/meanings and decorate.

Jehu



(1) Jehoahaz escaped from Syrians



(2) Jehoash broke Jerusalem's wall



(3) Jeroboam II regained land



(4) Zechariah ruled six months



NO MORE SONS
OF JEHU
MAY BE KINGS!

Put an X over this statement.



<http://www.hispeopleknox.com/uploads/1/7/5/6/17564043/4664108.jpg>



King Jeroboam 2 of Israel

- There was an earthquake during his reign
- He took back some of the land of Israel
- King for 41 years in Samaria



www.biblefunforkids.com



King Zechariah of Israel

- Killed in front of the people by Shallum
- King for 6 months in Samaria





King Shallum of Israel

- King for a full month



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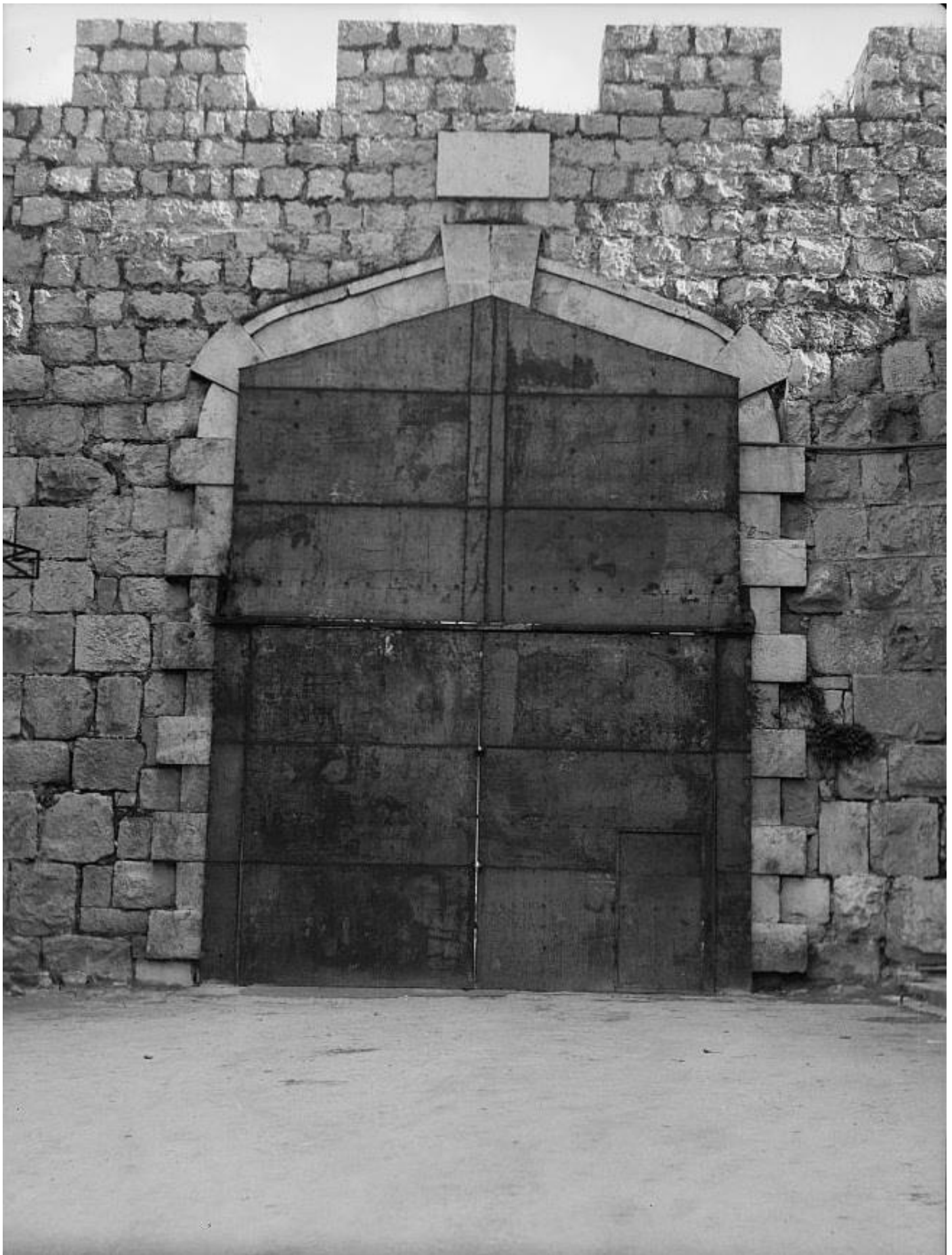


King Menahem of Israel

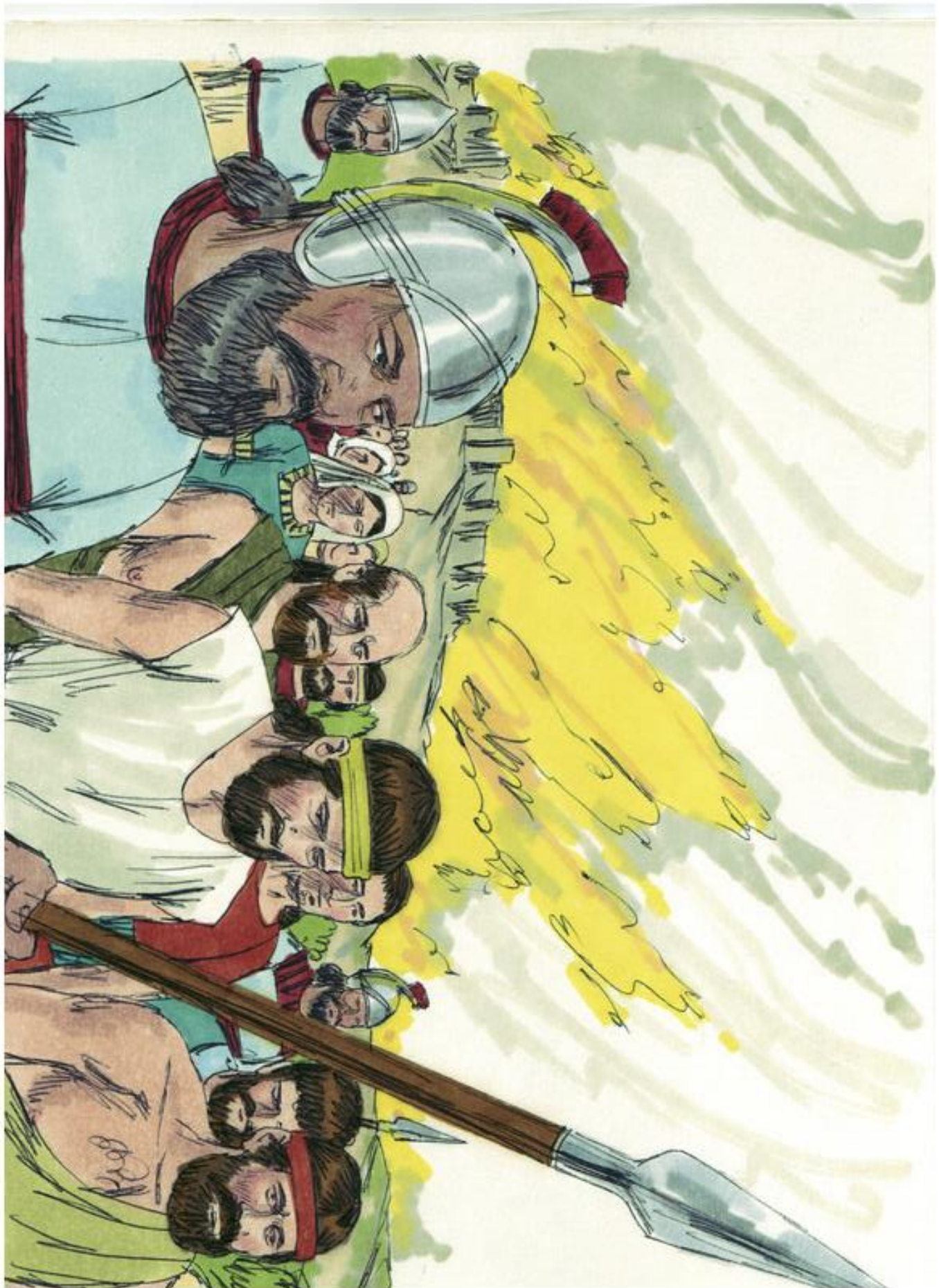
- He was mean and brutal
- He bribed King Pul of Assyria with 1,000 talents of silver
- King for 10 years in Samaria



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(undocumented resource)







Jeroboam II

Zechariah

Shallum

Menehem