**The Kings of Ancient Israel**

**King Saul** of Ancient Israel

* In the **year 884** BCE, 393 years after the Jewish people first entered the Land of Israel, **Saul** is anointed as the first king by the prophet **Samuel** in accordance with the wishes of the people.
* Saul was head and shoulders above everyone **physically**.
* Saul was head and shoulders above everyone **morally and ethically**.
* His one weakness ― his sense of humility interferes with his duty as king.
* When the **Ammonites** invade, Saul finally rises to the occasion and accepts kingship. He went on to lead the Jewish people in a series of victories against her enemies and thus establishes his authority as king and solidifies his leadership.
* **Saul's** reign lasts from 884 to 882 BCE.
* **Saul** later became jealous of David because of David’s battle field victories.
* King Saul died at the **Battle of Gilboa**.



**King David** of Ancient Israel

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| * Fought Goliath with a sling shot.
* Second King of Israel
* Warrior
* Poet
* Musician
* Was king from 1010 to 970 B. C.
 | * Ruled for 40 years.
* He united the people of Israel.
* He led them to victory in many battles.
* He built the city of **Jerusalem** as his capital.
* He paved the way for his son, [**Solomon**](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Solomon.html)**,** to build the [**Holy Temple**](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/The_Temple.html).
* He came from the town of **Bethlehem** were he was a shepherd.
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**King Solomon** of Ancient Israel

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| * King David’s son
* Ruled from 970 to 928 B.C.
* He was king for 40 years.
* He was a writer.
* He composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.
* He wrote the Song of Songs, the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
 | * He amassed great wealth.
* He had foreign alliances with Egypt and Phoenicia.
* He built numerous cities.
* He constructed copper smelting furnaces.
* He built the **first holy Temple** in Jerusalem.
* He was buried in the City of David.
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**King Herod** of Ancient Israel

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| * Herod was born in 75 B.C.
* He ruled from 37 to 4 B.C.
* He was disliked by the Jews because they were all too aware that his true loyalty was to the Romans who made him king.
* He had many buildings built during his reign.
* In 20 B.C. he began the reconstruction of the **Temple of Jerusalem.** It was finished in 10 B.C.
* Herod is believed to have died at his Winter Palace in Jericho around 4 B.C.
* He is believed to have killed some of his own children from time to time, and at least one of his numerous wives.
 | * He is reported to be the one who tried to have the infant Jesus killed.
* With reports of the birth of the "king of the Jews" he had all the male children in [Bethlehem](http://www.keyway.ca/htm2002/bethlhm.htm) and in that region who were two years old or under killed. (some say he did not have the power to do this because the Romans were really in charge).
* Not very long (maybe a year) after Joseph and Mary fled with Jesus into Egypt, they heard that Herod was dead and they returned to Israel.
* Some records say Herod was a great king and was made to look bad by the Israelites.
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