

## The House of David

### *Outside of the Bible*

**The Tel Dan Inscription:** A 9th century BCE Aramaic inscription which references a victory over Omri king of Israel and his ally “the king of the House of David.” This is the first extrabiblical reference to the House of David. Since it was found as part of the pavement in a later construction, there is no clear indication where it was erected originally.



**Mesha’s Victory Stela:** The Moabite king Mesha commissioned this stela to either proclaim his victories or idealize his kingdom (there is some debate). The stela was broken into pieces by Bedouin who hoped to sell it off. In 1994, Epigrapher Andre Lemaire reconstructed line 31 to read, “the house of David.”

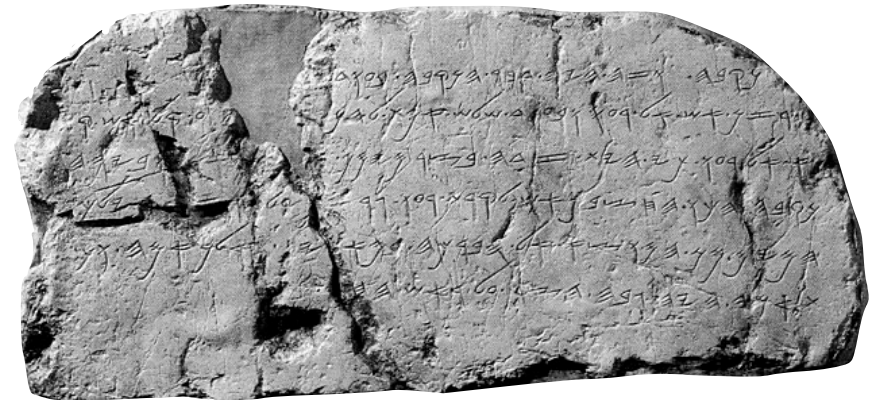


**Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser:** The Israelian king Jehu is depicted bringing tribute to the Assyrian king. A similar monument, the Khurkh monolith is the only reference in Assyrian records to Israel as a nation.

## Hezekiah

### *History’s First King of Judah*

There is no reason to doubt the historical record of the House of David, which ruled from Jerusalem from around 1000–600 BCE. Hezekiah (r. 726–696 BCE) is the first clearly attested southern king to appear in the historical record outside of the Bible.



**The Siloam Tunnel Inscription:** Although it does not name Hezekiah, this dedication of the tunnel supplying water to the pool of Siloam undoubtedly dates from Hezekiah’s reign (2 Kgs 20:20).



**Hezekiah’s Seal:** Several *bullae* (seal impressions) bearing the inscription “Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King of Judah” have been found in Jerusalem.



**The City of David Fragment:** The text on this small fragment (5.3”x3.7”) was recently deciphered. It contains Hezekiah’s name, and it was found in fill dating from his reign.

## 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 (722)

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 <sup>CR</sup> 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.

# THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Based on Gershon Galil, *The Chronology of the Kings of Israel and Judah*

## Judah (House of David)

Rehoboam (931-914)	
Abijah (914-911)	
Asa (911-870)	
Jehoshaphat (870-840)	
Joram (851-843)	<i>Joram of Israel (842)</i>
Jehoash (842-801)	<i>Athaliah (842-835)</i>
	Amaziah (805-788) <sup>CR</sup>
Uzziah (788-735)	Jotham (758-742) <sup>CR</sup>
	Ahaz (742-726) <sup>CR</sup>
Hezekiah (726-696)	

## Israel

Jeroboam (931-909)	
Elah (909)	
Baasha (908-885)	
Zimri (885)	
Tibni (884-880)	Omri (884-873)
Ahab (873-852)	
Ahaziah (852)	
Joram (851-842)	
Jehu (842-815)	Jehoahaz (819-804)
Joash (805-790) <sup>CR</sup>	
Jeroboam (790-750)	
Pekah (750-731)	Menahem
	Zechariah (750)
	Shallum (749)
	Pekahiah (738)
Hoshea (731-722)	

