

A Study of JEREMIAH



Lesson One – Chapters 1-4

ABOUT JEREMIAH

“The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin ...” (Jer 1:1–2, 17)



- Son of a priest (1:1)
- Young – probably less than 30 years old (1:6)
- Unmarried (16:2)
- From the town of Anathoth (1:1)
- Sometimes called ‘the Weeping Prophet’ (9:1)
- Also wrote Lamentations
- Greatly persecuted but remained faithful
- Prophesied about 50 years (627 BC–580 BC)
 - Before the exile (Jer 1:1–3)
 - In Judah after the exile (Jer 40:6)
 - In Egypt (Jer 43:5–8)

THE 20 KINGS OF JUDAH

- Rehoboam
 - Abijah
 - Asa
 - Jehoshaphat
 - Jehoram (or Joram)
 - Ahaziah
 - Athaliah
 - Joash (or Jehoash)
 - Amaziah
 - Uzziah (or Azariah)
 - Jotham
 - Ahaz
 - Hezekiah
 - Manasseh
 - Amon:
 - Josiah
 - Jehoahaz
 - Jehoiakim
 - Jehoiachin
 - Zedekiah
 - Captivity
- The divided kingdom lasted about 350 years (933 BC– 586 BC)
 - Twenty kings – all descendants of David
 - Mostly bad – some like Manasseh worse than others
 - A few were good – Some were very good e.g., Hezekiah and Josiah
 - Throughout this 350 years, the Lord sent prophets to warn them and to urge repentance
 - The prophets were largely ignored as the nation and its people sunk deeper and deeper into sin

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- The time of Isaiah (Isa 1:1–2)
- 740 – 680 BC

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- Zedekiah
- Captivity

The 10 Northern Tribes (Israel) taken into Assyrian captivity (2 Kings 17: 5)

722 BC

For the next 136 years, only Judah remained

THE TIME OF JEREMIAH



RABBIT TRAIL

HEZEKIAH IN THE NEWS



In 2015 a seal was uncovered in a Jerusalem excavation site inscribed
"Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz king of Judah."

THE 20 KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam Abijah Asa Jehoshaphat Jehoram (or Joram) Ahaziah Athaliah Joash (or Jehoash) Amaziah Uzziah (or Azariah) Jotham Ahaz Hezekiah Manasseh Amon: Josiah (or Josias) Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah Captivity	ISAIAH 740 – 680 BC → About 50 Years Later ↓	627– 580 BC
	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;"> The time of Jeremiah (Jer 1: 1–2) </div> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">The last 40-years of Judah</p>	

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH



1. Josiah
2. Jehoahaz
3. Jehoiakim
4. Jehoiachin
5. Zedekiah

Captivity

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

JOSIAH

2 Kings 22:1-23:30
2 Chron 34:1-35:27

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

Captivity

- Became king at age 8 (2Kings 22:1)
- One of the best kings (2Kings 22:2; 23:25)
- In his 8th year, began to seek the Lord (2Chron 34:3)
- In his 12th year, began to purge the idols (2Chron 34:3)
- In his 13th year, Jeremiah came on the scene (Jer 1:1-3, 25:3)
- In his 18th year, began work on the temple (2Chr 34:8). The law was found; Great repentance occurred (2Chr 34:19). Great Passover observance (2Chr 25:18)
- Yet note 2 Kings 25:26-27!
- In his 31st (last) year, killed by Necho (23:29). He was lamented by Jeremiah (2Chr 35:25)

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

Josiah

JEHOHAZ

2 Kings 23:30-34
2 Chron 36:1-3

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

Captivity

- Made king by the people at age 23 when his father Josiah was killed (2Kings 23:30)
- He was evil like his ancestors (2Kings 23:31)
- Reigned only 3 months (2Kings 23:31)
- Necho deposed him and put him in prison in Egypt where he died (2Kings 23:33; 2Chr 36:34)
- Necho made his brother Jehoakim, king in his place (2Kings 23:34)
- Necho imposed a tribute on the land (2Kings 23:33)

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

Josiah

Jehoahaz

JEHOIAKIM

2 Kings 23:35-37
2 Chron 36:4-8

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

Captivity

- Appointed king by Necho at age 25 and reigned 11 years (2 Kings 23:34, 36)
- He taxed the people to obtain the tribute payment for Egypt (2 Kings 23:30)
- He did evil (2 Kings 23:37)
- The ascendant Babylonians replaced the Egyptians as Judah's master in his 4th year (Jer 46:2) and they received Judah's tribute payment (2 Kings 24:1, 7)
- After 3 years Jehoakim rebelled against Babylon (2 Kings 24:1)
- In 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar came and besieged Jerusalem and took the city (Dan 1:1). He took Jehoakim back to Babylon in chains (2 Chr 36:6; Jer 22:19, 36:30). **This was the first of three waves of exiles – see Jer 52:28-30.**
- He also took back 3,023 people including certain young men like Daniel (Jer 52:28; Dan 1:6)
- About his time, Jeremiah prophesied of the seventy years of captivity (Jer 25:1-3, 12)

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

Josiah

- Became king at age 18 and reigned only 3 months and 10 days (2 Chr 36:9)

Jehoahaz

- “And he did evil...” (2 Chr 36:9)

Jehoiakim

JEHOIACHIN

2 Kings 24:8-16
2 Chron 36:9-10

- In 598 BC, Nebuchadnezzar again besieged the city (2 Kings 24:10). Jehoiachin and others went out and surrendered to the Babylonians (2 Kings 24:12). They, along with 10,000 others from Jerusalem, were taken into captivity (2 Kings 24:12, 14-16). This was the second of three waves of exiles.

Zedekiah

- Ezekiel was among those taken away (Ezek 1:1-2).

Captivity

- After 37 years in a Babylonian jail, Jehoiachin regained favor and was released (2 Kings 25:27-30).
- He was married, had children, and became a part of the lineage of Christ – through Joseph (Matt 1:12).

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

Josiah

- Appointed king at age 21 by Nebuchadnezzar and reigned 11 years (2 Kings 24:17)

Jehoahaz

- “He also did evil...” (2 Kings 24:19)
- He rebelled against Babylon (2 Kings 24:20)

Jehoiakim

- In the ninth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar came and besieged Jerusalem for two years (2 Kings 25:1-2)

Jehoiachin

ZEDEKIAH

2 Kings 24:17-25:7
2 Chron 36:11-13

- In 586 BC the city fell, Zedekiah was executed, and those who survived the famine and sword were carried away into Babylon (2 Kings 25:11). This was the third and final wave of captivity.

Captivity

KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

- Josiah**
 - Gedaliah appointed governor by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25:22).
- Jehoahaz**
 - Jeremiah given freedom and choose to stay in Judah (Jer 40:1-6).
- Jehoiakim**
 - Gedaliah murdered (2 Kings 25:25).
 - Remaining Jews in Judah fled to Egypt. They took Jeremiah with them against his will (Jer 43:1-6).
- Jehoiachin**
- Zedekiah**

CAPTIVITY

2 Kings 25:
2 Chron 36:

ABOUT JUDAH THE RECIPIENT OF THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

- **Ruled largely by Evil Kings**
 - Rehoboam – 1 Kings 14:22-23
 - Abija 1 Kings 15:3
 - Jehoram – 2 Kings 8:18
 - Ahaziah 2 Kings 8:18-27
 - Ahaz – 2 Kings 16:2-4
 - Manasseh – 2 Kings 21:1-9, 16; 23:26-27
 - Amon – 2 Kings 21:20-22
 - Jehoahaz – 2 Kings 23:32
 - Jehoiakim – 2 Kings 23:37
 - Jehoiachin – 2 Kings 24:9
 - Zedekiah – 2 Kings 24:19
- **Served by Evil Priests, Rulers, and Prophets** – Jer 2:8
- **God sent His prophets to warn them** – Jer 7:25; 2 Chr 36:15-16
- **The People Became More and More Evil**
 - Worse than their ancestors – Jer 7:26, 16:10-12
 - Worse than their sister, Israel – Jer 3:11
 - Worse than the nations around them – 2 Kings 21:2, 11

THE MESSAGE OF JEREMIAH

**“Jeremiah is the record of the ministry
of one of Judah’s greatest prophets
during its darkest days”**

Outline

1. The call of Jeremiah – Chapter 1
2. Prophecies to Judah – Chapters 2–45
 - In 12 sermons, parables, and object lessons
 - Rebuke, reason for the rebuke, warning about coming judgment, call to repentance, hope for future restoration
3. Prophecies to the Gentile nations – Chapter 46–51
4. The fall of Jerusalem – Chapter 52