

Handout: 2 Kings Lesson 9

The sons of Josiah and one grandson are the last kings of Judah (see 1 Chr 3:15-16; 2 Kng 23:31-25:30; 2 Chr 36):

1st : Johanan

2nd : Jehoiakim, appointed king by Egyptians 609-598;
grandson = Jeconiah/Jehoiachin king for 3 months in 598 and deposed by
Babylonians

3rd : Mattaniah/ Zedekiah, appointed king by Babylonians 598-587

4th : Shallum/Jehoahaz, king of Judah three months in 609, deposed by Pharaoh Necho II

Timeline:

- 626 BC: Chaldean leader Nabopolassar revolts against the Assyrians and founds a Neo-Babylonian dynasty. He rules from 626-605 BC.

- 612 BC Nabopolassar and King Cyzaxes of the Medes conquer the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. King Ashurbanipal II establishes his new capital at Haran.

- 609 BC: Josiah king of Judah is killed fighting the Egyptians at the Battle of Megiddo and is succeeded by his son Jehoahaz. Egyptians capture Jerusalem and replace Jehoahaz with his brother Jehoiakim (609-598). Jehoahaz is taken to Egypt where he dies. Babylonians capture Haran and the Assyrian king is expelled from Mesopotamia. The ministry of Jeremiah is during reigns of Judah's last kings.

- 605 BC: The Assyrian and Egyptian armies are defeated by the son of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, and his Babylonian army at the Battle of Carchemish. It is the end of the Assyrian Empire and Egypt's control of the Levant. Nabopolassar dies and is succeeded by his son Nebuchadnezzar II in September.

- 605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar makes Judah a vassal state. Some Judeans of noble and royal birth are sent into Babylon, including Daniel and other royal children.

- 601 BC: Nebuchadnezzar fails in his attempt to conquer Egypt. The Babylonians initiate raids against the Arabs 599-598 BC.

- c. 600 BC: King Jehoiakim of Judah revolts against Babylon and as a result is attacked by bands of Chaldeans and Aramaeans. Ministry of Habakkuk.

- 598 BC: Jehoiakim is succeeded by his son Jehoiachin who only rules for 3 months the Babylonians attack cities in Judah and Jerusalem. The Babylonians deport first large group of Judeans into Babylon.

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- 597 BC: The Babylonian army besieges Jerusalem and captures it on March 16th. King Jehoiachin is taken prisoner and sent to Babylon. He is replaced by his uncle Zedekiah son of Josiah (597-587/6). There is a second large deportation of citizens of Jerusalem and Judah, including the prophet-priest Ezekiel who predicts the ruin of Jerusalem (Ez 1-23).

- 588 BC: King Zedekiah revolts against the Babylonians by withholding the tribute.

- 587/6 BC: Siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians begins in December or January. Babylonians capture Jerusalem in June/July. Zedekiah's sons are murdered in front of him and then he is blinded and taken prisoner to Babylon where he dies. On the 9th of Ab (August), the palace and Solomon's Temple are destroyed. There is a third deportation of citizens of Judah to Babylon. Gedaliah is made the Assyrian governor but is assassinated Sept/Oct. Jeremiah and survivors go to Egypt.

- 562 BC: Nebuchadnezzar dies and is succeeded by his son Evil-Merodach who pardons Jehoiachin of Judah. Jehoiachin remains in Babylon as the king's "guest."

- 539 BC: Cyrus, King of the Persians and Medes, conquers Babylon. He issues an edict that allows the Judeans to return to their homeland and to rebuild their Temple, fulfilling Isaiah and Jeremiah's prophecies (2 Chr 36:22-23; Ezra 1:2-4).

Nebuchadnezzar was the son of Nabopolassar, the dynasty founder who ruled Babylon from 626-605 BC. Dynasty XI of Babylon (Neo-Babylonian):

- Nabopolassar (dynasty founder) ruler 626-605 BC
- Nebuchadnezzar II ruler 605-562 BC
- Evil-Merodach ruled 562-560 BC
- Neriglissar ruled 560-556 BC
- Labasi-Merodach, a boy king who was placed on the throne in 556 BC and was murdered and replaced by Nabonidus who ruled 556-539 BC (the prophet Daniel served all these kings as a royal minister from Nebuchadnezzar to the new dynasty founder, Nabonidus).