

The Second Book of KINGS

Chapters 14 – 16

“Pride, Power and Something to Ponder”

Chronological Table of the Kings of the Divided Kingdom

| <u>> Judah (Southern Kingdom, 2 tribes)</u> | | | <u>> Israel (Northern Kingdom, 10 tribes)</u> | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| <u>King</u> | <u>Reign BC</u> | <u>Character</u> | <u>King</u> | <u>Reign BC</u> | <u>Character</u> |
| 1. Rehoboam | 931-914 | Bad | 1. Jeroboam I | 931-910 | Bad |
| 2. Abijah | 914-911 | Bad | . | . | . |
| 3. Asa | 911-870 | Good | 2. Nadab | 910-909 | Bad |
| . | . | . | 3. Baasha | 909-886 | Bad |
| . | . | . | 4. Elah | 886-885 | Bad |
| . | . | . | 5. Zimri | 885 (7 days) | Bad |
| . | . | . | 6. Tibni | 885-880 | Bad |
| . | . | . | 7. Omri | 885-874* | Bad |
| 4. Jehoshaphat | 871-846* | Good | 8. Ahab | 874-853 | Bad |
| 5. Jehoram | 854-842* | Bad | 9. Ahaziah | 854-853 | Bad |
| 6. Ahaziah | 842-841 | Bad | 10. Joram | 853-841 | Bad |
| 7. Athaliah | 841-835 | Bad | 11. Jehu | 841-813 | Bad |
| 8. Joash | 835-795 | Good | 12. Jehoahaz | 813-796 | Bad |
| 9. Amaziah | 796-767* | Good | 13. Jehoash | 798-782 | Bad |
| 10. Azariah | 789-737* | Good | 14. Jeroboam II | 792-751* | Bad |
| . | . | . | . | . | . |
| . | . | . | 15. Zechariah | 751-750 (6 mo.) | Bad |
| . | . | . | 16. Shallum | 750 (1 mo.) | Bad |
| . | . | . | 17. Menahem | 750-740 | Bad |
| . | . | . | 18. Pekahiah | 740-738 | Bad |
| 11. Jotham | 738-718* | Good | 19. Pekah | 738-718 | Bad |
| 12. Ahaz | 730-714* | Bad | 20. Hoshea | 718-709 | Bad |
| 13. Hezekiah | 715-686 | Good | > Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel. | | |
| 14. Manasseh | 697-642 | Bad | . | . | . |
| 15. Amon | 642-640 | Bad | . | . | . |
| 16. Josiah*** | 640-609 | Good | . | . | . |
| 17. Jehoahaz | 609(3 mo.) | Bad | . | . | . |
| 18. Jehoiakim | 609-598 | Bad | . | . | . |
| 19. Jehoiachin | 608-597* | Bad | . | . | . |
| 20. Zedekiah | 597-587 | Bad | . | . | . |
| > Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah. | | | *Co-regency. | | |

Chapter 14- “King vs. King”(Pride)

(v1-14) King Amaziah of Judah: Victory & Defeat!

(AMAZIAH - (*Jehovah is mighty*)) (796-767 BC, good king) - The son of King Joash ([2 Kings 14:1-20](#); [2 Chronicles 25:1](#)). Amaziah was 25 years old when he began his reign as the ninth king of Judah. He followed in the steps of his father, doing "what was right in the sight of the Lord" ([2 Kings 14:3](#)). However, he permitted the high places of false worship to stand ([2 Kings 14:4](#)). After becoming king, Amaziah built up an army in Judah, adding to these ranks 100,000 mercenaries, or paid troops, from Israel to war against Edom ([2 Chronicles 25:6](#)). Warned by a "man of God" that if he used the mercenaries he was inviting certain defeat ([2 Chronicles 25:7](#)), he sent them home. He incurred their wrath for this action ([2 Chronicles 25:10](#)). Following a stunning victory over the Edomites, Amaziah embraced the gods of Edom ([2 Chronicles 25:14](#)). The folly of his action was exposed by

the ironic question of a godly priest, "Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?" ([2 Chronicles 25:15](#)). Meanwhile the mercenaries he had dismissed attacked several towns in Judah, killing 3,000 and taking much spoil ([2 Chronicles 25:13](#)). Apparently filled with pride over his victory, Amaziah challenged the king of Israel, Joash (or Jehoash) to war and suffered defeat at Beth Shemesh. The Bible notes that this was God's punishment for Amaziah's sin of idolatry ([2 Chronicles 25:20](#)). King Joash destroyed a large section of the wall of Jerusalem, and claimed spoil from the Temple and the king's treasury. He also took hostages back to Samaria, possibly even King Amaziah ([2 Chronicles 25:23-24](#)). Amaziah outlived Joash by 15 years. Learning of a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, he fled to Lachish. However, his enemies followed and assassinated him there, ending a reign of 29 years ([2 Chronicles 25:25-28](#)). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v15-22) Azariah becomes King of Judah

(AZARIAH = UZZIAH (789-737BC, good king) - The son of Amaziah and Jeholiah; ninth king of Judah and father of Jotham ([2 Kings 15:1-7](#); [2 Chronicles 26:1](#)). Uzziah is also called Azariah ([2 Kings 14:21](#); [15:1-7](#)). Uzziah ascended the throne at age 16 and reigned longer than any previous king of Judah or Israel-52 years. He probably co-reigned with his father and definitely had his son Jotham as his co-regent during his final years as a leper. A wise, pious, and powerful king, he extended Judah's territory and brought the nation to a time of great prosperity. In the south he maintained control over Edom and rebuilt port facilities at Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba. To the west he warred against the Philistines, seizing several cities. He also apparently defeated and subdued the Ammonites. The foolishness of Uzziah's father Amaziah in fighting Joash, the king of Israel, had left the city of Jerusalem in a vulnerable position ([2 Chronicles 25:23](#)). So Uzziah focused his attention on securing the defenses of both his capital and his country. He reinforced the towers of the city gates. On these towers and walls he placed huge catapults which were capable of shooting arrows and hurling stones at the enemy ([2 Chronicles 26:15](#)). He also maintained a well-equipped army and fortified strategic places in the desert. His successes were directly related to his spiritual sensitivity, because he sought the Lord through a prophet who encouraged him to honor and obey God ([2 Chronicles 26:5](#)). However, Uzziah's heart was lifted up in pride. No longer satisfied to be a mortal king, he desired to be like some of his contemporaries-a divine king. He entered the Temple to burn incense. When Azariah the high priest and 80 associates confronted him, he responded in anger instead of repentance. God judged him by striking him with leprosy. Uzziah was forced to live the rest of his life in a separate place, with his son Jotham probably acting as king. At Uzziah's death the prophet Isaiah had a transforming vision of the Lord, high and lifted up on a throne ([Isaiah 1:1](#); [6](#); [7:1](#)). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v23-29) Jeroboam II reigns in Israel

(JEROBOAM II, (791-752BC, bad king) the 14th king of Israel, who reigned for 41 years, Jeroboam was the son and successor of Joash (or Jehoash); he was the grandson of Jehoahaz and the great-grandson of Jehu ([2 Kings 13:1,13](#); [1 Chronicles 5:17](#)). The Bible declares that Jeroboam "did evil in the sight of the Lord" ([2 Kings 14:24](#)). Jeroboam was successful in his military adventures. His aggressive campaigns "recaptured for Israel, from Damascus and Hamath, what had belonged to Judah" ([2 Kings 14:28](#)). The boundaries of Israel expanded to their greatest extent since the days of David and Solomon: "He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah" ([2 Kings 14:25](#)). Jeroboam II was king during the prosperous interval between the economic reverses of other rulers. The prophets Hosea, Amos, and Jonah lived during his reign ([Hosea 1:1](#); [Amos 1:1-2](#)). During this time of superficial prosperity, the prophet Amos especially spoke out against the many social abuses in Israel. A severe oppression of the poor had been instituted by the newly prosperous class. Justice was in the hands of lawless judges; dishonest merchants falsified the balances by deceit; and worship was little more than a pious smokescreen that covered the terrible abuses of the poor. Amos prophesied that the destructive fury of God would fall upon the house of Jeroboam ([Amos 7:9](#)). After Jeroboam's death, his son Zechariah succeeded him on the throne of Israel ([2 Kings 14:29](#)). Zechariah reigned in Samaria only six months before he was assassinated by Shallum ([2 Kings 15:10](#)). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

> Lesson: Beware of PRIDE!

- **Proverbs 8:10** - *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*

- **Proverbs 11:2** - *When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.*

- **Proverbs 13:10** - *By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.*

- **Proverbs 16:18-20** - *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.*

- **Proverbs 29:23** - *A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.*

Chapter 15- “Good Kings & Evil Kings” (Power)

(v1-7) Azariah good King of Judah.

(v8-12) Zechariah King of Israel for six months does evil, assassinated.

(v13-15) Shallum King for a month in Israel, murdered.

(v16-20) Menahem King of Israel for ten years; did evil in the sight of the LORD.

(v21-28) Pekahiah & Pekah both kings of Israel; did evil in the sight of the LORD.

(v29-31) Tiglath-Pileser King of Assyria invades Israel.

(v32-38) Jotham King of Judah did what was right in the sight of the LORD.

> Lesson: CONSISTENCY- the key to perpetual victory! Matthew 7:24-27 “Hear & do!”

Chapter 16- “Ahaz, the Bad King of Judah”(Ponder)

(v1-6) Ahaz becomes King of Judah and does not do what is right in the sight of the LORD. (AHAZ (*he has grasped*) (730-714BC, bad king) - A son of Jotham and the 11th king of Judah ([2 Kings 15:38; 16](#)). He was an ungodly king who promoted the worship of Molech, with its pagan rites of human sacrifice ([2 Chronicles 28:1-4](#)). The reign of Ahaz probably overlapped the reign of his father Jotham and possibly the reign of his own son Hezekiah. His age when he became king was 20 and he reigned for 16 years, beginning about [735 B.C.](#) Early in his reign Ahaz adopted policies that favored Assyria. When he refused to join the antiAssyrian alliance of Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria, they invaded Judah and besieged Jerusalem, threatening to dethrone Ahaz and replace him with a puppet king ([Isaiah 7:1-6](#)). Pekah and Rezin killed 120,000 people and took 200,000 captives. However, through the intervention of Oded the prophet, the captives were released immediately ([2 Chronicles 28:5-15](#)). In view of his precarious circumstances, Ahaz requested help from Tiglath-Pileser III, king of Assyria, offering him silver and gold. At first the plan worked, and Assyria invaded Israel and Syria ([2 Kings 15:29](#)). Ultimately, however, Assyria "distressed" Ahaz, demanding excessive tribute ([2 Chronicles 28:20-21](#)). Spiritually, Ahaz stopped following in the ways of the four relatively good kings who had preceded him (Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, and Jotham). He made images of Baal, offered infant sacrifices in the Valley of Hinnom, and sacrificed in the high places ([2 Chronicles 28:1-4](#)). He came under further pagan influence at Damascus where he had gone to meet Tiglath-Pileser III. Seeing a pagan altar there, he commanded Uriah the priest at Jerusalem to build a copy of it. He then established it as the official place of the bronze altar. **It was to King Ahaz that Isaiah's evangelistic announcement of the promised Immanuel was made (Isaiah 7:10-17).** The prophet Isaiah sent a message to the terrified Ahaz, but Ahaz would not turn to God and trust Him for deliverance. Instead, he plunged deeper into idolatry and self-destruction. Ahaz's conduct brought divine judgment to Judah in the form of military defeats. Edom revolted and took captives from Judah. The Philistines invaded Judah, capturing several cities. Rezin of Damascus seized control of Elath, Judah's port on the Gulf of Aqaba ([2 Kings 16:5-6](#)). At his death, Ahaz was buried without honor in Jerusalem. He was not deemed worthy of a burial in the royal tombs ([2 Chronicles 28:27](#)). He is also called Achaz ([Matthew 1:9](#), KJV). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v7-9) King Ahaz makes alliance with Assyria.

(v10-20) King Ahaz embraces the worship of the Syrians.

> Lesson: Salvation produces SEPARATION! – 2 Corinthians Ch. 6.