

A. Great Leaders in the Bible lived by Faith:

1. **Abel** (אָבֶל) - Hebel - Hebrew name meaning: “*breath, breathing*”) was righteous. (Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4)
2. **Enoch** (חֲנוֹךְ) - Hanoch - Heb. name meaning: “*dedicated, initiated*”) walked with God and was pleasing to God. (Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5)
3. **Noah** (נֹחַ) - Noach - Heb. name meaning: “*rest*”) was a righteous man, blameless in his generations (time); Noah walked with God. (Gen. 6:9; Heb. 11:7) Noah’s righteousness is recounted by Ezekiel. (Ezek. 14:14-20)
4. **Job** (יֹב) - Yob - Heb. name meaning: “*hated or persecuted*”) was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil. (Job 1:1, 3, 22) God describes Job as “*My servant Job.*” (Job 42:7, 8) Job is listed with the righteous Noah and Daniel. (Ezek. 14:14-20) His great endurance (patience) is praised. (James 5:11)
5. **Abraham** (אַבְרָהָם) - 'Abraham - Heb. name meaning: “*father of the multitude*”) obeyed God. (Gen. 22:11-18) Abraham was called “*the friend of God.*” (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Heb. 11:8-19; James 2:23)
6. **Moses** (מֹשֶׁה) - Moses - Heb. name meaning: “*drawn out or child*”) was a prophet, a type of Christ. (Deut. 18:15-19) Moses was called “*the servant of the Lord.*” (Deut. 34:5; Josh. 1:1, 2, 7, 13; Heb. 11:23-29)
7. **Joshua** (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ) - Yehoshua - Heb. name meaning: “*whose salvation is the Jehovah*”) was called “*the servant of the Lord.*” (Josh. 24:29, 31) Joshua was faithful. (Josh. 24:15; Heb. 11:30)
8. **David** (דָּוִד) - David - Heb. name meaning: “*beloved*” or “*chieftain*”) was called “*a man after His (God’s) own heart,*” (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22) “*one who will do My will.*” “*The Lord appointed him as ruler over his people.*” (Heb. 11:32)
9. **Daniel** (דָּנִיֵּאל) - Daniy’el - Heb. name meaning: “*God’s judge*”) would not defile himself. (Dan. 1:8) He had an excellent report in the world. (Dan. 1:17-21) Daniel distinguished himself and was faithful. (Dan. 6:3-5; Heb. 11:33) Daniel’s righteousness is recounted by Ezekiel. (Ezek. 14:14-20)

B. The First Three Kings of Israel:

1. **Saul** (שָׁאֻל) - Sha’ul - Heb. name meaning: “*asked for*”) was from the tribe of Benjamin. He reigned for 40 years from 1095-1055BC.

- a. Saul usurped the role of the prophet Samuel, who was also a judge and a priest by offering a burnt offering without spiritual authorization. (1 Sam. 13:8-14)
 - b. Saul failed to execute Agag, king of the Amalekites, as the Lord had commanded and destroy all that belonged to Amalek. (1 Sam. 15)
 - c. Saul appealed to a certain woman, "*the medium at Endor*" who had a familiar spirit (a demon), to get information about the upcoming battle at Gilboa. This disobedience finally caused his death. (1 Sam. 28-31)
2. **David** (דָּוִד) - David - Heb. name meaning: "*beloved*" or "*chieftain*") was of the tribe of Judah and the youngest son of Jesse. (1 Sam. 16:1, 10-21; 2 Sam. 5:4)
- a. He was born in 1085BC; he killed Goliath in 1067BC at age 18, became king in 1055BC at age 30, and reigned for 40 years from 1055-1015BC. He died in 1015 at age 70. (1 Sam. 17:4)
 - b. "*David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He had commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite.*" (1 Kings 15:5; 2 Sam. 11-12:14)
David's discipline is found in 2 Samuel 12:1-14.
 - c. David decisively defeated the Philistines. (2 Sam. 5:17-25; 21:15-22; 1 Chron. 18:1; 20:4-8)
 - d. David also conquered the Moabites, Arameans, Ammonites, Edomites, and the Amalekites. (2 Sam. 8:10; 12:26-31)
 - e. "*So, David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all the people.*" (2 Sam. 8:15)
 - f. He efficiently organized his army (2 Sam. 8:16) which included a special personal bodyguard of mercenaries. (2 Sam. 8:18)
 - g. He built up the empire from Ezion-Geber on the gulf of Aqaba in the south to Hammath in the north.
 - h. He established Jerusalem as his capitol, calling it *the City of David*, and allocated forty-eight Levitical cities with six cities of refuge. (2 Sam. 5:9, 10)
 - i. He organized the sacred music of Israel and wrote some seventy-three psalms and probably more. (1 Chron. 6:31; 15:15-22; 25:1-31)
 - j. He was an able administrator and an efficient organizer. (1 Chron. 22:17-27:34)

- k. David was unfortunately a polygamist and an adulterer, having: 2 wives during his wanderings (1 Sam. 27:3; 2 Sam. 3:2, 3a; 1 Chron. 3:1), 5 wives at Hebron (2 Sam. 3:3b-5, 13; 1 Chron. 3:2-4), probably 10 more unnamed concubines, whose children are not named (2 Sam. 5:13a; 15:16;) and 10 more unnamed wives at Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:13b-16; 1 Chron. 3:5-9; 14:4-7; 2 Chron. 11:18); also Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite (1 Chron. 3:5). He had a possible total of 28 wives and concubines.
 - l. Nevertheless, God made a covenant with David, extending the Abrahamic Covenant to him in reference to a perpetual royal line. (2 Sam. 7:8-16; 1 Chron. 17:7-11)
 - m. David made plans for the temple, a house for the Lord; but his son Solomon would build it. (2 Sam. 7:10-16; 1 Chron. 28:1-29:19)
 - n. David prayed in the presence of the assembly of all Israel with regard to the preparation of the materials for the temple that Solomon would build. (1 Chron. 29:10-19)
 - o. Although David sinned in many ways, he always recognized his sins and confessed them to God. (2 Sam. 12:13; Psa. 41:4; 51:1-4)
 - p. Consequently, David is still said to be *“a man after His (God’s) own heart.”* (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22)
 - q. David in resurrection body will be king over Israel in the future millennial kingdom as part of his reward. (Ezek. 34:23, 24; 37:24, 25; 45:17)
3. **Solomon** (שלֹמֹה) - Shelomoh - Heb. name meaning: *“peaceable”*) was a son of David by Bathsheba. He was also called Jedidiah (יְדִידְיָהוּ) - Yedideyah – Heb. name meaning: *“beloved by Jehovah”*) (2 Sam. 12:25)
- a. He reigned over Israel for 40 years from 1015-975BC. He was born in 1036BC; he began his reign in 1015BC at age 21, founded the temple in 1012BC at age 24, dedicated the temple in 1004BC at age 32, and died in 975BC at age 61.
 - b. Solomon built the temple for the Lord from 1012-1004BC (1 Kings 6), and dedicated it with a prayer. (1 Kings 8:23-53; 2 Chron. 6:14-42)
 - c. Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs, including the Song of Solomon. He probably wrote Song of Solomon early in his life, the Proverbs later as he matured, and the book of Ecclesiastes toward the end of his life when he fell into apostacy.

- d. However, like his father David, Solomon was a polygamist to an even greater degree with “*seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away*” from the Lord. (1 Kings 11:1-5)
- e. “*Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully as David his father had done.*” (1 Kings 11:6-13)

C. The First Kings of the Divided Kingdom:

1. **Rehoboam** (רְחָבָאִם - Rechabe‘am - Heb. name meaning: “*who enlarges the people*”) was a son of Solomon by Naamah the Ammonitess. (1 Kings 14:21-28) He was born in 1016BC; and at age 41 he began to reign as king of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, for 17 years from 975-958BC.
 - a. Rehoboam did not listen to the wise counsel of his elders who counselled him to be gracious and make peace with Jeroboam. Instead, Rehoboam listened to the young men he had grown up with, who counselled him to deal harshly with the northern tribes. This created a rebellion and division between the southern kingdom (Judah and Benjamin) and the northern kingdom (the other ten tribes) which lasted until 721BC. (2 Chron. 10:1-19)
 - b. Rehoboam tolerated the worship of the Asherah or Ashtoreth (the so-called goddess of fertility) and the gross immorality associated with this pagan worship. (1 Kings 14:21-24) This pagan worship continued into the reign of King Asa, who finally put a stop to it, 955BC. (1 Kings 15:8-15; 2 Chron. 12:1)
 - c. Rehoboam and all Israel with him forsook the Lord, and he was forced to give up the temple treasure to Shishak, King of Egypt, to secure peace. (2 Chron. 12:2-9)
 - d. Rehoboam followed in the steps of his father Solomon and his grandfather David, as a polygamist, having eighteen wives, sixty concubines, twenty-eight sons, and sixty daughters. (2 Chron. 11:21)
 - e. However, “*he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.*” (2 Chron. 12:14)
2. **Abijah** (אֲבִיָּה - ‘Abiyah – Heb. name meaning: “*whose father is Jehovah*”) was a son of Rehoboam by his favorite wife, Maachah. Rehoboam bequeathed the kingdom to her son. Abijah reigned in Judah three years from 958-956BC. (1 Kings 15:1, 2; 2 Chron. 12:16; 13:1, 2)
 - a. Abijah imitated the polygamous sins of his fathers, having fourteen wives, twenty-two sons, and sixteen daughters. (2 Chron. 13: 21)
 - b. Abijah “*walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, like the heart of his father David.*” (1 Kings 15:1-4)