

# BETWEEN THE LINES

## A Deeper Look...

### #905- BIBLE KINGS: Lessons From The Throne

The study of the kings of Israel and Judah teach a number of important lessons for our living. After we establish the necessary background let's focus on four of those lessons.

Remember, only Saul, David, and Solomon reigned over a unified monarchy. The kingdom divided after Solomon with two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remaining loyal to the house of David and the other ten tribes rebelling and establishing a new line of kings under Rehoboam I in Samaria. This is the history that brought about the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

**Search the Word...** A brief look at the following passages will provide all the background we need to focus on four specific lessons. Let the Scripture tell you how long each of the following kings reigned and whether or not they ever tried to serve the God of David. (IK=I Kings, II K=II Kings, IC=I Chronicles, etc.)

Judah				Israel			
Monarch	Verse	Length	Godfearer?	Monarch	Verse	Length	Godfearer?
Reheboam	IIC 12:13,14	_____	Y N	Jereboam	IK 14:7-9,20	_____	Y N
Abijah	IK 15:2,3	_____	Y N	Nadab	IK 15:25-26	_____	Y N
Asa	IK 15:9-11	_____	Y N	Baasha	IK 15:33-34	_____	Y N
Jehosaphat	IK 22:41-43	_____	Y N	Elah	IK 16:8-10	_____	Y N
Jehoram	IIC 21:5-7	_____	Y N	Zimri	IK 16:15-20	_____	Y N
Ahaziah	IIC 22:2-3	_____	Y N	Omri & Tibni	IK 16:23-28	_____	Y N
Athaliah	IIC 22:10-12	_____	Y N	Ahab	IK 16:29-30	_____	Y N
Joash	IIC 24:1,2	_____	Y N	Ahaziah	IK 22:51-52	_____	Y N
Amaziah	IIC 25:1,2	_____	Y N	Jehoram	IIK 3:1-2	_____	Y N
Uzziah	IIC 26:1,2	_____	Y N	Jehu	IIK 10:21-26	_____	Y N
Jotham	IIC 27:1,2	_____	Y N	Jehoahaz	IIK 13:1,2	_____	Y N
Ahaz	IIC 28:1,2	_____	Y N	Jehoash	IIK 13:10-12	_____	Y N
Hezekiah	IIC 29:1,2	_____	Y N	Jereboam II	IIK 13:23,24	_____	Y N
Manasseh	IIC 33:1,2	_____	Y N	Zachariah	IIK 15:8-9	_____	Y N
Amon	IIC 33:20-24	_____	Y N	Shallum	IIK 15:13-15	_____	Y N
Josiah	IIC 34:1,2	_____	Y N	Menahem	IIK 15:17-18	_____	Y N
Jehoahaz	IIC 36:1,2	_____	Y N	Pekahiah	IIK 15:23-24	_____	Y N
Jehoiakim	IIC 36:5	_____	Y N	Pekah	IIK 15:27-28	_____	Y N
Jehoiachin	IIC 36:9	_____	Y N	Hoshea	IIK 17:1,2	_____	Y N
Zedekiah	IIC 36:11,12	_____	Y N				

#### **Lesson 1 - God is not a hypocrite. He cannot bless what He cannot condone.**

In the line of the kings of Judah there are eight listed as having served the Lord for at least part of their reign. In all the history of the monarchy of Israel not one is said to have served the Lord at all.

As a result the Lord withdrew his protecting hand from the northern kingdom long before He did over the southern kingdom. Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 b.c. and Judah continued on for 186 more years until they finally were taken captive by Babylon in 536 b.c.

**Lesson 2- God has merciful eyes. He sees good where we would not.**

We all know of the clearly recorded failures of both David and Solomon. We stand amazed at God's graciousness and patience.

The following kings of Judah were also listed as having "served the Lord" or "served the God of David his father"... And yet, if you and I were to weigh out the balance of these kings' lives we would see the mistakes and rebellions listed in the passages by their names.

- **Asa** II Chronicles 16:1-10 and II Chronicles 16:11-12
- **Jehosaphat** II Chronicles 18:1-3 and II Chronicles 20:35-37
- **Joash** II Chronicles 24:17-22
- **Amaziah** II Chronicles 25:14-16 and II Chronicles 25:27
- **Uzziah** II Chronicles 26:16-21
- **Hezekiah** II Kings 20:12-18
- **Josiah** II Chronicles 34:26-28 compared with II Chronicles 35:20-24

Only Jotham is listed as having served the Lord and having no period of rebellion or self-sufficiency in his reign. Would I be as gracious in my pronouncements of who really served God and who didn't? Apparently God truly is merciful, gracious, and longsuffering. (Exodus 34).

**Lesson 3- Good can come out of evil. Choice defeats heredity and environment.**

Look at the lineage. Look at the heritage given to four of those who are listed as having served God.

- Asa was the son of Abijah.
- Joash came from the lousy home of Athaliah and Ahaziah.
- Hezekiah was the son of evil Ahaz.
- Josiah's father was Amon who was the son of wicked Manasseh.

**Lesson 4- God keeps His word. He continued in patience for years and years.**

The Lord promised two kings that he would delay judgment beyond their years because of their faithfulness. In both instances the Word was fulfilled.

- **Hezekiah** was told that the people would remain in unmolested in Jerusalem for at least three harvests in spite of the immediate threats of Sennecharib. God actually sustained them for 185 harvests and seven generations. (II Kings 19)
- **Josiah** was promised that even though the people had sealed their fate with disobedience and their refusal to repent, God would honor the king's choice to have a tender heart toward obedience. The promise was that judgment would be delayed until after his death. (II Chronicles 34)

**But there's also some bad news...** As with the stories of all of these listed kings, *we can short-circuit the will of God with disobedience.* Josiah was promised that it was God's plan for him to die at peace. In the end he chose to go to war against the counsel of God and he died in warfare in spite of God's wishes.