

INTRODUCTION

- * We are coming to the conclusion of our study of the Biblical history of Israel in the morning messages. Steve is currently leading a study on the book of Nehemiah on Wednesday evenings. Lord willing, we will be beginning a study of Jeremiah during the adult Sunday School Bible studies within the next two weeks.
- * Two weeks ago, we considered the YHWH-focused reign of Josiah.
- * Today, we begin looking at the reigns of his sons - and, briefly, his grandson.

INSTRUCTION

I. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FINAL KINGS

A. The F _____ T _____

B. The F _____ F _____

1. JEHOAHAZ/Shallum (2 Kgs 23:30-34; 2 Chr 36:1-4; Jer 22:10-11)
2. JEHOIAKIM/Eliakim (2Kgs 23:34-24:5; 2 Chr 36:4-8)
3. JEHOIACHIN/Jeconiah (2 Kgs 24:6-12; 2 Chr 36:8-10; Jeremiah 13:18; 22:24-26; 29:2; Josephus)
4. ZEDEKIAH/Mattaniah (2 Kgs 24:17-19; 2 Chr 36:11-12) ..

II. APPLICATIONS FROM THE REIGN OF JEHOIAKIM

A. His Re _____ by Necho's Decree (cf. 2 Kings 23:34-35)

The P _____ of the S _____ of God!

B. His Re _____ of YHWH's Word
(cf. 2 Kgs 23:36-37; Jer 36:22-23, 27-28)

The P _____ of the W _____ of God!

cf. Isa 40:8; 1 Pt 1:22-25; Mt 24:35

C. His Re _____ against Nebuchadnezzar's Rule
(cf. 2 Kings 24:1-6; 2 Chr 36:6-8; Josephus)

The P _____ of the O _____ of God!

cf. Phil 4:13; Proverbs 3:5-8

INTROSPECTION

- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS INDEED THE WORD OF GOD ... AND THAT IT'S MESSAGE IS JUST AS APPLICABLE TODAY AS IT 2,500 YEARS AGO?
- * DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL HOLD MAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS SIN?
- * HAVE YOU ACCEPTED THE FREE GIFT THAT GOD HAS OFFERED ... PAYING YOUR SIN'S DEBT?
- * WHEN YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH TROUBLESOME TIMES, TO WHOM DO YOU TURN FOR WISDOM, PROTECTION AND DELIVERANCE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

Josephus, "Antiquities of the Jews," Book X, (Chapter 6 through Chapter 7, Paragraph 1)

CHAPTER 6.

How Nebuchadnezzar, When He Had Conquered The King Of Egypt Made An Expedition Against The Jews, And Slew Jehoiakim, And Made Jeholachin His Son King.

1. Now in the **fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim**, one whose name was Nebuchadnezzar took the government over the Babylonians, who at the same time went up with a great army to the city Carchemish, which was at Euphrates, upon a resolution he had taken to fight with Neco king of Egypt, under whom all Syria then was. And when Neco understood the intention of the king of Babylon, and that this expedition was made against him, he did not despise his attempt, but made haste with a great band of men to Euphrates to defend himself from Nebuchadnezzar; and when they had joined battle, he was beaten, and lost many ten thousands [of his soldiers] in the battle. So the king of Babylon passed over Euphrates, and took all Syria, as far as Pelusium, excepting Judea. But when Nebuchadnezzar had already reigned four years, which was **the eighth of Jehoiakim's government over the Hebrews, the king of Babylon made an expedition with mighty forces against the Jews, and required tribute of Jehoiakim**, and threatened upon his refusal to make war against him. He was afrighted at his threatening, and bought his peace with money, and brought the tribute he was ordered to bring for three years.

2. But **on the third year (which would be the 11th yr of Jehoiakim's reign)**, upon hearing that the king of the Babylonians made an expedition against the Egyptians, he did not pay his tribute; yet was he disappointed of his hope, for the Egyptians durst not fight at this time. And indeed the prophet Jeremiah foretold every day, how vainly they relied on their hopes from Egypt, and how the city would be overthrown by the king of Babylon, and Jehoiakim the king would be subdued by him. But what he thus spake proved to be of no advantage to them, because there were none that should escape; for both the multitude and the rulers, when they heard him, had no concern about what they heard; but being displeased at what was said, as if the prophet were a diviner against the king, they accused Jeremiah, and bringing him before the court, they required that a sentence and a punishment might be given against him. Now all the rest gave their votes for his condemnation, but the elders refused, who prudently sent away the prophet from the court of [the prison], and persuaded the rest to do Jeremiah no harm; for they said that he was not the only person who foretold what would come to the city, but that Micah signified the same before him, as well as many others, none of which suffered any thing of the kings that then reigned, but were honored as the prophets of God. So they mollified the multitude with these words, and delivered Jeremiah from the punishment to which he was condemned. Now when this prophet had written all his prophecies, and the people were fasting, and assembled at the temple, on the ninth month of the fifth year of Jehoiakim (**according to Jeremiah 36:1 it was the 4th year of Jehoiakim**), he read the book he had composed of his predictions of what was to befall the city, and the temple, and the multitude. And when the rulers heard of it, they took the book from him, and bid him and Baruch the scribe to go their ways, lest they should be discovered by one or other; but they carried the book, and gave it to the king; so he gave order, in the presence of his friends, that his scribe should take it, and read it. When the king heard what it contained, he was angry, and tore it, and cast it into the fire, where it was consumed. He also commanded that they should seek for Jeremiah, and Baruch the scribe, and bring them to him, that they might be punished. However, they escaped his anger.

3. Now, a little time afterwards, the king of Babylon made an expedition against Jehoiakim, whom he received [into the city], and this out of fear of the foregoing predictions of this prophet, as supposing he should suffer nothing that was terrible, because he neither shut the gates, nor fought against him; yet when he was come into the city, he did not observe the covenants he had made, but he slew such as were in the flower of their age, and such as were of the greatest dignity, together with their king Jehoiakim, whom he commanded to be thrown before the walls, without any burial; and made his son Jehoiachin king of the country, and of the city: he also took the principal persons in dignity for captives, three thousand in number, and led them away to Babylon; among which was the prophet Ezekiel, who was then but young. And this was the end of king Jehoiakim, when he had lived thirty-six years, and of them reigned eleven. But Jehoiachin succeeded him in the kingdom, whose mother's name was Nehushta; she was a citizen of Jerusalem. He reigned three months and ten days.

CHAPTER 7

1. But a terror seized on the king of Babylon, who had given the kingdom to Jehoiachin, and that immediately; he was afraid that he should bear him a grudge, because of his killing his father, and thereupon should make the country revolt from him; wherefore he sent an army, and besieged Jehoiachin in Jerusalem; but because he was of a gentle and just disposition, he did not desire to see the city endangered on his account, but he took his mother and kindred, and delivered them to the commanders sent by the king of Babylon, and accepted of their oaths, that neither should they suffer any harm, nor the city; which agreement they did not observe for a single year, for the king of Babylon did not keep it, but gave orders to his generals to take all that were in the city captives, both the youth and the handicraftsmen, and bring them bound to him; their number was ten thousand eight hundred and thirty-two; as also Jehoiachin, and his mother and friends. And when these were brought to him, he kept them in custody, and appointed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, to be king; and made him take an oath, that he would certainly keep the kingdom for him, and make no innovation, nor have any league of friendship with the Egyptians.