

# 2 Kings 24 - Annals of Judah: Jehoiachin & Zedekiah's Evil Reigns in Judah

III. The Southern kingdom from the time of the Assyrian captivity to the Babylonian captivity (2 Kings 18:1—25:30)

(6) Reign of Jehoiakim (23:34—24:7)

(7) Reign of Jehoiachin (24:8-16)

(8) Reign of Zedekiah (24:17—25:7)

## The Babylonian Captivity of Judah

Judah existed as a separate kingdom from 931–586 BC. Like Israel, Judah experienced national ups and downs. Spiritually, Judah was blessed with several godly kings. Of Judah's 19 kings, Scripture marks out 8 as "good." As we look at highlights of Judah's history, the kings who struggled to lead Judah back to God, and the prophets God sent to warn His own, we learn more of the love of God—and more of that godly way of life that can bring blessing even today to you and to me.

## 2 Kings 24

(6) Reign of Jehoiakim (23:34—24:7)

**1** In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years; then he turned and revolted against him.

**1** In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant *for* three years; then he turned and rebelled against him.

**1** During his lifetime, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jehoiakim, who became his vassal for three years, after which he turned against Nebuchadnezzar and rebelled.

**1** In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

- Jehoiakim submitted to Nebuchadnezzar for three years, but then Jehoiakim revolted and unsuccessfully appealed to Egypt for help (Cf. v7)

— He was eventually taken prisoner to Babylon (2 Chr 36:6), but apparently was released or escaped because he died in Jerusalem (Jer 22:19; Cf. comments on 2 Kings 24:10-11)

**2** And the LORD sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. He sent them against Judah to destroy it, in

accordance with the word of the LORD which He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

2 The LORD sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

2 The LORD sent raiding parties from the Chaldeans, Arameans, Moabites, and Ammonites against Jehoiakim. He sent them against Judah to destroy it, in keeping with the message from the LORD that he had spoken through his servants, the prophets.

2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

- Judah was plagued by raiding bands from Babylon, Aramea, Moab, and Ammon, who took advantage of Judah's weakened condition later in Jehoiakim's reign

— God sent these enemies against Judah to punish her for her sins according to the words of the Prophets Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and others

3 It indeed came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove *them* from His sight due to the sins of Manasseh, in accordance with everything that he had done,

3 Surely at the command of the LORD it came upon Judah, to remove *them* from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

3 It was truly by the command of the LORD against Judah that it came, in order to remove them from his sight, because of every sin that Manasseh had committed,

3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;

- Jehoiakim did nothing to postpone God's judgment on Judah for her previous sins

— The prophet Jeremiah despised him for his wickedness (Jer 22:18-19; 26:20-23; 36)

4 and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the LORD was unwilling to forgive.

4 and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the LORD would not forgive.

4 as well as for the innocent blood that he had shed. He had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would not forgive them.

4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

5 Now the rest of Jehoiakim's actions, and everything that he undertook, are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, are they not?

5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

6 So Jehoiakim lay down with his fathers, and his son Jehoiachin became king in his place.

6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son became king in his place.

6 Jehoiakim died, as did his ancestors, and his son Jehoiachin became king in his place.

6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

7 Now the king of Egypt did not come out of his land again, because the king of Babylon had taken everything that belonged to the king of Egypt from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates.

7 The king of Egypt did not come out of his land again, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates.

7 The king of Egypt did not leave his territory again, because the king of Babylon had taken everything that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Wadi of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

7 And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

- Pharaoh Neco did not again assert himself to regain the territory he had lost to Nebuchadnezzar between the Wadi of Egypt (Wadi el-Arish) in the south to the Euphrates River in the north which included all of Palestine

— This too was part of God's sovereign plan to discipline His people and illustrates the strength of Babylon at this time

(7) Reign of Jehoiachin (24:8-16) (Cf. 2 Chr 36:9-10)

**8 Jehoiachin** was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

**8** Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

**8** Jehoiachin became king at the age of eighteen years, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem. His mother was named Hausa. She was the daughter of Elzaphan of Jerusalem.

**8** Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

- "Jehoiachin" - "The LORD Has Appointed"; also called Jeconiah and Coniah

- Jehoiachin began reigning when his father Jehoiakim died. He ruled Judah only three months (598-597 BC) while he was 18 years old and, like Jehoiakim, he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, in accordance with all that his father had done.

9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

9 He practiced what the LORD considered to be evil, just as his ancestors had done.

9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

**10** At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.

**10** At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.

**10** At that time, the servants of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked Jerusalem and the city was placed under siege.

**10** At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

11 And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it.

11 And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it.

11 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up against the city, along with his servants, who besieged it.

11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.

12 Then Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, his mother, his servants, his commanders, and his officials. And the king of Babylon took him *prisoner* in the eighth year of his reign.

12 Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he and his mother and his servants and his captains and his officials. So the king of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his reign.

12 King Jehoiachin of Judah surrendered to the king of Babylon (as did his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers) during the eighth year of his reign.

12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

- Nebuchadnezzar himself decided to go up against Jerusalem, but by the time he arrived (in 597 BC), Jehoiakim had died and Jehoiachin had replaced him as king

— Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar along with the queen mother and all his attendants nobles, and officials. Nebuchadnezzar then took the king prisoner to Babylon.

### **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Siege of Judah/Jerusalem (597 BC) (Cf. 2 Chr 36:10)**

13 He also brought out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and he smashed all the articles of gold that Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, just as the LORD had said.

13 He carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, just as the LORD had said.

13 Nebuchadnezzar carried off from there all of the treasures of the LORD's Temple, along with the treasures in the king's palace. He cut into pieces all the gold vessels in the LORD's Temple that King Solomon of Israel had made, just as the LORD had said would happen.

**13** And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

14 Then he led into exile all *the people of* Jerusalem and all the commanders and all the valiant warriors, ten thousand exiles, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None were left except the poorest people of the land.

14 Then he led away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

14 Then Nebuchadnezzar sent away into exile all of Jerusalem—all the captains, all the valiant soldiers, 10,000 captives, and all of the craftsmen and ironworkers. Nobody remained except the poorest people of the land.

14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the

poorest sort of the people of the land.

— The invasion fulfilled the Lord's warning to Solomon about apostasy (1 Kings 9:6-9)

— A large deportation of Judah's population was taken to exile in 597 BC (Josephus numbered the deportees at 10,832)

**15** So he led Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon; also the king's mother, the king's wives, and his officials and the leading men of the land, he led into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

**15** So he led Jehoiachin away into exile to Babylon; also the king's mother and the king's wives and his officials and the leading men of the land, he led away into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

15 He sent Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon, along with the king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the leading men of the land. He took them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

16 And all the valiant men, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, a thousand, all strong *and* fit for war, these too the king of Babylon brought into exile to Babylon.

16 All the men of valor, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, one thousand, all strong and fit for war, and these the king of Babylon brought into exile to Babylon.

16 All 7,000 of the most valiant soldiers and 1,000 of the craftsmen and ironworkers—all physically fit and trained for battle—were brought by the king of Babylon into exile in Babylon.

16 And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

- Nebuchadnezzar also took captive virtually all the officers and 7,000 soldiers, as well as 1,000 craftsmen and artisans

— In all, 10,000 people were taken captive including the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezek 1:1-3). Only the poorest of the people remained in Judah.

— This was the second time Judahites had been deported to Babylon; the first deportation followed Nebuchadnezzar's victory in 605 BC

(8) Reign of Zedekiah (24:17—25:7) (Cf. 2 Chr 36:11-16)

17 Then the king of Babylon made his uncle Mattaniah king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

17 Then the king of Babylon made his uncle Mattaniah king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

17 The king of Babylon installed Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah as king in his place and then changed his name to Zedekiah.

**17** And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

- Zedekiah was Josiah's third son to rule over Judah, the younger brother of both Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim

- Nebuchadnezzar exercised his sovereign prerogative and changed Mattaniah's name to Zedekiah

— Though Zedekiah was king of the Southern Kingdom the people of Judah apparently did not recognize him as such at the time

— This may have been due in part to his being placed on the throne by a foreign king (2 Chr 36:10-13). This explains why inscriptions from the time refer to Jehoiachin as Judah's last king.

**18** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

**18** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

**18** Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king. He reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother was named Hamutal. She was the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

**18** Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

- Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began his rule, and he reigned 11 years (597-586 BC)

19 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, in accordance with everything that Jehoiakim had done.

19 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

19 Zedekiah practiced what the LORD considered to be evil, just as Jehoiakim had done,

19 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

20 For *it was* due to the anger of the LORD *that this* happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until He cast them out of His presence. And Zedekiah revolted against the king of Babylon.

20 For through the anger of the LORD *this* came about in Jerusalem and Judah until He cast them out from His presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

20 because through the LORD's anger these things happened to Jerusalem and Judah until he threw them from his presence.

Zedekiah then rebelled against the king of Babylon,

20 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

- Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar by making a treaty with Pharaoh Hophra, pressured by nationalists in Judah to do so (Cf. Jer 37:1—39:18; 52:1-3,17-34)