

Barton believes that the Azariah was king of Yadi or Northern Syria because he is mentioned in connection with other Northern kings. It may be so. But there seems to be no real reason why he could not have been the Biblical Azariah or Uzziah in whose thirty-ninth year Menahem acceded. (II Kings 15:17) The Menahem mentioned we would like to think was a successor of the one mentioned in II Kings, but II Kings 15: 19-20 itself tells us that Menahem gave tribute to Pul (Tiglath-pileser III). Again in 733-732 Tiglath-pileser III went west and fought with Rezin of Damascus¹ (II Kings 16: 9 tells us the king of Assyria slew Rezin) and set up Hoshea as king. Pekah, it is said, had already been overthrown. "Jehoahaz ~~the~~ (Ahaz) the Judaeen" is also mentioned. Finally we are told² that Samaria having been besieged three years by Shalmaneser (724-722) fell by Sargon in 721 B.C. , the sixth year of Hezekiah and the ninth of Hoshea (II Kings 18: 10).

We may tabulate these data as follows:

Battle of QARqar (Defeat of Benhadad of Damascus and Ahab of Israel by Shalmaneser III) - - - - -	854 B.C.
Defeat of Hazael of Damascus and Jehu of Israel by Salmaneser III -	842
Defeat of Rezin of Damascus, Menahem of Samaria, and mention of "Azariah the Yaudaeen" by Tiglath-pileser III - - - - -	738
Killing of Rezin of Damascus, and setting up of Hoshea over Israel (Pekah having been killed) by Tiglath-pileser III - - - - -	732
Fall of Samaria in the first year of Sargon (6th year of Hezekiah and 9th of Hoshea) - - - - -	722 or 721

It may be interesting to add that Jericho was rebuilt according to I Kings 16: 34 in the days of Ahab, and according to the general dating of archaeology in the 9th century B.C.³ Unfortunately the archaeological data cannot be precise enough to be of use to us here.

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1. Barton, op.cit. p.464.
2. Barton, op.cit. p. 465.
3. Garstang, Joshua, Judges, p. 148.