

# THE DIVIDED Kingdom

The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David My servant: I will establish your offspring forever, and build up your throne for all generations" (Ps. 89:3-4).

## The Kingdom of ISRAEL

| KINGS   | YEARS |
|---------|-------|
| Saul    | 42    |
| David   | 40    |
| Solomon | 40    |

King **David** did what was right in the Lord's eyes; he obeyed the Lord, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. Therefore, he is the benchmark by which all the kings of Judah are measured. The Lord promised him an enduring dynasty on the throne in Jerusalem, if his descendants obeyed the Lord.

Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day (1 Kings 12:19).

## The Southern Kingdom of JUDAH

| KINGS                | YEARS | PROPHETS                 |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Rehoboam             | 17    |                          |
| Abijam               | 3     |                          |
| Asa                  | 41*   |                          |
| Jehoshaphat          | 25*   |                          |
| Jehoram              | 8     |                          |
| Abaziah †            | 1     |                          |
| Queen Athaliah †     | 7     |                          |
| Joash †              | 40    |                          |
| Amaziah †            | 29*   |                          |
| Azariah (Uzziah)     | 52*   | AMOS                     |
| Jotham               | 16*   | ISAIAH, HOSEA, MICAH     |
| Abaz                 | 16    |                          |
| Hezekiah             | 29*   |                          |
| Manasseh             | 55    | JOEL?, NAHUM?, HABAKKUK? |
| Amon †               | 2     |                          |
| Josiah               | 31    | ZEPHANIAH, HABAQUK?      |
| Jehoahaz             | 3 mo  | JEREMIAH                 |
| Eliakim (Jehoiakim)  | 11    | DANIEL, EZEKIEL          |
| Jehoiachin           | 3 mo  |                          |
| Mattaniah (Zedekiah) | 11    |                          |

According to the judgment of God against Solomon, **Rehoboam** unwisely listened to his young advisers regarding his forced labor policy, so the northern tribes rebelled against him, dividing the kingdom in two. He also led the people of Judah in imitating the detestable practices of the nations that had been driven out of the promised land.

**Queen Athaliah** was Ahaziah's mother and a daughter of Ahab. When she heard of Ahaziah's death at the hands of Jehu, she proceeded to kill all of his heirs to assume the throne, but Joash was hidden from her for six years in the temple. Upon his coronation, she was executed.

**Azariah**, also known as **Uzziah**, did what was right in the Lord's sight, but after years of success, he became arrogant. He tried to burn incense in the temple; when the priests confronted him, he became enraged, so the Lord afflicted him with a serious skin disease, which remained with him until his death. Therefore, he was excluded from access to the Lord's temple.

**Hezekiah** did what was right in the Lord's eyes, just as David had done. He removed the high places and even broke the bronze snake of Moses because the people worshiped it. Yet Judah was still invaded by Assyria, and a number of cities were conquered. But Hezekiah continued to trust in the Lord, so the Lord preserved Jerusalem.

Like David, **Josiah** did what was right in the Lord's eyes. He led the people of Judah in a covenant renewal and through reforms according to the Book of the Law. He was praised for turning to the Lord with all his heart, mind, and strength.

Babylon invaded and exerted control over Judah during the reigns of **Jehoiakim** (605 B.C.), **Jehoiachin** (597 B.C.), and **Zedekiah** (586 B.C.). King Nebuchadnezzar deported people to Babylon on these occasions, but finally, he destroyed the wall around Jerusalem as well as the Lord's temple.

JUDAH CONQUERED BY BABYLON (586 B.C.)

## The Northern Kingdom of ISRAEL

| KINGS       | YEARS  | PROPHETS |
|-------------|--------|----------|
| Jeroboam    | 22     |          |
| Nadab †     | 2      |          |
| Baasha      | 24     |          |
| Elah †      | 2      |          |
| Zimri †     | 7 days |          |
| Omri        | 12**   |          |
| Ahab        | 22     |          |
| Abaziah     | 2      |          |
| Joram †     | 12     |          |
| Jehu        | 28     |          |
| Jehoahaz    | 17     |          |
| Jehoash     | 16*    |          |
| Jeroboam    | 41     |          |
| Zechariah † | 6 mo   |          |
| Shallum †   | 1 mo   |          |
| Menahem     | 10**   |          |
| Pekahiah †  | 2**    |          |
| Pekah †     | 20**   |          |
| Hoshea      | 9      |          |

**Jeroboam** became king of Israel according to the word of the Lord, but he quickly led the people into idolatry, setting up two golden calves for their worship. He was not like David, keeping the Lord's commands and following Him; rather, He set the idolatrous pattern that would be followed by all of Israel's kings.

**Omri** and **Ahab** were exceptional in their evil; they "did more evil" than the kings who came before them. They provoked the Lord with idols. Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of a foreign king; he worshiped Baal and set up an Asherah pole.

**Jehu** was a commander of Israel's army. He was anointed king by a son of the prophets sent by Elisha and given the command to strike down the whole house of Ahab's descendants to avenge the blood of the Lord's servants that had been shed by Jezebel. For his obedience, he was rewarded with a dynasty to four generations.

ISRAEL CONQUERED BY ASSYRIA (722 B.C.)

- Did what was right in the Lord's eyes, like David
- Did what was right in the Lord's eyes, but not like David
- Did what was evil in the Lord's eyes
- Did what was evil in the Lord's eyes, but more than others
- \* Reign likely involved a co-regency
- \*\* Reign likely involved a civil war
- † Assassination (Athaliah [executed]; Zimri [suicide])
- Davidic Dynasty
- Jeroboam's Dynasty
- Baasha's Dynasty
- Omri's Dynasty
- Jehu's Dynasty
- Menahem's Dynasty

In spite of numerous wicked kings, the Lord stayed true to His promise to David. After the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile, Jehoiachin, who had been imprisoned in Babylon for 37 years, was released and favored to sit at the king of Babylon's table, thus preserving the Davidic line that would lead to the Messiah, the promised Son of God, the eternal King on David's throne, and the Savior from all our sins—**Jesus**.