

2 CHRONICLES: A TALE OF TWO HOUSES

2 Chronicles:

How the Kings of Judah Treated the House of God: A Study on the Tension Between the Flesh and the Spirit (& Truth) in Worship

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(All Scripture is from the AV/KJV)

4 generations of kings

1. Solomon (Long reign) Builder 1-9
He built God's house, a splendid temple, filled it with treasure and dedicated it, leading the nation in a sublime act of worship, 2:1-5; 5:1-7:11.
2. Rehoboam 10-12
Rehoboam did evil, 12:14. Shishak of Egypt took the treasures of the Lord's house and of the king's house and the gold shields made by Solomon. Rehoboam made brass shields to replace them, 12: 9, 10.
3. Abijah 13:1 -14:1
He announced to Israel when facing their attack, that Judah faithfully sacrificed to the Lord at his house and through his priests, 13:1-12.
4. Asa 14:2 – 16:14
He brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels, 15:18. *But later Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent them to Benhadad king of Syria ... (and said to him) break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me, 16:1-3.*

3 generations of kings

5. Jehoshaphat (Long reign) Reformer 17:1 – 21:3
No record is mentioned of whether he enhanced the Lord's house or took from it. He did encourage the priests in their ministry and as judges, 19:8-11.
6. Jehoram 21:4-20
He did evil. See the note below under Ahaziah regarding Athaliah, the queen mother.
7. Ahaziah 22:1-9
He did evil. See note below under Athaliah his mother.
(Athaliah) 22:10 – 23:21
She and her sons had broken up the house of God and bestowed on the baalim all its dedicated things, 24:7.

5 generations of kings

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house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered. 31:20, 21

14. Manasseh

33: 1-20

Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. 33:4-9 God sent him in chains to Babylon where he repented and then was returned. And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. 33:15, 16

15. Amon

33:21-25

He did evil and reverted to worshipping the carved images his father had worshipped earlier.

*4 generations of kings (Including Nebuchadnezzar)

16. Josiah

(Longish reign)

Reformer

34 – 36:1

He repaired the house of the Lord and found the book of the law in the house and responded to it obeying the Lord, 34:8-31. They kept the greatest Passover ever kept from the days of Samuel to that time, 35:17-19.

17. Jehoahaz

36:2-4

(He reigned 3 months and Pharaoh Necho deposed him and took him to Egypt, 36:2-4)

18. Jehoiakim (Eliakim, Brother of Jehoahaz)

36:5-8

He did evil in the Lord's eyes and Nebuchadnezzar took him and the vessels of the Lord's house and put them in his temple in Babylon, 36:7.

19. Jehoiachin

36:9-10

He did evil in the Lord's eyes and Nebuchadnezzar returned and took him and the vessels of the Lord's house and carried them to Babylon, 36:9, 10.

20. Zedekiah

36:11-21

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He did evil in God's sight, 36:12. The king, chief priests and people polluted the house of God, which he had hallowed in Jerusalem, 36:14.

21. Nebuchadnezzar (The Chaldean king) 36:17-21

He took all the vessels and treasures of the house of God and destroyed it. *And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he (Nebuchadnezzar) brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof, 36:18, 19.*

22. Cyrus (The Persian king) 36:22-23

Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up, 36:23.

**Relationships of the last 4 kings of Judah.*

1. *The numerical order is the order in which they reigned.*
2. *Two generations are involved.*
3. *Three brothers reigned, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah.*
4. *Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, nephew to Jehoahaz and Zedekiah, reigned.*

	Brother	Brother & son	Brother
One generation	17. Jehoahaz –	18. Jehoiakim	20. Zedekiah
One generation		19. Jehoiachin	

Notes:

A king of Israel, builds the first temple, and a king of Persia orders the building of the second temple.

The Lord had his first house destroyed because those who cared for it were unfaithful to him. Yet he still had plans to build himself a house so moved to plan B by having a pagan Gentile king order its building by the Jews.

The king at the center, Uzziah, goes into the house of God to offer incense on the altar of incense, something only the priests were allowed to do.

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Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah were the kings who built the house and the other 4 rebuilt it. The brought the people back to the Lord.

The God of Israel was the holy God and the only God of Israel, not just one amongst many gods, who must share a place with the immoral gods of the nations.

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