

Kings of Israel and Judah – Defining features

"Date of reign" numbers are a subject of debate and are a guide only. The reigns of some monarchs overlapped their successor during periods of co-regency. Figures here are mostly those of E. R. Thiele (1983).

| Kings of Israel | Kings of Judah |
|--|---|
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Jeroboam family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jeroboam (I)</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 11-14; 2 Chronicles 10-13</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.931-910 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 22 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Returned from exile in Egypt to become the first King of northern Kingdom. This is the "Jeroboam, who sinned and made Israel sin" by establishing golden calves at Bethel and Dan, erecting wooden images for worship, and establishing his own non-Levitical priesthood. Levitical priests in this land migrated south to Judah during his reign. Lost territory to Judah against King Abijah.</p> </div> </div> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Rehoboam</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 11-14; 2 Chronicles 10-12</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c. 931-913 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 17 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Son of Solomon. Kingdom divided early on in his rule. Fortified several cities in Judah, that were later attacked by Egypt, the nation that had harboured Jeroboam for several years. Forfeited temple riches to Egypt. Said to have been "evil" (2 Ch 12:14)</p> </div> </div> |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Baasha family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Nadab</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 15</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.910-909 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 2 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Son of Jeroboam, last in this dynasty. Killed by Baasha, the next King.</p> </div> </div> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Abijah (Abijah)</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 14, 15; 2 Chronicles 11-13</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c. 931-911 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 3 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Son of Rehoboam. Fought King Jeroboam and gained territory from Israel. Upheld the name of Jehovah in battle against Jeroboam, but "his heart was not loyal to the LORD" (1 Kings 15:3).</p> </div> </div> |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Baasha family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Baasha</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 15,16; 2 Chronicles 16; Jeremiah 41</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.909-886 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 24 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Tried to stop emigration to and from Judah by building the city of Ramah. Stopped this work when his original ally, Ben-Hadad of Syria, raided cities in the north, thus diverting attention away from Syria's ally Judah, the enemy to the south.</p> </div> </div> | <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Asa</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 14-16</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.911-870 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 41 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Son of Abijah. Victorious in the name of Jehovah over the Ethiopians in the south. Removed idols from the land. Helped people from Israel emigrate to Judah, movement that was halted by King Baasha of Israel. Entered into a treaty with Ben-Hadad of Syria to enact a victory over Baasha, a move condemned by God.</p> </div> </div> |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Baasha family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Elah</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 16</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: 886-885 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 2 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Son of Baasha, last in this dynasty. Killed by Zimri, the next King.</p> </div> </div> | |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Baasha family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Zimri</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 16</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.885 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 7 days</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Commander of the army, he killed Elah. Killed himself shortly after when faced with Omri's forces.</p> </div> </div> | |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: x-small; color: red; margin-right: 5px;">Baasha family dynasty</div> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">(Tibni)</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Kings 16</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Approx. date of reign: c.885-880 BC</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Length of reign: 4 years</p> <p style="margin: 0;">A rival to the eventual King Omri. Followed by half the people after Zimri's death, but eventually succumbed to the stronger force of Omri.</p> </div> </div> | |

Omri**1 Kings 16; 2 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 22***Approx. date of reign: c.885-874 BC**Length of reign: 12 years*

Head of the Omride dynasty. Built eventual capital city, Samaria.

Ahab**1 Kings 16-22; 2 Chronicles 18***Approx. date of reign: c.874-853 BC**Length of reign: 22 years*

House of Omri. Son of Omri. Active in promoting the worship of Baal. Wife was Jezebel, who was influential and opposed to the worship of Jehovah. Had several dealings with the prophet Elijah. Having been bullied by Ben-hadad of Syria, he then twice defeated Syria, but then allowed Ben-hadad to live. Allied with Jehoshaphat of Judah, Ahab (a) fought the Syrians; (b) fathered a daughter, Athaliah, who would marry Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram, and become Judah's queen. Had Naboth killed (Naboth owned a vineyard in which both Ahab and Jezebel's blood would lie). Ahab was killed in battle against the Syrians, whilst Jezebel was killed in the uprising by Jehu.

Ahaziah**1 Kings 22; 2 Kings 1; 2 Chronicles 20***Approx. date of reign: c.853-852 BC**Length of reign: 2 years*

House of Omri. Son of Ahab, brother of the next King, Jehoram, brother-in-law of King Jehoram of Judah. Died as a result of an accident, in accordance with Elijah's prophecy.

Jehoram (Joram)**2 Kings 8,9; 2 Chronicles 22***Approx. date of reign: c.852-841 BC**Length of reign: 12 years*

House of Omri. Son of Ahab, brother of the former King Ahaziah, brother-in-law of King Jehoram of Judah, uncle of Judah's King Ahaziah. Allied with Jehoshaphat of Judah against the Moabites, and consulted the prophet Elisha in the process. Killed by the next King, Jehu, in an uprising, along with King Ahaziah of Judah, all other potential heirs to the throne and those associated with the house of Omri.

Jehu**1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 9,10; 2 Chronicles 22***Approx. date of reign: c.841-814 BC**Length of reign: 28 years*

Head of the Jehuic dynasty. Killed all known family and associates of former King Ahab, including former King Jehoram (of Israel), as well as King Ahaziah of Judah. Cleansed Israel of Baal worshippers and temples permanently, honoured Jehovah, but simultaneously worshipped other pagan gods.

Jehoshaphat**1 Kings 22:1-50; 2 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 17-21***Approx. date of reign: 872-848 BC**Length of reign: 25 years*

Son of Asa. "The LORD was with Jehoshaphat" (2 Ch 17:3). Continued to remove idols from the land of Judah. Grew in power amongst the surrounding nations. Allied himself with King Ahab of Israel by having his own son Jehoram (the next King) marry Athaliah (Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, a future usurper to the throne of Judah). Went to battle against Syria alongside Ahab, a move condemned by God. Won a victory over an eastern alliance of Moab, Ammon and Edom without firing a shot.

Jehoram (Joram)**2 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 21,22***Approx. date of reign: c.853-841 BC**Length of reign: 8 years*

Son of Jehoshaphat. Married the daughter (Athaliah - see below) of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel, and was led astray by this union. Built pagan sites in the Judean mountains.

Ahaziah (Jehoahaz)**2 Kings 8,9; 2 Chronicles 22***Approx. date of reign: c.841 BC**Length of reign: 1 year*

Son of King Jehoram of Judah and Queen Athaliah, Judah's next monarch. Nephew of Kings Jehoram (Joram) and Ahaziah of Israel. Died young whilst visiting Jehoram of Israel.

Q. Athaliah**2 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 22,23***Approx. date of reign: c.841-835 BC**Length of reign: 6 years*

Daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel. Married to former King Jehoram of Judah, mother of King Ahaziah of Judah, grandmother of the next King, Joash. Illegally usurped the throne after the early death of King Ahaziah. Killed by forces loyal to the legitimate heir to the throne, the young King Joash.

Jehoahaz

2 Kings 13; 2 Chronicles 25

Approx. date of reign: c.814-798 BC

Length of reign: 17 years

House of Jehu. Son of Jehu. Suffered defeat at the hands of Hazael and his son Ben-hadad of Syria, leaving a depleted army.

Jehoash (Joash)

2 Kings 13,14; 2 Chronicles 25; Hosea; Amos

Approx. date of reign: c.798-782 BC

Length of reign: 16 years

House of Jehu. Son of Jehoahaz. Elisha prophesied moderate victories over Syria. Defeated Amaziah, King of Judah, but released him.

Jeroboam (II)

2 Kings 14; Hosea; Amos

Approx. date of reign: c.793-753 BC

Length of reign: 41 years

House of Jehu. Son of Jehoash. Successful in restoring land as far north as Hamath, and as far south as the Dead Sea – largest extent since Solomon.

Zechariah

2 Kings 15

Approx. date of reign: c.753-752 BC

Length of reign: 6 months

House of Jehu. Final King of the Jehuic dynasty. Son of Jeroboam II. Killed by the next King, Shallum.

Shallum

2 Kings 15

Approx. date of reign: c.752 BC

Length of reign: 1 month

Killed former King Zechariah. Killed by next King, Menahem.

Menahem

2 Kings 15

Approx. date of reign: c.752-742 BC

Length of reign: 10 years

Killed former King Zechariah. Staved off Assyrian threat by paying tribute to Pul (Tiglath-Pileser III).

Pekahiah

2 Kings 15

Approx. date of reign: c.742-740 BC

Length of reign: 2 years

Son of Menahem, last in this dynasty. Killed by the next King, Pekah, one of his officers.

Joash

2 Kings 11,12; 2 Chronicles 22-24

Approx. date of reign: c.835-796 BC

Length of reign: 40 years

Grandson of Queen Athaliah, son of King Ahaziah of Judah. Hidden away until the age of 7 during Queen Athaliah's illegitimate reign. Mentored by the priest Jehoiada. Made repairs to the temple, began to follow after pagan idols after the death of his mentor. Killed in a conspiracy.

Amaziah

2 Kings 12-14; 2 Chronicles 25

Approx. date of reign: c.796-767 BC

Length of reign: 29 years

Son of King Joash of Judah, and was fairly loyal to Jehovah. After a victory over Edom, he instigated a war against Jehoash of Israel, but his forces were defeated. Killed in a conspiracy.

Uzziah (Azariah)

2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26; Isaiah 1-6; Amos

Approx. date of reign: c.792-740 BC

Length of reign: 52 years

Son of Amaziah. Loyal to Jehovah. Won several military victories and Judah's territory was enlarged. Became proud and tried to burn incense in the temple, a ritual reserved for the Levitical priests. Inflicted with a skin disease as a result and, though still nominally the King, lived in isolation whilst his son Jotham reigned in a subordinate capacity.

Pekah

2 Kings 15,16; 2 Chronicles 28

Approx. date of reign: c.752-732 BC

Length of reign: 20 years

Killed former King Pekahiah. In an alliance with Syria, he won a victory over Ahaz of Judah. Lost cities to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria. Killed by the next King, Hoshea.

Hoshea

2 Kings 17,18

Approx. date of reign: c.732-722 BC

Length of reign: 9 years

Killed former King, Pekah. Final King of Israel. Paid tribute to Shalmaneser of Assyria for several years. Stopped paying that tribute, and struck up an allegiance with Egypt. Subsequently, Hoshea was imprisoned by the Assyrians, and the nation of **Israel was carried away into exile**.

*** ISRAEL EXILED BY THE ASSYRIANS ***

Jotham

2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26,27

Approx. date of reign: 750-732 BC

Length of reign: 16 years

Son of Uzziah. Reigned in a subordinate capacity for several years under Uzziah before eventually reigning in his own right. Loyal to Jehovah. He had many buildings constructed and won a victory over the Ammonites.

Ahaz

2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 28; Isaiah 7-14; Hosea; Micah

Approx. date of reign: c.735-716 BC

Length of reign: 16 years

Son of Jotham. One of Judah's most apostate Kings. Some of Isaiah's most famous prophecies involve Ahaz. Lost territory to King Pekah of Israel, as well as to Syria, Edom and the Philistines. Made a tenuous and temporary alliance with Assyria. Actively promoted pagan worship and left the temple a desecrated mess in the process.

Hezekiah

2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32;

Isaiah 36-39; Hosea; Micah

Approx. date of reign: c.716-687 BC

Length of reign: 29 years

Son of Ahaz. One of Judah's best Kings. Made repairs to the temple, reinstated proper worship within the first months of his reign and removed many pagan worship sites. Miraculously avoided the threat of invasion from Sennacherib of Assyria. Judah prospered and gained territory under Hezekiah. Foolishly allowed envoys from Babylon to inspect the temple, his treasures and other strategic sites. Whilst close to death, God granted him an extra 15 years of life. Northern Kingdom of Israel was exiled by the Assyrians during the reign of Hezekiah.

Manasseh

2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33

Approx. date of reign: c.697-643 BC

Length of reign: 55 years

Son of Hezekiah. Performed some of the most atrocious acts of any of the Kings. Once captured by the Assyrians, he humbled himself before God and was released, after which time he cleansed the temple of idols and carried out a number of building projects.

Amon

2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33

Approx. date of reign: 643-641 BC

Length of reign: 2 years

Son of Manasseh. Unfaithful to Jehovah. Killed in a conspiracy after a short reign.

Josiah

2 Kings 22,23; 2 Chronicles 34,35; Jeremiah 1-6

Approx. date of reign: c.641-609 BC

Length of reign: 31 years

Son of Amon. Came to the throne at a young age. Instituted many reforms and restored proper worship practice. The Book of the Law, lost for many years, was found under his reign. The ark of the covenant is last mentioned during the time of Josiah. Sustained fatal injuries whilst attempting to fight Egyptian forces on their way to Assyria, a battle he should not have been involved with.

Jehoahaz (Shallum)

2 Kings 23; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 22

Approx. date of reign: c.609 BC

Length of reign: 3 months

Son of Josiah, brother of the next King, Jehoiakim, and also future King Zedekiah. Unfaithful to Jehovah. A few months into his reign, he was imprisoned by Pharaoh Necho and taken to Egypt, where he eventually died.

Jehoiakim (Eliakim)

2 Kings 23,24; 2 Chronicles 36;

Jeremiah 22,25-27,35,36,45

Approx. date of reign: c.609-598 BC

Length of reign: 11 years

Son of Josiah, brother of former King Jehoahaz and future King Zedekiah. For most of his reign, Judah was a vassal state of Egypt. After a few years, the Egyptians forfeited Judah to the invading forces of Babylon, who ruled for the final years of his tenure.

**** c.606 BC - 70 YEARS OF JEWISH EXILE IN BABYLON COMMENCED ****

Jehoiakim was deposed by the Nebuchadnezzar, carried off to Babylon with many other captives in the **first of three main phases of Judah's exile.**

Jehoiachin (Jeconiah/Coniah)

2 Kings 24,25; 2 Chronicles 36;

Jeremiah 22,24-29,52; Ezekiel 1; Esther 2

Approx. date of reign: c.598-597 BC

Length of reign: 3 months

Son of Jehoiakim. Nephew of the next King, Zedekiah. Unfaithful to Jehovah. **The second phase of the Babylonian exile.** Jehoiachin was deposed and carried off to Babylon, along with many other captives and most of the temple treasures. After 37 years in captivity, he was released by King Evil-Merodach of Babylon and allowed to live in relative comfort there.

Zedekiah (Mattaniah)

1 Kings 24,25; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 21 to 52

Approx. date of reign: c.597-586 BC

Length of reign: 11 years

Uncle of Jehoiakin, brother of former Kings Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim. Unfaithful to Jehovah. Was installed as King by the Babylonians, until he refused to pay them tribute any longer. Zedekiah was captured, Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed, and most people of Judah were taken to Babylon in the **third and final phase of the Babylonian exile**. Zedekiah was imprisoned and died in Babylon.

*** c.586 BC - JUDAH EXILED BY THE BABYLONIANS ***

(Jewish nation exiled in Babylon)

*** c.536 BC - JEWS ALLOWED TO RETURN UNDER PERSIAN RULE ***