

Saturday, June 29

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2 Kings 15:1 - 16:20

15 **1** Uzziah son of Amaziah began to rule over Judah in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel. **2** He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. **3** He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done. **4** But he did not destroy the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. **5** The LORD struck the king with leprosy, which lasted until the day he died. He lived in isolation in a separate house. The king's son Jotham was put in charge of the royal palace, and he governed the people of the land. **6** The rest of the events in Uzziah's reign and everything he did are recorded in **7** When Uzziah died, he was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. And his son Jotham became the next king. **8** Zechariah son of Jeroboam II began to rule over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of King Uzziah's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria six months. **9** Zechariah did what was evil in the LORD's sight, as his ancestors had done. He refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had led Israel to commit. **10** Then Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah, assassinated him in public, and became the next king. **11** The rest of the events in Zechariah's reign are recorded in **12** So the LORD's message to Jehu came true: "Your descendants will be kings of Israel down to the fourth generation." **13** Shallum son of Jabesh began to rule over Israel in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah's reign in Judah. Shallum reigned in Samaria only one month. **14** Then Menahem son of Gadi went to Samaria from Tirzah and assassinated him, and he became the next king. **15** The rest of the events in Shallum's reign, including his conspiracy, are recorded in **16** At that time Menahem destroyed the town of Tappuah and all the surrounding countryside as far as Tirzah, because its citizens refused to surrender the town. He killed the entire population and ripped open the pregnant women. **17** Menahem son of Gadi began to rule over Israel in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria ten years. **18** But Menahem did what was evil in the LORD's sight. During his entire reign, he refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had led Israel to commit. **19** Then King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria invaded the land. But Menahem paid him thirty-seven tons of silver to gain his support in tightening his grip on royal power. **20** Menahem extorted the money from the rich of Israel, demanding that each of them pay fifty pieces of silver to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned from attacking Israel and did not stay in the land. **21** The rest of the events in Menahem's reign and everything he did

are recorded in **22** When Menahem died, his son Pekahiah became the next king. **23** Pekahiah son of Menahem began to rule over Israel in the fiftieth year of King Uzziah's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria two years. **24** But Pekahiah did what was evil in the LORD 's sight. He refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had led Israel to commit.**25** Then Pekah son of Remaliah, the commander of Pekahiah's army, conspired against him. With fifty men from Gilead, Pekah assassinated the king, along with Argob and Arieah, in the citadel of the palace at Samaria. And Pekah reigned in his place. **26** The rest of the events in Pekahiah's reign and everything he did are recorded in **27** Pekah son of Remaliah began to rule over Israel in the fifty-second year of King Uzziah's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria twenty years. **28** But Pekah did what was evil in the LORD 's sight. He refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had led Israel to commit. **29** During Pekah's reign, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria attacked Israel again, and he captured the towns of Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, and Hazor. He also conquered the regions of Gilead, Galilee, and all of Naphtali, and he took the people to Assyria as captives. **30** Then Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah and assassinated him. He began to rule over Israel in the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah. **31** The rest of the events in Pekah's reign and everything he did are recorded in **32** Jotham son of Uzziah began to rule over Judah in the second year of King Pekah's reign in Israel. **33** He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok. **34** Jotham did what was pleasing in the LORD 's sight. He did everything his father, Uzziah, had done. **35** But he did not destroy the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. He rebuilt the upper gate of the Temple of the LORD . **36** The rest of the events in Jotham's reign and everything he did are recorded in **37** In those days the LORD began to send King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah of Israel to attack Judah.**38** When Jotham died, he was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. And his son Ahaz became the next king.

16 1 Ahaz son of Jotham began to rule over Judah in the seventeenth year of King Pekah's reign in Israel. **2** Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done. **3** Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. **4** He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the pagan shrines and on the hills and under every green tree. **5** Then King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah of Israel came up to attack Jerusalem. They besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him. **6** At that time the king of Edom recovered the town of Elath for Edom. He drove out the people of Judah and sent Edomites to live there, as they do to this day. **7** King

Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria with this message: "I am your servant and your vassal. Come up and rescue me from the attacking armies of Aram and Israel." **8** Then Ahaz took the silver and gold from the Temple of the LORD and the palace treasury and sent it as a payment to the Assyrian king. **9** So the king of Assyria attacked the Aramean capital of Damascus and led its population away as captives, resettling them in Kir. He also killed King Rezin. **10** King Ahaz then went to Damascus to meet with King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria. While he was there, he took special note of the altar. Then he sent a model of the altar to Uriah the priest, along with its design in full detail. **11** Uriah followed the king's instructions and built an altar just like it, and it was ready before the king returned from Damascus. **12** When the king returned, he inspected the altar and made offerings on it. **13** He presented a burnt offering and a grain offering, he poured out a liquid offering, and he sprinkled the blood of peace offerings on the altar. **14** Then King Ahaz removed the old bronze altar from its place in front of the LORD's Temple, between the entrance and the new altar, and placed it on the north side of the new altar. **15** He told Uriah the priest, "Use the new altar for the morning sacrifices of burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and grain offering, and the burnt offerings of all the people, as well as their grain offerings and liquid offerings. Sprinkle the blood from all the burnt offerings and sacrifices on the new altar. The bronze altar will be for my personal use only." **16** Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz commanded him. **17** Then the king removed the side panels and basins from the portable water carts. He also removed the great bronze basin called the Sea from the backs of the bronze oxen and placed it on the stone pavement. **18** In deference to the king of Assyria, he also removed the canopy that had been constructed inside the palace for use on the Sabbath day, as well as the king's outer entrance to the Temple of the LORD. **19** The rest of the events in Ahaz's reign and everything he did are recorded in **20** When Ahaz died, he was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. Then his son Hezekiah became the next king.

Acts 19:13 - 41

19 13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. **15** But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" **16** Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. **17** The

story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. **18** Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. **19** A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. **20** So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect. **21** Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. “And after that,” he said, “I must go on to Rome!” **22** He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia. **23** About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. **24** It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. **25** He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: “Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. **26** But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province!**27** Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I’m also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!” **28** At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” **29** Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. **30** Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn’t let him. **31** Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. **32** Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn’t even know why they were there.**33** The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. **34** But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” **35** At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. “Citizens of Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. **36** Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. **37** You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. **38** “If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges. **39** And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a

legal assembly. **40** I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." **41** Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

Psalm 147:1 - 20

147 **1** Praise the LORD ! How good to sing praises to our God! How delightful and how fitting! **2** The LORD is rebuilding Jerusalem and bringing the exiles back to Israel. **3** He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. **4** He counts the stars and calls them all by name. **5** How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! **6** The LORD supports the humble, but he brings the wicked down into the dust. **7** Sing out your thanks to the LORD ; sing praises to our God with a harp. **8** He covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures.**9** He gives food to the wild animals and feeds the young ravens when they cry. **10** He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or in human might.**11** No, the LORD 's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love. **12** Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! **13** For he has strengthened the bars of your gates and blessed your children within your walls. **14** He sends peace across your nation and satisfies your hunger with the finest wheat. **15** He sends his orders to the world— how swiftly his word flies! **16** He sends the snow like white wool; he scatters frost upon the ground like ashes. **17** He hurls the hail like stones. Who can stand against his freezing cold? **18** Then, at his command, it all melts. He sends his winds, and the ice thaws. **19** He has revealed his words to Jacob, his decrees and regulations to Israel. **20** He has not done this for any other nation; they do not know his regulations. Praise the LORD !

Proverbs 18:4 - 5

18 **4** Wise words are like deep waters; wisdom flows from the wise like a bubbling brook. **5** It is not right to acquit the guilty or deny justice to the innocent.