

2 Chronicles 36:1-23 **Last 4 Kings of Judah – Fall of Jerusalem – Decree of Cyrus**

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:31-33)

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

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

3 Now the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

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

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34-24:7)

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 Yahweh Eloheyk (the Lord his God).

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

7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of Yahweh (the Lord) to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8-17)

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

10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord), and made Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah (2 Kings 24:18-20; Jeremiah 52:1-3)

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

12 He did evil in the sight of Yahweh Eloheyk (the Lord his God), and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of Yahweh (the Lord).

13 And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by Elohiym (God); but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel).

14 Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

The Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 52:4-30)

15 And Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God of) their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

16 But they mocked the messengers of Elohiym (God), despised His words, and scoffed at His

prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh (the Lord) arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

17 Therefore He brought 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, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.

18 And all the articles from Beit Elohiym (the house of God), great and small, the treasures of the Beit Yahweh (house of the Lord), and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon.

19 Then they burned Beit Elohiym (the house of God), broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

21 to fulfill the word of Yahweh (the Lord) by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

The Proclamation of Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4)

22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Yahweh (the Lord) by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Yahweh (the Lord) stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

23 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God of) heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May Yahweh Elohayv (the Lord his God) be with him, and let him go up!
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:31-33) [2 Chronicles 36:1-4]

- ✧ The people made Jehoahaz the son of Josiah king of Judah in the place of his father.
- ✧ He did evil in the sight of Yahweh according to the abominations his fathers had done before him.
- ✧ He reigned three months until Necho king of Egypt took him captive to Egypt where he died.
- ✧ Necho made Eliakim his brother king of Judah changing his name to Jehoiakim and imposed tribute on the land of one-hundred talents of Silver and a talent of Gold.

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34-24:7) [2 Chronicles 36:5-8]

- ✧ Jehoiakim did evil in the sight of Yahweh for eleven years until Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon carried him in bronze fetters to Babylon along with articles from Beit Yahweh.
- ✧ The rest of his acts and abominations are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8-17) [2 Chronicles 36:9-10]

- ✧ Jehoiachin was made king at age eight and reigned in Jerusalem for three months and ten days doing evil in the sight of Yahweh until Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took him to Babylon along with more articles from Beit Yahweh and made Zedekiah brother of Jehoiakim king in his place.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah (2 Kings 24:18-20; Jeremiah 52:1-3) [2 Chronicles 36:11-14]

- ✧ Zedekiah began his evil eleven year reign at age 21 in Jerusalem.

- ✧ Yahweh spoke to him through Jeremiah the prophet, but he hardened his heart against turning back to Yahweh.
- ✧ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar breaking his oath.
- ✧ All the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled Beit Yahweh (the house of the Lord) which Yahweh (the Lord) had consecrated in Jerusalem.
- ✧ A nation defiled by the leaders, priests, and people is ready for judgment and the wrath of Elohiym (God).

The Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 52:4-30) [2 Chronicles 36:15-21]

- ✧ Say to them: 'As I live,' says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' [Ezekiel 33:11]
- ✧ Yahweh, in His great love and compassion, does everything possible to save His people from destruction, sending His messengers to call them back to Himself with warning after warning of coming catastrophe because of their persistent wickedness.
- ✧ But they mocked the messengers of Elohiym (God), despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh (the Lord) arose against His people, till there was no remedy.
- ✧ When the time for His wrath came, He delivered them into the hand of the king of the Chaldeans who slaughtered many and carried the rest to Babylon along with all the remaining treasure from Beit Elohiym and treasure from the houses of the king and his leaders.
- ✧ In Babylon they became servants to him and his sons to fulfill the Word given by Jeremiah of seventy years captivity.
- ✧ The seventy years was to allow the land to lay desolate & enjoy its Sabbaths.

The Proclamation of Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4) [2 Chronicles 36:22-23]

- ✧ Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the Word of Yahweh (the Lord) by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Yahweh (the Lord) stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying;

Thus says Cyrus king of Persia:

All the kingdoms of the earth Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God of) heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May Yahweh Elohayv (the Lord his God) be with him, and let him go up!