

Kings Series

Lesson #124

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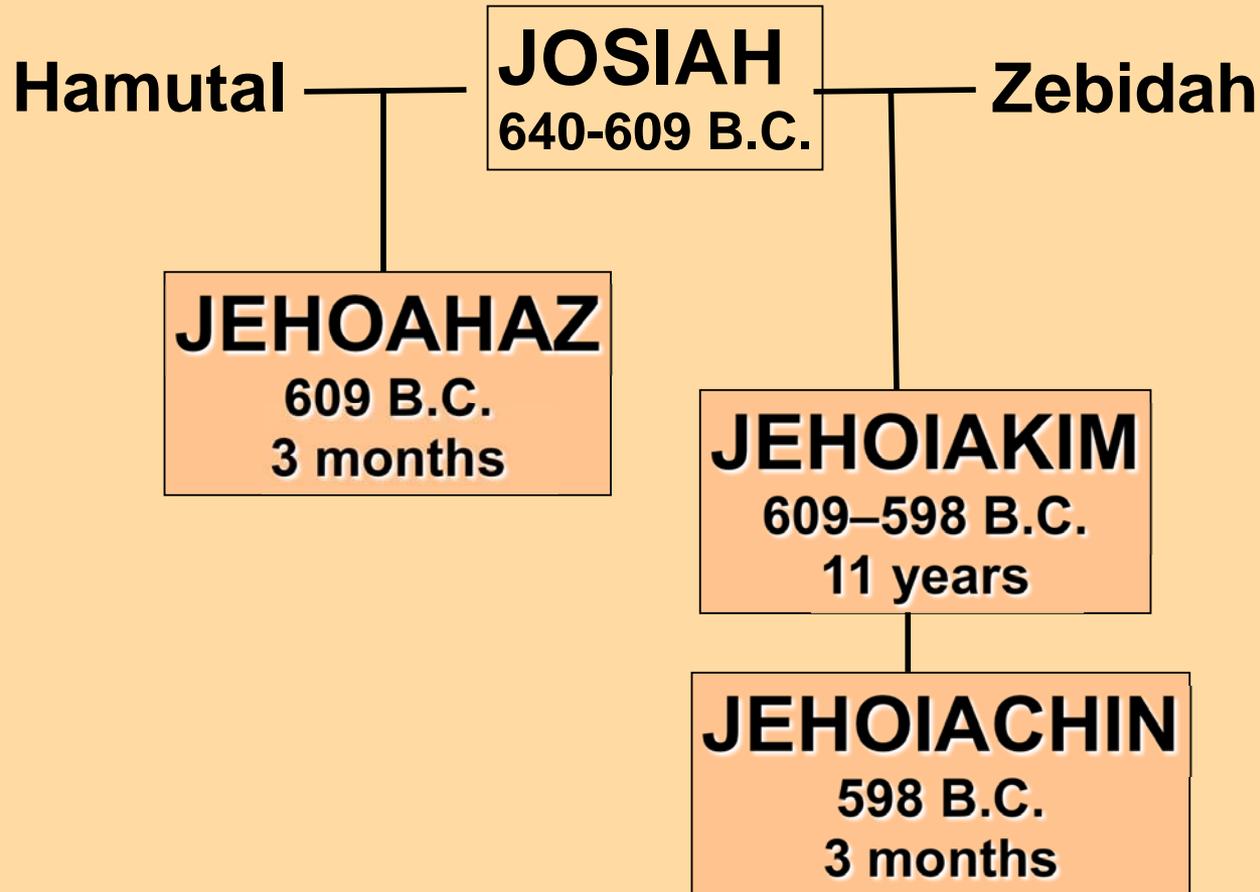
Three Evil Kings

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN JUDGMENT

2 Kings 23:29–24:9

Jeremiah 22

THREE EVIL KINGS



2 Kings 24:2, “The Lord sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

2 Kings 24:3, “Surely at the command of the Lord it came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

2 Kings 24:4, “and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the Lord would not forgive.”

Chronological Benchmarks

King Josiah, Ahaz, Jehoiakim

- 640 Josiah becomes King of Judah**
- 633 Ashurbanipal dies, Assyria declines**
- 630 *Torah* rediscovered in the Temple**
- 626 Nabopolassar begins the Neo-Babylonian Empire**
- 612 Babylonians destroy Nineveh, Assyrians to Haran**
- 610 Assyria defeated, Haran captured by Babylonians**
- 609 Necho moves up to support Assyria against Babylon, Josiah killed at Megiddo**



Assyrian and Babylonian Empires

2 Chronicles 35:20, “After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to make war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him.”



2 Chronicles 35:21, “But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, ‘What have we to do with each other, O King of Judah? I am not coming against you today but against the house with which I am at war, and God has ordered me to hurry. Stop for your own sake from interfering with God who is with me, so that He will not destroy you.’

2 Chronicles 35:22, “However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to make war with him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to make war on the plain of Megiddo.”



Carchemish

Haran

Aleppo

Rezep

Siege of Haran fails;
Euphrates becomes
border between
Babylon and Egypt

Hamath

Arvad

Tadmor

Riblah

Byblos

Necho installs
Jehoiakim in place of
Jehoahaz his brother

Tyre

Damascus

Plain of Megiddo

Megiddo

Josiah killed
near Megiddo

Necho comes
to aid of
Ashur-uballit

Rabbath-bene-ammon

Ashdod

Jerusalem

Ashkelon

Gaza

The word of the Lord
that came to Jeremiah
...before Pharaoh smote Gaza
(Jeremiah 47:1)

Great Sea

Orontes River

Euphrates River

River Jordan

2 Chronicles 35:23, “The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, ‘Take me away, for I am badly wounded.’

2 Chronicles 35:24, “So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.”

2 Chronicles 35:25, “Then Jeremiah chanted a lament for Josiah. And all the male and female singers speak about Josiah in their lamentations to this day. And they made them an ordinance in Israel; behold, they are also written in the Lamentations.” (cf., Lam. 4:20; Jer. 22:10)

2 Kings 23:31, “Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.”

Jehoahaz: 90-Day Disaster

- 1. Reigns 3 months when he is 23.**
- 2. Birth name of Shallum (Jer. 22:10–21; 1 Chron. 3:15)**
- 3. Returns to the pattern of evil of Ahaz, Manassah, and “does evil in the sight of the Lord.”**
- 4. Imprisoned by Necho at Riblah.**
- 5. Later taken to Egypt where he dies.**

2 Kings 23:32, “And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

2 Kings 23:33, “Now Pharaoh Necho put him in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.”

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A talent = 3,000 shekels = 75.6 lbs

907.2 oz per talent x 100 = 9,072 oz, x 23 USD = 208,656 USD,

75.6 lbs gold (troy) x 1350 USD = 1,224,720 USD



Siege of Haran fails;
Euphrates becomes
border between
Babylon and Egypt

Riblah

Necho installs
Jehoiakim in place of
Jehoahaz his brother

Josiah killed
near Megiddo

Necho comes
to aid of
Ashur-uballit

The word of the Lord
that came to Jeremiah
...before Pharaoh smote Gaza
(Jeremiah 47:1)

2 Kings 23:34, “Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there.

2 Kings 23:35, “So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Necho.”

Bad spiritual decisions lead to economic disaster.

2 Kings 23:36, “Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

2 Kings 23:37, “And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.”

Jehoiakim: Judgment Intensified

- 1. Reigns 11 years, beginning at 25.**
- 2. Continues and increases the evil.**
- 3. Originally pays tribute to Egypt, after 605 B.C. pays tribute to Babylon.**
- 3. After 3 years of tribute, rebels against Nebuchadnezzar.**
- 4. God intensifies the military invasions.**
- 5. Later taken to Egypt where he dies.**

2 Kings 24:2, “The Lord sent against him bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonites. So He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

2 Kings 24:3, “Surely at the command of the Lord it came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

2 Kings 24:4, “and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the Lord would not forgive.”

Jer. 22:13, “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness and his chambers by injustice, who uses his neighbor’s service without wages and gives him nothing for his work,

Jer. 22:14, “Who says, ‘I will build myself a wide house with spacious chambers, and cut out windows for it, paneling it with cedar and painting it with vermilion.’ ”

Jer. 22:15, “Shall you reign because you enclose yourself in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink, and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him.

Jer. 22:16, “He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Was not this knowing Me?” says the LORD.

Jer. 22:17, “Yet your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, for shedding innocent blood, and practicing oppression and violence.”

Lev. 19:15, “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

Ex. 23:1, “You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Ex. 23:2, “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

Ex. 23:3, “You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.”

Ex. 23:6, “You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.

Ex. 23:7, “Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

Ex. 23:8, “And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.”

Ex. 23:9, “Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Lev. 26:43, “The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.

Lev. 26:44, “Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.”