

KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Determining the chronology of a sequence (or otherwise) of events such as those of the Old Testament is fraught. There are many wise scholars who have somewhat different opinions because the methodology is complex and the data sparse. Overall, there was no calendar as we know it - dates of events, such when a king ascended a throne, were relative, often to the lives of prominent people, such as other kings. For example, King Ahab's reign is narrated as: *In the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years* ([1 Kings 16:29](#)).

Of course there are some who dispute everything, such as those who think David got no further than ruling a small part of Judah, not a united Israel, but this view requires dispensing with Biblical truth, and thus the work of the Holy Spirit, so no further mention is warranted.

This table is based on that of William Thiele¹, who has his critics but many quote him over others. William F Albright commences the chronology ~40 years earlier, but Gershon Galil (a newish scholar²) from Israel, is similar to Thiele in many ways with some quirks. Kenneth Kitchen (from Britain) whose expertise is on Egyptian chronology, has also contributed to this literature and worth examining³. Some go way out on a limb such as Floyd Nolen Jones who asserts all are wrong, and provides an alternative view, commencing with the reign of David in 1055 BC, but has Zedekiah ascending the throne in the same year as Thiele provides.⁴

The end of the rule by kings of Israel and Judah was announced by Cyrus King of Persia

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23

¹ E.R. Thiele, *The Chronology of the Kings of Judah and Israel* (1944) Journal of Near Eastern Studies III(3) July 1944 <https://archive.org/details/E.r.ThieleTheChronologyOfTheKingsOfJudahAndIsrael1944> (accessed November 2024)

² Gershon Galil, *The Chronology of the Kings of Israel and Judah* (1996), Brill Academic Publishers.

³ Kenneth Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (2003), Eerdmans Publishing

⁴ Floyd Nolen Jones, *The Chronology of the Old Testament: Solving the Bible's Most Intriguing Mysteries 15th Edition*, (2005), Master Books.

King	Walked with the Lord		Year ascent*	Reign (yrs)	
1. Saul	Yes/No		1050	40	
Davidic kingdom					
1. David	Yes/No		1010	40	
2. Solomon	Yes/No		970	40	
Kings of Judah		Kings of Israel		Prophets	
Judah King	Walked with Lord	Israel King/Queen	Walked with Lord	Judah	Israel
1. Rehoboam	No			931 BC	17
		1. Jeroboam I	No	931 BC	22
2. Abijah	No			913 BC	3
3. Asa	Yes			911 BC	41
		2. Nadab	No	910 BC	2
		3. Baasha	No	909 BC	24
		4. Elah	No	886 BC	2
		5. Zimri	No	885 BC	7 days
		6. Omri	Evil	885 BC	12
		7. Ahab	Evil	874 BC	22
4. Jehoshaphat	Yes			870 BC	25
		8. Ahaziah	No	853 BC	2
		9. Joram	Yes/No	852 BC	12
5. Jehoram	No			848 BC	8
6. Ahaziah	No			841 BC	1
		10. Jehu	Yes/No	841 BC	28
7. Queen Athaliah	No			841 BC	6
8. Joash	Yes/No			835 BC	40
		11. Jehoahaz	No	814 BC	17
		12. Jehoash	No	798 BC	16
9. Amaziah	Yes/No		No	796 BC	29
		13. Jeroboam II	No	782 BC	41
			No		
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	Yes/No			767 BC	52

		14. Zechariah	No	753 BC	6 months	
		15. Shallum	No	752 BC	1 month	
		16. Menahem	No	752 BC	10	
		17. Pekahiah	No	742 BC	2	
		18. Pekah	No	740 BC	20	
11. Jotham	Yes			740 BC	16	Micah (until Hezekiah)
12. Ahaz	No			732 BC	16	
		19. Hoshea	No	732 BC	9	
13. Hezekiah	Yes			716 BC	29	
14. Manasseh	No			687 BC	55	
15. Amon	No			642 BC	2	Nahum (to Nineveh) (approx)
16. Josiah	Yes			640 BC	31	Zephaniah Jeremiah (into exile)
17. Jehoahaz	No			609 BC	3 months	
18. Jehoiakim	Evil			609 BC	11	Habakkuk (approx)
19. Jehoiachin	No			597 BC	3 months	
20. Zedekiah	No			597 BC	11	
Captivity - ruled by gentile nations				Prophets		
				592 BC		Ezekiel, Daniel
				587 BC (maybe)		Obadiah
				520 BC		Haggai, Zechariah
(Esther)				478 BC		
(Ezra)				458 BC		
(Nehemiah)				445 BC		
				433 BC		Malachi

* Thiele's estimate

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