

The Bible in a Nutshell

The Histories

A quick summary:

Joshua--Joshua takes over after Moses dies. Joshua leads the Israelites over the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. However, despite being the land promised to them by God, there are already people living in it, which meant the Israelites had to conquer the people who were already living there. One of Joshua's first conquests was the city of Jericho (Chapter 5), where the walls of the city fell and left the city inside intact. Joshua continued to clear the land of pagan kings—there is a list of all the kings defeated by Joshua in chapter 12. Chapters 13 to 22 shows the allotment of land to each of the 12 tribes (Levi was given cities, but nothing larger). Note Chapter 20, where Joshua decrees that there are to be open cities, where someone charged with a crime might flee punishment. Joshua gives his final words to the Israelites in Chapter 23. 23:6-16 warns them not to deviate from their faith.

Judges—After Joshua's death comes the time of the Judges. The Judges were leaders appointed by God who settled disputes and organized the people, who were largely free to govern themselves. The people continually disobey, but the Judges bring them back (2:10-23). Among the prominent Judges were Deborah (ch. 4-5), the great military leader, Gideon (6-8), and Samson (13-16). Faithlessness is a predominant theme in the time of the Judges, as people's everyday lives causes them to take their faith for granted.

Ruth—Ruth's story does not so much concern the history of Israel, but rather contains the details of Ruth's life during this period. A very personal story, it details the closeness of two women, Ruth and her daughter-in-law Naomi, and their support of one another.

1 & 2 Samuel—Samuel is the last of the Judges. Samuel is left at the Tabernacle by his mother, Hannah, and dedicated to the Lord. The Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant, but the destruction it causes forces them to return it (Chapter 4-6). The Israelites look at the nations around them, and clamor for a king like the other countries (Chapter 8). Samuel warns them—a king will tax them, take their wealth, make them servants, and send their children off to war. They want a king anyway, and Saul is chosen—Samuel warns them they will be sorry. God eventually rejects Saul for disobeying (Chapter 15), and David is chosen as his successor (Chapter 16). However, Saul does not step aside. David's success at killing Goliath (17) only infuriates Saul. Saul tries to kill David. When Saul finally kills himself, David becomes king. In 2 Samuel, war breaks out between those loyal to Saul and David's supporters. David is eventually victorious, and David takes the Ark to Jerusalem. David eventually dies and his son Solomon becomes king.

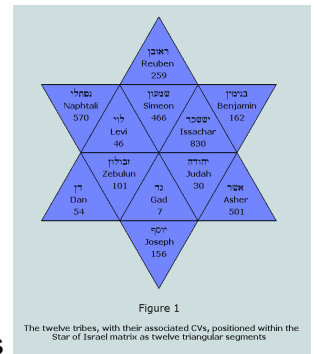
1 & 2 Kings—Kingship of Solomon, who desires wisdom above all else (Chapter 3). Solomon lays plans for a temple in Jerusalem (Chapters 4-9), but Solomon's many wives influence him away from his faith. God tells Solomon the kingdom will be split—Rehoboam revolts, and 11 of the tribes split from Israel to make Judah. The various kings of Israel and Judah are split—some good (Hezekiah), some bad (Ahab). Eventually Israel and Judah are both destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and most of the people are sent into slavery.

1 & 2 Chronicles—the same events as Samuel and Kings, but a little briefer with slightly different details.

Esther—the story of Esther, of the celebration of Purim, and the incredible courage and wisdom of Queen Esther, who became queen through her marriage to Xerxes, one of the great rulers of the ancient world.

Ezra—Cyrus of Persia allows the Israelites to return and rebuild their city.

Nehemiah—The rebuilding of Jerusalem from the memoirs of Nehemiah, the governor.

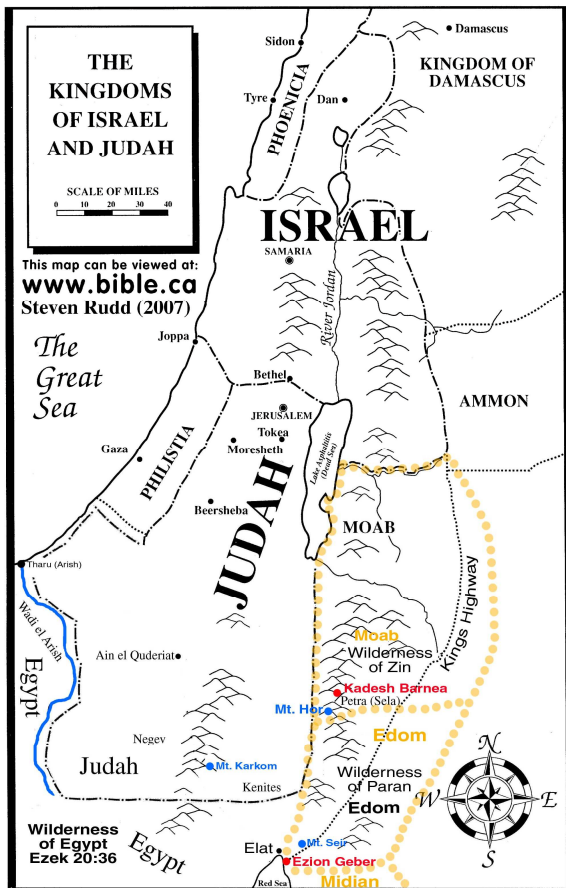


Kings of Judah				Kings of Israel			
King	Reign	Reference	Observations	King	Reign	Reference	Observations
Rehoboam	17 yrs	1 King 12:1-24 1 King 14:21-31		Jeroboam	22 yrs	1 King 12:25-14:20	
Abijah	3 yrs	1 King 15:1-8		Nadab	2 yrs	1 King 15:25-31	Actual reign 1 year.
Asa	41 yrs	1 King 15:9-24	Co-reigned with Jehoshaphat	Baasha	24 yrs	1 King 15:32-16:7	Actual reign 23 years
Jehoshaphat	25 yrs	1 King 22:41-50	Co-reigned with Asa 1 year	Elah	2 yrs	1 King 16:8-14	
Jeroram	8 yrs	2 King 8:16-24	Co-reigned with Jehoshaphat	Zimri	7 day	1 King 16:15-20	
Ahaziah	1 yrs	2 King 8:25-29		Tibni	5 yrs	1 King 16:21-22	Reign overlaps Omri.
Athaliah	6 yrs	2 King 11		Omri	12 yrs	1 King 16:23-28	Reign overlaps Tibni.
Joash	40 yrs	2 King 12		Ahab	22 yrs	1 King 16:29-22:40	
Amaziah	29 yrs	2 King 14:1-22		Ahaziah	2 yrs	1 King 22:51- 2 King 1:18	Actual reign 1 year.
Uzziah	52 yrs	2 King 15:1-7	Reign overlaps Jotham.	Joram	12 yrs	2 King 1:17 2 King 3:1-8:15	
Jotham	16 yrs	2 King 32:38	Actual reign 15 years.	Jehu	28 yrs	2 King 9:30-10:36	
Ahaz	16 yrs	2 King 15:30		Jehoahaz	17 yrs	2 King 13:1-9	
Hezekiah	29 yrs	2 King 16		Joash	16 yrs	2 King 13:10-25	Co-reigned with Jeroboam
Manasseh	55 yrs	2 King 18:1-20:21		Jeroboam	41 yrs	2 King 14:23-29	Co-reigned with Joash.
Amon	2 yrs	2 King 21:1-18		Zechariah	6 mo	2 King 15:8-12	
Josiah	31 yrs	2 King 21:19-26		Shallum	1 mo	2 King 15:13-15	
Jehoahaz	3 mo	2 King 22:1-23:30		Menahem	10 yrs	2 King 15:16-22	Ruled in Samaria.
Jehoiakim	11 yrs	2 King 23:31-33		Pekahiah	2 yrs	2 King 15:23-26	
Jehoiachin	3 mo	2 King 23:34-24:7		Pekah	20 yrs	2 King 15:27-31	
Zedekiah	11 yrs	2 King 24:8-17 2 King 24:18-25:26		Hoshea	9 yrs	2 King 15:30 2 King 17	

Time Line



Kings of the Divided Kingdom



The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah

