

SESSION 4

Kings of Judah

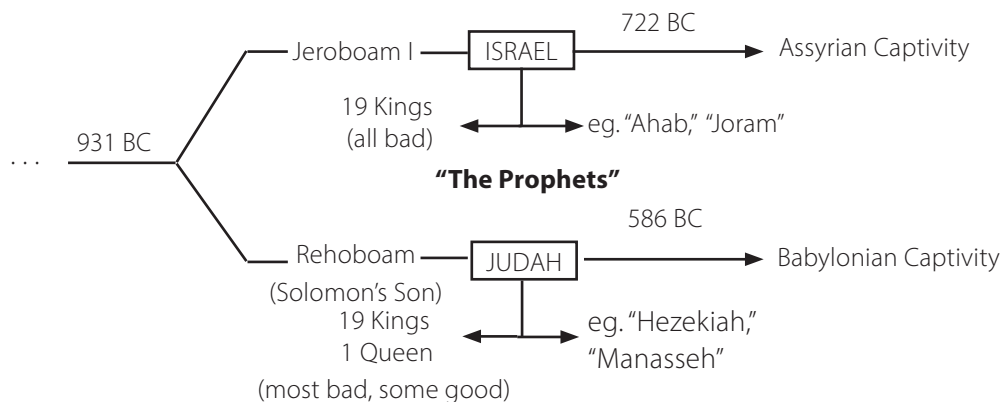
I. PRAYER

II. PANORAMA OF THE BIBLE

A. Movements of the Old Testament (9)

1. Prologue Genesis 1-11
2. Patriarchs Genesis 12-50; Job
3. Redemption/ Exodus, Leviticus
Wanderings Numbers, Deuteronomy
4. Conquest Joshua
5. Apostasy Judges, Ruth
6. Kingship: United 1-2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11
- 7. Kingship: Divided 1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings**
8. Exile Ezekiel, Daniel
9. Return from Exile Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

B. Movement 7: Timeline



III. GEOGRAPHICAL SPLIT OF THE KINGDOM

Note below the chart, "The Divided Monarchy" (E. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 317). Key cities of the Divided Monarchy are located.



IV. KINGS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)

JUDAH (SOUTH)		
Number	Name	Dates
1.	Rehoboam	931-913
2.	Abijah	913-911
3.	Asa	911-870
4.	Jehoshaphat	873-848
5.	Jehoram	848-841
6.	Ahaziah	841
	Athaliah (Queen)	841-835
7.	Joash	835-796
8.	Amaziah	796-767
9.	Uzziah	792-740
10.	Jotham	750-731
11.	Ahaz	735-715
12.	Hezekiah	729-686
13.	Manasseh	696-642
14.	Amon	642-640
15.	Josiah	640-609
16.	Jehoahaz	609
17.	Jehoiakim	608-598
18.	Jehoiachin	598-597
19.	Zedkiah	597-586

* Taken from Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 320. All dates are BC (or BCE).

V. BIBLICAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Rehoboam (#1 of Judah)

1. Father: Solomon; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 931-913 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

- a. Solomon's death and Israel's rebellion
(1 Kgs 12:1-24)

1 Kings 12:1-4

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king.² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt.

³ So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him:

*⁴ "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now **lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke** he put on us, and we will serve you."*

1 Kings 12:12-14

*Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days."¹³ The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,¹⁴ he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; **I will make it even heavier.** My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."*

1 Kings 12:16-17

When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!" So the Israelites went home.¹⁷ But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

- b. Rehoboam's accession (1 Kgs 12:21-22)

Rehoboam was forty-one when he became king and he reigned over Judah (only) for **seventeen years** with Jerusalem as his capitol.

- c. Rehoboam's reign

1 Kings 12:22-24

But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:²³ "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, to all Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of

the people,²⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.'" So they obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered.

d. Rehoboam and Shishak of Egypt (1 Kgs 14:25-28)

In his fifth year the powerful king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. He plundered the treasures of the Temple but apparently returned home with the spoils of war. There was no follow-up invasion.

e. Rehoboam's death (1 Kgs 14:29-31)

Rehoboam had conflict with Jeroboam (king of the northern empire of Israel) all the days of his kingship. He died, was buried in the City of David, and was succeeded by his son, Abijah.

B. Abijah (#2 of Judah)

1. Father: Rehoboam; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 913-911 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events
 - a. Abijah's accession (1 Kgs 15:1-2)

1 Kings 15:1-2

*In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijah became king of Judah,² and he reigned in Jerusalem **three years**. His mother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom.*

b. Abijah's reign (1 Kgs 15:3-5)

(1) An evaluation

1 Kings 15:3

He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been.

(2) An explanation

1 Kings 15:4-5

Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and by making Jerusalem strong.

⁵ For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

- Abijah was undeserving
- Yet the Lord remembered His covenantal promise to David (v. 4; cf. 2 Sam 7).
- The Davidic dynasty would continue ("lamp").

c. Abijah's warfare with Jeroboam

The same north-south conflict with Jeroboam experienced by Abijah's father, Rehoboam, also characterized the short reign of Abijah (vv. 6-7; see also 2 Chron 13 for extended Biblical narrative of this warfare conflict).

d. Abijah's death (1 Kgs 15:8)

C. Asa (#3 of Judah)

1. Father: Abijah; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 911-870 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Good
4. Key events

a. Asa's accession

1 Kgs 15:9-10

*In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king of Judah,¹⁰ and he reigned in Jerusalem **forty-one years**. His grandmother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom.*

b. Asa's reign (1 Kgs 15:11-15)

(1) His obedience (generally)

1 Kings 15:11

Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done.

Insight:

Asa will be the first of eight kings that the inspired writer of Kings deemed as a good king. The evaluation is a theological one mostly related to fidelity to the Mosaic Law and particularly with respect to idolatry.

Asa is one of eight “good kings” though some like Asa will not be “perfectly” righteous (i.e. he “did not remove the high places” –1 Kgs 15:14).

Among Judah’s good kings, four are considered to be reformers, i.e. kings who led the nation back to covenant obedience to the Law. These reformers are:

1. Asa
2. Jehoshaphat
3. Hezekiah
4. Josiah

(2) His “good” actions

- Expelled male shrine prostitutes.
- Eliminated the idols of his fathers.
- Deposed his grandmother (Maacah) for idolatry.
- Supported the temple (silver and gold).

(3) His “bad” inactivity

- Did not remove all of the high places (cf. 2 Chron 14:3; 1 Kgs 15:14).
- Did not honor a seer’s message (2 Chron 16:10).

c. Asa’s war with Baasha (#3 of Israel) (1 Kgs 15:16-22)

(1) Perpetual conflict

1 Kings 15:16

There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns.

(2) Questionable alliance

Due to Baasha's fortifying of Ramah (to prevent Israelites from departing to enter/settle in Judah), Asa forged an alliance offering payment with Ben-Hadad the Aramaean. The text (1 Kgs 15) does not commend or condemn the action. However, the parallel historical account in 2 Chronicles 16 views this action as a lack of faith not only in dealing with Baasha but also in the unwise (and unnecessary) alliance.

2 Chronicles 16:7-10

*At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you **relied on the king of Aram** and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. ⁸ Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you **relied on the LORD**, he delivered them into your hand. ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war." ¹⁰ Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison. At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.*

d. Asa's death (1 Kgs 15:24)

D. Jehoshaphat (#4 of Judah)

1. Father: Asa; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 873-848 BC

Insight:

As noted previously (and compare to the chart, "Kings of the Southern Kingdom," p. 83), Asa died in 870 BC. Yet, Jehoshaphat began to reign three years prior to his death in 873 BC. This three year overlap indicates a **co-regency** whereby the king and his successor share the kingly leadership duties. In this case, Asa was probably incapacitated the latter years of his life—see 1 Kings 15:23. His son and successor would have assumed much of the duties of the king.

3. Theological evaluation: Good

4. Key events

a. Jehoshaphat's accession (1 Kings 22:41-50)

1 Kings 22:41-42

*Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king of Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. ⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **twenty-five years**. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.*

b. Jehoshaphat's reign

1 Kings 22:43-44

In everything he followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. The high places, however, were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. ⁴⁴ Jehoshaphat was also at peace with the king of Israel.

(1) Good... "he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."

(2) Not so good... "high places...not all removed" (cf. 2 Chron 17:3-6; 2 Chron 20:31-33).

(3) Questionable... "at peace with the king (Ahab) or Israel."

Jehu the seer challenged Jehoshaphat's alliances with the northern king, Ahab. "Should you help the wicked (i.e. Ahab) and love those who hate the LORD?" (2 Chron 19:2).

c. Jehoshaphat's accomplishments (selective)

2 Chronicles 17:3-6 (positive contributions)

The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him. He did not consult the Baals ⁴ but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel. ⁵ The LORD established the kingdom under his control; and all Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat, so that he had great wealth and honor. ⁶ His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.

2 Chronicles 17:7, 9-10 (missionary activity)
In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah to teach in the towns of Judah...⁹ They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the LORD; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people.¹⁰ The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not go to war against Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 17:11 (political accomplishments)
Some Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts and silver as tribute, and the Arabs brought him flocks: seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred goats.

- d. Jehoshaphat's failures
 - (1) Allied himself (for war) with Ahab (2 Chron 18:1^{ff}).
 - (2) Allied himself (for commercial profit) with Ahab's son, Ahaziah (2 Chron 20:35-36).
 - (3) Allowed some high places (false worship) to remain though many were removed.

E. Jehoram (#5 of Judah)

- 1. Father: Jehoshaphat; Tribe: Judah
- 2. Dates of reign: 848-841 BC
- 3. Theological evaluation: Bad
- 4. Key events
 - a. Jehoram's accession

2 Kings 8:16-17
*In the fifth year of Joram son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat began his reign as king of Judah.¹⁷ He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **eight years**.*

2 Chronicles 21:4
When Jehoram established himself firmly over his father's kingdom, he put all his brothers to the sword along with some of the officials of Israel.

b. Jehoram's reign

2 Kings 8:18-19

He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab.

He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.

Note also the parallel historical account of Chronicles.

2 Chronicles 21:6-7

He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab.

He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. ⁷ Nevertheless, because of the covenant the LORD had made with David, the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.

c. Jehoram and enemies

(1) The rebellion of Edom (2 Kgs 8:20-22a;
2 Chron 21:8-10a)

(2) The rebellion of Libnah (2 Kgs 8:22b;
2 Chron 21:10b-11)

Insight:

Elijah the prophet, primarily focused on the northern kingdom, nevertheless sent a letter to Jehoram. 2 Chronicles 21:12-15 relates the content:

Jehoram received a letter from Elijah the prophet, which said:

"This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: 'You have not followed the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah. ¹³ But you have followed the ways of the kings of Israel, and you have led Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as the house of Ahab did. You have also murdered your own brothers, members of your own family, men who were better than you. ¹⁴ So now the LORD is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow. ¹⁵ You yourself will be very ill with a lingering disease of the bowels, until the disease causes your bowels to come out.'"

(3) The hostilities with Philistia and others
(2 Chron 21:16-17)

d. Jehoram and his sickness

2 Chronicles 21:18-19

After all this, the LORD afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels. ¹⁹ In the course of time, at the end of the second year, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great pain. His people made no funeral fire in his honor, as they had for his predecessors.

e. Jehoram's death

2 Chronicles 21:20

Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. He passed away, to no one's regret, and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

F. Ahaziah (#6 of Judah)

1. Father: Jehoram; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 841 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Bad
4. Key events

a. Ahaziah's accession

2 Kings 8:25-26

*In the twelfth year of Joram son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. ²⁶ Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **one year**. His mother's name was **Athaliah**, a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.*

b. Ahaziah's reign

2 Kings 8:27

*He followed the ways of the house of Ahab and **did evil** in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was related by marriage to Ahab's family.*

c. Ahaziah's lineage

- (1) Father: Jehoram, the fifth king of Judah
- (2) Mother: Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab (Israel's seventh, evil king) and Jezebel (daughter of the king of Tyre and Sidon who introduced and promoted Baal and Astarte worship to Israel).
- (3) Maternal great-grandfather: Omri (founder of the Omride dynasty, one which would end with the death of Joram as predicted by Elijah and made certain by Elisha's anointing of Jehu as the 10th king of Israel—cf. 2 Kgs 9:24-26; 1 Kgs 21:19, 29).
- (4) Maternal grandfather: the evil king of Israel, Ahab.

d. Ahaziah's downfall

- (1) He did evil like his maternal grandfather, Ahab of Israel.
- (2) He was led astray by his evil mother, Athaliah.
2 Chronicles 22:3
He too followed the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him to act wickedly.
- (3) He unwisely (and rebelliously) aligned with Joram, king of Israel, politically and militarily (2 Chron 22:5^{ff}).
- (4) He was put to death by Jehu, who killed both Joram and Azahiah.

Insight:

Ahaziah's life and reign can best be summarized in 2 Kings 8:27:

He followed the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was related by marriage to Ahab's family.

e. Ahaziah's death

2 Chronicles 22:9

He then went in search of Ahaziah, and his men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. He was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He was a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom.

Interlude: The Rise of a Queen (Athaliah)

F. Athaliah (only ruling Queen of Judah)

1. Father: Ahab; Mother: Jezebel; Husband: Jehoram #5;
Son: Ahaziah #6

2. Dates of reign: 841-835 BC

3. Theological evaluation: Bad

4. Key events

a. Her encouragement to her son, Ahaziah, the king

2 Chronicles 22:2-3

*Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri. ³ He too followed the ways of the house of Ahab, for **his mother encouraged him to act wickedly.***

b. Her ambitions

With the untimely death of her son, Ahaziah (the king of Judah), Athaliah was in the place to make a bold move. As she was a descendant of Omri, the father of Ahab, she likely saw an opportunity to bring the Southern Kingdom under the rule of the Northern Kingdom, the kingdom of her relatives. Thus, she envisioned one kingdom restored to a new Omride dynasty.

c. Her despicable actions

2 Chronicles 22:10

*When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded **to destroy the whole royal family** of the house of Judah.*

- (1) Athaliah had her sons and grandsons murdered, thus no one of the Davidic lineage to claim the throne.
- (2) Athaliah, however, was not able to kill Joash, a son of Ahaziah and therefore a potential, rightful claimant to the throne (2 Chron 22:11-12).

d. Her illegitimate reign (2 Chron 22:12b)

Athaliah held the power of the throne for **six years**.

e. Her death

- (1) Jehoiada the high priest had been a willing partner to hiding the rightful heir (and only legitimate heir) to the throne of Ahaziah, the young man, Joash.
- (2) In the seventh year of Athaliah's usurping of the throne, Jehoiada, with the support of the military commanders, boldly placed young Joash near the altar and the Temple and loudly announced the accession of the rightful king.

2 Chronicles 23:11

Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; they presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!"

- (3) Athaliah, clueless as to the intentions of Jehoiada and commanders of the army, heard a commotion in the streets.

2 Chronicles 23:12-13

When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went to them at the temple of the LORD. ¹³ She looked, and there was the king, standing by his pillar at the entrance.

The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and musicians with their instruments were leading the praises. Then Athaliah tore her robes and shouted, "Treason! Treason!"

- (4) The queen was put to death at the entrance to the Horse Gate on the palace grounds (2 Chron 23:14-15).

G. Joash (or Jehoash) (#7 of Judah)

1. Father: Ahaziah; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 835-796 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Good, then bad
4. Key events

a. Joash's accession

2 Chronicles 24:1 (cf. 2 Kgs 11:21)

*Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **forty years**. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba.*

b. Joash's reign

2 Kings 12:1

In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba.

- (1) Joash was of Davidic descent.
- (2) Joash's grandmother was Athaliah, one who attempted to exterminate all Davidic claimants to the throne.
- (3) Joash became king at age seven and reigned forty years.

c. Joash's mentor

2 Kings 12:2

*Joash **did what was right** in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.*

2 Kings 11:17-18

Jehoiada then made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people that they would be the LORD's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people. ¹⁸ All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.

d. Joash's accomplishments

- (1) Led the nation to provide funds to repair the neglected Temple (2 Kgs 12:4^{ff}).
- (2) Completed the repairs and also the refurbishing of the Temple.

2 Chronicles 24:13-14

The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. ¹⁴ When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the LORD's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD.

e. Joash's failures

- (1) His down-slide spiritually

2 Chronicles 24:17-19

After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. ¹⁸ They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

(2) His callous and unrepentant heart

2 Chronicles 24:20-22

Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the LORD's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"²¹ But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple.²² King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "May the LORD see this and call you to account."

(3) His lack of trust in the Lord and bribing of the Aramean invaders (2 Kgs 12:17-18).

f. Joash's death

Joash was wounded when a small company of men from Aram returned to further their plundering of Jerusalem (apparently the earlier bribe was not successful). While recovering, certain officials within his own ranks assassinated him (2 Kgs 12:19-21).

H. Amaziah (#8 of Judah)

1. Father: Joash; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 796-767 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Good, then bad
4. Key events
 - a. Amaziah's accession

2 Chronicles 25:1

*Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **twenty-nine years**. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem.*

- b. Amaziah's reign
2 Kings 14:2
He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem.
- c. Amaziah's failing
2 Chronicles 25:2
*He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, **but not wholeheartedly.***
- d. Amaziah's defining moments
- (1) Executed the officials who assassinated his father. He practiced Biblical restraint in not also killing their sons (cf. Deut 24:16).
 - (2) Defeated the Edomites in the Valley of Salt (2 Kgs 14:7; 2 Chron 25:11-12). This occurred after a prophet of God urged the king to release Israelite mercenaries from his army.
2 Chronicles 25:7-8
But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, these troops from Israel must not march with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the people of Ephraim.⁸ Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow."
 - (3) Sinned greatly by bringing back foreign gods from his victory and setting them up for worship. He further spurned the prophet of God sent to confront him—"Why do you consult this people's gods, which could not save their own people from your hand?" (2 Chron 25:15b).
 - (4) Rashly and pridefully challenged Israel to war, was defeated, taken captive, and the armies of Jehoash, king of Israel, plundered the Temple and King's palace (2 Chron 25:20-24).

e. Amaziah's death

Apparently Amaziah was later released from captivity from Jehoash. He was killed by conspirators, who likely were religious devotees, and chaffed under Amaziah's lack of commitment to following the Lord (cf. 2 Chron 25:27). That this was not a political coup is evidenced by the fact that Amaziah was buried in Jerusalem and his son, Uzziah, placed on the throne.

I. Uzziah (or Azariah) (#9 of Judah)

1. Father: Amaziah; Tribe: Judah
2. Dates of reign: 792-740 BC
3. Theological evaluation: Good, mostly
4. Key events
 - a. Uzziah's (Azariah) accession

2 Kings 15:1
In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah began to reign.
 - b. Uzziah's reign

2 Kings 15:2
*He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **fifty-two years**. His mother's name was Jekoliah; she was from Jerusalem.*
 - c. Uzziah's co-regencies
 - (1) He co-reigned with his father Amaziah, for twenty-three years.
 - (2) He co-reigned with his son, Jotham, for eleven years (cf. 2 Kgs 15:5).
 - d. Uzziah's accomplishments
 - (1) He began his reign on a strong, spiritual note.

2 Chronicles 26:4-5
He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. ⁵ He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

- (2) He successfully warred against Philistia (2 Chron 26:6-8).
- (3) He constructed defensive towers in and around Jerusalem (2 Chron 26:9-10). He also dug cisterns and cultivated his land “for he loved the soil” (2 Chron 26:10b).
- (4) He raised a well-trained army (2 Chron 26:11-15).

e. Uzziah’s downfall

(1) Pride

2 Chronicles 26:16-18

*But after Uzziah became powerful, **his pride led to his downfall**. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷ Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸ They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.”*

(2) Anger

2 Chronicles 26:19-20

Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. ²⁰ When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

(3) Leprosy

2 Chronicles 26:21

King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house—leprosy, and banned from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

f. Uzziah's death (2 Kgs 15:6-7)

Uzziah (Azariah) reigned fifty-two years, second in length only to Manasseh.

J. Jotham (#10 of Judah)

K. Ahaz (#11 of Judah)

L. Hezekiah (#12 of Judah)

M. Manasseh (#13 of Judah)

N. Amon (#14 of Judah)

O. Josiah (#15 of Judah)

P. Jehoahaz (#16 of Judah)

Q. Jehoiakim (#17 of Judah)

R. Jehoiachin (#18 of Judah)

S. Zedekiah (#19 of Judah)

N.B. ("Note Well")

The last ten kings of Judah will be discussed in Session 6: 1-2 Chronicles. Chronicles is a parallel to Samuel and Kings but with a theological treatment emphasizing the importance and divine elections of the Davidic Kings. The accounts of these remaining kings will be covered in the Chronicles account.

VI. SUMMARY/TAKEAWAYS

A. Davidic Covenant

1. Stated: 2 Samuel 7:11b-16

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

2. Promise

The Davidic Covenant unconditionally promised King David that his dynasty (“house”) and kingdom would be established “forever.” If any of the Davidic kings were disobedient, they would be punished by the Lord. None of the nineteen Davidic kings perfectly fulfilled the obligations of full obedience to the Lord and the Mosaic Law. It would not be until the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth that a fully qualified Davidic heir would present Himself to the nation as their Messianic King.

B. Failures of the Davidic Kings

Beginning with Solomon, through the next nineteen Davidic kings, covenant failure was rampant. This included not following the Lord, disobedience to Mosaic Law, worshiping false gods, promoting idolatry, and such. These failures set the stage for the promised, coming King. Note John’s description of Jesus entering Jerusalem in the Triumphal Entry.

John 12:12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They

*took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"*¹⁴ *Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:*¹⁵ *"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."*

C. The Curse of Idolatry (False Worship)

The failure of the southern, Davidic kings warns all believers of the dangers of false worship. Bowing the knee, inclining the heart and pursuing "modern-day" idols will only lead to personal disaster. Hear the warning from 1 John 5:21, "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols." Recall that an idol is a false substitute for the true, living God. An idol could be any person, pursuit, possession, desire, or ambition that takes God's rightful place in the human heart.

