

# **2 Chronicles 36 - The Final Reigns: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah; Nebuchadnezzar's 1st Siege; Blood Curse on Jeconiah; Proclamation of Cyrus**

## IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

### (2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(Q) Jehoahaz (36:1-4)

(R) Jehoiakim (36:5-8)

(S) Jehoiachin (36:9-10)

(T) Zedekiah (36:11-14)

### (3) Judah taken into the Babylonian captivity (36:15-21)

### (4) Cyrus' decree allowing Judah to rebuild their temple (36:22-23)

The sovereignty of the Davidic kings over Judah ended with the death of Josiah. Judah fell under the control of foreign powers: first Egypt then Babylon. God used other more powerful kings and kingdoms to punish His people for their persistent and increasing apostasy (Cf. 2 Kings 23:31—25:17).

## **2 Chronicles 36**

(Q) Jehoahaz (36:1-4) (Cf. 2 Kings 23:31-33)

**1** Then the people of the land took Joahaz the son of Josiah and made him king in place of his father in Jerusalem.

**1** Then the people of the land took Joahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in place of his father in Jerusalem.

**1** After this, the people of the land installed Josiah's son Jehoahaz in Jerusalem as king to take his father's place.

**1** Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.

2 Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem.

2 Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

2 Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem,

2 Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

3 Then the king of Egypt deposed him in Jerusalem, and imposed a fine on the land of a hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold.

3 Then the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem, and imposed on the land a fine of one hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold.

3 after which the king of Egypt dethroned him and imposed a fine on the land of 100 talents of silver and one talent of gold.

3 And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

- Josiah had at least four sons (Cf. 1 Chr 3:15), three of whom became kings of Judah

— The first of these (though not the oldest) was Jehoahaz, an appointee by the people after Josiah's tragic death

— He remained in power for only three months for reasons not given; Neco dethroned him, then levied on Judah a tax of 100 talents of silver (33 tons) and a talent of gold (75 pounds)

The will of the king of Egypt contrasts with the will of Judah's people. Whereas the people still held out hope that a descendant of David would lead them to the great glories predicted for David's greatest Son, such was not to be the case any time soon. Other superpowers now dominated Judah's affairs. God had given His people over into their hands for discipline (Cf. Deut. 28:32-57). Jehoahaz, rather than lifting the Davidic dynasty to its greatest glories, ended his life as a prisoner in Egypt, the original prison-house of Israel.

4 The king of Egypt made Joahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took his brother Joahaz and brought him to Egypt.

4 The king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Joahaz his brother and brought him to Egypt.

4 King Neco of Egypt installed Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim as king over Judah and Jerusalem, changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim, and took his brother Joahaz back to

Egypt.

4 And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

(R) Jehoiakim (36:5-8) (Cf. 2 Kings 23:36—24:7)

5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

5 Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem, but he practiced what the LORD his God considered to be evil.

5 Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

- Neco replaced Jehoahaz with his brother Eliakim, whom Neco renamed Jehoiakim. Jehoahaz was taken prisoner to Egypt.

— Jehoiakim, a wicked king, reigned in Jerusalem 11 years (609-598 BC), part of the time under Neco and the Egyptians and part of the time under Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.

### **Nebuchadnezzar's 1st Siege of Judah/Jerusalem (605 BC)**

Because of Jehoiakim's wickedness (Cf. Jer 26:21-24) the Lord allowed him to fall to Nebuchadnezzar, who had driven the Egyptians out of Palestine by 605 BC (the same year Daniel and his friends were taken captive to Babylon).

Jehoiakim had at first been loyal to Nebuchadnezzar, but after 3 years (in 602 BC) he rebelled (Cf. 2 Kings 24:1). The chronicler (but not the author of 2 Kings) reported that Jehoiakim was then bound with bronze shackles and taken to Babylon along with sacred objects from the temple. This was Nebuchadnezzar's first of three attacks on Jerusalem—in 605, 597, and 586 BC. Apparently Jehoiakim was released or escaped from Babylon because he was given a dishonorable burial outside the gates of Jerusalem (Jer 22:18-19).

6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze *chains* to take him to Babylon.

6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him and bound him with bronze *chains* to take him to Babylon.

6 As a result, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked him, bound him in bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon.

6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also brought *some* of the articles of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and he put them in his temple in Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also brought *some* of the articles of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also took articles from the LORD's Temple to Babylon and placed them in his temple in Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he committed, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And his son Jehoiachin became king in his place.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place.

8 The rest of Jehoiakim's accomplishments—along with the detestable things that he did that were recorded in his disfavor—are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. His son Jehoiachin became king to replace him.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

- Jehoiakim's conduct did nothing to slow down the inevitable conquest of Jerusalem — Judah's captivity was one step closer when Babylon replaced Egypt as the controller of God's people

— Jehoiakim was not able to establish a dynasty of kings to follow him, as Jeremiah had prophesied (Jer 22:30)

(S) Jehoiachin (36:9-10) (Cf. 2 Kings 24:8-17)

9 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the LORD.

9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months and ten days in Jerusalem, all the while doing what the LORD considered to be evil.

9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

- Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, was 18 years old when he succeeded his father (most translations have 8 years, which seems unlikely since he had wives; Cf. 2 Kings 24:15)
- He reigned only three months and 10 days (598-597 BC)

### **The Blood Curse on Jeconiah (Jehoiachin)**

Jer 22:30: Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

## The Genealogies

Luke	Matthew & Luke	Luke	Matthew
Adam		Nathan	Solomon
Seth		Mattatha	Rehoboam
Enosh		Menan	Abijah
Kenan		Melea	Asa
Mahalalel		Eliakim	Jehoshaphat
Jared		Jonan	Jehoram
Enoch		Joseph	Ahaziah*
Methuselah		Juda	Joash*
Lamech		Simeon	Amaziah*
Noah		Levi	Uzziah
Shem		Matthat	Jotham
Arphaxad		Jorim	Ahaz
Salah		Eliezer	Hezekiah
Eber		Jose	Manasseh
Peleg		Er	Amon
Reu		Elmodam	Josiah
Serug		Cosam	Jehoiakim*
Nahor		Addi	Jehoiachin*
Terah		Melchi	Salatheil
	↓	Neri	Zerubbabel
	Abraham	Salathiel	Abiud
	Isaac	Zerubbabel	Eliakim
	Jacob	Rhesa	Azor
	Judah	Joanna	Sadoc
	Pharez	Juda	Achim
	Hezron	Joseph	Eliud
	Ram	Semei	Eleazar
	Amminadab	Mattathias	Matthan
	Nahshon	Maath	Jacob
	Salmon	Nagge	Joseph
	Boaz	Esli	
	Obed	Naum	
	Jesse	Amos	
	David	Mattathias	
		Joseph	
		Janna	
		Melchi	
		Levi	
		Matthat	
		Heli	
		(Mary)	

\* Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah all died violent deaths; God thus dealing with idolatry literally "to the 3rd and 4th generations" (Ex 20:4-5); their names are therefore "blotted out" according to the Law (Deut 29:20). Jehoiakim and Jechoniah likewise, since the kingdom ended as an independent kingdom with Josiah's death at Megiddo. Thus these were "blotted out" of the groups of "14 generations" in Matthew's account. [E.W. Bullinger's *Companion Bible*, Appendix 99.]

## Levirate Marriage

Levirate (from Latin *levir*, "husband's brother") marriage was codified in the Torah (Deut 25:5-10); Pedaiiah raises up seed for Shealtiel: Zerubbabel. Luke links Pedaiiah to Neri, a blood descendant of David (through Nathan rather than Solomon)

In Zerubbabel's line the chronicler lists Zerubbabel's seven sons and one daughter (1 Chr 3:19-2), but none of them appear in the genealogies of either Matthew or Luke: Matthew,

tracing Jesus' descent from David through Solomon, wrote that the son of Zerubbabel was Abiud (Matt 1:13); Luke, viewing it through Nathan, said Rhesa was that son (Luke 3:27). Either Abiud of Matthew or the Rhesa of Luke are other names for one of the seven sons of Zerubbabel listed in Chronicles or that his name is missing from that list to begin with. That such a thing is possible may be seen in 1 Chr 3:22, where the historian wrote that Shemaiah had six sons but listed only five names.

### **Daughters of Zelophehad**

Every detail—even in the regulations of the Torah—are there by deliberate design; and always point to Christ! There is a peculiar exception recorded in the Torah, the result of a petition by the daughters of Zelophehad, which provided for inheritance through the daughter, if no sons were available and she married within her tribe. (Num 26:33; 27:1-11; 36:2-12; Joshua 17:3-6; 1 Chr 7:15.) It became traditional in such cases that the father would legally adopt his son-in-law (Ezra 2:61= Neh 7:63; Num 32:41, Cf. 1 Chr 2:21-22,34-35; Num 27:3-8). This anticipates the lineage of Christ (Joseph was the son-in-law of Heli (Luke 3:23 uses the word *nomizo*, reckoned as by law).

### **The Virgin Birth**

Hinted at the Garden of Eden: "The Seed of the Woman..." (Gen 3:15) and prophesied by Isaiah: "A Virgin shall conceive..." (Is 7:14). Required by the blood curse on the royal line (Jer 22:30).

### **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Siege of Judah/Jerusalem (597 BC) (Cf. 2 Kings 24:13-16)**

10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent *men* and had him brought to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the LORD; and he made his relative Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the LORD, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

10 At the beginning of the next year, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, along with valuable articles from the LORD's Temple, and he installed Jehoiachin's relative Zedekiah as king over Judah and Jerusalem.

10 And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

- It is unlikely that Jehoiachin exercised much authority during that time

— Like his father Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin was under Nebuchadnezzar's thumb, and he too suffered deportation to Babylon. With him went more of the glory of Israel.

— But 2 Kings 25:27-30 has additional information that Jehoiachin was released from Babylonian imprisonment in the 37th year of his captivity (560 BC) and was placed on a royal pension in Babylon for the rest of his life

(T) Zedekiah (36:11-14) (Cf. 2 Kings 24:17-20; Jer 52:1-3)

**11** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem.

**11** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

**11** Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem.

**11** Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

- Zedekiah, Judah's last king, was evil; this is well documented by the Prophet Jeremiah (Cf. Jer 21:3-7; 32:1-5)

— He reigned for 11 years (597-586 BC)

12 He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.

12 He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God; he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.

12 He practiced what the LORD his God considered to be evil and never humbled himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.

12 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.

- In Zedekiah's reign, Judah bottomed out spiritually. The king refused to humble himself before either Yahweh or Nebuchadnezzar, even though God repeatedly sent messages and messengers urging him to do so.

— Hardness of heart now characterized the Davidic king, as it had characterized the pharaoh of the Exodus

13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear *allegiance* by God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear *allegiance* by God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

13 Zedekiah rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear allegiance in the name of God. Instead, he stiffened his resolve, and hardened his heart, and would not return to the LORD God of Israel.

13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

14 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful, *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the LORD which He had sanctified in Jerusalem.

14 Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people were very unfaithful *following* all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the LORD which He had sanctified in Jerusalem.

14 Meanwhile, all the officials who supervised the priests and the people remained unfaithful, following the detestable example of the surrounding nations. They polluted the LORD's Temple that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

### (3) Judah taken into the Babylonian captivity (36:15-21)

**15** Yet the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

**15** The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

**15** The LORD God of their ancestors pleaded with them time and again through his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on the place of his residence,

**15** And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

- Zedekiah rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar in his 9th year (588 BC; Cf. 2 Kings 25:1), and despite the increasing peril of his predicament, he would not turn to the Lord nor would any of the other leaders or the general population

16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against His people, until there was no remedy.

16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

16 but they mocked God's messengers, despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until there was no remedy for the wrath of the LORD that arose to punish his people.

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

**Nebuchadnezzar's 3rd Siege of Judah; The Destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC) (Cf. 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jer 52:4-30)**

17 So He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or frail; He handed *them* all over to him.

17 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave *them* all into his hand.

17 Therefore he brought up the king of the Chaldeans against them, who executed their young men in the holy Temple, showing no compassion on young man or young virgin, adult men or the aged. God gave them all into the king's control,

**17** Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18 He brought all the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and his officers, to Babylon.

18 All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought *them* all to Babylon.

18 who took back to Babylon every article in God's Temple, whether large or small, including the treasuries of the LORD's Temple, the king's assets, and those of his officers.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

- God had descended on the temple in a cloud at its dedication (7:1). Now He left it in a cloud of smoke.

— Ezekiel, who was already in Babylon when Jerusalem fell during the 3rd siege, saw the glory of God depart from the temple in a vision (Ezek 10:18-19)

19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

19 After this, they set fire to God's Temple, demolished the wall around Jerusalem, burned all of its fortified buildings, and destroyed everything of value.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

- At last Nebuchadnezzar's army came and delivered a smashing blow that brought Judah's independence to an end

— Young and old alike were killed and many of the others taken as prisoners. The valuable treasures of the temple were looted and the building itself burned and reduced to rubble, along with the palaces

— Also the city's wall was broken down. Those who escaped death were taken to Babylon where they existed as slaves till Babylon's fall to Persia in 539 BC.

20 He took into exile those who had escaped from the sword to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

20 Nebuchadnezzar carried off to Babylon those who survived the executions, and they served him and his descendants until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept the Sabbath until seventy years were complete.

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

21 All of this fulfilled what the LORD had predicted through Jeremiah. And so the land enjoyed its Sabbaths, and the length of the land's desolation lasted until a 70-year long Sabbath had been completed.

21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

- Prophesied by Jeremiah (Cf. Jer 29:10; Daniel's reading of it, Dan 9:1ff).

Lev 25:1-5:

1 The LORD then spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you come into the land which I am going to give you, then the land shall have a Sabbath to the LORD.

3 For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its produce,

4 but during the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

5 You shall not reap your harvest's aftergrowth, and you shall not gather your grapes of untrimmed vines; the land shall have a sabbatical year.

God essentially said, "For 490 years you didn't; you now owe me 70"

- In the Davidic Dynasty, there were five revivals, renewals, and reformation: all because of a return to the Word of God.

(4) Cyrus' decree allowing Judah to rebuild their temple (36:22-23) (Cf. Ezra 1:1-4)

**22** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah—the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying,

**22** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah—the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying,

**22** During the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in fulfillment of the message from the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD prompted Cyrus, king of Persia, to make this proclamation throughout his entire kingdom, which was also released in written form:

**22** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

- Cyrus king of Persia (559-530 BC): In his 1st year over Babylon (538 BC) he issued a decree which allowed the people of Judah to return to their land and rebuild their temple — This proclamation—identical to Ezra 1:2-3a and is confirmed by the Cylinder of Cyrus, currently residing in the British Museum in London

— This is a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophetic word (Jer 25:12; 29:10; Cf. Daniel's prayer in Dan 9:4-19)

23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him; go up then!'"

23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which

is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!"

23 AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA All of the kingdoms of the earth have been given to me by the LORD God of Heaven, and he specifically charged me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Therefore, who among the LORD's people trusts in his God? Whoever among this group wishes to do so may travel to Jerusalem.

23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.

The closing words of Chronicles are identical to the opening ones in Ezra. If the same person wrote both books, he may have duplicated this pivotal information to tie the events of these two books together.