

Chronology of the Southern Kingdom (Judah)

For more information about the difficulties of establishing a chronology of the period of the Northern and Southern Israelite kingdoms see **Chronology 1 & 2 Kings**.

Most of the problems of correlating the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah found in the books of Kings can be solved satisfactorily by taking into account three circumstances:

- Overlapping reigns of two kings
- A son ruling together with his father
- Differences in the time of the year in which a reign officially began and the way in which a king's first year was calculated (the year of accession or the first full year of rule)

930 BC	Solomon's reign ends and the kingdom is divided. Jeroboam I (Solomon's official) takes control over the Northern Kingdom. He becomes the archetype for all the evil kings.
930–913 BC	Solomon's son Rehoboam king over Judah.
910–869 BC	Asa king over Judah
869–848 BC	Jehoshaphat king over Judah
848–841 BC	Jehoram king over Judah. He is succeeded by his wife queen Athaliah (the only ruler of Judah who was not of king David's family line).
835–796 BC	Joash king over Judah
796–767 BC	Amaziah king over Judah (overlap with Azariah/Uzziah from 792 BC)
792–740 BC	Azariah/Uzziah king over Judah
740–735	Jotham king over Judah
735–715 BC	Ahaz king over Judah (2 Kings 16).
721–705 BC	Sargon II rules the Assyrian empire. He conquers Samaria (the Northern Kingdom) and subdues Judah (the Southern Kingdom).
715–686 BC	Hezekiah sole king over Judah from Jerusalem but co-reigns with his father king Ahaz from 729 BC (2 Kings 18:1–20:21).
701 BC	King Sennacherib of Assyria occupies Judah and threatens Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:13–37; Isaiah 36:1, chapter 27).
697–642 BC	King Manasseh king over Judah, the first eleven years together with his father Hezekiah (2 Kings 21:1–18).
642–640 BC	Amon, son of Manasseh, king over Judah (2 Kings 21:19–26)
640–609 BC	Josiah, son of Amon, king over Judah (2 Kings 22:1–2; 23:28–30).
622 BC	Josiah renews the covenant (2 Kings 22:1–23:30).
610–595 BC	Pharaoh Neco king over Egypt (2 Kings 23:27; Jeremiah 46:2).
609 BC	Pharaoh Neco defeats the Israelites in a battle at Megiddo. King Josiah is fatally wounded.
609 BC	Jehoahaz (his original name is Shallum, and he is Josiah's fourth son, 1 Chronicles 3:15) is king of Judah for three months, before he is dethroned by king Neco and taken captive to Egypt where he dies (2 Kings 23:30–35).
609–598 BC	Jehoiakim (his original name is Eliakim; he is Josiah's second son) is king over Judah (2 Kings 23:34, 36; 24:5–6).
605 BC	Pharaoh Neco is defeated by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in the battle at Carchemish (Jeremiah 46:2).
598–597 BC	Jerusalem surrenders to king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. King Jehoiachin is taken captive to Babylon. His uncle Zedekiah is made king (2 Kings 23:36–24:20).
598–597 BC	Jehoiachin (called Jeconiah/Coniah in Jeremiah), son of Jehoiakim, is king over Judah for three months before he is taken captive to Babylon by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24:6, 8–12, 15). He is released from captivity in 561 BC but remains at the Babylonian court.

597–586 BC	Zedekiah (his original name is Mattaniah; he is Josiah's third son) is king over Judah.
587/586 BC	Nebuchadnezzar occupies Jerusalem. King Zedekiah is captured, blinded and taken to Babylon. The temple and the city are destroyed. The people of Judah are taken into captivity in Babylon (2 Kings 24:17–25:21).
586 BC	King Nebuchadnezzar appoints Gedaliah as governor of Judah, but he is soon assassinated (2 Kings 25:22–25).

Kings of Babylonia and Persia

Kings of Babylonia

626–605 BC	Reign of Nabopolassar, the founder of the Neo-Babylonian empire. He is not mentioned by name, but referred to in 2 Kings 23:29 and 2 Chronicles 35:20–27.
605–562 BC	Reign of Nebuchadnezzar. He carried away Judah in the seventy-years of captivity in Babylonian. He is mentioned many times in the books of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and in the later chapters of Kings and Chronicles.
556–539 BC	Reign of Nabonidus, the last king of Babylonian empire. He is not mentioned in the Old Testament.
553?–539 BC	Belshazzar, son of Nabonidus, reigned together with his father (Daniel chapter 5; 7:1; 8:1).

Kings of Persia

559–530 BC	Cyrus the Great (mentioned in 2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–8; Isaiah 45:1; Daniel 1:1; 6:28; 10:1; perhaps called “Darius the Mede” in Daniel 5:31; 6:1, 6, 9, 25, 28; 9:1; 11:1)
530–522 BC	Cambyzes (not mentioned in the Bible)
522–486 BC	Darius I, called the Great (mentioned in Ezra 4:5, 24; 5:5–7; 6:1–15; Haggai 1:1; 2:1, 10, 18; Zechariah 1:1, 7; 7:1)
486–465 BC	Xerxes/Ahasuerus (mentioned in Ezra 4:6; the book of Esther)
465–424 BC	Artaxerxes I (mentioned in Ezra 4:7–23; 7:1–8; Nehemiah 2:1–8; 5:14; 13:6)