

# **Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16, End of Israel by Assyria, End of Judah by Babylon (586 BC)**

## **Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16, End of Israel by Assyria, End of Judah by Babylon (586 BC), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Vannoy's lecture** details the decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The lecture examines the reigns of various kings, including the assassinations and political turmoil that plagued the Northern Kingdom, as well as the Assyrian and Babylonian conquests. **Key figures** like Menahem, Pekah, Hoshea, Manasseh, and Josiah are discussed, along with the reasons for the exile of both kingdoms. **The lecture further explores** the rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire and the impact of leaders like Nebuchadnezzar, including the destruction of Jerusalem. **The lecture also provides insight into** the stages of exile and the complexities of dating its beginning.

### **2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created based on Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Exodus to Exile).**



**Vannoy\_ExtoExileK\_  
Session16.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16, End of Israel by Assyria, End of Judah by Babylon (586 BC)

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture notes on the downfall of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel.

#### Briefing Document: The Downfall of Israel and Judah

##### I. Overview

This lecture focuses on the decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians. It highlights key rulers, political events, and theological reasons behind these events, drawing from 2 Kings and other historical sources, including Assyrian annals.

##### II. The Downfall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

- **The End of Jehu's Dynasty:** The lecture begins with the assassination of Zechariah by Shallum, marking the end of Jehu's dynasty after four generations, fulfilling a prophecy (2 Kings 10:30).
- *"Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done all to the house of Ahab that I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."*
- **Rapid Decline:** After Shallum, the Northern Kingdom experienced significant instability with a series of assassinations and short reigns of kings like Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea.
- **Assyrian Influence and Tribute:** Menahem paid tribute to Pul (Tiglath-Pileser III) of Assyria to maintain his rule. This is supported by both 2 Kings and Assyrian records.
- *"Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem gave him a thousand talents of silver to gain his support and strengthen his own hold on the kingdom."*
- **Anti-Assyrian Factions:** Pekah is characterized as a leader of an anti-Assyrian faction who allied with Rezin of Damascus to oppose Assyria.

- **Hoshea's Rebellion and the Fall of Samaria:** Hoshea initially cooperated with Assyria but later rebelled by seeking an alliance with Egypt and ceasing tribute payments. This led to Shalmaneser V's siege and capture of Samaria.
- *"The king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So King of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore, Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison."*
- **Exile and Covenantal Failure:** The exile of the Northern Kingdom is attributed to the Israelites' rejection of God's decrees, breaking the covenant, and following idols.
- *"They rejected his [the Lord's] decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the Lord had ordered them, 'Do not do as they do,' and they did the things the Lord had forbidden them to do."*
- **The Samaritans:** The lecture explains the origin of the Samaritans as descendants of people resettled in the area around Samaria by the Assyrians, leading to a syncretistic form of worship.

### III. The Last Century of Judah (Southern Kingdom)

- **The Assyrian Empire's Decline:** The lecture outlines the succession of Assyrian rulers (Esarhaddon, Ashurbanipal) after Sennacherib and highlights the internal conflicts (Ashurbanipal vs. his brother) that weakened the empire.
- **Ashurbanipal's Library:** Emphasis is given to Ashurbanipal's library in Nineveh as a crucial source of ancient texts, highlighting his role as "the greatest known patron of literature in pre-Christian centuries." The library contained bi-lingual and tri-lingual word lists.
- **Fall of Nineveh:** The Medes and Babylonians destroyed Nineveh in 612 BC, as prophesied by Nahum. The Assyrian Empire continued for a short time with a new capital at Haran.
- **Battle of Carchemish (605 BC):** The Babylonians defeated the Assyrians, establishing Babylon as the dominant power and leading to the rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Josiah's attempt to stop Pharaoh Neco from assisting the Assyrians resulted in his death at Megiddo.

- *"While Josiah was king, Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to meet him in battle, but Neco faced him and killed him at Megiddo."*

#### IV. The Beginning of the Neo-Babylonian Empire and the Last Kings of Judah

- **Nebuchadnezzar:** Nebuchadnezzar becomes the key ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.
- **Manasseh's Wicked Reign:** Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, is described as the most wicked king of Judah, engaging in idolatry and provoking God's anger. He was taken captive to Babylon, repented, and was restored, according to 2 Chronicles.
- *"He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites... He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoked him to anger."*
- **Josiah's Reforms:** During Josiah's reign, the Book of the Law was found in the temple, leading to a period of reformation and covenant renewal.
- *"When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes... Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book."*
- However, judgment was only postponed, not averted, due to the sins of Manasseh. *"Nevertheless the Lord did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger."*
- **Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim:** Jehoahaz reverted to idolatry and was taken captive to Egypt. Jehoiakim was initially a vassal of Egypt but later became subject to Babylon. Jeremiah prophesied against Jehoiakim, who burned Jeremiah's scroll.
- *"Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot until the entire scroll was burned in the fire."*
- **Jehoiachin and Zedekiah:** Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC. Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, was installed as king but later rebelled.

- **Fall of Jerusalem (586 BC):** The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC. Zedekiah was captured, his sons were killed before his eyes, and he was blinded and taken to Babylon.
- **Gedaliah's Governorship:** Gedaliah was appointed governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar but was soon murdered.

## V. Stages of the Exile

The lecture concludes by emphasizing that the exile was a process with multiple stages:

1. **730 BC:** Tiglath-Pileser took captives from Israel (Northern Kingdom).
2. **722-721 BC:** Shalmaneser took more captives from Israel (Northern Kingdom).
3. **605 BC:** Nebuchadnezzar took captives and tribute from Judah, including Daniel (Southern Kingdom).
4. **597 BC:** Major exile, including Jehoiachin (Southern Kingdom).
5. **586 BC:** Final destruction of Jerusalem and exile of Zedekiah (Southern Kingdom).

The lecturer emphasizes that the beginning of the exile can be defined differently depending on which stage is emphasized. *"Exile was sort of a process in both the north and the south with stages of people being taken captive from Samaria and from Jerusalem, and depending on how you ask that question how you define it, you can say the exile began in 605 or it began in 586, depending on what you mean by it."*

## 4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16, End of Israel by Assyria, End of Judah by Babylon (586 BC)

### The End of Israel and Judah: A Study Guide

#### Review Topics

- **The Downfall of the Northern Kingdom:**The assassination of Zechariah and the end of Jehu's dynasty.
- The reigns and fates of Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea.
- The role of Assyrian involvement (Tiglath-Pileser III and Shalmaneser V).
- The exile of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC and the reasons behind it.
- The resettlement of the Samaritans.
- **The Assyrian Empire:**The succession from Sennacherib to Esarhaddon to Ashurbanipal.
- The significance of Ashurbanipal's library.
- The fall of Nineveh and the aftermath, including the role of Nahum.
- The battle of Carchemish and its significance.
- **The Neo-Babylonian Empire and the Last Kings of Judah:**The rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire under Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar.
- The reigns of Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah.
- The discovery of the Book of the Law and Josiah's reforms.
- The reigns of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Jehoiachin.
- The prophecies of Jeremiah during the reign of Jehoiakim.
- The final Babylonian siege and destruction of Jerusalem under Zedekiah in 586 BC.
- The appointment of Gedaliah as governor of Judah.
- **The Stages of Exile:**Understanding the different deportations and their dates (730 BC, 722/721 BC, 605 BC, 597 BC, 586 BC).
- Distinguishing between the exiles of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

## Quiz

1. What event marked the end of the dynasty of Jehu in the Northern Kingdom?
2. Why did Menahem pay tribute to Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul)?
3. What was the political alignment of Pekah, and how did it differ from Pekahiah?
4. What action by Hoshea led to the siege of Samaria by Shalmaneser V?
5. According to 2 Kings 17, what was the primary reason for the exile of the Northern Kingdom?
6. What was the significance of Ashurbanipal's library?
7. Which prophet predicted the destruction of Nineveh?
8. What prompted Josiah to tear his robes, and what actions did he then take?
9. What specific act of Jehoiakim demonstrated his rejection of Jeremiah's prophecies?
10. What happened to Zedekiah after the Babylonians captured Jerusalem in 586 BC?

## Quiz - Answer Key

1. The assassination of Zechariah by Shallum marked the end of the dynasty of Jehu, fulfilling a prophecy that Jehu's descendants would reign for four generations.
2. Menahem paid tribute to Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) to gain the Assyrian king's support and strengthen his own hold on the kingdom.
3. Pekah was the leader of an anti-Assyrian faction, while Pekahiah had been giving tribute to the king of Assyria. Pekah allied with Rezin of Damascus to attack Ahaz of Judah, attempting to oppose Assyria.
4. Hoshea sent envoys to Egypt and refused to continue paying tribute to Assyria, leading to Shalmaneser V attacking Samaria.
5. According to 2 Kings 17:15, the primary reason for the exile of the Northern Kingdom was that they rejected God's decrees, broke the covenant, followed worthless idols, and imitated the nations around them.
6. Ashurbanipal's library preserved numerous ancient texts, including bilingual and trilingual word lists, which were important for deciphering Sumerian and Akkadian.

7. The prophet Nahum predicted the destruction of Nineveh in his book.
8. Josiah tore his robes upon hearing the words of the Book of the Law because he was concerned about the curses described within. He then inquired of the Lord through Huldah the prophetess and initiated reforms to renew the covenant.
9. Jehoiakim burned the scroll containing Jeremiah's prophecies, demonstrating his rejection of the warnings of Babylonian captivity.
10. Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes, and then he was blinded and taken as a captive to Babylon, where he died.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the factors that contributed to the downfall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, highlighting the roles of internal instability, external threats, and covenantal unfaithfulness.
2. Analyze the significance of Ashurbanipal's library in the context of ancient Near Eastern history and its impact on our understanding of Assyrian culture and literature.
3. Compare and contrast the reigns of Hezekiah and Manasseh, and assess the long-term consequences of their actions on the Kingdom of Judah.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of Josiah's reforms in averting the Babylonian exile, considering both the immediate impact and the subsequent actions of the Judean kings.
5. Trace the stages of exile for both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, examining the political, social, and religious implications of these deportations.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Assyria:** An ancient Mesopotamian empire that dominated the Near East from the 9th to 7th centuries BC; conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- **Babylon:** An ancient Mesopotamian city-state that rose to prominence under the Neo-Babylonian Empire; conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah.



- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or treaty, especially between God and Israel, outlining obligations and blessings.
- **Exile:** The forced removal of a population from their homeland, particularly referring to the deportations of Israelites and Judeans by the Assyrians and Babylonians.
- **Jehu Dynasty:** The ruling dynasty in the Northern Kingdom of Israel established by Jehu, which lasted for four generations.
- **Megiddo:** An ancient city in Israel, the site of several significant battles, including the battle where Josiah was killed.
- **Neo-Babylonian Empire:** The Babylonian empire that succeeded the Assyrian Empire as the dominant power in Mesopotamia.
- **Nineveh:** The capital city of the Assyrian Empire, known for its wealth and power.
- **Samaria:** The capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Also, the region surrounding the city, inhabited by a mixed population after the Assyrian conquest.
- **Samaritans:** A people inhabiting the region of Samaria in New Testament times, considered by Jews to be of mixed Israelite and foreign descent.
- **Sennacherib:** King of Assyria (705-681 BC) known for his military campaigns, including his siege of Jerusalem.
- **Shalmaneser V:** King of Assyria (727-722 BC) who besieged and captured Samaria, leading to the exile of the Northern Kingdom.
- **Tiglath-Pileser III:** King of Assyria (745-727 BC) who expanded the Assyrian Empire and exacted tribute from various kingdoms, including Israel.
- **Zedekiah:** The last king of Judah, who rebelled against Babylon and witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem.

## **5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 16, End of Israel by Assyria, End of Judah by Babylon (586 BC), [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)**

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

### **What event marked the end of the House of Jehu in the Northern Kingdom of Israel?**

The assassination of Zechariah by Shallum marked the end of the House of Jehu. This fulfilled a prophecy that Jehu's dynasty would last four generations: Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam II, and Zechariah.

### **Who were some of the kings of the Northern Kingdom after Shallum, and what was a common fate among them?**

After Shallum, the kings of the Northern Kingdom included Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea. A common fate among these kings was assassination. Shallum, Pekahiah, and Pekah were all assassinated. Hoshea was imprisoned by the Assyrians. Menahem was the only king after Shallum who died a natural death.

### **How did Menahem secure his reign, and what was his relationship with Assyria?**

Menahem secured his reign by assassinating Shallum. He then paid tribute to Pul, the king of Assyria (also known as Tiglath-Pileser III), to gain his support and strengthen his hold on the kingdom. This is confirmed both in 2 Kings and in Assyrian records.

### **What led to the downfall of Hoshea and the Northern Kingdom?**

Hoshea initially cooperated with Assyria but later sent envoys to Egypt and refused to pay tribute to the Assyrian king Shalmaneser V. This act of rebellion led to Shalmaneser's invasion, the siege of Samaria, Hoshea's imprisonment, and ultimately the exile of the Israelites to Assyria in 722 BC.

### **What reasons does 2 Kings 17 give for the exile of the Northern Kingdom?**

2 Kings 17 attributes the exile of the Northern Kingdom to the Israelites rejecting God's decrees, breaking the covenant, following worthless idols, imitating the surrounding nations, and doing things the Lord had forbidden. In essence, they abandoned their covenant relationship with God.

**Who were the Samaritans, and how did they come to be?**

The Samaritans were the descendants of people who were resettled in the area of Samaria by the Assyrian king after the Northern Kingdom was conquered. These people were from various nations and practiced a syncretistic religion, worshiping both the Lord and their own gods.

**What was Ashurbanipal known for, besides his military accomplishments?**

Beyond his military achievements, Ashurbanipal is famous for establishing a library in Nineveh. This library, discovered in 1853, has preserved numerous ancient texts, including bi-lingual and tri-lingual word lists that were crucial for deciphering Sumerian and Akkadian languages. He is considered perhaps the greatest patron of literature in pre-Christian centuries.

**Describe the key events and kings involved in the final years of Judah leading up to the Babylonian exile.**

Manasseh, despite a long and wicked reign, was taken captive by the Assyrians, repented, and was restored. Josiah instituted religious reforms after the Book of the Law was found, but his efforts couldn't avert God's judgment. Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim (who rebelled against Babylon and rejected Jeremiah's warnings), and Jehoiachin each reigned briefly, with Jehoiachin surrendering to Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah, the last king, rebelled, leading to the final Babylonian siege, the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC, and the exile of the remaining people to Babylon. There were multiple stages of exile, starting as early as 605 BC.