



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 34 – The Last Kings of Judah
(Second Kings 21-25; Second Chronicles 33-36; various Psalms)

Read all the chapters from 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles in this section. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Manasseh of Judah (698-641 BC)

1. Manasseh introduces idolatry and black magic into Judah (2 Kings 21:1-9; 2 Chronicles 33:1-9).
This included the worship of Baal, Asherah, stars and planets, Molech (whose worship required human sacrifices), as well as witchcraft, fortunetelling, etc.
2. God's prophets announce God's judgment (2 Kings 21:10-16; 2 Chronicles 33:10).
"I will...deliver them into the hand of their enemies" (2 Kings 21:____)
Note: Jewish legend says that Manasseh had Isaiah sawed into pieces (Cf. Hebrews 11:37).
3. Assyrian captains take Manasseh captive to Babylon (2 Chronicles 33:11).
4. Manasseh humbles himself. He then returns to Jerusalem and makes some reforms (2 Chronicles 33:12-17).
5. Manasseh concludes his reign and dies (2 Kings 21:17-18; 2 Chronicles 33:18-20).
During Manasseh's reign the Assyrians reached the height of their power, even conquering Egypt.

Amon of Judah (641-639 BC)

6. Amon has a wicked idolatrous reign (2 Kings 21:19-22; 2 Chronicles 33:21-23).
7. Amon is assassinated by his servants (2 Kings 21:23-26; 2 Chronicles 33:24-25).

Josiah of Judah (639-608 BC)

8. Josiah, already as a boy of 16 and 20, begins to remove the idolatry of Judah and Israel (2 Kings 22:1-2; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7).
9. Josiah at the age of 26 cleanses and repairs the Temple (2 Kings 22:3-7; 2 Chronicles 34:8-13).
10. The high priest Hilkiah finds the book of the Law and delivers it to Josiah (2 Kings 22:8-10; 2 Chronicles 34:14-18).
The Temple copy of God's Law had apparently been lost during the reigns of earlier kings.
11. Josiah hears the Law and sends messengers to the prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22:11-14; 2 Chronicles 34:19-22).
12. Huldah announces God's judgment on Judah after Josiah's death (2 Kings 22:15-20; 2 Chronicles 34:23-28).
"My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched" (2 Kings 22:____)
13. The Law is read publicly, and the covenant is renewed (2 Kings 23:1-3; 2 Chronicles 34:19-32).

14. Josiah completes the removal of the idolatry in Judah and Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:4-14; 2 Chronicles 34:33).

Note: Josiah also removed the high places of Solomon.

15. Josiah removes the idolatry in Bethel and Samaria (2 Kings 23:15-20).

This action was prophesied by the man of God back in the reign of Jeroboam I (1 Kings 13).

16. Josiah celebrates a Passover such as had not been celebrated since the days of Samuel (2 Kings 23:21-25; 2 Chronicles 35:1-19).

There was no king like Josiah who did “**according to all the Law of Moses**” (2 Kings 23:___)

17. Despite Josiah’s piety, God’s judgment on Judah stands firm (2 Kings 23:26-28).

“**I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel**” (v. ___)

Josiah succeeded in abolishing all outward idolatry, but he could not succeed in getting the people to worship the LORD inwardly.

18. In 612 BC the Assyrian capital, Nineveh, fell to the Babylonians.

19. Josiah is killed by Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt at Megiddo (2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-24).

20. The prophet Jeremiah laments the death of Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:25-27).

The prophets active in Josiah’s reign included **NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, JEREMIAH, and EZEKIEL**.

Jehoahaz of Judah – also called Shallum (see 1 Chronicles 3:15, 608 BC)

21. After three months Pharaoh Necho II takes Jehoahaz captive to Egypt (2 Kings 23:31-34; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4).

Jehoiakim of Judah – also called Eliakim (608-597 BC)

22. Jehoiakim, a wicked king, gives tribute to Egypt (2 Kings 23:35-37; 2 Chronicles 36:5, 8).

23. In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon decisively defeats Necho II of Egypt and the Assyrians in the battle of Carchemish (Jeremiah 46:1-2).

24. In the same year Nebuchadnezzar II attacks Jerusalem for the first time (2 Kings 24:1; 2 Chronicles 36:6-7).

At this time Daniel and other skilled Jews are taken to Babylon (Daniel 1:1-7).

25. Judah suffers other attacks because of its continued idolatry (2 Kings 24:2-7).

Jehoiachin of Judah – also called Coniah (597 BC)

26. Jehoiachin continues in the evils of his father (2 Kings 24:8-9; 2 Chronicles 36:9).

27. Nebuchadnezzar II attacks Jerusalem for the second time and takes Jehoiachin and many others captive to Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-16; 2 Chronicles 36:10).

The prophet Ezekiel was among those taken to Babylon in this second attack in 597 BC.

28. Evil-Merodach of Babylon shows kindness to Jehoiachin 37 years later (2 Kings 25:27-30).

A clay tablet recovered from Babylon mentions the kindness of Evil-Merodach to Jehoiachin.

Jehoiachin was the last king of the royal line of David who ruled as an independent king. From this time on, the royal line of David became more and more hidden until finally **JESUS** was born of Mary in Bethlehem as a Rod from the stem of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1).

Zedekiah of Judah – also called Mattaniah (597-586 BC)

29. Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, has a wicked reign (2 Kings 24:17-20; 2 Chronicles 36:11-16).
30. Nebuchadnezzar II attacks Jerusalem for the third time (2 Kings 25:1-6).
31. Nebuchadnezzar II kills Zedekiah's sons and puts out his eyes (2 Kings 25:7).
32. Nebuzaradan, Nebuchadnezzar's captain, destroys Jerusalem and robs the Temple treasures (2 Kings 25:8-21; 2 Chronicles 36:17-21).
33. Gedaliah is made ruler of the poor remnant in Judah (2 Kings 25:22-24).
34. Gedaliah is killed by Ishmael, and most of the remaining Jews flee to Egypt (2 Kings 25:25-26).

In 1935 and 1938 the Lachish Letters were found. These letters were written by a man named Hoshai to the commanding officer at Lachish. They describe conditions in Judah shortly before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

The Emperors of the New Babylonian Empire

Baladan

Berodach-Baladan – in the days of Hezekiah of Judah

Nabopolassar (626-605 BC)

Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC)

Evil-merodach (562-560 BC)

Nergalshuruzur (560-556 BC)

Nabonidus (556-539 BC)

Belshazzar (539-539 BC)

The Babylonian Captivity of Judah (605, 597, and 586 BC)

This captivity took place in three stages in 605, 597, and 586 BC. It lasted for 70 years, as prophesied by Jeremiah. Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylon as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. In 539 BC Cyrus permitted the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple.

What caused the Babylonian Captivity? It was caused by the continued sins of the people and their leaders for so many years. They continued in their sins despite the warnings of God's faithful prophets. In the next four lessons we shall consider this period of Jewish history in greater detail. We will consider in particular the messages of God's prophets Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Psalms from the Last Days of Judah

Read as many of these Psalms as you can. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Psalm 33 – *The LORD Is Stronger than Mighty Kings*

This psalm could well have been written when the Angel of the LORD wiped out the Assyrian army of Sennacherib in the days of Hezekiah.

“No king is saved by the multitude of an army” (v. ____)

Psalms 75, 76, and 87 – *The LORD is King of All the Nations of the Earth*

These psalms also probably come from the time of Hezekiah.

“God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another” (75: __)

“Who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?” (76: __)

“Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!” (87: __)

Psalm 67 – A Mission Prayer for the Heathen

True Israelites prayed that the heathen too would learn to know the LORD. They wanted God's salvation to extend to all nations.

“Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You” (vv. ____)

Psalms 77, 80, and 81 – Apparent Rejection

God's people are troubled by evidence that God has abandoned them.

“Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more?” (77: __)

Questions

1. What evil things did Manasseh bring into the kingdom of Judah?
2. What led Manasseh to humble himself and make a few reforms?
3. What discovery was made in the temple during the reign of Josiah?
4. How was Josiah zealous for the Lord's Word?
5. How did Josiah fulfill a promise made in the days of Jeroboam I?
6. How did Josiah lose his life?
7. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar take captive in his three attacks on Jerusalem?
8. What happened to Jehoiachin in Babylon that provided some hope for Judah?
9. What is the last thing Zedekiah saw before he was blinded?
10. List five verses in the psalms of this lesson that would help to you live a Christian life.