

# The Kings and the Prophets of Israel and Judah

*Note:* Some modifications and corrections have been made to dates. This will cause a slight difference with those found in the Bible Dictionary.

## THE KINGS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Saul  
David  
Solomon  
(abt. 1050–930 B.C.)

### THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

**Jeroboam I:** Reigned twenty-two years (abt. 930–909 B.C.). The Lord chose him to be king over the ten northern tribes, but Jeroboam would not keep the commandments. Instead, he turned Israel to idolatry and became the pattern for nearly all of Israel's subsequent kings (see 1 Kings 12:25–14:20).

**Nadab:** Reigned two years (abt. 909–908 B.C.). Nadab, the son of Jeroboam, continued the wickedness begun by his father. He was assassinated by Baasha (see 1 Kings 15:25–31).

**Baasha:** Reigned twenty-four years (abt. 908–886 B.C.). Baasha gained the throne by murdering Nadab and destroying all of Jeroboam's descendants. He continued in the wickedness of Jeroboam, and the prophet Jehu predicted that his house would be destroyed as he had destroyed the house of Jeroboam (see 1 Kings 15:32–16:7).

**Elah:** Reigned two years (abt. 886–885 B.C.). Elah, the son of Baasha, was killed by Zimri, his chariot captain. Zimri then killed all who belonged to the house of Baasha, fulfilling the prophecy of Jehu (see 1 Kings 16:8–14).

**Zimri:** Reigned seven days (abt. 885 B.C.). The military revolted against Zimri, who then committed suicide (see 1 Kings 16:9–20).

**Omri** (abt. 885–874 B.C.) and **Tibni** (abt. 885–880 B.C.): Omri and Tibni contended for control of the kingdom for four years. Tibni died, and Omri became king. Omri founded the city of Samaria and made it his capital. He reigned twelve more years, more wickedly than his predecessors (see 1 Kings 16:16–28).

**Ahab:** Reigned twenty-two years (abt. 874–853 B.C.). Ahab, the son of Omri, is considered to be the northern kingdom's worst king. He married Jezebel, an idolatrous Sidonian princess who promoted Baal worship and persecuted those who followed Jehovah. She tried to have the prophet Elijah killed. Elijah prophesied the deaths of Ahab and Jezebel (see 1 Kings 16:29–22:40; 2 Chronicles 18).

**Ahaziah:** Reigned two years (abt. 853–852 B.C.). Ahaziah continued the wickedness of his father, Ahab (see 1 Kings 22:51–2 Kings 1:18).

**Jehoram, or Joram:** Reigned twelve years (abt. 852–841 B.C.). Not as evil as his father and grandfather, but continued in the sins of Jeroboam (see 2 Kings 3:1–8:15).

### THE PROPHETS

Israel	Both	Judah
Anijah		Iddo
		Shemalah
		Azariah
	Jehu	Hanani
Obadiah?		Jahaziel
Elijah	Micajah	Eli ezer
		Joel?
Elisha		

### THE KINGS OF JUDAH

**Rehoboam:** Reigned seventeen years (abt. 930–913 B.C.). Rehoboam, a son of Solomon, was sometimes obedient to the Lord and sometimes followed the wickedness of the neighboring countries. As a result, Shishak, pharaoh of Egypt, invaded Judah and plundered the temple (see 1 Kings 12:1–24; 14:21–31; 2 Chronicles 10:1–12:16).

**Abijam:** Reigned three years (abt. 913–910). Abijam, also called Abijah, was the son of Rehoboam. He continued the same sins his father had begun (see 1 Kings 15:1–8; 2 Chronicles 13).

**Asa:** Reigned forty-one years (abt. 910–869 B.C.). Asa was the son of Abijam and “did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord” (1 Kings 15:11). He instituted reforms to rid the land of idolatry. He also strengthened the military and defeated Israel and the Ethiopians when they attacked (see 1 Kings 15:9–24; 2 Chronicles 14–16).

**Jehoshaphat:** Reigned twenty-five years (abt. 872–848 B.C.). Jehoshaphat ruled three years jointly with his father, Asa, and five years with his son Jehoram. He ruled wisely and righteously, except for being too closely allied to Ahab and Ahaziah of Israel. This may have led to his son's unfortunate marriage to Ahab's daughter (see 1 Kings 22:41–50; 2 Chronicles 17:1–21:3).

**Jehoram:** Reigned eight years (abt. 853–841 B.C.). Jehoram did not follow his father Jehoshaphat in righteousness. He murdered his brothers, married Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel and Ahab, and reigned in wickedness (see 2 Kings 8:16–24; 2 Chronicles 21).

**Ahaziah:** Reigned one year (abt. 841 B.C.). Ahaziah was slain by Jehu, who also slew Joram, king of Israel (see 2 Kings 8:25–29; 9:27–29; 2 Chronicles 22:1–9).

**THE KINGS OF ISRAEL** *continued*

**THE PROPHETS**

Israel	Both	Judah
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**Jehu:** Reigned twenty-eight years (abt. 841–814 B.C.). Jehu was anointed by a prophet to be king of Israel and destroy the house of Ahab. He destroyed Baal worship but not the golden calves of Jeroboam (see 2 Kings 9:1–10:36).

**Jehoahaz:** Reigned seventeen years (abt. 814–798 B.C.). Jehoahaz reintroduced the worship of Baal, which his father, Jehu, had tried to eliminate (see 2 Kings 13:1–9).

**Jehoash:** Reigned sixteen years (abt. 798–782 B.C.). Jehoash continued in the sins of his father, Jehoahaz (see 2 Kings 13:10–25).

**Jeroboam II:** Reigned forty-one years (abt. 793–753 B.C.). Jeroboam ruled jointly with his father, Jehoash, for twelve years. He was not righteous, but he was a powerful king whom the Lord used to defeat Israel's enemies and give the people one last time to repent (see 2 Kings 14:23–29).

**Zachariah:** Reigned six months (abt. 753 B.C.). Zachariah, the son of Jeroboam, was murdered by Shallum (see 2 Kings 15:8–12).

**Shallum:** Reigned one month (abt. 751 B.C.). Shallum was killed by Menahem (see 2 Kings 15:10–15).

**Menahem:** Reigned ten years (abt. 752–742 B.C.). Menahem murdered Shallum to gain the throne. He taxed the people heavily to pay tribute to Assyria (see 2 Kings 15:14–22).

**Pekahiah:** Reigned two years (abt. 742–740 B.C.). Pekahiah, the son of Menahem, was killed by Pekah in a military coup (see 2 Kings 15:23–26).

**Pekah:** Reigned twenty years (abt. 752–732 B.C.). Pekah began ruling in a rival kingdom east of the Jordan River during Menahem's reign. A second Assyrian invasion carried many Israelites into captivity (see 2 Kings 15:27–31).

Elisha

Jonah

Amos

Hosea

Oded

Zachariah

Isaiah

Micah

**THE KINGS OF JUDAH** *continued*

**Queen Athaliah:** Reigned seven years (abt. 841–835 B.C.). Athaliah was Ahaziah's mother and the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. After Ahaziah's death she claimed the throne after killing "all the seed royal" (2 Kings 11:1), except for one grandson, Joash, who was hidden. She promoted Baal worship and was executed (see 2 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21).

**Joash, or Jehoash:** Reigned forty years (abt. 835–796 B.C.). Jehosheba, Ahaziah's sister, saved the infant Joash from his murderous grandmother Athaliah. She and her husband, Jehoiada the priest, hid Joash in the temple for six years. Jehoiada led a popular revolt when Joash was seven years old that put Joash on the throne and had Athaliah killed. Joash stopped Baal worship and repaired the temple (see 2 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 24).

**Amaziah:** Reigned twenty-nine years (abt. 796–767 B.C.). Amaziah, the son of Joash, was partly faithful and partly foolish. He defeated Edom by heeding the warning of a prophet, but then participated in idolatry and was humiliated by Jehoash, king of Israel. His son Azariah ruled jointly with him during his last twenty-four years. Amaziah was murdered in exile (see 2 Kings 14:1–22; 2 Chronicles 25).

**Azariah, or Uzziah:** Reigned fifty-two years (abt. 792–740 B.C.). Azariah was strong militarily but weak spiritually. He made Judah strong among its neighbors but did not rid the kingdom of idolatry. He was stricken with leprosy and during his last ten years he ruled jointly with his son Jotham (see 2 Kings 15:1–7; 2 Chronicles 26).

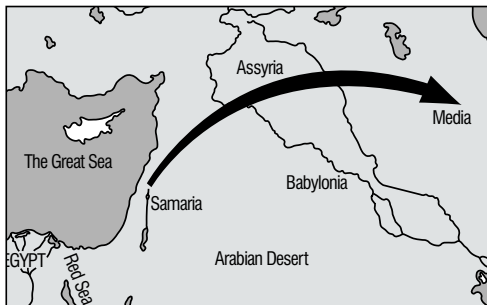
**Jotham:** Reigned sixteen years (abt. 750–732 B.C.). Jotham was an able administrator but, like his father, he did not remove idolatry from Judah. He ruled jointly with his son Ahaz for the last four years of his reign (see 2 Kings 15:32–38; 2 Chronicles 27).

**Ahaz:** Reigned sixteen years (abt. 735–715 B.C.). Against the advice of the prophet Isaiah, Ahaz made an alliance with Assyria. He turned Judah to idolatry and even sacrificed his own children in the fire (see 2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 28).

## THE KINGS OF ISRAEL *continued*

**Hoshea:** Reigned nine years (abt. 732–722 B.C.). By the time of Hoshea’s reign, Israel’s captivity was unavoidable. Samaria fell to Assyria about 721 B.C. and most of the inhabitants were deported. They were then scattered and became the “ten lost tribes” (see 2 Kings 17:1–34).

### The End of the Northern Kingdom of Israel



### The Assyrian Exile

“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” (2 Kings 17:18).

THE PROPHETS		
Israel	Both	Judah
		Michah
		Isaiah
		Nahum
		Huldah (prophetess)
		Zephaniah
		Habakkuk
		Jeremiah
	Lehi	Daniel

## THE KINGS OF JUDAH *continued*

**Hezekiah:** Reigned twenty-nine years (abt. 715–686 B.C.). Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, is recognized as one of the most righteous kings of Judah. He stopped idolatry, cleansed the temple, and renewed the worship of Jehovah. Because of his faithfulness, the Lord turned back an Assyrian invasion and also added fifteen years to Hezekiah’s life. It was during that period that his son Manasseh was born (see 2 Kings 18–20; 2 Chronicles 29–32; Isaiah 36–39).

**Manasseh:** Reigned fifty-five years (abt. 697–642 B.C.), eleven years jointly with his father, Hezekiah. In 2 Kings 21, Manasseh is described as being more wicked than the Amorites that the Israelites destroyed. He completely reversed all the good that his father had accomplished. He enforced idol worship and killed the prophets of Jehovah. He also sacrificed his own children to false gods (see 2 Kings 21:1–18; 2 Chronicles 33:1–20).

**Amon:** Reigned two years (abt. 642–640 B.C.). Amon continued the wickedness of his father, Manasseh, and was killed by his servants (see 2 Kings 21:19–26; 2 Chronicles 33:21–25).

**Josiah:** Reigned thirty-one years (abt. 640–609 B.C.). Josiah, who ascended to the throne at the age of eight, is credited with instituting the most extensive religious reforms in Judah’s history. The law of Moses was rediscovered and taught. Unfortunately, Josiah was killed in a campaign against the Egyptians, and his reforms did not last (see 2 Kings 22:1–23:30; 2 Chronicles 34–35).

**Jehoahaz:** Reigned three months (abt. 609 B.C.). Pharaoh removed Jehoahaz and put Jehoahaz’s brother, Eliakim, on the throne (see 2 Kings 23:31–33; 2 Chronicles 36:1–4).

**Jehoiakim, or Eliakim:** Reigned eleven years (abt. 609–598 B.C.). Pharaoh changed Eliakim’s name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim repeatedly rejected the counsel of Jeremiah and tried to kill him. He was killed after rebelling against Babylon (see 2 Kings 23:34–24:7; 2 Chronicles 36:5–8).

**Jehoiachin:** Reigned three months (abt. 598–597 B.C.). Jehoiachin and many others were carried away captive into Babylon (see 2 Kings 24:6–15; 25:27–30; 2 Chronicles 36:9–10).

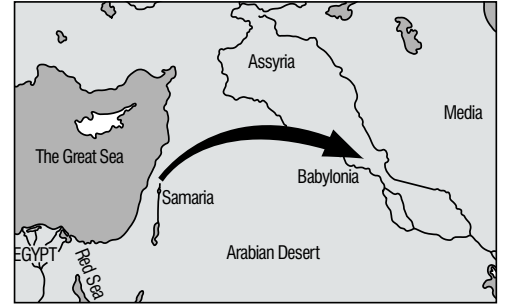
THE PROPHETS		
Israel	Both	Judah
	Lehi	Jeremiah
		Ezekiel
		Daniel

King Cyrus authorized the return of the Jews to Jerusalem abt. 537 B.C. Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi were prophets to the Jews after their return.

## THE KINGS OF JUDAH *continued*

**Zedekiah, or Mattaniah:** Reigned eleven years (abt. 597–586 B.C.). Zedekiah also rejected the counsel of the prophet Jeremiah to submit to Babylon. He formed an alliance with Egypt, for which Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and carried away the Jews captive into Babylon (see 2 Kings 24:18–25:21; 2 Chronicles 36:11–21).

### The Exile of the Southern Kingdom of Judah



#### The Babylonian Exile

“Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law” (Isaiah 42:24).