

# II Chronicles – An Overview

**2 Chron.**

About 440 years covered

1. Solomon began his reign, by going to the tabernacle to offer 1000 sacrifices on the altar of God and asking God for wisdom to judge (c1)
2. Solomon prepares to build (c2)
3. Solomon builds the temple (c3-4)
4. Israel dedicates the temple (c5-7)
5. Solomon's wealth and fame (c8-9)
6. Israel divides into two nations: Israel & Judah (c10, 2Chron about Judah)
7. Rehoboam's reign in Judah (c11-12)
8. Abijah's reign over Judah, and war with Israel (c13)
9. Asa's reign over Judah (c14-16)
10. Jehoshaphat's reign in Judah, and harmful alliance with Israel (c17-20)
11. Jehoram's bad reign in Judah (c21)
12. Ahaziah's short bad reign in Judah; queen Athaliah seizes power (c22)
13. Jehoiada the priest overthrows Athaliah, and Ahaziah's son Joash assumes the throne (c23)
14. Joash begins well, but then forsakes God and is assassinated (c24)
15. Amaziah begins well, but forsakes God and is assassinated (c25)
16. Uzziah's good reign, leprosy (c26)
17. Jotham's good reign in Judah (c27)
18. Ahaz's bad reign in Judah (c28)
19. Hezekiah's good reign, and revival in Judah (c29-31)
20. God defends Jerusalem from the Assyrian army (c32)
21. Manasseh's long, wicked reign, capture, and repentance (c33)
22. Josiah's good reign (c34-35)
23. The wicked reigns of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah in Judah.  
Nebuchadnezzar holds Judah for 70 years of captivity, until Cyrus the Persian commands the temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem (c36)

*Much overlap with I and II Kings*

# God Offers to Grant Solomon a Gift (I Kings 3 & 2Chron 1)

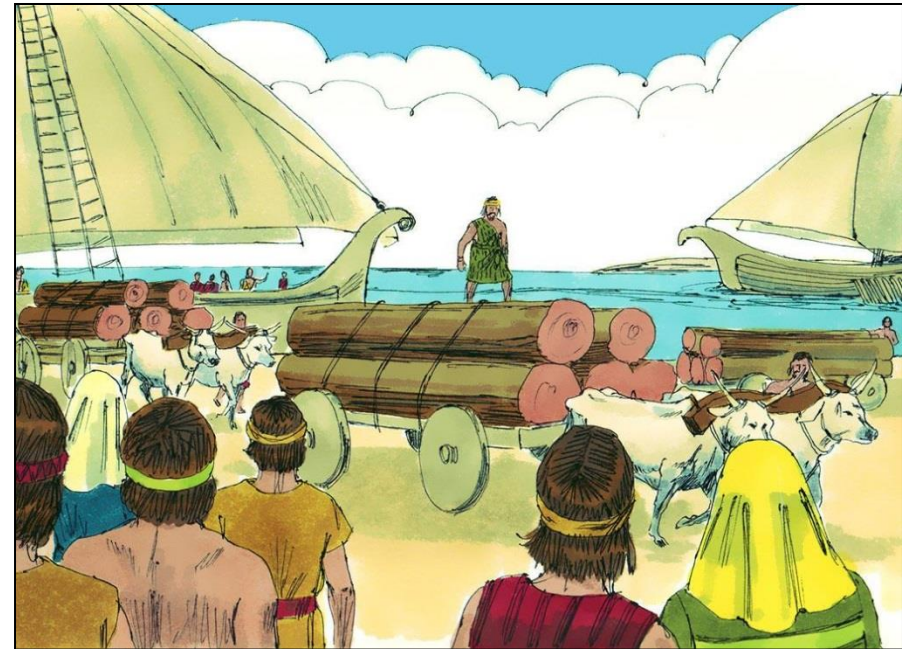
- Solomon loved God, and yet, because the ark was in a tent in Jerusalem, and the tabernacle and its furnishings were elsewhere, Israel worshipped in “the high places”.
- Solomon went to worship at the great high place in Gibeon (probably where the tabernacle and its brazen altar were located) and offered 1000 burnt offerings.



- While he was there, God appeared to Solomon in a night dream, and asked him to make a request.
- Solomon acknowledged God’s mercy to his father and him, and said he felt to be a child, and so asked God for an understanding heart to lead Israel.
- This request pleased God, who granted him wisdom and understanding, and also added riches and honor.
- When he returned to Jerusalem, two harlots came to Solomon for judgment, each claiming the same child.
- One said that the other had accidentally smothered her own child, and then taken her child as she slept.
- The other woman claimed the story was reversed.
- Solomon commanded a sword be brought to divide the child and give each woman a half of the child.
- The false mother approved the judgment, while the other was willing to give up the child to save its life.
- Solomon awarded the whole child to this woman. 85

# Solomon Prepares Great Works (I Kings 4-5 & 2 Chron 2)

- Solomon's chief officers appear in I Kings 4:2-19, and Israel had peace and prosperity.
- Solomon had 40,000 horse stalls, and 12,000 horsemen.
- Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs, wrote 1,005 songs, and was expert in botany and zoology.
- God gave Solomon wisdom and largeness of heart.
- Solomon reached out to Hiram, king of Tyre, who had been a friend of David's, and requested a great quantity of cedar wood for building, especially for the temple.
- Hiram was happy to do this, and commended Solomon for his wisdom.
- In exchange, Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 measures of wheat, and 20,000 measures of pure oil, and control over certain cities near Tyre.
- Hiram proposed to cut the timber from Lebanon, and bring it to the Mediterranean.
- From there, the timber would be conveyed by sea to a offloading place chosen by Solomon.
- Solomon drafted Israelites to work with the servants of Hiram.
- There were 70,000 Israelites to carry material, and 80,000 woodcutters, and 3,600 managers.
- Solomon also set stonecutters to preparing large stones and costly stones.





# Solomon Builds the First Temple (I Kings 6-7 & 2Chron 3-4)

- In the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord, 480 years after Israel had come out of slavery in Egypt. The temple would take 7 years to build.
- The dimensions of the “house” part of this construction, in cubits, was 60Lx20Wx30H.
- It also had a porch, 20Lx10Wx120H. Stones had been cut so precisely that they fitted without hammer or chisel on the construction site! The stones were covered (probably inside) with cedar, with a fir floor. The wood was overlaid with gold.
- Two cherubs carved of olive wood covered with gold stretched across the Holiest of Holies, and their wings were over the ark of the covenant.

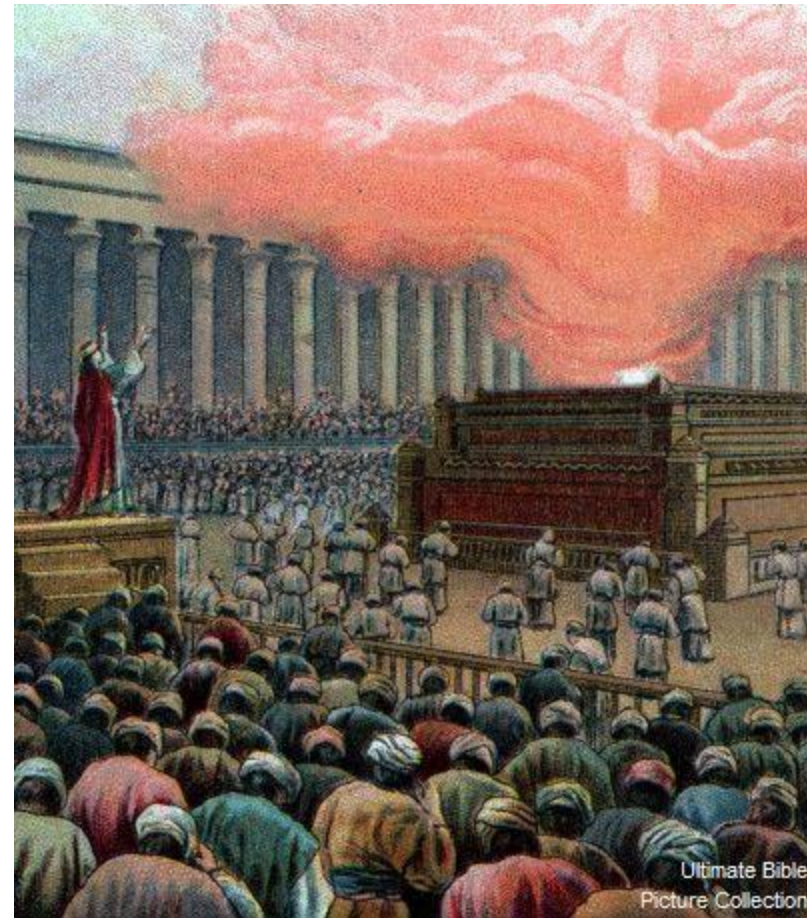


- A man, also named Hiram, who was of the city of Dan, whose mother was an Israelite of the tribe of Naphtali, and whose father was from Tyre, came to oversee the metal work for the temple.
- Hiram made two giant brass pillars, with two brass capitals to top them, with 400 brass pomegranates.
- He made 10 lavers and wheeled bases, 1 molten sea with a base of 12 oxen, pots, shovels, and basins.
- He also made the brass altar, which was 20 cubits by 20 cubits – the same dimensions as the Holiest of Holies.

# The Dedication of Solomon's Temple

## (I Kings 8-9 & 2Chron 5-7)

- When the temple was complete, Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel together in the 7<sup>th</sup> month, when the Blowing of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles were kept.
- They brought the ark of the covenant from the tent in Jerusalem up to the new temple.
- During this, they sacrificed sheep and oxen.
- When the ark was in place, they drew out its staves, and left the Holiest of Holies.
- Then, the glory of God filled the temple, and the priests left the temple altogether.
- Solomon knelt on a platform, stretched his hands to heaven, and prayed that God's eyes would be upon the place of the temple, that Israel might look toward it, and call upon God, and be heard.
- Solomon then stood and blessed Israel, and offered 22,000 oxen, and 120,000 sheep, and Israel held a 14 day feast.
- God appeared again to Solomon in a dream, and said that he heard his prayer and granted it, but that Israel must still obey him, or he would chastise them even to the destruction of the temple itself.
- Solomon built a navy, and a house for Pharaoh's daughter, and had talks with Hiram.<sup>85</sup>





# The Queen of Sheba Visits Israel (I Kings 10 & 2Chron 8-9)

- Solomon built a navy, and a house for Pharaoh's daughter, and had talks with Hiram.
- Solomon's wealth increases, and he established the tasks in the temple as given by David.
- The queen of Sheba heard of Solomon, and came to visit, and test him with questions.
- She arrived in Jerusalem with a great entourage, and had long discussions with the king.
- Solomon answered all her questions with his great God-given wisdom.
- She marveled at Solomon's wisdom, and his buildings, and the dignity of his servants.



- The queen of Sheba gave Solomon many precious gifts: 120 talents of gold, and many jewels, and rare spices, and unique almug trees, which Solomon used for pillars in the temple, and for musical instruments.
- King Solomon in return bestowed many treasures upon the queen, and she returned to her home country.
- Israel, and Solomon, grew very wealthy.
- His annual intake of gold was 666 talents.
- He built a throne of ivory, adorned with gold, and his navy brought him gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.
- Solomon also greatly gathered horses and chariots.
- Rulers and people from all over the earth came to Israel to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

# The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 12 & 2Chron 10-11)

- Israel gathered in the city of Shechem to make Rehoboam king, and Jeroboam returned.
- The people cried unto Rehoboam that he would ease their tax burden, which was high.
- Rehoboam asked the people to wait 3 days for him to answer them.
- Rehoboam's older advisors counseled him to hear the people, and reduce taxes.
- Rehoboam's young advisors, who were his own age, told him to get tough and tell the people that taxes were going to be increased. Rehoboam decided to do this.
- When the people of Israel heard the tough answer from Rehoboam, many decided to rebel from under his rule, and chose Jeroboam to lead them. Judah stayed with Rehoboam.
- Rehoboam sent his head tax collector, and the people killed him, so Rehoboam fled.

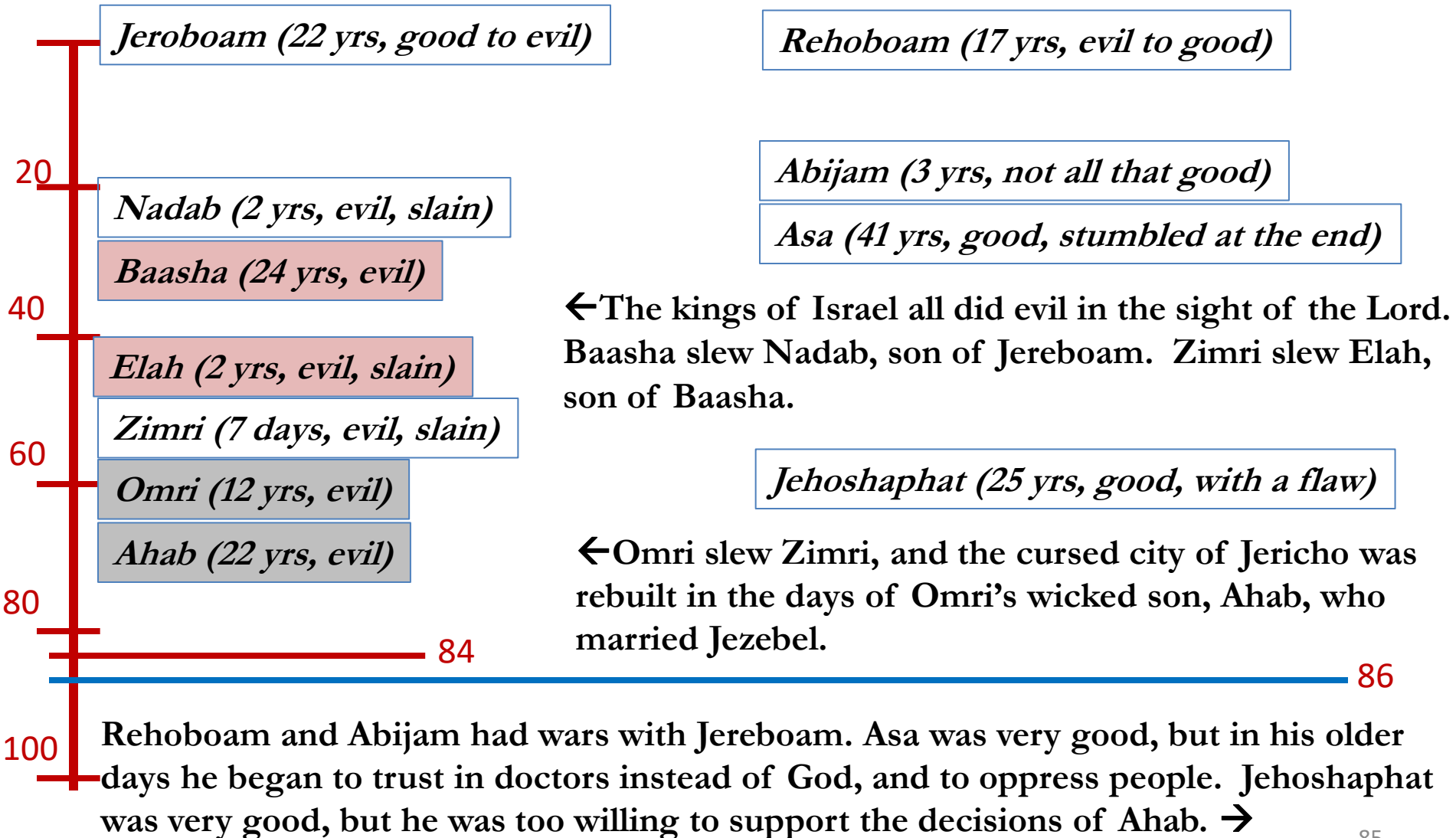


- Rehoboam gathered 180,000 soldiers to reassert his rule, but God sent his messenger Shemaiah to tell the king that this was of God. Rehoboam heard.
- Jeroboam became king of Israel, and established his rule.
- He decided that it would weaken his reign for his people to worship the true God, since the temple was in Jerusalem, so he established the worship of two golden calves in the cities of Dan and Bethel. **Many moved into Judah, even people from other tribes.**
- **Rehoboam fortified Judah.**

# Early Kings of the Divided Nation (I Kings 15-17 & 2Chron 10-20 )

## ISRAEL, 10 NORTHERN TRIBES

## JUDAH, THE HOUSE OF DAVID





# Rehoboam, Abijah Reign (I Kings 14-15 & 2Chron 12-13)



- At first, King Rehoboam did not follow the Lord very well.
- The people practiced idolatry and homosexuality.
- Shishak, the king of Egypt, invaded Judah.
- Shishak took away the valuable gold shields of Solomon.
- In their place, Rehoboam used brass shields.
- He had the brass shields displayed when he went into the temple, and then had them put away at other times.
- Jeroboam and Rehoboam fought against each other, and Rehoboam reigned 17 years, and then died.
- Rehoboam's son, Abijah, came to the throne and had war against Jereboam.
- In a large battle, Abijah had 400,000 soldiers and Jereboam had 800,000 soldiers.
- Abijah made a speech to all of Israel about how they had forsaken the true worship of God.
- While he was speaking, Jereboam organized an ambush against Abijah's men.
- By the time the soldiers of Abijah spotted the ambush, they were surrounded.
- Seeing their trouble, they called upon God, and the priests sounded trumpets.
- God gave Abijah and the soldiers of Judah a victory, and slew 500,000 soldiers.
- Jereboam never recovered from this defeat. Abijah took cities from south Israel.
- Abijah reigned three years and died, and his son Asa reigned in his place.

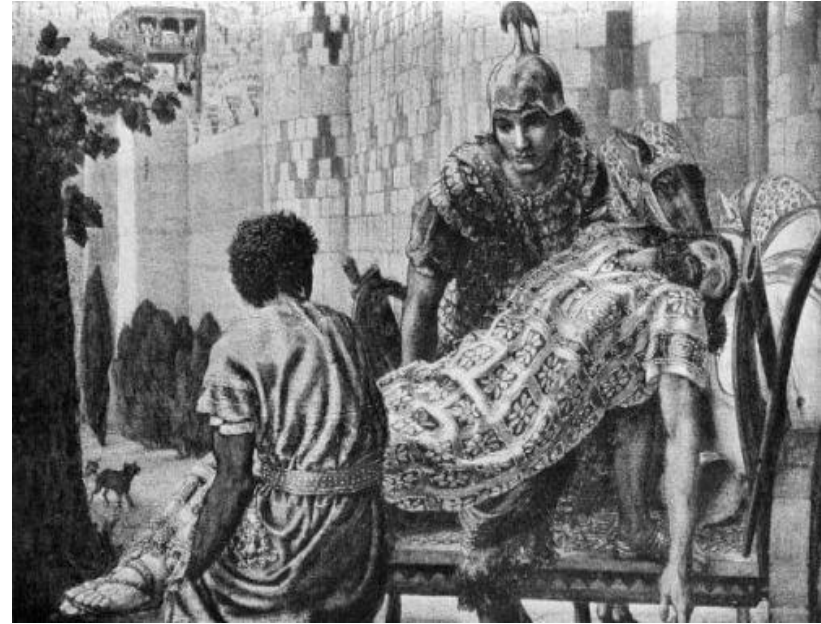
# The Reign of Asa (I Kings 15-16 & 2 Chron 14-16)

- Asa did that which was right in God's sight, opposing idolatry, and he reigned 41 years.
- In his years of peace, he strengthened Judah, and fortified its cities.
- Then Zerah, king of Ethiopia, came against Asa with one million soldiers.
- Asa cried to the Lord, and God gave him a glorious victory, and he won spoil.
- Asa listened to the prophet of God, and continued purging the land of idols, even removing his own mother as queen, because she was an idol worshipper.
- Many people from the other tribes of Israel came into Judah.
- The people promised to serve the true God, and enjoyed a long period of peace.
- In the 36<sup>th</sup> year of Asa's reign, Baasha king of Israel came to attack Judah.
- Asa took treasure out of the temple, and paid the king of Syria to attack Israel.
- The Lord sent a prophet to rebuke Asa for not trusting God, and Asa imprisoned him, and then oppressed other people.
- In the last two years of his reign, Asa was diseased in his feet, and trusted doctors instead of God. Asa died, and his son Jehoshaphat reigned after him.



# Jehoshaphat Reigns (I Kings chap 22, **II Chron 17-18**)

- **Jehoshaphat began to reign, and served God.**
- **He took away places of false worship, and ordered the word of God to be taught throughout Judah.**
- **The economy prospered during this time.**
- **Jehoshaphat built fortifications, and assembled a fighting force of 1.16M soldiers.**
- Jehoshaphat, the good king of Judah, came to visit Ahab, and they sat in state.
- Ahab requested help from Judah to attack Syria and take Ramoth-Gilead, and Jehoshaphat agreed.
- Many false prophets foretold Ahab's success, but Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet of the Lord.
- They called Micaiah, and told him to prophesy good. He did so, sarcastically at first, but the king told him to speak the word of the Lord, and Micaiah told him he would lose and die, and that all the other prophets were lying.
- Micaiah was struck in the face, and sent to prison, and the kings went to battle.
- Ahab disguised himself, but asked Jehoshaphat to enter battle wearing his royal robes.
- At first, the Syrians came after Jehoshaphat, who called upon God, and they turned away.
- A soldier drew a bow just to try to hit someone, and it hit the disguised Ahab.
- Ahab stayed alive and up in his chariot until sundown, and then died. **The battle ended.**
- Ahab's men chose to clean up his bloody chariot in Naboth's vineyard, and the dogs lapped up the bloody water there in the vineyard.
- Ahab's son, Ahaziah, stepped up to rule after Ahab, but he too was wicked.





# Jehoshaphat Later Years (II Chronicles 19-20)

- The seer, Jehu, son of Hanani, came and rebuked Jehoshaphat for helping ungodly Ahab.
- Jehoshaphat continued to serve the Lord in other ways, and set just judges throughout the land of Judah to advocate for what was right.
- Multiple nations combined to attack Judah, so Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast, and set himself to seek the Lord. The nation joined together, and the king led them in prayer.
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, who told them that they should go down to the battle the next day, but they would not need to fight, for God would give them the victory.
- He told them, “stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you”.
- They bowed their heads and worshipped, and decided to go to the battle praising.



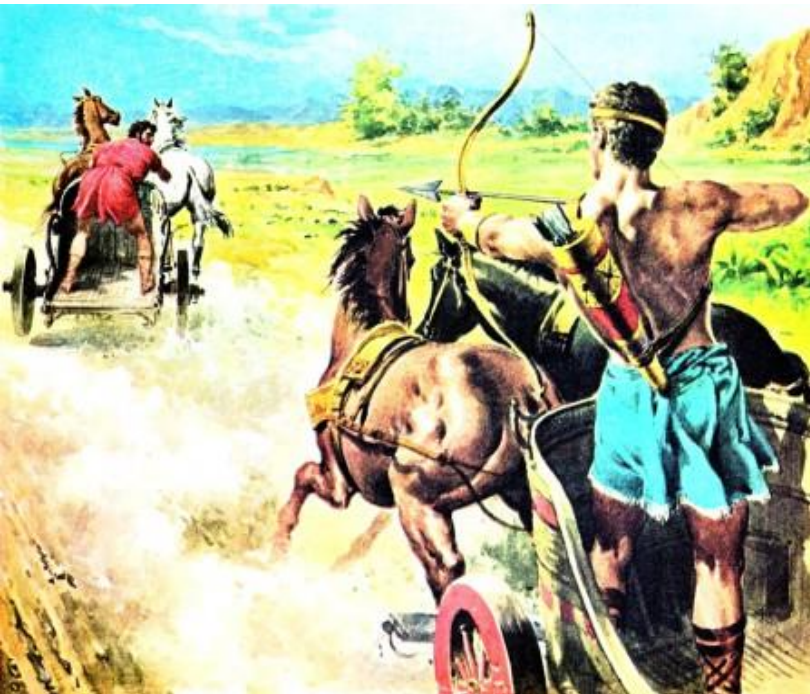
- They praised God, and he set an ambush against the enemy, and the different nations which had come against Judah fought to destroy each other.
- The people of Judah had to collect spoil for a few days, there was so much treasure left.
- They returned home, and thanked God.
- Jehoshaphat's navy was broken, for he joined with Ahab's wicked son Ahaziah.
- Jehoshaphat had begun to reign when he was 35, and reigned 25 years.

# Jehoram's Reign (II Kings chap 8, II Chronicles chap 21)

- Elisha warned the Shunammite woman, whose son he had raised from death, that a seven year famine was coming, so she took her family into the land of the Philistines to survive.
- Seven years later, the king of Israel was asking Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, to tell of his miracles, and Gehazi told of him raising a woman's son back to life.
- At that moment, the woman came into the court of the king to appeal to have her lands restored to her family. Gehazi told the king that this was the woman!
- The king of Israel restored the woman's lands and produce to her.
- Elisha travelled to Syria, and came into Damascus.
- King Benhadad of Syria was very sick, and sent Hazael to inquire of Elisha whether or not he would get well.
- Elisha said he might get well, but God had said he would die.
- Elisha began to weep, and Hazael asked him why. Elisha said because Hazael would do much harm to Israelites, as king of Syria.
- Hazael went back to Benhadad and reported that he would recover.
- Hazael then wet a thick cloth, and laid it on Benhadad's face.
- Benhadad strangled, and Hazael took the throne of Syria.
- In Judah, Jehoshaphat died, and his son Joram (or Jehoram) reigned, who had married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab. **He was evil.**
- Joram **slew his brothers**, and reigned 8 years. Although he won some military victories, Judah lost control of Edom and Libnah. **Elijah the prophet wrote him a letter of warning.**
- Joram died **when his bowels fell out after 2 years of illness**, and his evil son Ahaziah reigned two years. Ahaziah travelled to Israel to visit his wounded cousin, king of Israel.

# Ahaziah's Reign (II Kings chap 9, II Chron chap 22)

- Elisha instructed a child of the prophets to take a box of oil, go to the army at Ramoth-gilead, take Jehu into a private room, and anoint him king over Israel, and flee.
- When Jehu emerged from the anointing, his fellow captains asked what had happened. At first, he thought they knew, but then told them that the man had anointed him king.
- The captains laid down their garments and sounded a trumpet and declared him king.
- Jehu then rode swiftly to Jezreel, where Joram, king of Israel, was recovering from wounds, and Ahaziah, king of Judah, was visiting him. Joram sent two messengers to intercept.
- When Jehu passed both messengers, Joram got in his own chariot, and rode out to see.
- Joram asked if Jehu came in peace, and Jehu said no peace as long as Jezebel lived.
- Joram fled, and Jehu shot him in his chariot.



- Ahaziah fled, and Jehu's men caught up with him, and he died in Megiddo (Armagedon).
- **Ahaziah reigned 1 year.**
- Jehu rode into Jezreel, where Jezebel put on her make-up and threatened Jehu.
- Jehu told the eunuchs that, if they supported him, to throw her off her balcony.
- They did, and Jehu's horses trampled her.
- Jehu went inside to eat, and then ordered her funeral, but by this time the dogs had eaten her body except for her skull, feet and palms of her hands, fulfilling the words of Elijah.



# Athaliah on the Throne (II Kings chap 11, **II Chron 22-23**)

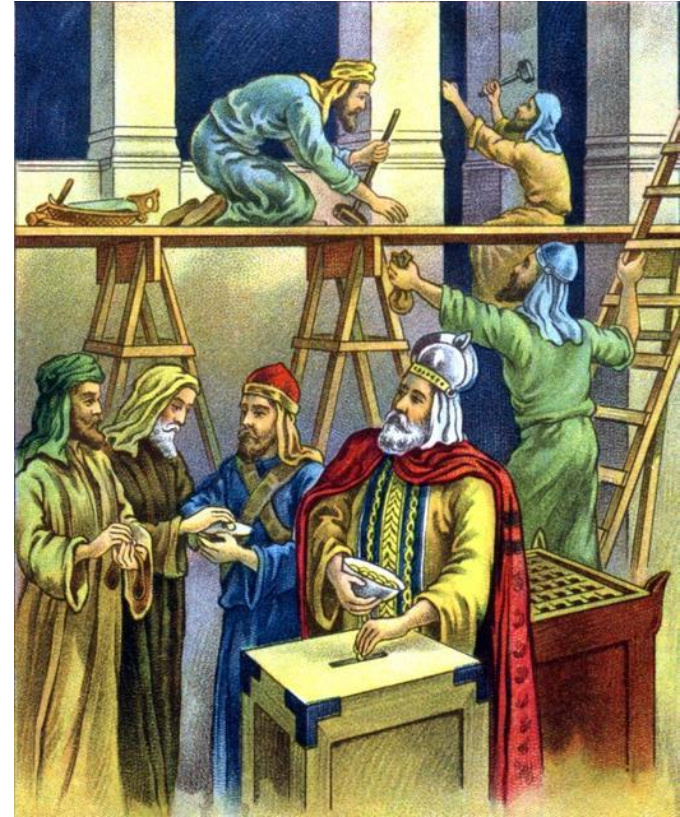
- Athaliah was Ahab's daughter, and the widow of Joram, king of Judah, and mother of Ahaziah, who had been slain by Jehu while visiting the other Joram in Israel.
- She had all of the royal seed (perhaps her own grandchildren!) put to death so she herself could rule on the throne in Jerusalem.
- Jehosheba, the sister of Ahaziah, wife of Jehoiada the high priest, stole away one little baby named Joash, who was her nephew (Ahaziah's son) - she and her husband hid him.
- They continued hiding Joash until he was seven years old.
- Jehoida called together the leaders of the military, and shewed young Joash to them.



- Jehoida told them to be in key positions in the temple to anoint the lad, who was of the house of David, and gave them weapons of David from the temple.
- They anointed Joash, and cried "God save the king".
- Athaliah walked in on this and cried "Treason"!
- Jehoida commanded for her to be taken and put to death, and then the land rejoiced and had peace.

# King Jehoash, or Joash (II Kings chap 12, **II Chron 24**)

- Jehoash (also called Joash) began to reign over Judah when he was only 7 years old, and did what was right all the days that the high priest Jehoiada, who saved his life, lived. But the people still did not worship in the temple.
- Jehoash commanded that all the money that came to the priests should be used to repair the temple.
- After 23 years, the temple was still not repaired!
- Jehoash was not happy, and instructed the priests not to receive any more money, but turn it over for repairs.
- The priests agreed to take no more money, but not to do the repairs.
- Jehoiada bored a hole in the lid of a collection chest and put it by the altar at the entrance to the temple, and when the chest was full, he emptied it and set it out again.
- When they collected much, they gave the money to faithful workmen, who did the repair.
- In II Chronicles, the scriptures tell how Jehoash forsook the Lord after Jehoiada's death.
- **Jehoiada's son Zechariah, a prophet, faithfully rebuked the king, and was murdered.**
- He bought off Hazael, king of Syria, to avoid war.
- Jehoash's servants made a conspiracy against him, and killed him. In II Chronicles, the scripture state that Jehoash had reigned 40 years. In the last 2 years of his reign, the king of Israel was also named Joash (or Jehoash).
- Jehoash's son, Amaziah, reigned over Judah in his father's stead.



# Battle, Israel vs. Judah (II Kings chap 14, II Chron 25)

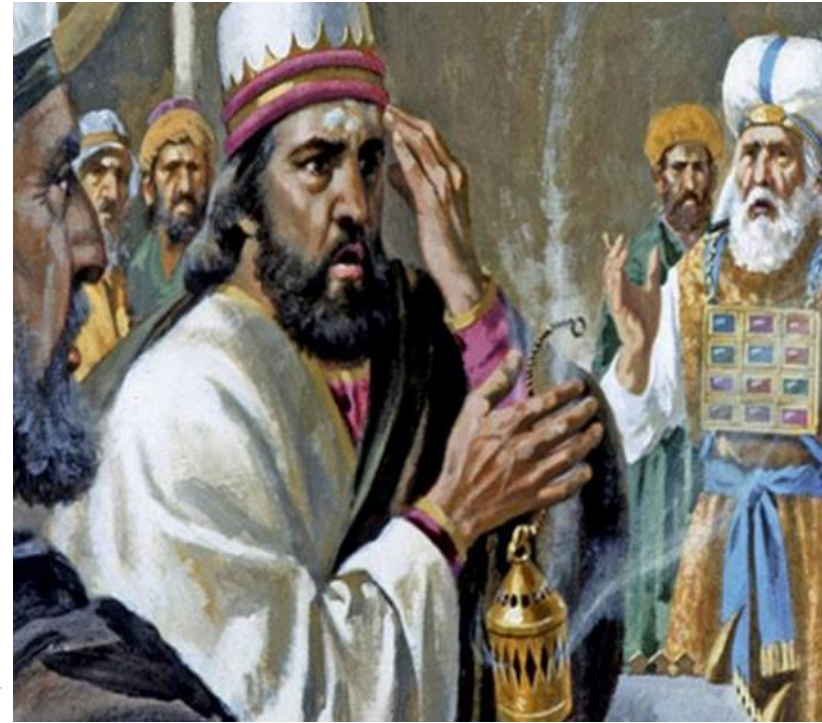
- Amaziah was 25 when he succeeded his father Jehoash; Like him, he started off doing right, but then forsook the Lord. He slew those who killed his father, but not their kids.
- He won a great victory against the Edomites. In II Chronicles, the scriptures say that he obeyed God, dismissing ungodly mercenaries of north Israel, who then went away mad.
- After obeying God in shewing mercy and dismissing mercenaries and winning a victory, II Chronicles states that he set up gods from Edom, and began to worship them!
- Having won this victory, he challenged king Joash of Israel, who warned him against starting war.
- Amaziah ignored the warning and started the battle. He lost, and was taken captive by Joash.
- Joash brought him to Jerusalem and broke down part of the walls of the city.
- Amaziah outlived Joash by 15 years, and continued to reign over Judah (29 years in all). But a conspiracy arose against him, and he fled Jerusalem and went to Lachish, but the conspirators followed him and slew him there.
- The people took his son, Azariah (or Uzziah), and made him king at 16 years old. He reigned 52 years.
- Meanwhile, Jereboam II succeeded his father Joash as king of Israel 41 years, and though he continued the golden calf worship, God showed mercy to Israel.





# Israel Declines, Judah Holds On (II Kings 15, II Chron 26-27)

- Although Azariah (Uzziah) was a good **strong** king, reigning from 16 to 68 years old, he attempted to act as a priest, and the Lord struck him with leprosy.
- For the last years of his reign, his son Jotham did the public role of king so he could live in quarantine.
- In Israel, Jereboam II died and his son Zachariah reigned, fulfilling God's promise that Jehu's children to the 4<sup>th</sup> generation should reign in Israel. But Zachariah did evil, so his reign lasted only 6 months.
- A man named Shallum conspired and killed him, and took the throne for one month. Menahem killed him.
- Menahem reigned cruelly for 10 years, and did evil, and his son Pekahiah succeeded him.
- Pekahiah reigned 2 years, and did evil, and Pekah conspired against him and killed him.
- Pekah reigned for 20 years, and did evil, and even frightened the nation of Judah once.
- Hoshea made a conspiracy against Pekah, and killed him.
- Hoshea then reigned 9 years as the last king of Israel's 10 tribes.
- Meanwhile, Azariah died; Jotham succeeded his father as king of Judah, and did right.
- Jotham was 25 when he began to reign, and reigned 16 years.
- When he died, his son Ahaz reigned over the nation of Judah.



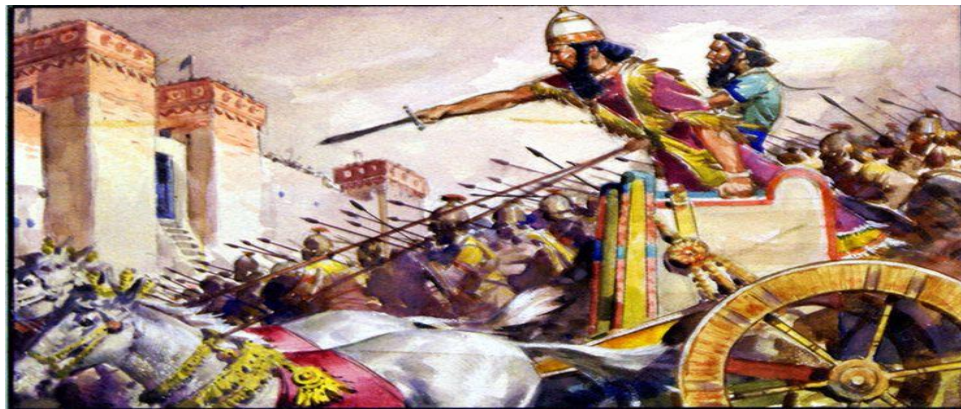
# Judah Weakened; Israel Fallen (II Kings 16-17, **II Chron 28**)



- Ahaz was 20 when he first reigned in Judah, and reigned 16 years, and did evil by idolatry and child sacrifice.
- He was afraid of Israel and Syria, and paid Assyria.
- He set up a false Syrian altar, to use with the true altar.
- He died, and his son Hezekiah reigned after him.
- In the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Hezekiah, the 9<sup>th</sup> year of Hosea, Shalmaneser king of Assyria besieged and took Samaria.
- In chastisement for their many sins, and ignoring God's prophets, God caused most Israelites to be taken captive and dispersed throughout the middle east.
- The Assyrians brought in other peoples to occupy Israel.
- These people brought in other gods, and the true God sent lions among them, which gave them trouble.
- The Assyrian king sent a priest of the Lord to teach the commandments of the God of Israel, and so the people adopted a mix of true and false religion.
- These mixed people feared God, but served their idols.
- They eventually were called Samaritans.

# Hezekiah and the Revival of Judah (II Kings 18-19, **II Chron 29-32**)

- The nation of Judah was very weak because of the idolatry of Ahaz.
- Hezekiah his son came to the throne at 25, and reigned 29 years, and did that which was right in God's sight. **II Chronicles chapters 29-31 describes a great spiritual revival.**
- Hezekiah trusted in the Lord God, and worshipped him. He even destroyed Moses' brazen serpent, because people had begun to worship it! He called it a piece of brass.
- In Hezekiah's 6<sup>th</sup> year, Israel fell. In Hezekiah's 14<sup>th</sup> year, Assyrian king Sennacherib marched in Judah, took cities, and besieged Jerusalem.
- Rabshakeh, envoy of Sennacherib, came to Jerusalem to tell them to surrender, saying they could not look for help from Egypt, or from any god.
- Hezekiah sent word to the prophet Isaiah to pray, and Isaiah received a message of comfort from God.
- Rabshakeh was called away, and sent a very threatening letter to Hezekiah, who spread the letter before the Lord.
- Again, God comforted Hezekiah, and sent an angel who destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers camped about the city.
- Sennacherib retreated to Assyria, where he was murdered by two of his sons.





## Hezekiah Healed, But Stumbles (II Kings 20, **II Chron 32:24-33**)

- Hezekiah, in his 14<sup>th</sup> year of rule, became very sick, and God sent Isaiah to him to tell him to get ready to die.
- Hezekiah wept, and prayed that God would spare him from death. God heard his cry, and gave him 15 more years, and told Isaiah to lay a lump of figs on Hezekiah's boil.
- God caused the sundial shadow to go backward 10 degrees as a sign of his answer.
- Berodach-baladan, the king of Babylon, sent messengers to Jerusalem to congratulate him on his healing.
- Hezekiah showed them all his treasures.
- When Isaiah asked him what they had seen, Hezekiah told him they had seen everything.
- Isaiah told him all these treasures would be carried to Babylon, and that Hezekiah's descendants would be eunuchs in the court of Babylon. Hezekiah was glad to hear that there would be peace in his years.
- Hezekiah ruled 15 more years, and then died in peace. His son Manasseh came to the throne to reign in his place.



# Manasseh and Amon (II Kings 21, **II Chron 33**)



- Manasseh began to reign at 12 years old, and did evil.
- He reigned for 55 years, and rebuilt sites for the worship of false gods, and set an idol, and altars for the worship of false gods even in the temple itself.
- He sacrificed his own child, and practiced witchcraft, and he shed much innocent blood.
- The nation followed Manasseh into idolatry.
- For this evil, God determined to destroy Jerusalem, and send the people into captivity.
- **The book of II Chronicles tells us that the king of Assyria captured Manasseh, and held him prisoner in Babylon. When he was there, he repented, and made it back to Jerusalem, where he began to tear down the idols, strengthen the nation of Judah, and repair the temple.**
- Manasseh died at the age of 67, and his son, Amon, began to reign at the age of 22.
- Amon, like his father Manasseh, did that which was very evil in God's sight.
- He reigned 2 years, and his servants slew him.

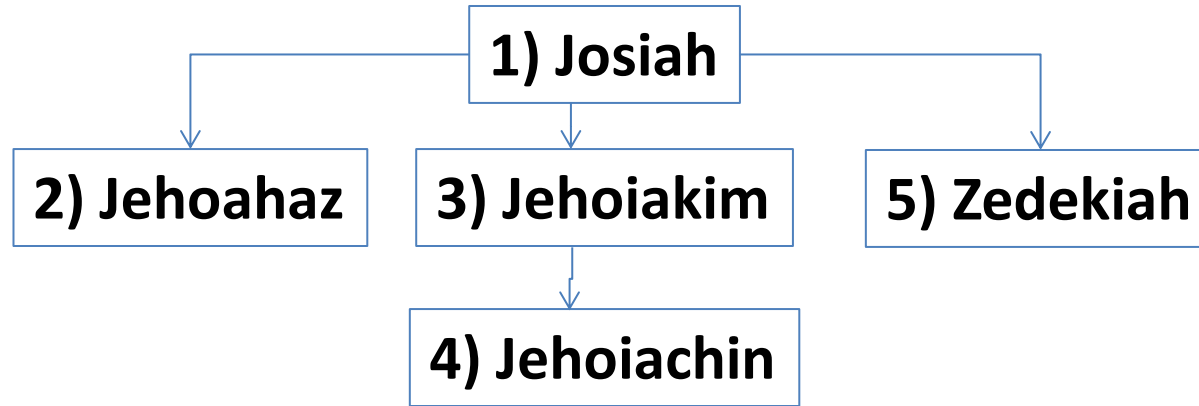
# Tender-hearted King Josiah (II Kings 22, II Chron 34)

- After the murder of Amon, the people of the land made his son Josiah king at 8 years old.
- Josiah was a good king, and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.
- When Josiah was 26, he began a serious work of cleaning and repairing the house of the Lord, and the workers labored faithfully.
- While doing this work, they came across a copy of the scriptures, which they brought to the king and read.
- When the scriptures were read unto Josiah, he tore his clothes in grief, because he realized that the nation had not been correctly following the Lord their God.
- He sent messenger to a prophetess of God named Huldah, who sent back word that God would indeed judge Jerusalem and Judah for their many transgressions against his precepts.
- She also said that, because Josiah's heart was tender and humble before God, there would be peace during the reign of Josiah, which lasted 31 years.





# Josiah and the Last Kings (II Kings 23-24, **II Chron 35-36**)



- Josiah tore down idols and their system of worship in Jerusalem and surrounding areas.
- In Bethel, he tore down the altar of the golden calf, and fulfilled the prophecy of I Kings chapter 13, burning the priests' bones, but sparing the bones of the man of God.
- Josiah kept a blessed passover with the nation of Judah. He then decided to fight against Pharaoh-necho, and was mortally wounded at Megiddo.
- His son Jehoahaz took the throne at 23, but did evil. He reigned only 3 months, and was captured by Pharaoh-necho, who took him to Egypt to die, and put his brother Eliakim on the throne in his place after taking much tribute, and changed his name to Jehoiakim.
- Jehoiakim began to reign at 25, and reigned 11 years, but he did evil also. Nebuchadnezzar came against him, and took him and some of the people captive (like Daniel) to Babylon, and put his son Jehoiachin on the throne at 8 years old.
- Jehoiachin reigned a little over 3 months, and did that which was evil. Nebuchadnezzar surrounded Jerusalem, and Jehoiachin and his family surrendered and were taken to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar put his uncle Mattaniah on the throne, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

# The Fall of Jerusalem (II Kings 25, II Chron 36)



- Zedekiah reigned 11 years, and did evil before God.
- The Chaldean army came again in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, and held Jerusalem in siege until it fell in the 11<sup>th</sup> year.
- The Chaldeans slew Zedekiah's sons before his eyes, then blinded him, and took him to prison in Babylon.

- The Chaldeans destroyed the wall of Jerusalem and the temple, and took very many of the people into captivity. They left an Israelite named Gedaliah to serve as their governor, but some of the Israelites slew him.
- In fear, many of the people of Judah fled to Egypt, which was vain, for Nebuchadnezzar also conquered Egypt. Years later, a remnant returned.
- The precious vessels of the temple were taken as spoil to Babylon.
- After 37 years of captivity, Evil-Merodach, king of the Chaldeans after Nebuchadnezzar, showed mercy to the former young king Jehoiachin, and gave him better clothes and food at the king's table, and gave him a daily allowance.
- After 70 years of captivity, Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon, and bade the Jews who were willing to go home and rebuild the temple.

