

CHRONOLOGY OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH AFTER SOLOMON

REHOBOAM

1 Kings 11:43-12:24; 1 Kings 14:21-31; 1 Kings 15:6; 2 Chron 9:31-2 Chron 12:16

- Rehoboam reigned in Solomon's stead.
- Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem.
- Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah.
- The priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the Lord:
- After the Levites the people came out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers.
- So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.
- There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.
- Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, to be ruler among his brethren: for he thought to make him king.
- And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and Abijam (Abijah) his son reigned in his stead.

ABIJAM-ABIJAH

1 Kings 15:1-8; 2 Chron 13:1-22

- Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah.
- He reigned three years in Jerusalem. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.
- And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.
- Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the Lord struck him, and he died.
- Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

ASA

1 Kings 15:8-24, 32-33; 2 Chron 14:1-16:14; Jer 41:9

- And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah.
- And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem.
- And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.
- In his days the land was quiet ten years. And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the Lord had given him rest.
- And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him. So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.
- In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

**** It is at this point we have to consider a "contradiction" in scripture. 1 Kgs 16:6-8,23 indicate that Baasha died in the 26th year of Asa's regime, so how could he attack Asa in the 36th year of Asa's

reign?

The word translated as 'reign' in 2 Chron 16:1 is used elsewhere in scripture to denote "realm", "dynasty", "or "kingdom", rather than "reign" (2 Chron1:1; 11:17; 20:30; Neh 9:35; Esther 1:14 etc).

This 36 years is a reference to the 36 years from the division of the monarchy at which time the Judaic dynasty, of which Asa belongs, began under Rehoboam. The phrase in 2 Chron 16:1 references the kingdom over which Asa had dominion and is understood as meaning the kingdom of Asa (Judah) as distinguished from the Northern Kingdom.

This interpretation resolves two chronological problems. First, it completely eliminates the circumstance in which Baasha apparently waited 21 years before blocking the exodus of his citizens to Judah. After Asa defeated the enormous host of Zerah the Ethiopian, in the 15th year of his reign, the 35th year of the kingdom of Judah, many came to Asa because they saw the Lord was with him 2 Chron 15:9. Baasha would have lost little time in securing his borders, halting the southern flow out of Israel. In the year following the defeat of Zerah, the 16th year of Asa, the 36th year of the kingdom of Judah, Baasha fortified Ramah to stop the flow of his citizens.

The second problem this resolves is the absurdity of Baasha invading Judah 10 years after his death 1 Kgs 15:33; 1Kgs 16:8.

- And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.
- And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead

JEHOSHAPHAT

1 Kings 22:41-51; 1 Kings 21:29-22:39; 2 Kings 3:1,3-27; 2 Kings 8:16-17; 2 Chron 17:1-12; 2 Chron 18:1-34; 2 Chron 19:1-21:4; 2 Chron 20:35-37

- Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.
- Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem.
- And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel. Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. His son, Jehoram married Athaliah the daughter of Ahab.
- Jehoshaphat went to war with Ahab at Ramoth-Gilead where Ahab was killed.
- Jehoshaphat also joined Jehoram of Israel to go to war against Moab. Moab had rebelled against Israel when Ahab died and Jehoram of Israel asked Jehoshaphat to help him.
- Jehoshaphat also made a ship building venture with wicked Ahaziah of Israel that came to nothing because the Lord broke up the ships.
- Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.
- And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. (This "discrepancy" is covered in the next section regarding Jehoram)

Jehoram

2 Kings 1:17; 2 Kings 8:16-24; 1 Kgs 22:47-50; 2 Chron 21:1-20

- So he (Ahaziah king of Israel) died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken.

And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son.

- And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

**** Here again we have what seems to be a contradiction in the scriptures. How could Jehoram (of Israel) begin to reign in the 2nd year of Jehoram (of Judah) and yet it says Jehoram (of Judah) began to reign in the 5th year of Jehoram (of Israel)?

As you look at the graph, you will see that Ahaziah in Israel began as co-rex with Ahab and Jehoram in Judah began to be pro-rex with Jehoshaphat. As you read the scriptures you will see that Ahab and Jehoshaphat went to war at Ramoth-Gilead and Ahab was killed. He also went to war with Jehoram. Jehoshaphat was then involved in a disastrous ship-building venture with Ahaziah. Jehoshaphat had given some authority to Jehoram as pro-rex when he went to war assisting Ahab and when he went to help Jehoram of Israel against Moab. Then Jehoram (of Judah) became co-rex with Jehoshaphat, thus ending up with an eight year reign, but only four as sole rex. The graphs help to see how all this works when there are reigns that overlap and don't seem to add up.

- And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves (there was no king in Edom, a deputy was king). This is an example of an interregnum.
- And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn. Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel.
- there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying,... Behold, with a great plague will the Lord smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.
- Moreover the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians: And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz (Ahaziah), the youngest of his sons.
- And after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases.
- And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.
- Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children.

Ahaziah (Jehoahaz)

2 Chron 21:16-17; 2 Kings 8:18,24-29; 2 Kings 9:16-29; 2 Chron 22:1-9

- And they (Philistines and Arabians) came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all

the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him (Jehoram), save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

- In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.
- And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

**** Looking back at Jehoram's last two years, we see that he was suffering from a bowel disease. Since scripture records him (Ahaziah) as reigning 1 yr., he must have been pro-rex for one and sole rex for one, and that was the eighth year of Jehoram. The scriptures must be searched out in order to find the truth rather than dismissing the Word of God.

- Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.
- Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.

**** Here is another seemingly big "scribal error". Ahaziah could not have been 42 at the time he began to reign because that would make him older than his father (Jehoram was 32 when he began to reign and reigned 8 yrs making him 40).

In 2 Chron 22:2 the word 'was' is an inserted word and it would literally read that he was a son of 42 years. As in the case of Asa and Baasha, there is a precedence set in seeing that Chronicles was written around 500 centuries after Kings. In the case concerning Baasha, Chronicles recorded an incident and referenced it to the beginning of Asa's dynasty rather than to his actual years of reign. Ahaziah's mother is Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and granddaughter to Omri; hence he is in the direct lineage of both the dynasties of Israel and Judah and moreover is said to be of "the house of Ahab (2 Chron 22:3-4).

In 2 Chron 22:2, the verse calls attention to Omri and it may readily be seen that it is exactly the 42nd year (Judaic reckoning) of the dynasty in Israel which he founded in 929 BC when he slew Zimri.

- And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.
- In his year as sole rex, Ahaziah went to war along with Jehoram of Israel against Hazael king of Syria.
- And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the Lord had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.

Athaliah

2 Kings 8:26; 2 Kings 11:1-4; 2 Kings 11:13-16; 2 Kings 11:20; 2 Chron 22:2-3; 2 Chron 22:10-23:3
2 Chron 23:12-15; 2 Chron 23:21; 1 Kings 16:18

- And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.
- And he (Jehoram) walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.
- And he was with her hid in the house of the Lord six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

- And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the Lord, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the Lord, and shewed them the king's son.
- And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the Lord hath said of the sons of David.
- And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the Lord.
- And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.
- But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, Have her forth without the ranges: and him that followeth her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be slain in the house of the Lord.
- And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.

Joash (Jehoash)

2 Kings 11:2-13:10; 2 Chron 22:10-23:21; 2 Chron 24:1-27 Chron 24:1-27

- Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign.
- In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem.
- And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.
- And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.
- For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim.
- And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the Lord, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the Lord, Let the priests take it to them; every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.
- But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.
- But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.
- Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they left the house of the Lord God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.
- Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the Lord; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.
- And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the Lord, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the Lord, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the Lord.
- Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him,

but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The Lord look upon it, and require it.

- Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.
- And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the Lord delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.
- And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the Lord, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.
- And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases (the word can mean wounds as well) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.
- Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Amaziah

2 Kings 12:21; 2 Kings 14:1-20; 2 Chron 25; 2 Chron 26:1

- For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him (Joash), and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.
- In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.
- He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem.
- And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.
- And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.
- Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield. (Edom had revolted under Jehoram)
- He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.
- But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the Lord is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.
- Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.
- And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and

- smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.
- He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.
 - But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Beth-horon, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.
 - Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.
 - Wherefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.
 - Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face.
 - And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle. Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldest thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?
 - But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.
 - And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents.
 - And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits. And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.
 - And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.
 - Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the Lord they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there. And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.
 - Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

Uzziah (Azariah)

2 Chron 26; Isa 1:1; Isa 6:1; 2 Kings 14:8-22; 2 Kings 15:1-8; Hos 1:1; Amos 1:1; Zech 14:5; 2 Chron 25:17-24

- Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.
- Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in

Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

- In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

**** Here is another area of scripture that needs clarification. A contradiction seems to be involved with the synchronization of the reigns of Amaziah and Uzziah of Judah compared to Jeroboam (II) of Israel. This perception arises as a result of Amaziah's being credited with a 29 yr rule (2 Kings 14:1-2) followed by the statement that Jeroboam (II) began his 41 yr reign in Amaziah's 15th (2 Kings 14:23). So far it precisely fits with the 16th and final yr of Jehoash, Jeroboam's father and predecessor.

The scriptures show that Amaziah of Judah lived 15 yrs after the death of Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz of Israel (2 Kings 14:17).

The problem arises with 2 Kings 15:1-2 where it states that Uzziah (Azariah) began to reign in the Southern kingdom at age 16 in the 27th yr of Jeroboam (II) and continued in that post for 52 yrs. The problem lies in that the 27th yr of Jeroboam would be the 12th yr of Uzziah, which causes the modern scholars problems. Once again, if you are a biblicist, believing that God preserved his word for us, you will believe that there is an answer in the scriptures instead of leaving it to man to determine which scriptures are to be accepted and which ones should be rejected.

Although we do not know the true historic details with the circumstances, several viable answers are available which do not violate any of the known facts and at the same time allow one to honor the testimony of all the scriptures. It is significant to note that whichever of the three solutions offered is correct or accepted as so, the relative chronological positions and dates of all the kings involved do not change. As resolving the problem does not rely upon any of the admittedly somewhat subjective judgments, the chronology is independent of the solution and stands correct.

The three possible solutions:

1.) The first and very probably the correct answer is that which has been offered many times in the past, yet without just cause steadfastly rejected by liberal and secular scholarship alike. Namely, that upon Jehoash's going to face the Syrians in a war in which he overthrew Ben-hadad (III) in three pitched battles and recovered out of his hands the cities which his father (Jehoahaz) had lost to Hazael (Ben-had's father), he placed Jeroboam (II) as pro-rex over the government.

2.) When young Uzziah ascended the throne, he inherited a kingdom in dire circumstances from his father, Amaziah, who had been soundly defeated by Jehoash of Israel, captured, and brought back in shame by that northern monarch. Jehoash also made a breach in the wall of Jerusalem, plundered all the treasure in the temple and Amaziah's house, and returned to Samaria with hostages thereby reducing Judah to vassalage, or at least nearly so, under the kingdom of Israel.

Thus the 2 Kings 15:1 passage could be understood to mean that in Jeroboam's 27th yr an older maturing Uzziah finally succeeded in strengthening himself and his kingdom to the point in which he was able to break out from under the heavy hand of the Northern Kingdom and to govern as indisputable sovereign.

3.) A third possible solution is that 2 Kings 15:1-2, which mentions Uzziah's age as being 16 yrs at his enthronement, is also giving forth Jeroboam's age at that occasion so that the year of his birth may likewise be ascertained.

* It is unworthy of chronologists and scholars to resolve chronological problems by casting aside any verse containing data causing difficulty.

- And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah did. And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God:

and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.

- And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines. And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal, and the Mehunims. And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.
- Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them. Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.
- Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands
- three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.
- And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.
- But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.
- Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar.
- And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.
- So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

Jotham

2 Kings 15:5-8; 2 Kings 15:32-16:1; 2 Chron 26:21-27:9; Isa 1:1; Hos 1:1; Mic 1:1; 2 Kings 15:30
2 Kings 16:7-18; 2 Chron 28:19-25

- And the Lord smote the king (Uzziah), so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land. (Jotham became pro-rex until his father Uzziah died)
- And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. (The years that he was over the kings house are not counted for his reign, but for Uzziah's reign, until Uzziah died)
- So Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.
- In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.
- Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in

Jerusalem.

- And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the Lord. And the people did yet corruptly.
- And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the Lord.
- So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.
- Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.
- In those days the Lord began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.
- And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.
- And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. (Here we have another anomaly since Jotham only reigned 16 yrs. The date is probably reckoned from the beginning of his rule to underscore the Lord's displeasure against wicked Ahaz for: (1) calling upon Tiglath-pileser for help instead of the Living God, (2) having Urijah, the high priest, build an altar like that at Damascus at which he might inquire, (3) cutting off the borders of the bases, removing the laver off them, and taking down the laver from off the brasen oxen that were under it, (4) sacrificing unto the gods of Damascus, (5) shutting up the doors of the temple in Jerusalem, (6) making altars and placing them at every corner in Jerusalem, and (7) making high places to burn incense unto other gods in every city of Judah

Ahaz

2 Kings 15:38-17:1; 2 Chron 27:9-28:27; Isa 7:1-16; 2 Kings 16:18; 2 Kings 18:7-20; 2 Kings 15:29; Isa 1:1; 1 Chron 5:26

- And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.
- In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.
- Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the Lord his God, like David his father.
- But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
- For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim. Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
- Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.
- And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart

was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind. Then said the Lord unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shear-jashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field; And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.

- Ahaz did not trust in the Lord as Isaiah instructed and the Lord delivered him over to his enemies.
- Wherefore the Lord his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.
- For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king.
- At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.
- And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.
- But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded: Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you.
- So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the congregation.
- At that time did king Ahaz send unto the kings of Assyria to help him. For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives. The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there. For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the Lord.
- So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria.
- Ahaz was getting bombarded, Pekah and Rezin taking captives, then the Edomites and Philistines attacking Judah.
- And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.
- Tiglath-pilneser took over about 75 percent of the Northern Kingdom at this time
- And Tiglath-pilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not. After Tiglath-pilneser conquered Pekah and Rezin, Ahaz himself became a servant to the king of Assyria.
- Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pilneser and saw an altar of the Syrians. He thought that since the Syrians were able to have the upper hand against him, their gods must be greater

- so he had Urijah the priest build one like it and when he got back he offered offerings upon it.
- Ahaz set aside the brazen altar for him to inquire by.
- And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that were under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones. And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the Lord for the king of Assyria.
- And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead. ***This brings into light an answer to the interregnum in the Northern Kingdom. When we look at the chronology of Israel, we see an interruption in the rulership of the Northern Kingdom. This is discussed in the kings of Israel segment.
- 2 Chron 28:26-27 shows that Ahaz's accomplishments were written in both the chronicles of Judah and Israel.
- 2 Chron 28:19 calls Ahaz the king of Israel. It would appear that upon the death of Pekah, the Assyrian vassal Ahaz, having the heart and religious demeanor of the kings of Israel, was viewed as then being "king" of Israel as well. Perhaps Tiglath-pileser placed his vassal in authority over the conquered Northern Kingdom and bestowed the title "King of Israel" upon Ahaz, though he remained in Jerusalem and Hoshea functioned as the "on site" overseer in Samaria.

Hezekiah 2 Kings 16:20; 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Kings 20; 1 Chron 4:34-43; 2 Chron 29-31; 2 Chron 32; Isa 1:1; Isa 36-39; Hosea 1:1; Micah 1:1

- And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.
- in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.
- Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem.
- And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did.
- He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them. And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.
- Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us. My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense. Then the Levites arose, and they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord.
- Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the Lord: so they sanctified the house of the Lord in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.
- Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord.

- But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests. And also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the Lord was set in order. And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.
- And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel. For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month. For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem. And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation.
- So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written. So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.
- Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the Lord. And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation. Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the Lord. And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites. For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the Lord. For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good Lord pardon every one That prepareth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. And the Lord hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.
- Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.
- He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did

- burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.
- And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses. He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings. Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the Lord. And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the fields; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly. And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the Lord their God, and laid them by heaps.
 - And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.
 - He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.
 - in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it.
 - And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.
 - the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.
 - Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.
 - Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou putteth on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold, and Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasures of the king's house.
 - Hezekiah got sick in this same year for God gave him 15 more years and he reigned for 29 yrs. The Babylonian ambassadors came around this same time.
 - In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.
 - Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.
 - And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.
 - And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.
 - And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I

- shall go up into the house of the Lord the third day?
- Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forth ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?
 - Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.
 - At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.
 - And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.
 - And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.
 - And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
 - Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?
 - But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.
 - Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.
 - This is the second time that Assyria came against Hezekiah (for added information on this see Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones' book-The Chronology of the Old Testament). And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem.
 - And Rab-shakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.
 - But if ye say unto me, We trust in the Lord our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?
 - Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand: Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

- And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master (Hezekiah), Thus saith the Lord, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.
- So Rab-shakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.
- And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.
- And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord.
- Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.
- And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.
- Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.
- And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.
- So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.
- And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.
- Hezekiah slept with his fathers: and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

MANASSEH 2 Kings 20:21-21:18; 2 Kings 23:26-27; 2 Chron 33:1-20

- Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem.
- And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel, he built up again the high places, he reared up altars for Baal, made a grove, worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them, built altars in the house of the Lord, he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord, made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.
- Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel.
- Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin
- And the Lord spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And the Lord spake

to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

- And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God.
- His heart was changed and he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord, he repaired the altar of the Lord, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel.
- And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

AMON

2 Kings 21:18-26; 2 Chron 33:20-25

- Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.
- he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh did.
- And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house, and the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

JOSIAH

1 Kings 13:1-5; 2 Kings 21:26-23:30; 1 Chron 3:15; 2 Chron 33:25-35:27; Jer 1:1-2; Jer 3:6-4:9; Jer 25; Zeph 1:1

- And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense, and he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. (prophesied many years before)
- Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem.
- in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father
- he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord
- in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.
- in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, when he had purged the land, and the house the king sent Shaphan to the house of the Lord, saying, go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the Lord and let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work
- Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.
- the king commanded go ye, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah,

concerning the words of this book that is found

- the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.
- Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.
- And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. (He cleansed Judah and Jerusalem, and so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali because there was no king in the Northern Kingdom)
- And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant, in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the Lord in Jerusalem.
- And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against at Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him and was slain.
- And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead. (*the sons of Josiah were, the firstborn Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum [Jehoahaz].*)
- Jeremiah lamented for Josiah (Jeremiah started prophesying in the 13th year of Josiah's reign): and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.
- And his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

JEHOAHAZ (SHALLUM)

2 Kings 23:31-35; 2 Chron 36:1-9; 1 Chron 3:15; Jer 22:11-12

- Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.
- And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.
- Pharaoh-nechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.
- For thus saith the Lord (by Jeremiah) touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more: but he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more.

- Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.

JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)

2 Kings 23:34-24:7; 1 Chron 3:16; 2 Chron 36:1-8; Jer 1:1-3; Jer 25; Jer 26:1-24; Jer 27:1-11; Jer 35 Dan 1:1-6

- Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.
- Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh
- Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord
- Dan 1:1-6 Daniel was taken in the third year of Jehoiakim along with the vessels from the house of the Lord 606 BC, one year prior to Nebuchadnezzar's actual accession to the throne.
- The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; (The first year mentioned here is the accession year of Nebuchadnezzar -605 BC)
- And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servants the prophets.
- In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. (this must have taken place somewhere around the fifth year or so of Jehoiakim for in Jer 36:1-9 it is the fifth year of Jehoiakim when he cuts up the scroll of Jeremiah and burns it in the fire).
- Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also carried off the vessels of the house of the Lord to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.
- Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory! He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.
- So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.
- And the sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) his son, Zedekiah his son.

JECONIAH (JEHOIACHIN)

1 Chron 3:16; Est 2:5-6; Jer 24:1; Jer 27:19-22; Jer 29; 2 Kings 24:6-17; 2 Kings 25:27-30; 2 Chron 36:8-10; Jer 25:1; 2Kings 24:1; Jer 52:31

- And the sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) his son, Zedekiah his son.
- Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months.
- Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.
- Was he eight or eighteen? 2 Kings 24:15 says that his wives were also taken indicating that he was 18, old enough to be married.
- There are three Bible honoring solutions, none of which violate the context or veracity of the

Scriptures:

1. 2 Chron 36:9 literally "a son of eight years" references the fact that his dynasty or kingdom had been under Nebuchadnezzar as its suzerain since the fourth yr of his father Jehoiakim. From that year until Jehoiachin succeeded his father on the throne, an eight-year span had elapsed during which he was a vassal crown prince. Thus, upon his accession, the beginning of his reign could be rightly referenced to the time in which Nebuchadnezzar placed the Babylonian yoke upon him and his kingdom, thereby he was "a son of eight years" under Nebuchadnezzar's dominion.
2. A second alternative for the confusion is that, taking both statements to be factual, Jehoiakim named or anointed his son to succeed him at an early age in an attempt to secure the throne through his lineage by way of Jehoiachin. This would have been done in order to deny the throne to his weak and ineffective younger brother, Zedekiah.
3. The third solution offered, and preferred by Dr. Jones in the light of that which follows, is that Josiah must have anointed Jehoiachin, his grandson, to succeed him just prior to his encounter with Pharaoh Neco. This solution, along with the two previous, has been proffered many times in the past. However, this study has developed and refined this third resolution with additional internal biblical evidence to a far higher degree of certitude and believability than that given in the past.

Realizing that his sons were wicked, godly Josiah must have hoped that his grandson Jehoiachin, though only eight years old at the time, would turn out better. As Josiah himself was but eight when he began to reign, he would have few qualms in placing so young a child upon the throne of Judah. Josiah fully realized that he might not return from this conflict with the Egyptians.

In the first place, he was going up against a much larger contingency. Secondly, it had been prophesied that he would die young and also prior to the judgment that God would send upon the Kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 22; 2 Chron 34). Having already reigned 31 years, Josiah was now about 39 years of age. Thus he knew that his time was very possibly at hand.

The only biblical and legal way that a grandson, etc., could be made to inherit the throne while his father and uncles were still alive was that of *adoption*, to the status of a full son. (See Gen 48 where Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, are placed as sons, adopted by Jacob [verse 5, cp. vv. 12 and 16 for the ritual] so that they could become equal heirs with his other sons). It is the contention of this writer that Josiah did adopt and name as his successor young Jehoiachin just prior to departing for his fatal encounter with Neco at Megiddo. Moreover, this scenario enjoys scriptural corroboration:

And Josiah *begat Jeconiah and his brethren*, about the time they were carried away to Babylon (Matt 1:11, author's emphasis).

This scripture occurs in Matthew's roll of Christ Jesus' ancestors. Beginning with David and Solomon at the 6th verse, it continues through the 11th listing the kings of Judah in His lineage. Verse 11 asserts that Josiah *begat Jeconiah* (Jehoiachin being his "throne" name) though he was not his son. Although in a larger biblical sense, it is permissible to speak of "begetting" descendants beyond the generation of one's own offspring, the context of this "begetting" would have occurred at the time of the adoption. The truth of this is clearly seen in that which follows: "and his brothers."

Now this is indeed very strange, for the allusion is clearly to Josiah's sons and as such, are Jehoiachin's uncles and father--unless--unless he had been adopted. Then and only then could it be said that Josiah's sons are Jehoiachin's brothers! Lest there remain any reservations, consider:

And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him (Jehoiachin, see v. 9) to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made *Zedekiah his brother* king over Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chron 36:10, author's italics).

Again, how can Zedekiah be Jehoiachin's brother? Only by his being adopted to full sonship. However, the people of the land did not abide by Josiah's decision, placing Josiah's 23 year old son Jehoahaz (not his eldest, 2 Kings 23:36) on the throne (2 Kings 23:8). After reigning but 3 months, Jehoahaz was removed by Pharaoh Neco and carried prisoner to Egypt where he died. Placing the land under tribute, Neco installed Jehoahaz's older brother Jehoiakim (father of Jehoiachin) as his vassal on the throne of Judah (2 Kings 23:33-37) where he reigned 11 years.

Of course, this does not demand that he reigned 11 years to the very day. For example, if he reigned 10 years and 3 months, that would qualify as being "in his eleventh year." Thus, whereby Jehoiachin was anointed to be king when but a child (2 Chron 36:9), he did not actually occupy the throne until he was 18 years of age (2 Kings 24:8-12)--a span of 11 years when numbered inclusively. Moreover, Chronicles is stating the situation as viewed from the priest's, the temple's, and God's perspective, whereas the Book of Kings is presenting it from the historical political/throne view.

The "discrepancy" or "scribal error" between 2 Kings 24:8 and 2 Chron 36:9 is thus resolved. The verses are seen to signify that Jehoiachin's first year upon the throne would have been his "year of accession"; hence he would have been eight during his first official year of reign (Judaic method of reckoning). Thus 2 Kings 24:8, 2 Chron 36:9, and Matt 1:11--Scriptures long held by liberals, agnostics, infidels, and most scholars to be in error--when placed together, actually explain, confirm, and sustain one another.

- Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.
- Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
- Nebuchadnezzar carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said.
- he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.
- in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. (Mordecai would have

- been a baby at this time)
- And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.
- And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.
- And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison; and spake kindly unto him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon, and changed his prison garments: and he did continually eat bread before him all the days of his life. And for his diet, there was a continual diet given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life.
- And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the first year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison, (the two day difference could possibly be that the orders were given on the 25th day and the release on the 27th-author's emphasis)

ZEDEKIAH

2 Kings 24:15-20; 2 Kings 25:1-17; 2 Chron 36:9-21; Jer 1:1-3; Jer 21; Jer 27-Jer 29:1-5; Jer 32:1-7; Jer 34; Jer 37:1-13; Jer 39:1-14; Jer 51:59-64; Jer 52:1-23

- And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.
- And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.
- And king Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah.
- Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.
- The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign.
- And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel. (This swearing before God may have taken place when Zedekiah went to Babylon in his fourth year)
- And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. For through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.
- And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about. And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.
- And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by

night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

- And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.
- And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about.
- Now the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carry away.
- And the pillars of brass that were in the house of the Lord, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of the Lord, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon. And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away. And the firepans, and the bowls, and such things as were of gold, in gold, and of silver, in silver, the captain of the guard took away. The two pillars, one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord; the brass of all these vessels was without weight.
- And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.