

# The CHRONICLES of the KINGS

## The Overlapping Kings of Judah

2 Chronicles 32:7-8  
August 01, 2026

Last time, we concluded with the 29-year reign of Amaziah. Today we will review the overlapping reigns of the next 4 kings of Judah.

### 2 Kings 15:1-7 and 2 Chronicles 26:1-23

Five years into Amaziah's reign, the people made his 16-year-old son, Uzziah, co-regent. Scholars have suggested this occurred when Amaziah was captured by Jehoash, king of Israel – during their ill-advised war.

When Amaziah was eventually murdered at Lachish, Uzziah became king of Judah. He reigned a total of 52 years and **did what was right** *"as long as Zechariah, the priest, was alive."*

- He rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judean controlled.
- He went to war against the Philistines and won.
- He controlled the edge of the desert to the east with victories over the Arabians and the Ammonites paid him tribute.
- He was a prolific builder and funded many building projects including wells for his livestock.
- He had people working in his fields and vineyards, *"for he loved the soil."*
- He built up his standing army to 307,500 men and increased his arsenal of weapons.
- He even mechanized his army in Jerusalem by using machines designed to shoot arrows and hurl large stones.

**Uzziah's fame spread. But his pride led to his downfall. He chose to enter the Temple and burn incense on the altar of incense that sat directly in front of the curtain separating the Holy from the Most Holy.**

**Azariah, the priest and 80 other priests followed. They dared to confront Uzziah,** *"It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to Yahweh. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by Yahweh."*

**Instead of accepting the rebuke with humility and repentance, Uzziah became angry. As he raged at the priests, leprosy appeared on his forehead. He remained a leper for the rest of his life. His son, Jotham, became co-regent.**

**The other events of Uzziah's reign were recorded by the prophet Isaiah. After Uzziah died, Jotham became king.**

### 2 Kings 15:32-38 and 2 Chronicles 27:1-9

**Jotham reigned for 16 years and did right, "like his father Uzziah had done."** However, he did not worship in the Temple, the high places were not removed and the people continued to worship idols.

- He funded many building projects, including the rebuilding the upper gate of the Temple and building towns, forts and towers in the Judean hills and forests.
- He went to war against the Ammonites and conquered them.

**He was successful and became powerful because he was faithful to God.**

**In Jotham's 13<sup>th</sup> year, he made his son, Ahaz, co-regent. When Jotham died, Ahaz became king of Judah.**

## **2 Kings 16:1-20 and 2 Chronicles 28:1-27**

**Ahaz reigned for 16 years. He did evil:**

- He made molten idols.
- He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Hinnom, including his own sons, to the god Molech.
- He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, hilltops and under every tree.

**Yahweh handed him over to the king of Aram, who took many people back to Damascus.**

**He also handed him over to Pekah, king of Israel, who inflicted heavy casualties on him – killing in one day 120,000 Judean soldier - BECAUSE Judah had forsaken Yahweh. 200,000 captives were also taken back to Samaria along with much plunder (all of it was eventually returned – 2 Chr 28:9-15).**

**Where did Ahaz go for help? Assyria.**

**Meanwhile the Edomites attacked Judah and carried away prisoners and the Philistines raided towns in the foothills and down in the Negev.**

**As for Assyrian assistance? When Tiglath-Pileser III eventually showed up, he gave Ahaz trouble instead of help.**

**2 Chronicles 28:22-24 -** *In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to Yahweh. He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him; for he thought, "Since the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me." But they were his downfall and the downfall of all Israel. Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and took them away. He shut the doors of Yahweh's temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem.*

**In the 5<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, Ahaz made his son, Hezekiah, co-regent. After Ahaz died, Hezekiah became king of Judah.**

## **2 Kings 18:1-20:21 and 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33**

**Hezekiah reigned for 29 years and did what was right.**

**In the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of his reign, Hezekiah reopened the Temple. It took the priests and Levites 16 days to clear out the Temple and consecrate it. The morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> day, Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple. They brought 7 bulls, 7 rams, 7 male lambs and 7 male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah....**

**The whole assembly bowed in worship; the singers sang and the trumpeters played until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.**

**In the 2<sup>nd</sup> month, Hezekiah invited the whole of Israel to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.**

**2 Chronicles 30:6-9 -** *... couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters... which read: "People of Israel, return to Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. Do not be like your fathers and brothers, who were unfaithful to Yahweh, the God of their fathers, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. Do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were; submit to Yahweh. Come to the sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve Yahweh your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. If you return to Yahweh, then your brothers and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will come back to this land, for Yahweh your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."*

**The people of Judah responded positively, but most of the people of Israel – aside from a few from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun – rejected the invitation.**

**A very large crowd gathered at Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. It went so well that everyone agreed to celebrate for another week.**

**2 Chronicles 30:26** - *There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon, son of David king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.*

**Religious zeal swept the nation. The people smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and into Ephraim and Manasseh.**

**2 Chronicles 31:20-21** - *This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before Yahweh his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.*

**After this, Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. He also defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.**

**In the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Hezekiah's reign, Shalmaneser V, king of Assyria marched against Samaria and laid siege to it. 3 years later, Sargon II destroy Samaria and Israel.**

**In the 14<sup>th</sup> year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib, king of Assyria attacked the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. In response, Hezekiah agreed to pay a tribute of 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold, which he took from the Temple and the royal treasuries, but he also made preparations for the defense of Jerusalem.**

- All the springs outside the city were blocked up.
- Broken sections of the wall were repaired and another outer wall was built.
- Large numbers of weapons and shields were made.

**Then he called the people together,** *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is Yahweh our God to help us and to fight our battles."*

**Later, while Sennacherib and his army were laying siege to Lachish, he sent his officers to Jerusalem with a message for Hezekiah. Hezekiah's officials went out to meet them.**

**2 Chronicles 32:10-15** - *"This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? When Hezekiah says, 'Yahweh our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria,' he is misleading you, to let you die of hunger and thirst. Did not Hezekiah himself remove this god's high places and altars? Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand? Who of all the gods of these nations that my fathers destroyed has been able to save his people from me? How then can your god deliver you from my hand? Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you and mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!"*

**But the people, standing on the walls, remained silent and said nothing.....**

**With their clothes torn, the officials returned to Hezekiah – then they all went to Isaiah.**

**2 Kings 19:6-7** - *Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, 'This is what Yahweh says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard – those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Listen! I am going to put such a spirit in him that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.'"*

**The Assyrian commander returned to find Sennacherib fighting against Libnah then Sennacherib got a message that the Cushite king of Egypt was marching out against him.**

**Sennacherib sent another message to Hezekiah,** *"Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria'....."*

**Hezekiah received the letter, took it to the temple and spread it out before Yahweh and prayed,** *"Give ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. It is true, O LORD, that*

*the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by men's hands. Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God."*

**Then Isaiah sent a message to Hezekiah:** *"This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria.... He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city, declares Yahweh. I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant."*

**That night the angel of Yahweh went out and put to death 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp.**

**Sennacherib returned to Nineveh. However, not long after, while he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer murdered him. They ran away and his son, Esarhaddon, became king of Assyria.**

**In the midst of the Assyrian crisis, Hezekiah became ill – to the point of death.**

**Isaiah went to Hezekiah and told him to put his house in order, because he was going to die.**

**Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, weeping bitterly. He prayed, reminding God of all the wonderful things he had done in His name and that he had walked faithfully with wholehearted devotion.**

**As Isaiah left the palace, Yahweh told him to go back and tell Hezekiah that his prayer had been heard and that he would be granted an additional 15 years of life and** *"I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."*

**Wanting some proof, Hezekiah asked that the shadow on the sundial move back 10 degrees. And so it happened.**

**2 Chronicles 32:22-23 -** *So Yahweh saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them on every side. Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for Yahweh and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations.*

**After all the dust settled, ambassadors from the insignificant city of Babylon came to investigate Hezekiah's miraculous healing. Instead of giving glory to God, Hezekiah said, "let me show you all my stuff." The Babylonians took notes and returned home.**

**When Isaiah asked about the visit, Hezekiah told him the men were from Babylon.**

*"What did you show them?"*

*"Everything. There was nothing I did not show them."*

*"Hear the word of Yahweh: The time will come when everything in your palace will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left. And some of your descendants will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."*

*"The word of Yahweh is good," Hezekiah said, but he thought, "Yay! There will be peace and security in my lifetime."*

**As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah.**

**Hezekiah died and Manasseh, his 12-year-old son, succeeded him as king.**

**Until Next Time.....**