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42 Kings and A Queen of Israel

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Hi, and welcome to Faith with Petra. I'm Petra the author and creator of this blog Faith with Petra.

Now, the title of this post is called 42 kings and a queen of Israel because today I'm looking at the tumultuous history of Israel's kings and a queen that ruled the nation of Israel as recorded in the Bible.

First things first, context.

Israel had a long series of Judges, the last being Samuel. When Samuel had become very old the natural next judge of Israel was presumed to be one of his sons. But Samuels' son did not inherit the same integrity and dependence on the Lord as Samuel did.

"But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice" – 1 Samuel 8:3

So, the Israelites assembled together and decided they wanted a king like the other surrounding nations. Samuel disturbed by this enquired of the Lord about this in prayer and the Lord told him to listen to the people.

The Lord revealed to Samuel that Saul, a Benjamite would be king. At first King Saul was devoted to the Lord but not before long the power and pride



perverted his relationship with God. He had forsaken God and God had forsaken him as king of Israel.

The Lord had revealed to Samuel that David from the tribe of Judah would be the next king. King David is a prolific king. Defeating Goliath with just a sling and stone, killing 10,000s of Philistines delivering Israel from all its enemies and providing the eventual peace God had intended the Israelites to live under since their arrival in Canaan. David played a pivotal role in providing the springboard for Israel's ascent to great power and prestige as seen in king Solomon's reign.

But at the bedrock to all of David's achievements was his consistent reliance and devotion to God.

Daniel is described as being a man after God's own heart. *"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will"* ~ Acts. 13:22

Near the end of David's reign there is a contention to who will become king. But Solomon, David's son with Bathsheba (Uriah's wife) succeeds him as king.

Solomon is noted as the wisest man in the bible because when asked by God what he wants, he chose discernment to govern His people. So in full abundance God granted his request. Under Solomon's kingship Israel rises to be the most prestigious country, of world acclaim and leaders of distant lands visit in admiration of Solomon's wisdom. He successfully builds the temple of the Lord that during his times would be likened to a wonder of the world.

But in the later years of Solomon's reign, he begins to forsake the Lord because of his many wives, engaging in idolatry. He also begins to heavily tax the people that causes civil unrest, at the end of his kingship the people of Israel revolt leading to the kingdom being split. The



northern territory known as the **Kingdom of Israel** appoint someone outside of the royal lineage- Jeroboam as king. The southern kingdom known as the **Kingdom of Judah** keep the royal lineage and Rehoboam, Solomon's son reigns.

From this instance we see a series of kings in the northern kingdom reign who in God's eyes are all evil, they have no regards for God's laws and engage in more pagan and idolatrous act. The southern kingdom albeit slower also decline and forsake God; we see the rise of evil kings such as: Manasseh; the power-crazy queen of Athaliah who after the death of her son King Ahaziah usurped the throne reigning for 7 years and massacred all the members of the royal house of Judah who threatened her reign except Joash, who later became king.

Although, the Southern kingdoms did have their stint of good kings: King Abijah, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah, the overrule of evil kings and the stubbornness and apostate state of the people of Israel inevitably result in the whole nation of Israel having enemies once again but this time they completely overruled and attacked the Israelites. The Assyrians and Babylonians send both kingdoms of Israel into exile.

But to end of a high note, God always has a plan for his beloved children of Israel. Despite the failures in establish a lasting kingdom of peace and safety by the judges and the 42 kings and queen of Israel. Jesus our ultimate saviour did what they could not do, he would establish his kingship forever and provide lasting rule, peace and safety now and forever **to all who believe in Him.**

All hail the King Jesus!

