

KINGS OF JUDAH 930 – 587/6 BC
[from the era of the divided monarchy to the Babylonian conquest]

One ruling family = the House of David. First Davidic successor was Solomon, son of Bathsheba, c 970- 930BC

Do you not know that Yahweh, God of Israel, has given eternal sovereignty of Israel to David and his sons by an inviolable covenant?

2 Chronicles 31:5

RULERS OF JUDAH	DATE OF REIGN	GOOD OR BAD	YEARS OF REIGN	RELATION TO PREDECESSOR & QUEEN MOTHER (Gebirah)*	CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH	SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
1. Rehoboam	930-913	B	17	Son of Solomon Mother: Naamah the Ammonite	died	1 Kings 11:42-14:31; 2 Chronicles 9:31-12:16
2. Abijam (Abijah)	913-911	B	3	Son of Rehoboam Mother: Maacah (Micaiah), descendant of Absalom, Son of David	died	1 Kings 14:31-15:8; 2 Chronicles 13:1-23
3. Asa	911-870	G	41	Son of Abijam Mother? , Gebirah: grandmother Maacah	died	1 Kings 15:8-24; 2 Chronicles 13:23-16:14
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848	G	25	Son of Asa Mother: Azubah	died	1 Kings 15:24; 22:41-51; 2 Chronicles 17:1-21:1
5. Jehoram	848-841	B	8	Son of Jehoshaphat Mother: ?	died in great pain of an incurable disease	2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chronicles 21:1-20
6. Ahaziah	841	B	1	Son of Jehoram Mother: Athaliah Daughter of Jezebel and Ahab, King of Northern Kingdom of Israel	assassinated by Jehu king of Israel who also killed Jezebel & all royal House of Ahab of Israel	2 Kings 8:24-29; 9:14-26; 2 Chronicles 22:1

RULERS OF JUDAH	DATE OF REIGN	GOOD OR BAD	YEARS OF REIGN	RELATION TO PREDECESSOR & QUEEN MOTHER (<i>Gebirah</i>)*	CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH	SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
7. Athaliah (Queen mother ruled)	841-835	B	7	Mother of Ahaziah murders royal family of Judah	murdered by army who supported Jehoash the surviving Davidic heir	2 Kings 11:1-20; 2 Chronicles 22:1-15
8. Jehoash (Joash)	835-796	G	40	Grandson of Athaliah and Son of Ahaziah Mother: Zibiah (Beersheba)	assassinated by servants	2 Kings 11:1– 12:21; 2 Chronicles 22:10-23, 24:27
9. Amaziah	796-781	G	29	Son of Jehoash Mother: Jehoaddan (Jerusalem)	assassinated	2 Kings 14:1-22; 2 Chronicles 26:1-23
10. Uzziah (debilitating disease = son, Jotham ruled for his father)	781-740	G	52	Son of Amaziah Mother: Jecoliah (Jerusalem)	Struck by Yahweh with a skin disease for attempting to usurp the power of the priesthood	2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26:1-23
11. Jotham	740-736	G	16	Son of Uzziah Mother: Jerushah Daughter of Zadok	died	2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Chronicles 26:23-27:9
12. Ahaz	736-716	B	16	Son of Jotham Mother: ?	died	2 Kings 15:38– 16:20; 2 Chronicles 27:9-28:27
13. Hezekiah	716-687	G	29	Son of Ahaz Mother: Abijah Daughter of Zechariah	died	2 Kings 16:20; 18:1-20:21; 2 Chronicles 28:27-32:33
14. Manasseh	697-642	B	55	Son of Hezekiah Mother: Hephzibah	died	2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chronicles 32:33-33:20

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15. Amon	642-640	B	2	Son of Manasseh Mother: Meshullemeth Daughter of Haruz (Jotbah)	assassinated by servants	2 Kings 21:18-26; 2 Chronicles 33:20-25
16. Josiah	640-609	G	31	Son of Amon Mother: Jedidiah Daughter of Adaiiah (Bozkath)	killed in battle of Megiddo by the archers of Pharaoh Necho of Egypt	2 Kings 21:26– 23:30; 2 Chronicles 33:25-35:27
17. Eliakim/Jehoahaz (name changed from Eliakim to Jehoahaz by Necho, Pharaoh of Egypt; probably reflects vassal status)	609	B	3 months	Son of Josiah Mother: Hamutal Daughter of Jeremiah (Libnah)	Vassal of Egyptian Pharaoh Necho; later exiled to Egypt where he died	2 Kings 23:30-34; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4
18. Jehoiakim	609-598	B	11	Brother of Eliakim/Jehoahaz Mother: Zebidah Daughter of Pedaiiah (Rumah)	vassal of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon; died during revolt against Babylon	2 Kings 23:34– 24:6; 2 Chronicles 36:5-8
19. Jehoiachin	598-597	B	3 months	Son of Jehoiakim Mother: Nehusta Daughter of Elnathan (Jerusalem)	deposed by Babylonian king; exiled to Babylon	2 Kings 24:6-17 2 Chronicles 36:8-10
20. Mattaniah / Zedekiah (name changed to Zedekiah by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon probably reflects vassal status)	597-586	B	11	paternal Uncle of Jehoiachin Mother: Hamital Daughter of Jeremiah (Libnah) Sister of Zebidah, mother of King Eliakim/Jehoahaz	deposed by Babylonian king; exiled to Babylon	2 Kings 24:17– 25:30 2 Chronicles 36:10-13; Jeremiah 52:1-3; 37-39; Ezekiel 17:13-16

All dates are approximate and may vary according to various scholars

*Note: The *Gebirah*, the Queen Mother of the Kingdom of Judah, was an official position held by the mother of the Davidic kings. She was the most important and influential woman in the royal court and the king's chief counselor. The Hebrew word, *gebirah*, is found fifteen times in the Old Testament and can be translated as "Queen Mother" or "Great Lady" [Genesis 16:4, 8, 9; 1 Kings 11:19 (used for the Egyptian Queen Mother); 15:13; 2 Kings 5:3; 10:13; 2 Chronicles 15:16; Psalm 123:2; Proverbs 30:23; Isaiah 24:2; 47:5, 7; Jeremiah 13:18; 29:2]. In Sacred Scripture the mother of the Davidic king is listed along with her son in the books of 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles when he assumes the throne. The only queen mothers not listed are those of King Jehoram, who married wicked Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel of Israel [2 Kings 8:17-18], King Ahaz [2 Kings 16:2-3], and King Asa [1 Kings 15:10]. In the case of Jehoram and Ahaz, their mothers may have died prior to their sons assuming the throne of David, and in the case of Asa, his grandmother is named as the *Gebirah*, his mother having died or perhaps his grandmother, the former *Gebirah*, did not relinquish her power and authority upon the succession of her grandson. Scripture indicates that the *Gebirah* assumed a throne along side her son [see 1 Kings 2:19] and exercised her role as counselor [2 Chronicles 22:3] and intercessor to the king [1 Kings 2:13-21]. In times of conquest both the king and his mother represented royal power [2 Kings 24:12]. The *Gebirah* was clearly the most important woman in the Kingdom of Judah; a king had many wives, but only one mother. The *Gebirah* of the eternal Davidic Kingdom of Jesus Christ is Mary of Nazareth. She appears in this role in Revelation 12:1. The institution of the *Gebirah* was not practiced in the Northern Kingdom.

Additional information on the institution of the Davidic *Gebirah* may be found in these resources:

1. *Birth of the Messiah*, Father Raymond Brown, New York: Doubleday, 1993.
2. *Ancient Israel*, Father R. De Vaux, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1961.
3. *Queen Mother: A Biblical Theology of Mary's Queenship*, Edward Sri, Steubenville, Ohio: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2005.

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