

# II Kings 21-25

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Historical Books II  
Lecture #22

# II Kings Chapter 21

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Manasseh to Josiah



# Manasseh

- Reigned 55 years.
- Generally considered the worst king of Judah.
- Promoted idolatry and desecrated the Temple by bringing in pagan worship.





# Prophetic Witness

- The prophets took a strong stand against Manasseh.
- They proclaim the coming destruction of the Southern Kingdom.
- Manasseh “barbarously slew all the righteous men that were among the Hebrews; nor would he spare the prophets, for he every day slew some of them, till Jerusalem was overflown with blood.”
  - Tradition says Isaiah was sawn in half.





# Manasseh

- We will cover more about Manasseh in II Chronicles.
- He dies and his son Amon inherits the throne.

## Manasseh on 2 Stele

c. 670BC



Prism of Esarhaddon

Prism of Ashurbanipal

Both prisms name Manasseh as one of 22 kings

"to transport lumber for Esarhaddon's palace"

"servants who belong to me, brought gifts to me,  
kissed my feet" to defeat of Pharaoh Taharqa: 671

[www.bible.ca/manuscripts](http://www.bible.ca/manuscripts)

# Amon



- Reigns two years.
- May have been worse than his father – II Chronicles 33:23
- Is assassinated and his son Josiah takes the throne.



# II Kings Chapter 22

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Josiah, the Temple, and the Law

# Josiah

- The last good king of Judah.
- Reigns for 31 years.
- Does right and follows God.





# Temple Repaired

- After years of neglect and incursion of idolatrous practices, Josiah leads a restoration of the Temple.
- The last such renovation had been two hundred years before.





# The Law Recovered

- In the process of the Temple renovation, a copy of the Mosaic Law is recovered.
- The priest Hilkiyah gives it to scribe Shaphan who reads it to the king.
- The king rends his clothes when hearing it.





# Huldah's Message



- The prophetess Huldah (“weasel”) is consulted.
- God’s judgment against Judah would not happen in Josiah’s day.
- However, judgment was surely coming in the future.

# II Kings

## Chapter 23

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Jehoash and Jehoiada



# The Covenant Renewed

- Josiah gathers the leaders of Judah and reads the Law to them.
- The king and the people covenant themselves to follow God's Law.



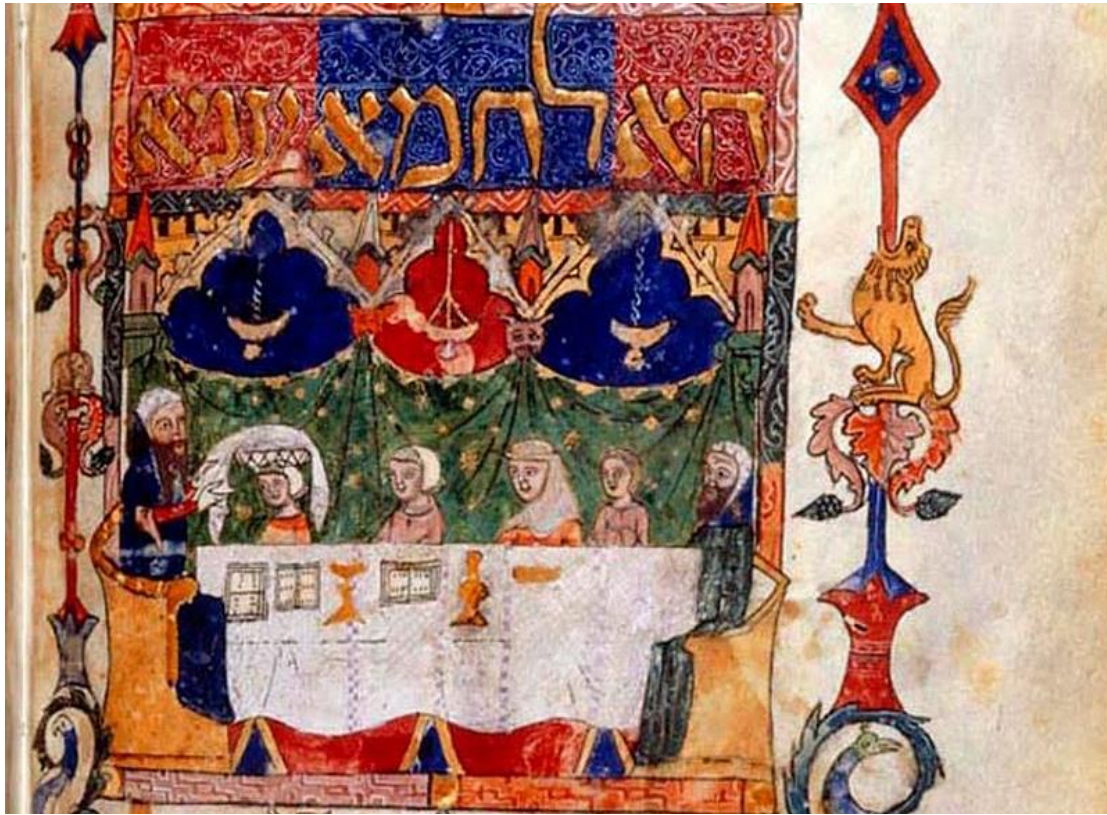


# Campaign Against Idolatry

- The Temple is purged from anything related to idolatry.
- The high places are torn down.
  - Some of these were dedicated to God – vs. 8-9
- He desecrated Jeroboam's altar at Bethel, fulfilling the prophesy of I Kings 13:2.







# Passover

- After ridding the land of idolatry, the Passover is celebrated.
- Hezekiah held a great Passover celebration before this, but Josiah's was greater.



# Josiah

- As great as Josiah was, he could not turn Judah from its path toward judgment.
- Josiah is killed in a battle between Egypt and Assyria in the valley of Megiddo.
- His son Jehoahaz inherits the throne.





# Jehoahaz/Shallum

- Reigns for three months.
- Did not follow God.
- When Necho II and the Egyptians came back through Judah:
  - He replaces Jehoahaz with his brother Eliakim.
  - Demands tribute of 100 silver talents and 1 gold talent.



# Jehoakim

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- Necho changes Eliakim's name (“raised up by God”) to Jehoakim (“whom Jehovah sets up”).
- Reigns 11 years.
- Another bad king.





# II Kings Chapter 24

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Babylon Enters

# Babylon

- Nabopolassar revolted against Assyria in 626 B.C.
- Assyria fell to alliance led by Babylonian and Median forces.
  - Asshur fell in 614 B.C.
  - Nineveh fell in 612 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar II takes the throne after his father Nabopolassar dies.





# Nebuchadnezzar II

- Was a crown prince and general under his father.
- Led a great victory against the Egyptians at Carchemish in 605 B.C., establishing Babylonian dominance over the Promised Land.



# Jehoiakim's Rebellion

- After being subject to Babylon for three years (after Carchemish?), Jehoiakim rebels.
- According to Josephus:
  - Babylon returns
  - Jehoiakim is taken prisoner and killed.
- Jehoiachin is placed on the throne.





# Jehoiachin

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- Reigns 3 months.
- A supposed discrepancy in the age given at the start of his reign can be solved easily.
  - 8 years old when made crown prince.
  - 18 years old when made king.



# Sacking of Jerusalem

- Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians return quickly.
- Jehoiachin submits quickly.
  - He and his family are taken captive.
  - The city is spoiled.
- Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah is made king by Babylon and his name is changed to Zedekiah.





# Zedekiah

- Reigns 11 years.
- Another bad king.
- Jeremiah – “52:3 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.”



# II Kings

## Chapter 25

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The Fall of Judah



# Siege of Jerusalem

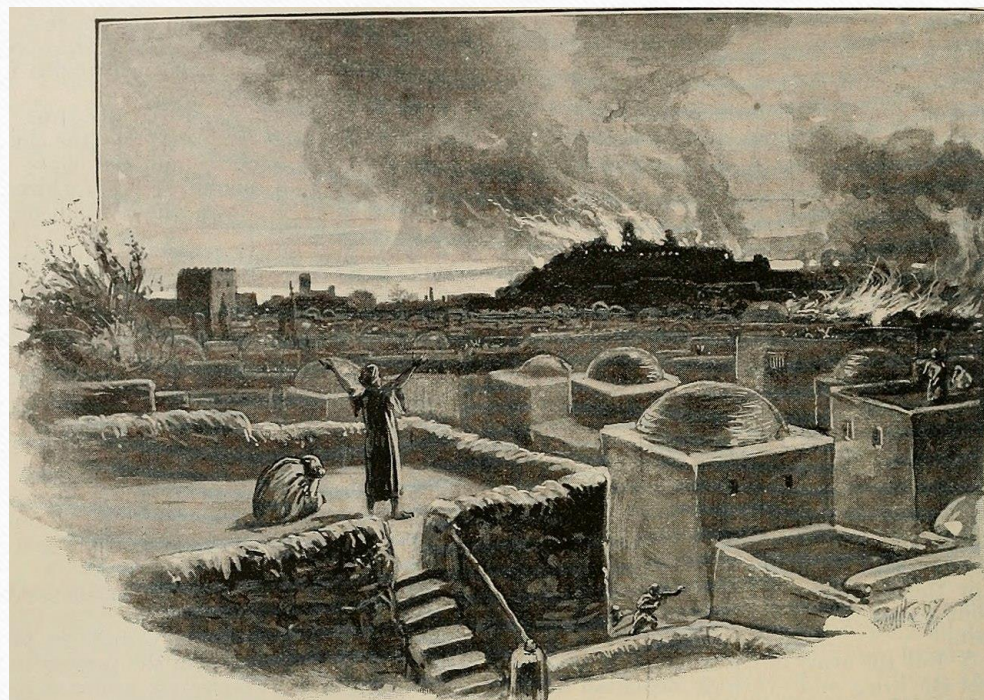
- Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon.
- Babylon besieges the city.
- Food runs out after 18 months.
- Zedekiah makes a desperate attempt to flee but is captured.
  - His sons are killed in front of him and then his eyes put out.





# Tisha B'Av

- The Babylonians under Nebuzaradan systematically destroy the city.
- The Jews believe the same date (the ninth of Av) was when both the First and Second Temples were destroyed.
- Most of the people are taken captive to Babylon.





# Gedaliah

- The Babylonians create a new province called Yehud.
- Gedaliah is made governor of this territory.
- Gedaliah encouraged the people that remained to submit to Babylon and continue to work the land.
- He is assassinated by Ishmael.
- Some of the people flee into Egypt.



# Jehoiachin's Fate

- Evilmerodach, son of Nebuchadnezzar, evidently tries to usurp his father and was imprisoned.
- While in prison he possibly befriends Jehoiachin.
- When Evilmerodach became king, he released Jehoiachin and was given a royal stipend.





**FOUR BOOKS DOWN**



**TWO MORE TO GO**