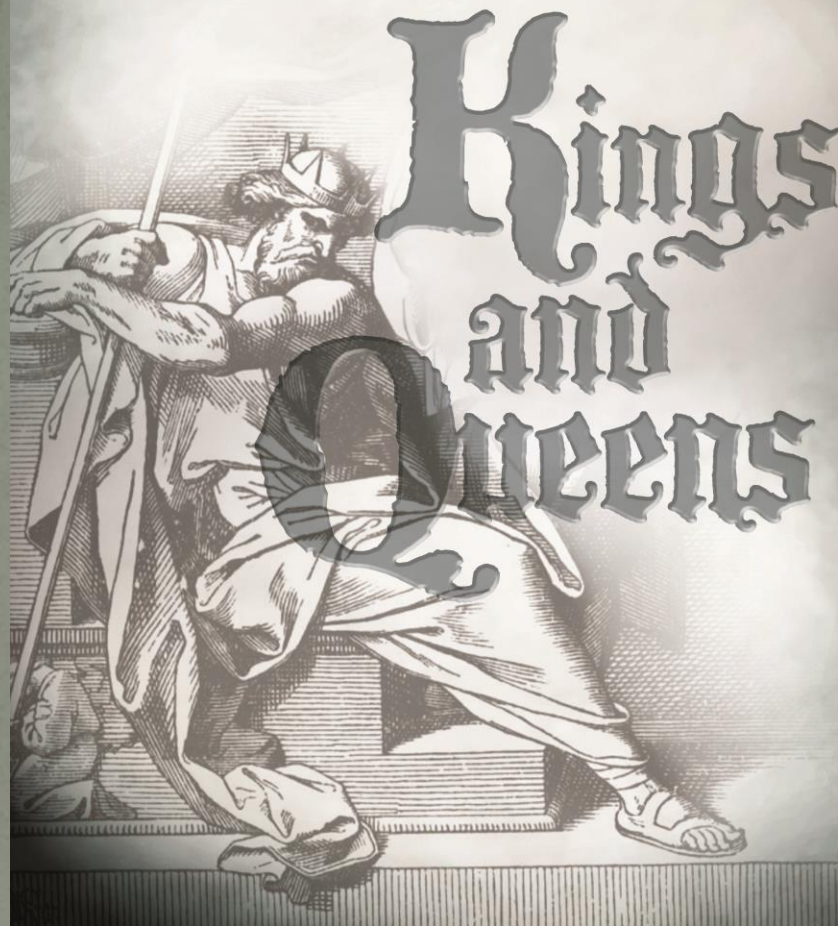


The Rise and Fall of Israel's Monarchs



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The Kings of Judah

Selected Scriptures

“Indeed this city has been to Me a provocation of My anger and My wrath from the day that they built it, even to this day, so that it should be removed from before My face, because of all the evil of the sons of Israel and the sons of Judah which they have done to provoke Me to anger—they, their kings, their leaders, their priests, their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned their back to Me and not their face; though I taught them, teaching again and again, they would not listen and receive instruction. But they put their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it.” (Jeremiah 32:31-34)

The Kings of Judah

Introduction:

We will rewind the tape and revisit the same Books of the Bible and many of the same chapters (I Kings 15-22), (II Kings 1-25), and (Chronicles 13-36), along with some of the books written by the prophets, (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah) in order to understand the kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

2. In this lesson we are going to look at the Southern Kingdom of Judah and here is a little synopsis of what we will cover:
 - After Rehoboam there are 18 kings and 1 Queen who will rule over Judah
 - The period of the time covered here is 913 B.C. to 586 B.C. (Approx. 327 years)
 - Unlike the Northern Kingdom of Israel which had 9 dynasties, the Southern Kingdom of Judah only had one dynasty (bloodline) which began with David.
3. The Southern Kingdom is completely defeated by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

The Kings of Judah

King Abijah

1. Abijah ruled over the Kingdom of Judah for 3 years (913-911 B.C.)
2. Abijah was the 4th king of the house and lineage of David and the 2nd king of the Kingdom of Judah.
 - Abijah's father was Rehoboam
 - Abijah's grandfather was Solomon
 - Abijah's great grandfather was David

3. Some other familial information worth noting

- Abijah's mother was the granddaughter of *Absalom*
- Abijah had a total of 14 wives, 22 sons and 16 daughters

4. **“In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. Now there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.”**
(II Chronicles 13:1-3)

- The war that continued with Abijah and Jeroboam was the same civil war that began with Rehoboam and Jeroboam.
- Although Abijah was not as spiritually devoted to the Lord as was King David, the people of Judah in general had a heart to follow the Lord and this resulted in the Lord giving them the victory over Jeroboam and Israel. (II Chron. 13:13-18)

5. There are very few notable events in Abijah's 3 year reign and the Scriptures tell us that he **walked in the sins of his father - Rehoboam.** (I Kings 15:3)
- We know that Rehoboam's wife (Abijah's mother) worshipped other pagan gods
 - Rehoboam also participated in idol worship which no doubt influenced Abijah

The Kings of Judah

King Asa

1. King Asa reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 41 years (911-870 B.C.)
 - He was the son of Abijah and continued the dynasty of David
 - During the first ten years he enjoyed a time of peace with the Northern Kingdom of Israel and also with other neighboring nations.

- 1) ¶So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land was undisturbed for ten years during his days.” (II Chronicles 14:1)
- 2) ¶Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God, for he removed the foreign altars and ¶high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim, and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment. He also removed the high places and the ¶incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him.” (II Chronicles 14:2-5)
- 3) “He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land was undisturbed, and there was no one at war with him during those years, because the Lord had given him rest.” (II Chronicles 14:6)

2. Asa is considered to be one of the Southern Kingdom of Judah's good kings
- From a spiritual point of view he destroyed the pagan objects of worship
 - From a military standpoint he refortified all of the Kingdom of Judah's defensive posts and borders. (II Chronicles 14:6-10)
 - Because of the radical changes in worship made by Jeroboam and his bent toward idol worship – many of the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel flocked to the Southern Kingdom of Judah where they could worship the **One True God**.
 - It was King Asa's desire to follow the Lord's command that brought the Kingdom of Judah under the blessing of the Lord during his reign.

3. King Asa was a man of faith and he set out to guide the people back toward worshipping the One True God and made several reforms:
- “Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, **he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim.** He then **restored the altar of the Lord** which was in front of the porch of the Lord. He gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that **the Lord his God was with him.**” (II Chronicles 15:8-9)

3. King Asa was a man of faith and he set out to guide the people back toward worshipping the One True God and made several reforms:
- “All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So the Lord gave them rest on every side.” (II Chronicles 15:15)
 - “He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the position of queen mother, because she had made a horrid image ~~as~~ an Asherah, and Asa cut down her horrid image, crushed it and burned it at the brook Kidron.” (II Chron. 15:16)
4. These reforms and Asa’s obedience to the Lord brought peace to him and the Southern Kingdom of Judah into the 35th year of his reign. (II Chron. 15:19)

5. During Asa's reign as King of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Baasha) didn't like the fact that his people (the Northern Tribes of Israel) were defecting to the south. (II Chron. 16:1-6)
- King Baasha of Israel built fortifications to try and stop these defections and it caused war to break out between the Northern and Southern Kingdom.
 - Asa (to his demise) entered into a treaty with the King of Aram (Ben-Hadad) and requested that he break his treaty with the Northern Kingdom and invade the North so as to cause King Baasha to defend his northern border which resulted in the weakening of King Baasha's southern attacks on Judah. (II Chron. 16:5)
6. Although Asa was considered upright, this reliance on a foreign king to assist him showed a lack of trust in the Lord and he will develop a severe foot disease and die.

The Kings of Judah

King Jehoshaphat
(873-848 B.C.)

1. King Jehoshaphat reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 25 years
 - He was the son of Asa and continued the *dynasty* of David
 - He co-reigned with his father Asa for 3 years (873-870 B.C.)

2. King Jehoshaphat was a very powerful king (II Chronicles 17)
- He fortified Judah's defenses against Israel in the border towns between their two kingdoms. (II Chronicles 17:1-2)
 - He was a devoted follower of the Lord like his father Asa (II Chronicles 17:3-4)
 - He removed the shrines and temples to pagan gods from the lands of Judah and pagan worship in Judah was non-existent for most of his reign as king. (17:6)

2. King Jehoshaphat was a very powerful king (II Chronicles 17)
 - He was blessed by the Lord with great wealth and honor (II Chronicles 17:5)
 - He sent teachers (Levites, priests and other officials) to go throughout the Southern Kingdom of Judah to properly teach the Law. (II Chronicles 17:7-9)
 - The surrounding nations feared Jehoshaphat and his Lord (II Chron. 17:10-19)

3. King Jehoshaphat made an alliance with King Ahab of the Northern Kingdom of Israel for the purposes of doing battle against the King of Aram. (II Chron. 18)
 - The alliance resulted in a marriage between Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram with Ahab and Jezebel's daughter Athaliah.
 - This alliance between the two kings was not the best move by Jehoshaphat
4. In a battle that was fought between the armies of Jehoshaphat and Ahab against the Arameans, King Ahab was mortally wounded and died and King Jehoshaphat survived but faced severe rebuke from the prophet Jehu for making this unholy alliance with such a wicked king. II Chronicles 19:1-3)

5. Continued reforms by Jehoshaphat (II Kings 19-20)

- “So Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem and went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and brought them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers.” (II Chronicles 19:4)
- “He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city. He said to the judges; consider what you are doing, **for you do not judge for man but for the Lord** who is with you when you render judgment. **Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for The Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe.**” (II Chronicles 19:5-7)

5. Continued reforms by Jehoshaphat (II Kings 19-20)

- “In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers’ households of Israel, for the judgment of the Lord and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then he charged them saying, **thus you shall do in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and wholeheartedly.**” (II Chronicles 19:8-9)
- “Behold, Amariah the chief priest will be over you in all that pertains to the Lord, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. Also the Levites shall be officers before you. **Act resolutely, and the Lord be with the upright.**” (II Chronicles 19:11)

6. Jehoshaphat and the Southern Kingdom of Judah were attacked on their southeastern border by the **Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites/Edomites**. (II Chronicles 20)
- “Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, a great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar - that is Engedi.” (II Chronicles 20:1-2)
 - This prompted Jehoshaphat to call for a national ***fast***; “Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord.” (II Chron. 20:3-4)

7. Jehoshaphat makes a passionate appeal to the Lord:

- “Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, and he said, O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? **And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations?** Power and might are in Your hand so that **no one can stand against You.** (II Chronicles 20:5-6)
- “Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and **give** it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for **Your** name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.” (II Chronicles 20:7-9)

8. The Lord answers Jehoshaphat's prayer through Jahaziel the Levitical Priest:

- “Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; and he said, Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: **thus says the Lord to you, do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.**” (II Chronicles 20:14-15)

8. The Lord answers Jehoshaphat's prayer through Jahaziel the Levitical Priest:

- “You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, **stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf**, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for **the Lord is with you**. Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord.” (II Chronicles 20:17-18)
- The Lord in fact did give the people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah the victory and Jehoshaphat enjoyed peace for a season of time. (II Chronicles 20:30)

Toward the end of his reign
Jehoshaphat made an alliance with
Ahaziah (son of King Ahab) the King
of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

This alliance was not wise on
Jehoshaphat's part and the Lord was
not pleased (II Chronicles 20:35-37).
All in all Jehoshaphat is considered
one of the Northern Kingdom of
Judah's good kings.

The Kings of Judah

King Jehoram

1. King Jehoram reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 8 years (848-841 B.C.)
 - He was the eldest of Jehoshaphat's seven sons
 - Upon the death of Jehoshaphat he took control of the throne and executed all of his other brothers in order to secure control of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - 1) He was married to Athaliah (the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel)
 - 2) He had close ties and alliances with the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the wicked lineage of King Omri and Ahab.

“Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab did (for Ahab’s daughter was his wife), and he did evil in the sight of the Lord. Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever. (II Chronicles 21:5-7)

- Jehoram’s wickedness was evidenced in not just his brazen murderous actions against his own brothers but also in his wicked alliances with King Ahab’s family.
- These actions by Jehoram were detestable to the Lord but the grace of God provided a means for David’s lineage to continue – it would just take a few twists and turns to get there.

3. Jehoram and the Southern Kingdom of Judah will be at war with the Edomites and other Arab groups during his reign. (II Chronicles 21:8-10)
4. The prophet Elijah pronounces judgment on Jehoram for his actions. He would suffer a severe incurable bowel disease causing him an early death. (II Chron. 21:12-20)
 - The Philistines and Southern Arabians invaded Judah as prophesied by Elijah
 - Upon his death – no one cared and he wasn't even buried with the kings (21:20)

The Kings of Judah

King Ahaziah

1. King Ahaziah reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 1 years (841 B.C)
 - He was King Jehoram's youngest and only surviving son as the rest of Jehoram's sons were killed by the Philistines of Southern Arabia.
 - This Ahaziah is not to be confused with the King Ahaziah of the Northern Kingdom of Israel who reigned from 853-852 B.C.
 - ¶Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men who came with the Arabs to the camp had slain all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign." (II Chronicles 22:1)

- King Ahaziah was 22 years old when he began his short reign and his mother was Athaliah – the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.
 - 1) “Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Athaliah, granddaughter of Omri.” (II Chronicles 22:2)
 - 2) “He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly.” (II Chronicles 22:3)
 - 3) “He did evil in the sight of the Lord like the house of Ahab, for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.” (II Chron. 22:4)

2. King Ahaziah will join forces with King Joram of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to go to war against the neighboring Arameans and Joram is wounded in battle.
- Through a series of events King Ahaziah of the Northern Kingdom of Judah will go and visit King Joram of Israel and ultimately is killed by Jehu - **a fulfillment of the Lord's judgment.** (II Chronicles 22:6-9)
- Jehu becomes King of Israel and Athaliah will assume the throne of the Southern Kingdom of Judah for a season and attempts to destroy the royal lineage.

The Kings of Judah

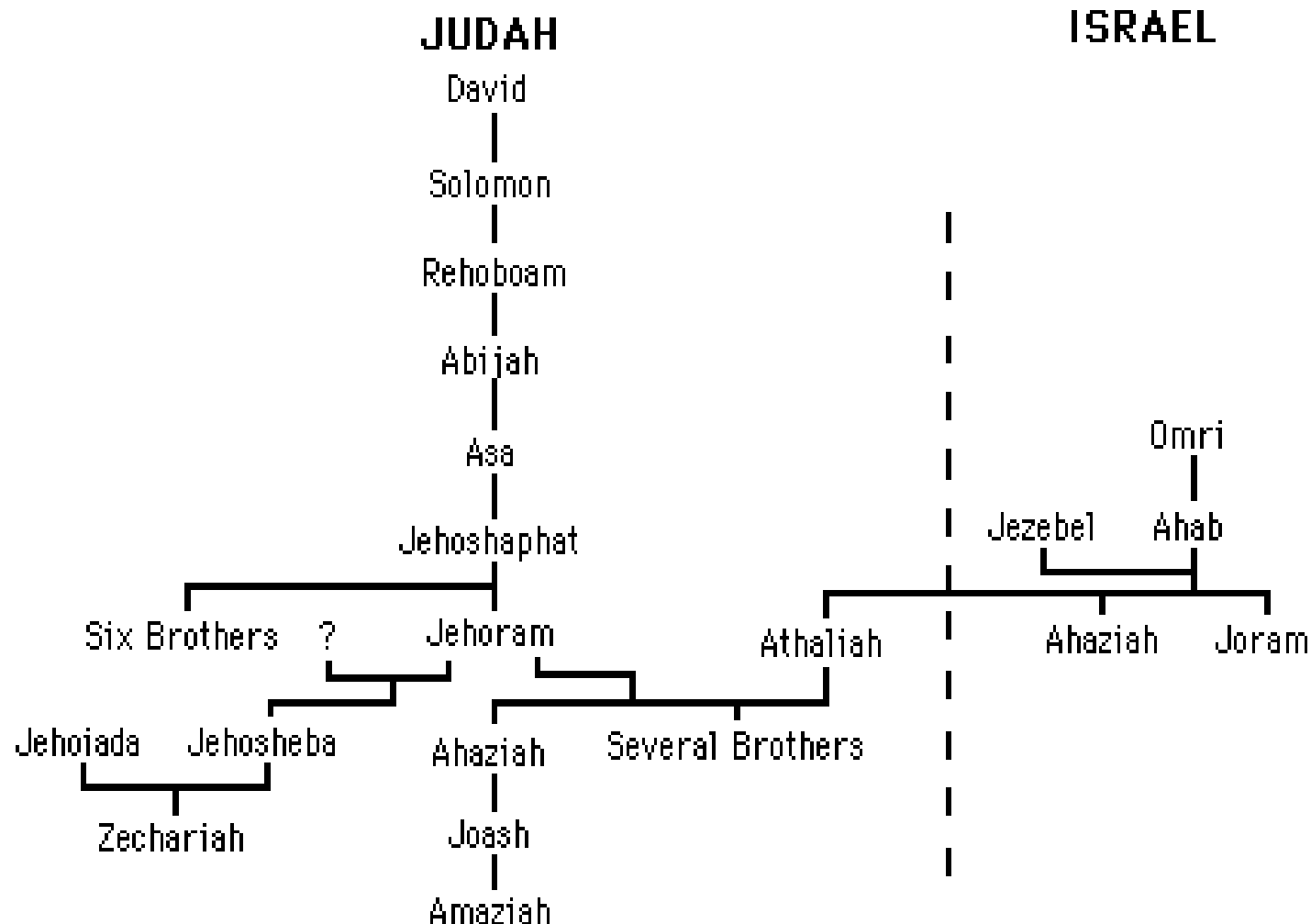
Queen Athaliah

“When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring.”

(II Kings 11:1)

- Upon the death of her son (Ahaziah), Queen Athaliah took control of the throne of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - 1) She was the daughter of Jezebel and Ahab
 - 2) She was the sister of King Ahaziah and King Joram (both kings of Israel who succeeded Ahab)
 - 3) She was the wife of King Jehoram of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who died of an intestinal illness
 - 4) She was the mother of Ahaziah who succeeded King Jehoram and was killed by Jehu. (II Kings 9:27-29, II Chronicles 22:9)
 - 5) The other sons of Athaliah and Jehoram had been kidnapped and killed by the Philistines. (II Chronicles 22:17)
- She reigned for 6 years (841-835 B.C.)

Genealogical Table of Queen Athaliah



2. In order to usurp control of the throne of the Northern Kingdom of Judah, Athaliah attempted to kill all of her grandsons to eliminate the chances of her being removed.
3. A sister (named Jehosheba) of King Ahaziah (thus a daughter of King Jehoram) of Judah took Joash (one of King Ahaziah's sons) and hid him so that Queen Athaliah could not find him and have him killed. (II Kings 11:2-3)
 - This maintained the royal lineage of David as Joash was the son of Ahaziah
 - Jehoiada (husband to Jehosheba) protected Joash for 6 years until the time was right for him to be crowned as King of Judah. (II Kings 11:4-12)
4. Queen Athaliah was deposed from the throne and put to death (II Kings 11:13-16)

The Kings of Judah

King Joash
(835 – 796 B.C.)

1. King Joash reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 40 years
 - King Joash (also called Jehoash) was seven years old when he became the youngest king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. (II Kings 11:21)
 - Upon the death of Athaliah and the coronation of Joash as king – it caused the turmoil that existed in Jerusalem to subside and the city was quiet once again.
2. Joash was the only surviving son of King Ahaziah and for the first several years of his reign he was under the tutelage of Jehoiada (the priest who protected him along with his wife Jehosheba – Joash's aunt) who no doubt mentored and trained him.

3. The reign of Joash begins an approximate **100 years** (835-735 B.C.) of consecutive rule by 4 kings who were considered as “**good kings**.”

- This reign of 4 consecutive kings (Joash, Amaziah, Azariah/Uzziah, and Jotham) was the longest continual period in which the kings were “primarily” devoted the Lord and provided stable and spiritual guidance to the people.
- These by far were not the best kings of Judah (though they were better than most), but they did bring a sense of spiritual awakening during their reign.

4. “In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash (Joash) became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Zibiah of Beersheba. Jehoash did right in the sight of the Lord all his days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” (II Kings 12:1-3)

- Joash ruled the Southern Kingdom of Judah at the same time that King Jehu ruled the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- Take note of the reference that says; “Jehoash did right in the sight of the Lord all his days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.” This shows the positive spiritual influence of his uncle upon his life.

5. At some point - probably 20 years into his reign, Joash makes significant restoration and repairs to the Temple built by Solomon:

- “They gave the money which was weighed out into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the Lord; and to the masons and the stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the damages to the house of the Lord, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it.” (II Kings 12:11-12)

5. At some point - probably 20 years into his reign, Joash makes significant restoration and repairs to the Temple built by Solomon:

- The repairs were necessary because Queen Athaliah and her cohorts had broken into and looted the Temple using some of the sacred items in the worship of Baal.
- These restorations to the Temple and the reforms among the priests were driven by Joash but it was probably the spiritual influences of Jehoiada (Joash's uncle) that caused Joash to make them happen.

6. Jehoiada died, and upon his death Joash began a bit of a *downward* spiral and the spiritual reforms that were initially implemented by Joash began to *crumble*.

- “Now when Jehoiada reached a ripe old age he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old at his death. They buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done well in Israel and to God and His house.” (II Chronicles (24:15-16))

6. Jehoiada died, and upon his death Joash begin a bit of a downward spiral and the spiritual reforms that were initially implemented by Joash began to crumble.
- “But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them. **They abandoned the house of the Lord**, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols; so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guilt. **Yet He sent prophets to them** to bring them back to the Lord; though they testified against them, they would not listen.” (II Chronicles 24:17-19)
 - Things go from bad to worse and Joash will actually have Jehoiada’s son (Zechariah) killed because he spoke against idol worship. (II Chron. 24:20-22)

The Arameans (from the north) will invade Judah and King Joash will be wounded and eventually is killed by his own people for the murder of Zechariah.

(24:23-27)

The Kings of Judah

King Amazia
(796-767 B.C.)

1. King Amaziah reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 29 years
 - Amaziah actually reigned for approximately 6 years as sole ruler of the Southern Kingdom of Judah (796-790 B.C.)
 - The balance of his reign as king (790-767 B.C.) he co-ruled with his son Azariah
2. ¶Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. **He did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart.** (II Chronicles 25:1-2)
3. One of Amaziah's first official acts as king was to put to death those responsible for killing his father Joash. (II Chronicles 25:3-4)

4. Amaziah had aspirations of being a “**warrior king**” and set out to build a rather large army of conscripted soldiers (some 300,000 men from Judah).
 - This was done in preparation for a battle with the “men from Seir” which were Edomites who live near the region of the Dead Sea. (II Chronicles 25:11)
 - The men from Judah killed the soldiers of Edom with extreme brutality and nowhere in Scripture does it mention this was the appropriate method or means to accomplish such a victory – but it happened none the less. (II Chron. 25:12-13)
5. Amaziah *grieved* the Lord by **taking the idols** from the land in which he conquered (The people of Seir) and **set them up to be worshipped** in the Kingdom of Judah. (II Chronicles 25:14-16)

6. This action by Amaziah (establishing idol worship in Judah) brought the Lord's judgment upon him and the people of Judah by means of warfare with King Jehoash of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. (II Chronicles 25:17-26)
7. Amaziah became a very unpopular king in Jerusalem and was forced into exile where he was eventually killed by assassins. His son Azariah (**Uzziah**) who co-reigned with Amaziah now ruled as the King of Judah from that point on. (II Chron. 25:27-28)

The Kings of Judah

King Azariah (Uzziah)

(790-739 B.C.)

1. King Azariah (Uzziah) reigned over the Southern Kingdom of Judah for 52 year

- Some translations use the name Azariah and others use Uzziah – they are one and the same person. (Isaiah 1:1, Isaiah 6:1, II Kings 15:1, II Chronicles 26:1)
- He co-reigned with his father Amaziah from approx. 790 B.C. until 767 B.C. and then began his sole reign as king from approx. 767 B.C. until 750 B.C. and co-reigned with his son Jotham from approx. 750-739 B.C.
- He was **16 years old** when he began his reign (790 B.C.); “And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the place of his father Amaziah.” (II Chronicles 26:1).

“He did right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ~~He~~ continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God prospered him.”

(II Chronicles 26:4-5)

3. The Lord gave King Azariah a number of military victories:
- He defeated/conquered several Philistines towns and was successful in defeating several Arab tribes as well. (II Chronicles 26:6-7)
 - The neighboring kingdoms of Egypt and Ammon feared him (II Chronicles 26:8)

4. He was very successful in increasing his military strength as well as fortifying the city of Jerusalem and protecting it from attack:
 - “Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate and at the Valley Gate and at the corner buttress and fortified them.” (II Chronicles 26:9)
 - “In Jerusalem he made engines of war invented by skillful men to be on the towers and on the corners for the purpose of shooting arrows and great stones. Hence his fame spread afar, for he was marvelously helped until he was strong.” (II Chronicles 26:15)

5. It was his pride that got the best of him and this corrupted his heart

- “But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God, for he entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.” (II Chronicles 26:16)
 - 1) He became more dependent on his military might than on the Lord
 - 2) Entering the temple to burn incense on the altar was a priestly duty and a clear violation of the Law. (II Chronicles 26:16-18, Exodus 30:7-8)
 - 3) King Azariah (Uzziah) was confronted by Azariah the priest and 80 other priests, who condemned him (King Uzziah) for his actions. (26:17-18)

“But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the altar of incense. Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the Lord had smitten him.” (II Chron. 26:19-20)

- 1) Take note of Uzziah's pride which was shown through his anger as he apparently considered himself above the Law; “But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged”.
- 2) Leprosy made a person ceremonially unclean meaning the person was unqualified to participate in any rituals, ceremonies, festivals etc.
- 3) King Uzziah was under God's judgment from this point until his death

¶ King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate 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. Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first to last, the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, has written. So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his father's in the field of the grave which belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." And Jotham his son became king in his place."

(II Chronicles 26:21-23)