

Prophets and Kings (1050–571 BC)

The Hebrew prophets proclaimed the will of God as the highest authority for honor and morality. The kings were anointed to lead the people with covenant values of monotheism and justice. Some were great sages, brave warriors, and brilliant statesmen. Others were idolatrous despots who abandoned their call for power and lust. The Scripture writers of the ancient world hailed or condemned their kings based on how they heeded the word of God offered by the prophets. (All dates are approximate.)

Prophets	Kings of the United Monarchy	
Samuel (1050–1030): Last judge, first prophet (1 Sm 3:20, 10:1; 16:13)	Saul (1020–1000): Warrior of the tribe of Benjamin who contained the Philistines but disobeyed the Lord's command (1 Sm 9:1–2, 15–16; 13:10–14)	
Gad (995): Counseled David (1 Sm 22:5, 2 Sm 24:11–19)	David (1010–961): Greatest king of Israel. Hero, warrior, man of repentance and faith. Husband of Bathsheba, father of Solomon (1 Sm 16:1–1 Kgs 2:11)	
Nathan (975): Seer of David and Solomon; revealed the temple and the dynasty of David (2 Sm 7:12–13, 17; 12:1–15; 1 Chr 29:29; 2 Chr 9:29)	Solomon (961–922): Son of David and Bathsheba who built the temple. His reign was marked by idolatry, taxes, and forced labor (1 Kgs 1:1–11:43). His cruel son Rehoboam led the destruction of the United Monarchy.	
Kings of Judah		Kings of Israel
Ahijah (924): Seer of Shiloh who, upon meeting Jeroboam, tore his cloak into twelve pieces to ritualize the civil war and the reign of Jeroboam as king of Israel (1 Kgs 11:29–35)	Rehoboam (922–915): Idolatrous son of Solomon. His taxation fueled the civil war (1 Kgs 12:1–25, Sir 47:23–25)	Jeroboam (922–901): Israelite king who worshiped the golden calf of Samaria (1 Kgs 12:26–28, 14:20)
Jehu (902–884): Israelite prophet, son of Hanani, who condemned Baasha's idolatry and murder of Nadab (1 Kgs 16:7)	Abijah (915–913): Idolater who inflicted war with Jeroboam (1 Kgs 14:31–15:8)	Nadab (901–900): Idolatrous son of Jeroboam (1 Kgs 15:25–31)
Elijah (865–842): Israelite wonder worker (1 Kgs 17:7–24); defeated the prophets of Baal and Asherah; reinstated faith in Yahweh (1 Kgs 18:36–40); defeated the sons of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kgs 17:1); made Elisha his successor and was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kgs 2:11–15)	Asa (913–873): Loyal son of Abijah, faithful to God (1 Kgs 15:8–24)	Baasha (900–877): Built citadels and honored idols in Tirzah (1 Kgs 15:33–34)
	Jehoshaphat (873–849): Diplomatic son of Asa, worked for peace with Israel (1 Kgs 22:41–51)	Elah (877–876): Son of Baasha, murdered by his servant Zimri (1 Kgs 16:8–14)
	Jehoram (Joram) (849–842): Serial murderer; son of Jehoshaphat; married Athaliah (843–837), daughter of Ahab and Jezebel (2 Kgs 8:16–24)	Zimri (876): Charioteer who murdered Elah, his family, and himself (1 Kgs 16:9–20)
	Ahaziah (842): Son of Jehoram and Athaliah (843–837), killed by Jeru. His widowed queen murdered all his male heirs but Joash. (2 Kgs 8:25, 9:29, 11:1–20)	Omri (876–869): Commander and first king of the Omride dynasty (1 Kgs 16:15–28)
	Athaliah (844–837): Daughter of Jezebel and Ahab, the only ruling queen of Judah (2 Kgs 11:1–20)	Ahab (869–850): King who, along with Jezebel, served Baal, offered human sacrifice, and killed the prophets of God (1 Kgs 16:28–22:40)
	Joash (Jehoash) (837–800): Son of Ahaziah, survived the murderous reign of Athaliah, protected by his aunt Jehosheba. His reign ended with his murder. (2 Kgs 11:1–20, 12:21)	Ahaziah (850–849): Son of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kgs 22:52–53), he was a devotee of Baalzebub, god of Ekron. His death was prophesied by Elijah. (2 Kgs 1:2–18)
		Jehoram (Joram) (849–842): Son of Ahab, brother-in-law of Jehoram of Judah, succeeded Ahaziah on the throne (2 Kgs 3:1). The last of the Omride dynasty (2 Kgs 1:1–18)

Prophets *(continued)*

Elisha (850–800): Israelite prophet and miracle worker who served Elijah and followed as his successor (1 Kgs 19:19–21, 2 Kgs 2:9–22). He miraculously provided the poor with oil and bread, cured the leper, astounded the proud, raised the dead, offered hope, and anointed kings (2 Kgs 4:1–5:27).

Amos (760–745): Judean farm laborer in Israel (Am 7:14–15) who condemned treatment of workers (Am 5:7–17)

Hosea (755): An Israelite prophet of Judea; his marriage to the adulterous Gomer became an allegory for the love of God for the unfaithful Israel. (Hos 3:1)

Isaiah of Jerusalem (740–700): Mystic who lived with a prophetess wife; served in the temple of Jerusalem as Assyria pillaged Israel (Is 6:1–13, 8:3). He revealed the birth of a child, Immanuel (meaning God with us), who would save Israel (Is 7:14, 8:6–10). The book that carries his name represents two hundred years of Judean history.

Prophet of the Assyrian Destruction

Micah (720–701): Judean prophet of the Assyrian conquest who taught that sin hides the truth and leads to economic collapse and war (Mi 1:1, 2:1–10). He envisioned a new Israel and foretold of the royal shepherd of Bethlehem who would bring peace to the earth (Mi 4:1–7, 5:1–4).

Prophets of Judah

Zephaniah (640–609): Served in Jerusalem during the reign of Josiah (Zep 1:1–18, 3:14–20)

Nahum (612): Prophesied the destruction of Nineveh (Na 1:1–6)

Habakkuk (605–597): Revealed God's lament over Judah's sin (Hb 2:1–20)

Jeremiah (626–582): Called to be a prophet as a child, he advised the King and identified the Babylonian destruction and exile as sin. (Jer 1:1–10, 26:1–16)

Ezekiel (593–571): Prophesied from Babylon. His strange visions warned of Jerusalem's fall. (Ez 4:1–24:27)

Kings of Judah *(continued)*

Amaziah (800–783): Son of Joash who took the throne after his father's murder (2 Kgs 14:1–20)

Uzziah (Azariah) (783–745): Faithful son of Amaziah who came to rule at age sixteen. His reign was stable and victorious. (2 Kgs 14:21, 15:1–7)

Jotham (750–735): Reigned eight years as regent, eight years as king, and left the high places intact (2 Kgs 15:32–38)

Ahaz (735–715): Idolatrous king who sacrificed his own son in the fires of Molech. He practiced the rites of Canaan on the high places; refused to join the anti-Assyrian alliance and became an Assyrian vassal. (2 Kgs 16:1–20)

Kings of Judah after the Assyrian Destruction of Israel

Hezekiah (715–687): Son of Ahaz; faithful ruler who healed ancient wounds. He dug the tunnel of Siloam to protect the city's water supply from the Assyrians. (2 Kgs 18:1–20:21)

Manasseh (687–642): Sacrificed his son to Baal and was taken captive by Assyria (2 Chr 33:1–25, 2 Kgs 21:1–18)

Amon (642–640): Evil adulterer who was murdered (2 Kgs 21:19–26)

Josiah (640–609): Great reformer who renewed the covenant and restored the temple (2 Kgs 21:26–23:30)

Jehoahaz (609): Idolatrous son of Josiah who reigned three months and then was taken prisoner by Pharaoh Neco. He died in Egypt. (2 Kgs 23:30–33)

Jehoiakim (609–598): Son of Josiah named Eliakim. At age twenty-five, Pharaoh Neco renamed him Jehoiakim and made him king of Judah and a vassal to Egypt. (2 Kgs 23:33–37)

Jehoiachin (597): Son of Jehoiakim. He was exiled to Babylon. (2 Kgs 24:6–16, 25:27–30)

Zedekiah (Mattaniah) (597–587): Jehoiachin's uncle; Nebuchadnezzar murdered his family and gouged out his eyes. He was led to Babylon in chains and died in the shame of Exile (2 Kgs 24:17–25:11, Jer 52:1–11). He was the last pre-exilic king of Judah.

Kings of Israel *(continued)*

Jehu (842–815): Defeated the house of Ahab and removed Baal of Tyre from Israel. Jehu worshiped the golden calves of Samaria. (2 Kgs 9:1–10:36)

Jehoahaz (815–801): Warring king who mixed worship of Yahweh with false gods (2 Kgs 13:1–9)

Jehoash (Joash) (801–786): Son of Jehoahaz who persisted in the sins began by Jeroboam. He was an adversary of Amaziah, king of Judah. (2 Kgs 13:10–13)

Jeroboam II (786–746): A prosperous and unjust king, he worshiped the golden calves of Samaria. (2 Kgs 14:23–29)

Zechariah (746–745): The last in the line of Jehu, whose six month rule was marked by injustice (2 Kgs 15:8–12)

Shallum (745): Murdered Zechariah and was assassinated within one month (2 Kgs 15:10–15)

Menahem (745–738): Much hated puppet ruler of the Assyrians who killed Shallum (2 Kgs 15:14–22)

Pekahiah (738–737): Pro-Assyrian son of Menahem who escalated the war (2 Kgs 15:22–26)

Pekah (737–732): After killing Pekahiah, he became king. He joined Damascus, Tyre, and Philistia against Assyria. (2 Kgs 15:25–31)

Hoshea (732–724): Son of Elah, vassal to Shalmaneser of Assyria, who refused to pay the annual tribute. He was imprisoned and exiled with the Samaritan people (2 Kgs 17:1–6). Last king of Israel.