

Background Information to the Divided Kingdom

God's Nation was a [United Kingdom](#) under her first three Kings: Saul, David and Solomon.

After Solomon's death, a new era for God's people began with the division of the kingdom into two parts (Israel and Judah). The story [God's Nation Divides](#) describes how the kingdom is divided.

The Kingdom of Israel never had good kings. The first king established an alternative place to worship instead of the temple at Jerusalem, and things went from bad to worse. Although God sent many prophets to steer them back to Him, they were eventually taken away into Assyrian captivity and ceased to exist. The prophets who prophesied to Israel were [Elijah](#), [Elisha](#), Hosea, and Amos.

Judah was the smaller kingdom after the division. Some of Judah's leaders were good, but eventually, one leader after another turned away from God. God sent prophets to speak to the Kingdom of Judah like He had Israel. The prophets who prophesied to Judah were [Isaiah](#), [Jeremiah](#), Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Jerusalem and the Temple were eventually destroyed, and the people of Judah were taken away into captivity to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. But even in captivity, there was always a remnant of Jews who followed God. [Daniel](#) and [Ezekiel](#) were prophets of God, while the Jews were in Babylonian captivity.

Eventually, the Jews in Babylonian captivity were allowed to return to their homeland. They rebuilt the Temple ([Ezra](#)) and the Walls ([Nehemiah](#)) in Jerusalem 70 years after it had been destroyed.

It becomes a little tricky to stick with a chronological approach to Bible Stories at this point. I have not yet written a lesson on the actual fall and captivity of either Kingdom (hopefully, I will have time to do that in the future), but I have covered several lessons concerning the captivity and return in [Kingdom Ends, The Captivity and the Return and the Prophets](#).

Below is a list of the Rulers of Israel and Judah. I've listed their reign as "Good" or "Bad." "The biblical writers were not as interested in a king's abilities as an administrator as they were in the king's desire to follow God's commands. Kings that followed God's law and those who outlawed the altars to foreign gods, the high places, and idol worship were designated as good. Those who did not, were evil. The Bible uses the phrase 'He did evil in the eyes (or sight) of the Lord,' to evaluate the king's reign. In secular history, one of the important kings was Omri of Israel, who conquered the Moabites; but in the Bible this evil king's victories go unmentioned." (from Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines, RW Research, Inc. Rose Publishing, Inc. www.rose-publishing.com)

<u>Ruler</u>	<u>Kingdom</u>	<u>Reign</u>	<u>Scripture(s)</u>
<u>Rehoboam</u>	Judah	Mostly good	<u>1 Kings 12:1-24; 14:21-31;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 11-12</u>
<u>Jeroboam</u>	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 12:25-14:20;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 13</u>
Abijah/ Abijam	Judah	Partially good	<u>1 Kings 15:1-8;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 13</u>
Asa	Judah	Mostly good	<u>1 Kings 15:9-24;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 14-16</u>
Nadab	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 15:25-31</u>
Baasha	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 15:32-16:7</u>
Elah	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 16:8-14</u>
Zimri	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 16:15-20</u>
Tibni	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 16:21-22</u>
Omri	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 16:23-28</u>
<u>Ahab</u>	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 16:29-22:40</u>
<u>Jehoshaphat</u>	Judah	Good, but bad alliances	<u>1 Kings 22:41-50;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 17-20</u>
Ahaziah	Israel	Bad	<u>1 Kings 22:51- 2 Kings 1:18</u>
Joram	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 1:17 and 3:1-8:15</u>
Jehoram	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 8:16-24;</u> <u>2 Chronicles 21</u>
Ahaziah	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 8:25-29 and 9:29</u>
Jehu	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 9:30-10:36</u>
Athaliah (Queen)	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 11</u>
<u>Joash</u>	Judah	Good→Bad	<u>2 Kings 11-12</u>
Jehoahaz	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 13:1-9</u>
Jehoash	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 13:10-25</u>
Amaziah	Judah	Mostly Good	<u>2 Kings 14:1-22</u>
Jeroboam II	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 14:23-29</u>
Azariah/Uzziah	Judah	Good	<u>2 Kings 15:1-7</u>
Zechariah	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:8-12</u>
Shallum	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:13-15</u>
Menahem	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:16-22</u>
Pekahiah	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:23-26</u>
Pekah	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:27-31</u>
Jotham	Judah	Good	<u>2 Kings 15:32-38 and 15:30</u>
Ahaz	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 16</u>
Hoshea	Israel	Bad	<u>2 Kings 15:30 and ch.17</u>
<u>Hezekiah</u>	Judah	Good	<u>2 Kings 18:1-20:21</u>
Manasseh	Judah	Bad→Good	<u>2 Kings 21:1-18</u>
Amon	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 21:19-26</u>
<u>Josiah</u>	Judah	Good	<u>2 Kings 22:1-23:30</u>
Jehoahaz	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 23:31-33</u>
Jehoiakim	Judah	Bad	<u>2 Kings 23:34- 24:7</u>

Jehoiachin	Judah	Bad	2 Kings 24:8-17
Zekekiah	Judah	Bad	2 Kings 24:18- 25:26

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Online Resources:

- [A collection of online resources for United and Divided Kingdom stories can be found at http://pinterest.com/ldzave/bible-united-divided-kingdoms/.](#)
- [Chart: Kings of the Northern Kingdom \(Israel\) at http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/kingsofthenorthernkingdomisrael.pdf](#)
- [Chart: Kings of the Southern Kingdom \(Judah\) at http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/kingsofthesouthernkingdomjudah.pdf](#)
- [Chart: Reigns of Divided Kingdom Kings \(good parallel chart of the two kingdoms\) at http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/reignsofdividedkingdomkings.pdf](#)
- Charts: Prophets of Israel and Judah
 - Part 1 at <http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/prophetsofisraelandjudahone.pdf>
 - Part 2 at <http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/prophetsofisraelandjudahtwo.pdf>
 - Part 3 at <http://biblecharts.org/oldtestament/prophetsofisraelandjudahthree.pdf>
- [Chronology of the Prophets before the Fall of Samaria \(Israel\) at http://www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/chronologyoftheprophetsbeforethefallofsamaria.pdf](#)
- [Chronology of the Prophets after the Fall of Samaria \(Israel\) in 722 B.C. – Part 1 at http://www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/chronology%20oftheprophetsafterthefallofsamariaone.pdf](#)
- [Chronology of the Prophets after the Fall of Samaria \(Israel\) in 722 B.C. – Part 2 at http://www.biblecharts.org/oldtestament/chronologyoftheprophetsafterthefallofsamariatwo.pdf](#)
- [Map: 12 Tribes of Israel \(Benjamin and Judah became “Judah”\) at http://www.ebibleteacher.com/sites/default/files/images/1/Twelve%20Tribes%20of%20Israel%201024.JPG](#)
- [Map: Divided Kingdom at http://www.ebibleteacher.com/sites/default/files/images/1/Divided%20Kingdom%20of%20Israel%201024.JPG](#)

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