

# Various Kings

Notes for 8 Nov

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Read: [1 Kings 15](#)

You can also have a look at [2 Chronicles chapters 13 to 16](#).

It may be of interest to you to examine two Tables which accompany the notes for this week.

The first (below) gives a timeline of the kings of Judah and Israel from the time of Rehoboam and Jeroboam through to the elimination of Israel by the Assyrians, but it continues the timeline of Judah, until after the return from exile.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, there was the development of 'Higher Criticism', prompted by the enlightenment. Chief proponent of this critical thinking was a German scholar by the name of [Julius Wellhausen](#), who regarded much of the Old Testament as myth.

Since his time, both archaeological discoveries and extra historical sources, have established that the biblical record is to a large extent authentic. What has fascinated me is that the biblical account of the kings, the length of their reign, and the simultaneous accounts of the histories of Judah and Israel, largely does not contradict these extra biblical sources of evidence. It adds to our confidence in a scientific age of the reliability of scriptures.

[The second table](#) reflects the loyalties of the various kings to Yahweh. In Israel's case, apart from one or two short periods, it was evil all the way through. In Judah's case it was much more mixed.

It really prompts us to ask the question, did Israel disappear from the map because there was no hope of it returning to the Lord? Is there a point of no return?

If you look at the history of Judah, it was much more chequered. God never gave up with them.

How vital was it for Judah to survive?

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## Questions

1. Abijah 'committed all the sins his father had done before him'. It could be argued that Abijah was shaped by the idolatrous actions of his father.

As a son, how much responsibility did my parents have for shaping me? As a father how much responsibility did I have in ensuring my children walked in the footsteps of the Lord?

2. Nevertheless, for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and by making Jerusalem strong'.

This was done, according to a literal interpretation of the text, because David did what was right in the Lord's eyes. Discuss!

3. Asa inherited the throne from Abijah. He was the son of Rehoboam and the grandson of Solomon. He did 'right in the eyes of the Lord'.

In the King James version, verse 10 states his mother's name was Maacah. In the NIV it states his grandmother's name was Maacah.

The challenge is to clear up this confusion. Irrespective of his upbringing, why do you think he did 'right in the eyes of the Lord'?

4. Asa was in conflict with Baasha, king of Israel. Asa sent the silver and gold from the treasuries of the temple to the king of Aram to switch allegiances, which he duly did. Was this a lack of faith that the Lord would protect him against Judah, or was he being realistic and helping the Lord to ensure that Israel would survive as a separate entity?

Does the Lord do things to us, or with us in order to ensure that His will is realised?

5. Verses 29 and 30 state that as soon as Baasha 'began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family... because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he provoked the Lord, the God of Israel to anger'.

Does the Lord use the works of an evil, murderous, ambitious man to carry out retribution?

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## Table 1: Timeline - Prophets in the Reigns of Kings of Judah and Israel

This tables shows the reigns of each of the Kings of Judah and Israel, together with the dates and lengths of the reigns, and the prophets who were active at that time. Because I find it hard to think about BC dates, I've also included the number of years since the end of Solomon's reign, so that we have a scale of increasing year numbers.

This ties together all the other material: consult the separate tables for more details of the individual monarchs and prophets.

Kings of ...		Start of reign	Years since Solomon	Length of reign (years)	Prophets to ...	
Judah	Israel	Judah	Israel			
1. Rehoboam		931 BC	0	17		
	1. Jeroboam	931 BC	0	22		(Ahijah)
2. Abijah		913 BC	18	3		
3. Asa		911 BC	20	41		
	2. Nadab	910 BC	21	2		
	3. Baasha	909 BC	22	24		(Jehu)
	4. Elah	886 BC	45	2		
	5. Zimri	885 BC	46	7 days		
	6. Omri	885 BC	46	12		
	7. Ahab	874 BC	57	22		(Elijah)
4. Jehoshaphat		870 BC	61	25		(Micaiah)
	8. Ahaziah	853 BC	78	2		(Elisha)
	9. Joram	852 BC	79	12		
5. Jehoram		848 BC	83	8		

Kings of ...		Start of reign	Years since Solomon	Length of reign (years)	Prophets to ...	
Judah	Israel	Judah	Israel			
6. Ahaziah		841 BC	90	1		
	10. Jehu	841 BC	90	28		
7. Queen Athaliah		841 BC	90	6		
8. Joash		835 BC	96	40	Joel (guesswork)	
	11. Jehoahaz	814 BC	117	17		
	12. Jehoash	798 BC	133	16		
9. Amaziah		796 BC	135	29		Jonah (to Nineveh) (approx)
	13. Jeroboam II	782 BC	149	41		Amos, Hosea (until Hezekiah)
10. Uzziah (Azariah)		767 BC	164	52	Isaiah (until Hezekiah)	
	14. Zechariah	753 BC	178	6 months		
	15. Shallum	752 BC	179	1 month		
	16. Menahem	752 BC	179	10		
	17. Pekahiah	742 BC	189	2		
	18. Pekah	740 BC	191	20		
11. Jotham		740 BC	191	16	Micah (until Hezekiah)	

Kings of ...		Start of reign	Years since Solomon	Length of reign (years)	Prophets to ...	
Judah	Israel	Judah	Israel			
12. Ahaz		732 BC	199	16		
	19. Hoshea	732 BC	199	9		
13. Hezekiah		716 BC	215	29		
14. Manasseh		687 BC	244	55		
15. Amon		642 BC	289	2		Nahum (to Nineveh) (approx)
16. Josiah		640 BC	291	31	Zephaniah, Jeremiah (into exile)	
17. Jehoahaz		609 BC	322	3 months		
18. Jehoiakim		609 BC	322	11	Habakkuk (approx)	
19. Jehoiachin		597 BC	334	3 months		
20. Zedekiah		597 BC	334	11		
		592 BC	339		Ezekiel, Daniel	
		587 BC (maybe)	335		Obadiah (to Edom)	
		520 BC	411		Haggai, Zechariah	
(Esther)		478 BC	453			
(Ezra)		458 BC	473			

Kings of ...		Start of reign	Years since Solomon	Length of reign (years)	Prophets to ...	
Judah	Israel	Judah	Israel			
(Nehemiah)		445 BC	486			
		433 BC	498		Malachi	

[Table 2: Chronology of the Kings of Israel and Judah](#)

...with an assessment of their loyalties. Click on the link for the table.