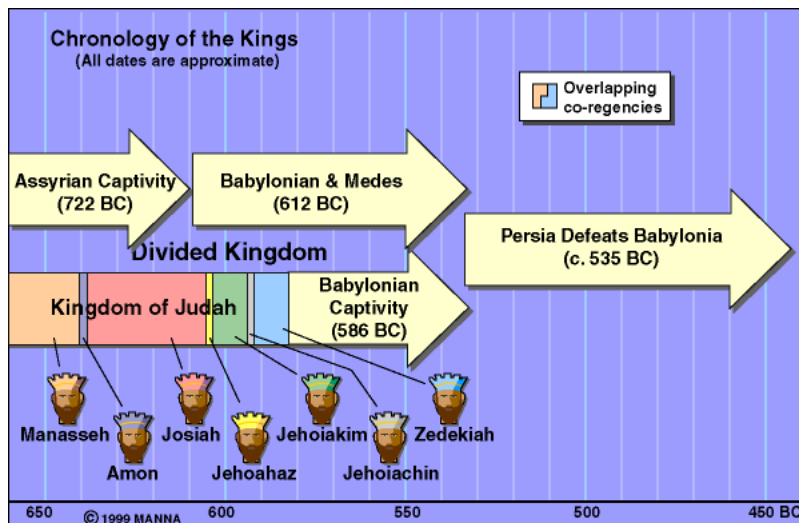


Doctrine of Jeremiah

1. Jeremiah was written from either Judah or Egypt in about 580 B.C. by the prophet himself. The prophet rebukes Judah urging their return to the Lord. He also urges no reliance on the power of alliances, particularly Egypt, predicting the victory of Babylon. He also prophesied of Judah's exile to Babylonia and their return after 70 years. He is active during the reigns of the last four Kings of Judah.

2. Let's take a look at the chronology of the kings of Judah beginning with Manasseh to Zedekiah. All of these kings in some way are involved with Jeremiah and the terrible end of Judah.



3. Jeremiah was a major prophet during the period of the decline and fall of Judah in the 7th and 6th century B.C. He prophesied in Judah during the period c. 625 to 582.

4. The latter part of the 7th century produced four prophets in Judah: Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum and Habakkuk. The greatest of these, and the one enjoying the longest period of prophetic activity was Jeremiah.

5. His birth place was Anathoth, a little village perched on a limestone ridge two miles northeast of Jerusalem. Jeremiah was born in c. 650 during the closing period of King Manasseh's reign.

6. The Northern Kingdom had earlier fallen in c. 721 to the Assyrians. Later the southern kingdom would fall in three principle dispersions: 606, 597 and 586.

7. Before Jeremiah's birth Egypt and Israel had formed a coalition to defeat the Assyrians; so war clouds were on the world's horizon.

8. This international turmoil could be responsible for the prophet's name. His name means "whom the lord (Yahweh) establishes;" or, "whom the Lord (Yahweh) hurls" or "casts forth."

9. His prophecies were replete with predictions of divine judgment for Judah.

Jer 1:13 The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

Jer 1:14 The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.

Jer 1:15 I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD. "Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah.

Jer 1:16 I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshiping what their hands have made.

Jer 1:17 "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.

Jer 1:18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land.

Jer 1:19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

10. Indeed, he was a spiritual missile hurled forth in a darkened world. Hilkiyah was his father's name (Jer 1:1) - a common Hebrew name meaning "the Lord (Yahweh) is my portion."

Jer 1:1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

11. Both names (Jeremiah's and Hilkiyah's) suggest that his family was loyal to the God of Israel during the tyrannical reign of the ungodly King Manasseh.

12. Jeremiah had a background of the finest religious traditions and grew up in the atmosphere of a pious Jew; strict Judaism was part of his intellectual, moral, and spiritual inheritance.

13. When Jeremiah began to prophesy, he demonstrated a firsthand awareness of divine knowledge and his divine call. Like all great prophets, Jeremiah shook himself free of all secondary and human sources of inspiration.

14. Jeremiah, unlike the "successful" preachers today was not accepted by the people of the southern kingdom or their leaders. He taught and there were few who came to listen.

15. In fact when he taught, the prophet encountered great opposition but he would not keep quiet. He knew in his heart that God had called him, for he had heard the voice of the Lord: "Before I fashioned you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I dedicated you; I designed you for a prophet to the nations."

Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

16. Anathoth, the home of Jeremiah was located in the territory of Benjamin. Benjamin was from the tribe of King Saul and "the bad boy Shimei." Benjamin was also known for their military prowess along with their neighbor Ephraim.

17. Since Jerusalem was less than an hour's walk from Anathoth Jeremiah was in close touch with the heart of the nation and the pulse of the world.

18. All the political and social news would trickle eventually to the prophet's village. He was no doubt aware of the reverberations of the Assyrian, Scythian, and Babylonian campaigns.

19. Every day events made an indelible imprint on his life. He observed the farmer in the field (Jer 4:3), the children in the street (Jer 6:11), the silver refiners and the potters at their work (Jer 6:28-30 and Jer 18:3-6).

Jer 4:3 This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

Jer 6:11 But I am full of the wrath of the LORD, and I cannot hold it in. "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the young men gathered together; both husband and wife will be caught in it, and the old, those weighed down with years.

Jer 6:28 They are all hardened rebels, going about to slander. They are bronze and iron; they all act corruptly ...

Jer 6:30 They are called rejected silver, because the LORD has rejected them."

Jer 18:3 So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel ...

Jer 18:6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

20. Manasseh died when Jeremiah was about ten years old. Amon, Manasseh's son, ruled two years. After Amon a young King Josiah (c. 640-609) ascended the Judean throne at only eight years of age.

21. Several years later during Josiah's reign, Jeremiah was drafted by the Lord to be a prophet to the nations.

Jer 1:2 The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah,

22. The years 627 and 626 B.C. were most significant years in world history. Ashurbanipal, the last great Assyrian king, died; and Nabopolassar, the first great Neo-Babylonian king, came to the throne of Babylon.

23. Some ten years later the Babylonians and Medes, along with the Scythians, launched a combined attack on Nineveh the capital of Assyria. The death rattle could already be detected in the throat of Assyria, the mistress of the world.

24. During this shaking of the nations, God's hand laid hold on Jeremiah, and overpowered him. Behind that call were inheritance, tradition, and training; but the experience itself was sudden, abrupt, and fraught with terrific weight and meaning.

25. From that day, Jeremiah moved upon the stage of history as a God-possessed soul. Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began in Anathoth, and apparently he remained there for several years as more or less an insignificant prophet. In 622-621 a religious reformation occurred. Josiah had taken over the reigns of government and decided to restore faith in the God of Israel.

26. At this point a brief history lesson of the last six kings of the southern kingdom will prove helpful.

JOSIAH (c. 640-608)

1. Josiah, a good king of Judah, was the grandson of Manasseh and son and successor of Amon.

1.1 The primary biblical information concerning him comes from 2Ki 22-23; 2Ch 34 and 35; and the book of Zephaniah. His birth was supernaturally predicted by name during the reign of Jeroboam. 1Ki 12:31-32

1Ki 13:1 By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering.

1Ki 13:2 He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'"

1.1.1 Josiah was instrumental in eradicating idolatry in Judah and the southern part of Israel.



1.2 He was one of the good kings of Judah who led a reform. The "people of the land" placed him on the throne, and he reigned c. 640-608. In the eighth year of his reign he "began to seek after the God of David." (2Ch 34:3)

2Ch 34:3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

2Ch 34:4 Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

1.3 In his twelfth year he began his reforms in Judah and Jerusalem, and in parts of northern Israel as well. (Jeremiah received his call to the prophetic ministry in Josiah's thirteenth year, (c. 626 B.C.) In his eighteenth year (c. 622) Josiah arranged for the Temple to be repaired.

2. It was at this time that a most important event in his reign occurred. Hilkiah the high priest found the "book of the law" in the temple. If this work is not to be identified solely as the book of Deuteronomy, it is quite certain that it at least included that book, or parts of it. This law book was responsible for the renewal of the covenant and further reforms.

2.1 Josiah centralized public worship in Jerusalem. He also observed the Passover on the grandest scale since the days of the judges. But in spite of all this, Jeremiah makes it clear that Josiah's reform was only superficial, external, and temporary. No genuine repentance or lasting inner change of the people resulted from it. Jer 5:1-19; 6:14-30

Jer 5:1 "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.

Jer 5:2 Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' still they are swearing falsely."

Jer 5:5 So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God." But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds.

Jer 5:6 Therefore a lion from the forest will attack them, a wolf from the desert will ravage them, a leopard will lie in wait near their towns to tear to pieces any who venture out, for their rebellion is great and their backslidings many.

Jer 5:7 "Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.

Jer 5:8 They are well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for another man's wife.

Jer 5:9 Should I not punish them for this?" declares the LORD. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this? ...

Jer 5:12 They have lied about the LORD; they said, "He will do nothing! No harm will come to us; we will never see sword or famine.

Jer 5:13 The prophets are but wind and the word is not in them; so let what they say be done to them."

Jer 5:14 Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: "Because the people have spoken these words, I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes ...

Jer 5:18 "Yet even in those days," declares the LORD, "I will not destroy you completely.

Jer 5:19 And when the people ask, 'Why has the LORD our God done all this to us?' you will tell them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your own land, so now you will serve foreigners in a land not your own.'

Jer 6:14 They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

Jer 6:15 Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them," says the LORD ...

Jer 6:21 Therefore this is what the LORD says: "I will put obstacles before this people. Fathers and sons alike will stumble over them; neighbors and friends will perish."

Jer 6:22 This is what the LORD says: "Look, an army is coming from the land of the north; a great nation is being stirred up from the ends of the earth.

Jer 6:28 They are all hardened rebels, going about to slander. They are bronze and iron; they all act corruptly ...

Jer 6:29 The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goes on in vain; the wicked are not purged out.

Jer 6:30 They are called rejected silver, because the LORD has rejected them."

3. Josiah adopted an anti-Assyrian and anti-Egyptian policy. Most of these policies were advocated by Jeremiah. Josiah met an untimely death in c. 610 by leading a little army against Neco II, king of Egypt.

3.1 Neco II was actually on a march with his army to aid the Assyrians in making their last ditch stand against the Babylonians at Haran. At the very beginning of this encounter with the Egyptian army at Megiddo, Josiah was killed.



3.1.1 His religious reformation was soon forgotten and three months later the kingdom of Judah lost its political independence to Egypt.

4. Josiah was the last good and Godly king of Judah before the Babylonian captivity. The finest tribute is paid to him in 2Ki 23:25.

"And like unto him was there no king before him ... he turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him."

JEHOAHAZ (c. 608)

1. Jehoahas was a king of Judah and son of Josiah. Although he was not the eldest, he was chosen by the people. (2Ki 23:30-31)

2Ki 23:30 Josiah's servants brought his body in a chariot from Megiddo to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father.

2Ki 23:31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.

2. He ruled under the tragic circumstances of the death of Josiah. After only three months he was deposed by Pharaoh-Necho and taken to Egypt in chains.

2Ki 23:33 Pharaoh Neco put him in chains at Riblah in the land of Hamath so that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and he imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

Jer 22:10 Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss; rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled, because he will never return nor see his native land again.

Jer 22:11 For this is what the LORD says about Shallum (Jehoahaz) son of Josiah, who succeeded his father as king of Judah but has gone from this place: "He will never return.

Jer 22:12 He will die in the place where they have led him captive; he will not see this land again."

Jer 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

3. The people mourned his death. He was the first king of Judah to die in exile.

JEHOIAKIM (c. 608-597)

1. Jehoiakim was a king of Judah and a son of Josiah by his wife Zebudah. He was first called Eliakim, but after deposing Jehoahaz, Pharaoh-Necho set him on the throne of Judah and changed his name to Jehoiakim, in the latter half of c. 609.

2Ki 23:34 Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt, and there he died.

2Ki 23:35 Jehoiakim paid Pharaoh Necho the silver and gold he demanded. In order to do so, he taxed the land and exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land according to their assessments.

2Ki 23:36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Zebudah daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah.

2Ki 23:37 And he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.

2. He was subject to Egypt for four years and required to exact heavy tribute from his people. The battle of Carchemish in 605 ended the rule of Egypt.

3. Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem and received the submission of Jehoiakim and took some 60 captives including Daniel and his three friends (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo) and the golden vessels from the temple of Babylon.

2Ki 24:1 During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.

4. Nebuchadnezzar had Jehoiakim, and many others, exiled in chains to Babylon (2Ch 36:6), but evidently released him after receiving assurance that he would be a loyal vassal.

2Ch 36:6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

2Ch 36:7 Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon articles from the temple of the LORD and put them in his temple there.

5. Judah began a period of moral and religious decay. Baal and Ashtoreth were worshiped in the gates of the temple and sacrifices resumed in the valley of Hinnom.

6. Cruelty, corruption and oppression were commonplace in the city. Jeremiah wrote on a scroll in protest, telling how divine judgment would surely come to Judah (Jer 36), but the king, after reading a few leaves, took his knife and cut them in strips and then burned them.

Jer 36:1 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

Jer 36:2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now.

Jer 36:3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of them will turn from his wicked way; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.

Jer 36:4 So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll...

Jer 36:23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the fire pot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

Jer 36:24 The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.

Jer 36:25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

Jer 36:26 Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them.

7. After three years Jehoiakim rashly rebelled against Babylonia however Nebuchadnezzar was too busy with battles elsewhere to address the matters in Judah. Jehoiakim died on Dec. 10, 598 B.C. according to calculations based on a Babylonian chronicle.

8. The people did not mourn his death. He was given a shameful burial as Jeremiah had prophesied.

Jer 22:18 Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah: "They will not mourn for him: 'Alas, my brother! Alas, my sister!' They will not mourn for him: 'Alas, my master! Alas, his splendor!'"

Jer 22:19 He will have the burial of a donkey-- dragged away and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem."

9. His young son Jehoiachin inherited his throne and all the unsolved problems.

JEHOIACHIN (c. 597)

1. He is also called Jeconiah and Coniah in several places in the Old Testament and in the New Testament he is called in the Greek Jechonias.

1Ch 3:17 And the sons of Jeconiah; Assir, Salathiel his son,

Est 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

Est 2:6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

1.1 In Jer 22:24-30 there is a remarkable and special prophecy for this wicked king.

1.1.1 There it is predicted that none of his seed would be in the line of Christ though he was a son of David.

1.1.2 Though Joseph the stepfather of Jesus did come from the line of Jeconiah or Coniah, the virgin conception rules out his participation.

1.1.3 Recall Mary came by way of Nathan and not Solomon; her genealogy can be found in Luk 3:23-38.

Jer 22:24 As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;

Jer 22:25 And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

Jer 22:26 And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die.

Jer 22:27 But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return.

Jer 22:28 Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?

Jer 22:29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.

Jer 22:30 Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

1.1.4 There is the mention of Coniah as Jechonias in the line of Joseph to Christ in the Book of Matthew 1:11-12

Mat 1:11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

Mat 1:12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

2. Coniah's reign lasted three months and ten days (2Ki 24:8). He ascended to the throne when Judah was suffering from raids by neighboring people (particularly the Edomites) the raids were incited by Nebuchadnezzar because of Jehoiakim's reckless bid for independence.

2Ki 24:1 During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.

2Ki 24:2 The LORD sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him. He sent them to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by his servants the prophets.

2Ki 24:3 Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD'S command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done,

2Ki 24:4 including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.

2Ki 24:5 As for the other events of Jehoiakim's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 24:6 Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king ...

2Ki 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.

3. Jehoiachin's short rule gave little chance to tell what sort of king he would have made, but he is charged with doing evil as his father had done.

2Ki 24:9 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father had done.

4. When Nebuchadnezzar finished his war with Egypt, he mobilized his army to invade Judah, and Jehoiachin was forced to capitulate.

4.1 A cuneiform tablet in the series of the court chronicles of the Babylonian kings states the exact date that Nebuchadnezzar took him captive, equivalent to March 16, 597

5. On April 22, c. 597 he left Jerusalem to begin his exile in Babylon, along with 10,000 others including his mother, the leading men and women of Judah such as Ezekiel the prophet. Judah's treasures were also taken at this time.

6. There was only a poor and feeble remnant left behind, with no leadership or protection.

2Ki 24:10 At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it,

2Ki 24:11 and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it.

2Ki 24:12 Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner.

2Ki 24:13 As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD.

2Ki 24:14 He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans--a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.

2Ki 24:15 Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother, his wives, his officials and the leading men of the land.

2Ki 24:16 The king of Babylon also deported to Babylon the entire force of seven thousand fighting men, strong and fit for war, and a thousand craftsmen and artisans.

2Ki 24:17 He made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.

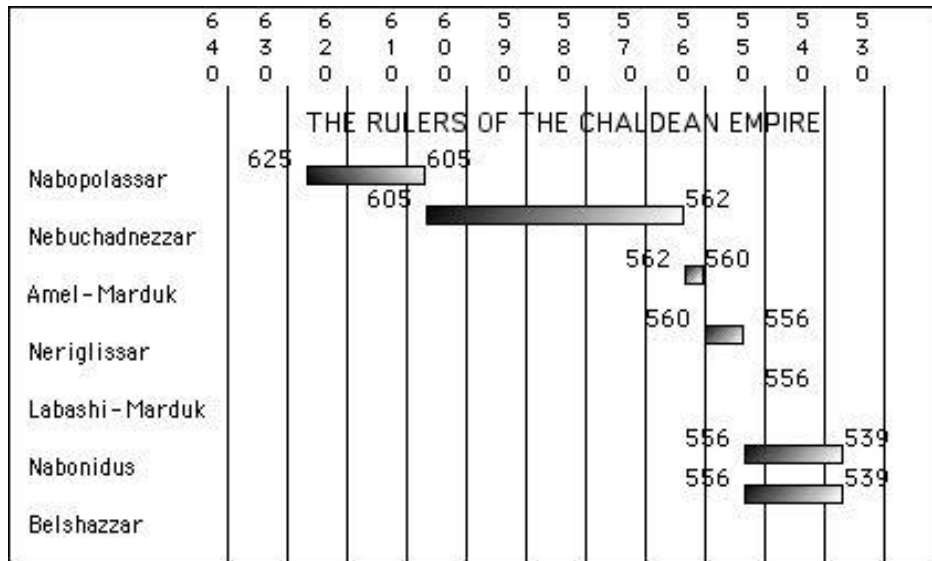
7. Jehoiachin was held captive for the rest of his life.

7.1 At least two Babylonian tablets dated with a date of 592 list Jehoiachin and his five sons among those who received rations from the king in Babylon.

8. He seems to have enjoyed a certain amount of freedom within the city at this time, but was imprisoned later, perhaps during the final siege of Jerusalem.

8.1 After about 36 years Evil-merodach, King of Babylon set him free from prison but made him eat at his table.

8.1.1 Let's me give you a listing of the Chaldean kings.



9. Jehoiachin remained a figure of nationalistic hope to his people during his long captivity, for he was the legitimate Davidic king and was even called "king of Judah." As long as he lived he kept the nationalistic spirit of his people on fire.

ZEDEKIAH (c. 597-586)

1. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah (597-586). The account of his 11-year reign is found in 2Ki 24; 2Ch 36; Jer 39 and 52.

1.1 Twenty-one years of age when he became king, Zedekiah was the third son of Josiah to come to the throne.

1.2 He was the younger brother of Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim and the uncle of Jehoiachin.

1.3 The removal of Jehoiachin to exile included the deportation of the chief men of Judah.

1.4 Zedekiah was made king over the remnant left behind in 597, and his previous name, Mattaniah, was changed to Zedekiah (2Ki 24:17).

1.5 The situation he inherited was a tenuous one and in fact too difficult for Zedekiah to control.

2. At the outset of his reign Zedekiah gave some signs of intention to obey the Mosaic law and to heed the advice of Jeremiah with respect to foreign policies.

3. He urged those who held slaves to set them free (Jer 34), and sent an embassy to Babylon to advise the Jews there to settle down to normal living and seek the peace of the city and to pray for peace (Jer 29).

Jer 34:8 The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves.

Jer 34:9 Everyone was to free his Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Jew in bondage.

Jer 34:10 So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage. They agreed, and set them free.

Jer 34:11 But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.

Jer 34:12 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

Jer 34:13 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your forefathers when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I said,

Jer 34:14 'Every seventh year each of you must free any fellow Hebrew who has sold himself to you. After he has served you six years, you must let him go free.' Your fathers, however, did not listen to me or pay attention to me.

Jer 34:15 Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight: Each of you proclaimed freedom to his countrymen. You even made a covenant before me in the house that bears my Name ...

Jer 34:17 "Therefore, this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom for your fellow countrymen. So I now proclaim 'freedom' for you, declares the LORD--'freedom' to fall by the sword, plague and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Jer 29:1 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon ...

Jer 29:4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Jer 29:5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Jer 29:6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

Jer 29:7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

4. It soon became apparent, however, that the court of Zedekiah was a center of intrigue and plotting against Babylon.

5. In the fourth year of Zedekiah, ambassadors gathered at Jerusalem from the surrounding nations of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon urging the king of Judah to join them in a conspiracy against Babylon.

6. Jeremiah opposed this foolish scheme and appeared before the envoys bearing upon his shoulders a yoke of wood to dramatize his declaration that God had given the nations into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

6.1 Those who submitted would be allowed to live but those who rebelled and refused submission to the yoke would perish declared the prophet (Jer 27).

Jer 27:1 Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

Jer 27:2 This is what the LORD said to me: "Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck.

Jer 27:3 Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.

Jer 27:4 Give them a message for their masters and say, "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Tell this to your masters:

Jer 27:5 With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.

Jer 27:6 Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.

Jer 27:7 All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him.

Jer 27:8 "If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy it by his hand.

6.2 News of the impending revolt may have reached Nebuchadnezzar, who apparently then summoned Zedekiah to Babylon (Jer 51:59).

Jer 51:59 This is the message Jeremiah gave to the staff officer Seraiah son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went to Babylon with Zedekiah king of Judah in the fourth year of his reign.

Jer 51:60 Jeremiah had written on a scroll about all the disasters that would come upon Babylon-- all that had been recorded concerning Babylon.

Jer 51:61 He said to Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud.

Jer 51:62 Then say, 'O LORD, you have said you will destroy this place, so that neither man nor animal will live in it; it will be desolate forever.'

Jer 51:63 When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates.

Jer 51:64 Then say, 'So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her people will fall.' The words of Jeremiah end here.

6.3 This would seem to explain, at least in part, why the proposed insurrection did not materialize at this time.

7. The next step toward overt rebellion was taken when Zedekiah leagued with Egypt--a treacherous and defiant move in the eyes of Nebuchadnezzar. This act resulted in another invasion and the destruction of the Temple in 586.

7.1 The Scriptural record of this event is found in Jer 34 and 37, and in Eze 17. Josephus declares that the date was the eighth year of the reign of Zedekiah.

8. The final siege of Jerusalem began in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign on the tenth day of the tenth month.

8.1 The account of the siege and fall of the city is found in 2Ki 25 and chapters 39 and 52.

8.2 Because of a report that Hophra of Egypt was on his way to aid the beleaguered city, the siege was lifted for a short time as the Babylonian army deployed to meet this threat.

8.3 Although details are not available, it may be assumed that Egypt was summarily defeated, for Babylon resumed its siege of Jerusalem as Jeremiah had solemnly predicted would be the case (Jer 37:8-10).

Jer 37:8 Then the Babylonians will return and attack this city; they will capture it and burn it down.'

Jer 37:9 "This is what the LORD says: Do not deceive yourselves, thinking, 'The Babylonians will surely leave us.' They will not!

Jer 37:10 Even if you were to defeat the entire Babylonian army that is attacking you and only wounded men were left in their tents, they would come out and burn this city down."

9. Conditions now became desperate. The strongly fortified city held out for nearly a year and a half, during which time the population suffered all the horrors of famine and pestilence.

9.1 A breach was finally made in the walls, and Zedekiah, seeing that all was lost, attempted to escape to the Jordan Valley.

9.2 Pursued and captured by the Chaldeans, he was brought before Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah, and there sentence was passed upon him.

9.3 The sons of Zedekiah were slain before him, after which his eyes were put out and he himself was taken in chains to Babylon, where he later died.

10. Thus were fulfilled the prophecies of Jeremiah chapter 34 and Ezekiel chapter 12 concerning the fate of Judah's last king.

Jer 34:2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.

Jer 34:3 You will not escape from his grasp but will surely be captured and handed over to him. You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes, and he will speak with you face to face. And you will go to Babylon.

Jer 34:4 "Yet hear the promise of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah. This is what the LORD says concerning you: You will not die by the sword;

Jer 34:5 you will die peacefully. As people made a funeral fire in honor of your fathers, the former kings who preceded you, so they will make a fire in your honor and lament, "Alas, O master!" I myself make this promise, declares the LORD."

Jer 34:6 Then Jeremiah the prophet told all this to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem,

Jer 34:7 while the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah that were still holding out--Lachish and Azekah. These were the only fortified cities left in Judah.

Eze 12:11 Say to them, 'I am a sign to you.' "As I have done, so it will be done to them. They will go into exile as captives.

Eze 12:12 "The prince among them will put his things on his shoulder at dusk and leave, and a hole will be dug in the wall for him to go through. He will cover his face so that he cannot see the land.

Eze 12:13 I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare; I will bring him to Babylonia, the land of the Chaldeans, but he will not see it, and there he will die.

Eze 12:14 I will scatter to the winds all those around him-- his staff and all his troops-- and I will pursue them with drawn sword.

Eze 12:15 "They will know that I am the LORD, when I disperse them among the nations and scatter them through the countries.

GEDALIAH (c. 586- 581)

1. Gedaliah was appointed governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar after the destruction of Jerusalem in c. 586 (2Ki 25:22-26).

2Ki 25:22 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to be over the people he had left behind in Judah.

2Ki 25:23 When all the army officers and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah--Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, and their men.

2Ki 25:24 Gedaliah took an oath to reassure them and their men. "Do not be afraid of the Babylonian officials," he said. "Settle down in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you."

2. Gedaliah was a member of a prominent and powerful family.

2.1 His grandfather was Shaphan, probably the one who served as state secretary under King Josiah and reported the discovery of the book of the law to the king (2Ki 22:10).

2Ki 22:10 Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

2.2 Shaphan's son, Gedaliah's father, Ahikam, became Jeremiah's protector after the famous temple sermon (Jer 26:24).

Jer 26:20 (Now Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath Jearim was another man who prophesied in the name of the LORD; he prophesied the same things against this city and this land as Jeremiah did.

Jer 26:21 When King Jehoiakim and all his officers and officials heard his words, the king sought to put him to death. But Uriah heard of it and fled in fear to Egypt.

Jer 26:22 King Jehoiakim, however, sent Elnathan son of Acbor to Egypt, along with some other men.

Jer 26:23 They brought Uriah out of Egypt and took him to King Jehoiakim, who had him struck down with a sword and his body thrown into the burial place of the common people.)

Jer 26:24 Furthermore, Ahikam son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah, and so he was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

3. Gedaliah set up his government at Mizpah, which was five or six miles north of Jerusalem.

4. The length of Gedaliah's governorship is not known. Suggestions have ranged from two months to five years. Ishmael, a leader of a fanatic nationalist band and a member of the exiled royal family, murdered Gedaliah while he was a guest in the official residence in Mizpah.

Jer 41:1 In the seventh month Ishmael son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was of royal blood and had been one of the king's officers, came with ten men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah. While they were eating together there.

Jer 41:2 Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him got up and struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword, killing the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the land.

5. Now let's return to the ministry of Jeremiah.

The Ministry of Jeremiah

1. The famous temple sermon of Jeremiah was preached during the early part of Jehoiakim's reign. As a result, Jeremiah was banned from the temple and nearly lost his life. Jer 7:1-8:3

Jer 7:3 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.

Jer 7:4 Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!"

Jer 7:5 If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly ...

Jer 7:7 then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever.

Jer 7:8 But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

Jer 7:9 "Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known,

Jer 7:10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"--safe to do all these detestable things?

Jer 7:11 Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD ...

Jer 7:15 I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your brothers, the people of Ephraim.'

Jer 7:16 "So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you.

Jer 7:17 Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jer 7:18 The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.

Jer 7:19 But am I the one they are provoking? declares the LORD. Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?

Jer 7:20 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: My anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground, and it will burn and not be quenched ...

Jer 7:27 "When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.

Jer 7:28 Therefore say to them, 'This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.

Jer 7:29 Cut off your hair and throw it away; take up a lament on the barren heights, for the LORD has rejected and abandoned this generation that is under his wrath.

Jer 7:30 "The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it.

Jer 7:31 They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire--something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind.

Jer 7:32 So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call it Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter, for they will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room.

Jer 7:33 Then the carcasses of this people will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away ...

Jer 8:1 "At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings and officials of Judah, the bones of the priests and prophets, and the bones of the people of Jerusalem will be removed from their graves.

Jer 8:2 They will be exposed to the sun and the moon and all the stars of the heavens, which they have loved and served and which they have followed and consulted and worshiped. They will not be gathered up or buried, but will be like refuse lying on the ground.

Jer 8:3 Wherever I banish them, all the survivors of this evil nation will prefer death to life, declares the LORD Almighty.'

2. In Jeremiah's eyes, the Lord had ordered Babylon to invade Judah; so in the teeth of the king, priests, prophets, and people he opposed any alliance with Egypt and freely predicted the supremacy of Babylon and the destruction of the Jewish state.

2.1 In Jer 25:6-12 the wrath of God is foretold upon Judah. The agent is said to be Babylon and Jeremiah predicts a seventy year captivity which was fulfilled from 606 to 536 Jeremiah also predicted the fall of Babylon.

Jer 25:6 Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not provoke me to anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you."

Jer 25:7 "But you did not listen to me," declares the LORD, "and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves."

Jer 25:8 Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words,

Jer 25:9 I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin.

Jer 25:10 I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp.

Jer 25:11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer 25:12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

3. Also Jeremiah perceived that the hope of future Israel was wrapped up solely in the band of the Jewish captives in Babylon, not in Jerusalem. The leftovers in the capital city were not the true remnant.

Jer 31:4 I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful.

Jer 31:5 Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.

Jer 31:6 There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"

Jer 31:7 This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

Jer 31:8 See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return.

Jer 31:9 They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

Jer 31:10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

Jer 31:11 For the LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

Jer 31:12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more.

Jer 31:13 Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

4. In 588 Zedekiah, who had long been plotting against Babylon, openly revolted against his Babylonian master. Babylonian vengeance was swift and final.

4.1 They marched through Judah and Jerusalem in 588. In July of 586, after a long and terrible siege of about 18 months, the city was captured. Nebuchadnezzar's patience was exhausted, so he ordered a systematic destruction of the city.

5. The temple was pillaged and demolished. The king was carried to Riblah in chains, his sons and cabinet were slain, his eyes put-out, and many Jews taken into captivity-only the poorest people were left behind to be vine dressers and husbandmen.

6. Jeremiah was released from the prison in Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar to stay with the people of the land (Jer 39:11-14). His friend Gedaliah was appointed governor of the Judean province. Jeremiah threw his influence behind the governor as he attempted "to rebuild" and "replant" the nation.

Jer 39:11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had given these orders about Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard:

Jer 39:12 "Take him and look after him; don't harm him but do for him whatever he asks."

Jer 39:13 So Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard, Nebushazban a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezer a high official and all the other officers of the king of Babylon

Jer 39:14 sent and had Jeremiah taken out of the courtyard of the guard. They turned him over to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him back to his home.

6.1 So he remained among his own people.

7. In 581, Gedaliah was murdered by a Jewish fanatic, Ishmael, who massacred all of Gedaliah's adherents. This brought the Babylonian army back to Palestine. In the wake of this return the people, panic-stricken over fear of Babylonian reprisal, fled to Egypt.

8. They kidnapped Jeremiah and carried him with them (Jer 43:1-7).

Jer 43:1 When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God--everything the LORD had sent him to tell them--

Jer 43:2 Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.'

Jer 43:3 But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon."

Jer 43:4 So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD'S command to stay in the land of Judah.

Jer 43:5 Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.

Jer 43:6 They also led away all the men, women and children and the king's daughters whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah.

Jer 43:7 So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

8.1 There on the banks of the Nile he preached against the fanatic worship practiced by the Jewish women to the Queen of Heaven (Jer 44:15-30).

Jer 44:15 Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present--a large assembly--and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah,

Jer 44:16 "We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD!

Jer 44:17 We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

Jer 44:18 But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine."

Jer 44:19 The women added, "When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes like her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?"

Jer 44:20 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, who were answering him,

Jer 44:21 "Did not the LORD remember and think about the incense burned in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem by you and your fathers, your kings and your officials and the people of the land?

Jer 44:22 When the LORD could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things you did, your land became an object of cursing and a desolate waste without inhabitants, as it is today.

Jer 44:23 Because you have burned incense and have sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed him or followed his law or his decrees or his stipulations, this disaster has come upon you, as you now see."

Jer 44:24 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah in Egypt.

Jer 44:25 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have shown by your actions what you promised when you said, 'We will certainly carry out the vows we made to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.' "Go ahead then, do what you promised! Keep your vows!

Jer 44:26 But hear the word of the LORD, all Jews living in Egypt: 'I swear by my great name,' says the LORD, 'that no one from Judah living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name or swear, "As surely as the Sovereign LORD lives.'"

Jer 44:27 For I am watching over them for harm, not for good; the Jews in Egypt will perish by sword and famine until they are all destroyed.

Jer 44:28 Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand--mine or theirs.

Jer 44:29 "'This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place,' declares the LORD, 'so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand.'

Jer 44:30 This is what the LORD says: 'I am going to hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who seek his life, just as I handed Zedekiah king of Judah over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who was seeking his life.'"

9. Even though Jeremiah was assured of Yehovah's strength for the prophetic ministry, when he encountered persecution and abuse he stormed back with all his soul.

9.1 He was a laughingstock all day long, an object of derision; his enemies cut him with their tongues; everyone cursed him.

9.2 He was lonely and rejected by his countrymen. Even his home townsmen plotted to assassinate him. His reaction was one of resentment and he rained down imprecations on his enemies.

10. The word of the Lord came to him, and he had to strike the fatal blow to temple superstition and empty formalism as substitutes for true religion.

11. Jeremiah is also famous for his prophecy of the New Covenant.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jer 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jer 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jer 31:35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

Jer 31:36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever.

Jer 31:37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

12. Jeremiah predicted certain judgment against the Kings of Judah.

Jer 22:1 This is what the LORD says: "Go down to the palace of the king of Judah and proclaim this message there ...

Jer 22:4 For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David's throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people.

Jer 22:5 But if you do not obey these commands, declares the LORD, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin."

Jer 22:6 For this is what the LORD says about the palace of the king of Judah: "Though you are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, I will surely make you like a desert, like towns not inhabited.

Jer 22:7 I will send destroyers against you, each man with his weapons, and they will cut up your fine cedar beams and throw them into the fire.

Jer 22:8 "People from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?'

Jer 22:9 And the answer will be: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.'

Jer 22:10 Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss; rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled, because he will never return nor see his native land again.

Jer 22:11 For this is what the LORD says about Shallum (a son of Josiah, Shallum, better known as Jehoaahaz) son of Josiah, who succeeded his father as king of Judah but has gone from this place: "He will never return.

Jer 22:12 He will die in the place where they have led him captive; he will not see this land again."

Jer 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

Jer 22:14 He says, 'I will build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.' So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red.

Jer 22:15 "Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him.

Jer 22:16 He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the LORD.

Jer 22:17 "But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion."

Jer 22:18 Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah: "They will not mourn for him: 'Alas, my brother! Alas, my sister!' They will not mourn for him: 'Alas, my master! Alas, his splendor!'

Jer 22:19 He will have the burial of a donkey-- dragged away and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem." ...

Jer 22:24 "As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "even if you, Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off.

Jer 22:25 I will hand you over to those who seek your life, those you fear-- to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to the Babylonians.

Jer 22:26 I will hurl you and the mother who gave you birth into another country, where neither of you was born, and there you both will die.

Jer 22:27 You will never come back to the land you long to return to."

13. There are many meaningful promises found in the book of Jeremiah; but none better than Jer 29:11.

Je 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.