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# THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**BOOK 14**

**2 CHRONICLES**



**King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba by Giovanni Demin**

## SUMMARY

Solomon brings the leaders of Israel to the tabernacle at Gibeon, where the tabernacle is (the ark has been taken to Jerusalem, but the tabernacle itself stays at Gibeon). He makes a thousand burnt offerings at the high place at Gibeon. Solomon asks for and receives wisdom from God (but not in a dream, as in 1 Kings). God gives wealth and strength to Solomon and Israel.

Solomon plans to build temple, requests and receives assistance from Hiram king of Tyre, and assigns alien residents in Israel as workers. Solomon begins building temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite had been. Detailed description is given of materials, measurements, porch, rooms, angels, pillars and so on.

Solomon makes the altar, tank, basins, candlesticks, tables, golden altar, and other furniture and for the temple. The temple is completed. The leaders of Israel gather, sing and worship; priests bring the ark into the Most Holy Place, and the Lord's glory fills the temple, so the priests could not continue ministering.

Solomon blesses Israel; Solomon's temple dedication prayer: Solomon asks the Lord to fill the temple, have mercy and forgive. Fire comes from heaven and consumes the burnt offerings. Israel worships the Lord, and sacrifices and feasts for seven days. By night, God assures Solomon that He will answer prayers made in the temple; there is also a warning about the dangers of disobedience.

Solomon expands and fortifies Israel. The conquered people in his lands are set to slave labor. Solomon sets rulers over Israel, and makes his Egyptian wife her own house, because the ark had come to David's house, and is therefore holy. Solomon appoints gatekeepers and Levites to their temple duties, institutes sacrifices on feast days, and regularly acquires gold from sea trading.

Queen of Sheba visits and questions Solomon. She speaks admiringly of Solomon's Israel, and gifts are exchanged. Solomon becomes very rich through trade and gifts. He makes two hundred shields of gold. Silver was very abundant, and not even considered valuable. Solomon dies after a reigning for forty years.

Rehoboam is made king at Shechem. Jeroboam (who, we learn only now, had fled to Egypt in the reign of Solomon) leads complaints against heavy taxation. Rehoboam reacts provocatively, ignoring the advice of his elder counsellors to be conciliatory. Jeroboam leads Israel in rebellion against Judah – Israel has remained in a state of rebellion to this day.

Rehoboam plans to take Israel but God advises him via Shemaiah to allow secession. Rehoboam builds defenses. Levites flee from Israel to Judah. Rehoboam has eighteen wives and sixteen concubines, and many children.

Rehoboam turns away from God and is attacked by king Shishak of Egypt. Shemaiah admonishes Rehoboam, so Jerusalem is spared, with Shishak only looting the king's house and taking Solomon's golden shields, which Rehoboam replaces with bronze ones. Rehoboam dies after reigning for seventeen years.

Abijah becomes king of Judah, and taunts Jeroboam with a speech that attacks Israel's and stresses Judah's Levitical priesthood and its cultic protocols.

## SUMMARY Continued

Abijah is victorious, taking Bethel and other cities. Jeroboam never recovers his power after the war, weakens, and dies. Abijah has many children and dies a mighty king.

Asa becomes king of Judah and follows the Lord, removing the high places and altars to foreign gods. Asa strengthens Judah's defenses during ten years of peace. Asa appeals to God following a threat from the Ethiopians. Judah is victorious and gains much spoil.

The prophet Azariah exhorts Asa to seek the Lord. Asa purges the land of idols; the godly from Israel flock to Judah. Asa gathers all Judah, and makes a public covenant to seek the Lord, and to put to death any who do not. Maachah, Asa's mother, is removed from her position as queen mother because she made an obscene image of Asherah. The high places are not removed, however. There is no war until the 35th year of Asa's reign.

King Baasha of Israel blockades Asa's Judah. Asa forms a treaty with Ben-Hadad of Syria, with whom he defeats Baasha, and loots Ramah. Hanani the prophet rebukes Asa for relying on the Syrians rather than on the Lord, and says that from now on, there shall be wars. Asa imprisons Asa. Asa becomes diseased in his feet, seeks the physician's help rather than the Lord's, and dies.

Jehoshaphat becomes king of Judah, follows the Lord, removes the high places, and strengthens Judah's defenses. Levites and other prominent figures are sent throughout Judah teaching the law. Judah enjoys peace and becomes increasingly rich and powerful.

Jehoshaphat is allied in marriage with Ahab of Israel. Ahab asks Jehoshaphat for help fighting Syria. Four hundred prophets from Israel prophesy success for the anti-Syrian venture, but Micaiah (who has made unpleasing prophecies concerning Jehoshaphat in the past) prophesies disaster.

Micaiah says that the Lord has sent lying spirits into the mouth of the four hundred prophets so that Ahab may fall against Syria. Micaiah is imprisoned. Jehoshaphat and Ahab go into battle at Ramoth Gilead. Jehoshaphat dons a disguise, and is rescued by his men, but Ahab is injured, and dies later that day.

Jehoshaphat spoken to by prophet Jehu (the son of Hanani), who rebukes him for the alliance with Israel, but commends him for countering idolatrous worship. Jehoshaphat calls Judah back to the Lord and appoints and judges (including Levites) to govern Judah impartially and in accordance with the Lord.

Moab and Ammon attack Judah. A fast is proclaimed throughout Judah. Judah gathers to seek help from the Lord, and Jehoshaphat leads the prayers. Through Jahaziel, God gives Judah assurances of victory.

Judah rejoice, and a vanguard of singers are sent out with the army. Victory is secured, and much spoil. Jehoshaphat is a good king, though he does not remove the high places, and he allies himself with Ahaziah king of Israel to make ships to go to Tarshish. God destroys the ships.



## SUMMARY Continued

Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, reigns in Judah, kills brothers, disobeys God by building high places, fights Edom (who have been in revolt ever since), is attacked by the Philistines and Arabians, becomes very sick with an intestinal disease (prophesied unto him by Elijah) and dies. God tolerates him because of the Davidic covenant.

Ahaziah reigns in Judah and does not follow God. Ahaziah joins with Jehoram king of Israel against Syria. Ahaziah is killed by Jehu when he kills Jehoram as part of his quest to wipe out the house of Ahab. Athaliah, his mother, kills heirs and assumes control of Judah. Jehoshabeath, the daughter of Jehoram and the wife of Jehoiada the priest, manages to save Joash.

Priest Jehoiada gathers leaders and Levites (given weapons belonging to David), and anoints Joash king of Judah. Athaliah is carefully removed from the temple and killed. Jehoiada removes the temple of Baal, and institutes religious reforms, placing gatekeepers at the temple so that no one unclean could enter.

Joash raises money to repair the temple. Jehoiada dies. Joash turns from the Lord after Jehoiada's death. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, is stoned for speaking against Joash. Joash is punished through the attack of Syria and killed by servants.

Amaziah reigns in Judah, executing the servants who killed his father (but not their children, in accordance with the law of Moses). Amaziah hires mercenary troops from Israel to go against Edom, then dismisses them on the advice of a prophet follows God. Amaziah is victorious over Edom but imports the worship of Edomite gods from Seir. Amaziah wages war against Israel and is defeated. Amaziah is killed by his own subjects.

Uzziah reigns in Judah for 52 years, coming to the throne when he is 16. Uzziah's reign is prosperous and militarily successful. He invents military weapons. Uzziah burns incense in the temple (not leaving it to the Aaronic priests) and is punished by leprosy for the rest of his life.

Jotham reigns in Judah, follows God, builds up Judah, fights with Ammon and wins, becomes strong, rules for 25 years, and dies.

Ahaz reigns in Judah, worships other gods, and is defeated by Syria and Israel. Oded the prophet secures the release of Judah slaves from Israel. Ahaz makes an alliance with Assyria. Ahaz closes the temple and turns to apostasy.

Hezekiah reigns in Judah, follows God, reopens and cleanses the temple, makes a new covenant with God, and restores worship service with singing and offerings.

Hezekiah invites Judah and Israel to Jerusalem for Passover. Many come, are purified, confess, sacrifice, worship, sing and rejoice. Those who do not observe the correct cultic protocols are forgiven at the prayer of Hezekiah. There is seven days of feasting at Jerusalem – nothing like this had been seen since the days of Solomon.

Images of false worship are destroyed throughout Judah after the Passover. Hezekiah appoints priests and Levites in temple services. Tithes are collected, so the Levites have an abundance of oxen and sheep, lying in heaps. The tithes are distributed to the Levites throughout Judah. Hezekiah was godly and prospered.

## SUMMARY Continued

Sennacherib of Assyria has an arrogant speech delivered on the walls of Jerusalem and attacks Judah, but an angel strikes down every Assyrian man of valor. Hezekiah becomes sick but is insufficiently grateful when his life is prolonged. Hezekiah acquires great wealth, builds an aqueduct, and shows Babylonian princes his treasures. Hezekiah dies.

Manasseh becomes king at the age of 12. He worships other gods, builds altars and an idol in the temple, and practices the occult. Manasseh is taken captive to Babylon, humbles himself before the Lord, and is restored to Jerusalem. Manasseh abolishes much idolatrous practice and dies after 55 years. Amon reigns next – he does evil, reigns for two years, and is killed by his servants. Josiah is the next king.

Josiah reigns in Judah and follows God. He abolishes idolatry, destroys the high places, and conducts raids against Israel. During the restoration of the temple, Hilkiah the high priest finds a book of law by Moses.

Via Huldah the prophetess, God says that the curses in the book of law will come to pass, because the inhabitants of Judah have been disobedient. Josiah is commended, however. Josiah publicly reads the book of law to the leaders of Judah and renews the covenant.

Josiah and Judah keep Passover in Jerusalem, providing the lambs for the lay people. There has no Passover similar since the days of Samuel. Josiah fights against Necho king of Egypt, who is travelling across Judah to assist the Assyrians against the Babylonians. Necho warns Josiah not to get pointlessly involved, but Josiah battles Necho at the battle of Megiddo, and is killed. Laments for Josiah are sung to this day.

Jehoahaz is dethroned by the Egyptians after three months. Egypt makes Jehoiakim king. Jehoiakim rules for eleven years and is taken prisoner to Babylon. Jehoiachin does evil, reigns for three months and ten days, and is taken prisoner to Babylon, along with spoil from the temple.

Zedekiah does evil, does not listen to Jeremiah and other prophets, and rebels against Babylon so Jerusalem is finally despoiled, the temple destroyed, and the people deported. The Jews were captive in Babylon for seventy years, until Cyrus king of Persia permits them to return and rebuild the temple.

## NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

**1:11** And God said to Solomon: *Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king*

**1:12** *wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.*

**7:1** When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

## NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 7:3** When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying: For He is good, For His mercy endures forever.
- 7:12** Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him: *I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.*
- 7:13** *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*
- 7:14** *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*
- 13:15** Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
- 13:16** And the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand.
- 13:17** Then Abijah and his people struck them with a great slaughter; five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain.
- 14:12** So the Lord struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
- 14:13** And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the Lord and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.
- 16:9** For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.
- 24:15** But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died.
- 24:16** And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.
- 26:5** He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him prosper.

## CHARACTER Definitions

**ASA** - Asa was a descendant of David and the third king of the southern kingdom of Judah. He ruled for forty-one years and “did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God”.

Asa became king of Judah in the twentieth year of Jeroboam of Israel’s reign (Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the kingdom divided). Asa’s father, Abijah, had done much evil in God’s sight and only ruled for three years. Asa’s grandfather, Rehoboam, had also done evil in God’s sight.

But King Asa instituted reform; he removed the male shrine prostitutes, cut down Asherah poles, and even deposed his grandmother from her position as queen mother because of her involvement with Asherah worship.

## CHARACTERS Continued

Asa also commanded his people to follow the Lord. First Kings 15:14 says, “Although he did not remove the high places, Asa’s heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life”.

Judah was at peace with surrounding nations for ten years during Asa’s reign. Second Chronicles 15 describes a time when Azariah, a prophet, told Asa that, if he sought the Lord, God would be with him. This encouraged Asa to remove idols and to repair the altar at the Lord’s temple.

He assembled the people together to sacrifice to the Lord: They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul. All who would not seek the Lord, the God of Israel, were to be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.

They took an oath to the Lord with loud acclamation, with shouting and with trumpets and horns. All Judah rejoiced about the oath because they had sworn it wholeheartedly. They sought God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the Lord gave them rest on every side.

Asa built up the fortified cities, and Judah enjoyed a time of prosperity. When Zerah the Cushite marched out to make war against Judah, Asa called on God for aid. The Lord struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled, and Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. Such a great number of Cushites fell that they could not recover; they were crushed before the Lord and his forces. The men of Judah carried off a large amount of plunder.

Unfortunately, in the thirty-fifth year of Asa’s reign, he made some mistakes. When King Baasha of Israel fortified Ramah to isolate the territory of Judah, Asa made a treaty with Ben-Hadad, king of Aram. The treaty was effective in stopping Israel, and the Judahites took supplies from Ramah and built up Geba and Mizpah, but the treaty with Aram was not pleasing to God.

Hanani, the seer, visited Asa and reminded him of the way God had conquered the Cushites. He chastised Asa for relying on Ben-Hadad instead of God. Rather than repent of his sin, however, Asa became angry; he began to oppress some of his people. For the remainder of Asa’s reign, his kingdom was at war.

In the thirty-ninth year of Asa’s reign, he got a severe foot disease, but he looked only to the physicians for help and not God. In the forty-first year of his reign, Asa died and was buried with great honor.

Despite a less-than-ideal end to his reign, Asa is considered a godly and good king. His son, Jehoshaphat, succeeded him and ruled for twenty-five years. Jehoshaphat was also a godly ruler, following in his father’s footsteps and seeking the Lord, yet he also made foolish alliances with those who did not follow the Lord.

The life of King Asa is an example to all of us of how easy it is to drift away from the Lord. Asa began his reign with a strong commitment to God, but as years went by his dedication faltered, bringing unnecessary trouble.

## CHARACTERS Continued

**JOASH** – The story of King Joash of Judah starts with that of King Jehu of Israel. Anointed king of Israel by Elisha, Jehu was tasked with destroying King Ahab's descendants and wiping out Baal worship in the land.

There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the Lord drove out before Israel.

God had told Ahab, through Elijah, "I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free, . . . because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin".

Ahab responded to the prophecy with mourning and humility, so God relented, saying that He would not bring the disaster in Ahab's time but during his son's reign. Jehu was God's instrument to fulfill the prophecy.

After Jehu was anointed king over Israel, he set out against Joram, a son of Ahab and the current king of Israel. Ahaziah (different from the other son of Ahab who initially succeeded him) was king of Judah at the time and was with Joram. Judah's Ahaziah, however, 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.

Jehu killed both Ahaziah and Joram; executed Ahab's wife, Jezebel; killed Ahab's descendants; and "wiped out Baal from Israel". Unfortunately, Jehu himself did not walk in the ways of God, but, since he had been faithful to God's call to rid Israel of Baal worship, God promised that four generations of his line would be king of Israel.

King Joash of Judah first comes on the scene when Athaliah, the mother of King Ahaziah, whom Jehu had killed, took charge of Judah. Athaliah killed all of the royal family she could find in Judah in order to secure the throne for herself. However, Ahaziah missed one of her grandsons—the infant Joash.

The evil queen's sister rescued young Joash and his nurse, and the child was hidden for six years in the temple while Athaliah reigned in Judah. In the seventh year, the priest Jehoiada revealed Joash to the captains of the guards. The priest made an agreement with them to provide protection to the temple and the rightful king, and Jehoiada brought Joash out into public and anointed him as king.

The people of Judah rejoiced over Joash's appointment. Upon hearing the noise of the ceremony, Queen Athaliah rushed to the temple, crying, "Treason! Treason!" By Jehoiada's command, Athaliah was captured by the guards, removed from the temple, and put to death.

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. The people tore down the temple of Baal, watchmen were set over the Lord's temple, and, at the age of seven, Joash took the throne.

Joash reigned in Jerusalem forty years. Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him. King Joash's main achievement was making repairs to the temple.



## CHARACTERS Continued

He also used a monetary gift to dissuade King Hazael of Aram (Syria) from attacking Jerusalem.

The tragedy of King Joash of Judah is that, after his mentor and guardian, Jehoiada, died, he began listening to wicked advisors. Joash revived Baal and Asherah worship in Judah. God sent prophets to warn Joash, but he did not listen to them.

Finally, the prophet Zechariah, son of the priest Jehoiada, brought God's word to Joash, but the king callously ordered the son of his old friend to be stoned to death. Joash's reign did not end peacefully: His officials conspired against him and assassinated him at Beth Millo, on the road down to Silla.

Joash's son Amaziah took over the throne, and Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but, the Bible notes, he was more like his father Joash than his ancestor David. Interestingly, Amaziah interacted with the other King Joash in the Bible.

**JEHOIADA** – Was a prominent priest during the reigns of Ahaziah, Athaliah, and Joash. Jehoiada became the brother-in-law of King Ahaziah as a result of his marriage with princess Jehosheba.

Both Jehosheba and Ahaziah were children of King Jehoram of Judah. Ahaziah died a year after assuming the throne, which was then usurped by his mother Athaliah, who ordered the execution of all members of the royal family.

Jhosheba and Jehoiada rescued from Athaliah's slaughter, Athaliah's one-year-old grandson, Joash. For six years, they hid the sole surviving heir to the throne within the Temple. Jehoiada was instrumental in the staging of the coup that dethroned and killed Athaliah. Under Jehoiada's guidance, Baal-worship was renounced and the altar and temple of Baal were destroyed.

Jehoiada is also noteworthy for the national covenant that he made "between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD's people". Jehoiada lived 130 years and was buried very honorably among the kings in the city of David. Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, was later martyred by King Joash. He lived to be one hundred and thirty years old.

**JEHOSHAPHAT** – Jehoshaphat ascended the throne at the age of thirty-five and reigned for twenty-five years. He spent the first years of his reign fortifying his kingdom against the Kingdom of Israel. His zeal in suppressing the idolatrous worship of the "high places" is commended in 2 Chronicles.

In the third year of his reign Jehoshaphat sent out priests and Levites over the land to instruct the people in the Law, an activity commanded for a Sabbatical year. The author of the Books of Chronicles generally praises his reign, stating that the kingdom enjoyed a great measure of peace and prosperity, the blessing of God resting on the people "in their basket and their store."

Jehoshaphat also pursued alliances with the northern kingdom. Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram married Ahab's daughter Athaliah. In the eighteenth year of his reign Jehosaphat visited Ahab in Samaria, and nearly lost his life accompanying his ally to the siege of Ramoth-Gilead.

## CHARACTERS Continued

While Jehoshaphat safely returned from this battle, he was reproached by the prophet Jehu, son of Hanani, about this alliance. We are told that Jehoshaphat repented, and returned to his former course of opposition to all idolatry, and promoting the worship of God and in the government of his people.

He subsequently joined Jehoram of Israel, in a war against the Moabites, who were under tribute to Israel. The Moabites were subdued, but seeing Mesha's act of offering his own son as a human sacrifice on the walls of Kir of Moab filled Jehoshaphat with horror, and he withdrew and returned to his own land.

The Moabites formed a great and powerful confederacy with the surrounding nations and marched against Jehoshaphat. The allied forces were encamped at Ein Gedi. The king and his people were filled with alarm.

The king prayed in the court of the Temple, "O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do; but our eyes are upon you."

The voice of Jahaziel the Levite was heard announcing that the next day all this great host would be overthrown. So it was, for they quarreled among themselves, and slew one another, leaving to the people of Judah only to gather the rich spoils of the slain. Soon after this victory Jehoshaphat died after a reign of twenty-five years at the age of sixty

**UZZIAH** – King Uzziah was one of the good kings of Judah. His father was King Amaziah, and his mother was a woman named Jecoliah, from Jerusalem. Uzziah was the father of King Jotham.

Ministering during Uzziah's reign were the prophets Hosea, Isaiah, Amos, and Jonah. The kings in the northern kingdom of Israel during his time were Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea. Uzziah is also called Azariah in 2 Kings 14:21.

King Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for 52 years in Judah from approximately 790 to 739 BC. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord as his father Amaziah had done. King Uzziah sought the Lord during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God.

This Zechariah is most likely a godly prophet to whom Uzziah listened. As long as Uzziah made a point to seek God, God made him prosperous. Unfortunately, after Zechariah died, Uzziah made some mistakes later in his life.

King Uzziah in the Bible is shown as a wonderfully intelligent and innovative king, under whom the state of Judah prospered. He was used by God to defeat the Philistines and Arabs, he built fortified towers and strengthened the armies of Judah, and he commissioned skilled men to create devices that could shoot arrows and large stones at enemies from the city walls.

He also built up the land, and the Bible says he "loved the soil". The Ammonites paid tribute to King Uzziah, and his fame spread all over the ancient world, as far as the border of Egypt.

## CHARACTERS Continued

Unfortunately, King Uzziah's fame and strength led him to become proud, and this led to his downfall. He committed an unfaithful act by entering the temple of God to burn incense on the altar. Burning incense on the altar was something only the priests could do. By attempting to do this himself, Uzziah was basically saying he was above following the Law.

It was not a humble thing to do. Eighty courageous priests, led by Azariah, tried to stop the king: 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.

Uzziah became angry with the priests who dared confront him. But, 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). Uzziah ran from the temple in fear, because God had struck him.

From that day to the day of his death, King Uzziah was a leper. He lived in a separate palace and was not allowed to enter the temple of the Lord. His son, Jotham, governed the people in his place.

**HEZEKIAH** - Hezekiah was the son of King Ahaz and Abijah. His mother, Abijah was the daughter of the high priest Zechariah. Hezekiah was born in c. 741 BC. He was married to Hephzi-Bah. He died from natural causes at the age of 54 in c. 687 BC, and was succeeded by his son Manasseh.

Hezekiah assumed the throne of Judah at the age of 25 and reigned for 29 years. Hezekiah purified and repaired the Temple, purged its idols, and reformed the priesthood. In an effort to abolish idolatry from his kingdom, he destroyed the high places and, recorded as being made by Moses, which became objects of idolatrous worship.

In place of this, he centralized the worship of God at the Jerusalem Temple. Hezekiah also resumed the Passover pilgrimage and the tradition of inviting the scattered tribes of Israel to take part in a Passover festival. He sent messengers to Ephraim and Manasseh inviting them to Jerusalem for the celebration of the Passover.

The messengers, however, were not only not listened to, but were even laughed at; only a few men of Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun came to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the Passover was celebrated with great solemnity and such rejoicing as had not been in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon. Hezekiah is portrayed as a great and good king.

Knowing that Jerusalem would eventually be subject to siege, Hezekiah had been preparing for war for some time by fortifying the walls of Jerusalem, building towers, and constructing a tunnel to bring fresh water to the city from a spring outside its walls. He made at least two major preparations that would help Jerusalem to resist conquest: the construction of the Siloam Tunnel, and construction of the Broad Wall.

## BIBLE TIMELINE

|        |  |                 |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| 967 BC | Solomon Asks for Wisdom                | 2 Chronicles 1  |
| 966 BC | Solomon Builds the Temple in Jerusalem | 2 Chronicles 3  |
| 966 BC | Temple Furnishings                     | 2 Chronicles 4  |
| 959 BC | Ark Brought into the Temple            | 2 Chronicles 5  |
| 959 BC | Solomon's Prayer of Temple Dedication  | 2 Chronicles 6  |
| 959 BC | God's Glory in the Temple              | 2 Chronicles 7  |
| 959 BC | Solomon's buildings                    | 2 Chronicles 8  |
| 946 BC | The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon      | 2 Chronicles 9  |
| 930 BC | Israelites Rebel against Rehoboam      | 2 Chronicles 10 |
| 930 BC | Rehoboam's Reign over Judah            | 2 Chronicles 11 |
| 927 BC | Rehoboam's sin                         | 2 Chronicles 12 |
| 913 BC | Civil War against Jeroboam             | 2 Chronicles 13 |
| 913 BC | Asa Destroys Idolatry                  | 2 Chronicles 14 |
| 895 BC | Asa's Reforms                          | 2 Chronicles 15 |
| 894 BC | Hanani's rebuke                        | 2 Chronicles 16 |
| 869 BC | Jehoshaphat Succeeds Asa               | 2 Chronicles 17 |
| 853 BC | Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab           | 2 Chronicles 18 |
| 853 BC | Jehosaphat's deeds                     | 2 Chronicles 19 |
| 853 BC | War with Ammon and Moab                | 2 Chronicles 20 |
| 852 BC | Jehoram's Wicked Reign in Judah        | 2 Chronicles 21 |
| 841 BC | Ahaziah Succeeds Jehoram in Judah      | 2 Chronicles 22 |
| 841 BC | Jehoiada Makes Joash King              | 2 Chronicles 23 |
| 835 BC | Joash Reigns Well                      | 2 Chronicles 24 |
| 796 BC | Amaziah's good reign                   | 2 Chronicles 25 |
| 790 BC | Uzziah Reigns in Judah                 | 2 Chronicles 26 |
| 750 BC | Jotham Succeeds Uzziah                 | 2 Chronicles 27 |
| 742 BC | Wicked Reign of Ahaz                   | 2 Chronicles 28 |
| 716 BC | Hezekiah's Good Reign                  | 2 Chronicles 29 |
| 715 BC | Hezekiah proclaims a solemn Passover   | 2 Chronicles 30 |
| 715 BC | Idolatry is Destroyed                  | 2 Chronicles 31 |
| 701 BC | Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem        | 2 Chronicles 32 |
| 687 BC | Manasseh's Wicked Reign                | 2 Chronicles 33 |
| 640 BC | Josiah's good reign                    | 2 Chronicles 34 |
| 621 BC | Josiah Celebrates the Passover         | 2 Chronicles 35 |
| 609 BC | Jehoiakim's wicked reign.              | 2 Chronicles 36 |



## MAP REFERENCES

