Please note the Kings of Judah

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| **NAMES OF THE RULERS OF JUDAH** | **DATE OF REIGN** | **GOOD OR BAD RULE** | **YEARS OF REIGN** | **SCRIPTURAL  REFERENCE** |
| 1.   King Rehoboam | 930-913 BC | Bad | 17 | [1 Kings 11:42 – 14:31](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1kings/11?42); [2 Chronicles 9:31-12:16](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/9?31) |
| 2.   King Abijam (Abijah) | 913-911 BC | Bad | 3 | [1 Kings 14:31 – 15:8](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1kings/14?31); [2 Chronicles 13:1-23](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/13?1) |
| 3.   King Asa | 911-870 BC | Good | 41 | [1 Kings 15:8-24](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1kings/15?8); [2 Chronicles 13:23-16:14](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/13?23) |
| 4.  King Jehoshaphat | 870-848 BC | Good | 25 | [1 Kings 15:24](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1kings/15?24); [22:41-51](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1kings/22?41); [2 Chronicles 17:1-21:1](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/17?1) |
| 5.   King Jehoram | 848-841 BC | Bad | 8 | [2 Kings 8:16-24](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/8?16); [2 Chronicles 21:1-20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/21?1) |
| 6. King Ahaziah | 841- BC | Bad | 1 | [2 Kings 8:24-29](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/8?24); [9:14-26](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/9?14); [2 Chronicles 22:1-12](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/22?1) |
| 7. Queen Mother Athaliah (descendant of the dynasty of Omni of Israel) | 841-835 BC | Bad | 6 | [2 Kings 8:26](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/8?26); [11:1-20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/11?1); [2 Chronicles 21:6](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/21?6); [22:2](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/22?2), [22:9-23:21](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/22?9) |
| 8.   Jehoash (Joash) | 835-796 BC | Good | 40 | [2 Kings 11:1 – 12:21](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/11?1); [2 Chronicles 22:10-23](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/22?10); [24:27](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/24?27) |
| 9. Amaziah | 796-781 BC | Good | 29 | [2 Kings 14:1-22](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/14?1); [2 Chronicles 24:27-25:28](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/24?27) |
| 10. Uzziah | 781-740 BC | Started good/later bad | 52 | [2 Kings 15:1-7](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/15?1); [2 Chronicles 26:1-23](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/26?1) |
| 11.  Jotham (served as regent for several years until his father's death) | 740-736 BC | Good | 16 | [2 Kings 15:32-38](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/15?32); [2 Chronicles 26:21-23](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/26?21) (regent); [26:23-27:9](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/26?23) (king) |
| 12.  Ahaz | 736-716 BC | Bad | 16 | [2 Kings 15:38 – 16:20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/15?38); [2 Chronicles 27:9-28:27](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/27?9) |
| 13.  Hezekiah | 716-687 BC | Good | 29 | [2 Kings 16:20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/16?20); [18:1- 20:21](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/18?1); [2 Chronicles 28:27-32:33](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/28?27) |
| 14.  Manasseh | 697-642 BC | Bad | 55 | [2 Kings 21:1-18](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/21?1); [2 Chronicles 32:33-33:20](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/32?33) |
| 15.  Amon | 642-640 BC | Bad | 2 | [2 Kings 21:18-26](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/21?18); [2 Chronicles 33:20-25](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/33?20) |
| 16.  Josiah | 640-609 BC | Good | 31 | [2 Kings 21:26 – 23:30](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/21?26); [2 Chronicles 33:25-35:27](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/33?25) |
| 17.  Jehoahaz | 609 BC | Bad | 3 months | [2 Kings 23:30-34](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/23?30); [2 Chronicles 36:1-4](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/36?1) |
| 18.  Jehoiakim (name changed from Eliakim to Jehoiakim by Necho, Pharoh of Egypt; probably reflects vassal status) | 609-598 BC | Bad | 11 | [2 Kings 23:34 – 24:6](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/23?34); [2 Chronicles 36:5-8](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/36?5) |
| 19.  Jehoiachin (also known as Coniah; called Jechoniah in N.T.) | 598-597 BC | Bad | 3 months | [2 Kings 24:6-17](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/24?6) [2 Chronicles 36:8-10](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/36?8) |
| 20.  Zedekiah (name changed to Zedekiah by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon probably reflects vassal status) | 597-586 BC | Bad | 11 | [2 Kings 24:17 – 25:30](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2kings/24?17) [2 Chronicles 36:10-13](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/2chronicles/36?10); [Jeremiah 52:1-3](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/jeremiah/52?1); [37-39](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/jeremiah/52?37); [Ezekiel 17:13-16](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/ezekiel/17?13) |

We have noted throughout this study that there were two types of Kings, Good Kings and Bad Kings. There were 8 Good Kings: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah (aka Uzziah), Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah. A subcategory of the Good Kings could be those who were reformers and/or good successors. For example, Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah were all reformers. While Jehoshaphat, Amaziah, Azariah, and Jotham were good successors. The Reformers followed bad Kings. The Good Successors were Good Kings who continued the obedient ways and practices of their good predecessors.

Some good questions to ask concerning this observation are: which would be easier (or harder), following a Good King, or succeeding a bad king?

Good successors created prolonged years of favor. Whereas bad successors prevented prolonged favor.

According to some studies, the Southern Kingdom of Israel, (or Judah), existed for approximately 345 years. While the Northern Kingdom existed for approximately just over 200 years. There were zero good kings in the north! Those were all bad years. In Judah, there were 263 good years and 82 bad years. (I am considering the good Kings' tenures and good years).

It is clear that the good years prolonged the life of the Southern Kingdom.

**Life Lesson #84** - Wise people study the strengths and failings of previous generations. That way, they can learn from them. Unwise people repeat bad behavior. We must always strive to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord.

I Kings 15:4-5, I Kings 15:9-11, I Kings 22:41-43, II Kings 12:1-2, II Kings 14:1-3, II Kings 15:1-3, II Kings 15:32-34, II Kings 18:1-3, II Kings 22:1-2

Life after Hezekiah

After Hezekiah, things turned bad rather quickly. His son Manasseh had decided NOT to follow in his father’s good footsteps. But rather, he went aggressively in the wrong direction. When we read about the King Manasseh years, we get the sense that he was drastically different from his father. One can only imagine the mood shift as he took the helm.

**Life Lesson #85** - A great reason to live godly, is to avoid quick downturns. Backsliders beware of irreversible damage. Because without the favor of God, things go bad quickly. Progress is a process, but the consequences of sin take effect quickly. Reform and Recovery take time. Which is why it is always best to stay saved! Consider II Chronicles 33:1-10

Backsliding

This brings up a great point about what happens when people decide to stop living for God and return to the things that they know to be out of His Will for His Chosen people. The term that describes this is: Backsliding! Which means just what it describes.

The Hebrew word means: turning away, turning back, apostasy, backsliding. Consider 7 points to know about Backsliding.

1. Backsliders know that they are not right, and choose not to live right. Isaiah 59:12-13
2. Backsliders seem impervious to God’s clear warning signs. Their sins and sinfulness escalate over time. Jeremiah 5:6
3. Backsliders seem unconcerned about the consequences of evil and sin and forsaking God. Jeremiah 2:19
4. God will walk away from Backsliders, and wait for them to come to a realization of their ways. Sooner or later, they will acknowledge God. Hosea 5:15
5. Backsliding can become a lifestyle that is determined not to live right. Hosea 11:1-7
6. Jesus warns us all to watch and pray against Backsliding. Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
7. The antidote and cure for Backsliding is prayer! Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

**Life Lesson #86 -**  Don’t Backslide! Remember, God is patient, but He is also firm where His requirements are concerned. When He runs out of patience, His judgment is unmistakable.

The Final Good King

The final good king was King Josiah. He should be included among the best of the best because of more consecutive bad years before his reign, than any of the other good kings. It seems that it took him 18 years to get to the point that Hezekiah reached in a few weeks. Consider II Chronicles 34:1-8 and 15-21, 29-33

Among the similarities of the good Kings, are a national call to revival and corporate worship.

**Life Lesson #87** - Keep it simple, delight in obeying God. Micah 6:8, Psalm 37:4, Psalm 37:23.

**Homework**…The Great Fall of Judah! Consider II Kings 24 and 25, II Chronicles 36.