



4. All the kings of Judah were the descendants of what king? (1 Kings 11:31-32; cf. 2 Samuel 7:12-17)

## **B. The fall of Israel and Judah**

1. The fall of the kingdom of Israel occurred in 723-722 BC. What nation carried Israel into captivity? (2 Kings 17:6)
  
2. The kingdom of Judah continued alone for a period of time, but also fell in 586 BC. Who was the king that carried Judah into captivity, and what kingdom (empire) did he rule over? (Jeremiah 25:8-11)
  
3. Three main deportations of Judah to Babylon:
  - a. Who was the king of Judah during the first deportation of Judah which occurred in 605 BC? (Daniel 1:1)
  
  - b. What prophet was also taken into captivity at this time? (Daniel 1:1-6)
  
  - c. Who was the king of Judah during the second deportation of Judah which occurred in 597 BC? (2 Kings 24:8-12; 2 Chronicles 36:9-10)
  
  - d. What was the name of the prophet who was also taken into captivity at this time? (Ezekiel 1:1-3; 40:1)

- e. Who was king of Judah during the third and final deportation of Judah which occurred in 586 BC? (2 Kings 25:1-7)
  
4. Who placed Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, upon the throne? (2 Kings 24:17; 2 Chronicles 36:10; Jeremiah 37:1)
  
5. The last two kings of Judah were Jehoiachin (sometimes called Jeconiah or Coniah) and Zedekiah. Which one of these two kings does the lineage of Christ come? (Matthew 1:11-12)

### **C. Babylonian Captivity**

1. How long did Judah remain in Babylonian captivity? (2 Chronicles 36:20-21; Jeremiah 25:8-13; 29:10-14)
  
2. Who issued a decree allowing the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem? (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)

### **D. The Return from Captivity**

1. Some one hundred fifty years before the actual event occurred, the Lord, through the prophet Isaiah, named Cyrus as the deliverer of his people. What did the Lord call Cyrus? (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1)
  
2. What did Cyrus do? (Isaiah 44:28)

3. What would the Lord do for Cyrus? (Isaiah 45:1-7)
  
4. Just as there were three main deportations of Judah into Babylonian captivity, there were also three significant returns from Babylon to Judah and Jerusalem.
  - a. Who led the first return that occurred about 537-536 BC?<sup>1</sup>
  
  - b. What was the main purpose of this return? (Ezra 1:5)
  
  - c. Who led the second return which occurred in 458 BC? (Ezra 7:1-10)
  
  - d. What was the purpose of this return? (Ezra 7:10)
  
  - e. Who led the third return to Jerusalem which occurred in 445 BC? (Nehemiah 1:1-3; 2:1-8)
  
  - f. What was the purpose of this return?

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<sup>1</sup> It is not evident in the book of Ezra if chapters 1-6 tell of a single return or whether two returns are mentioned. Sheshbazzar, called prince of Judah and governor (Ezra 1:8; 5:14), was entrusted by the treasurer Cyrus with the temple treasures carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, and is credited with laying the foundation of the house of God (Ezra 1:7-11; 5:14-16). Zerubbable, grandson of Jeconiah (1 Chronicles 3:17-19; Ezra 3:2) and named governor (Haggai 1:1; 2:2, 21), led a sizeable group to Jerusalem and successfully completed construction of the temple (Ezra 2-6). It is unclear whether these two leaders were part of the same group who returned to Jerusalem, if each led a separate return a few years apart, or if they were the same person. Byron G. Curtis, "After the Exile," *Giving the Sense*, pp. 304-306. For the purpose of this lesson, only one return in this time period is considered.

**Historical Note:**

The captivity of those from the northern kingdom of Israel did not occur in one single event, but in two different captivities approximately nine years apart, and under two different Assyrian kings, Tiglath-Pileser III and his son, Sargon II.

When Pekah, the king of Israel, threatened to attack the southern kingdom of Judah in 732 BC, Judah's king Ahaz appealed to Tiglath-Pileser III for help. After receiving tribute from Ahaz, Tiglath-Pileser sacked Damascus and Israel, and annexed the territories that belonged to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh. People from these tribes were taken captive and resettled in the region of the Khabur River system (the Khabur River runs along portions of the border between present-day Iraq and Turkey). The people from these annexed areas were deported to Assyria, according to 2 Kings 16:9 and 15:29. Israel continued to exist within the reduced territory as an independent kingdom under Israel's last king, Hoshea, until around 722 BC, when it was again invaded by Assyria and the rest of the population deported.

These two deportations, and the Biblical record, has led many to believe the ten tribes which made up the northern kingdom of Israel were forever lost to history – thus becoming known as "The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel." The Bible says, "For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day." (2 Kings 17:22-23). However, there is no Biblical or historical evidence to support the theory that the ten tribes of the northern kingdom simply ceased to exist.

It has been estimated by various Biblical scholars and historians that only about one-fifth of the population of the northern kingdom of Israel was actually resettled out of the area during the two deportations under Tiglath-Pileser III and Sargon II. It is further said that many from these ten tribes fled south to the southern kingdom of Judah, taking refuge there. This sudden population increase in Judah and Jerusalem explains the need to build a new wall and a new water source (the pool of Siloam) during the reign of Judah's next king, Hezekiah.

While the Assyrians deported a portion of the population belonging to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, no record exists of the Assyrians having exiled people from Dan, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun or western Manasseh. Even though there are descriptions of the deportation of people from Reuben, Gad, Manasseh in Gilead, Ephraim and Naphtali, records indicate that only a portion of these tribes were deported and the places to which they were deported are known locations given in the accounts. The deported communities are mentioned as still existing at the time of the composition of the books of Kings and Chronicles and did not disappear by assimilation. The Bible specifically mentions many in the northern kingdom of Israel were spared by the Assyrians (2 Chronicles 30:1-11), in particular the people of Ephraim, Manasseh, Asher, Issachar and Zebulun. We also read where members of the latter three returned to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah.

The myth of the so-called "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel" is mostly supported today by those who believe there will be a millennial reign (1,000 years) of Christ on earth at His second coming. It is also claimed that all twelve tribes of Israel, including the alleged "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel," will be gathered together under the Messiah Jesus. Those supporting the false doctrine of premillennialism also claim the Temple, which was destroyed by the Roman armies under Titus in AD 70, will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and the Old Testament Priesthood will be reestablished under the reign of Jesus the Messiah. This entire theory of premillennialism and of the alleged "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel" is false.

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## The Kings of Israel

*"And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."*  
(2 Kings 17:15-16)

### Northern Kingdom of Israel (931-722 BC)<sup>i</sup>

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#### House of Jeroboam

Jereboam I	931-910 BC	Led the rebellion and divided the kingdoms. Reigned in Israel (Northern Kingdom) for 22 years. Death: Natural Causes
Nadab	910-909 BC	Reigned in Israel for 2 years. Death: Killed by Baasha, son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar, along with his whole family.

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#### House of Baasha

Baasha	909-886 BC	Reigned over Israel in Tirzah for 24 years. Death: Natural Causes
Elah	886-885 BC	Reigned over Israel in Tirzah for approximately 2 years. Death: Zimri, one of his officials, got him drunk and killed him at his house in Azra.

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#### House of Zimri

Zimri	885 BC	Reigned over Israel in Tirzah for 7 days. Death: He set his palace on fire when Omri and all the Israelites with him withdrew from Gibbethon and laid siege to Tirzah.
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#### House of Omri

Omri	885-874 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 12 years. Death: Natural Causes
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Ahab	874-853 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 22 years. Death: Shot by an archer during the battle at Ramoth Gilead. He died upon his arrival at Samaria.
Ahaziah	853-852 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 2 years. Death: He fell through the lattice of his upper room and injured himself. Elijah the prophet told him he would never leave his bed and would die on it.
Joram (Jehoram)	852-841 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 12 years. Death: Killed by Jehu, the next king of Israel.

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### House of Jehu

Jehu	841-814 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 28 years. Death: Natural Causes
Jehoahaz	814-798 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 17 years. Death: Natural Causes
Jehoash (Joash)	798-782 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 16 years. Death: Natural Causes
Jeroboam II	793-753 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 41 years. Death: Natural Causes The Book of Jonah or Jonah's journey to Nineveh (when he was swallowed by a whale or fish) happened at that time.
Zachariah	753-752 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 6 months. Death: Shallum son of Jabesh killed him in front of the people and succeeded as king.

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### House of Shallum

Shallum	752 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 1 month. Death: Menahem son of Gadi attacked Shallum and assassinated him.
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### House of Menahem

Menahem	752-742 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 10 years. Death: Natural Causes
Pekahiah	742-740 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 2 years. Death: Pekah son of Remaliah, one of the chief officers, took 50 men with him and assassinated the king in his palace at Samaria.

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### House of Pekah

Pekah	752-732 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 20 years. Death: Hoshea son of Elah conspired against him and assassinated him.
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## House of Hoshea

Hoshea	732-722 BC	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 9 years. Death: King Shalmanser attacked and captured Samaria. He charged Hoshea of treason and he put him in prison, then, he deported the Israelites to Assyria.
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<sup>1</sup> The dates during which the kings of Israel reigned vary somewhat depending on the historical source

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## The Kings of Judah

*"For because of the anger of the Lord this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, till He finally cast them out from His presence." (Jeremiah 52:3) "Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem." (2 Chronicles 36:14)*

### Southern Kingdom of Judah (932-586 BC)<sup>i</sup>

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#### House of David

Rehoboam	931-915 BC	Reigned almost 17 years. Death: natural causes
Abijah (Abijam)	915-913 BC	Reigned 3 years. Death: natural causes
Asa	913-873 BC	Reigned 41 years. Death: severe foot disease
Jehoshaphat	873-849 BC	Reigned 25 years. Death: natural causes
Jehoram (Joram)	849-842 BC	Reigned 8 years. Death: severe stomach disease
Ahaziah	842-842 BC	Reigned 1 year. Death: killed by Jehu, who usurped the throne of Israel
Athaliah (Queen)	842-837 BC	Reigned 6 years. Death: killed by the troops assigned by Jehoiada the Priest to protect Joash. Queen Mother, widow of Jehoram and mother of Ahaziah
Jehoash (Joash)	837-800 BC	Reigned 40 years. Death: killed by his officials namely: Zabad, son of Shimeath, an Ammonite Woman, and Jehozabad, son of Shimrith, a Moabite Woman.
Amaziah	800-783 BC	Reigned 29 years. Death: killed in Lachish by the men sent by his officials who conspired against him.
Uzziah (Azariah)	783-742 BC	Reigned 52 years. Death: Tzaraas (George Syncellus wrote that the First Olympiad took place in Uzziah's 48th regnal year.)

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Jotham	742-735 BC	Reigned 16 years. Death: Natural Causes Contemporary with Sennacherib of Assyria and Merodach-Baladan of Babylon.
Ahaz	735-715 BC	Reigned 16 years. Death: natural causes The Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III records he received tribute from Ahaz; compare 2 Kings 16:7-9
Hezekiah	715-687 BC	Reigned 29 years. Death: Natural Causes Contemporary with Sennacherib of Assyria and Merodach-Baladan of Babylon
Manasseh	687-642 BC	Reigned 55 years. Death: natural causes Mentioned in Assyrian records as a contemporary of Esarhaddon
Amon	642-640 BC	Reigned 2 years. Death: killed by his officials, which were killed later on by the people of Judah.
Josiah	640-609 BC	Reigned 31 years. Death: shot by archers during the battle against Neco of Egypt. He died upon his arrival on Jerusalem.
Jehoahaz	609 BC	Reigned 3 months. Death: Neco, king of Egypt, dethroned him and was replaced by his brother, Eliakim. Carried off to Egypt, where he died.
Jehoiakim	609-598 BC	Reigned 11 years. Death: Natural Causes The Battle of Carchemish occurred in the fourth year of his reign (Jeremiah 46:2)
Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598 BC	Reigned 3 months and 10 days. Death: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon sent for him and brought him to Babylon, where he lived and died. Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians and Jehoiachin deposed on 16 March, 597 BC. Called Jeconiah in Jeremiah and Esther
Zedekiah	597-586 BC	Reigned 11 years. Death: unknown. His reign saw the second rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar (588-586 BC). Jerusalem was captured after a lengthy siege, the temple burnt, Zedekiah blinded and taken into exile, and Judah reduced to a province.

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<sup>1</sup>The dates during which the kings of Judah reigned vary somewhat depending on the historical source

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**Notes:**