

Now we find that Assyria is coming right into the preview of Israel to such a great extent that everything else is forgotten. So in II Kings 15:27-31 we have a brief account of the reign of Peka which is there described as a reign of twenty years and there is not ~~just~~ much told about Peka there but we find more about him in connection with the history of Judah. That we will look at more in detail in connection with the history of Judah. As far as Israel is concerned we noticed that Peka realized the terrific menace of Assyria and saw that he could not play off Assyria against Syria. Assyria was too great. Assyria would conquer and destroy Syria and then would conquer and destroy him. His only hope was to unite with Syria and to try to get Judah also to unite with him. It would seem, however, that Judah refused. With buffer states between them and Syria the king of Judah did not see the need of this and so Peka and the king of Damascus decided that in order to be safe from an attack in the rear they must conquer Judah first and then take the resources of Judah and use them to protect themselves against the rising Assyrian menace. Under these circumstances we learn not from the account of the king^{dom} of Israel but from the account of the kingdom of Judah that Rezin, the king of Damascus, and Pekah, the king of Israel, made an attack against Judah--an attack which was temporarily repulsed and then they prepared for a return with every prospect of conquering Judah but Ahaz of Judah sent presents to the king of Assyria and joined with the enemies of the people of Israel *end of 90*

marched with their great armies and attacked Damascus and conquered Syria and put an end to the kingdom of Syria and then proceeded on into the land of Israel. When they did that that happened which usually happens a group of people decided that they should make friends with the Assyrians and so there was a conspiracy against Peka and Peka was killed and he was succeeded by a usurper named Hoshea, who is described in II Kings 17. This man Hoshea who now became the king of Israel