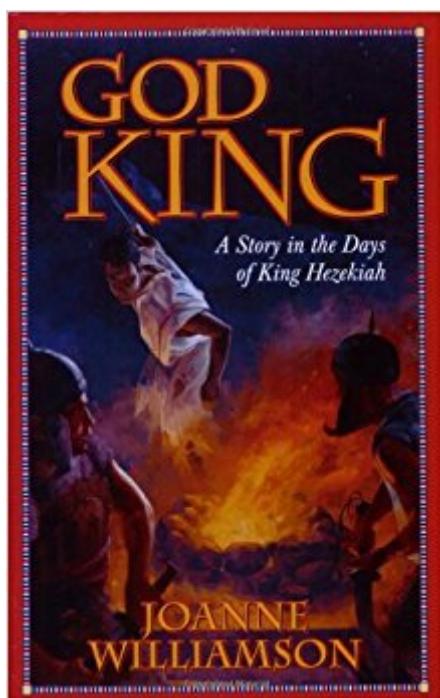


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# God King: A Story In The Days Of King Hezekiah (Living History Library)



## **Synopsis**

A never-before published tale by the author of the best-selling Hittite Warrior, carries the reader back to Ancient Egypt and biblical Jerusalem. It is 701 B.C.-rule of the Kushite dynasty in ancient Egypt. Young Prince Taharka, a very minor royal son, succeeds unexpectedly to the throne of Kush and Egypt-a divine rulership. It's not long, however, before a treacherous plot pushes him into sudden exile and into the hands of Amos, an emissary of King Hezekiah seeking help against the Assyrians. Posing as a medical assistant, Taharka journeys with Amos to Judea where he encounters two kings in conflict. His true identity suddenly uncovered, he must choose with whom he will fight-the mighty Assyrian, Sennacherib, promising alliance or Hezekiah, the Jew who trusts in Yahweh. A novel inspired by research on the historical King Taharka and his period.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

JOANNE S. WILLIAMSON was born in 1926, in Arlington, Massachusetts. Though she had interests in both writing and music, and attended Barnard College and Diller Quaile School of Music, it was writing which became the primary focus for her career after college. She was a feature writer for Connecticut newspapers until 1965, when she moved to Kennebunkport, Maine and began to write historical fiction for young people. In each of Miss Williamson's novels, now totaling

eight with God King, she explores unusual historical slants of well-known events. In her first book, Jacobins Daughter, she tells a true story of the French Revolution; in The Eagles Have Flown, she presents a picture of Julius Caesar's time and gives a sympathetic portrayal of Brutus. She has a remarkable knack for using her fictional characters and plot to make connections between real historical persons and events. In a time when history is often taught in bits and pieces these connections are a great help, not only to the younger reader, but to the older one as well. Her third book, Hittite Warrior, has been well received in its recent reprinting for just this facility in showing the inter-relatedness of the ancient Hittite, Hebrew, Canaanite and Greek peoples in the 12th century before Christ. In God King, written some years ago, but now published for the first time, similar fascinating connections are made for a later period in Israel's history. Before God King (and the reprinting of Hittite Warrior), Joanne Williamson's last book to be published had been To Dream Upon a Crown in 1967. The issue of this retelling of Shakespeare's Henry VI trilogy coincided with the unfortunate decline in America of interest in intelligent historical fiction for young people. At that time, she returned to her second calling and taught music until her retirement in 1990. Now interest has been rekindled in her books and in those of other writers of historical fiction. This renewal should be a great source of satisfaction to the many readers, young and old, who are discovering again the fascinating nation of man's story throughout the ages. Joanne Williamson died July 5, 2002.

I'm reading this a chapter every night to my 7 year old daughter. It is sooooo interesting, and I'm constantly tempted to read ahead. I highly recommend this book to anyone. It sparks curiosity to learn more about the several civilizations written about in the book, the history, the culture, yet it is an action-packed book that seems to have quite a bit of research put into it. The chapters are also not overwhelming to read out loud if you do end up using it as a read-aloud.

This was a reading assignment for our home school Co-op. My 11 yr old son enjoyed it. Some of the wording is harder but that didn't stop him reading the whole book in 2 weeks. I like that because we purchased it on the Kindle, when he had to look up a meaning of the word, he just clicked on it. (He already looks up words for other subjects in a book dictionary and not having to stop reading to look up a word is a great benefit to a struggling reader)

Coming-of-age, coming-to-kingship, and a cast of African, Egyptian, Israeli, Corinthian, and Assyrian characters. Historical novel set in the time of Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem. Some

scary stuff in the war -- they watch the fall of a besieged city and the mayhem afterward, the impalement of the warriors (not gory at all, Moms), and the terrified captives being led away. This book has a black Nubian king-Pharaoh for a main hero -- plus, he's the child of a slave girl. It's great. My kids are pretty sheltered, but I have no qualms about reading this to them. (Author's notes give the scripture references in II Kings, Chronicles, and Isaiah for further reading.)

The characters were engaging and well shaped. The story is exciting to the last. Nothing was boring. I love historical fiction & this book will be on my favorites list! Couldn't put it down! All ages would enjoy this book - abt 10 to 110! Some gruesome descriptions might scare little kids. 5 stars because it's worth a read!!

I'm always looking for some high interest historical fiction to supplement my Ancient Civilization class. This was a good read that I think my boys and girls will enjoy. I know I did! I'll use as an introduction to our Ancient Egypt studies. I've been to Thebes and it is "spot on."

Well-developed characters, vivid description, intriguing plot with lots of action, and a hero who is actually heroic ... all skillfully woven into a fabric of historical places and events. Love this book! The vocab is strong too, unlike so many teen/tween reads. Can't wait to use this with my 9/10 English students to complement their World History course.

A young man's act of courage thrusts him into a spotlight he neither sought nor wants, yet he rises to and exceeds expectations, while learning deep truths about friendship, leadership, faith and self. This page-turner, set in Biblical times, this book offers religious connections while avoiding being overtly "preachy." It would be of interest to anyone looking for excellent historical fiction about the BC era in which African leaders ruled Egypt and the Assyrians conquered the Middle East. Truly, Ms. Williamson has a gift for bringing history to life in a way that will inspire young people. I would recommend it for grades 5 and up.

This well written story is engaging for children and adults alike. The author's use of Biblical scripture on which to build her story makes the reading even more relevant. Her blend of Biblical events and fictional embellishments is masterful. I would recommend reading the story and then reading the Biblical accounts. Highly recommended for middle to upper Elementary and Middle school students. It would be relevant and a quick read for High Schoolers.

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