

# **The Kings of Israel and Judah**

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# **The Kings of Israel and Judah**

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# **The Kings of Israel and Judah (A United Nation)**





# Saul

**How He Became King:** Anointed by Samuel

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 40 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel + Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Samuel

**Death:** Killed in battle by the Philistines

**Burial:** Buried under a tree at Jabesh

Saul was the first king of Israel, and he ruled over the entire nation. In the beginning of his reign he was a good king, but he quickly fell into sin. His life was a sad tale of poor decisions. Saul knew what God wanted him to do, but instead of being obedient he did that which was right in his own eyes. Ultimately that decision cost him his kingdom and his life.

King Saul was the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin. The Bible says that he was tall and handsome. In fact, the Scriptures actually say that Saul was the most handsome person in the entire country:

**1 Samuel 9:1:** “Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”

The reason Saul became the king of Israel was because the nation no longer wanted judges to rule over them. Samuel had been judge over Israel for many years, but when he was old he appointed his sons as judges over the country. Sadly, Samuel's sons were wicked and did not follow in their father's footsteps:

**1 Samuel 8:1:** “And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba.

3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.”

Since his sons were wicked, Israel asked Samuel to appoint them a king:

**I Samuel 8:5:** “And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

This request seems reasonable (after all, who would want corrupt judges as rulers?), but there is more to it than it seems. Israel was rejecting much more than the corrupt sons of Samuel. After all, if that was their concern then they could have asked Samuel to appoint different judges. The truth is that Israel was rejecting God:

**I Samuel 8:7:** “And the Lord said unto Samuel, Harken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”

Before the days of the kings, God worked through judges in order to rule the Israelites. Although the judges were far from perfect, they did what He commanded and executed His decrees. You might say that they were God's proxies, and that God ruled Israel through them.

However, that wasn't good enough for Israel. They didn't want to be ruled by an invisible God. Instead they wanted someone that they could see – someone who could go before them and physically lead them into battle. In the past God had granted them great military victories, but Israel didn't care about that. They wanted a human king that they could see. They wanted to be like all of the other nations around them.

The Lord told Samuel to warn Israel that a king would abuse them and reign over them harshly:

**I Samuel 8:16:** “And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.”

Israel's history proved Him right. The kings of Israel and Judah did terrible things to the people. In fact, the kings were so wicked that they ultimately brought God's judgment upon the nation and evicted the people from the land. However, despite God's warnings, the people simply did not care. They wanted a king no matter what the cost:

19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”

So Samuel did as they requested. The Lord led the prophet to Saul, and he anointed Saul as Israel's king. Saul was exactly the kind of king that Israel wanted – he was tall and handsome. Israel wanted someone who looked nice, and that is exactly what God gave them.

However, Saul didn't want to become Israel's king. When it came time to crown him in front of the entire nation, Saul actually went and hid himself:

**I Samuel 10:20:** “And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they enquired of the Lord further, if the man should yet come thither. And the Lord answered, Behold he hath hid himself among the stuff.

23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.”

Saul may have been reluctant at first, but that reluctance did not last long. When Nahash the Ammonite came against

Jabeshgilead, Saul gathered an army and defeated them:

**I Samuel 11:11:** “And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.”

The Israelites wanted someone to lead their nation into battle, and Saul did exactly that. When the Ammonites came against Israel their new king led the people to victory. So far things were going very well – but that was not going to last.

In Saul's second year the Philistines gathered to fight Israel. Saul waited for Samuel at Gilgal for seven days, but when Samuel did not appear Saul offered the sacrifice himself. As soon as Saul finished making the offering Samuel appeared and saw what the king had done. Samuel rebuked the king and told him that because he had disobeyed God, his kingdom would be given to someone else:

**I Samuel 13:13:** “And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.  
14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.”

The sacrifice at Gilgal had been a test to see if Saul would obey God or if he would take the easy way out. This was the first time that Saul revealed that he didn't really care very much about

God's commands – but it would not be the last. Saul would continue to take the easy way out the rest of his life. His disobedience had cost his descendents the kingdom. Since Saul had not obeyed God, his children would not sit on the throne. But things were about to get worse.

One day Samuel came to Saul and told him that God wanted him to utterly destroy Amalek. Saul was supposed to wipe out everything – their animals, their people, and their king. However, when Saul fought them he spared their king and the best of their animals. Samuel rebuked Saul for his gross disobedience and said that because Saul had disobeyed God, the Lord had rejected him as Israel's king:

**I Samuel 15:22:** “And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

Saul's disobedience had now cost him *and* his descendents the throne. After this rebuke, God sent Samuel to Jesse and had him anoint David as Israel's king (I Samuel 16:13). Although David had been anointed king, it would be many years before he would actually take the throne and begin his reign.

When David slew Goliath, Saul took David into his home and put him over his men of war:

**I Samuel 18:5:** “And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.”

However, Saul eventually grew jealous of David's popularity among the people and tried to kill him. When David fled for his life, he stopped to see Ahimelech the priest in order to get some food and to get Goliath's sword. Saul found out about this and had Ahimelech executed – along with an entire city of priests:

**I Samuel 22:16:** “And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.

17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the Lord: because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the Lord.

18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.”

Saul continued to pursue David and eventually found him at Engedi. David had a chance to kill Saul but he refused to take it. When David confronted Saul, the king admitted that he had sinned and returned home:

**I Samuel 24:16:** “And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my

son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

17 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

18 And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

19 For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.

20 And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

21 Swear now therefore unto me by the Lord, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

22 And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold."

After this, Samuel died (I Samuel 25:1).

Despite what Saul had said, he did *not* stop pursuing David. When the Ziphites told Saul where David was hiding, Saul came after him once again. David had another chance to kill Saul, but he did not take it. Saul admitted that he had sinned and returned home:

**I Samuel 26:21:** "Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. . . .

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my



son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place."

This time David realized that Saul would never stop hunting him, so he went to the country of the Philistines (I Samuel 27:1). David stayed there until Saul was killed in battle.

Although David found peace in the land of the Philistines, Saul's life became increasingly troubled. The king saw that the Philistines were gathering to attack Israel, and he grew greatly afraid. Saul inquired of the Lord, but God refused to answer the king. Since God would not talk to him through dreams, or through prophets, or through the Urim and Thummim, the king instead went to a witch at Endor and asked her to bring up the departed spirit of Samuel:

**I Samuel 28:11:** "Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel."

Necromancy was a terrible sin that was punishable by death, but as usual the king did not care. God had strictly forbidden anyone from dealing with witches or familiar spirits and had commanded that witches be put to death, but the king was not interested in God's commands. He was determined to find out how to defeat the Philistines in battle, no matter what the cost.

However, this encounter did not go as the king had planned. The witch did indeed bring up the spirit of Samuel, but Samuel did not have good news. The prophet told Saul that tomorrow the Philistines were going to win the battle, and he and his sons were going to be killed:

**I Samuel 28:19:** "Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines; and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the

host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”

The reason God had been refusing to talk to Saul was because God had abandoned Saul. God was no longer Saul's friend; He was now Saul's enemy and He was going to kill the king.

Samuel's prophecy came true. The very next day Saul and his sons were slain by the Philistines:

**1 Samuel 31:1:** “Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

2 And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul's sons.

3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

4 Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.”

When the Philistines found Saul's body, they paraded it around as a trophy:

**I Samuel 31:8:** “And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

9 And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people.

10 And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.”

However, that was not the end. The men of Jabeshgilead recovered the bodies and buried them under a tree:

**I Samuel 31:11:** “And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

12 All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

13 And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.”

The name Jabeshgilead should sound familiar. At the very beginning of Saul's reign, Nahash the Ammonite came against that town and Saul formed an army and rescued them. The men of that city were now repaying the favor by rescuing Saul's body from the Philistines.

This put an end to the reign of Saul. The book of Acts tells us that he reigned for 40 years:

**Acts 13:21:** “And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of

forty years."

Saul's reign did not end in victory; instead it ended in defeat and death. His stubborn disobedience cost him his kingdom, the life of his sons, and his own life. In the end this wicked king reaped exactly what he had sowed.

# David

**How He Became King:** Anointed by Samuel

**When He Began Reigning:** 30 years old

**Reign Length:** 40 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel + Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Nathan

**Death:** Died of old age

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

After Saul was killed in battle by the Philistines, God told David to go to Hebron. It was there that the men of Judah made David their king:

**2 Samuel 2:1:** “And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

3 And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.”

Although David was now king over Judah, he was not yet

king over Israel. In an act of rebellion and defiance, Abner took Saul's son Ishbosheth and made him king over Israel. Now, God had already chosen David to be king over His people and had Samuel anoint David as king many years ago, but Abner did not care. He used Ishbosheth to lead Israel into a rebellion against the king that God had chosen.

As it turned out, this rebellion was short-lived. Ishbosheth only reigned for two years. During that time the house of Saul fought the house of David, and David grew stronger while Saul's house grew weaker. In the end this rebellion cost Abner and Ishbosheth their lives. Joab (the leader of David's armies) tricked Abner and murdered him, and Rechab and Baanah assassinated Ishbosheth and brought David his head. Rechab and Baanah thought that David would reward them for what they had done, but instead David had them both executed:

**II Samuel 4:8:** "And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the Lord hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the Lord liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

10 When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

11 How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

12 And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.”

After this Israel made David their king. He began reigning when he was 30 years old, and he reigned for a total of 40 years. David reigned in Hebron for 7 years and he reigned in Jerusalem for 33 years:

**2 Samuel 5:1:** “Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.”

David took Jerusalem from the Jebusites (II Samuel 5:6-7) and brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (II Samuel 6). David wanted to build a temple, but God forbade him from doing so because he had been a man of war. When the Lord told him that one of his sons would build it, David began making preparations. By the time David died he had prepared blueprints

for the Temple's construction and had amassed a tremendous amount of raw materials.

However, David's reign was not spotless. There came a time when David's armies went to fight the Ammonites. Instead of going out with his armies, however, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. While he was there he happened to be on the roof of his palace one day, and from that vantage point he saw Bathsheba bathing. Despite the fact that Bathsheba was a married woman (and the granddaughter of his trusted counselor Ahithophel) he had her brought to his palace and committed adultery with her:

**II Samuel 11:3:** “And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.”

When David found out that she was pregnant he had her husband Uriah brought back home. His plan was to get Uriah to sleep with his wife so that he would think the child was his, but despite David's best efforts he could not get Uriah to go home to his wife. Since that plan failed, he told Joab to arrange for Uriah to be killed in battle:

**II Samuel 11:14:** “And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.



16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also."

The plan worked and Uriah was killed. David then married Bathsheba and she gave birth to their son. David thought that his sin had been hidden, but he was greatly mistaken. The Lord knew what David had done and He was very displeased. God sent Nathan the prophet to rebuke the king and tell him that because of this sin God would bring terrible judgment upon David:

**2 Samuel 12:9:** "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

11 Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour; and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt

not die.

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."

Everything that the Lord said came to pass. David begged God to spare the child, but the child still died. David's son Absalom then stole the hearts of Israel and led a rebellion against his father. David was very nearly killed, but he was warned about the uprising and fled:

**II Samuel 15:13:** "And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

14 And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword."

Ahithophel had been David's wisest and most trusted adviser, but in this rebellion he joined Absalom and told him how to kill David and seize his throne. (Since Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather, it's entirely possible that the reason he did that was because he was angry with David for murdering his son-in-law.) However, Hushai defeated Ahithophel's counsel and gave David the time he needed to escape and prepare for battle.

When the battle finally came, the servants of David defeated the servants of Absalom. David ordered his men to spare Absalom's life, but Joab killed him anyway. The king wept when he found out that his son had been killed:

**II Samuel 18:32:** "And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush

answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Even though Absalom was now dead, the rebellion was not yet over. When David returned to Jerusalem the men of Judah got into an argument with the men of Israel, and Sheba drew Israel away from following David:

**2 Samuel 20:1:** "And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.

2 So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem."

David ruled over Judah, but Sheba ruled over Israel. Joab and his men pursued Sheba and eventually cornered him in a city. When Joab came against the city a wise woman convinced the town to cut off Sheba's head and throw it over the wall:

**II Samuel 20:20:** "And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

21 The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against

David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.  
22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.”

The rebellion was finally over, but there was still more trouble ahead for David. There came a time when God sent a three-year famine upon the country. When David inquired of God he discovered that the famine was punishment for Saul's slaying of the Gibeonites. During Joshua's conquest of Canaan, the Israelites had made peace with the Gibeonites and promised not to kill them. However, Saul broke this promise and slaughtered them – an act which greatly angered God. Even though Saul had not agreed to the treaty, the nation of Israel had made a promise to the Gibeonites and God expected them to keep it. The king was supposed to keep the nation's promises, but instead he broke them.

In order to atone for Saul's sins, David gave seven of Saul's sons to the Gibeonites and they hanged them before the Lord:

**II Samuel 21:5:** “And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,  
6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, whom the Lord did choose. And the king said, I will give them.  
7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the Lord's

oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the Lord: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.”

After this the Lord was entreated and He lifted the famine. It may seem strange that God actually approved of this, but it is not as strange as it seems. Saul had killed innocent members of the Gibeonite family, so in return members of his own family were killed. God did to him what he had done to the Gibeonites.

However, there was still more trouble ahead for Israel. One day David forced Joab to take a census of Israel. This displeased the Lord, and as punishment God sent a pestilence over the land that killed 70,000 people. In order to stop the plague David bought the threshingfloor of Araunah, built an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings:

**II Samuel 24:25:** “And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.”

That brought an end to the plague.

When David was old he could not stay warm. His servants searched for a woman to lie with him, and they found Abishag. She ministered to him:

**I Kings 1:3:** “So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

4 And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.”

Since David was old, Adonijah exalted himself to be king with the help of Joab and Abiathar. When Bathsheba protested to David, he swore that her son Solomon would reign. Nathan then proclaimed that Solomon was king, and Adonijah's supporters panicked and fled. Adonijah thought that he was going to be executed, but instead Solomon ordered Adonijah to be released and sent home:

**I Kings 1:49:** “And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.

50 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword.

52 And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

53 So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.”

Adonijah's life was spared – for the moment.

When it came time for David to die he told Solomon to obey God, and then gave him the plans he had made for the Temple and the supplies he had set aside for it. David then died and was buried in Jerusalem:

**1 Kings 2:10:** “So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.”

David's son Solomon then reigned in his stead.





# Solomon

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father David

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 40 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel + Judah

**Type of King:** Started out good, but went bad in the end

**Prophet:** Ahijah

**Death:** Died of old age

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

When David was old, Bathsheba's son Solomon was appointed king over the nation:

**I Kings 1:38:** "So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.

39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them."

Before he was appointed king, his brother Adonijah tried to seize the throne with the help of Joab and Abiathar. When Nathan proclaimed Solomon king Adonijah feared for his life, but Solomon spared him.

Sadly, Adonijah did not learn from his mistake. He was determined to get the throne one way or another. Since his first plan did not work, Adonijah tried to marry Abishag – one of David's wives. When Solomon found out he realized that Adonijah was doing it in order to gain royal power, so he had Adonijah executed:

**I Kings 2:23:** “Then king Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

24 Now therefore, as the Lord liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me an house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.

25 And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.”

Since Abiathar and Joab had helped Adonijah try to seize power, Solomon had Abiathar removed as priest and had Joab executed.

At Gibeon the king brought the leaders of the nation together and offered 1000 burnt offerings. Now, burnt offerings are offerings of *dedication*, not offerings for sin. When Solomon offered these offerings he was actually dedicating the entire nation to serving the Lord. After Solomon did this, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream:

**I Kings 3:5:** “In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in

righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.”

When God asked Solomon to make a request, Solomon requested wisdom so that he could be a wise and understanding king. This request pleased God, and He granted Solomon the wisdom that he requested. The Lord also gave him great wealth and honor, and promised that if Solomon continued to follow Him then He would give the king long life as well.

Solomon spent seven years building the Temple. The entire nation of Israel came together and was present when the king dedicated the Temple:

**1 Kings 8:1:** “Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the

month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.”

When the Ark of the Covenant was brought inside the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled the building and no one could enter it. Solomon then addressed the people and prayed:

**I Kings 8:22:** “And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

23 And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

25 Therefore now, Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

26 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?”

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from Heaven and consumed the offerings. Solomon then held a 14-day feast. The entire nation rejoiced, and went back home joyful and glad of heart.

During his reign the king became exceedingly wealthy. The Queen of Sheba heard about his greatness and paid him a visit – and she was overwhelmed by what she saw:

**I Kings 10:4:** “And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her.

6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.

7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.”

Solomon was richer and wiser than any other king. He was so wise that the whole earth sought to hear the wisdom that God had given him. However, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, and when he was old they turned his heart away from God:

**I Kings 11:3:** “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the

Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."

Because of his blatant idolatry, God told Solomon that He was going to take the kingdom away from him and give it to his servant. God also stirred up Hadad and Rezon to be Solomon's adversaries. When the prophet Ahijah anointed Jeroboam as king (1 Kings 11:29-39), Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam. However, Jeroboam escaped by fleeing to Egypt and staying there until the king died.

Solomon reigned for 40 years and then died. Like his father, he was buried in Jerusalem:

**I Kings 11:42:** "And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead."

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam reigned over Israel – but his reign over the united nation was brief. Events were already in motion that would tear most of the nation away from him.

# **The Kings of Judah**





# Rehoboam

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Solomon

**When He Began Reigning:** 41 years old

**Reign Length:** 17 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel + Judah (briefly), then Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Shemaiah

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

When Solomon died, Jeroboam came to King Rehoboam and asked him to lighten the heavy load that Solomon had put upon the people:

**I Kings 12:3:** “That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,  
4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.”

The old men who had served with Solomon advised Rehoboam to grant this request. However, the young men persuaded Rehoboam to tell the people that he was going to make things even *worse* than they had been before. Their lives were not going to improve; instead Rehoboam was going to make sure that they suffered more than they had already been suffering. Since Rehoboam answered the people roughly, the people revolted:

**I Kings 12:16:** “So when all Israel saw that the

king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.”

Because of this revolt, Rehoboam lost the kingdom and was left with only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin – just as God had told Solomon. Solomon's rebellion cost Rehoboam most of his kingdom. Rehoboam was angry about Israel's revolt and gathered an army to fight them, but when God sent Shemaiah to tell the king that the rebellion was of God, the armies went home.

Rehoboam became king when he was 41 years old, and he reigned over Judah for 17 years:

**1 Kings 14:21:** “And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.”

For the first three years things went pretty well. Since Jeroboam had evicted all of God's priests from the land of Israel, they flocked to Judah:

**2 Chronicles 11:16:** “And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers.  
17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah,

and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.”

Because all of these people came to Judah, they strengthened Rehoboam. For three years Rehoboam ruled wisely. After Rehoboam became strong, however, he forsook the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 12:1:** “And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him.”

Rehoboam knew that God had taken 10 tribes away because of Solomon's idolatry, but that did not deter him. In fact, under his reign the people did more evil than their fathers:

**1 Kings 14:22:** “And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.”

In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, Shishak king of Egypt came against Jerusalem. Shishak's army conquered Judah and finally came against Jerusalem. Shemaiah the prophet told Rehoboam that God was helping Shishak because Judah had forsaken the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 12:2:** “And it came to pass, that in

the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the Lord,

3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians.

4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.

5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the Lord, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak."

When Rehoboam humbled himself before God, the Lord relented. He did not grant the king a military victory, but He did stop Shishak from utterly destroying Jerusalem. Instead, Shishak looted the palace and the Temple and then left:

**2 Chronicles 12:6:** "Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The Lord is righteous.

7 And when the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.

9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against

Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.”

Although Rehoboam's disobedience cost him Solomon's wealth, his life was spared. Since Shishak had taken the gold, the king was forced to replace Solomon's golden shields with some cheap bronze shields. The magnificence was now gone.

Despite this, however, Rehoboam did not learn his lesson. Instead of repenting and changing his ways he continued to be an evil king:

**2 Chronicles 12:14:** “And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.”

When he died, he was buried in Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 12:16:** “And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Abijah then reigned in his stead.



# Abijam (Abijah)

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Rehoboam

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 3 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

Abijam (who was also known as Abijah) became king after the death of his father Rehoboam. One of the things that makes this person confusing is the fact that the Bible lists him under two different names: he is called both Abijam and Abijah. This is not the only king in the Old Testament who is referred to by two different names; there are a number of others. This is something to keep in mind when studying the Bible. Sometimes there is more information about the person listed under a different name.

On top of that, there is also some confusion about his ancestry. As you can see, his mother is listed as two different people:

**2 Chronicles 13:1:** “Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah.

2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.”

**1 Kings 15:1:** “Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.

2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. and his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.”

So what's going on here? Well, first of all, Michaiah and Maachah are *the same person*. Just as Abijam is also called Abijah, Michaiah is also called Maachah. The names are different but the person is the same.

How is it possible that Michaiah can be the daughter of Uriel *and* the daughter of Abishalom? Well, according to Josephus (Ant. VIII, 10.1), Uriel was the husband of Abishalom's daughter Tamar. Tamar, in turn, is the mother of Michaiah. In other words, Uriel was Michaiah's *father*, and Abishalom was Michaiah's *grandmother*. The Bible often referred to an ancestor as that person's father or mother even if there were several generations between them (just as people sometimes refer to women as “daughters of Eve”).

Abijam reigned over Judah for three years, and did evil:

**1 Kings 15:1:** “Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.

2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. and his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

3 And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.”

During his reign, Jeroboam king of Israel attacked him. Abijam rebuked him for attacking Judah and for serving idols:



**2 Chronicles 13:8:** “And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the Lord in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with your golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.

9 Have ye not cast out the priests of the Lord, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

10 But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the Lord, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business:

11 And they burn unto the Lord every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the Lord our God; but ye have forsaken him.

12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the Lord God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.”

Abijam was right: Jeroboam had evicted God's priests from the land and had fallen deep into idolatry. However, Abijam's hands were not clean either. The Temple may have been operating and the Levites may have been working, but Abijam's heart was not right with God. The king walked in the sins of his fathers and did not have a perfect heart.

When Jeroboam attacked, he ambushed Abijam's forces.

Abijam then cried out to God for help. The Lord heard his cry and delivered Jeroboam's army into his hand. During the battle 500,000 men of Israel were killed:

**II Chronicles 13:16:** “And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.

17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord God of their fathers.”

After this battle Jeroboam's power was broken, and Abijam became a mighty king (2 Chronicles 13:20-21). Abijam married 14 wives and had 22 sons and 16 daughters. Even though he once trusted in the Lord for victory, he remained an evil king. When he died, he was buried in Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 14:1:** “So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.”

Asa his son then reigned in his stead.

# Asa

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Abijam

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 41 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Started out good, but went bad in the end

**Prophet:** Oded, Hanani

**Death:** Disease

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

After Abijam died, Asa his son became king over Judah. He was a good king and did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. His father had been a wicked king and allowed a lot of evil to enter the land. Asa cleaned up the nation by removing the sodomites and the idols:

**1 Kings 15:9:** "And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah.

10 And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

11 And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did David his father.

12 And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."

Asa commanded the people to serve the Lord (2 Chronicles 14:4). Because of this God brought peace to Judah. Asa used that time to strengthen the land and defend it:

**1 Kings 15:6:** “And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the Lord had given him rest.

7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the Lord our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.

8 And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour.”

However, this time of peace did not last forever. One day an army of a million Ethiopians came against him. When this happened Asa cried out to God for deliverance:

**2 Chronicles 14:9:** “And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

11 And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee.

12 So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.”

God delivered the Ethiopians into his hand, and Judah utterly defeated them and carried away a great deal of spoil. After this the spirit of God came upon Azariah and he challenged the nation to serve God:

**2 Chronicles 15:1:** “And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.”

When Asa heard this, he gathered the nation together and made a covenant with them to serve God. The entire nation swore with all their hearts to serve the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 15:8:** “And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin,

and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the Lord, that was before the porch of the Lord.

9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

11 And they offered unto the Lord the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

13 That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

14 And they sware unto the Lord with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about."

Because Judah sought the Lord with all of their desire, God blessed them and gave them rest. Asa's zeal was so great that he even removed his own mother from power because she had made an idol:

**1 Kings 15:13:** "And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa

destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.

14 But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the Lord all his days.”

However, there came a time when God tested Asa. In the 36<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, Baasha king of Israel came against him:

**2 Chronicles 16:1:** “In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.”

When the Ethiopian army had come against him, Asa cried out to God and the Lord delivered the nation. However, this time Asa didn't do that. Instead of trusting in God, he took money from the palace *and from the Temple* and used it to hire the Syrians to attack Baasha. The Syrians listened to Asa and attacked several cities in Israel. When Baasha found out about this, he left Judah. Asa then brought all of Judah to Ramah and they carried away its stones and timber.

However, the Lord was not pleased. God sent Hanani the prophet to rebuke the king for what he had done:

**2 Chronicles 16:7:** “And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand.

9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.”

When Asa heard this, he became extremely angry and had Hanani thrown in prison. The king refused to repent and refused to allow anyone to correct him.

Asa's reign only lasted five more years. When the king was old he became diseased in his feet, but he refused to go to God for help no matter how severe the disease became:

**2 Chronicles 16:12:** “And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians.”

When he died, he was buried in Jerusalem in a tomb he had created for himself:

**2 Chronicles 16:14:** “And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.”

His son Jehoshaphat then reigned in his stead.



# Jehoshaphat

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Asa

**When He Began Reigning:** 35 years old

**Reign Length:** 25 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Jehu, Eliezer

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

Jehoshaphat became king after his father Asa died. He began reigning when he was 35 years old and he reigned over Judah for 25 years. Jehoshaphat did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord and served God the same way his father had:

**1 Kings 22:42:** “Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

43 And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.”

Like his father, he was also zealous to cleanse the land of sodomites:

**1 Kings 22:46:** “And the remnant of the

sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land."

Because Jehoshaphat sought the Lord, God was with him and gave him great riches and honor:

**2 Chronicles 17:3:** "And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

4 But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

5 Therefore the Lord stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance."

The king even sent men throughout the land to teach the people the law of the Lord (2 Chronicles 17:7-9). However, although Jehoshaphat meant well and sought the Lord, he made many poor decisions in his life. Time and time again the king teamed up with wicked rulers in order to help them, and time and time again God rebuked him for it. God tried to teach Jehoshaphat that the righteous should not join forces with the wicked, but Jehoshaphat never learned.

For example, during his reign Jehoshaphat agreed to help wicked king Ahab attack Ramothgilead. The prophet Micaiah warned that God had arranged the battle in order to kill Ahab, but Jehoshaphat refused to listen. After the battle was over and Jehoshaphat had returned home, God sent the prophet Jehu to rebuke him for helping the ungodly:

**2 Chronicles 19:1:** "And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.

2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord.”

After this Jehoshaphat sent judges throughout the land of Judah and told them to make godly decisions and serve the Lord faithfully. Despite Jehoshaphat's failings, he did have a heart after God and he did trust in Him. When Moab and Ammon came against him, the king proclaimed a fast and urged the people to seek the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 20:1:** “It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together; to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.”

Because they sought the Lord and trusted in Him, the Lord fought for Judah. God ambushed the invaders and they fought each other:

**2 Chronicles 20:22:** “And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and

mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped."

God gave Jehoshaphat a great victory because he trusted in the Lord. However, Jehoshaphat continued to make alliances with wicked kings. After Ahab was killed in battle, his son Jehoram became king over Israel. (Interestingly enough, both Ahab *and* Jehoshaphat had sons named Jehoram. Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram even married Ahab's daughter – a fact that led to tragic consequences.) When Jehoram asked Jehoshaphat to help him attack Moab (the very people that had just attacked Jehoshaphat), the king agreed:

**2 Kings 3:6:** "And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.  
7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses."

At this point in history Jehu the prophet had already rebuked Jehoshaphat for helping the wicked king Ahab, yet here he was helping Ahab's wicked son Jehoram. Jehoshaphat had learned nothing at all from Jehu's rebuke. It is true that the Moabites were a common enemy between the two kings, but God

had already told Jehoshaphat that He did not want him helping the wicked.

As it turned out, the joint venture did not go well. The kings ran out of water and nearly died:

**2 Kings 3:9:** “So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the Lord hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!”

Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet of the Lord who could help them, and they called Elisha. The prophet was not happy about helping these wicked kings, but since Jehoshaphat was there he agreed to seek the Lord for help:

**2 Kings 3:13:** “And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the Lord hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

14 And Elisha said, As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.

16 And he said, Thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches.

17 For thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not see wind,

neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.

18 And this is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

19 And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones."

Elisha's word came to pass. The country was filled with water, and God deliver the Moabites into their hand. The kings did indeed destroy the Moabite cities, just as Elisha had said.

Nor is that the last time that Jehoshaphat committed this sin. Later in life Jehoshaphat teamed up with the wicked king Ahaziah to send ships to Tarshish. However, God sent Eliezer to rebuke him for helping the wicked king:

**2 Chronicles 20:36:** "And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongaber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the Lord hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish."

As you can see, God destroyed the ships that the two kings had made. God told Jehoshaphat time and time again that it was a sin for the righteous to team up with the wicked, *even if they had a common enemy and common goals*, but Jehoshaphat never learned.

When Jehoshaphat died, he was buried in Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 21:1:** “Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Jehoram then reigned over Judah.





# Jehoram (Joram)

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Jehoshaphat

**When He Began Reigning:** 32 years old

**Reign Length:** 8 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elijah

**Death:** God cursed him and his bowels fell out

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem, but not in the tomb of the kings

Jehoram became king after his father Jehoshaphat died. Jehoshaphat had many sons, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn:

**2 Chronicles 21:1:** “Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

2 And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

3 And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn.”

Jehoram began reigning when he was 32 years old and he reigned over Judah for 8 years. He was a wicked ruler. His wife was Ahab's daughter:

**2 Kings 8:17:** "Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

18 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord."

He was so evil that he murdered all of his brothers:

**2 Chronicles 21:4:** "Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel."

Because of his great wickedness, God sent Elijah to tell him that God was going to curse him and he would die:

**2 Chronicles 21:12:** "And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,  
13 But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself:

14 Behold, with a great plague will the Lord smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:

15 And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day."

The Lord also stirred up the Philistines and the Arabians against him. They broke into the king's palace and stole everything that he had – including his wives and children:

**2 Chronicles 21:16:** “Moreover the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians:

17 And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.”

The only son they left behind was Jehoahaz, his youngest. While Jehoram was king the Edomites revolted. Jehoram fought against them but was unable to end the revolt:

**2 Kings 8:20:** “In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.

21 So Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him: and he rose by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots: and the people fled into their tents.

22 Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.”

After Edom revolted, Libnah revolted as well – but Jehoram was unable to bring them back under his control. Nor was that the end of his problems. God kept his promise and smote the king with a terrible disease. After Jehoram had been sick for two years, his bowels fell out and he died. He was a wicked man

who departed without ever having been desired. He was buried in Jerusalem, but not in the tomb of the kings:

**2 Chronicles 21:20:** “Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.”

After he died, Ahaziah his son ruled in his stead.

# Ahaziah

**How He Became King:** After the death of his father Jehoram

**When He Began Reigning:** 22 years old

**Reign Length:** 1 year

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Killed by Jehu

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

Ahaziah became king after his father Jehoram died. He began reigning over Judah when he was 22 years old and he only reigned for a single year. He was a wicked ruler. His mother was the daughter of Israel's wicked king Omri:

**2 Kings 8:26:** “Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

27 And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.”

When Ahab's son Joram (the king of Israel) attacked the Syrians, Ahaziah joined forces with him. During the battle Joram was injured:

**2 Kings 8:28:** “And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria

in Ramothgilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

29 And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.”

When Joram was wounded, Ahaziah went down to see him. While he was visiting him Jehu began murdering Joram and his family. Since Ahaziah sided with Joram and tried to defend him, Jehu killed Ahaziah as well. The king was then carried back to Jerusalem and buried:

**2 Kings 9:27:** “But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

28 And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulchre with his fathers in the city of David.”

After his death, his mother Athaliah seized the throne.

# Athaliah

**How She Became King:** By murdering the royal family

**When She Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 7 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of Queen:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Jehoiada the priest had her executed for treason

**Burial:** Unknown

Athaliah was the daughter of Israel's wicked king Omri:

**2 Kings 8:26:** “Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.”

When Ahaziah her son died, Athaliah murdered the royal family and seized power. However, Jehosheba (Ahaziah's sister) hid one of the king's sons in the Temple for six years:

**2 Kings 11:1:** “And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.

3 And he was with her hid in the house of the

Lord six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.”

In the seventh year Jehoiada the priest overthrew Athaliah and had her executed for treason:

**2 Kings 11:13:** “And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the Lord.

14 And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.

15 But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, Have her forth without the ranges: and him that followeth her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be slain in the house of the Lord.

16 And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house: and there was she slain.”

After she was executed, Joash the son of Ahaziah ruled in her stead.



# Joash (Jehoash)

**How He Became King:** After Jehoiada overthrew Joash's grandmother

**When He Began Reigning:** 7 years old

**Reign Length:** 40 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Started good, but went bad

**Prophet:** Joel

**Death:** Murdered by his own servants

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

In the seventh year of Athaliah's reign, Jehoiada the priest staged a coup and had Athaliah overthrown and executed. Joash was then anointed as king over Judah:

**2 Kings 11:12:** "And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king."

When Joash was crowned king at the tender age of 7, Jehoiada made a covenant with the people that they should serve the Lord. They destroyed the house of Baal and executed Baal's priests:

**2 Kings 11:17:** "And Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people; between the king also and the people.

18 And all the people of the land went into the

house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the Lord.”

Joash served the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest. He told the Levites to repair the Temple, and rebuked them when they failed to do so:

**2 Chronicles 24:5:** “And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the Lord, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim.”

The king commanded that they make a chest to receive the offerings. When the people brought money into the chest, the money was used to repair the Temple. The repairs were finally completed, and the Temple furnishings were brought in and dedicated:

**2 Chronicles 24:12:** “And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of

the house of the Lord, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the Lord, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the Lord.

13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

14 And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the Lord, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord continually all the days of Jehoiada.”

Jehoiada the priest lived to be 130 years old, and then he died. After his death Joash stopped serving the Lord. He abandoned the Temple and began serving idols. When God sent Jehoiada's son Zechariah to rebuke the king for forsaking the Lord, the king had him stoned:

**2 Chronicles 24:21:** “And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the Lord.

22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The Lord look upon it, and require it.”

Later, when Hazael king of Syria attacked him, Joash looted the Temple and bribed him to leave:

**2 Kings 12:18:** “And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and

Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the Lord, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem."

After he did this his own servants rose up against him and murdered him. Joash was then buried in Jerusalem:

**2 Kings 12:20:** "And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla.

21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead."

His son Amaziah then reigned in his stead.

# Amaziah

**How He Became King:** After his father Joash was murdered

**When He Began Reigning:** 25 years old

**Reign Length:** 29 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Started good, but went bad

**Prophet:** Simply called “a prophet”

**Death:** Murdered by conspirators

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

After Joash was murdered by his servants, Amaziah became king. He executed the servants who murdered his father:

**2 Kings 14:5:** “And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.”

Amaziah began reigning when he was 25 years old and he reigned over Judah for 29 years. At first he did that which was right:

**2 Kings 14:2:** “He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.”

When Amaziah was faced with war, his first instinct was

to hire an army to fight for him. However, when an unnamed man of God came and rebuked him for it, Amaziah obeyed the Lord. The result was a military victory:

**2 Chronicles 25:6:** “He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

7 But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the Lord is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

8 But if thou wilt go, do it; be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

9 And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The Lord is able to give thee much more than this.

10 Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

11 And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.”

Sadly, this was the beginning of his downfall. When Amaziah returned home from those victories he brought back the Edomites' false gods and worshiped them:

**2 Chronicles 25:14:** “Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the

children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.”

The Lord sent a prophet to rebuke him, but the king refused to listen to him and threatened to kill the prophet:

**2 Chronicles 25:15:** “Wherefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.”

After this Amaziah decided to attack Israel. Joash (the king of Israel) warned him that he was being very foolish, but Amaziah refused to listen:

**2 Chronicles 25:19:** “Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?  
20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.”

The result was an utter catastrophe. Not only did Amaziah

lose the battle, but Israel broke down the walls of Jerusalem and looted the Temple:

**2 Chronicles 25:23:** “And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

24 And he took all the gold and the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obbededom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.”

Some time after this a conspiracy rose up against the king, and he was murdered:

**2 Kings 14:19:** “Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem: and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there.”

After the king was murdered, his body was brought back to Jerusalem and buried:

**2 Kings 14:20:** “And they brought him on horses: and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.”

Azariah his son (also known as Uzziah) then ruled in his stead.



# Azariah (Uzziah)

**How He Became King:** After his father Amaziah was murdered

**When He Began Reigning:** 16 years old

**Reign Length:** 52 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Zechariah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos

**Death:** Died a leper due to his disobedience

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem, but not in the tomb of the kings

Azariah became king after conspirators murdered his father. He began reigning when he was 16 years old, and he reigned over Judah for 52 years. At the beginning of his reign he did that which was right:

**2 Kings 15:1:** “In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;”

The Bible says that as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper:

**2 Chronicles 26:5:** “And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in

the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper."

The Lord gave him a series of military victories against the Philistines and the Arabians, and other nations began sending him gifts:

**2 Chronicles 26:6:** "And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.

7 And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.

8 And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly."

The king strengthened both Jerusalem and the country:

**2 Chronicles 26:9:** "Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.

10 Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry."

Azariah also built a mighty army:

**2 Chronicles 26:11:** "Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by

bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.

12 The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred.

13 And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

14 And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong."

However, the king became proud, and that pride led to his downfall. One day Azariah went into the Temple and decided to burn incense – even though that job was for the priests alone. When the priests tried to stop him, the king became angry with them. That is when God intervened:

**2 Chronicles 26:16:** "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the Lord, that were valiant men:

18 And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah,

to burn incense unto the Lord, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the Lord God.

19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar.”

Because of his sin God smote Azariah with leprosy, and he remained a leper until he died. In his pride he exalted himself and defied God's commands, and in return God greatly humiliated him. When he died he was buried in Jerusalem, but because he was a leper he was not buried in the tomb of the kings:

**2 Chronicles 26:23:** “So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.”

Jotham his son then reigned in his stead.

# Jotham

**How He Became King:** After his father Azariah died

**When He Began Reigning:** 25 years old

**Reign Length:** 16 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Isaiah, Hosea, Micah

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

Jotham became king after his father Azariah died. He began reigning when he was 25 years old and he reigned over Judah for 16 years. He did that which was right:

**2 Kings 15:32:** “In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.

33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.

34 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.”

The king learned from the mistakes of his father, and he did *not* sin against God by entering into the Temple to offer incense. However, even though Jotham served the Lord, the people did not follow his example. They continued to act corruptly:

**2 Chronicles 27:2:** “And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the Lord. And the people did yet corruptly.”

Like his father, he continued to strengthen the country:

**2 Chronicles 27:3:** “He built the high gate of the house of the Lord, and on the wall of Ophel he built much.

4 Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers.”

Jotham defeated the Ammonites and became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 27:5:** “He fought also with the king of the Ammonites, and prevailed against them. And the children of Ammon gave him the same year an hundred talents of silver, and ten thousand measures of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. So much did the children of Ammon pay unto him, both the second year, and the third.

6 So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.”

When he died, he was buried in Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 27:9:** “And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Ahaz then reigned in his stead.

# Ahaz

**How He Became King:** After his father Jotham died

**When He Began Reigning:** 20 years old

**Reign Length:** 16 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Isaiah, Hosea, Micah

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem, but not in the tomb of the kings

Ahaz became king over Judah after his father Jotham died. He began reigning when he was 20 years old and he reigned over Judah for 16 years. He was a very wicked ruler:

**2 Kings 16:1:** “In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.

2 Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the Lord his God, like David his father.”

Not only did he serve false gods, but he was so wicked that he offered his own son as a human sacrifice:

**2 Kings 16:3:** “But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel.

4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the

high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.”

Because of his many sins, God delivered him into the hands of his enemies. The Syrians joined forces with Pekah king of Israel, and when they attacked Judah they killed more than a hundred thousand men, along with the king's son:

**2 Chronicles 28:5:** “Wherefore the Lord his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.

6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers.

7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king.”

But that was not all. God also sent the Edomites and the Philistines against Ahaz. They invaded cities and carried away captives:

**2 Chronicles 28:17:** “For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.

18 The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederath, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo



also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.

19 For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the Lord.”

However, despite all of this, Ahaz refused to turn to the Lord. Instead he looted the Temple and used the money to hire the Assyrians to come to his aid:

**2 Kings 16:7:** “So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.

8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king’s house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria.

9 And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.”

When King Ahaz went to meet the Assyrians, he saw an altar to a pagan god and decided to make one for himself:

**2 Kings 16:10:** “And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof.”

The reason he did it was because he thought the false gods

of Damascus had helped them win victories, so he wanted to worship them so they would help him as well:

**2 Chronicles 28:22:** “And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord: this is that king Ahaz.

23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.”

The king had this new altar installed in the Temple, and commanded that sacrifices be offered on it instead of on the altar that God had designated. He also cut in pieces the vessels in the Temple and had the Temple doors closed:

**2 Chronicles 28:24:** “And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.”

Besides replacing God's altar with a false altar and filling Jerusalem with pagan altars, the king took it upon himself to do the work of a priest and offer sacrifices. Urijah the high priest obeyed the king and did everything he asked; he did not oppose the king or try to stop him from desecrating the Temple.

When the king died, he was buried in Jerusalem but not in the tomb of the kings:

**2 Chronicles 28:27:** “And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah

his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Hezekiah then reigned in his stead.



# Hezekiah

**How He Became King:** After his father Ahaz died

**When He Began Reigning:** 25 years old

**Reign Length:** 29 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Isaiah, Hosea, Micah

**Death:** Died after God extended his life for 15 years

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

Hezekiah became king after his father Ahaz died. He began reigning when he was 25 years old and he reigned over Judah for 29 years. He did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 29:1:** “Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.”

He removed the high places, repaired the Temple, and restarted the sacrifices:

**2 Chronicles 29:3:** “He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.

4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites,

and gathered them together into the east street,  
5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites,  
sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house  
of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth  
the filthiness out of the holy place.

6 For our fathers have trespassed, and done that  
which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God,  
and have forsaken him, and have turned away  
their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and  
turned their backs.

7 Also they have shut up the doors of the porch,  
and put out the lamps, and have not burned  
incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy  
place unto the God of Israel.”

Not only did he restore the Temple (after his father Ahaz  
had defiled it), but he also kept the Passover for the first time in  
generations:

**2 Chronicles 30:1:** “And Hezekiah sent to all  
Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to  
Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come  
to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep  
the passover unto the Lord God of Israel.”

Some people refused to come, but many others came and  
celebrated the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread with  
great rejoicing:

**2 Chronicles 30:21:** “And the children of Israel  
that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of  
unleavened bread seven days with great  
gladness: and the Levites and the priests  
praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud  
instruments unto the Lord.

22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the

Levites that taught the good knowledge of the Lord: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the Lord God of their fathers.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with gladness.

24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

25 And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.”

After this celebration there was a revival among the people. The people gathered together and destroyed the idols that were in the land of Judah:

**2 Chronicles 31:1:** “Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and

Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.”

Hezekiah also appointed priests and made sure they carried out their Temple duties:

**2 Chronicles 31:2:** “And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the Lord.

3 He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the Lord.”

The king also commanded the people to give their tithe to the Levites. They did so, and the Levites were greatly blessed:

**2 Chronicles 31:4:** “Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the Lord.

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

6 And concerning the children of Israel and



Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the Lord their God, and laid them by heaps.

...

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the Lord hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store."

Hezekiah served the Lord with all his heart:

**2 Chronicles 31:20:** "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord his God.

21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered."

The Lord blessed Hezekiah and was with him. Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria and defeated the Philistines:

**2 Kings 18:7:** "And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

8 He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city."

However, the king of Assyria sent an army to Judah and conquered the nation's fenced cities. Instead of seeking the Lord,

Hezekiah tried to bribe the Assyrian king and pay him to leave. When there was not enough money in the palace to pay the bribe, Hezekiah looted the Temple to raise the rest of the money:

**2 Kings 18:14:** “And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

15 And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house.

16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.”

However, the bribe did not work. Instead of leaving, the king of Assyria sent his army against Jerusalem:

**2 Kings 18:17:** “And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.”

When the Assyrians taunted the Israelites and told them that their God could not deliver them, Hezekiah sought the Lord:

**2 Kings 19:1:** “And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and

covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.

2 And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

4 It may be the Lord thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the Lord thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.”

The prophet Isaiah told the king that God would make them return to their own land. Rabshakeh did leave, but he sent messengers to threaten Israel. God then said that He would defend Jerusalem, and that night the angel of the Lord went to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 people:

**2 Kings 19:35:** “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.”

When Sennacherib returned home, his sons murdered him.

After this, Hezekiah fell sick, and Isaiah told him that he was going to die. When Hezekiah cried out to the Lord and begged God to spare him, the Lord agreed to give him fifteen

more years of life:

**2 Kings 20:4:** “And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying,  
5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord.  
6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.”

After he recovered, Babylon sent an envoy to the king because they heard that he had been sick. Hezekiah proudly showed off all of his wealth and power:

**2 Kings 20:12:** “At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.  
13 And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.”

When Isaiah told Hezekiah that one day the Babylonians would come and carry away everything he had shown them, including Hezekiah's own children, Hezekiah replied that he

didn't really care as long as things were good during his lifetime (2 Kings 20:14-19).

When Hezekiah died, he was buried with great honor in Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 32:33:** “And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Manasseh then reigned in his stead.



# Manasseh

**How He Became King:** After his father Hezekiah died

**When He Began Reigning:** 12 years old

**Reign Length:** 55 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil, then good

**Prophet:** Habakkuk

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in his own house

Manasseh became king when he was 12 years old, and he reigned over Judah for 55 years. At the beginning of his reign he was an extremely wicked ruler:

**2 Kings 21:1:** “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.”

He served Baal and put pagan altars in the Temple:

**2 Kings 21:3:** “For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

4 And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of

which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord.

As if that were not enough, Manasseh also offered his own sons as burnt offerings, and shed a great deal of innocent blood:

**2 Kings 21:6:** “And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

7 And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the Lord said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

8 Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.”

In fact, Manasseh was so wicked that he seduced Israel to be more evil than the Canaanites that had originally lived in the land:

**2 Kings 21:9:** “But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel.

Because of his great sins, God sent Assyria against him. The Assyrians bound him and carried him to Babylon:



**2 Chronicles 33:11:** “Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.”

At this point Manasseh's life changed dramatically. While the king was in Babylon he humbled himself and prayed to God, and the Lord heard him:

**2 Chronicles 33:12:** “And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,  
13 And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God.”

When Manasseh returned he was a changed man. He took away the false gods, repaired the altar of the Lord, and commanded Judah to serve God:

**2 Chronicles 33:15:** “And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city.  
16 And he repaired the altar of the Lord, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel.”

However, despite his repentance and his change of heart, God's wrath had not been pacified. The Lord was still determined

to scatter His people among the nations:

**Jeremiah 15:1:** “Then said the Lord unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

2 And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the Lord; Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.

3 And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the Lord: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.

4 And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.”

When the king died, he was buried in his own home:

**2 Chronicles 33:20:** “So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house; and Amon his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Amon then ruled in his stead.

# Amon

**How He Became King:** After his father Manasseh died

**When He Began Reigning:** 22 years old

**Reign Length:** 2 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Murdered by his servants

**Burial:** Buried in the garden of Uzza

After Manasseh died, his son Amon became king. He began reigning when he was 22 years old, and he ruled over Judah for two years. He was a wicked king:

**2 Kings 21:19:** “Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

20 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh did.

21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them:

22 And he forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the Lord.”

Amon was murdered by his own servants in his own house:

**2 Chronicles 33:24:** “And his servants

conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.”

After he was murdered, the servants who killed him were put to death. Amon was buried in the garden of Uzza:

**2 Kings 21:26:** “And he was buried in his sepulchre in the garden of Uzza: and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.”

The people then made Amon's son Josiah king over Judah.

# Josiah

**How He Became King:** After his father Amon was murdered

**When He Began Reigning:** 8 years old

**Reign Length:** 31 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Good

**Prophet:** Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah

**Death:** Died of his injuries after fighting the king of Egypt

**Burial:** Buried in Jerusalem

After Amon was murdered, his son Josiah became king over Judah. He began reigning when he was 8 years old and he reigned for 31 years. He did that which was right:

**2 Kings 22:1:** “Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.”

Josiah told the high priest Hilkiah to repair the Temple, and during the repair process they found the book of the law. When Shaphan the scribe read it to the king, the king became very upset and tore his clothes:

**2 Kings 22:10:** “And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before

the king.

11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

13 Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.”

God told the king that because he had humbled himself and wept, the Lord would have mercy on him. God would still bring judgment and destruction upon Jerusalem, but He would not do it during Josiah's lifetime:

**2 Kings 22:16:** “Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:

17 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.

18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the Lord, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard;

19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when

thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.

20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.”

Josiah gathered everyone to Jerusalem and read them the book of the law. He made a covenant with them to serve God:

**2 Kings 23:1:** “And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.”

The king ended Baal worship, destroyed the houses of the sodomites, and defiled the high places. He also destroyed the altar that Jeroboam had made, thus fulfilling an ancient prophecy:

**2 Kings 23:15:** “Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.”

The king commanded Israel to keep the Passover, and he removed the wizards and idols from the land:

**2 Kings 23:23:** “But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the Lord in Jerusalem.

24 Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.”

King Josiah turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his might. Yet, despite that, the Lord would not turn from His wrath:

**2 Kings 23:25:** “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither



after him arose there any like him.

26 Notwithstanding the Lord turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.

27 And the Lord said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

After these things, the king became proud and decided to fight the king of Egypt, even though the Egyptian king had no quarrel with him. Josiah lost the fight and was brought back to Jerusalem, where he died of his injuries:

**2 Chronicles 35:20:** "After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Charchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.

24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.”

After he died, his son Jehoahaz was made king.

# Jehoahaz

**How He Became King:** After his father Josiah died

**When He Began Reigning:** 23 years old

**Reign Length:** 3 months

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Death:** Taken by the king of Egypt and died in Egypt

**Burial:** Unknown

Jehoahaz became king after his father Josiah died. He began reigning when he was 23 years old, and he reigned over Judah for three months. He was a wicked king:

**2 Kings 23:31:** “Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

32 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.”

His brief reign ended when the king of Egypt imprisoned him and brought him to Egypt, where he died:

**2 Kings 23:34:** “And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.”

After Pharaoh removed Jehoahaz from power, his brother Jehoiakim (also known as Eliakim) reigned in his stead.

# Jehoiakim (Eliakim)

**How He Became King:** Pharaoh put him in power

**When He Began Reigning:** 25 years old

**Reign Length:** 11 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Death:** Uncertain; carried off to Babylon

**Burial:** Unknown

After Pharaoh removed Jehoahaz from power, he put Josiah's son Jehoiakim on the throne. Jehoiakim began reigning when he was 25 years old, and he ruled over Judah for 11 years. He was a wicked king:

**2 Kings 23:36:** “Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

37 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.”

When Pharaoh demanded tribute from the country, Jehoiakim taxed the land in order to raise the funds:

**2 Kings 23:33:** “And Pharaohnechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a

talent of gold. . .

35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaohnechoh."

During his reign, God sent Jeremiah to prophesy to the king in order to get him to repent and change his ways. Instead of repenting, however, the king took Jeremiah's words and burned them:

**Jeremiah 36:21:** "So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words."

Because he despised the words of the Lord, God promised to curse him:

**Jeremiah 36:30:** "Therefore thus saith the Lord of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead

body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

31 And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not."

When Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem, Jehoiakim served him for three years, but then rebelled. The Lord was against Jehoiakim and sent armies against Judah to destroy it:

**2 Kings 24:1:** "In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

2 And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

3 Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;

4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon."

Jehoiakim's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar did not go well. Nebuchadnezzar defeated him and carried him away in chains to Babylon:

**2 Chronicles 36:6:** "Against him came up

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the Lord to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.”

His son Jehoiachin then reigned in his stead.



# Jehoiachin

**How He Became King:** After his father Jehoiakim was defeated by Nebuchadnezzar

**When He Began Reigning:** 8 years old

**Reign Length:** 3 months

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Death:** Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and took him to Babylon

**Burial:** Unknown

After Jehoiakim died, his son Jehoiachin became ruler over Judah. If you examine the Scriptures you will see that the Bible gives two very different ages for the start of his rule:

**2 Chronicles 36:9:** "Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord."

**2 Kings 24:8:** "Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem."

So what's going on here? Well, the book of Jeremiah gives us a hint. It tells us that at this point in history Israel had a king *and* a queen:

**Jeremiah 13:18:** “Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.”

Legally, Jehoiachin became king when he was 8 years old. However, his mother ruled in his stead until the king turned 18. That is why for a period of time the land had a king and a queen, and that is why the Bible gives two different ages.

Jehoiachin's reign was short. He was a wicked ruler and only reigned for three months. During his reign Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and conquered it:

**2 Kings 24:10:** “At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.  
11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.  
12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.”

Nebuchadnezzar achieved a decisive victory. He carried away all the treasures of the Temple and of the palace. He also carried away Jerusalem's people, princes, and craftsmen, leaving behind only the very poorest people. Finally, Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jehoiachin, his mother, and his wives to Babylon:

**2 Kings 24:13:** “And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said.

14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

16 And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.”

Nebuchadnezzar then made Zedekiah (Jehoiachin's father's brother) king over Judah.



# Zedekiah

**How He Became King:** Appointed by King Nebuchadnezzar

**When He Began Reigning:** 21 years old

**Reign Length:** 11 years

**Ruled Over:** Judah

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Jeremiah

**Death:** Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, took him to Babylon, and burned him alive

**Burial:** Unknown

Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He was appointed king by Nebuchadnezzar after the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. Zedekiah began reigning when he was 21 years old, and he reigned over Judah for 11 years. He was a wicked king:

**2 Kings 24:17:** “And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

18 Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

19 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.”

The king was not alone in his wickedness. During his days the people and the priests did very wickedly. God sent prophets to warn them to repent, but they refused to listen:

**2 Chronicles 36:14:** “Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.”

During Zedekiah's reign the king rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah warned him that God was going to fight against Israel, and told the king that if he did not repent then God would destroy the Temple. However, Zedekiah refused to listen. When the Babylonians came against Jerusalem, Zedekiah had Jeremiah put in prison:

**Jeremiah 32:2:** “For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.

3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;”

Just as Jeremiah had foretold, Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and conquered it:

**2 Kings 25:1:** “And it came to pass in the ninth

year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.

2 And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

3 And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.

4 And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

5 And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him.”

Nebuchadnezzar did exactly what Jeremiah had prophesied. He looted the Temple, burned it, and destroyed the walls of Jerusalem:

**2 Chronicles 36:18:** “And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of

the kingdom of Persia:

**21** To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years."

Zedekiah did not fare any better. Nebuchadnezzar killed Zedekiah's son, put out the king's eyes, and carried him away to Babylon:

**2 Kings 25:6:** "So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him.

**7** And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon."

The book of Jeremiah tells us that Nebuchadnezzar burned Zedekiah alive:

**Zedekiah 29:22:** "And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The Lord make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;"

Judah was carried out of the land and went into exile. The days of the kings of Judah had come to an end.



# **The Kings of Israel**



# Jeroboam

**How He Became King:** Anointed by the prophet Ahijah

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 22 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Ahijah

**Death:** Struck dead by God

**Burial:** Unknown

When Solomon sinned against the Lord and began serving other gods, the Lord sent the prophet Ahijah to anoint Jeroboam as ruler over 10 of the tribes of Israel:

**I Kings 11:29:** “And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the

Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.”

God told Jeroboam that if he followed then Lord then He would build him a sure house. (However, as we will see, Jeroboam did not follow the Lord, and his royal line was very short-lived.)

When Solomon found out about this, he tried to kill Jeroboam. However, Jeroboam escaped by fleeing to Egypt and staying there until the king died:

**1 Kings 11:40:** “Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.”

Keep in mind that God had told Solomon *in advance* that He was going to take these tribes away from Solomon's children, and that this entire event was of God (1 Kings 11:11). However, Solomon did not care. At this point in his life he no longer cared about God's laws or decrees. Solomon was determined to kill Jeroboam, even though God had chosen him – but Solomon failed.

After Solomon died, Jeroboam returned and asked Rehoboam to lighten the heavy load that Solomon had placed on the people:

**1 Kings 12:2:** “And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee."

However, Rehoboam refused the request and said that he would make things even worse. When he did this Israel rebelled and made Jeroboam their king:

**1 Kings 12:20:** "And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only."

Once Jeroboam became king over Israel, he realized that people were going to continue to go to Jerusalem in order to worship God at the Temple. Since Jerusalem was under the control of Rehoboam, the king worried that the people would begin to like Rehoboam again and would stage a revolt. In order to stop people from going to Jerusalem, Jeroboam built two golden calves and commanded people to worship them:

**1 Kings 12:26:** "And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.”

Jeroboam also cast the Levites out of the land (2 Chronicles 13:9).

The Lord was very displeased with what Jeroboam had done. He sent a man of God to tell Jeroboam that one day a king named Josiah would take the king's false priests and burn their bones on his false altar:

**1 Kings 13:1:** “And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.”

Despite this warning, Jeroboam still refused to repent:

**1 Kings 13:33:** “After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high

places.

34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.”

During Jeroboam's reign there was war between him and Rehoboam, and between him and Abijah (Rehoboam's son). However, when Jeroboam attacked Judah, Abijah cried out to God and the Lord defeated Jeroboam's armies:

**2 Chronicles 13:17:** “And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord God of their fathers.

19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.”

This was a crushing blow to Jeroboam's military might; he was never able to recover from this defeat (2 Chronicles 13:20).

When Jeroboam's son became ill, he sent his wife in disguise to talk to the prophet Ahijah to see if his child would recover. Ahijah told her that the child would die and that God would utterly destroy Jeroboam's house because of his sin:

**I Kings 14:7:** “Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

8 And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not

been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;

9 But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:

10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the Lord hath spoken it.

12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die."

God said that His wrath against Jeroboam was so great that the dead child would be the only one of his children that would be buried:

**1 Kings 14:13:** "And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam."

Jeroboam reigned for 22 years. The Lord then struck him and he died:



**2 Chronicles 13:20:** “Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the Lord struck him, and he died.”

After he died, his son Nadab reigned in his stead.



# Nadab

**How He Became King:** After his father Jeroboam died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 2 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Assassinated by Baasha

**Burial:** Not buried in a grave

Nadab began reigning after his father Jeroboam died. He reigned over Israel for two years, and did evil:

**I Kings 15:25:** “And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years.

26 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

His reign was very short-lived. While Nadab was waging war against the Philistines, Baasha conspired against him and murdered him:

**I Kings 15:27:** “And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah

did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.”

After Nadab was assassinated, Baasha reigned in his stead.

# Baasha

**How He Became King:** After assassinating Nadab

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 24 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Prophet:** Jehu

**Type of King:** Evil

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Tirzah

Baasha became king by assassinating Nadab and seizing power:

**I Kings 15:27:** “And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.”

Baasha put an end to Jeroboam's royal line. When he seized power he killed the entire house of Jeroboam:

**I Kings 15:29:** “And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite:”

Baasha ruled over Israel for 24 years, and did evil. He committed the same sins as Jeroboam:

**I Kings 15:33:** “In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years.  
34 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

Because of this, the Lord sent the prophet Jehu to tell Baasha that God was going to utterly destroy Baasha's house, just as God had destroyed Jeroboam's house:

**I Kings 16:1:** “Then the word of the Lord came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying,  
2 Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;  
3 Behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.  
4 Him that dieth of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth of his in the fields shall the fowls of the air eat.”

During Baasha's reign, he waged war against Asa (the king of Judah):

**2 Chronicles 16:1:** “In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa

king of Judah.”

Asa looted the Temple and used the money to pay the Syrians to attack Israel. When the Syrians did as Asa asked, Baasha abandoned Ramah and returned home:

**2 Chronicles 16:4:** “And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.

5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease.”

When Baasha died, he was buried in Tirzah:

**1 Kings 16:6:** “So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah: and Elah his son reigned in his stead.”

Elah his son then reigned in his stead.





# Elah

**How He Became King:** After his father Baasha died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 2 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Assassinated by his servant Zimri while getting drunk

**Burial:** Unknown

After Baasha died, Elah his son ruled over Israel for two years:

**I Kings 16:8:** “In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.”

One day when Elah was getting drunk in the house of Arza, his servant Zimri conspired against him and assassinated him:

**I Kings 16:9:** “And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah.  
10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.”

Zimri then seized power and reigned in his stead.



# Zimri

**How He Became King:** After assassinating Elah

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 7 days

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Burned down the palace and died in the flames

**Burial:** Unknown

After Zimri assassinated Elah, he reigned for seven days:

**I Kings 16:15:** “In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.”

When the nation of Israel found out what Zimri had done, they made Omri their king. When Omri came against him, Zimri burned down the palace and died in the fire:

**I Kings 16:16:** “And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.

17 And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of

the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died."

After his death, Omri ruled over Israel.

# Omri

**How He Became King:** After Zimri killed himself

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 12 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Samaria

When Israel discovered that Zimri had assassinated King Elah, the nation appointed Omri as their king:

**I Kings 16:16:** “And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp.”

Omri then went up against Zimri and besieged the city of Tirzah. When Zimri saw that all was lost, he burned down the king's palace and died in the fire (1 Kings 16:18). Omri then struggled against Tibni, because some of the nation supported Omri and the rest supported Tibni. Over time Tibni lost, and after he died Omri became king:

**I Kings 16:21:** “Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.

22 But the people that followed Omri prevailed

against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned."

Omri reigned over Israel for 12 years. He did worse evil than those who came before him:

**1 Kings 16:23:** "In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.

24 And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver; and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

25 But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him.

26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger with their vanities."

When he died, he was buried in Samaria:

**1 Kings 16:28:** "So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead."

His son Ahab then became king over Israel.

# Ahab

**How He Became King:** After his father Omri died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 22 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elijah, Micaiah

**Death:** Killed in battle

**Burial:** Buried in Samaria

Ahab became king after his father Omri died. He reigned for 22 years, and he was even more wicked than the rulers who came before him:

**1 Kings 16:29:** “And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him.”

King Ahab married the wicked woman Jezebel and worshiped Baal:

**1 Kings 16:31:** “And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

33 And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."

Elijah the prophet had his ministry during the reign of Ahab. Elijah told Ahab that there would be no rain but by his word, and there was no rain for three years. Ahab tried to find Elijah so he could kill him, but the Lord watched over Elijah and protected him. In the third year God told Elijah to go to Ahab, and the prophet challenged the king to a contest:

**1 Kings 18:17:** "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."

Elijah said that both sides were to build altars, but neither were to light their sacrifices. Instead they were to call out to their gods and ask their gods to light the sacrifices for them, in order to prove that they were the true God. The servants of Baal spent hours calling out, but nothing happened and their sacrifice remained unlit. When Elijah called out to God, though, fire came down from Heaven and consumed both the sacrifice and the altar itself (1 Kings 18:20-38).

Elijah then commanded that the prophets of Baal be killed. After they were dead, Elijah told Ahab that it was going to rain (I



Kings 18:41-45).

When Jezebel heard what had happened, she said that she was going to kill Elijah:

**1 Kings 19:2:** “Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.”

Elijah then fled to Horeb, where God spoke to him and told him to anoint Jehu as king over Israel.

Benhadad, king of Syria, fought against Samaria. When God delivered them into Ahab's hands the king defeated them, but instead of destroying them he made peace with Benhadad and sent him away. God sent a prophet to tell Ahab that since he refused to kill Benhadad, God would kill him instead:

**1 Kings 20:42:** “And he said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.

43 And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.”

After this Ahab saw Naboth's vineyard and coveted it. Ahab tried to purchase it, but Naboth refused to sell it. When the king told Jezebel about this, she arranged for Naboth to be murdered. After Naboth was dead the king seized his vineyard. Elijah met him there and told the king that the dogs would lick his blood in the same place where they licked Naboth's blood:

**1 Kings 21:17:** “And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the

vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.”

Furthermore, God said that He was going to destroy Ahab's house as utterly and completely as He had destroyed Jeroboam's house:

**1 Kings 21:21:** “Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,  
22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.”

However, when Ahab put on sackcloth and wept, God said that He would bring the judgment in the days of Ahab's sons, and not in Ahab's days.

When Ahab went to attack Ramothgilead, he persuaded Jehoshaphat (the king of Judah) to help him in battle. The prophet Micaiah warned them that the battle would not lead to victory:

**1 Kings 22:15:** “So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.  
16 And the king said unto him, How many times

shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the Lord?

17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.”

Ahab became angry with Micaiah and had him thrown in prison. However, Micaiah was correct. During the battle Ahab was shot by a chance arrow and wounded, and he died of his injuries:

**I Kings 22:34:** “And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

38 And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the Lord which he spake.”

After he died, his body was brought back to Samaria and buried. His son Ahaziah then ruled over Israel in his stead.



# Ahaziah

**How He Became King:** After his father Ahab died in battle

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 2 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elijah

**Death:** Died of his illness after asking Baal if he would recover

**Burial:** Unknown

After Ahab died, his son Ahaziah ruled over Israel for two years. He did evil and served Baal:

**I Kings 22:51:** "Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

52 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:

53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the Lord God of Israel, according to all that his father had done."

During his reign, Moab rebelled against Israel (2 Kings 1:1).

One day Ahaziah fell through a lattice and was injured. The king then sent messengers to ask Baalzebub if he would recover:

**2 Kings 1:2:** “And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.”

When the king did this, the angel of the Lord came to Elijah and told him to tell the king that since he had asked Baal and not God, he would die:

**2 Kings 1:3:** “But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?”

4 Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.”

This answer did not sit well with Ahaziah. The king sent two groups of 50 men, each led by a captain, to have Elijah arrested. When these groups confronted Elijah, the prophet called down fire from Heaven and consumed them:

**2 Kings 1:9:** “Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven,

and consumed him and his fifty.

11 Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.

12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.”

King Ahaziah then sent a third group of 50 against Elijah. However, this time the captain approached Elijah with fear and trembling. When he pleaded for his life, the angel told Elijah it was safe to accompany him:

**2 Kings 1:13:** “And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.

14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

15 And the angel of the Lord said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.”

Elijah then told the king that he was going to die. That is exactly what happened:

**2 Kings 1:16:** “And he said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast sent

messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

17 So he died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son."

After the king died, his brother Jehoram reigned in his stead.



# Jehoram (Joram)

**How He Became King:** After his brother Ahaziah died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 12 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elisha

**Death:** Assassinated by Jehu

**Burial:** His dead body was cast into Naboth's field

After Ahaziah died, his brother Jehoram ruled over Israel for 12 years and did evil. He did not worship Baal like his parents had, but he still clung to the two golden calves of Jeroboam:

**2 Kings 3:1:** “Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

2 And he wrought evil in the sight of the Lord; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made.

3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.”

When Jehoram became king, Moab rebelled and stopped providing their tribute of sheep, rams, and wool. Jehoram persuaded Jehoshaphat (the king of Judah) to help him attack Moab:

**2 Kings 3:4:** “And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool.

5 But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.

7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses.”

The kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom gathered together and went out against Moab. However, during their journey they ran out of water. When Jehoram said that they were all going to die, Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet who could help them. When one of Jehoram's servants mentioned Elisha, the kings went to visit him and ask for his help:

**2 Kings 3:9:** “So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the Lord hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!

11 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord, that we may enquire of the Lord by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the

hands of Elijah.

12 And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the Lord is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him."

Elisha was not pleased to see them, and told them that if they had not brought Jehoshaphat along he would have refused to talk to them at all. Elisha then asked for a minstrel to come, and when the minstrel played Elisha said that they should dig some ditches:

**2 Kings 3:14:** "And Elisha said, As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.

16 And he said, Thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches.

17 For thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.

18 And this is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand."

Elisha's word came to pass. In the morning the ditches filled with water. The Moabites saw the water and thought that it was blood. They mistakenly believed that the three kings had attacked each other and were dead. When the Moabites rushed to loot Israel, the kings rose up and defeated them:

**2 Kings 3:22:** “And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood:

23 And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

24 And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country.”

As Elisha had ordered, they completely destroyed the land of the Moabites:

**2 Kings 3:25:** “And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it.”

This was not the last time that Jehoram encountered Elisha. During his reign, Naaman (the captain of the Syrian army) sought a cure for his leprosy. When one of his servants said that a prophet in Israel could cure him, the Syrian king sent Naaman to Jehoram and asked him to cure Naaman's leprosy:

**2 Kings 5:5:** “And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel,

saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy."

Jehoram was not at all pleased with this request. However, Elisha told the king to send Naaman over to visit him:

**2 Kings 5:7:** "And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

When Naaman came to Elisha, he was told to wash in the Jordan seven times. At first Naaman was angry, but when his servants talked to him Naaman did as Elisha had asked – and he was cured of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:9-27).

After this the king of Syria tried to assassinate Jehoram. However, Elisha told the king about their plans, and Jehoram was able to escape them:

**2 Kings 6:8:** "Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.

9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a

place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.”

When the king of Syria found out that Elisha was ruining his plans, he sent a great army against the city where Elisha was staying. However, the Lord sent an army of chariots of fire to protect Elisha. After Elisha prayed that God would smite the army with blindness, he led them to Jehoram. Jehoram wanted to kill them all, but Elisha commanded him to feed them and let them go:

**2 Kings 6:18:** “And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

23 And he prepared great provision for them:

and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel."

Some time after this, Benhadad besieged Samaria. The famine was so great that people began eating their own children. Jehoram became exceedingly angry and threatened to kill Elisha:

**2 Kings 6:30:** "And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh.

31 Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day."

However, the king did not carry out his threat. The prophet told the people that the next day the famine would be over and the siege would be broken. Elisha's word came to pass: the Lord made the Syrians hear the noise of a great army, and they panicked and fled. A group of lepers discovered that the Syrians were gone and they told the city porter. The Israelites then looted the Syrian camp and the famine came to an end (2 Kings 7).

During Jehoram's reign, God's judgment came upon the house of Ahab. God had promised to utterly destroy that house and He fulfilled His word. God commanded Jehu to kill the entire royal family:

**2 Kings 9:7:** "And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.

8 For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against

the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel:

9 And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah:"

Jehu obeyed the Lord. He went on a rampage and slaughtered them all – including Jehoram:

**2 Kings 9:22:** "And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?

23 And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, There is treachery, O Ahaziah.

24 And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot."

After killing Jehoram, Jehu commanded that his body be cast into Naboth's field, as punishment for what his father Ahab had done:

**2 Kings 9:25:** "Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the Lord laid this burden upon him;

26 Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the Lord; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the Lord. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the



Lord.”

After Jehoram was killed, Jehu ruled over Israel.



# Jehu

**How He Became King:** After he assassinated Jehoram

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 28 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elisha

**Death:** Unknown

**Burial:** Buried in Samaria

Jehu was anointed king over Israel by one of the children of the prophets:

**2 Kings 9:1:** "And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead:

2 And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber;

3 Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the Lord, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not."

Jehu was commanded by God to utterly destroy the house of Ahab, and that is exactly what he did. He killed Jehoram, the king of Israel:

**2 Kings 9:24:** “And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot.”

He killed Ahaziah, the king of Judah:

**2 Kings 9:27:** “But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.”

He had Jezebel thrown out a window, and then ran her over with his chariot:

**2 Kings 9:33:** “And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot.”

He had Ahab's children executed:

**2 Kings 10:7:** “And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.”

Jehu left no survivors of Ahab's house:

**2 Kings 9:11:** “So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.”

Jehu also assembled all the worshipers of Baal, slaughtered them, and destroyed Baal's temple and idols:

**2 Kings 10:25:** “And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, and slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.  
26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.  
27 And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.  
28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.”

However, Jehu did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam. He did not destroy the golden calves:

**2 Kings 10:29:** “Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan. . .  
31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.”

Despite this, since Jehu carried out God's wrath against Ahab, God said that his children would sit on the throne to the fourth generation:

**2 Kings 10:30:** “And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that

which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.”

When Jehu died, he was buried in Samaria:

**2 Kings 10:35:** “And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Jehoahaz then reigned in his stead.

# Jehoahaz

**How He Became King:** After his father Jehu died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 17 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elisha

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Samaria

Jehoahaz became king after his father Jehu died. He reigned over Israel for 17 years, and did evil:

**2 Kings 13:1:** “In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years.  
2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.”

Because of Israel's sin, God delivered them into the hand of the king of Syria:

**2 Kings 13:3:** “And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael, all their days.”

However, when Jehoahaz cried out to God, the Lord delivered them:

**2 Kings 13:4:** “And Jehoahaz besought the Lord, and the Lord hearkened unto him: for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.

5 (And the Lord gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime.”

Even though the Lord provided a deliverer, they still refused to serve God:

**2 Kings 13:6:** “Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)”

When Jehoahaz died, he was buried in Samaria:

**2 Kings 13:9:** “And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead.”

His son Joash then reigned over Israel.



## Joash (Jehoash)

**How He Became King:** After his father Jehoahaz died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 16 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Elisha

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Buried in Samaria

Joash became king after his father Jehoahaz died. He ruled Israel for 16 years, and did evil:

**2 Kings 13:10:** “In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years.

11 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein.”

During his reign, Elisha fell sick and the king came to visit him:

**2 Kings 13:14:** “Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.”

While Joash was there, Elisha told him to shoot arrows into the ground. The prophet explained that the arrows represented military victories over Syria. When the king only shot three arrows, Elisha became angry with him:

**2 Kings 13:17:** “And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them. 18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. 19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

Elisha then died (2 Kings 13:20). Just as Elisha had foretold, Joash defeated the Syrians three times:

**2 Kings 13:25:** “And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Benhadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.”

When Joash died, he was buried in Samaria:

**2 Kings 13:13:** “And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of

Israel.”

His son Jeroboam then became king over Israel.



# Jeroboam

**How He Became King:** After his father Joash died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 41 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Jonah

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Unknown

After Joash died, Jeroboam reigned over Israel for 41 years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord:

**2 Kings 14:23:** “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years.

24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”

During Jeroboam's reign the land of Israel was greatly afflicted. Because of this affliction God granted him military victories, as was spoken by the prophet Jonah:

**2 Kings 14:25:** “He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which

was of Gathhepher.”

The reason the Lord did this was because He saw that Israel was greatly oppressed and there was no one to help them:

**2 Kings 14:26:** “For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.

27 And the Lord said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.”

After Jeroboam died, Zachariah his son ruled over Israel.

# Zachariah

**How He Became King:** After his father Jeroboam died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 6 months

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Assassinated by Shallum

**Burial:** Unknown

Zachariah reigned over Israel for six months, and did evil:

**2 Kings 15:8:** “In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months.

9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”

Zachariah's reign was cut short when Shallum assassinated him and seized power:

**2 Kings 15:10:** “And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.”

This fulfilled God's promise to Jehu that his descendents to the fourth generation would rule over Israel (2 Kings 15:12).

After Zachariah was dead, Shallum reigned over Israel.



# Shallum

**How He Became King:** After he assassinated Zachariah

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 1 month

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Assassinated by Menahem

**Burial:** Unknown

Shallum seized control over Israel by assassinating King Zachariah. Shallum then reigned for one month:

**2 Kings 15:13:** “Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.”

His brief reign over Israel ended when Menahem assassinated him:

**2 Kings 15:14:** “For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.”

Menahem then ruled over Israel.



# Menahem

**How He Became King:** After he assassinated Shallum

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 10 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Uncertain

**Burial:** Unknown

Menahem became king over Israel after he assassinated Shallum. He then reigned over Israel for 10 years, and did evil:

**2 Kings 15:17:** “In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria.

18 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”

Menahem was a brutal king. Since the area around Tirzah had not supported his assassination of Shallum, he murdered them all:

**2 Kings 15:16:** “Then Menahem smote Tiphsah, and all that were therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.”

During his reign the king of Assyria came against him. Menahem taxed the wealthy in order to obtain 1,000 talents of silver, which he then gave to the Assyrians in order to get them to leave:

**2 Kings 15:19:** “And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.  
20 And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.”

When Menahem died, Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

# Pekahiah

**How He Became King:** After his father Menahem died

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 2 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Assassinated by Pekah

**Burial:** Unknown

Pekahiah ruled over Israel for two years, and did evil in the eyes of the Lord:

**2 Kings 15:23:** “In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”

His reign was cut short when Pekah, one of his captains, assassinated him:

**2 Kings 15:25:** “But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room.”

After the king was dead, Pekah seized the throne and reigned over Israel.

# Pekah

**How He Became King:** After he assassinated Pekahiah

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 20 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Oded

**Death:** Assassinated by Hoshea

**Burial:** Unknown

Pekah seized power over Israel by assassinating Pekahiah. He ruled for 20 years, and did evil:

**2 Kings 15:27:** “In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.

28 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”

Pekah attacked Jerusalem but he was unable to conquer it:

**2 Kings 16:5:** “Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.”

However, Pekah did achieve military victory against Ahaz (the king of Judah). The Lord granted Pekah victory because of

the disobedience of Ahaz (who served Baal and offered his own children as human sacrifices):

**2 Chronicles 28:5:** “Wherefore the Lord his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.

6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers.”

The Israelites then carried away 200,000 people captive. However, the prophet Oded rebuked them:

**2 Chronicles 28:8:** “And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.

9 But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the Lord God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage that reacheth up unto heaven.

10 And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: but are there not with you, even with you, sins against the Lord your God?

11 Now hear me therefore, and deliver the



captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you."

The nation obeyed the Lord. They clothed the captives and returned them:

**2 Chronicles 28:15:** "And the men which were expressed by name rose up, and took the captives, and with the spoil clothed all that were naked among them, and arrayed them, and shod them, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all the feeble of them upon asses, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brethren: then they returned to Samaria."

During Pekah's reign, large portions of the country were carried away captive by the Assyrians:

**2 Kings 15:29:** "In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria."

After this, Pekah was assassinated by Hoshea:

**2 Kings 15:30:** "And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah."

Once the king was dead, Hoshea ruled over Israel.



# Hoshea

**How He Became King:** After he assassinated Pekah

**When He Began Reigning:** Uncertain

**Reign Length:** 9 years

**Ruled Over:** Israel

**Type of King:** Evil

**Prophet:** Uncertain

**Death:** Put in prison by the king of Assyria

**Burial:** Unknown

Hoshea was the last king of Israel. He seized control over the country by assassinating Pekah. He ruled over Israel for 9 years, and did evil:

**2 Kings 17:1:** “In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.”

During his reign Hoshea conspired against the king of Assyria. When the Assyrian king found out about this he conquered the land of Israel, put Hoshea in prison, and carried away the Israelites as captives:

**2 Kings 17:4:** “And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut

him up, and bound him in prison.

5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes."

God had repeatedly warned the Israelites to repent of their wicked ways, but they refused. Since they would not listen, God removed them from the land:

**2 Kings 17:7:** "For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

9 And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger:

12 For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the Lord their God.

15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them.

16 And they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

20 And the Lord rejected all the seed of Israel,

and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.”

God did exactly what He said He would do. He told the nation that if they rejected His ways and served other gods then He would remove them from the land, and that is what the Lord did. The nation of Judah and the nation of Israel rejected God and served idols, so God removed them from the land and had them carried away into captivity. The days of the kings had been brought to an end.

## Appendix A: The Kings At A Glance

Name	Rein Length	Ruled Over	Type of King	Death
Saul	40 years	Entire nation	Evil	Killed in battle by the Philistines
David	40 years	Entire nation	Good	Died of old age
Solomon	40 years	Entire nation	Good, then became evil	Died of old age
Rehoboam	17 years	Judah	Evil	
Abijam (Abijah)	3 years	Judah	Evil	
Asa	41 years	Judah	Good, then became evil	Disease
Jehoshaphat	25 years	Judah	Good	
Jehoram (Joram)	8 years	Judah	Evil	God cursed him and his bowels fell out
Ahaziah	1 year	Judah	Evil	Killed by Jehu
Athaliah	7 years	Judah	Evil	Executed for treason
Joash (Jehoash)	40 years	Judah	Good, then became	Murdered by his own servants

			evil	
Amaziah	29 years	Judah	Good, then became evil	Murdered by conspirators
Azariah (Uzziah)	52 years	Judah	Good	Died a leper due to his disobedience
Jotham	16 years	Judah	Good	
Ahaz	16 years	Judah	Evil	
Hezekiah	29 years	Judah	Good	Died after God extended his life for 15 years
Manasseh	55 years	Judah	Evil, then became good	
Amon	2 years	Judah	Evil	Murdered by his servants
Josiah	31 years	Judah	Good	Died of his injuries after fighting the king of Egypt
Jehoahaz	3 months	Judah	Evil	Taken by the king of Egypt and died in Egypt
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	11 years	Judah	Evil	Carried off to Babylon
Jehoiachin	3 months	Judah	Evil	Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and



				took him to Babylon
Zedekiah	11 years	Judah	Evil	Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, took him to Babylon, and burned him alive
Jeroboam	22 years	Israel	Evil	Struck dead by God
Nadab	2 years	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Baasha
Baasha	24 years	Israel	Evil	
Elah	2 years	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by his servant Zimri while getting drunk
Zimri	7 days	Israel	Evil	Burned down the palace and died in the flames
Omri	12 years	Israel	Evil	
Ahab	22 years	Israel	Evil	Killed in battle
Ahaziah	2 years	Israel	Evil	Died of his illness after asking Baal if he would recover
Jehoram	12 years	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Jehu
Jehu	28 years	Israel	Evil	
Jehoahaz	17 years	Israel	Evil	

Joash	16 years	Israel	Evil	
Jeroboam	41 years	Israel	Evil	
Zachariah	6 months	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Shallum
Shallum	1 month	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Menahem
Menahem	10 years	Israel	Evil	
Pekahiah	2 years	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Pekah
Pekah	20 years	Israel	Evil	Assassinated by Hoshea
Hoshea	9 years	Israel	Evil	Put in prison by the king of Assyria