
2CHRONICLES 36: 1 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem.

Jehoahaz made king on the death of his father Josiah, and reigns only three months, 2Chr 36:1, 2Chr 36:2. He is dethroned by the king of Egypt, and Jehoiakim his brother made king in his stead, who reigns wickedly eleven years, and is dethroned and led captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, 2Chr 36:3-8. Jehoiachin is made king in his stead, and reigns wickedly three months and ten days, and is also led captive to Babylon, 2Chr 36:9, 2Chr 36:10. Zedekiah begins to reign, and reigns wickedly eleven years, 2Chr 36:11, 2Chr 36:12. He rebels against Nebuchadnezzar, and he and his people cast all the fear of God behind their backs; the wrath of God comes upon them to the uttermost; their temple us destroyed; and the whole nation is subjugated, and led into captivity, 2Chr 36:13-21. Cyrus, king of Persia, makes a proclamation to rebuild the temple of the Lord, 2Chr 36:22, 2Chr 36:23.

Verse 1

Took Jehoahaz - It seems that after Necho had discomfited Josiah, he proceeded immediately against Charchemish, and in the interim, Josiah dying of his wounds, the people made his son king.

2CHRONICLES 36: 2 Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

2CHRONICLES 36: 3 The king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem, and fined the land one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

Verse 3

The king of Egypt put him down - He now considered Judah to be conquered, and tributary to him and because the people had set up Jehoahaz without his consent, he dethroned him, and put his brother in his place, perhaps for no other reason but to show his supremacy. For other particulars, see the notes on 2Kgs 23:31-35 (note).

2CHRONICLES 36: 4 The king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Neco took Joahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

2CHRONICLES 36: 5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

2CHRONICLES 36: 6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

Verse 6

Came up Nebuchadnezzar - See the notes on 2Kgs 24:1.

Archbishop Usher believes that Jehoiakim remained three years after this tributary to the Chaldeans, and that it is from this period that the seventy years' captivity, predicted by Jeremiah, is to be reckoned.

2CHRONICLES 36: 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the LORD's house to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

2CHRONICLES 36: 8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

2CHRONICLES 36: 9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Verse 9

Jehoiachin was eight - See on 2Kgs 24:6-15 (note).

2CHRONICLES 36: 10 At the return of the year king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the LORD's house, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Verse 10

Made Zedekiah - king - His name was at first Mattaniah, but the king of Babylon changed it to Zedekiah. See 2Kgs 24:17 (note), and the notes there.

2CHRONICLES 36: 11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem:

2CHRONICLES 36: 12 and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God; he didn't humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.

Verse 12

Did that which was evil - Was there ever such a set of weak, infatuated men as the Jewish kings in general? They had the fullest evidence that they were only deputies to God Almighty, and that they could not expect to retain the throne any longer than they were faithful to their Lord; and yet with all this conviction they lived wickedly, and endeavored to establish idolatry in the place of the worship of their Maker! After bearing with them long, the Divine mercy gave them up, as their case was utterly hopeless. They sinned till there was no remedy.

2CHRONICLES 36: 13 He also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel.

2CHRONICLES 36: 14 Moreover all the chiefs of the priests, and the people, trespassed very greatly after all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the LORD's house which he had made holy in Jerusalem.

2CHRONICLES 36: 15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

2CHRONICLES 36: 16 but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, until there was no remedy.

2CHRONICLES 36: 17 Therefore he brought on them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or gray-headed: he gave them all into his hand.

2CHRONICLES 36: 18 All the vessels of God's house, great and small, and the treasures of the LORD's house, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.

2CHRONICLES 36: 19 They burnt God's house, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels of it.

Verse 19

They burnt the house of God - Here was an end to the temple; the most superb and costly edifice ever erected by man.

Brake down the wall of Jerusalem - So it ceased to be a fortified city.

Burnt all the palaces - So it was no longer a dwelling-place for kings or great men.

Destroyed all the goodly vessels - Beat up all the silver and gold into masses, keeping only a few of the finest in their own shape. See 2Chr 36:18.

2CHRONICLES 36: 20 He carried those who had escaped from the sword away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

2CHRONICLES 36: 21 to fulfil the LORD's word by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. As long as it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.

Verse 21

To fulfill the word of the Lord - See Jer 25:9, Jer 25:12; Jer 26:6, Jer 26:7; Jer 29:12. For the miserable death of Zedekiah, see 2Kgs 25:4, etc.

2CHRONICLES 36: 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the LORD's word by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Verse 22

Now in the first year of Cyrus - This and the following verse are supposed to have been written by mistake from the book of Ezra, which begins in the same way. The book of the Chronicles, properly speaking, does close with the twenty-first verse, as then the Babylonish captivity commences, and these two verses speak of the transactions of a period seventy years after. This was in the first year of the reign of Cyrus over the empire of the East which is reckoned to be A.M. 3468. But he was king of Persia from the year 3444 or 3445. See Calmet and Usher.

2CHRONICLES 36: 23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given all the kingdoms of the earth to me; and he has commanded me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.'"

Verse 23

The Lord his God be with him - "Let the Word of the Lord be his helper, and let him go up." - Targum. See the notes on the beginning of Ezra.

Thus ends the history of a people the most fickle, the most ungrateful, and perhaps on the whole the most sinful, that ever existed on the face of the earth. But what a display does all this give of the power, justice, mercy, and long-suffering of the Lord! There was no people like this people, and no God like their God.