

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
2 KINGS 23:34-37; 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8

Introduction

We last looked at **THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOAHAZ** who was **JOSIAH'S** youngest son who was put on the throne by the people of **JUDAH**.

We saw how **JEHOAHAZ** was dethroned by **PHARAOH NECHOH**, the **EGYPTIAN** ruler who killed his father! **JEHOAHAZ** reigned just three months on the throne of **JUDAH**. He was captured, bound, and carried away to **EGYPT** never to return to **JUDAH** again! He died in **EGYPT**!

Next king up for JUDAH ... THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM

I. WE SEE JEHOIAKIM WAS PLACED ON THE THRONE BY PHARAOH-NECHOH. (2 Kings 23:34)

PHARAOH-NECHOH replaced **JEHOAHAZ** with what amounted to a **vassal** or a **puppet king** (That is, **one who he would control and would be subject to him!**)

The pick was **JEHOAHAZ'S** two-year older half-brother **ELIAKIM** whom **NECHOH** renamed **JEHOIAKIM** which maybe he thought sounded more kingly in the **JUDEAN** tradition than **ELIAKIM**.

Or maybe it was a slap in the face against the **JUDEAN** king to place him on the throne and give him a name that means "**JEHOVAH elevates or sets up**". That would imply that **JEHOVAH** was behind **NECHOH** having killed his dad and brother and putting him on the throne to be **NECHOH'S** puppet! (*Which was indeed the case!*) We will refer to him as **JEHOIAKIM**.

II. WE SEE THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM IN JUDAH. (2 Kings 23:35-37; Cf. Jeremiah 22:13-30)

A. JEHOIAKIM And PHARAOH-NECHOH! (2 Kings 23:35)
JEHOIAKIM was nothing more than a puppet king presiding over **JUDAH** that had become nothing more than a **vassal** kingdom under the **EGYPTIANS** and a buffer between **EGYPT** and the growing **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE!**

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
2 KINGS 23:34-37; 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8

In order to pacify **NECHOH**, **JEHOIAKIM** imposed heavy taxes on the people of **JUDAH** and then paid that money to the **EGYPTIANS** as required. As far as **NECHOH** was concerned that was all **JEHOIAKIM** was good for.

B. JEHOIAKIM And JUDAH! (Jeremiah 22:13-19)

In the midst of the heavy taxation of the people of **JUDAH** to pacify **NECHOH**, the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** reveals to us that **JEHOIAKIM** was wasting resources on the construction of a new palace for himself by way of forced labor!

C. JEHOIAKIM And JEHOVAH!

(2 Kings 23:37; Jeremiah 22:21)

"And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done!"

JEHOIAKIM, like his half-brother **JEHOAHAZ**, did not follow the godly example of his father **JOSIAH**. According to **Jeremiah 22:21** this went all the way back to his childhood!

Jeremiah 22:21—"I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; But thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, That thou obeyedst not my voice."

In **Jeremiah 26:20-23**, we find that **JEHOIAKIM** personally slew a prophet by the name of **URIJAH!**

Jeremiah 36:1-3 records the **LORD** giving **JEHOIAKIM** and **JUDAH** one last chance to turn back to **HIM!**

JEREMIAH dictated what the **LORD** said and had a scribe named **BARUCH** write it down.

Jeremiah 36:22-24 describes the great ungodliness of **JEHOIAKIM** in cutting and burning the **SCROLL** of **GOD'S WORD** that **JEREMIAH** received of the **LORD** for him and **JUDAH**.

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
2 KINGS 23:34-37; 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8

In response to this, **JEREMIAH** received another message for the king from the **LORD** in *Jeremiah 36:28-32*.

This **SCROLL** had all the words of the first one plus “*many like words.*” (36:32)

JEHOIAKIM was his own worst enemy by his disobedience!

D. JEHOIAKIM And NEBUCHADNEZZAR!
(*2 Kings 24:1-4; Daniel 1:1-2; Jeremiah 25-28*)

Let me remind you that this is the second time in *2 Kings* that we have seen interaction between a king of **JUDAH** and the **BABYLONIANS**.

We first saw **BABYLONIAN ambassadors (SPIES!)** back in **HEZEKIAH’S** day! Remember how he foolishly took the **BABYLONIAN envoys (SPIES!)** on a **tour of the kingdom including the royal treasure houses**, and **ISAIAH** prophesied that they would return and carry everything off!
(*2 Kings 20:12–21*)

Well, we see here the beginning of the fulfillment of that **PROPHECY** that **ISAIAH** delivered to **HEZEKIAH!**

On top of that, the **LORD** was true to the **WORD** he sent to **JEHOIAKIM** and **JUDAH** by way of the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** and other of **HIS PROPHETS!**

The conflict between **JUDAH** and **BABYLON** that led to the nation’s downfall began during the reign of **JEHOIAKIM**.

Now understand that the **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE** was begun by **NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S** father **NABOPOLASSAR** who died of natural causes right about the time of *Daniel 1*.

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
2 KINGS 23:34-37; 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8

According to *Daniel 1:1-2*, **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** first came and besieged **JERUSALEM** during the third year of **JEHOIAKIM’S** reign. At that time what is known as **THE FIRST DEPORTATION** took place as he carried away certain of the children of **ISRAEL**, and of the king’s seed, and of the princes. (**DANIEL** and the three **HEBREW CHILDREN** were in that **FIRST DEPORTATION**.)

He also carried away part of the vessels of the **HOUSE OF GOD** into the land of **SHINAR** and put them in the treasure house of his god there.

According to *Jeremiah 25:1*, this invasion took place in the fourth year of **JEHOIAKIM’S** reign and in the first year of **NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S** reign. (**605 B.C**)

According to *2 Chronicles 36:6*, **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** bound **JEHOIAKIM** in fetters, to carry him to **BABYLON**. **SCRIPTURE** does not say that he was carried to **BABYLON**. That was probably the point at which **JEHOIAKIM** agreed to be under **NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S** rule instead of **EGYPT**.

JEHOIAKIM and **JUDAH** then became servants to the nation of **BABYLON** instead of **EGYPT!** After three years of that, **JEHOIAKIM** had enough and rebelled against **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** and that didn’t go well for him or **JUDAH!**

Because when he rebelled against **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**, the **LORD** sent **raiding bands** of the **CHALDEES (BABYLONIANS)**, **SYRIANS**, **MOABITES**, and **AMMONITES** against them to **punish JUDAH and destroy her for her many transgressions against the LORD!**

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM)
2 KINGS 23:34-37; 24:1-7; 2 CHRONICLES 36:4-8**

III. WE SEE THE DEATH OF JEHOIAKIM!

(2 Kings 24:5-7; 2 Chronicles 36:8; Jeremiah 22:19)

**A. He Got No Help From EGYPT To Deal With BABYLON
Or The Other Raiders Because EGYPT Had Its Own
Problems Dealing With BABYLON! *(2 Kings 24:7)***

**B. SCRIPTURE Doesn't Say How He Died.
*Jeremiah 22:19—“He shall be buried with the burial of an ass,
Drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.”***

Conclusion

Next week, LORD willing, we will see the next king up.....**JEHOIACHIN!**