Troubled times were ahead as the parade of kings continues to reflect the declining morality of Judah (Kings 9-11 of 20 – south) and Israel (Kings 13-18 of 19 – north) – of these nine, five were assassinated!

Zechariah – 14th King of Israel (8-12).
- He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and was publicly assassinated by Shallum after only six months on the throne.
- This fulfilled the word of the LORD (10:30; Hos. 1:4) that Jehu (10th king) would have a dynasty lasting to the fourth (14th King) generation – but no longer.

Shallum – 15th King of Israel (13-15).
- After only one month he was assassinated by Menahem – his own officer.
- In this he reaped the same in kind as he sowed (Gal. 6:7; Prov. 26:27).

Menahem – 16th King of Israel (16-22).
- He began his wicked 10 year reign by destroying his enemies, even their unborn children (Hos. 13:16). Syria had done this to them (Hazael – 8:12).
- During his reign the dreaded Assyrians under King Pul (Babylonian name), or Tigleth-Pileser III (745-727 BC), from northern Iraq, invaded their land for the first time (743 BC).
- They would come again and again (738, 734, 733, 732 BC) and end Israel’s Kingdom (722 BC) and threaten Judah as well (Ahaz in 722 BC; Hezekiah in 701 BC).
- 74,000 wealthy men donated one pound of silver each (37 tons) to send the Assyrians away.
- Appeasement is not the answer. We are to put to death “misdeeds of the body” (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5) or they will come again and again to vex your soul.

Pekahiah – 17th King of Israel (23-26).
- Menahem’s son Pekahiah succeeded him (742-740 BC) reigning but 2 years.
- He was assassinated by his officer Pekah and 50 men.

Pekah – 18th King of Israel (27-31).
- He reigned 20 (552-532 BC) years losing much territory to the Assyrians.
- Many Israelites were deported to Assyria – the beginning of the end.

Jotham – 11th King of Judah (32-38).
- Son of good King Uzziah, Jotham was also good (sole reign was 740-735 BC).
- Of the last 10 of the 20 kings of Judah, only Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah did good in the eyes of the Lord. Time was running out with foreign conquest on the horizon (701 BC [Assyrian threat]; 586 BC [Babylonian conquest]).