

סוּדָּוָה
kings of judah



studynotes

10/11

Cardiff MP

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Swansea

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Start time: **8pm PROMPT**

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INTRODUCTION

Many lessons can be learnt from studying the Kings of Judah. This will be our focus for SWYPG this year God Willing. We will be considering the following kings in the classes:

- Rehoboam
- Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- Joash
- Uzziah
- Hezekiah
- Josiah
- Zedekiah

It is hoped that these studies will help us to examine ourselves and our relationship with God. In order to gain maximum benefit from these talks, this booklet has been produced so that we can come to the classes with a basic understanding of the king under consideration.

KINGS OF JUDAH

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet aims to provide an overview of the Kings of Judah.

The dates of each king's reign have been taken from 'Currid, J. D. & Barrett, D. P. ESV Bible Atlas. Crossway.' These dates are debated but this is a respectable and recent source.

Each king has been labelled 'good' or 'bad' based on the summary of their lives found in God's inspired word. However, only God can judge, as many kings repented to some degree of their sins. Details of this can be found in the 'Main Events' section of each relevant king.

MAIN EVENTS

- Rehoboam went to Shechem to be crowned King of all Israel.
- He forsakes the counsel of the wise elders and follows the foolishness of the young men regarding the heavy tax/servitude.
- 10 northern tribes disown the 'house of David' and flee/rebel under leadership of Jeroboam.
- Rehoboam consolidates his kingdom.
- Shishak king of Egypt led a confederacy including the Lubims, Sukkims, and the Ethiopians against Judah following the spiritual rebellion from the ways of God. Rehoboam and Judah repented from their evil and were delivered from destruction, nevertheless they had to serve Shishak as a punishment and give him the treasure of the temple and the king's house.
- Again strengthened himself in Jerusalem.
- Appears to have adhered to and followed the law, and a basic worship of the true God towards the end of his life. However it is evident that his heart and purpose was not fixed on this endeavour. (2Ch 12v14)

Reheboam

'ENLARGER OF THE PEOPLE'

930-913

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLEShemaiah, Iddo, Nathan,
AhijahNOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Jeroboam I, Shishak (Egypt)

MOTHER

Naamah, an Ammonitess -
"loveliness"

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1 Kings 12-14
2 Chronicles 10-12"prepared not
his heart to
seek the LORD"

2 Chronicles 12:14

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the kingdom divided?
2. Does Rehoboam make the right decision in 1 Kings 12v13-14? What lessons can we learn from this?
3. What happened to the Levites following the division of the kingdom? What is the subsequent spiritual state of Judah and can we learn from this?

MAIN EVENTS

- Gave a speech against Jereboam because he had intervened to take the kingdom away from the line of David when God had promised that the kingdom would stay in David's house. He also condemned Jereboam for getting rid of the Levitical priesthood and worshipping golden calves.
- Won a battle through the help of God against Jereboam against the odds as Israel had them surrounded

QUESTIONS

1. Was Abijah a good king or bad? 1 Kings 15 paints him in a negative light but 2 Chronicles 13 paints him in a better light.
2. Why did he proclaim that Judah still served God (2 Chron 13v10) when both he and his father seemed to lead the people away from God?

ABIJAH

'FATHER OF YAH'

913-910

**CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE**

Elijah, Azariah, Hanani

**NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS**

Jereboam (Israel)

**“he walked in
all the sins of
his father”**

MOTHER

Maacha - daughter of
Abishalom

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1 Kings 15
2 Chronicles 13

1 Kings 15:3

MAIN EVENTS

- Removed: the altars of strange gods; the high places; images; groves.
- Built fenced cities for Judah
- Defeated Zerah the Ethiopian (who had an army of 1,000,000 men)
- Judah, Benjamin, and the strangers of Ephraim and Manasseh entered into a covenant with the LORD under his reign
- Formed an allegiance with Ben-Hadad, king of Assyria in order to overcome Baasha king of Israel, for which he was reprimanded by Hanani the Seer
- Built the cities of Geba and Mizpah
- Suffered disease in his feet, which led, two years later, to his death. He did not seek God in his disease.

QUESTIONS

1. What relevance does Asa's name have to the way in which he lived his life?



'PHYSICIAN'

910-870

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Elijah, Azariah, Hanani

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Jeroboam I, Nadab, Elah,
Zimri, Baasha, Omri, Ahab

MOTHER

Maacha (grandmother in margin). Asa removed her from being Queen because she had made an idol.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1 Kings 15 v 9-24
2 Chronicles 14-16

“His heart was perfect all his days”

2 Chronicles 15:17

2. Is there an irony in the juxtaposition of Asa's name and the way in which he died?

3. What lessons can we learn from the life of Asa?

MAIN EVENTS

2 Chronicles...

- 17:1-6 Began to reign, his heart was lifted up in the LORD.
- 17:7-9 Sent princes with Levites to teach the people.
- 17:10-19 The fear of the LORD fell upon surrounding nations, they brought presents to Jehoshaphat and he “waxed great exceedingly”.
- 18:1-34 Jehoshaphat and Ahab join together in battle against Ramoth-gilead.
- 19:1-4 Jehoshaphat is corrected by Jehu the seer and brings the people back to God.
- 19:5-11 He appoints judges.
- 20:1-4 Other nations come against Jehoshaphat to battle. He seeks the LORD and proclaims a fast.
- 20:5-13 Jehoshaphat prays in the ears of the people of Judah.
- 20:14-34 God delivers Judah.
- 20:35-37 Jehoshaphat’s ships destroyed.

JEHOSHAPHAT

‘YAHWEH HAS JUDGED’

870-848

CO-REGENT FROM 872

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLEMicaiah, Jehu, Zahaziel,
Eliezer, ElishaNOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram

MOTHER

Azubah, daughter of Shilhi (2
Chron 20:31)

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1 Kings 22, 2 Kings 3
2 Chronicles 17-21:1
Joel 3:2, 12“doing that
which was
right...”

2 Chronicles 20:32

QUESTIONS

1. What parallels are there between Jehoshaphat and our king Jesus?

2. What can we learn from the things which Jehoshaphat did right?

3. What can we learn from the things which Jehoshaphat did wrong?

MAIN EVENTS

- Began his reign (1 Kings 22:50, 2 Chronicles 21:5)
- Walked in the way of the kings of Israel (2 Chronicles 21:6)
- Married a daughter of Ahab (2 Chronicles 21:6)
- Crushed the Edomite uprising (2 Chronicles 21:8-11)
- Made his nation to sin (2 Chronicles 21:11)
- Elijah warned Jehoram that a plague would come on his people and that he would get a sickness in his bowels (2 Chronicles 21:12-15)
- God used Philistia and Arabia to attack Judah, they took his wives and his sons, apart from Jehoahaz (2 Chronicles 21:16-17)
- God gave Jehoram an incurable disease, after two years his bowels fell out and he died (2 Chronicles 21:18-19)
- Was not buried in the sepulchres of the kings (2 Chronicles 21:20)

QUESTIONS

1. If God had made a covenant with David to “give a light to...his sons forever”, does he not break this in his dealings with Jehoram?

2. Why do you think Jehoram was given a sickness in his bowels?

Jehoram

‘YAHWEH IS EXALTED’

848-841

CO-REGENT FROM 853

**CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE**

Elijah

**NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS**

Jehoram the son of Ahab

MOTHER

Jezebel

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

1 Kings 22

2 Chronicles 21-22

**“he wrought
that which was
evil...”**

2 Chronicles 21:6

MAIN EVENTS

- Went with Joram (king of Israel) to war against Hazael king of Syria
- Was killed by Jehu and his men

QUESTIONS

1. What relevance does Ahaziah's name have to the way in which he lived his life?
2. How was Ahaziah related to the house of Ahab? Could this have had an effect on the way he lived his life?
3. Are there any lessons from the life of Ahaziah (and especially his family connections) that we can apply to our own lives?

Ahaziah

'YAH POSSESSES'

841-841

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Elisha, Jezebel

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Joram, Jehu

**"he... did evil in
the sight of the
LORD"**

MOTHER

Athalia. She was "Ahaziah's counsellor to do wickedly". She tried to destroy the rest of the royal family. She ruled the land for six years after Ahaziah's death.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 8:25-29; 9:14-29
2 Chronicles 22

2 Kings 8:27

MAIN EVENTS

- Jehoshabeath (the sister of Ahaziah and daughter of Jehoram) hid Joash in the temple for the first 6 years of his life to protect him from Athaliah who was trying to destroy the royal see of Judah.
- Began his reign at the age of 7, in the 7th year of Jehu's reign over Israel.
- Under the instruction of Jehoiada the priest (husband of Jehoshabeath), he "did that which was right in the sign of Yahweh."
- He gathered money from all over Israel and Judah and restored the temple of Yahweh with the help of Jehoiada.
- When Jehoiada died, Joash "forsook Yahweh" and the princes of Judah "served groves and idols" 2 Chron 24:18, 20
- Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada reprimanded Joash, but Joash commanded that he be stoned to death.
- The host of Syria came up against Joash and destroyed all the princes of the people and sent all the spoil of them to the king of Damascus.
- Joash's servants slew Joash on his bed for the blood of Zechariah.
- He was buried in the city of David, but not in the sepulchers of the kings.

Joash

'YAHWEH HAS GIVEN'

835-796

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Jehoiada, Elisha

NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERSJehu and Jehoahaz (Israel),
Hazeal (Syria)"he forsook
Yahweh..."

MOTHER

Zibiah of Beer-sheba

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 11-12

2 Chronicles 22:11-24:27

2 Chronicles 24:20

QUESTIONS

1. Do we serve God only because of the influence of others?
2. Which other king forsook good advice in favour of the advice of his peers?
Compare the 2 records.
3. Compare the burying places of Jehoiada and Joash. What lessons can we learn from this?

MAIN EVENTS

- Began his reign at the age of 25
- He slew the servants who had killed his father, Joash, but spared their children, heeding to the law of Moses (Deut 24:16)
- He assembled an army of 400,000 from Judah, Benjamin and Israel, but was later instructed by a man of God not to take any of the army of Israel as they contained Ephraimites.
- Amaziah took his army and slew 10,000 men of Seir and threw another 10,000 off the top of a rock to their deaths.
- The men who Amaziah sent back raided the cities of Judah, killing 3,000 men and took much spoil.
- He brought the gods of the men of Seir back to Judah and worshipped them.
- He challenged the king of Israel, Joash (different to Judah's previous monarch) and was defeated. Joash took Amaziah captive, destroyed a 400-cubit section of the wall of Jerusalem and took all the gold, silver and vessels from the house of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What does the life of Amaziah teach us about the need for sincerity and truth?

Amaziah

'STRENGTH OF YAH' 796-767

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Elijah, Azariah, Hanani

MOTHER

Jehoaddan of Jerusalem

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Jeroboam I, Nadab, Elah,
Zimri, Baasha, Omri, Ahab

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 14
2 Chronicles 25

“did... right... yet
not like David
his father”

2 Kings 14:3

MAIN EVENTS

- Began Reign at 16 (Probably co-regent with Father Amaziah)
- Did that which was right in the sight of the Lord
- Known for his love of husbandry (farming)
- Oversaw a well equipped and powerful army which God caused to have victories against the Philistines and Arabians. This resulted in Uzziah's name being "Strengthened exceedingly"
- "When he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction"
- He burned incense to God in the temple (something that should have been done only by the priests)
- Became leprous for his sin

Uzziah

'MY STRENGTH IS YAH'

767-740

CO-REGENT FROM 792

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLEProphets: Isaiah, Hosea,
Amos, Zechariah

High Priest: Azariah

MOTHER

Jecoliah (Yah is able)

NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERSZechariah, Jeroboam II
(Israel); Pul (Assyria)

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 15
2 Chronicles 26
Isaiah 1-7"he did that
which was
right..."

2 Chronicles 26:4

MAIN EVENTS

- Fortified the Southern Kingdom, built up the Temple, built cities, castles and towers in Judah
- Fought and beat the Ammonites and put them to tribute.

QUESTIONS

1. Did Jotham reign while his father Uzziah was in the leper house, or did his reign only begin on Uzziah's death?

2. What are we taught by the spirit causing the recording of the fact the high places were not taken?

Jotham

'YAHWEH IS UPRIGHT'

740-732

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Isaiah, Hosea, Micah,
Azariah

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Pekah and Hosea (Israel)
Tiglathpileser III (Assyria)

**"He did right in
the sight of the
LORD"**

MOTHER

Jerusha, the daughter of
Zadok

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 15:5, 7, 33-38
2 Chronicles 26:21-27:9

2 Kings 27:6

MAIN EVENTS

- Gave the silver and gold of the temple as a present to the king of Assyria
- Ahaz sets up an alter based on one he had seen in Damascus in the temple of God and burns incense on it

QUESTIONS

1. In Isaiah 7 v 10 – 12, Isaiah offers Ahaz a sign. Why do you think Ahaz, rejected this offer?

Ahaz

'HE HAS GRASPED'

732-716

CO-REGENT FROM 735

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Isaiah, Hosea, Micah, Urijah

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Pekah (Israel) Rezin (Syria)
Tiglath-Pilezer or Pul (Assyria)

**“he made his
sons pass
through the fire”**

FATHER

Jotham - 'Yahweh is Perfect'

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 16
2 Chronicles 28
Isaiah 7

2 Kings 16:3

MAIN EVENTS

- Rebuilt Temple and re-established true Temple worship
- Sanctified the Levites and brought all Judah to rededicate the temple
- Invites Northern and Southern kingdoms to come for a great and joyful Passover.
- Destroyed all false altars and idols in Judah and Israel
- Re-established the tithing for the support of the Levites
- Hezekiah falls sick to death but is miraculously healed.
- Hezekiah received Baladan – king of Babylon.
- Sennahherib invades Judah and conquers most of the country except Jerusalem.
- Hezekiah fortified Jerusalem for siege
- Hezekiah tries to buy Sennacherib off, but then turns to God and the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem is destroyed.

Hezekiah

'YAHWEH STRENGTHENS'

716-687

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Isaiah, Hosea, Micah,
Azariah

MOTHER

Abi/Abijah the Daughter of
Zechariah

2 Kings 18:2

2 Chronicles 29:1

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Hoshea (Israel) Shalmaneser
V, Sargon II, Sennacherib,
Earshaddon (Assyria)

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 18:1 - 21:3

2 Chronicles 28:7-33:3

Isaiah 36-39

**“he did that
which was
right...”**

2 Kings 18:3-6

QUESTIONS

1. Why did such a faithful man as Hezekiah, first try and buy Assyria off instead of turning immediately to God?
2. In Isaiah 39, does Hezekiah do wrong?
3. What can we learn from Hezekiah's conduct to the Northern kingdom

MAIN EVENTS

- Josiah commissioned the repair of the temple at the hand of Shaphan the scribe and Hilkiah the high priest. It was during this time that a scroll of the law was discovered and when it was read to Josiah, he came to fully appreciate the sins of the nation – he was reassured that though God was going to punish the nation, it would not be during his lifetime.
- He undertook a campaign to destroy many of the idols right around the nation that had been set up by the kings that had come before him.
- He reinstated a national Passover/feast of unleavened bread for the people to remember – the record says that there was no Passover like it since the days of Samuel.
- 2 Kings 23v25 records of Josiah “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him”

Josiah

‘FOUNDED OF YAH’

640-609

**CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE**

Jeremiah, Hilkiah, Shaphan,
Zephaniah, Habbakuk, Joel

**NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS**

Babylonian empire
commenced. Assyrian were
declining

“he did that
which was
right...”

MOTHER

Jedidiah, the daughter of
Adaiah

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 22-23
2 Chronicles 34-35

2 Kings 22:2

QUESTIONS

1. What does the faith of Josiah say about the role of his mother given the evil works of his father/grandfather? What lessons can we learn from Jedidah when it comes to our prospective roles as parents?
2. What qualities did Josiah show in his reign by turning around all the evil things that he inherited?
3. What passage in the law did Josiah not adhere to until the scroll was found during the reconstruction of the temple? What does this tell us is important for us to do on a regular basis?

MAIN EVENTS

- Jehoahaz 'put in bands' at Riblah by Pharaohnechoh
- Pharaohnechoh then made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim/Jehoiakim king instead
- The land of Judah had to pay tax to Pharaoh through Jehoiakim
- Jehoahaz was later taken to Egypt where he died

QUESTIONS

1. What can we learn from the life of Jehoahaz?
2. Where do we read of the LORD warning Judah not to trust in the land of Egypt? (concordance)
3. Find an example of when this prophecy is fulfilled (concordance, margin)

Jehoahaz

'YAH SEIZED' **609-609**

CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/ PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE

Jeremiah

NOTABLE AND CONTEMPORARY RULERS

Pharaohnechoh (Egypt)

**"he did that
which was
evil"**

MOTHER

Hamutal, daughter of
Jeremiah of Libnah

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

2 Kings 23:30-34
2 Chronicles 36:1-4

2 Kings 13:2

MAIN EVENTS

- Zedekiah – the king of Babylon’s uncle (2 Kings 24:17)
- Zedekiah becomes king (2 Kings 24:17-18)
- Zedekiah was 21 when he began to reign (2 Kings 24:17-18)
- Zedekiah did evil in God’s sight following after the example of Jehoiakim (2 Kings 24:19)
- Zedekiah did not humble himself before Jeremiah (2 Chronicles 36:12)
- During Zedekiah’s reign because of the way he was God cast Judah and Jerusalem out of his presence (Jeremiah 52:3)
- Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and refused to turn to God (2 Chronicles 36:13)
- Zedekiah made a covenant with the people at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty unto them (Jeremiah 34:8)
- Zedekiah used Jeremiah to pray to God for him (Jeremiah 37:3)
- There were false prophets in the land at the time who were giving Zedekiah false messages (Jeremiah 37:19)
- God prophesied that he himself would fight against Zedekiah (Jeremiah 21:5)

Zedekiah

‘JUSTICE OF YAHWEH’ 597-586

**CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS/
PRIESTS/KEY PEOPLE**
Jeremiah

**NOTABLE AND
CONTEMPORARY RULERS**
Nebuchadnezzar

“he did that
which was
evil...”

MOTHER
Hamutal - daughter of
Jeremiah of Libnah (2 Kings
24:18)

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES
2 Kings 24-25
2 Chronicles 36
Jeremiah 21, 32, 34, 38, 52

2 Kings 24:19

