

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** (שְׁלֹמֹה) - 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)

3. **Jeroboam** (יֵרֹבֹאָם - Yarabe‘am - Heb. name meaning: “*whose people are many*”) was the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite, by a woman named Zeruah. (1 Kings 11:26) He reigned 22 years in Israel, the Northern Kingdom, from 975-954BC. (1 Kings 14:20)
- a. Jeroboam, an Ephraimite, was promoted by Solomon from the ranks of the workforce building the citadel of Zion. He was a strong and aggressive worker. Solomon raised him to the position of superintendent over taxes and forced labor in Ephraim and Manasseh. (1 Kings 11:28)
 - b. Jeroboam was told and graphically shown by Ahijah, the prophet, how the kingdom of Israel would be divided because of Solomon’s disobedience and Israel’s practice of idolatry. (1 Kings 11:29-33)
 - c. Jeroboam would have rulership of all of Israel except the two southern tribes, Judah and Benjamin, as a conditional covenant if he ruled wisely. (1 Kings 11:34-38)
 - d. Jeroboam and Solomon had a dispute that led to Solomon wanting to kill Jeroboam, who then fled to Egypt under Pharaoh Shishak until the death of Solomon. (1 Kings 11:26, 27, 40)
 - e. When Jeroboam returned from Egypt, he was encouraged by the heads of the northern tribes under the leadership of the Ephraimites to present a plea to Rehoboam for lowering taxes and reducing the conscription requirements on his people. (1 Kings 12:2-4)
 - f. Jeroboam basically wanted to make peace between the northern kingdom and the two southern tribes under Rehoboam who had been made king of Israel at Shechem. (1 Kings 11:43; 12:1; 2 Chron. 9:31; 10:1)
 - g. Jeroboam’s plea was rejected by Rehoboam so that Israel, the northern ten tribes, continued “*in rebellion against the house of David*” until 721BC. (1 Kings 12:15-19; cf. 2 Chron. 13:5-9)
 - h. The assembly of the ten northern tribes made Jeroboam king over all Israel. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin followed the house of David under King Rehoboam. (1 Kings 12:20)
 - i. Jeroboam made and worshipped the golden calves from the land of Egypt and caused his people to sin with all the pagan gods of the nations. He made new feast days and instituted a new priesthood. (1 Kings 12:25-33; 2 Chron. 11:13-15)

- j. Although Jeroboam had been warned by a prophet of God, he nevertheless continued in his evil practices. (1 Kings 13:33, 34; 14:7-11)

D. The Eight Good Kings in Judah:

1. **Asa** (אָסָא - 'Asa' - Aramaic.name meaning: "*physician*"), the son of Abijah, son of Rehoboam, son of Solomon, son of David became king of Judah in 956BC. (1 Kings 15:8-23; 2 Chron. 13:1-16:14)
 - a. **Asa** was the fifth generation from David and he reigned 41 years to 914BC, "*and Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord, like his father David,*" (1 Kings 15:11) "*and Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God.*" (2 Chron. 14:1)
 - b. While Asa "*put away all the male cult prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his father had made.*" However, he did not take away the high places. (1 Kings 15:12, 14a)
 - c. "*Nevertheless; the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days.*" (1 Kings 15:14b)
 - d. **Asa** died and was buried in the city of David, "*and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.*" (1 Kings 15:24; 2 Chron 16:13-14)
2. **Jehoshaphat** (יְהוֹשָׁפָט - Yehoshaphat - Heb. name meaning: "*whom the Lord judges*"), the son of Asa, who was the sixth generation from King David became king of Judah in 914BC at age 35. (1 Kings 15:24; 22:2-50; 2 Chron. 17:1-21:1)
 - a. **Jehoshaphat** reigned 25 years to 889BC, "*and he walked in the way of Asa his father; he did not turn aside from it, doing right in the sight of the Lord.*" (1 Kings 22:43; 2 Chron. 20:32)
 - b. **Jehoshaphat** died "*and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.*" (1 Kings 22:50; 2 Chron. 21:1)
NOTE: Jehoram did not walk in the ways of Jehoshaphat his father and the ways of Asa his grandfather, king of Judah. (2 Chron. 21:12-20)
3. **Joash** (יְאוֹשָׁאָה - Yoash - Heb. name meaning: "*the Lord has given*") was the son of King Ahaziah. He was the eighth king of Judah, and he began to reign when he was seven years old. He reigned over Judah for 40 years from 879-839BC.
 - a. He "*did right in the sight of the Lord all his days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.*" (2 Kings 11:21-12:2; 2 Chron. 24:1, 2)
 - b. However, he did not take away the high places of pagan worship where the people of Judah still sacrificed and burned incense. (2 Kings 12:3)

- c. After the death of Jehoiada the priest, his teacher, Joash listened to the officials of Judah and the abandoned the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols, so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for their guilt. God sent prophets to testify against them, but they would not listen. (2 Chron. 24:17-22)
 - d. God sent the Syrian army against Judah in His wrath, and Joash capitulated by giving the temple treasure to Hazael, king of Syria; however, after the military defeat, Joash's own servants conspired against him and murdered him on his bed. (2 Kings 12:17-18; 2 Chron 24:23-25)
4. **Amaziah** (אֲמַזְיָהּ) - Amaziah - Heb. name meaning: "*whom the Lord strengthened*") was the son of Joash and was the ninth king of Judah. He ascended to the throne at the age of twenty-five and reigned for twenty- nine years from 839-810BC. (2 Chron. 25:1)
- a. Amaziah began his reign by executing the people who killed his father, Joash; but he spared their children as per Deuteronomy 24:16. (2 Kings 14:5, 6; 2 Chron. 25:3, 4)
 - b. "*He did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father, he did according to all that Joash his father had done.*" (2 Kings 14:3; 2 Chron. 25:2)
 - c. Like his father, he did not remove the high places where the people still sacrificed and burned incense to pagan gods, and even worshipped them himself. (2 Kings 14:4)
 - d. He had a great military victory recovering Edom which had revolted from the time of Jehoram. However, in addition to his massive army of 300,000, he hired 100,000 mercenaries from Israel. A prophet of God told him not to use these mercenaries from Israel because the Lord was not with them. So Amaziah dismissed the mercenary troops which had come from Ephraim. (2 Kings 14:7; 2 Chron. 25:5-13)
 - e. Unfortunately, after God had given him this great victory over the Edomites, Amaziah brought back the pagan gods of Seir and "*bowed down before them, and burned incense to them.*" Then the anger of the Lord burned against him. (2 Kings 25:14-15; 2 Chron. 25:14, 15)
 - f. In addition, the mercenaries from Israel who were returning home raided and plundered the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth-horen, killing 3000. This caused Amaziah in his arrogance to challenge Joash, king of Israel, against the wise counsel of the prophet of God. (2 Kings 14:8-12; 2 Chron. 25:16-25)

- g. Subsequently, Judah was defeated and Amaziah was captured by Joash, king of Israel. He was taken back to Jerusalem where much damage was done to the city; and the treasures of the house of God and the king's house were looted. (2 Kings 14:13, 14; 2 Chron. 25:23-24)
 - h. Because Amaziah had turned away from the Lord, the people in Jerusalem conspired against him and killed him. (2 Kings 14:15-20; 2 Chron. 25:25-28)
5. **Uzziah** (אֲזַיָּהוּ - Uzziah - Heb. name meaning: “*power of the Lord*”) was the son of Amaziah. Uzziah, also called Azariah, was chosen by the people to reign at the age of sixteen. (2 Kings 14:21, 22; 15:1, 2; 2 Chron. 26:1-3) He reigned over Judah for 52 years from 810-758BC.
- a. He was successful in his military campaign against the Edomites who had revolted against Judah in the time of Jehoram, eighty years earlier. (2 Kings 14:22; 2 Kings 15:1, 2; 2 Chron. 26:2)
 - b. “*He did right in the sight of Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done.*” (2 Kings 15:3; 2 Chron. 26:4, 5)
 - c. He had great success fighting against the Philistines in Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod; he and built new fortified cities in Philistine territory. (2 Chron 26:6)
 - d. He waged other victorious wars in the South against the Meunites, the people who lived in Mount Seir and the Arabs of Gurbaal. (2 Chron. 26:7, 8)
 - e. He strengthened the walls of Jerusalem to enhance security. He increased Judah's economic prosperity, which had not been experienced since the time of Solomon; and he built up the military. (2 Chron. 26:9-15)
 - f. Unfortunately, Uzziah's pride, resulting from his great accomplishments and led him to burn incense on the alter of God. When Azariah the high priest and eighty others chastised him for this violation, he became enraged and ignored their confrontation. (2 Chron. 26:16-20; Exodus 30:7, 8; Num. 16:40; 18:7)
 - g. As a result, Uzziah was suddenly smitten with leprosy until the day of his death. (2 Kings 15:4-7; 2 Chron. 26:21-23; Isa. 1:1-31)
6. **Jotham** (יֹחָזָבָב - Yotham - Heb. name meaning: “*the Lord is upright*”) was the son of Uzziah. He became the eleventh king over Judah and reigned for 16 years from 758-742BC. (2 Kings 15:32, 33; 2 Chron. 27:1)
- a. After his father was smitten with leprosy, Jotham assumed leadership of the government for thirteen years until Uzziah's death. Jotham was twenty-five when he began his reign. (2 Chron. 27:1)

- b. Jotham did all that his father had done, but he did not usurp the function of the priests so as to burn incense on the alter as his father had done. (2 Kings 15:34; 2 Chron. 27:2)
 - c. However, the people of Judah continued to act corruptly. (2 Kings 15:35a; 2 Chron. 27:2b)
 - d. He had an extensive building program including the building of military fortresses and towers. (2 Chron. 27:3, 4)
 - e. Jotham became great and was obedient to the Lord in all his ways. (2 Kings 15:34; 2 Chron. 27:6)
 - f. He died and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. (2 Kings 15:38; 2 Chron. 27:9)
7. **Hezekiah** (חֶזְקִיָּהוּ - Chezekiah - Heb. name meaning: *“the might of the Lord”*) was the son of Ahaz. Ahaz was a terrible leader who paid for military aid from Assyria with the treasure from the temple and from his own palace. Ahaz also closed the temple to worship and introduced shrines to pagan deities everywhere.
- a. Hezekiah became the thirteenth king over Judah for 29 years from 726-698BC. *“And he did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.”* (2 Chron. 29:1-11; 31:20, 21; 2 Kings 18:1-3, 5-7)
 - b. He reversed the heathen trend that his father Ahaz had begun by purging, restoring, and reopening the temple and its worship. (2 Chron. 29:3-11, 24-30 cf. *“Trumpets”* -Numbers 10:1-10)
 - c. He destroyed the “high places,” broke down the pagan images, and cut down the pagan groves. He even finally destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses had made at the command of the Lord. It had become an idolatrous object. (2 Kings 18:1-7; Num. 21:6-9; 2 Chron. 31:1; cf. John 3:14)
 - d. Hezekiah called for all the people of Judah and any of the remnant of the northern kingdom, Israel to celebrate the Passover. They had to celebrate the Passover in the second month rather than the first month because the priests had not yet consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers, nor had the people been gathered together to Jerusalem. They even extended the Feast of Unleavened Bread for an extra seven days. (2 Chron. 30:1-27; cf. especially verses: 2-4, 10-15, 18-23, 25, 26; cf. Levit. 23:5-8; Solomon’s dedication - 2 Chon. 7:9)
 - e. He also built up the military and the economy, and was a great military leader. He fought against the Philistines and he retook the cities which his father forfeited and overran other Philistine cities except Gaza and Gath. (2 Chron. 28:18; 2 Kings 18:8)

- f. *“He commanded all who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and Levites, that they might devote themselves to the law of the Lord.”* (2 Chron. 31:4, 20, 21)
 - g. Hezekiah, when facing the Assyrian threat in 721BC, increased Judah’s military by establishing a national system of defense. (2 Chron. 32:1-8)
 - h. Hezekiah broke his father’s treaty with Assyria causing Sennacherib, king of Assyria to attack Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chron. 32:1-19; 2 Kings 18:1-19:37; Isa. 36:1-37:32)
 - i. Both He and Isaiah the prophet prayed about this coming siege. (2 Chron.32:20) God delivered Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from Assyrian and their allies by a great miraculous victory. (2 Chron. 32:21, 22; 2 Kgs. 19:32-37; Isaiah 37:14- 20, 33-38)
 - j. Hezekiah became proud and failed to be thankful to the Lord for this great victory and all the gifts he received from those nations round about, and he became mortally ill. (2 Chron. 32:23-25; 2 Kings 20:1; Isa. 38:1)
 - k. Hezekiah’s humbled himself and prayer for healing and more years of life. (2 Chron. 32:26; 2 Kings 20:2-3; Isa. 38:2-8)
 - l. The Lord answered Hezekiah’s prayer, healing him and extending his life for fifteen years. Hezekiah wrote concerning his illness and recovery. (Isa. 38:9-21; 2 Kings 20:4-11)
 - m. However, King Hezekiah failed God’s final test of humility, by showing all his great wealth to the envoys of the rulers of Babylon. (2 Chron. 32:27-31; 2 Kings 20:12-19; Isa. 39:1-8)
8. **Josiah** (יְשׁוּיָהוּ - Yoshiah - Heb. name meaning: *“whom the Lord heals”*) was the son of Amon, who reigned for 2 years, following 55 years of the reign of the evil king Manassah. (2 Kings 21:25, 26)
- a. He was the sixteenth king of separate kingdom of Judah; and he became king when he was 8 years old and reigned over Judah for 31 years from 640-609BC. He died at age 39. (2 Kings 22:1; 2 Chron. 34:11)
 - b. Josiah was the last good king of the southern kingdom, Judah. *“He did right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.”* (2 Kings 23:2; 2 Chron. 34:2, 33b)
 - c. Josiah’s reign had been prophesied 333 years earlier by an unknown prophet in the time of King Jeroboam. (1 Kings 13:1, 2; 2 Kings 23:15-20)

- d. By age 16, Josiah *“began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year of his reign he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.”* (2 Chron. 34:3-7)
- e. In the eighteenth year of his reign, at age 26, he sent Shaphan his financial administrator to Hilkiah the high priest to make an accounting of the money brought into the house of the Lord for the repair of the temple. (2 Kings 22:3-7; 2 Chron. 34:8-14)
- f. During the renovation of the temple, Hilkiah found the book of the law in the house of the Lord and gave it to Shaphan who read it and took it to king Josiah and read it to him. (2 Kings 23:8-13; 2 Chron. 34:15-19)
- g. The king *“read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant, which was found in the house of the Lord.”* He *“made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul. And all the people entered into the covenant.”* (2 Kings 23:1-3; 2 Chron. 34:29-32)
- h. Josiah put away all the idolatrous priests, who worshipped and burned incense to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to the host of heaven. The king also defiled and destroyed the Asherim and the high places of Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, and Milcom (Moleck), the abomination of Amon. (2 Kings 23:4-14, 24; 2 Chron. 34:33)
- i. Josiah *“commanded all the people saying, ‘Celebrate the Passover to the Lord as it is written in the book of the covenant.’”* (2 Kings 23:21)
- j. Josiah celebrated the greatest Passover in Jerusalem since the days of the judges in the time of Samuel, about 450 years earlier. (2 Kings 23:22, 23; 2 Chron. 35:1-19)
- k. *“And before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.”* (2 Kings 23:25)
- l. Josiah’s one military failure was to fight against Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt on behalf of the king of Assyria in a battle against Babylon. Josiah did not seek the Lord’s will in this decision, but remembering that Assyria had been his enemy, he failed to recognize that in reality the greater enemy now was Babylon. This bad decision cost him his life. (2 Kings 23:29, 30; 2 Chron. 35:20-25)