

Sumerian King List

Pre-flood List¹	
Ruler	Length of Reign
Alulim	8 sars ² (28,800 years)
Alalngar	10 sars (36,000 years)
<i>“Then Eridug fell and the kingship was taken to Bad-tibira.”</i>	
En-men-lu-ana	12 sars (43,200 years)
En-men-gal-ana	8 sars (28,800 years)
Dumuzid, the Shepherd	10 sars (36,000 years)
<i>“Then Bad-tibira fell and the kingship was taken to Larag.”</i>	
En-sipad-zid-ana	8 sars (28,800 years)
<i>“Then Larag fell and the kingship was taken Zimbir”</i>	
En-men-dur-ana	5 sars and 5 ners ³ (21,000 years)
<i>“Then Zimbir fell and the kingship was taken to Shuruppag.”</i>	
Ubara-Tutu ⁴	5 sars and 1 ner (18,600 years)
<i>“Then the flood swept over.”</i>	

1 The Sumerian King List attributes thousands of years to reigns before the flood. (We might ask, Which flood?) This kind of exaggeration is typical of writing in ancient cultures. However, the significance of the pre-flood and post-flood lists are the recognition that the pre-flood kings lived much longer than the post-flood kings. The numbers in both lists are undoubtedly exaggerated.

2 One *sar* equals 3600 years.

3 One *ner* equals 600 years.

4 Ubara-Tutu is the name given to the father of Utnapishtim in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a polytheistic poem written on twelve ancient tablets in the Akkadian language during the late 2nd millennium BC. The protagonist of the poem was Gilgamesh a hero in ancient Mesopotamian mythology. He was possibly a historical king of the Sumerian city-state of Uruk, who became deified and a major figure in Sumerian legend during the Third Dynasty of Ur (c. 2112 – c. 2004 BC).

Sumerian King List

Post-flood List	
<i>“After the flood had swept over, and the kingship had descended from heaven, the kingship was in Kish.”</i>	
<i>The First Dynasty of Kish</i> ⁵	
Ruler	Length of Reign ⁶
Jushur	1,200
Kullassina-bel	960
Nangishlishma	670
En-tarah-ana	420
Babum	300
Puannum	840
Kalibum	960
Kalumum	840
Zuqaqip	900
Atab (or A-ba)	600
Mashda	840
Arwium	720
Etana	1,500
Balih	400
En-me-nuna	660
Melem-Kish	900
Barsal-nuna	1,200
Zamug	140
Tizqar	305
Ilku	900
Iltasadum	1,200
Enmebaragesi	900
Aga of Kish	625

5 The list consists of several dynasties which are of interest only to scholars. I only present here the first dynasty of Kish as an illustration of the rest of the list.

6 In years.