

# JUDAH ALONE

## 1) Introduction

- a) The northern kingdom of Israel has been taken into captivity. Only the poorest remain (2 Kings 17)
  - i) Foreigners are brought in from other nations and mixed with the Gentiles, becoming “Samaritans”
- b) All of Palestine has been greatly affected by the Assyria military
  - i) Syria is gone. Most of Phoenicia was gone. Other kingdoms survived only by paying large tribute
  - ii) If Judah’s next king had been as wicked as Ahaz, it too would have fallen to Assyria
  - iii) Fortunately for Judah, a very faithful king arises that postpones God’s judgment upon them

## 2) Hezekiah

- a) When wicked Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Judah’s greatest king yet (2 Kings 18:1-3,5-8)
  - i) Eradicated high places and idolatry; restored temple worship (2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chron 29, 31)
  - ii) Passover was celebrated, including remnants of the northern kingdom of Israel (2 Chron 30)
- b) Assyria invades Jerusalem, insulting the Jews as well as God (2 Kings 18:13-37; 2 Chron 32:1-19)
  - i) Hezekiah prays to God to deliver him from the ones that had destroyed Israel (2 Kings 19:1-19)
  - ii) God defeats the army of the Assyrians (2 King 19:20-37; 2 Chron 32:21-22)
- c) Hezekiah becomes deathly sick, and is only given a short time to live (2 Kings 20:1; 2 Chron 32:24)
  - i) He prays to God, and God answers his prayer by adding 15 more years to his life (2 Kings 20:2-11)
  - ii) However Hezekiah later became proud and would not give God His due (2 Chron 32:25)
  - iii) When envoys from Babylon visit Hezekiah, he shows them all his riches (2 Kings 20:12-13)
  - iv) Isaiah warns Hezekiah that in years to come, Babylon will carry them all away (2 Kings 20:14-19)

## 3) Manasseh & Amon

- a) The birth of Manasseh was the worst thing that happened during Hezekiah’s last 15 years (2 Chron 33:1)
  - i) Manasseh was the most evil king to reign in either Judah or Israel (2 Kings 21:1-9; 2 Chron 33:2-8)
  - ii) He led Judah to wickedness worse than the previous nations deposed (2 Kings 21:11; 2 Chron 33:9)
  - iii) Because of Manasseh, God’s judgment upon Judah was inevitable (2 Kings 21:10-15)
- b) God punishes Manasseh, allowing Assyria to take him captive to Babylon (2 Chron 33:10-11)
  - i) In captivity, Manasseh humbles himself and prays to God (2 Chron 33:12)
  - ii) God was moved by his pray and rescued him from bondage, restoring him as king (2 Chron 33:13)
  - iii) Manasseh spent the rest of his life serving God and trying to restore Judah (2 Chron 33:14-16)
  - iv) However, Manasseh could not turn the people’s hearts from idolatry (2 Chron 33:17)
- c) When Manasseh died, his son Amon reigned for 2 years (2 Kings 21:19; 2 Chron 33:21)
  - i) Amon practiced all of his father’s evil practices (2 Kings 21:20-22; 2 Chron 33:22-23)
  - ii) Amon’s servants conspired against him, killing him (2 Kings 21:23; 2 Chron 33:24)
  - iii) Judah then killed the servants, making Amon’s son Josiah king (2 Kings 21:24; 2 Chron 33:25)

## 4) Josiah

- a) Josiah began seeking the Lord at 16 yrs old, and purged Judah of idolatry at 20 yrs old (2 Chron 34:2-5)
  - i) Not content with Judah, he also went into Israel and eradicated idolatry there (2 Chron 34:6-7)
  - ii) At 26yrs old, Josiah repairs the temple and in the process finds a book of the law (2 Chron 34:8-18)
  - iii) After hearing the law, Josiah tears his clothes in anguish of how far they’ve drifted (2 Chron 34:19)
  - iv) Josiah acquires of Huldah the prophetess regarding what will happen to Judah (2 Chron 34:20-22)
  - v) Huldah prophecies that judgment is certain, but that Josiah would be spared (2 Chron 34:23-28)
- b) Josiah begins attempting to reform Judah by reading the law before the people (2 Chron 34:29-30)
  - i) Josiah attempts to renew the covenant with God, forcing Judah to stand with him (2 Chron 34:31-33)

- ii) The Passover is once again observed after many years of neglect (2 Chron 35:1-19)
- c) Pharaoh Neco desires to pass through Judah on his way to fight w/Assyria vs. Babylon (2 Chron 35:20)
  - i) Josiah refuses passage and instead meets Neco in battle at Megiddo (2 Chron 35:21-22)
  - ii) In 609BC, Josiah dies in battle. All of Judah mourns the last great king to reign (2 Chron 35:23-27)

5) Jehoahaz & Jehoiakim

- a) Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, is made king over Judah. His reign only lasts 3 months (2 Chron 36:1-2)
  - i) Neco is defeated by Babylon; he goes back through Judah, taking Jehoahaz captive (2 Chron 36:3)
  - ii) An enormous tribute is imposed on Judah, and Josiah's son Jehoiakim is made king (2 Chron 36:3-4)
  - iii) Jehoahaz would never return from Egypt (2 Kings 23:34; Jer 22:11-12)
- b) Jehoiakim was evil. 4 years into his reign, the great battle of Carchemish takes place (Jer 46:2)
  - i) Egypt is greatly wounded and Assyria is defeated and never again recovers. (Nahum)
  - ii) Neco flees back to Egypt with Babylon's general, Nebuchadnezzar, in pursuit
  - iii) Nebuchadnezzar learns his father, King Nabopolassar, has died; he hastens to Babylon to seize the throne
  - iv) On his way back, he stops in Judah to make it a vassal nation, deporting Jews to Babylon (2 Kings 24:1)
  - v) In the first deportation, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego are taken (Dan 1:1-2)
- c) Failure by Babylon to besiege Egypt caused Jehoiakim to switch alliances in 601BC (2 Kings 24:1)
  - i) Jeremiah warns Jehoiakim regarding his sins, but he would not listen (Jer 36)
  - ii) Jeremiah's scribe Baruch read warnings to Jehoiakim; he cut them up and burned them (Jer 36:23)
  - iii) Babylon besieged Jerusalem in 598BC; Jehoiakim died 3 months before its end (Jer 22:18-19; 36:30)

6) Jehoiachin & Zedekiah

- a) Jehoiakim's son, Jehoiachin, became king, reigning 3 months before Babylon's siege ended (2 Chron 36:9)
  - i) Nebuchadnezzar deports a 2<sup>nd</sup> group of Jews to upset Judah's infrastructure (2 Kings 24:14,16)
  - ii) Those deported include Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:15), Ezekiel (Ezek 1:1-3), and Mordecai (Esth 2:5-6)
  - iii) Nebuchadnezzar sets up a 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Josiah, Zedekiah, as his puppet king (2 Kings 24:17)
- b) Jeremiah repeatedly warned Zedekiah to submit to Babylon's rule (Jer 27:12-15; 2 Chron 36:15-16)
  - i) But Zedekiah was evil and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24:18-2; 2 Chron 36:11-14)
  - ii) Zedekiah stops paying tribute to Babylon, forcing Nebuchadnezzar to return to Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1-2)
  - iii) In 586BC, after a 2 yr siege, Nebuchadnezzar destroys the walls and Solomon's temple (2 Kings 25:8-9)
  - iv) All of the articles of the temple were taken to Babylon (2 Kings 25:13-17; 2 Chron 36:18)
  - v) Zedekiah's children are slain before his eyes; Zedekiah's eyes are then plucked out (2 Kings 25:7)
  - vi) Nebuchadnezzar forces a 3<sup>rd</sup> deportation of Jews, leaving only a few of the very poorest (2 Chron 36:20-21)
  - vii) The remaining few murder the governor, and flee to Egypt, forcing Jeremiah to go with them (Jer 40 – 45)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deportation</b>	<b>Captives Taken</b>
<b>605</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Nobles, Daniel</b> (2 K. 24:1; Dan. 1:1-2)
<b>597</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Jehoiachin, Ezekiel</b> (2 K. 24:12; Jer. 52:28; Ezk. 1:1-2)
<b>586</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b> (2 K. 25:8; Jer. 52:29)