

# A Summary of the Kings of Israel and Judah

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## Introduction and First Kings

After the Israelites entered Canaan, each tribe was given an area in which to settle except for the tribe of Levi, which was appointed certain cities to live in. Israel had been under the authority of judges rather than the rule of kings. However, the people appealed to Samuel to anoint a king like the other nations had. As a result, Saul was anointed the first king of Israel and reigned approximately forty years.<sup>i</sup>

Saul became very jealous of David after David slew Goliath and on several occasions attempted to kill David but was unsuccessful. Saul eventually committed suicide by falling on his sword in battle to prevent the Philistines from killing him.

David was then anointed king of the house of Judah<sup>ii</sup> at Hebron and ruled as king in Hebron for seven and a half years. While Ishbosheth, a son of king Saul, was made king over Israel and reigned two years. Because of this, there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David.

Ultimately, Ishbosheth was slain and all Israel came to David and anointed him king over the entirety of Israel and he reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem.<sup>iii</sup> All together, David reigned 40 years. It is interesting to note that there were two kingdoms, Judah and Israel, even before the division which occurred of the 12 tribes after Solomon's reign ended.

King David made Solomon, his son with Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah the Hittite, king over all Israel, to reign in his place.<sup>iv</sup> King Solomon did evil in the sight of God<sup>v</sup> and reigned forty years. After his death, the ten northern tribes rebelled and set up a separate kingdom, Israel, ruled by Jeroboam with its capital in Shechem.<sup>vi</sup> Kings of Israel later reigned in Samaria. From Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam ruled Judah in Jerusalem.

## Kings of Judah in Order

**1. Rehoboam** – Son of Solomon.<sup>vii</sup> He reigned 17 years and did evil in the sight of God. His oppression of the Israelite empire resulted in the division of the Kingdom.

**2. Abijah (Abijam)** – Son of Rehoboam. Reigned 3 years. Did evil in God's sight. Cause of death is unknown.<sup>viii</sup>

**3. Asa** – Son of Abijah. Ruled Judah for forty-one years. Did what was right in God's eyes. Died with a disease of the feet.<sup>ix</sup>

**4. Jehoshaphat** – Son of Asa. Reigned twenty-five years. Did right in the eyes of God. He resolidified the peace that had ended between Israel and Judah.<sup>x xi</sup>

**5. Jehoram** – First son of Jehoshaphat. Reigned eight years. He did evil in God's sight and died with a disease of the intestines (bowels). He was married to Athaliah, who ruled five years as queen of Judah.<sup>xii</sup>

- 6. Ahaziah** – Son of Jehoram and Athaliah. Ruled one year. Died from injuries of battle.<sup>xiii</sup>
- 7. Athaliah** – She reigned five years and did evil God's sight. She was the daughter of Ahab and granddaughter of Omri, wicked kings of Israel. She attempted to destroy the Royal seed in Judah. Joash, son of Ahaziah, was hidden six years and was made king to replace her. She was then killed by orders of Jehoida the Priest.<sup>xiv</sup>
- 8. Joash** (Jehoash) – Son of king Ahaziah of Judah. He was seven years old when he began to reign and did right in the eyes of God. He reigned forty years. He was assassinated.<sup>xv</sup>
- 9. Amaziah** – Son of Joash. Reigned twenty-nine years. Did right in God's eyes, yet not like David because the high places were not taken away.<sup>xvi</sup>
- 10. Uzziah** (Azariah) – Son of Amaziah.<sup>xvii</sup> Was sixteen when he began to reign. Did what was right in God's sight. Reigned fifty-two years. God smote him with leprosy when he attempted to burn incense in the temple. He was a leper until his death. His son Jotham ruled in his place.<sup>xviii</sup>
- 11. Jotham** – Son of Uzziah. Reigned sixteen years. Did right in God's eyes. He was twenty when he began to reign.<sup>xix</sup>
- 12. Ahaz** – Son of Jotham. He was twenty years old when he began to reign and reigned sixteen years. He did that which was not right in the sight of the Lord since he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.<sup>xx</sup>
- 13. Hezekiah** – Son of Ahaz. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and reigned twenty-nine years. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.<sup>xxi</sup>
- 14. Manasseh** – He was the son of Hezekiah but did evil in God's sight. He was twelve years old when he began to reign and reigned fifty-five years. He shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another.<sup>xxii</sup>
- 15. Amon** – Son of Manasseh. He was twenty-two years old when he began to reign and reigned two years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord by walking in all the ways of his father Manasseh. He was slain by his servants in his own house.<sup>xxiii</sup>
- 16. Josiah** – Son of Amon. He was eight years old when he began to reign and reigned thirty-one years. He did right in the eyes of the Lord. He initiated reforms, renovated the temple which resulted in the recovery of the Law of God.<sup>xxiv</sup>
- 17. Jehoahaz** – Son of Josiah. He was twenty-three years old when he began to reign and reigned three years. He did evil in God's sight. He was taken captive by the king of Egypt, carried to Egypt, and remained there until he died. The king made Eliakim the son of Josiah king and changed his name to Jehoiakim.
- 18. Jehoiakim** – He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign and reigned eleven years. He did evil in God's sight. He became the servant of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon for three years, then turned and rebelled against him. During his reign was the first Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (in which Daniel and the three Hebrews were carried to Babylon).<sup>xxv xxvi</sup>

**19. Jehoiachin** – Son of Jehoiakim. He was eighteen years old when he began to reign and reigned three months. He did what was evil in God's sight. The king of Babylon besieged in Jerusalem a second time, took him and all Jerusalem captive, and carried them away to Babylon. The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, his uncle, king instead and changed his name to Zedekiah.<sup>xxvii</sup>

**20. Zedekiah** – He was twenty-one years old when he began to reign and reigned for eleven years and did evil in God's sight. He was allowed to continue to rule Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. It was during his reign that Jerusalem was besieged a third and final time by Nebuchadnezzar, wherein Judah was taken into Babylonian bondage. In 586 BC, Jerusalem was burned, its walls and temple destroyed and left in ruins.<sup>xxviii</sup>

**Final note** – The downfall of this nation was due to their falling away from serving their Great God of their Fathers and worshipping false gods.

### **Kings of Israel in Order**

**1. Jeroboam** – First king of Israel after the kingdom was divided. Son of Nebat. He reigned over Israel twenty-two years and did evil in God's sight.<sup>xxix</sup>

**2. Nadab** – Son of Jeroboam. Reigned two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was killed by Baasha in a revolt.<sup>xxx</sup>

**3. Baasha** – Son of Ahijah. Reigned twenty-four years. He did evil in the Lord's sight and walked in the way of Jeroboam.<sup>xxxi</sup>

**4. Elah** – Son of Baasha. He reigned two years. He was killed by Zimiri.<sup>xxxii</sup>

**5. Zimiri** – He reigned seven days and did evil. He burned the king's house over himself and died.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

**6. Omri** – He reigned twelve years and did evil in the sight of the Lord.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

**7. Ahab** – Son of Omri. He reigned twenty-two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He married Jezebel who served and worshiped Baal. King Ahab did more to provoke the Lord than all the kings before him.

**8. Ahaziah** – Son of Ahab. He was twenty-two years old when he began to reign and reigned two years. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. He fell through a lattice in his upper chamber and was injured but never recovered. His mother was Athaliah.<sup>xxxv</sup>

**9. Jehoram (Joram)** – He was the brother of Ahaziah and son of Ahab. He did evil in the sight of the Lord, reigning for twelve years. He combined forces with two kings of Judah to defeat king Mesha of Moab. He was killed by Jehu who then ruled Israel.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

**10. Jehu** – Son of Jehoshaphat. He reigned twenty-eight years. Elisha sent a prophet to anoint him king over Israel to smite Ahab and his house, including Jezebel, to avenge the blood of God's servants the prophets.

He killed Jehoram, Ahaziah and Jezebel, all of Ahab's sons (seventy in all), all his great men, his kinsfolk and priests until none were left.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

- 11. Jehoahaz** – Son of Jehu. He reigned seventeen years and did evil in the sight of the Lord.<sup>xxxviii</sup>
- 12. Joash (Jehoash)** – Son of Jehoahaz. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. He reigned sixteen years.<sup>xxxix</sup>
- 13. Jeroboam II** – Son of Joash. He reigned forty-one years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was assassinated.<sup>xl</sup>
- 14. Zachariah** – Son of Jeroboam II. He reigned six months and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was slain by Shallum, who ruled Israel in his stead.<sup>xli</sup>
- 15. Shallum** – Son of Jabesh. He reigned one month and was killed by Menahem who reigned in his stead.<sup>xlii</sup>
- 16. Menahem** – Son of Gadi. He reigned ten years doing evil in the sight of the Lord.<sup>xliii</sup>
- 17. Pekahiah** – Son of Menahem. He reigned two years and did evil in the sight of the Lord. He was killed by Pekah who ruled in his stead.<sup>xliv</sup>
- 18. Pekah** – Son of Remaliah. He reigned twenty years, doing evil in the sight of the Lord.<sup>xlv</sup>
- 19. Hoshea** – Son of Elah. He slew king Pekah and reigned in his stead, doing evil in the sight of the Lord. He reigned nine years. He was shut up in prison by the king of Assyria, who besieged Samaria and took Israel into captivity.<sup>xlvi</sup>

### Some Historical Notes

In studying the kings (and queen) of Judah and Israel, several facts surfaced that are important to remember. Listed below are a few of those I noted.

1. Of the nineteen kings of Israel (after the split into the northern Kingdom of Israel and southern Kingdom of Judah), none were said to have “done right in the sight of the Lord as David did.”
2. From the beginning of Jeroboam's reign until Israel was taken into bondage by the Assyrians, Israel's Kingdom lasted two hundred and twenty eight years, seven months, and seven days and ended in 722 BC.
3. Of the nineteen kings and one queen of Judah, they had eight kings who did right in the sight of the Lord. Two of these kings, Joash and Amaziah, did right but not like David their father and failed to take away the high places.
4. Judah's Kingdom lasted three hundred and sixty four years, which was one hundred and thirty six years longer than Israel. They were taken into bondage and Jerusalem burned by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
5. Some kings of both Israel and Judah had common names of kings of the other Kingdom, such as Jehoram, Ahaziah, Joash, and Jehoahaz. This can be confusing unless one is careful to check who the said king's parents were.

It is very understandable why God suffered these two Kingdoms to come to ruin from their sinful ways and failing to worship Him and keep His commandments.

i Michael L Gowens, Understanding Your Bible, page 71

ii 2 Samuel 2:4  
iii 2 Samuel 5:3  
iv 1 Kings 1:39  
v 1 Kings 11:6  
vi 1 Kings 12:1  
vii 1 Kings 14:21  
viii 1 Kings 15:2  
ix 1 Kings 15:10  
x 1 Kings 22:42  
xi 2 Chronicles 20  
xii 2 Chronicles 21:5  
xiii 2 Chronicles 22  
xiv 2 Kings 11:1-3  
xv 2 Kings 11:12  
xvi 2 Kings 14:1-2  
xvii 2 Chronicles 12:1-4  
xviii 2 Kings 15:1-4  
xix 2 Chronicles 27:1  
xx 2 Kings 16:1-5  
xxi 2 Kings 18:1  
xxii 2 Kings 21:1  
xxiii 2 Kings 21:19  
xxiv 2 Kings 22:1  
xxv Daniel 1  
xxvi 2 Kings 23:31  
xxvii 2 Kings 24:8  
xxviii 2 Kings 24:18  
xxix 1 Kings 12:20  
xxx 1 Kings 15:25  
xxxi 1 Kings 15:33  
xxxii 1 Kings 16:6-8  
xxxiii 1 Kings 16:10-15  
xxxiv 1 Kings 16:25  
xxxv 1 Kings 22:57  
xxxvi 2 Kings 3:1  
xxxvii 2 Kings 10:11  
xxxviii 2 Kings 10:35, 13:12  
xxxix 2 Kings 13:10  
xl 2 Kings 13:13, 14:24  
xli 2 Kings 14:29, 15:8  
xlii 2 Kings 15:10-13  
xliii 2 Kings 15:17-18  
xliv 2 Kings 15:22-23  
xlv 2 Kings 15:27  
xlvi 2 Kings 15:30, 17:1