
2KINGS 24: 1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

Nebuchadnezzar brings Jehoiakim under subjection; who, after three years, rebels, 2Kgs 24:1. Bands of Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites, invade the land, 2Kgs 24:2-4. Jehoiakim dies, and Jehoiachin his son reigns in his stead, 2Kgs 24:5, 2Kgs 24:6. The Babylonians overcome the Egyptians, 2Kgs 24:7. Nebuchadnezzar takes Jehoiachin and his family, and all his treasures, and those of the temple, and all the chief people and artificers, and carries them to Babylon, 2Kgs 24:8-16; and makes Mattaniah, brother of Jehoiakim, king, who reigns wickedly, and rebels against the king of Babylon, 2Kgs 24:17-20.

Verse 1

Nebuchadnezzar - This man, so famous in the writings of the prophets, was son of Nabopolassar. He was sent by his father against the rulers of several provinces that had revolted; and he took Carchemish, and all that belonged to the Egyptians, from the Euphrates to the Nile. Jehoiakim, who was tributary to Nechoh king of Egypt, he attacked and reduced; and obliged to become tributary to Babylon. At the end of three years he revolted; and then a mixed army, of Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites, was sent against him, who ravaged the country, and took three thousand and twenty-three prisoners, whom they brought to Babylon, Jer 52:28.

2KINGS 24: 2 The LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the LORD's word, which he spoke by his servants the prophets.

Verse 2

According to the word of the Lord - See what Huldah predicted, 2Kgs 22:16, and see chap. 14, 15, and 16 of Jeremiah.

2KINGS 24: 3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this on Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did,

2KINGS 24: 4 and also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood: and the LORD would not pardon.

2KINGS 24: 5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2KINGS 24: 6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

Verse 6

Jehoiachin his son - As this man reigned only three months and was a mere vassal to the Babylonians, his reign is scarcely to be reckoned; and therefore Jeremiah says of Jehoiakim, He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David, Jer 36:30, for at that time it belonged to the king of Babylon, and Jehoiachin was a mere viceroy or governor. Jehoiachin is called Jechonias in Mat 1:11.

2KINGS 24: 7 The king of Egypt didn't come again out of his land any more; for the king of Babylon had taken, from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates, all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

Verse 7

The king of Egypt came not again - He was so crushed by the Babylonians that he was obliged to confine himself within the limits of his own states, and could no more attempt any conquests. The text tells us how much he had lost by the Babylonians. See on 2Kgs 24:1 (note).

2KINGS 24: 8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign; and he reigned in Jerusalem three months: and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

Verse 8

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old - He is called Jeconiah, 1Chr 3:16, and Coniah, Jer 22:24. In 2Chr 36:9, he is said to be only eight years of age, but this must be a mistake; for we find that, having reigned only three months, he was carried captive to Babylon, and there he had wives; and it is very improbable that a child between eight and nine years of age could have wives; and of such a tender age, it can scarcely be said that, as a king, he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. The place in Chronicles must be corrupted.

That he was a grievous offender against God, we learn from Jer 22:24, which the reader may consult; and in the man's punishment, see his crimes.

2KINGS 24: 9 He did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

2KINGS 24: 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

2KINGS 24: 11 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it;

2KINGS 24: 12 and Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

Verse 12

Jehoiachin - went out - He saw that it was useless to attempt to defend himself any longer; and he therefore surrendered himself, hoping to obtain better terms.

2KINGS 24: 13 He carried out there all the treasures of the LORD's house, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold, which Solomon king of Israel had made in the LORD's temple, as the LORD had said.

Verse 13

He carried out thence all the treasures - It has been remarked that Nebuchadnezzar spoiled the temple three times. -

1. He took away the greater part of those treasures when he took Jerusalem under Jehoiakim: and the vessels that he took then he placed in the temple of his god, Dan 1:2. And these were the vessels which Belshazzar profaned, Dan 5:2; and which Cyrus restored to Ezra, when he went up to Jerusalem, Ezr 1:2. It was at this time that he took Daniel and his companions.

2. He took the remaining part of those vessels, and broke them or cut them in pieces, when he came the second time against Jerusalem under Jeconiah; as is mentioned here, 2Kgs 24:13.

3. He pillaged the temple, took away all the brass, the brazen pillars, brazen vessels, and vessels of gold and silver, which he found there when he besieged Jerusalem under Zedekiah, 2Kgs 25:13-17.

2KINGS 24: 14 He carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; no one remained, except the poorest sort of the people of the land.

Verse 14

He carried away all Jerusalem - That is, all the chief men, the nobles, and artificers. Among these there were of mighty men seven thousand; of craftsmen and smiths, one thousand.

2KINGS 24: 15 He carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon; and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the chief men of the land, carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2KINGS 24: 16 All the men of might, even seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths one thousand, all of them strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

2KINGS 24: 17 The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's father's brother, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Verse 17

Made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead - He was the son of Josiah, and brother to Jehoiakim.

Changed his name to Zedekiah - See the note on 2Kgs 23:34.

2KINGS 24: 18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2KINGS 24: 19 He did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

Verse 19

He did - evil - How astonishing is this! not one of them takes warning by the judgments of God, which fell on their sinful predecessors.

2KINGS 24: 20 For through the anger of the LORD, this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Verse 20

Zedekiah rebelled - This was in the eighth year of his reign: and he is strongly reprov'd for having violated the oath he took to the king of Babylon: see 2Chr 36:13. This was the filling up of the measure of iniquity; and now the wrath of God descends upon this devoted king, city, and people, to the uttermost. See the catastrophe in the next chapter.