

The Second Book of KINGS

Chapters 20 – 22

Chronological Table of the Kings of the Divided Kingdom:

> Judah (Southern Kingdom, 2 tribes)

> Israel (Northern Kingdom, 10 tribes)

<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			
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 20 - "Lessons For Life from King Hezekiah"

(v1-11) Hezekiah finds _____ in sickness (Understanding sickness biblically - 1 Corin. 1 C.I. Scofield writes, "For God's people, weakness, infirmity, and even disease may be divinely permitted: (1) to cause them to be humble (v7); (2) to caution them against presumption in prayer and (3) to exhibit the all sufficiency of God's grace (v9)."

(v12-21) Hezekiah's _____ rebuked by Isaiah (Lesson: "Loose lips sink ships Proverbs 13:16 - "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!" Proverbs "The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts.")

Chapter 21 - "Evil Kings of Judah"

(v1-9) King Manasseh's _____ ways! (MANASSEH - The 14th king of Judah, the son of HEZEKIAH born to Hephzibah (2 Kings 21:1-18). Manasseh reigned longer (55 years) than any other Israelite king and had the dubious distinction of being Judah's most wicked king. He came to the throne at the age of 12, although he probably co-reigned with Hezekiah for ten years. His father's godly influence appears to have influenced Manasseh only negatively, and he reverted to the ways of his evil grandfather, Ahaz. Committed to idolatry, Manasseh restored everything Hezekiah had abolished. Manasseh erected altars to Baal; he erected an image of Asherah in the Temple; he worshiped the sun, moon, and stars; he recognized the Ammonite god Molech and sacrificed his son to him (2 Kings 21:6); he approved DIVINATION; and he killed all who protested his evil actions. It is possible that he killed the prophet Isaiah; rabbinical tradition states that Manasseh gave the order that Isaiah be sawn in two. Scripture summarizes Manasseh's reign by saying he "seduced them [Judah] to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel" (2 Kings 21:9). Manasseh was temporarily deported to Babylon where he humbled himself before God in repentance (2 Chronicles 33:13). Upon Manasseh's return to Jerusalem, he tried to reverse the trends he had set; but his reforms were quickly reversed after his death by his wicked son Amon. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary))

(v10-17) King Manasseh _____ by God

(v18-25) King Amon's evil ways and his assassination

Chapter 22 - "The Right Ways of King Josiah"

(v1-7) King Josiah's lessons for leaders:

- Do _____ in the sight of the LORD
- Live with _____
- Don't _____
- Good _____
- Be _____
- _____
- _____

(v8-14) The power of the Word of God!

(v15-20) God speaks to King Josiah

> **Key character traits of Josiah:** (1) _____ heart; (2) _____ heart; (3)

_____ heart. (JOSIAH - The 16th king of Judah, the son of AMON, and the grandson of Manasseh (2 Kings 21:23-23:30). The three decades of Josiah's reign were characterized by peace, prosperity, and reform. Hence, they were among the happiest years experienced by Judah. King Josiah devoted himself to pleasing God and reinstating Israel's observance of the Mosaic Law. That a wicked king like Amon could have such a godly son and successor is a tribute to the grace of God. The Bible focuses almost exclusively on Josiah's spiritual reform, which climaxed in the 18th year of his reign with the discovery of the Book of the Law. Josiah's reform actually occurred in three stages. Ascending to the throne at age eight, he apparently was blessed with God-fearing advisors who resisted the idolatrous influence of his father. More importantly, however, at the age of 16 (stage one), Josiah personally "began to seek the God of his father David" (2 Chronicles 34:3). At the age of 20 (stage two), Josiah began to cleanse Jerusalem and the land of Judah of idolatrous objects (2 Chronicles 34:7). His reform was even more extensive than that of his predecessor, HEZEKIAH (2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chronicles 29:3-36). Josiah extended his cleansing of the land into the territory of fallen Israel; at the time Israel was nominally controlled by Assyria. Josiah personally supervised the destruction of the altars of the Baals, the incense altars, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images as far north as the cities of Naphtali. Josiah's efforts were aided by the death of the great Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal, which brought about a serious decline in Assyria's power and allowed Josiah freedom to pursue his reforms. At the age of 26 (stage three), Josiah ordered that the Temple be repaired under the supervision of Hilkiah, the high priest. In the process, a copy of the Book of the Law was discovered (2 Chronicles 34:14-15). When it was read to Josiah, he was horrified to learn how far Judah had departed from the law of God. This discovery provided a new momentum for the reformation that was already in progress. In 609 B.C. Josiah attempted to block Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt as he marched north to assist Assyria in her fight with Babylon for world supremacy. Despite the Pharaoh's assurance to the contrary, Josiah saw Necho's northern campaign as a threat to Judah's security. When he met Necho in battle at Megiddo, Josiah was seriously injured. He was returned to Jerusalem, where he died after reigning 31 years. His death was followed by widespread lamentation (2 Chronicles 35:20-27). In the New Testament, Josiah is referred to as Josias (Matthew 1:10, KJV). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary))