

SONS OF CHAOS. 2 KN. 23-24. 5/05/24. #41.

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³¹Jehoahaz 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. ³²And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. ³³Now 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. ³⁴Then 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. ³⁵So 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. ³⁶Jehoiakim 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. ³⁷And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.
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1. Sons of weakness

- a. 3 of Josiah's 4 sons sit on the throne after him
 - a1. None were righteous & all were weak
 - a2. Josiah's oldest son, Johanan, apparently had died before Josiah
- b. Judah is caught between the 2 super powers of the Near East, Babylon & Egypt
 - a1. Egypt, under Pharaoh Neco II combined with Assyria to fight Babylon in Syria
 - a2. Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at Charchemish in 605 BC
 - a3. When Neb. pursued Egypt, the Egyptians stopped Babylon at Hamath on the border of Egypt in 598 BC
- c. Jehoakim (Eliakim) chose to rebel against Babylon when both Babylon & Egypt were exhausted from war
- d. The people had put Josiah's third son, Shallum (Jehoahaz) on the throne
 - a1. Josiah's 2nd son, Eliakim, was from a Libnah mother, traditional enemies of Judah
 - a2. Pharaoh Neco did not like Jehoahaz, so he removed him & imprisoned him
- e. Eliakim (God sets up) then was put on the throne & became Jehoakim (Yahweh sets up)
- f. Jeremiah had warned these 2 sons of God's judgment if they departed from Josiah's ways (ch. 22-23)
- g. Jehoakim refused to repent
- h. Neb. removed Jehoakim & put Jehoiachin on throne

⁶Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. ⁹And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. ¹⁰At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. ¹¹And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. ¹²Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner. ¹³And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. ¹⁴Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. ¹⁵And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. ¹⁶All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all *who were strong and fit for war*, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.
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2. Downward spiral

- a. Neb. returned to Jerusalem in 597 BC & besieged it
 - a1. He took thousands captive, including Ezekiel (Daniel had been taken in 605 BC)
 - a2. Neb. took the elite, craftsmen, the royal family, & the military officers captives
- b. Neb. stripped the land of its wealth, leadership, & temple vessels, leaving only the poor & feeble in the land
- c. Neb. set Zedekiah on the throne
- d. Neb. would return in 586 BC to finish the removal of the majority of Judah
- e. The books of Esther, Ezekiel, Ezra, Daniel, & Nehemiah cover the period of exile of the Jews

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JEREMIAH 23:1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. "Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. "I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."
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3. The final restoration

- a. Even though a remnant returns, they will be expelled again
- b. Only when Jesus returns to earth will Israel be restored
- c. Evil shepherds will be replaced by the Good Shepherd