

The Kingdom Era (1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles)

If you would be free to sail the seven seas, you must make yourself a slave to the compass. By nature, man desires something he cannot have: total freedom. There are certain freedoms we can have, but they have corresponding bondage. And there are certain bondages we can have that afford us corresponding freedoms. For example, you can be free from the toothbrush and in bondage to cavities, or you can make yourself a slave to the toothbrush and be free from cavities. You cannot be free from the toothbrush *and* free from cavities. That kind of freedom, total freedom, does not exist. Throughout life, we are constantly making choices, and for those choices, we pay certain inescapable consequences. Freedom comes with a price. The kings of Israel wanted total freedom. They wanted the freedom to ignore the directives God had given them on how to rule and wage war. But at the same time, they wanted the freedom to have economic and military prosperity. This was not possible. As a result, the Kingdom Era was a very turbulent time with many ups and downs. When a righteous king ruled, the nation would prosper. When an unrighteous king gained the throne, the nation would falter. The barnacles of unrighteousness began to affix themselves to the Israeli ship of state, and before the books of history were completed, the nation had collapsed and suffered at the hands of warring neighbors.

Story Line Summary: *David*, the greatest king in the new *monarchy*, is followed by a succession of mostly *unrighteous* kings, and God eventually *judges* Israel for her sin, sending her into exile.

Expansion: There are four main periods in the Kingdom Era:

- United Kingdom
- Division of the Kingdom
- Northern Kingdom
- Southern Kingdom

United Kingdom: A New Monarchy (1 and 2 Samuel)

The twelve tribes of Israel, jealous of other nations around them, are united in their demand to God for a king. God allows Samuel, the last judge, to anoint Saul to be the first king, beginning a *new monarchy*. Because Saul is not a righteous king, God does not honor his reign or establish his family on the throne of Israel. His successor, David, though having shortcomings, is a righteous king, and Israel prospers under him. David's son, Solomon, becomes king upon David's death. Solomon rules righteously at first, then drifts from the Lord.

Divided Kingdom: A Civil War (1 Kings)

As a result of Solomon's spiritual drifting, a *civil war* erupts upon his death, and the kingdom is divided. There is now a northern kingdom, consisting of ten tribes, and a southern kingdom, consisting of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The northern ten tribes retain the name "Israel," and the southern two tribes adopt the name "Judah," after the name of the larger tribe.

Northern Kingdom: The Unrighteous Kingdom (2 Kings)

In the civil war that splits the kingdoms, Jeroboam commands the northern kingdom of Israel. He is unrighteous, and every other king (nineteen total) who succeeds him during the two-hundred- fifty-year life of the northern kingdom is also unrighteous. Because of the unrighteousness, God raises up Assyria to conquer the northern kingdom and scatter His people to the four winds (722 BC). The *unrighteous kingdom* is never restored.

Southern Kingdom: The Inconsistent Kingdom (2 Kings)

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, commands the southern kingdom of Judah. He is also unrighteous, but the southern kingdom fares somewhat better than the northern kingdom. Lasting for four hundred years, its life is prolonged by eight righteous kings out of a total twenty. Judah's sins finally catch up to her, however, and God brings judgment on *the inconsistent kingdom* by raising up Babylonia (which had conquered Assyria) to conquer Judah. Babylonia gathers all the leaders, artisans, musicians, and promising children, and takes them away to captivity in Babylonia (586 BC).

Good Kings	Bad King	Mixture of good and bad Kings
Kings of Israel		Kings of Judah

2 Chronicles 7:14 is one of the most important verses in the OT. God gave these words to Solomon on the night when the temple of the LORD was complete.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Commentary

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people. God’s purpose above all is to forgive His penitent people and heal their land. The specific vocabulary of this verse (humble themselves, pray, seek, turn) describes different aspects of heartfelt repentance and will recur throughout chapters 10–36. “Heal their land” includes deliverance from drought and pestilence as well as the return of exiles to their rightful home (6:38). For the chronicler, this includes the restoration of the people to their right relationship with God. Cf. Jer. 25:5; 26:3.

During this time, King David wrote nearly half of the 150 chapters of Psalms (songs and poems), and King Solomon authored many of the 31 chapters of Proverbs (wise sayings of practical advice for righteous living) and the books of Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. Samuel the prophet was an old man when he anointed David to be the next king of Israel, but it was Nathan the prophet who confronted David of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12). During this era, two of the famous prophets were Elijah and Elisha. Both are known for their exceptional miraculous powers from God. Elijah’s story begins in 1 Kings 17. He is most known for exploits for the LORD on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18) and for the fact that he was translated to heaven with chariots of fire instead of having to die (2 Kings 2). Elisha received a double portion of the spirit and power God gave Elijah. Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah ministered from approximately 627 B.C. to 580 B.C. His ministry began during the reign of the boy-king, Josiah, who rid the kingdom of the false gods polluting the land. Known for godly devotion, Josiah is remembered as a great king. After Josiah's death, the southern kingdom was conquered by Egypt. One of Josiah's sons became a puppet king, and the brief time of spiritual well-being came to an end. The book of Lamentations, which scholars believe Jeremiah wrote, is a collection of poems that lament the conquest of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. At this time, almost all the people of Judah were taken to Babylon, and the period of exile began.

Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25–33)	Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21–31)
Nadab (1 Kings 15:25–31)	Abijam (1 Kings 15:1–8)
Baasha (1 Kings 15:33–16:7)	Asa (1 Kings 15:9–24)
Elah (1 Kings 16:8–14)	Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:41–50)
Zimri (1 Kings 16:15–20)	Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16–23)
Omri (1 Kings 16:21–27)	Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:25–29; 9:29)
Ahab (1 Kings 16:29–33)	Athaliah (2 Kings 11) queen
Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51–53; 2 Kings 1)	Joash (2 Kings 12)
Joram (Jehoram) (2 Kings 1:17; 3:1–3)	Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1–22)
Jehu (2 Kings 9:30–10:36)	Azariah (Uzziah) (2 Kings 15:1–7)
Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1–9)	Jotham (2 Kings 15:32–38)
Jehoash (2 Kings 13:10–25)	Ahaz (2 Kings 16)
Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23–29)	Hezekiah (2 Kings 18–20)
Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8–12)	Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1–18)
Shallum (2 Kings 15:13–16)	Amon (2 Kings 21:19–26)
Menahem (2 Kings 15:17–22)	Josiah (2 Kings 22:1–23:30)
Pekahiah (2 Kings 15:23–26)	Jehoahaz (Shallum) (2 Kings 23:31–35)
Pekah (2 Kings 15:27–31)	Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:36–24:7)
Hoshea (2 Kings 17)	Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8–17; 25:27–30)
	Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:18–25:26)

Name _____ Date _____ (2 points each) Score _____

Kingdom Era Homework

What books of the OT cover the Kingdom Era? _____

Who was the greatest king of Israel's history? _____

Who was this king's father? _____

Who anointed him to be Israel's _____ (#) king? _____

Who was Israel's 1st king? _____ and Who was his son and David's best friend? _____
(1 Samuel 18 & 19).

_____ was victorious over _____ which brought much fame and acclaim to him so much so Saul became extremely jealous of him (1 Sam 17).

Saul served as king approx. _____ years before Jesus (B.C.)? A. 125 B. 1446 C. 1000 or D. 586

The kingdom era can be sub-divided into 4 parts for the purpose of study; these parts are:

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David's first son and the one who should have been Israel's next king was? _____ (2 Samuel 3:2)

What city did David grow up in? _____ (1 Samuel 20:6)

David was a member of what tribe? _____ (Matthew 1:3-6) (use a modern translation)

David is author of nearly half the 150 _____ and was a musician playing the _____
(1 Sam 16:23).

According to 2 Samuel 2:11, David initially ruled over _____ in _____ for 7 years until he moved his throne to the capital city of Israel.

David's greatest sin occurred with _____ and the infant of that union died prematurely (2 Samuel 11 & 12).

A _____ and m _____ are the two sins David was guilty of because this new wife was married to Uriah until David placed him in a battle where he would surely die.

It was _____ the prophet who confronted David with his sin (2 Samuel 12).

David recognized that ultimately he had sinned against _____ (Psalm 51).

David was _____ years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for _____ years (2 Sam 5:4)
_____ succeeded David as Israel's next king (1 Kings 1:39ff).

Solomon is known for his _____ more than anything else (1 Kings 4:39-40).

Solomon is responsible for giving Israel a _____ for God instead of a tabernacle and what Solomon designed and built was a marvel for the entire world to see.

Solomon was an author and wrote most of the _____ and what two other OT books?

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Like his father Solomon reigned for _____ years as well (1 Kings 11:42).

In 1 Kings 12 _____ ignored the counsel of the older men and refused to tax the people less.

This unwise decision cost him a united kingdom. J _____ led the ten northern tribes to a national civil war (1 Kings 12:19ff) which resulted in a divided kingdom.

The name of the northern kingdom was _____ and the southern kingdom was Judah (and Benjamin [2 tribes]).

Judah retained _____ as its capital city whereas Israel selected

Read 1 Kings 11:33ff and explain in one word what sin _____ cost Solomon's son a united kingdom to rule upon.

Most of the northern kingdom kings ruled from the city of _____ (1 Kings 22:51).

The northern kings were nearly all _____ in the eyes of the Lord; Ahab is an example of this (1 Kings 16:30).

During the time of the kings, prophets spoke for the Lord and confronted Israel with their _____ (Is 3:9).

During King Ahab's wicked reign, _____ a famous prophet, preached against idolatry, parted the Jordan River, raised the dead, called fire down from heaven on Mt. Carmel and did not die (1 Kings 17ff).

_____ authored a book with 66 chapters and preached during the days of what 4 kings (Is. 1:1)

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In 722 BC _____ defeated the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings 17:23) and carried her into exile.

Uzziah reigned as king for _____ years; his reign was the longest of all (2 Chronicles 26:3).

_____ began his reign at the age of eight and is known for bringing great reform to the southern kingdom when the book of the law was found (2 Kings 22:1)

Nearly all the kings were prone to the sin of _____ and God punished both kingdoms for this sin (2 Chronicles 24:18).

In 586 BC _____ defeated Judah effectively bringing an end to the Kingdom era. (2 Chronicles 36:11ff)