

read above that he built Shechem. Now she went home to Persia. Evidently the account has not explained to us the fact that he has built a new home for himself at least, ~~perhaps~~ a new capital. He has moved to Shechem to Tirz²am. Nobody knows where T----- ~~is~~ was. ~~Was~~ Shechem is well established. We have its ruins. There are guesses as to where T_____ was, but we do not know where it ~~is~~ was. But T_____ is where Jeroboam is now living. So she comes back to Jeroboam and she brings Jeroboam the message, and then the rest of Jeroboam's acts look to a secular history. We don't find them here. The days that Jeroboam reigned were twenty-two years and he slept with his fathers. We read above that the whole house of Jeroboam was going to be destroyed. The only one that was going to come to the grave was this son. Yet we read here that Jeroboam slept with his fathers. What does that mean? (Asks students) Yes, he died a natural death. He slept (although I'm not sure sleeping with his fathers is a natural death either. The fathers were dead and he died. It doesn't mean that he was buried right where his fathers were. It is a figurative expression meaning he passed on beyond this life). There is no statement here that Jeroboam was killed in ~~any~~ any violent way. It is entirely reasonable to guess that he died a natural death, although I don't think that this "slept with his fathers" would mean it. What about Ahijah's prediction ~~that~~ then for the complete destruction of the house of Jeroboam if Jeroboam died a natural death? I think that the prediction was of the house; not of Jeroboam. That, of course, meant a great deal to him. Whether he was going to have his sons live after him and reign in his stead. This one son is the only one of his descendants who had a natural death. The rest are killed in an upheaval only a very brief time after Jeroboam's own death. Jeroboam himself, there is no evidence that he died other than a natural death. That concludes the life of Jeroboam. We have gone through twenty-two years and then verse 21 goes back twenty-two years and starts over again in verse 21. We go ahead with Judah until we catch up with Jeroboam.

end of class.