

### The Kings of Judah - Lessons from their Lives

King of Judah	Name Means	Served God	Scripture Ref.	Problem in His Life	His Action	God's Response	Lessons
Rehoboam	a people has enlarged	U	1 Ki 12:1-4; 14:21-31; 2 Chr 10:1-12-16	People asked him to lighten the yoke upon them (1 Ki 12:4; 2 Chr 10:4)	Increased the yoke upon them	God used this to bring about the split of the nation of Israel prophesied to Solomon	The advisors we pick are important. The older advisors gave him good advice, but he took the advice of his friends instead.
					When the people didn't accept his word, he was going to attack them with the army.	God sent a prophet with a word for the king.	There is nobody so powerful that they should ignore God
				Attacked by Egypt - treasuries of temple & palace taken (1 Ki 14:26-27)	Replaced the gold articles with cheaper ones	This attack was due to the idolatry of the land (2 Chr 12:3)	The people had fallen into idolatry, obviously with the consent of the king. Replacing the gold shields with bronze is symbolic of how much he valued God. The fact of having to replace the gold articles with bronze was also humbling. They learned to be humble before the Lord.
					Repented along with the elders of the people	The attack didn't destroy them, but only caused them to come under a foreign king's rule (2 Chr 12:7-8)	Even when we repent, there are always consequences.
Abijah	worshipper of the Lord	U	1 Ki 15:1-8; 2 Chr 13:1-14:1	Only served the Lord to a point - not fully	---	God allowed him to continue - because of David	Both our good deeds, and our bad affect the generations after us.
				Attacked by Israel	Addressed Israel - "God is with us, because we serve Him"	Gave them the victory	Even when we don't fully serve the Lord, if give Him the glory, He will help us
Asa	physician	U	1 Ki 15:9-24; 2 Chr 14:2-16:14	People were in idolatry	Started a revival - destroyed idols and high places (2 Chr 14:3-5)	God blessed them and gave them peace (2 Chr 14:6) - Key verse <b>2 Chr 14:7b</b>	God's blessings and cursings are conditional - Deut 28
				Attacked by the Cushites (2 Chr 14:9)	Called upon the Lord for help (2 Chr 14:11)	God defeated the Cushites (2 Chr 14:12)	We face many battles in our lives. When we seek the Lord, He gives us the victory - Key verse <b>2 Chr 15:2b</b>

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Asa (cont.)	physician	U	1 Ki 15:9-24; 2 Chr 14:2-16-14	Attacked by Israel (2 Chr 16:1)	Took the gold from the palace & temple treasuries and sent it to Aram, seeking an alliance (2 Chr 16:2-3) - He had backslidden and become lukewarm	Sent a prophet (2 Chr 16:7-9) - Key verse <b>2 Chr 16:9</b>	Although he won with the help of Aram, he had continual war after that. When God gives the victory, there is peace, when the world gives the victory, there are more battles.
							This is a great example of what happens when someone backslides. He sought God for the first battle, the world for the second. After the first, he received peace. After the second, he had continual battles. Key verse <b>1 Chr 16:9</b>
Jehoshaphat	Jehovah judged	U	1 Ki 22:41-50; 2 Chr 17:1-21:3	Idolatry among the people	Sent his officials and the Levites to teach the people from the book of the law. 2 Chr 17:7-9	The fear of the Lord fell upon the people around Judah. 2 Chr 17:10	We must use our position and influence for God's benefit. When we do, He uses His for our benefit.
				In alliance with Israel - asked by King Ahab to go to war.	Told Ahab to seek the Lord first	Although there were many false prophets, God provided a true prophet	Unfortunately, Jehoshaphat ignored the true prophet. However, his words came to pass. God will always have His Word proclaimed.
				---	Appointed judges and priests for all the people (2 Chr 19:4-11)	---	Our God is a God of order. One of a leader's responsibilities is to establish God's order within his sphere of influence.
				Attacked by the Moabites & Ammonites (2 Chr 20:1)	Resolved to inquire of the Lord & proclaimed a fast (2 Chr 20:3), sought help from the Lord (vs 4), kept his eyes on the Lord (vs 12)	God answered & gave them His plan (2 Chr 20:14-17). God won the victory for them, through their praising Him.	God is our warrior, when we praise Him. Key verses <b>2 Chr 20:15-20</b> (look for praise & worship)

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Jehoshaphat (cont.)	Jehovah judged	U	1 Ki 22:41-50; 2 Chr 17:1-21:3	---	Made an alliance with King Ahaziah of Israel, an ungodly king. Built a fleet of trading ships along with Ahaziah (2 Chr 20:35-37)	God destroyed his ships, because he had built them in partnership with an unbeliever	Don't be unequally yoked in anything you do. Always seek the Lord's perfect will for your life. Even though he was a godly king, not all his works were perfect, especially when he didn't seek the Lord's guidance.
Jehoram	Jehovah raised		2 Ki 8:16-24; 2 Chr 21:4-20	---	Married a daughter of Ahab (ungodly king of Israel). This caused him to turn from the Lord (2 Chr 21:6)	Because of His covenant with David, he didn't destroy Judah (2 Chr 21:7)	God's mercy is great, His covenants are everlasting. Even when we turn our back on Him, because of His covenant, He will not willingly destroy us.
				Edom & Libnah revolted against Judah (2 Chr 21:8-10)	Went to war, but didn't win (2 Chr 21:10)	God did not help him	In the times of his father and grandfather, who served God, these people had been subject to Israel. When we ignore God, we lose His blessing.
Ahaziah	God has seized		2 Ki 8:25-29; 2 Chr 22:1-9	---	His mother encouraged him to do wrong (2 Chr 22:3)	---	Be careful whom you receive advice and counsel from, even those who should be good advisors aren't always. We are each ultimately responsible for our own actions and decisions.
Athaliah	God has constrained		2 Ki 11:1-21; 2 Chr 22:10-23:21	King Ahaziah's mother - when he died, she killed the royal family to take the throne (2 Chr 22:10)		After only six years, she was killed by the people when Joash took over	Sowing & reaping
Joash	Jehovah fired	U	2 Ki 12:1-21; 2 Chr 24:1-27	Became king at the age of 7 (2 Chr 24:1)	He was greatly influenced by Jehoiada the priest. When Jehoiada died, he stopped serving God (2 Chr 24:2)	---	God will put people in our path, especially ministers, who are there to influence us for His purpose and our good.
							<b>Our faith in God and our service to Him had better not be dependent on anyone, or anything else. Otherwise, when that person, or thing is removed, we will fall.</b>

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Joash (cont.)	Jehovah fired	U	2 Ki 12:1-21; 2 Chr 24:1-27	The temple had fallen into disuse and disrepair	Commanded its repair (2 Chr 24:4)	Nothing, because he didn't serve God with his heart, only because of Jehoiada	God isn't interested in just our outward actions, but in the inward condition of our heart.
				After abandoning the Lord, God sent a prophet to speak to the people	Ordered the prophet stoned to death	God forsook him - allowed the army of Aram to defeat them	God will use the natural, even the wicked to bring about His purpose in our lives, especially to bring about repentance
Amaziah	strength of God	U	2 Ki 14:1-22; 2 Chr 25:1-28	His army wasn't as large as he thought it needed to be (2 Chr 25:5-6)	Hired 100,000 men from Israel for 100 talents (7500 lbs.) of silver	Sent a prophet to tell him not to allow the soldiers of Israel to go with him to war. (2 Chr 25:7-8)	Even when we make bad decisions, it is never too late to turn around. God can and will make things right when we repent.
Amaziah (cont.)	strength of God	U	2 Ki 14:1-22; 2 Chr 25:1-28	---	Turned away from God to worship idols (2 Chr 25:14)	Sent a prophet, which Amaziah didn't accept. Then turned Israel against him. He was captured and killed	Anyone can fall from serving God, especially if they aren't serving God with their whole heart.
							There is no honor in starting the race for the Lord if we don't finish it. He ended up being hunted down and killed by the people of Judah for leading them away from God.
Azariah (Uzziah)	strength of God	U	2 Ki 15:1-7; 2 Chr 26:1-23	Ongoing problems with the nations around him	Went to war	As long as he served the Lord, God gave him success (2 Chr 26:5)	God gives success to those who serve Him
				---	He became proud & went to burn incense to the Lord (the priest's work) (2 Chr 26:16)	God struck him with leprosy (2 Chr 26:19)	Pride cometh before the fall. We never reach a point where we are so great, or so spiritual that we can decide what God says, we must always obey His Word.
Jotham	Jehovah is perfect	U	2 Ki 15:32-38; 2 Chr 27:1-8	Ongoing problems with the nations around him	Went to war against the Ammonites (2 Chr 27:5)	God helped him	Nobody truly becomes powerful without the help of the Lord. Both he, and his father served the Lord and became powerful. However, he maintained his power, while his father lost his through sin.

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Ahaz	possessor		2 Ki 16:1-20; 2 Chr 28:1-26	---	Practiced idolatry. Built an altar to the Syrian God, and made the altar of the Lord second to it.	God turned him over to the kings of Aram & Israel (2 Chr 28:5)	God uses the world to bring about his judgment. However, even His judgment is a sign of his love, because its purpose is to bring us to repentance.	
						Even though Israel defeated Judah, and killed many of the men, God sent a prophet to tell the Israelites to let the women & children go (2 Chr 28:9-11)	This is a wonderful picture of God's protection for wives and children of unbelievers. The men were defeated in war, but the Lord arranged for the victors to feed, clothe, and nurse back to health the wives and children of those defeated.	
Hezekiah	strengthened of God	U	2 Ki 18:1-20:21; 2 Chr 29:1-32:33	People of Judah were in idolatry	Destroyed high places, purified the temple, reestablished the Passover	God gave him success in all that he did (2 Ki 18:7)	All sin is a perversion, or misuse of something that God has created for good. Eating is good, gluttony is sin. Sex within marriage is good, adultery isn't. In this case, something that was created for healing was worshipped, instead of worshipping the true healer, God.	
				People of Judah were worshipping the Nehushtan - the bronze snake Moses had made	Destroyed it			
				Assyria defeated Israel, then turned against Judah (2 Ki 18:13)	Gave the king of Assyria the gold and silver from the palace and temple treasury (2 Ki 18:15-16)	Nothing		Hezekiah's prayer to God was not just a supplication, but a praise to God. God will always answer our praise, but not always our supplication.
					Went to God, sent a message to Isaiah the prophet. Took the letter from Assyria and spread it upon the altar. (2 Ki 19:1-2; 14)	Prophesied that the army commander would return to Assyria		

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Hezekiah (cont.)	strengthened of God	U	2 Ki 18:1-20:21; 2 Chr 29:1-32:33	Became ill - at the point of death (2 Ki 20:1)	Turned to the wall, and prayed (2 Ki 20:2-3)	God gave him 15 more years of life (2 Ki 20:6)	God will give us what we ask, when it is in accordance with His will. However, at times, what seems good to us really isn't. In this case, Hezekiah received more years, but also more problems.
				Became ill - at the point of death (2 Ki 20:1) (cont.)	Asked God for a sign of his recovery (2 Ki 20:8)	God turned the shadow of the sun back 10 steps (2 Ki 20:9)	Nothing is impossible for God. Although we are limited by the natural laws of this universe, God who created it, is not. The supernatural consists of God superceding the natural laws with His power.
				Envoys from the king of Babylon came, bringing condolences for his illness (2 Ki 20:12)	Showed them everything in his treasury (2 Ki 20:13)	Sent Isaiah with a message (2 Ki 20:14-18)	At that time, it was normal for a king to show his wealth to envoys from other lands, it was a way of showing his strength and majesty. However, even in "normal" things, we must seek the Lord's guidance. Otherwise, we may inadvertently open ourselves up to attack.
Manasseh	causing to forget		2 Ki 21:1-18; 2 Chr 33:1-20	---	Turned his back on the Lord. Rebuilt the high places, and reinstated the idolatry that his father had stopped (2 Chr 33:2-9)	Spoke to him (2 Chr 33:10)	God's three steps of correction: 1 - His Word; 2 - His prophets; 3 - Turn us over to the enemy for the destruction of our flesh that our soul might be saved.  God will use whatever means are necessary to bring us to repentance. He is not concerned with our flesh, but our spirit.
						Brought Assyria against him, who captured him. This caused Manasseh to humble himself and repent (2Chr 33:11-13). In Manasseh's last days he reversed everything he did in his early days.	

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Amon	skilled		2 Ki 21:19-26; 2 Chr 33:21-25	---	Didn't serve the Lord. Was assassinated by his officials.	---	Although the kings held great sway over the people, and their spiritual life, they weren't immune to repercussions from the people. A pastor who doesn't serve the Lord could end up with the same spiritual result as Amon did in the natural
Josiah	founded of God	U	2 Ki 22:1-23:30; 2 Chr 34:1:35-27	Due to the influence of Manasseh's 55 year reign, the people had fallen	Started to seek the Lord at the age of 16 (2 Chr 34:3)	Put off the destruction of Judah until after Josiah's death.	We should expect more of our young people. They are never too young to seek God, nor to be used by Him.
				Due to the influence of Manasseh's 55 year reign, the people had fallen into idolatry (cont.)	When the priest found the book of the law in the temple, he was quick to repent (2 Ki 22:8-11)	Put off the destruction of Judah until after Josiah's death (cont.)	The Word of God (even the law) is sufficient to bring about repentance.
					Commaned the temple to be rebuilt and cleaned of all idolatry (2 Ki 23:4)		The Levitical musicians were put in charge of the restoration of the temple. Since they were the worshippers, and the temple was the place of worship, this was especially appropriate.
				Due to the influence of Manasseh's 55 year reign, the	Desecrated all the high places, and places used to worship other gods, including the altar which he had been prophesied to destroy in 1 Ki 8:29		It is important to be zealous in protection worship of God. Josiah's zealousness went so far as to eliminating household gods (2 Ki 23:24). He wasn't satisfied with public repentance and worship, but private as well.
							God knows what He is going to do. He is such an incredible planner, and knows us so well, that He can declare something almost 300 years before it happens

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				people had fallen into idolatry	Went so far as to remove the household idols from people's houses - <b>Key verse 2 Ki 23:24-25</b>	Put off the destruction of Judah until after Josiah's death.	No matter how much we do for the Lord, if we forget to ask his direction in each and every thing we do, we can fail.
				Egypt was marching through Judah to join Assyria in battle (2 Ki 23:29)	Went out to battle against Egypt. Disguised himself for the battle. Because of this, he was killed.		
Jehoahaz	Jehovah seized		2 Ki 23:31-33; 2 Chr 36:1-4	Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem	Surrender	This was God's promised judgment against Judah	God will always fulfill his promises, whether they are positive, or negative; good, or bad
Jehoiakim	Jehovah will raise		2 Ki 23:36-24:7; 2 Chr 36:5-8	Attacked again by Nebuchadnezzar	Taken captive to Babylon	---	---
Jehoiachin	Jehovah will establish		2 Ki 24:8-17; 2 Chr 36:9-10	Sent for by king Nebuchadnezzar along with articles from the temple	---	---	---
Zedekiah	the rights of God		2 Ki 24:18-25:21; 2 Chr 36:11-21	---	Rebelled against Babylon	Jerusalem was destroyed	God's judgment will always come

One great difference between the times of the Judges and the times of the Kings is that in the times of the Judges, the people, as a whole would turn away from God, but in the time of the Kings, an ungodly king would turn the whole nation away from God.

Notice that there was only one king in Israel who truly served God. On the other hand, many of the kings of Judah served Him.