

Judah (House of David)

Hezekiah (726-696)	
Manasseh (696-641)	
Amon (641/640)	
Josiah (640-609)	
Jehoahaz (609)	Jehoiakim (609-598)
Jehoiachin (598)	Zedekiah (597-586)
BABYLONIAN EXILE (586)	

Israel

CAPTURED BY ASSYRIA (772)

Throughout the history of the two kingdoms, there was a general animosity between them. Only rarely (as in the case of Jehoshaphat and Ahab) did they band together to fight a shared enemy. In most cases, kings listed together either were rival claimants or had short reigns. Those marked with ^{CR} were co-regents with their successors. One king of Judah, Uzziah, outlived three such heirs apparent.

The northern kingdom of Israel was generally more wealthy and more cosmopolitan because it had coastal access to the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon, as well as the coastal trade routes. The southern kingdom of Judah was less well off but more populous. It generally rose to prominence when they greater powers to the north - Assyria - and east - Babylon - struggled. It was mostly dependent upon Egypt and Midian for trade, isolated from the Mediterranean world by its much larger neighbor, Israel.

After Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom's capital of Samaria, Judah experienced a reprieve from oppression that allowed for its period of greatest prosperity under the later kings Hezekiah, Manasseh and Josiah, who reigned for a combined 120 years, over a quarter of the kingdom's history.

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