

= Amon of Judah =

Amon of Judah (Hebrew : אָמֹן ; Greek : Ἀμόν ; Latin : Amon) was a 7th @-@ century BC King of Judah who , according to the biblical account , succeeded his father Manasseh of Judah . Amon is most remembered for his idolatrous practices while king , which led to a revolt against him and eventually his assassination in c . 641 BC .

= = Life = =

Amon was the son of King Manasseh of Judah and Meshullemeth , a daughter of Haruz of Jotbah . Although the date is unknown , the Hebrew Bible records that he married Jedidah , the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath . Amon began his reign of Judah at the age of 22 , and reigned for two years . Biblical scholar and archeologist William F. Albright has dated his reign to 642 ? 640 , while professor E. R. Thiele offers the dates 643 / 642 ? 641 / 640 . Thiele 's dates are tied to the reign of Amon 's son Josiah , whose death at the hands of Pharaoh Necho II occurred in the summer of 609 . Josiah 's death , which is independently confirmed in Egyptian history , places the end of Amon 's reign , 31 years earlier , in 641 or 640 and the beginning of his rule in 643 or 642 .

The Hebrew Bible records that Amon continued his father Manasseh 's practice of idolatry and set up pagan images as his father had done . II Kings states that Amon " did that which was evil in the sight of YAWEH , as did Manasseh his father . And he walked in all the way that his father walked in , and served the idols that his father served , and worshipped them . " Similarly , II Chronicles records that " ? he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord , as did Manasseh his father ; and Amon sacrificed unto all the graven images which Manasseh his father had made , and served them . " The Talmudic tradition recounts that " Amon burnt the Torah , and allowed spider webs to cover the altar [through complete disuse] ... Amon sinned very much . " Like other textual sources , Flavius Josephus too criticizes the reign of Amon , describing his reign similarly to the Bible .

After reigning two years , Amon was assassinated by his servants , who conspired against him , and was succeeded by his son Josiah , who at the time was eight years old . After Amon 's assassination his murderers became unpopular with the people , and were ultimately killed . Some scholars , such as Abraham Malamat , assert that Amon was assassinated because people disliked the heavy influence that Assyria , an age @-@ old enemy of Judah responsible for the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel , had upon him .

= = Era = =

Amon 's reign was in the midst of a transitional time for the Levant and the entire Mesopotamian region . To the east of Judah , the Assyrian Empire was beginning to disintegrate while the Babylonian Empire had not yet risen to replace it . To the west , Egypt was still recovering under Psamtik I from its Assyrian occupation , transforming from a vassal state to an autonomous ally . In this power vacuum , many smaller states such as Judah were able to govern themselves without foreign intervention from larger empires .