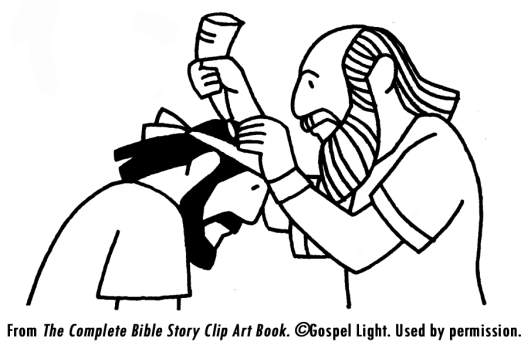
**The Kings of Ancient Israel**

**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**.



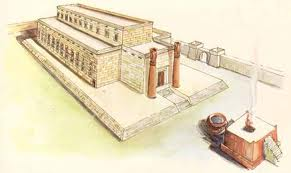
**King David** of Ancient Israel

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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. |

**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. |

**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. |