BIBLE TOPICS · OLD TESTAMENT

Kings of Israel

From Saul to the Exile · c. 1050–586 B.C.

c. 1050 B.C.	42 Rulers	722 B.C.	586 B.C.
Saul, the first king	3 united · 19 Israel · 20 Judah	Israel falls to Assyria	Judah falls to Babylon

C. 1050–586 B.C.

From Saul to the Exile

The story of the kings moves in eight eras: the request for a king, the three kings of the united kingdom, the split into two kingdoms, and the long road to exile.

1 C. 1050 B.C.

Israel Asks for a King

"A king to judge us like all the nations."

1 SAMUEL 8–12

2 C. 1050–1010

Saul

A promising start, half obedience, and a tragic end on Mount Gilboa.

1 SAMUEL 13–31

3 C. 1010–970

David

The shepherd king, God's everlasting promise, a great sin, true repentance.

2 SAMUEL 1–24

4 C. 970–930

Solomon

Wisdom, the temple and a golden age, then a heart that drifts.

1 KINGS 1–11

5 C. 930–874

The Kingdom Divides

Ten tribes follow Jeroboam; Judah stays with David's line.

1 KINGS 12–16

6 C. 874–814

Ahab, Elijah and Jehu

Baal worship, fire on Mount Carmel, and Jehu's revolt.

1 KINGS 17 – 2 KINGS 10

7 C. 841–722

The Fall of Israel

Prosperity, prophets, assassinations, and Samaria's fall.

2 KINGS 11–17

8 C. 715–586

Judah's Last Kings

Hezekiah and Josiah bring revival, but Jerusalem falls.

2 KINGS 18–25

KEY VERSE

"And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."

2 Samuel 7:16 (KJV)

Every King of Israel and Judah

BIBLE TOPICS · OLD TESTAMENT

Every King of Israel and Judah

Forty-two rulers from Saul to the exile

c. 1050–586 B.C. · Dates approximate; some reigns overlap

The United Kingdom

1. **Saul** — 40 years · mixed — C. 1050–1010 B.C.
2. **David** — 40 years · did right — C. 1010–970 B.C.
3. **Solomon** — 40 years · mixed — C. 970–930 B.C.

Israel (the North)

Fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. · every king did evil

1. **Jeroboam I** — 22 years · did evil — C. 930–909 B.C.
2. **Nadab** — 2 years · did evil — C. 909–908 B.C.
3. **Baasha** — 24 years · did evil — C. 908–886 B.C.
4. **Elah** — 2 years · did evil — C. 886–885 B.C.
5. **Zimri** — 7 days · did evil — C. 885 B.C.
6. **Omri** — 12 years · did evil — C. 885–874 B.C.
7. **Ahab** — 22 years · did evil — C. 874–853 B.C.
8. **Ahaziah** — 2 years · did evil — C. 853–852 B.C.
9. **Joram (Jehoram)** — 12 years · did evil — C. 852–841 B.C.
10. **Jehu** — 28 years · did evil — C. 841–814 B.C.
11. **Jehoahaz** — 17 years · did evil — C. 814–798 B.C.
12. **Jehoash (Joash)** — 16 years · did evil — C. 798–782 B.C.
13. **Jeroboam II** — 41 years · did evil — C. 793–753 B.C.
14. **Zechariah** — 6 months · did evil — C. 753 B.C.
15. **Shallum** — 1 month · did evil — C. 752 B.C.
16. **Menahem** — 10 years · did evil — C. 752–742 B.C.
17. **Pekahiah** — 2 years · did evil — C. 742–740 B.C.
18. **Pekah** — 20 years · did evil — C. 752–732 B.C.
19. **Hoshea** — 9 years · did evil — C. 732–722 B.C.

Judah (the South)

Fell to Babylon in 586 B.C. · eight kings did right

1. **Rehoboam** — 17 years · did evil — C. 930–913 B.C.
2. **Abijam (Abijah)** — 3 years · did evil — C. 913–910 B.C.
3. **Asa** — 41 years · did right — C. 910–869 B.C.
4. **Jehoshaphat** — 25 years · did right — C. 872–848 B.C.
5. **Jehoram** — 8 years · did evil — C. 853–841 B.C.
6. **Ahaziah** — 1 year · did evil — C. 841 B.C.
7. **Athaliah (queen)** — 6 years · did evil — C. 841–835 B.C.
8. **Joash (Jehoash)** — 40 years · did right — C. 835–796 B.C.
9. **Amaziah** — 29 years · did right — C. 796–767 B.C.
10. **Azariah (Uzziah)** — 52 years · did right — C. 792–740 B.C.
11. **Jotham** — 16 years · did right — C. 750–735 B.C.
12. **Ahaz** — 16 years · did evil — C. 735–715 B.C.
13. **Hezekiah** — 29 years · did right — C. 715–686 B.C.
14. **Manasseh** — 55 years · did evil — C. 697–642 B.C.
15. **Amon** — 2 years · did evil — C. 642–640 B.C.
16. **Josiah** — 31 years · did right — C. 640–609 B.C.
17. **Jehoahaz** — 3 months · did evil — C. 609 B.C.
18. **Jehoiakim** — 11 years · did evil — C. 609–598 B.C.
19. **Jehoiachin** — 3 months · did evil — C. 598–597 B.C.
20. **Zedekiah** — 11 years · did evil — C. 597–586 B.C.

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The Kings of Israel

THE NORTH

The Kings of Israel

Capital: Shechem, then Tirzah, then Samaria. Nine royal families in about 210 years. Every king kept Jeroboam's golden calves, and the kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.

KING AND READING	NOTES
1. Jeroboam I · 22 years 1 KINGS 12:20–14:20	**Led the ten tribes away and set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan.** C. 930–909 · DID EVIL
2. Nadab · 2 years 1 KINGS 15:25–31	**Killed by Baasha, who wiped out Jeroboam's house.** C. 909–908 · DID EVIL
3. Baasha · 24 years 1 KINGS 15:32–16:7	**Warned by the prophet Jehu son of Hanani; fought Asa of Judah.** C. 908–886 · DID EVIL
4. Elah · 2 years 1 KINGS 16:8–14	**Killed while drunk by Zimri, his chariot commander.** C. 886–885 · DID EVIL
5. Zimri · 7 days 1 KINGS 16:15–20	**Burned the palace over himself when Omri besieged Tirzah.** C. 885 · DID EVIL
6. Omri · 12 years 1 KINGS 16:21–28	**Beat his rival Tibni and built Samaria as the new capital.** C. 885–874 · DID EVIL
7. Ahab · 22 years 1 KINGS 16:29–22:40	**Married Jezebel and served Baal; opposed by Elijah.** C. 874–853 · DID EVIL
8. Ahaziah · 2 years 1 KINGS 22:51–2 KINGS 1:18	**Injured in a fall, he sent to ask Baal-zebub instead of God.** C. 853–852 · DID EVIL
9. Joram (Jehoram) · 12 years 2 KINGS 3:1–27	**Son of Ahab; the king in many of Elisha's stories. Killed by Jehu.** C. 852–841 · DID EVIL
10. Jehu · 28 years 2 KINGS 9:1–10:36	**Ended Ahab's house and Baal worship, but kept Jeroboam's calves.** C. 841–814 · DID EVIL
11. Jehoahaz · 17 years 2 KINGS 13:1–9	**Oppressed by Syria; he besought the LORD, and God gave a deliverer.** C. 814–798 · DID EVIL
12. Jehoash (Joash) · 16 years 2 KINGS 13:10–25	**Wept at Elisha's deathbed and beat Syria three times.** C. 798–782 · DID EVIL
13. Jeroboam II · 41 years 2 KINGS 14:23–29	**Restored Israel's borders, as Jonah foretold; the age of Amos and Hosea.** C. 793–753 · DID EVIL
14. Zechariah · 6 months 2 KINGS 15:8–12	**The fourth generation of Jehu, as God had said; killed by Shallum.** C. 753 · DID EVIL
15. Shallum · 1 month 2 KINGS 15:13–15	**Killed by Menahem after one month.** C. 752 · DID EVIL
16. Menahem · 10 years 2 KINGS 15:16–22	**Paid a thousand talents of silver to Pul, king of Assyria.** C. 752–742 · DID EVIL
17. Pekahiah · 2 years 2 KINGS 15:23–26	**Killed by his captain Pekah.** C. 742–740 · DID EVIL
18. Pekah · 20 years 2 KINGS 15:27–31	**Joined Syria against Judah; Assyria took Galilee and Gilead.** C. 752–732 · DID EVIL
19. Hoshea · 9 years 2 KINGS 17:1–6	**The last king; Samaria fell after a three-year siege.** C. 732–722 · DID EVIL

The Kings of Judah

THE SOUTH

The Kings of Judah

Capital: Jerusalem, with the temple. One royal family, David's, for about 345 years, broken only by Queen Athaliah. Eight kings did right. Judah fell to Babylon in 586 B.C.

KING AND READING	NOTES
1. Rehoboam · 17 years 1 KINGS 14:21–31	**His harsh answer split the kingdom; Shishak of Egypt took the temple treasures.** C. 930–913 · DID EVIL
2. Abijam (Abijah) · 3 years 1 KINGS 15:1–8	**His heart was not perfect, yet God kept a lamp in Jerusalem for David's sake.** C. 913–910 · DID EVIL
3. Asa · 41 years 1 KINGS 15:9–24	**Removed idols and even the queen mother Maachah; later relied on Syria.** C. 910–869 · DID RIGHT
4. Jehoshaphat · 25 years 1 KINGS 22:41–50	**Taught the law in the cities, but allied himself with Ahab's house.** C. 872–848 · DID RIGHT
5. Jehoram · 8 years 2 KINGS 8:16–24	**Married Athaliah, Ahab's daughter, and walked in the ways of Ahab.** C. 853–841 · DID EVIL
6. Ahaziah · 1 year 2 KINGS 8:25–29	**Killed by Jehu while visiting Joram of Israel.** C. 841 · DID EVIL
7. Athaliah (queen) · 6 years 2 KINGS 11:1–21	**Seized the throne; baby Joash was hidden in the temple.** C. 841–835 · DID EVIL
8. Joash (Jehoash) · 40 years 2 KINGS 12:1–21	**Crowned at seven; repaired the temple while Jehoiada the priest guided him.** C. 835–796 · DID RIGHT
9. Amaziah · 29 years 2 KINGS 14:1–22	**Right, yet not like David; beat Edom, then foolishly challenged Israel.** C. 796–767 · DID RIGHT
10. Azariah (Uzziah) · 52 years 2 KINGS 15:1–7	**A long, strong reign; struck with leprosy for burning incense.** C. 792–740 · DID RIGHT
11. Jotham · 16 years 2 KINGS 15:32–38	**Built the higher gate of the temple; the high places remained.** C. 750–735 · DID RIGHT
12. Ahaz · 16 years 2 KINGS 16:1–20	**Made his son pass through the fire and turned to Assyria instead of God.** C. 735–715 · DID EVIL
13. Hezekiah · 29 years 2 KINGS 18:1–20:21	**Trusted the LORD; God saved Jerusalem from Sennacherib of Assyria.** C. 715–686 · DID RIGHT
14. Manasseh · 55 years 2 KINGS 21:1–18	**The longest and worst reign; he humbled himself in Babylon (2 Chronicles 33).** C. 697–642 · DID EVIL
15. Amon · 2 years 2 KINGS 21:19–26	**Followed his father's idols; killed by his servants.** C. 642–640 · DID EVIL
16. Josiah · 31 years 2 KINGS 22:1–23:30	**Found the book of the law, renewed the covenant and kept a great passover.** C. 640–609 · DID RIGHT
17. Jehoahaz · 3 months 2 KINGS 23:31–34	**Taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho.** C. 609 · DID EVIL
18. Jehoiakim · 11 years 2 KINGS 23:35–24:7	**Served Babylon, then rebelled; burned Jeremiah's scroll.** C. 609–598 · DID EVIL
19. Jehoiachin · 3 months 2 KINGS 24:8–17	**Taken to Babylon with Ezekiel and ten thousand captives.** C. 598–597 · DID EVIL
20. Zedekiah · 11 years 2 KINGS 24:18–25:7	**Rebelled against Babylon; Jerusalem and the temple were burned.** C. 597–586 · DID EVIL

For the united kingdom, read 1 Samuel 9–31 (Saul), 2 Samuel 1–24 (David) and 1 Kings 1–11 (Solomon). Chronicles retells Judah's story in 2 Chronicles 10–36.

Two Kingdoms Compared

AFTER SOLOMON

Two Kingdoms Compared

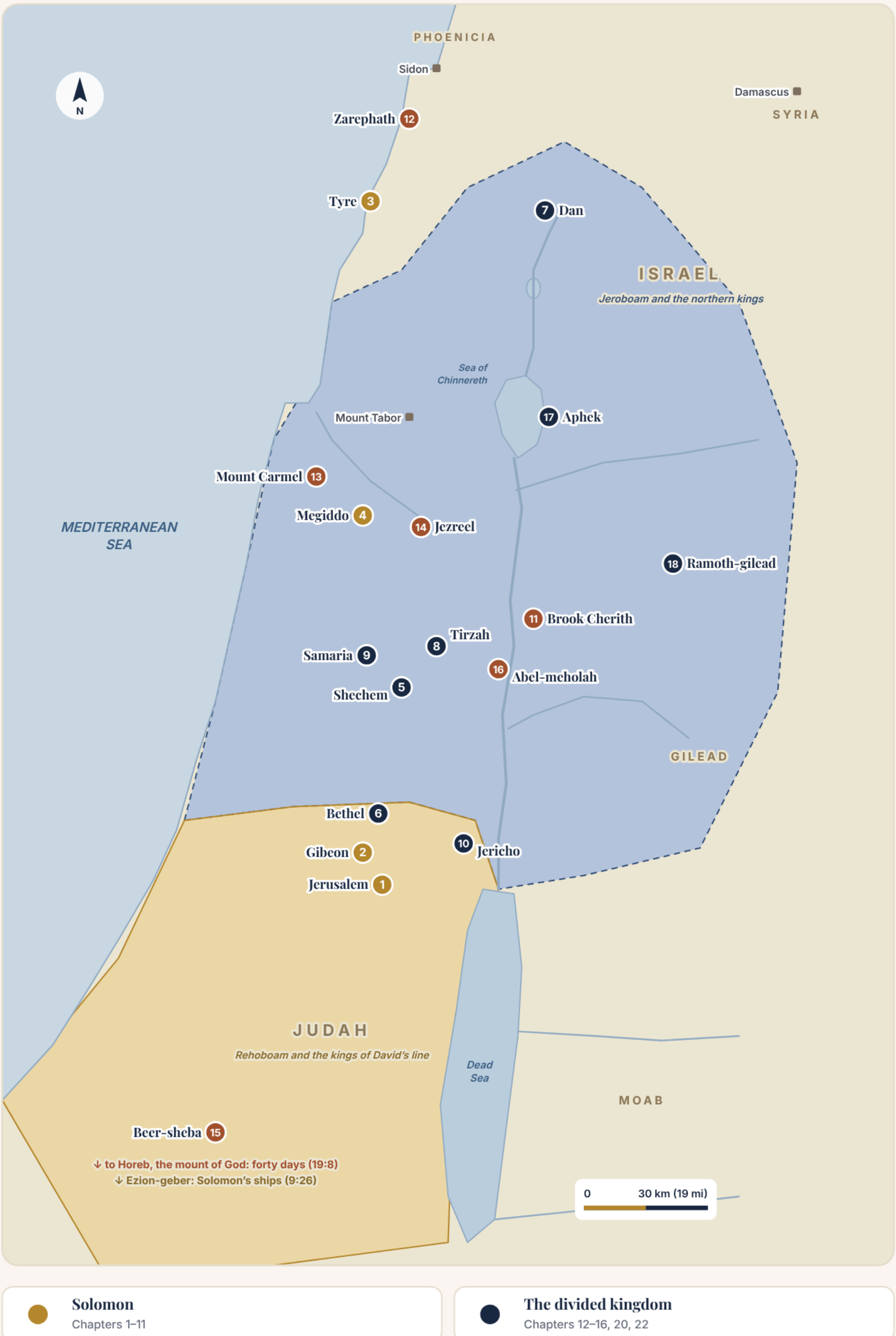
From about 930 B.C. there were two kingdoms side by side, sometimes at war with each other and sometimes allies.

1 KINGS 1–22

The Kingdom Divided

From Solomon's glory to Elijah on Mount Carmel

c. 970–853 B.C. · Borders approximate



Solomon
Chapters 1–11

The divided kingdom
Chapters 12–16, 20, 22

Elijah
Chapters 17–19, 21

Judah (gold), Israel (blue)
After the division, c. 930 B.C. (12:19–21)

"How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him."

1 KINGS 18:21 (KJV)

Borders and several sites (the brook Cherith, Aphek and others) are approximate.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

Borders and several sites are approximate.

C. 930–722 B.C.

Israel (the North)

Ten tribes, led by Ephraim. Capitals Shechem, Tirzah, then Samaria. Nineteen kings from nine royal families; none did right. Worship at golden calves in Bethel and Dan. Fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.

2 KINGS 17

C. 930–586 B.C.

Judah (the South)

Judah and Benjamin, joined by Levites and faithful people from the north. Capital Jerusalem, with the temple. All of David's line except Athaliah; eight kings did right. Fell to Babylon in 586 B.C.

2 KINGS 25

The Prophets and the Kings

GOD'S MESSENGERS

The Prophets and the Kings

Israel's kings were never meant to have the final word. God sent prophets to anoint them, guide them and confront them.

TO SAUL
Samuel
Anointed the first two kings: "to obey is better than sacrifice."
1 SAMUEL 15

TO DAVID
Nathan
Brought God's promise, and later the rebuke: "Thou art the man."
2 SAMUEL 12

TO JEROBOAM
Ahijah
Tore his cloak into twelve pieces and gave Jeroboam ten.
1 KINGS 11:29–39

TO AHAB
Elijah
Announced the drought and called down fire on Mount Carmel.
1 KINGS 17–19

TO JORAM AND JEHU
Elisha
Did many miracles and sent a prophet to anoint Jehu.
2 KINGS 2–9

TO JEROBOAM II
Amos and Hosea
Spoke against injustice and idols in Israel's richest days.
AMOS 7:10–17

TO AHAZ AND HEZEKIAH
Isaiah
Urged Ahaz to trust God and assured Hezekiah God would save Jerusalem.
ISAIAH 37

TO JOSIAH TO ZEDEKIAH
Jeremiah
Prophesied for forty years and saw Jerusalem fall.
JEREMIAH 1:1–3

> *"Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes"*
>
> 2 Kings 17:13 (KJV)

THE REST OF THE STORY

The Kings and Jesus

Every king of Israel and Judah fell short. But God had promised David a son whose throne would last for ever, and the New Testament opens by announcing that He has come.

The Son of David
"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."
MATTHEW 1:1

The Throne of David
"the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David"
LUKE 1:32

Greater than Solomon
"behold, a greater than Solomon is here."
MATTHEW 12:42

The Humble King
"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass"
MATTHEW 21:5

A Different Kingdom
"My kingdom is not of this world"
JOHN 18:36

King of Kings
"KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."
REVELATION 19:16

Lessons for Today

FOR TODAY

Five Things to Remember

The kings lived long ago, but the lessons of their reigns are as near as your own heart.

1

God Wants to Be King

Israel's deepest problem was rejecting God's rule.

1 SAMUEL 8:7

2

God Looks at the Heart

Height, wisdom and cleverness could not replace a heart turned to God.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

3

One Choice Affects Many

Jeroboam's calves led a nation astray; Josiah's obedience turned it back.

1 KINGS 14:16

4

God Warns Before He Judges

He sent prophet after prophet for hundreds of years.

2 KINGS 17:13–14

5

God Keeps His Promises

He kept David's line alive until the true Son of David came.

LUKE 1:32–33

6

Trust in the LORD

The best kings leaned on God, not on chariots or allies.

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

PSALM 20:7

THINK ABOUT IT

Questions for Reflection

Israel wanted to be "like all the nations": where are you tempted to trust what everyone else trusts instead of God? Saul offered sacrifice instead of obedience: is there an area where you are doing the same? Josiah's reform began when he simply heard God's word read: what would change if you took God's word that seriously?

KEY THEMES

Six Themes of the Kings

These six truths run through the whole story, from Saul to the exile.

1

God Is the True King

Israel's request was a rejection of God's rule.

"when the LORD your God was your king"

1 SAMUEL 12:12

2

God Looks on the Heart

Saul looked the part; David had the heart.

"but the LORD looketh on the heart"

1 SAMUEL 16:7

3

Leaders Shape a Nation

Jeroboam led Israel into sin; Josiah led Judah back to the covenant.

2 KINGS 23:3

4

God Speaks Through His Prophets

Kings rose and fell, but the word of the LORD stood.

2 KINGS 17:13

5

Sin Has Consequences

Both kingdoms were removed from the land because they would not turn back.

2 KINGS 17:18

6

God Keeps His Promise

He kept a lamp burning for David, even through the exile.

1 KINGS 15:4