

CHRONOLOGY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (ANE) AND ISRAEL

Dates for the kings of Israel and Judah follow Cogan and Tadmor, *Second Kings AB 11* (1988)

928 BC The nation of Israel divides into two kingdoms. The "Northern" kingdom is called Israel and makes the city of Samaria its capital. The "Southern" kingdom is called Judah and it keeps Jerusalem as its capital city.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam I (928-907)
Nadab (907-906)
Baasha (906-883)
Elah (883-882)
Zimri (882)
Omri (882-871)
Ahab (873-852)

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam (928-911)
Abijam/Abijah (911-908)
Asa (908-867)

Jehoshaphat (870-846)

Other leaders in ANE

Arameans:
Rezon (940-15)
Tabrimmon (915-900)
Ben-Hadad (900-860)
Ben-Hadad II (860-41)
Pheonician: Ethbaal (874-853)
Egyptian: Shishak (945-924)

853 BC **The Battle of Qarqar.** This was an important turning point in the ANE, when the Assyrian empire became the dominant political power. In this battle, Shalmaneser III of Assyria defeated a Western coalition of nations.

Ahaziah (853-851)
Jehoram/Joram (851-842)
Jehu (842-814)
Jehoahaz (817-800)
Joash/Jehoash (800-784)
Jeroboam II (789-748)
Zechariah (748-747)
Shallum (747)
Mehahem (747-737)
Pekahiah (737-735)
Pekah (735-732)
Hoshea (732-722)

Jehoram (851-843)
Ahaziah/Azariah (843-842)
Queen Athaliah (842-836)
Joash/Jehoash (836-798)
Amaziah (798-769)
Azariah/Uzziah (785-733)

Jotham (758-743)

Ahaz (743-727)

Hezekiah (727-698)

Egyptian: Osorkon (726-715)
Aramaeans
Hazael (841-806)
Ben-Hadad III (806-770)
Rezin (750-732)

Moabite: Mesha (853-841)

Assyrian
Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727)
Shalmaneser V (727-722)
Sargon II (722-705)

722 BC **Israel falls.** Samaria, the capital of Israel, falls to the Assyrians. Before this, Pekah sought an alliance with Rezin to oppose Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria. They invited Jotham of Judah into their alliance, but he refused. When he died, they attacked Jerusalem, and Ahaz appealed to Assyria for help (Isa 7-8). Tiglath-Pileser came to his aid, attacked Damascus and killed Rezin (2 Kgs 16.9). At the same time, Hoshea killed Pekah and only became ruler of Israel as a vassal of Assyria. When Hoshea looked to Egypt for help against Assyria, they put him in prison and captured Samaria in 722, taking Israel into captivity. The Assyrian leader was either Shalmaneser V or Sargon II.

701 BC Assyria attempts to capture Jerusalem, but fails to do so under the leadership of Hezekiah (Isa. 36-39)

NO KING/LEADER

Manasseh (698-642)
Amon (641-640)
Josiah (639-609)
Jehoahaz (609)
Eliakim/Jehoiakim (608-598)

Egyptian: Necho (609-594)
Assyrian: Sennacherib (704-681)
Babylonian:
Merodach-Baladan II (703)
Nebuchadnezzar (604-562)

605 BC **The Battle of Carchemish.** In this battle, which is mentioned in Jeremiah 46.1ff, the Babylonians, led by Nebuchadnezzar, finally take over as the dominant power in the ANE. Leading up to this battle, the Babylonians had won key victories in Asshur, Nineveh, and Haran (614-10) against Assyria. Egypt, which was allied at the time with Assyria, captured Syria and Palestine, with Pharaoh Necho killing Josiah in battle (609). One of his sons, Jehoahaz, reigned in his stead for only three months before being put into prison by Necho, who then put Eliakim in power (608). He would reign until his death in 598, before Jerusalem fell. Egypt, on the other hand, met the Babylonians in battle at Carcamesh, lost, and gave over their lands (including Palestine) to Babylon. This is when Daniel goes into captivity.

Jehoiachin (598-597)
Zedekiah/Mattaniah (597-587)

597 BC **Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians.** Under Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonians conquer Judah and take control of Jerusalem. Jehoiachin is taken captive by the Babylonians, shortly after beginning his reign. The Babylonians take all but the poorest inhabitants into captivity, including the temple treasury. Nebuchadnezzar leaves Zedekiah (the third son of Josiah; Jehoiachin's uncle) as king over Judah, though Jehoiachin retains the title even in captivity.

587 BC **Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed.** At this time, Jerusalem rebelled against Babylonian rule and the city was completely razed to the ground by Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah is taken captive by the Babylonians, is blinded, and his sons are killed. Many more people are deported into exile during this time. The chief priests and the leaders of the city are killed, and many more flee to Egypt. Jeremiah will come from this fleeing group.

539 BC **Persia becomes dominant power in ANE.** After Nebuchadnezzar's death (562), several weak kings reigned and the empire began to fall apart. Nabonius, the last king, entrusted Babylon to his firstborn, Belshazzar (Dan. 5). Cyrus reigned in Persia from 550-530, taking over Babylon easily after a key victory earlier in Ophis. His famous edict (539-38) allowed some of the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (520-516).