

Sea of the Plain. He enlarged the territory; he reconquered much of what had been held by Solomon. He did this according to the words of the Lord God of Israel who spoke by the hand of his servant, Jonah, the son of Amathiah, the prophet who was at Gathheph. This is an important verse because it brings in Jonah. There is no other evidence to date ~~Jonah~~ Jonah. This verse shows us that Jonah was either in the reign of Jeroboam II or before it, and hardly likely to be very much before it! Generally he is considered to be in his reign. So that dates the book of Jonah. That is about all that we learn about the reign of Jeroboam. He was as a rule a man who made conquest to re-establish the kingdom on a ~~fairly~~ fairly large level, a ~~fairly~~ fairly large territory. This Jeroboam then for all this long time remained and very often when a king reigns a long time he is a strong king who established his power on a high level and has such a reputation that nobody bothers him. That is often the case. The result is that often at the end of his reign when he is too old and too weak to control things very decently nobody makes any trouble for him, and the result is that the kingdom becomes weaker and weaker as nobody recognizes him. That is one trouble with organization like that in which a man rules for life. The man is apt to become weak and to continue simply on reputation instead of what he does. I remember when I was a student at Princeton Seminary remarking on the way they clean the rooms there. They used to say that the maid who cleans the rooms would come in while the door swung this way and go out when it swung the other way. While they were in there they were supposed to have made the beds and clean the room up. The various comments on such things were expressed this way by some of the students--they said, "Anybody who works here, whether it be a janitor or a professor or whatever it is, is on trial for one year. If he passes that year successfully, he then is in for life no matter what he does." We had a professor in public speaking I remember who had been there over fifty years. When in class he would get up and make some comments that made you wonder why you wasted your time listening to him. He was absolutely useless. He ~~might~~ may have been pretty good as a young man. I don't know. But he certainly was absolutely useless and had been for twenty-five years. He died at the end of my first year,