

2 Kings Lesson 24

2 Kings Chapter 24

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Memory verses for this week: *Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Introduction: In chapter 23, we studied about King Josiah which was a great King in God's sight. He attempted to legislate morality all through the land. He read the word of God and commanded the people to follow God's rules and commandments. His son Jehoahaz took the throne at his death, and we did not follow his father but did evil in the sight of God. He ruled for a short time, and the Egyptians took the land and placed his older brother Eliakim on the throne and named him Jehoiakim. He also did evil in God's sight.

In chapter 24, the beginning of the end of the southern kingdom is at hand. The Babylonians imposed sovereignty over Judah under Jehoiakim. Notwithstanding, King Jehoiakim did wickedly before God. After his death, the first of the Babylonian deportations began with King Jehoiachin being deported. The chapter concludes with Zedekiah his uncle (put in rule by Nebuchadnezzar) rebelling against the Babylonians.

I. The King of Babylon Comes Up

2Ki 24:1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

During the reign of Jehoiakim, son of Josiah, the Babylonians invaded Judah and defeated it. Jehoiakim was allowed to remain as king on the condition that he be in subjection to the Babylonians and obey their edicts. The Babylonian ruler was Nebuchadnezzar. According to Daniel 1:1-2, this was the time when Daniel and his companions were deported to Babylon. The date was 606 B.C. After agreeing to Babylonian sovereignty, Jehoiakim rebelled three years later.

2Ki 24:2 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.

2Ki 24:3 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;

2Ki 24:4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

It was the Lord who sent various hostile nations against Judah (including

Babylon) to destroy it. This impending destruction had been clearly foretold by prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and Huldah the prophetess. Lest there be any question as to God's position in this matter, the bible says, "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".

The sins of Manasseh, his idolatry and godlessness, had taken place almost 100 years earlier. The judgment of God was delayed because of the righteousness of Josiah. It fell upon Judah nevertheless. The Babylonian captivity was God's judgment upon his sinful people. Not only was God's judgment because of the idolatry of Manasseh, it was also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

The modern abomination of abortion in America with its shedding of innocent blood certainly is a parallel to the sins of Manasseh. The judgment of God will fall against it sooner or later.

2Ki 24:5 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?

2Ki 24:6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

2Ki 24:7 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.

With the demise of Jehoiakim, his son Jehoiachin assumed the throne of Judah. Further details regarding both of their reigns is found in II Chronicles 36.

F. B. Meyer in his commentary said:

Jehoiakim was blatant in his blasphemy, [Jer 36:23](#). He was a very contemptible prince, and was carried in chains to Babylon, [Dan 1:1-4](#). Apparently he was temporarily restored to his throne, but in the end he perished ignominiously, [Jer 36:30](#).

What sorrows befell the Holy City! Though God would have gathered her under the wings of his protecting care, she would not, and therefore the times of the Gentiles began, which would now seem to be hastening to their end, [Luk 21:24](#).

In verse 7, we find the king of the Egypt does not come up into Judah any more. Though the Egyptians had imposed a tax upon Judah during the reign of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim's brother, Babylon had extended its influence to the border of Egypt and the Egyptians chose not to challenge it. The river of Egypt likely is the Nile River, or possibly a smaller streambed coming from the Sinai region between Judah and Egypt.

II. Jehoiachin takes the Throne at 18 Years of Age

2Ki 24:8 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.

2Ki 24:9 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

Summary of the reign of Jehoiachin is noted.

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

John Gill makes this comment regarding a supposed discrepancy of Scripture.

“In II Chronicles 36:9 he is said to be but eight years old; which may be reconciled by observing, that he might be made and declared king by his father, in the first year of his reign, who reigned eleven years, so that he was eight years old when he began to reign with him, and eighteen when he began to reign alone.”

This young king, in any event, is remembered having done that which was evil before God even as his father had done. His mother’s name Nehushta literally means ‘brass.’ Implicit is that she may have been brazen in her ways.

2Ki 24:10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

2Ki 24:11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.

Nebuchadnezzar's servants come up against Jerusalem. The judgment of God was against Judah and the city was besieged. Approximately eight years after the initial incursion by Babylon against Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, (in about 597 B.C.) returned against Jerusalem. The Jews resisted and the Babylonians proceeded to besiege the city. Precisely how long the siege lasted is not noted. However, it apparently was not long.

III. Jehoiachin Soon Surrenders

2Ki 24:12 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.

2Ki 24:13 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.

Jehoiachin soon surrendered to the king of Babylon. In the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he captured Jerusalem again and took captive Jehoiachin along with his royal family and all his royal administration.

The Babylonians proceeded to loot the Temple of God, the king's palace, and even the sacred gold vessels for worship at the Temple. They all were carried back to Babylon. Mention of those golden and silver vessels is made again in Daniel 5:2-3.

Dan 5:2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Dan 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them

Not only did Nebuchadnezzar conquer Jerusalem, he essentially depleted the Temple of all its treasures and vessels for service.

2Ki 24:14 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.

2Ki 24:15 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.

2Ki 24:16 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.

The second deportation of Judah to Babylon was executed. Again, this was in about 597 B.C. Anyone of rank, position, or skill in Judah was deported to Babylon. It evidently was at this time when Ezekiel was taken to Babylon as well. Most all of the royal family and other nobles of Judah were also deported to Babylon as captives.

Along with the nobility and royal family, all men of any military significance were also deported to Babylon. These evidently totaled 10,000 as noted in verse 14.

IV. Zedekiah takes the Throne

2Ki 24:17 And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Verse 17 tells of another son of Josiah taking the throne.

“And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead,

and changed his name to Zedekiah”.

Mattaniah was another son of Josiah as noted in I Chronicles 3:15. He was uncle to Jehoiachin who had been just deposed by the Babylonians. The name given him by the Babylonians, Zedekiah, means ‘Jehovah is righteous.’ There undoubtedly is irony and possibly sarcasm in the name.

The Babylonians likely knew that Jehovah, God of Judah, was using them to chastise His people. Jeremiah the prophet had made that clear. They renamed this last hapless king of Judah with a reminder of Jehovah’s judgment upon Judah.

2Ki 24:18 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.

2Ki 24:19 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

As per II Kings 23:31, it is apparent that Zedekiah was a full brother to Jehoahaz as he and Zedekiah had the same mother.

2Ki 23:31 Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

“Zedekiah did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done”.

2Ki 24:20 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 Babylon. (Further details regarding the evil of Zedekiah are recorded in II Chronicles 36:10-13 and Jeremiah 52:1-3).

Jer 52:1 Zedekiah was one and twenty 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.

Jer 52:2 And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

Jer 52:3 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

He hardened himself against God and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet. God’s anger against Judah in general and Zedekiah in particular was about to come to its climax. God providentially led Zedekiah to rebel against the Babylonians which soon brought the fury of their wrath down upon him.

God also used Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to effect His righteous wrath against His rebellious sinful people.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.