

Prophecy Redefined

by John MacArthur

The summary quote from the article below is an excellent summary of all objections to the legitimacy of modern, so-called “prophets”

*From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible demonstrates four foundational characteristics of true prophecy. **First, true prophecy is always verbal**, the very words of God. It’s never an impulse or an impression; it’s never a feeling that needs interpretation.[2] Rather, true prophecy is a precise message.*

***Second, true prophecy is propositional**—it is testable as either true or false. That’s what logicians recognize as the law of the excluded middle—a proposition is either true, or its negation is true. If someone invokes the Holy Spirit as the source of his prophecy, but what he says is false, God commands His people to reject both prophecy and prophet (Deuteronomy 13:1–5; Deuteronomy 18:20–22).*

***Third, true prophecy is infallible.** Whatever God spoke through His prophets was error-free and utterly unaffected by human fallibility.*

*Fourth, because a true prophecy is verbal, propositional, and inerrant, the only conclusion to draw is that it carries the full weight of divine authority. Ever since the end of the apostolic age and the completion of the canon, **only Scripture can legitimately claim that level of authority (2 Timothy 3:16).***

The rest of the article goes into detail on the cessationist-continuationist debate, which can get a bit confusing and into the theological weeds, but if you are interested in it, take time to read the rest at: <https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B140312>

For more articles links and my comments about them on the topic of so called “prophets today,” go to the Bible805 website at this link: <https://wp.me/pazrJD-Lq>

Historical Summary of the last kings of Judah, 609 to 586 BC

The Southern Kingdom of Judah is all that remains after Assyria conquered and exiled the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

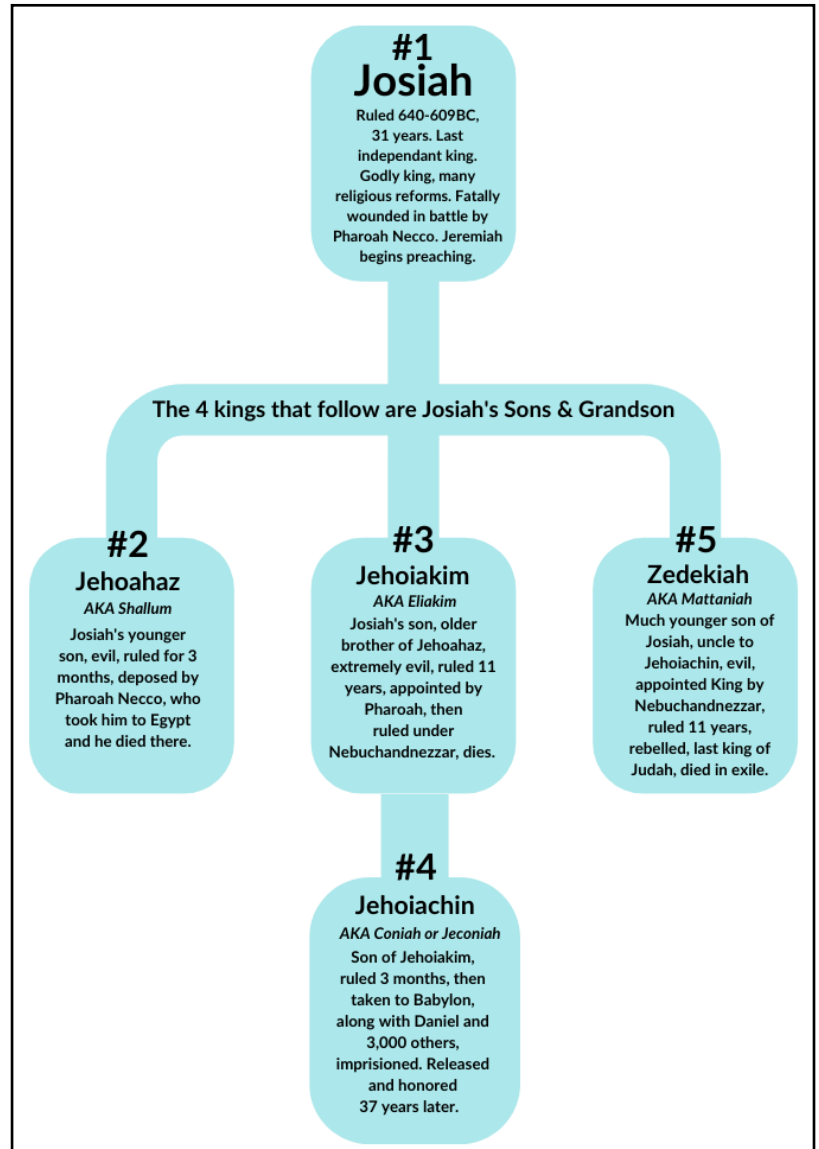
Josiah, in the line of David, was the last of the independent kings. His sons and grandson, while holding the title of King, were vassal states of first Egypt and then Babylon until Jerusalem was totally destroyed in 586 BC. Josiah was also the last good and godly king and he ruled 31 years. Jeremiah the prophet began preaching during Josiah's life and continued through the lives of the following four kings and are recorded in and Lamentations. Though ignored and mocked, he preached faithfully.

Near the end of his life, Josiah (#1) foolishly went out to fight Pharaoh Necco, where he was fatally wounded. After Josiah died, his second son, Jehoahaz (#2) was made king, but he only lasted three months because Pharaoh took control of Judah, deposed Jehoahaz, and installed his older brother Jehoiakim (#3) as king.

Jehoiakim was incredibly evil, but ruled for 11 years and in the last three years of his life Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt and took over Judah. When Jehoiakim died, his son, Jehoiachin (#4) became king, but Nebuchadnezzar deposed him and appointed his uncle, Zedekiah (#5), who was also a son of Josiah as king. He took Jehoiachin to Babylon, where he was imprisoned for 37 years, eventually released, and honored. At the same time he was deported, all the royal household and 3,000 of the people, including Daniel, were taken to Babylon.

Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He tried to betray Babylon, but Egypt did not come to his aid as he hoped for. Nebuchadnezzar came to Judah, totally destroyed it; murdered Zedekiah's sons, put out his eyes, and took him in chains to Babylon where he died.

Infographic of the Last 5 Kings of Judah



The lives of these Kings illustrate the truth that though it might be hard to follow God's commands, life is ultimately far more difficult and the endings disastrous both for the king personally and for the nation when they do not follow God's commands.

The Biblical account of the lives of these kings is found in 2 Kings 23-25 and 2 Chronicles 36.