

Solomon Ch 1 – 9

Reign: 40 years

- God invites him to ask for anything he wants – He asks God for wisdom
- Builds The Temple in Jerusalem for worship, according to his dad's (King David) instructions
- Accumulates wealth, wives and distractions!

Rehoboam Ch 10 – 12

Reign: 17 years

- Puts a heavy burden on the people (leads by oppression)
- Kingdom is split into two: Judah & Israel
- Egypt attacks, Rehoboam humbles himself before God

Abijah Ch 13

Reign: 3 years

- Attacked by Jeroboam of Israel, army is outnumbered 2 to 1
- Declares that he and the people serve the one true God
- Looks to God for rescue when ambushed by the enemy

Asa Ch 14 - 16

Reign: 41 years

- Re-dedicated himself and the people to God, removing distractions and false worship
- Later, when faced with an enemy force, he looked to others and not God to get him out of trouble
- Imprisoned a prophet and oppressed some of the people

Jehoshaphat Ch 17 - 20

Reign: 25 years

- Sought God, and arranged for the ways of God to be taught to the people across the land
- Makes an unhealthy alliance with king Ahab of Israel – some prophets point out that this is bad
- Faces a vast army of Moabites and Ammonites, but trusts God ... and God delivers them

Jehoram Ch 21

Reign: 8 years

- Turns to the bad ways of king Ahab of Israel
- Also murders members of his own family. Elijah the prophet tells him how bad this is.
- Attacked by neighbouring forces who steal the royal treasure, and dies of a hideous bowel disease (his bottom drops out!)

Ahaziah Ch 22

Reign: 1 year

- Follows the bad ways of king Ahab of Israel
- Does bad things followed by even more bad
- Goes with Joram (son of Ahab) against enemy forces – but they find him and kill him

Joash Ch 23 – 24

Reign: 40 years

- Reigns from the age of just 7 years old, and takes advice from Jehoiada the priest
- Restores the Temple, ensuring it is properly repaired and enables proper worship of God in the Temple
- But later Joash forgets all the kindness shown to him when he was young, and forgets God. Eventually some people bump him off

Amaziah Ch 25

Reign: 29 years

- At the start he followed God whole-heartedly, and took advice from the prophets
- But in a significant military victory, he adopted foreign gods.
- He became arrogant and stubborn – and was then defeated by an enemy and later killed off

Uzziah Ch 26

Reign: 52 years

- He did what was right, and restored towns and the strength of the army with God's help
- But with his growing strength he became proud, and he figured he could take over the role of the priests
- He presumed on God and wanted to worship 'his way' ... but God caused him to get a horrible skin disease, leading him to die in isolation

Jotham Ch 27

Reign: 16 years

- Did what was right in the eyes of God, and walked with God steadfastly
- But the people weren't so good – they mixed faith with corrupt practices
- He won some victories, and died of natural causes

Ahaz Ch 28

Reign: 16 years

- Took on the bad practices of the kings of Israel
- This included all kinds of bad stuff ... right through to sacrificing children!
- When trouble came he shut the Temple, and set up other places of worship. It was carnage!

Hezekiah Ch 29 – 32

Reign: 29 years

- Reverses the hideous ways of Ahaz, and sets out to re-open and purify the temple
- Re-instates proper and regular patterns of worship, including celebrating the Passover
- Faces off the threat of a foreign power ... but in his latter days settles for 'an easy life' rather than truly defending the kingdom

Manasseh Ch 33

Reign: 45 years

- Started off really bad – bringing in foreign gods, even into the Temple of God
- The Assyrians take him captive ... but he repents, turning to God
- God enables him to return to Jerusalem – he now knows 'God is God', but the people are still corrupt

Josiah Ch 34 – 35

Reign: 31 years

- Becomes king aged 8, and sets about reform – removing all the dodgy places of worship
- Repairs the temple, finds and reads the book of the Law. He ensures it is read to the people.
- Held a great time of celebration before God, including celebrating the Passover.

Zedekiah Ch 36

Reign: 11 years

- The kingdom is now overrun by the Babylonians, with Zedekiah installed as a 'puppet king'
- Zedekiah tries to be clever – not by following God, but by rebelling against the Babylonians
- The Babylonians trash Jerusalem, make Zedekiah blind, and carry him off to prison in Babylon