

Royal Lessons for Life

Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin

(Judah)

Jehoiakim's Biography

- Pharaoh Necho changed his name from Eliakim ("raised up by God") to Jehoiakim ("whom Jehovah set up"), probably to show the new king's subjugation to Egypt's authority – II Kings 23:34, II Chronicles 36:4
- He reigned for 11 years and was wicked – II Kings 23:36-37, II Chronicles 36:5
- He begins his reign as vassal ruler to Egypt and pays them tribute he raises through taxing his people – II Kings 23:35
- Jeremiah and Habakkuk prophesied of the coming Babylonian dominance – Jeremiah 7-10, 25-27, 36, and more; Habakkuk 1-3
- Jehoiakim antagonized the prophets and murdered Urijah – Jeremiah 26:8-24
- In his 3rd year, Babylon besieged Jerusalem and subjugated the kingdom – Daniel 1:1, II Kings 24:1
- In his 4th year, Jeremiah calls for a fast and writes a book of prophecies. When Jehoiakim reads it, he cuts it up and burns it – Jeremiah 36:1-32
- In his 4th year (605 B.C.), the Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians defeat Necho and the Egyptians at the Battle of Carchemish and establish themselves as the dominant world power.
- In his 7th year, Nebuchadnezzar takes 3,023 prisoners including Jehoiakim – II Chronicles 36:6-7, Jeremiah 52:28
- After his death, his son Jehoiachin took the throne – II Kings 24:5-6, II Chronicles 36:8
- His descendants are cursed by God (Jeremiah 22:28-30). Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1:11-12 includes this line. This must be Joseph's family tree.

Jehoiachin's Biography

- Jehoiachin, also called Jeconiah, is another wicked king and reigns for 3 months and 10 days – II Kings 24:8-9, II Chronicles 36:9
- Babylon returns, spoils Jerusalem, and takes captives. Jehoiachin is one of the captives and his uncle Zedekiah is made king – II Kings 24:10-17
- 25 years later, he is pardoned by Evilmerodach and is given a place in the royal court until his death – II Kings 25:27-30, Jeremiah 52:31-34

Lessons from the Lives of Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin

- Jehoiakim is a warning to us to respect and follow God's Word – Matthew 4:4