

The Death of Josiah (Tammuz [July] 609 BC)

2 Kings 23:28–30	2 Chronicles 35:20–36:1
<p>29 During Josiah’s reign Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt marched toward the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to fight him,</p> <p>but Necho killed him at Megiddo when he saw him.</p> <p>30a His servants transported his dead body from Megiddo in a chariot and brought it to Jerusalem, where they buried him in his tomb.</p> <p>28 The rest of the events of Josiah’s reign</p> <p>and all his accomplishments are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>30b The people of the land took Josiah’s son Jehoahaz, poured olive oil on his head, and made him king in his father’s place.</p>	<p>35:20 After Josiah had done all this for the temple, King Necho of Egypt marched up to do battle at Carchemish on the Euphrates River.</p> <p>Josiah marched out to oppose him.</p> <p>21 Necho sent messengers to him, saying, “Why are you opposing me, O king of Judah? I am not attacking you today, but the kingdom with which I am at war. God told me to hurry. Stop opposing God, who is with me, or else he will destroy you.”</p> <p>22 But Josiah did not turn back from him; he disguised himself for battle. He did not take seriously the words of Necho which he had received from God; he went to fight him in the Plain of Megiddo.</p> <p>23 Archers shot King Josiah; the king ordered his servants, “Take me out of this chariot, for I am seriously wounded.”</p> <p>24 So his servants took him out of the chariot, put him in another chariot that he owned, and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried in the tombs of his ancestors; all the people of Judah and Jerusalem mourned Josiah.</p> <p>25 Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah which all the male and female singers use to mourn Josiah to this very day. It has become customary in Israel to sing these; they are recorded in the Book of Laments.</p> <p>26 The rest of the events of Josiah’s reign, including the faithful acts he did in obedience to what is written in the law of the LORD</p> <p>27 and his accomplishments, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Israel and Judah.</p> <p>36:1 The people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in his father’s place in Jerusalem.</p>

Jehoahaz, Josiah’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (Tammuz [July] 609 BC)

2 Kings 23:31–32	2 Chronicles 36:2
<p>31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah.</p> <p>32 He did evil in the sight of the LORD as his ancestors had done.</p>	<p>2 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.</p>

Pharaoh Necho II Exiles Jehoahaz to Egypt (Tishri [October] 609 BC)

2 Kings 23:33–35	2 Chronicles 36:3–4
<p>33 Pharaoh Necho imprisoned him in Riblah in the land of Hamath and prevented him from ruling in Jerusalem. He imposed on the land a special tax of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.</p> <p>34 Pharaoh Necho made Josiah’s son Eliakim king in Josiah’s place, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz to Egypt, where he died.</p>	<p>3 The king of Egypt prevented him from ruling in Jerusalem and imposed on the land a special tax of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.</p> <p>4 The king of Egypt made Jehoahaz’s brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Necho seized his brother Jehoahaz and took him to Egypt.</p>

35 Jehoiakim paid Pharaoh the required amount of silver and gold, but to meet Pharaoh's demands Jehoiakim had to tax the land. He collected an assessed amount from each man among the people of the land in order to pay Pharaoh Necho.

Jehoiakim, Jehoahaz's Brother, Assumes the Throne of Judah (Tishri [October] 609 BC)

2 Kings 23:36–37

2 Chronicles 36:5

36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem.
His mother was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah, from Rumah.
37 He did evil in the sight of the LORD as his ancestors had done.

5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem.

He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

Jeremiah's Prophecy to Judah—A Tale of Three Kings (609/608 BC)

Jeremiah 22

A Message for King Jehoiakim and Jerusalem

1 The LORD told me, "Go down to the palace of the king of Judah. Give him a message from me there.

2 Say: 'Listen, O king of Judah who follows in David's succession. You, your officials, and your subjects who pass through the gates of this palace must listen to what the LORD says.

3 The LORD says, "Do what is just and right. Deliver those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Do not exploit or mistreat foreigners who live in your land, children who have no fathers, or widows. Do not kill innocent people in this land.

4 If you are careful to obey these commands, then the kings who follow in David's succession and ride in chariots or on horses will continue to come through the gates of this palace, as will their officials and their subjects.

5 But, if you do not obey these commands, I solemnly swear that this palace will become a pile of rubble. I, the LORD, affirm it!"

6 "For the LORD says concerning the palace of the king of Judah,
"This place looks like a veritable forest of Gilead to me.
It is like the wooded heights of Lebanon in my eyes.
But I swear that I will make it like a wilderness
whose towns have all been deserted.

7 I will send men against it to destroy it
with their axes and hatchets.
They will hack up its fine cedar panels and columns
and throw them into the fire.

8 "People from other nations will pass by this city. They will ask one another, "Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?"

9 The answer will come back, "It is because they broke their covenant with the LORD their God and worshiped and served other gods."

Judgment on Shallum (Jehoahaz)

10 "Do not weep for the king who was killed [Josiah].
Do not grieve for him.
But weep mournfully for the king who has gone into exile [Jehoahaz].
For he will never return to see his native land again.

11 "For the LORD has spoken about Shallum [Jehoahaz] son of Josiah, who succeeded his father as king of Judah but was carried off into exile. He has said, "He will never return to this land.

12 For he will die in the country where they took him as a captive. He will never see this land again."

Judgment on Jehoiakim

13 "Sure to be judged is the king who builds his palace using injustice
and treats people unfairly while adding its upper rooms.
He makes his countrymen work for him for nothing.
He does not pay them for their labor.

14 He says, "I will build myself a large palace

- with spacious upper rooms.”
 He cuts windows in its walls,
 panels it with cedar, and paints its rooms red.
- 15 Does it make you any more of a king
 that you outstrip everyone else in building with cedar?
 Just think about your father.
 He was content that he had food and drink.
 He did what was just and right.
 So things went well with him.
- 16 He upheld the cause of the poor and needy.
 So things went well for Judah.’
 The LORD says,
 ‘That is a good example of what it means to know me.’
- 17 But you are always thinking and looking
 for ways to increase your wealth by dishonest means.
 Your eyes and your heart are set
 on killing some innocent person
 and committing fraud and oppression.
- 18 So the LORD has this to say about Josiah’s son, King Jehoiakim of Judah:
 People will not mourn for him, saying,
 “This makes me sad, my brother!
 This makes me sad, my sister!”
 They will not mourn for him, saying,
 “Poor, poor lord! Poor, poor majesty!”
- 19 He will be left unburied just like a dead donkey.
 His body will be dragged off and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem.”

The Consequences of Jerusalem’s Disobedience

- 20 People of Jerusalem, go up to Lebanon and cry out in mourning.
 Go to the land of Bashan and cry out loudly.
 Cry out in mourning from the mountains of Moab.
 For your allies have all been defeated.
- 21 While you were feeling secure I gave you warning.
 But you said, “I refuse to listen to you.”
 That is the way you have acted from your earliest history onward.
 Indeed, you have never paid attention to me.
- 22 My judgment will carry off all your leaders like a storm wind!
 Your allies will go into captivity.
 Then you will certainly be disgraced and put to shame
 because of all the wickedness you have done.
- 23 You may feel as secure as a bird
 nesting in the cedars of Lebanon.
 But oh how you will groan when the pains of judgment come on you.
 They will be like those of a woman giving birth to a baby.

The Future Fate of Jeconiah (Jehoiachin)

- 24 The LORD says, “As surely as I am the living God, you, Jeconiah, king of Judah, son of Jehoiakim, will not be the earthly representative of my authority. Indeed, I will take that right away from you.
- 25 I will hand you over to those who want to take your life and of whom you are afraid. I will hand you over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his Babylonian soldiers.
- 26 I will force you and your mother who gave you birth into exile. You will be exiled to a country where neither of you were born, and you will both die there.
- 27 You will never come back to this land to which you will long to return!”
- 28 This man, Jeconiah, will be like a broken pot someone threw away.
 He will be like a clay vessel that no one wants.
 Why will he and his children be forced into exile?
 Why will they be thrown out into a country they know nothing about?

29 O land of Judah, land of Judah, land of Judah!
Listen to what the LORD has to say!

30 The LORD says,

“Enroll this man in the register as though he were childless.
Enroll him as a man who will not enjoy success during his lifetime.
For none of his sons will succeed in occupying the throne of David
or ever succeed in ruling over Judah.”

Jeremiah's Prophecy to Judah—Promise of a Better Day (609/608 BC)

Jeremiah 23:1–8

Wicked Shepherds and Their Fate

1 The LORD says, “The leaders of my people are sure to be judged. They were supposed to watch over my people like shepherds watch over their sheep. But they are causing my people to be destroyed and scattered.

2 So the LORD God of Israel has this to say about the leaders who are ruling over his people: “You have caused my people to be dispersed and driven into exile. You have not taken care of them. So I will punish you for the evil that you have done. I, the LORD, affirm it!

The Coming Righteous King—Jesus

3 Then I myself will regather those of my people who are still alive from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their homeland. They will greatly increase in number.

4 I will install rulers over them who will care for them. Then they will no longer need to fear or be terrified. None of them will turn up missing. I, the LORD, promise it!

5 “I, the LORD, promise that a new time will certainly come when I will raise up for them a righteous branch, a descendant of David. He will rule over them with wisdom and understanding and will do what is just and right in the land.

6 Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Israel will live in security. This is the name he will go by: ‘The LORD has provided us with justice.’

7 “So I, the LORD, say: ‘A new time will certainly come. People now affirm their oaths with “I swear as surely as the LORD lives who delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt.”

8 But at that time they will affirm them with “I swear as surely as the LORD lives who delivered the descendants of the former nation of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other lands where he had banished them.” At that time they will live in their own land.”

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