

Lessons from the Kings

NORTHERN KINGDOM - ISRAEL

NADAB:

- A. 2nd king Northern Kingdom . . . Reigned only 2 years
- B. **1 Kings 15:16** – “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to sin.”

AHAB:

- A. 7th king Northern Kingdom . . . Reigned only 22 years
- B. **1 Kings 21:25** – “There was never a man, like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife.”
- C. **1 Chronicles 18:13** - “But Micaiah ‘As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what my God says.’” NOTE: We can do no less, and we can do no more, than tell people what God has said in His written Word- The Bible!

JORAM (JEHORAM)

- A. 9th king in Northern Kingdom . . . Reigned 12 years
- B. The four lepers said: **2 Kings 7:9** – “. . . We’re not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves . . .” Are we not doing this with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- C. **2 Kings 6:16** – “. . . Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” The providence of God . . . He can take care of those who turn to Him.

JEHU

- A. 10th king in Northern Kingdom . . . Reigned 28 years
- B. Jehu said to Jehonadab, son of Recab in **2 Kings 10:16** – “. . . Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord . . .”

JEHOASH (JOASH)

- A. 12th king in the Northern Kingdom . . . Reigned 16 years
- B. **2 Kings 13:20** – “Elisha died and was buried.”
 - 1. As foretold by Elisha, based on the king striking the ground three times and stopping, Jehoahaz defeated Ben-Hadad, son of Hazael, three times. **2 Kings 13:18-19, 25**
 - 2. God is willing to help us greatly, but we often limit how much. **2 Kings 13:19**

SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL - JUDAH

REHOBOAM

- A. 1st king in Southern Kingdom . . . Reigned 17 years
- B. **2 Chronicles 12:12** – “. . . Indeed, there was some good in Judah.”
- C. **2 Chronicles 12:1** - “But when Rehoboam was firmly established and strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD , and all Israel followed him in this sin”
- D. **2 Chronicles 12:14**
 - 1. **NKJV** - “And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.”
 - 2. **NIV** - “He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.”
 - 3. **HCSB** – “Rehoboam did what was evil, because he did not determine in his heart to seek the LORD.”

ABIJAH (ABIJAM)

- A. 2nd king in Southern Kingdom . . . Reigned 3 years
- B. **1 Kings 15:3** - “He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been.”
- C. **2 Chronicles 13:12** – “. . . Do not fight against the Lord.”
- D. **2 Chronicles 13:18** – “. . . The men of Judah were victorious because they relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers.”
- E. Do not be afraid to fight against the enemies of the Lord.

ASA

- A. 3rd king in Southern Kingdom . . . Reigned 41 years . . . His character was good . . . 58 references to him in the Bible
- B. **2 Chronicles 15:2** – “The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”
- C. **2 Chronicles 16:9** – “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him . . .”
- D. **2 Chronicles 16:12** – “In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the physicians.” BOTE: It is wrong to rely on men rather than God. (Ben-Hadad then the physicians)

KINGS – Lessons from the Kings

2 Chronicles 16:7-9, 12 Note: These were the only two blemishes on his Biblical record.

JEHOSHAPHAT

- A. 4th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 35 . . . Reigned 25 years . . . His character was good . . . 77 references to him in the Bible
- B. **2 Chronicles 17:3, 6** – “The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed . . . **His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord.**”
- C. **1 Kings 22:43** – “In everything he walked in the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord . . .”
- D. **1 Kings 22:5** – “. . . First seek the counsel of the Lord.”
- E. **2 Chronicles 17:6** – “His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord . . .”
- F. Jehoshaphat instructed the Levites, priests, and others: “You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord.”
2 Chronicles 19:9
- G. **2 Chronicles 20:12** - “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

JEHORAM (JORAM)

- A. 5th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began to reign at age 32. . . Reigned 8 years . . . His character was bad . . . Married Athaliah, daughter of Ahab & Jezebel . . .
- B. Can be:
 - 1. Ungodly child of godly parents.
 - 2. Godly child of ungodly parents
 - 3. Jehoram was the ungodly son of a godly father . . .
 - 4. Godly parents can have children that will not be godly in their lives. Example of Jehosaphat and Jehoram
- C. The family one marries into can have a powerful influence for good or evil over your own family. House of Ahab over next three rulers of Judah (Jehoram (5th), (Ahaziah (6th), & Athaliah (7th))
- D. **2 Chronicles 21:20** - “. . . He passed away to no one’s regret . . .”

AHAZIAH

- A. 6th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 22 . . . Reigned 1 year . . . His character was bad . . . Died at age 23
- B. **2 Chronicles 22:3** – “He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong.”
- C. Evil companions are corrupting. 1 Corinthians 15:3

2 Chronicles 22:4 – “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as the house of Ahab had done, for after his father’s death they became his advisers, to his undoing.”

- D. “In the eyes of the Lord” (**2 Chronicles 22:4**) is forever the ultimate standard for right and wrong.

ATHALIAH

- A. 7th ruler in Southern Kingdom . . . Usurper to the throne . . . Only queen . . . Reigned 6 years . . . Her character was devilish (really bad) . . . Sought to destroy the house and lineage of David . . . Put Genesis 3:15 in jeopardy . . . Down to one baby boy (Joash) . . . Pharaoh, Athaliah, & Herod killed Israelite children.
- B. With the death of Athaliah, this put an end to 15 years of the house of Ahab poisoning the Southern Kingdom of Judah in a direct way.
 - 1. Her husband, Jehoram = 8 years
 - 2. Her son, Ahaziah = 1 year
 - 3. Herself = 6 years
- C. Good won out over evil . . . It always ultimately will.
- D. The Book of Revelation
 - 1. Theme: Victory in Jesus
 - 2. The church cannot lose and the devil cannot win.

JOASH

- A. 8th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 7 . . . Reigned 40 years . . . His character was mostly good.
- B. It is wrong to neglect the things of God. **2 Kings 12:6** – “But by the twenty-third year of King Joash the priests still had not repaired the temple.”
- C. Honesty and integrity should be seen at its highest levels among God’s people. Concerning the money brought into the temple, “They did not require an accounting from those to whom they gave the money to pay the workers because they acted with complete honesty.” **2 Kings 12:15**
- D. **2 Chronicles 23:1** – “In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength . . .” Sometimes our strength is needed when others are not putting forth theirs.
- E. **2 Chronicles 24:2** – “Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years of Jehoiada the priest.” But what about afterwards?

KINGS – Lessons from the Kings

1. Jehoiada died at age 130. When he died, he was awarded the honor of burial in the royal tombs "because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house" (2 Chronicles 24:15-16).
2. After the death of Jehoiada the wickedness of Joash is seen: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25
 - a. They abandoned the temple of the Lord
 - b. They worshipped Asherah poles and idols
 - c. God sent prophets to the people to bring them back to Him, but the people would not listen.
 - d. Zechariah, son of Jehoiada spoke against the evils of the people and said, ". . . Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you." 2 Chronicles 24:20
 - e. Joash gave the order for the people to stone Zechariah to death . . . And they did. 2 Chronicles 24:21
 - f. As Zechariah lay dying, he said in 2 Chronicles 24:22 – ". . . May the Lord see this and call you to account."
 - g. The army of Aram attacked Judah and Jerusalem, killed all the leaders, plundered the Temple of the Lord, and with fewer men defeated the larger army of Judah. 2 Chronicles 24:23-24 Joash was severely wounded and later assassinated by his own officials at Beth Milo because he had killed Zechariah, the priest.
 1. **He is one of the four kings omitted by Matthew** in the genealogy of Jesus, the other three being **Ahaziah, Amaziah, and Jehoiakim.**
 2. In Matthew 23:35 Jesus referred to the murder of Zechariah ben Jehoiada.
- D. Zechariah's statement to king Joash in 2 Chronicles 24:20 - ". . . Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. **Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you.**"
 1. Galatians 4:16 - "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth."
 2. Do not hold back what God wants revealed.

AMAZIAH

- A. 9th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 25 . . . Reigned 29 years . . . His character was Mostly good
- B. 2 Chronicles 25:2 – "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not wholeheartedly."

- C. 2 Chronicles 25:8 – ". . . For God has the power to help or to overthrow."

UZZIAH (AZARIAH)

- A. 10th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 16 . . . Reigned 52 years . . . His character was good
- B. 2 Chronicles 26:5 – "As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success."
- C. 2 Chronicles 26:16 – "But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God . . ." NOTE: People can change, and not always for the better

JOTHAM

- A. 11th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 25 . . . Reigned 16 years . . . His character was good
- B. 2 Chronicles 27:6 – "Jotham grew more powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God." Compare this to the statement made about his father, Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26:16 – "But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God . . ."

AHAZ

- A. 12th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began reign at age 20 . . . Reigned 16 years . . . His character was wicked
- B. 2 Chronicles 28:19 – "The Lord had humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for (1) he had promoted wickedness in Judah and (2) had been most unfaithful."
- C. 2 Chronicles 28:22 – "In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the Lord."

HEZEKIAH

- A. 13th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Reigned 29 years . . . His character was among the best . . . 124 references to him in the Bible . . . In fact, the history and literature of his beneficial reign occupy 17 chapters in the Bible. Samaria fell in Hezekiah's 6th year and Hoshea's 9th year. 2 Kings 18:10 **Note: After this there no more kings in the Northern Kingdom.**
 - 2 Kings 18:4 - ". . . **He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it.** (It was called Nehushtan)." Numbers 21:9

KINGS – Lessons from the Kings

- B. **2 Kings 18:5** – “. . . Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel.”
- C. **2 Kings 18:7** – “And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.”
- D. **2 Kings 18:12** – “. . . They neither listened to the commands nor carried them out.”
- E. **2 Chronicles 29:5** – “. . . Remove all defilement (“rubbish” NKJV) from the sanctuary.”
- F. **2 Chronicles 32:7** – “. . . For there is a greater power with us than with him.”
- G. **2 Chronicles 30:12** – “. . . The hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out . . . the word of the Lord.”
Sometimes we need to pray for unity of mind and purpose in our local congregations. A God-fearing person can make a lot of difference in his surroundings . . . Hezekiah did.

MANASSEH

- A. 14th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began to reign at age 12 . . .
Reigned 55 years . . . Died at age 67 . . . His character was among the worst . . . 26 references to him in the Bible
- B. **2 Chronicles 33:10** – “The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.”
- C. **2 Chronicles 33:12-13** – “In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of His fathers. And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea . . .”
- D. Even the worst among us can change . . . Look at Manasseh in Babylon. **2 Kings 33:12-13**

AMON

- A. 15th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began to reign at age 22 . . .
Reigned 2 years . . . His character was bad
- B. “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord as his father Manasseh had done. Amon worshiped and offered sacrifices to all the idols Manasseh had made. But unlike his father Manasseh, he did not humble himself before the Lord; Amon increased his guilt.”
2 Chronicles 22:22-23 He copied his father’s sins, but not his sorrow.

JOSIAH

- A. 16th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began to reign at age 8 . . .
Reigned 31 years . . . His character was among the best . . . 20 references to him in the Bible

- B. **2 Chronicles 34:3** – “In the eighth year of his reign, **while he was still young, he began to seek the God** of his father David . . .”
He would have been 16 at the time.
- C. **2 Kings 22:8** - “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord.”
- D. **2 Kings 23:25** – “Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did **with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength**, in accordance with all the Law of Moses
 - 1. To many people today, the Bible remains lost.
 - Lost in our homes
 - Lost in our pulpits
 - Lost to our youth
 - Lost in emotionalism
 - Lost in denominationalism
 - Lost in Islam
 - Lost in atheism
 - Lost in humanism
 - Lost in communism
 - Lost in our Legislative branch
 - Lost in our executive branch
 - Lost in our Judicial branch
 - 2. The Bible needs to be found today in:
 - The home
 - The pulpit
 - Every life . . . Every heart . . .

JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)

- A. 19th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Began to reign at age 25 . . .
Reigned 11 years . . . Died at age 36 . . . His character was wicked . . . 41 references to him in the Bible . . . Nothing good is recorded about him.
- B. Penknife Religion
Jeremiah brought a written prophecy of the king’s and his nations coming catastrophe and destruction. The king did not like what he heard read, so he used a scribe’s knife to cut up the roll in pieces, threw them into the fire and watched them until they were reduced to white ashes. **While the king may have destroyed the parchment, he did not destroy the truths written upon it.** READ: **Jeremiah 36:21-26**

ZEDEKIAH

- A. 20th king in Southern Kingdom . . . Reigned 11 years . . . His character is bad . . . 55 references to him in the Bible
- B. It is true that “The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.” **Psalm 9:17**
- C. The Southern Kingdom ended some
 - **464** years after David began to reign over Judah
 - **345** years after the United Kingdom split to become the Divided Kingdom
 - The two kingdoms existed side-by-side for some **209** years
 - The Southern Kingdom remained some **136** years after the Northern Kingdom was carried into Assyrian Captivity in **722 B.C.**
 - The Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into Babylonia captivity in **586 B.C.**