

Introduction to Kings of Israel & Judah

Bible readers are familiar with the word “King.” It appears some **2,313** times in the Bible.

1. The first time in Genesis 14:1 . . . Names the kings that made war and captured Abraham’s nephew, Lot.
2. The last time in Revelation 19:16 . . . “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

TWO VERY IMPORTANT PASSAGES:

- **Deuteronomy 17:14-15** – God prophesied that Israel would want a king.
- **1 Samuel 8:4-7** – Elders gathered at Ramah and told Samuel they wanted a king. This was a rejection of the Divine King over Israel, God.

UNITED KINGDOM:

- Saul (a Benjamite)
- David (Tribe of Judah) **Genesis 49:10** - The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.
- Solomon (Tribe of Judah)

1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles can be very confusing. Sometimes the kings of Judah and Israel had the same names as each other, and many times one king was known by two different names.

- The 5th king of Judah and the 9th king of Israel were both named **Jehoram**.
- The 6th king of Judah and the 8th king of Israel were named **Ahaziah**.
- The 17th king of Judah and the 11th king of Israel were called **Jehoahaz**.
- The 8th king of Judah and the 12th king of Israel were called **Jehoash**.
- The 10th king in Israel bore the same name as the prophet to Baasha, the 3rd king in the Northern Kingdom.
- Name variations of the same person:

Northern Kingdom: Joram?Jehoram (9th)
Joash/(Jehoash) (12th)

Southern Kingdom: Abijam/ Abijah (2nd)
 Jehoram/Joram (5th)
 Joash/Jehoash (8th)
 Uzziah/Azariah (10th)
 Jehoiakim/Eliakim (18th)
 Zedekiah/Mattaniah) (20th)

What may lend to some confusion is that the books have different focuses. Whereas Kings tells of both Judah and Israel, Chronicles focuses only on Judah. Furthermore, Chronicles seems to be more God-centered than Kings; it includes more prayers and ascribes religious motives to events which are not elaborated upon (or which are explained differently) in Kings.

Political History of Israel & Judah

- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings

Religious History of David's line in Judah

- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles

INTERESTING FACTS:

- The history of the 39 kings (38 kings & 1 Queen) is so given as to show mankind the certainty of the fulfillment of what God promises and what God threatens And especially that **righteousness exalts a nation and sin ruins it**.
- The Northern Kingdom with its Ten Tribes was more **powerful** than the Southern Kingdom.
- The Southern Kingdom was **more firm spiritually** than the Northern Kingdom.
- Israel was made up of nine dynasties, the founders of which were:
 1. Jeroboam I - 2
 2. Basha - 2
 3. Zimri - 1
 4. Omri - 4

5. Jehu - 5
 6. Shallum - 1
 7. Menahem - 2
 8. Pekah - 1
 9. Hoshea - 1
- The Southern Kingdom was made up of one dynasty . . . The family of David.
 - The Histories of the two kingdoms are given parallel with one another from 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17 when Israel is taken captive by the Assyrians.

LEADERSHIP AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: HISTORY OF ISRAELITES DESIRING AND HAVING A KING

- **Regardless of human leadership, the ultimate leader was to always be God.**
- Patriarchal Age – God dealt with families through the fathers.
- Genesis 17:5 – “Abram” changed to Abraham – God made him a father of many nations
- Genesis 32:28 – Jacob’s name is changed to Israel.
- Genesis 42:16-18 – Jacob’s 12th son is born . . . 12 tribes
- Genesis 17:14-17 – God told Abraham his descendants would ask for a king.
- Patriarchal age – God dealt with families through the fathers.
- Exodus 3:10 - Moses is appointed to lead the Israelites.
- Deuteronomy 31:1-7 – Joshua is appointed leader to succeed Moses.
- Judges 2:6 – God raised up judges. 7 apostasies . . . 7 servitudes . . . 7 deliveries
 - (1) Serves God . . . (2) Sin . . . (3) Forsake God . . . (4) Servitude . . . (5) Cry out . . . (6) Repent . . . (7) Deliverer is raised up
- Judges 2:10-12
- Judges 21:26 –
- 1 Samuel 8:5 – All the elders of Israel gathered at Ramah and asked Samuel to appoint a king over them.
- 1 Samuel 10:1 – Saul was anointed as Israel’s 1st king.

- 1 Samuel 16:13 – David was anointed as Israel’s 2nd king
- 2 Samuel 2:4 – Men of Judah anoint David to be king over Judah.
- 2 Samuel 5:5 – The elders of Israel anointed David king over all of Israel
- 1 Kings 1:39 – Zadok, the priest, anointed Solomon to be Israel’s 3rd king.
- 1 Kings 11:43 – Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, becomes Israel’s 4th king.
- 1 Kings 12 - Kingdom divides
 - Northern Kingdom had 19 kings over 209 years.
 - Southern Kingdom had 19 kings and 1 queen over 345 years.
 - 2 Kings 17 – Northern Kingdom is taken into Assyrian Captivity. The history of
 - Judah is continued alone from 2 Kings 18-25 . . . Another 136 years
- 2 Kings 17:24 – Assyria repopulated the land of the former Northern Kingdom with people from other lands they have conquered. (Repatriated)
- 2 Kings 25 – Southern Kingdom is taken into Babylonian Captivity.
- The history of Judah is continued alone from 2 Kings 18-25
- The history of Israel (Ten Tribes) is not given in 1 or 2 Chronicles.
- The record from the death of Solomon (932 B.C.) to the captivity of Judah (605 B.C.) is recorded from different and distinct standpoints.

In the Ancient Hebrew text (Bible), the six books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles were combined into two books called **Samuel** and **Chronicles**. Samuel incorporated what today we call 1 & 2 Kings. In the Septuagint the Chronicles were titled “Omissions” because of all the material it contained that supplemented Samuel and Kings.

1 SAMUEL

1. Records the change from the system of Judges to Kings
2. Presents the kingdom founded by Saul.
3. 1 Samuel includes the ministries of Samuel and Eli.
4. Includes the reign and death of Saul.
5. 1 Samuel covers a period of about 100 years.

2 SAMUEL

1. Covers the history of David's reign.
2. David was the only king to be born in Bethlehem . . . Christ was born in Bethlehem.
 - a. David reigned over the 12 tribes for 33 years.
 - b. Jesus lived on the earth for about 33 years.

1 KINGS NOTE: The Book of Kings was divided by the translators of the Hebrew into Greek (The Septuagint). **The explanation given for the separation is that the Greek requires at least one-third more space than the Hebrew.** Therefore, the translators were compelled to divide the book either because the scrolls were of limited length or to make them easier to handle.

1 Kings Records the history of:

- Two Sets of Kings: Kings of Israel & Kings of Judah
 - Two Capitals: Samaria & Jerusalem (Tirza first 5 kings + 6 years or Omri)
 - Two Religions: Worship of Idols & worship of Jehovah God
1. 1 Kings gives us the public history of the Kingdom from Solomon to the death of Jehoshaphat (4th King over Judah).
 2. The Book covers some 126 years.
 3. 1 Kings can be divided in a twofold way.
 - a. Chapters 1-11 – The history of the undivided kingdom under Solomon.
 - b. Chapters 12-22 – The history of the Divided Kingdom.
 4. Concerning Solomon, the king with a divided heart leaves behind a divided kingdom.

2 KINGS

1. Continues the first book of Kings and describes the government and actions of successive kings of Judah and Israel from the death of Jehoshaphat (4th King in Judah) to the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple (586 B.C.)
2. The history in 2 Kings is presented as:

- a. Contemporary history of the Kingdom of Judah and Israel to the end of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) with its captivity in 722 B.C. by Shalmaneser, King of Assyria.
- b. History of the decline and fall of the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in chapters 1-17 and its captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon (605 B.C.) in chapters 18-25.
- c. Repatriated where the ten tribes had lived. **2 Kings 17:24** – “The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns.” NOTE: The Samaritan race began due to this.

1 CHRONICLES

1. Portrays David as the major person in its record.
2. After the early chapters trace the genealogies of Israel back to Abraham, the whole of the remainder of the book is taken up with God’s chosen king.
 - a. Chapters 1-9 – History of the race (genealogies)
 - b. Chapter 10 – History of Saul
 - c. Chapters 11-29 – History of David
3. 1 Chronicles 1-9 are the most comprehensive genealogical tables in the Bible. They show God at work in selecting and preserving a people for Himself from the beginning of human history to the period after the Babylonian captivity as He works toward the fulfilling of Genesis 3:15.

2 CHRONICLES

1. Begins with the reign of Solomon and contains a history of about 480 years until the return from Babylon.
2. The material in 2 Chronicles coincides with much of the Kings, with this difference . . . In the Kings the history of Judah and Israel is mixed, but in Chronicles we have scarcely any thing but the history of David’s descendants. To gain a complete picture, 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles need to be studied. For example, Chronicles gives no account of Solomon’s apostasy, and Kings no account of Manasseh’s repentance.
3. 2 Chronicles 1-9 is devoted to the building and consecration of the Temple

4. 2 Chronicles 10 -36 omit the kings of Israel in the north because they have no ties with the Temple.
5. In 2 Chronicles, about **70%** of chapters 10-36 deals with the eight good kings of Judah, leaving only **30%** to cover the 12 evil rulers.

Good Kings in Judah:

Asa (3 rd)	Uzziah (10 th)
Jehoshaphat (4 th)	Jotham (11 th)
Joash (8 th)	Hezekiah (13 th)
Amaziah (9 th)	Josiah (16 th)

Evil Kings in Judah:

Rehoboam (1 st)	Manesseh (14 th)
Ahijah (2 nd)	Amon (15 th)
Jehoram (5 th)	Jehoaz (17 th)
Ahaziah (6 th)	Jehoiakim (18 th)
Athaliah (7 th)	Jehoiachin (19 th)
Ahaz (12 th)	Zedekiah (20 th)

6. NOTE: Four kings of Judah not mentioned in Matthew's Genealogy of Christ:
 - a. Ahaziah – 6th
 - b. Joash – 8th
 - c. Amaziah – 9th
 - d. Jehoiakim – 16th
7. 2 Chronicles repeatedly teaches that whenever God's people forsake him, He withdraws His blessings . . . But trust in and obedience to the Lord will bring victory. God's conditions: **2 Chronicles 7:14** – **“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

NOTE:

- The dates are approximate . . .
 - Years of reigns appear to be rounded off.
 - Some years harder to determine because of periods of co-regency. Take Biblical statement of length of reign as fact a move on.
1. Three in the Northern Kingdom of Israel

- a. Omri (6th)
 - b. Jeroboam II (13th)
 - c. Pekah (18th)
2. Five in the Southern Kingdom of Judah
- a. Jehoshaphat (4th)
 - b. Jehoram (5th)
 - c. Uzziah/Azariah (10th)
 - d. Jotham (11th)
 - e. Manasseh (14th)
- The events rather than the exact years are what are important . . . The years become more important if God gives a specific number of years or dates.

Prophets to Exiles in Babylon

- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

Prophets After the Exile in Babylon

- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

BABYLONIANS CONQUER THE ASSYRIANS:

- **626 B.C.** – **96** years after Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Babylon rebelled against Assyria,
- **612 B.C.** – **16** years later, Babylon overthrew Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria.

Note: This takes place about **150** years after Nineveh had been spared from the destruction, having repented at the preaching of Jonah in about **762 B.C.**

- **605 B.C.** – **7** years later, the armies of Babylon defeated the armies of Egypt at Carchemish, thus positioning itself as a world empire.

BABYLON TURNED ITS ATTENTION TOWARD JUDAH:

Three deportations from Jerusalem to Babylon (900 miles away) over a period of 19 years.

- **605 B.C.** – Nebuchadnezzar overcame King Jehoiachin and carried off key hostages including Daniel (**16** years old) and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- **597 B.C.** – **8 years later**, the rebellion of Jehoiachin brought further punishment. Nebuchadnezzar made him submit a second time.
- **586 B.C.** – **9 years later**, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem from **588 B.C.** to July **586 B.C.**, a period of **1 year & 7 months**. Note: The Ark of the Covenant probably disappeared during this siege.
- One month later on **August 15, 586 B.C.**, Nebuchadnezzar and his army burned the city of Jerusalem and its temple, the one Solomon built some **367** years earlier.

Note: **656** years later to the month, Titus and the **12th** and **15th** Roman legions burned Herod's Temple as predicted by Christ in Matthew 24:2. This occurred on the **10th of August, A.D. 70** (the 9th of Av) in Jewish calendar reckoning, the very day when the King of Babylon **burned the Temple in 586 B.C.**

- **October 539 B.C.** in one night the Babylonian Empire fell to the Medes and the Persians . . . Thus becoming the Medo-Persian Kingdom.

200 years (two centuries) before it happened. Isaiah 45:1-2 names Cyrus (a Persian king) as the one who would allow the Jews to return to their homeland. "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held -- To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron."

Darius continued Cyrus the Great's policy of restoring the Jewish people to their homeland.

THREE RETURNS FROM BABYLON BACK TO JERUSALEM OVER A PERIOD OF 92 YEARS. The 70 years reckoned from 1st deportation in 605 B.C. to the first return in 536 B.C.

- **536 B.C.** – Led by **Zerubbabel**. Temple was rebuilt.
 - Work began in **536 B.C.** . . . Was discontinued in **534 B.C.**
 - Work was resumed in **520 B.C.** . . Completed in **516 B.C.**
 - **6** years of actual work was done over a **20**-year period of time.

- The work was begun under **Cyrus** and completed under **Darius**.
- **456 B.C.** – 80 years later – Led by Ezra – The law was restored.
- **444 B.C.** – 12 years later – led by Nehemiah – The wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt in 52 days.

Great statements in Nehemiah:

- **2:17** – “. . . Come and let us build . . .”
- **4:6** – “. . . For the people had a mind to work.”
- **6:3** – “. . . I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down . . .”
- **6:8** – “. . . But you invent them in your heart.”
- **6:9** – “. . . Oh God, strengthen my hands.”
- **6:16** – “. . . For they perceived that this work was done by our God.”

THE REMNANT

- “Remnant” appears 65 times in the Bible . . . 60 of those times to the remnant God will preserve for bringing His Son into the world.
- **Isaiah 37:31** – “And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.”
- **Isaiah 10:21**- “A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God.”
- **Jeremiah 23:3** – “I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.”
- **Micah 7:18** – “Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.
- **Zechariah 8:11-12** – “But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past," declares the LORD Almighty.

"The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people."

100 years later, the Old Testament closed with the last Old Testament historical book to have been written being the Book of **Nehemiah**. The last Old Testament prophetic book to have been written was the Book of **Malachi**. For all practical purposes, Old Testament events and history end with the Book of Nehemiah.

Worshipping Idols is Worshipping Demons

Demons were behind idol worship. When people thought they were worshipping another god, they were in fact, although in ignorance, worshipping demons.

Leviticus 17:4

They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them through their generations.

Deuteronomy 32:17

They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know. To new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.

2 Chronicles 11:15

Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made.

Psalms 106:37

They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21

Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.