

**The Fall of Israel to the Assyrians | 2 Kings 17:5-41**

- In 722 BC, under the reign of King Hoshea, the Assyrians took Israel captive, destroyed the capital of Samaria, and the Northern Kingdom fell because of its sin against God.
- The 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom are referred to as “lost” because there has never been a *national* restoration, though many *individuals* from these 10 tribes did return.

**The Last Days of the Davidic Kingdom | 2 Kings 22:1 – 25:30**

- Josiah was the last good king | 2 Kings 22:1-23:30
  - He became king at the age of eight, and began to follow the Lord at age 16. At age 20 he began to lead the Kingdom to purge itself of idols and idolatry. At age 27 he restored the Passover observance in Jerusalem, a practice that had been forgotten many years earlier.
  - He died at age 39 in 609 BC in an ill-advised battle against Pharaoh Nechoh, at Megiddo (the namesake of the Valley of Armageddon). The mourning of the nation is compared to the mourning of the last days in Zechariah 12:10-11.
- Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah | 2 Kings 23:31-35
  - He was the younger brother to Eliakim, but made King by the people due to his popularity.
  - He was an evil King who only reigned three months before Pharaoh Nechoh captured him and deported him to Egypt, and Egypt began to occupy Judah, requiring a heavy tribute to be paid by the Jewish people.
  - Jeremiah prophesied that Jehoahaz (also named Shallum) would never return to Judah and would die in Egypt (Jeremiah 22:11-12).
- Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah | 2 Kings 23:36-24:7
  - Jehoiakim was the oldest son of Josiah, named Eliakim by his father but renamed Jehoiakim by Pharaoh Nechoh.
  - He was an evil King, reigning for 11 years (to 598 BC).

- Jehoiakim paid tribute to Nechoh to 605BC, then Nebuchadnezzar rose to power over Egypt, so tribute was sent to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar took some of the finest young men to Babylon, including Daniel, in 605 BC.
- At the end of his reign, Jehoiakim rebelled and refused to pay tribute to Nebuchadnezzar.
- God allowed a band of enemies from the east to destroy Judah and kill Jehoiakim (even as Nebuchadnezzar was on his way to do the same).
- Jeremiah 22:18-19 speaks of his ignominious death and burial.
- Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, grandson of Josiah | 2 Kings 24:8-16
  - Also known as Jeconiah and Coniah.
  - Began to reign in 598 BC, at age 18, and only reigned for three months before Nebuchadnezzar showed up to punish the rebellion of Jehoiakim.
  - Nebuchadnezzar desecrated the Temple and palace and took 10,000 of the best Jews captive, including Ezekiel.
  - Jehoiachin was taken captive to Babylon, where he was held in prison for 37 years, then released and lived a King’s life in Babylon (2 Kings 25:27-30).
  - Jehoiachin’s grandson, Zerubbabel, would later be part of the team that led the Jews back to the Promised Land (536BC).
- Zedekiah, uncle of Jehoiachin | 2 Kings 24:17-25:30
  - He began to reign at age 21, and reigned eleven years (598-586BC)
  - In the ninth year of his reign, he rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, who then put an eighteen-month siege on Jerusalem, which fell on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, in 586BC.
  - Ezekiel 12:13 give an ominous prophecy of his blindness, which was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar had his sons killed before his eyes, then blinded him so that the death of his sons was the last sight he would ever see.
  - Zedekiah died blind and imprisoned in Babylon.

**The Feelings of Despair | Psalm 137**

- The Jewish people remained in exile, longing to return, and vowing never to forget Jerusalem.