

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, November 17, 2024

Sermon Series: The Potter & the Clay – Jeremiah/Lamentations

Message 26. Evil Kings – Jeremiah 22:1-30

Pastor Phillip M Way

In this chapter, God addresses the failures and futures of the last 4 Kings of Judah – 3 sons of Josiah, and then their uncle, Zedekiah.

- I. Zedekiah – vs. 1-9 (The Last First)
 - A. Reign 598-597 BC when Jerusalem was Burned to the Ground
 - B. Do Justice and Righteousness! – Deut. 27:19
 - 1. Deliver the oppressed
 - 2. Protect the sojourner, orphans, and widows
 - 3. Do not shed innocent blood – 2 Kings 21:16
 - C. Don't and Face Ruin
 - 1. "I Swear by Myself"
 - 2. Gilead – pastures and livestock
 - 3. Lebanon – forest of cedars
 - 4. Wilderness witnessed by the nations – Deut. 29:24-26
 - D. Why? For Breaking the First Commandment of the Covenant – Exodus 20:3
- II. Jehoahaz (Shallum) – vs. 10-12
 - A. Do Not Weep for Josiah
 - B. Exile and Death – See Note #1
- III. Jehoiakim (Eliakim) – vs. 13-19
 - A. Reign 609-598 BC
 - 1. Necho put him on the throne when he was 25 years old
 - 2. Nebuchadnezzar killed him 10 years later after a brief rebellion – he threw his body outside the wall of the city
 - B. WOE!
 - 1. A grand palace – 5 stories, windows, red paint – Ramat Rahel
 - 2. Injustice and oppression
 - 3. Not like his father, Josiah
 - 4. Greedy gain, shedding innocent blood, extortion
 - 5. Therefore – no mourning at his death, he would be buried like a donkey thrown on a trash heap
- IV. Jerusalem – vs. 20-23
 - A. "I Will Not Listen", says Judah
 - B. Shame, Dishonor, Pain
- V. Jehoiachin (Coniah) – vs. 24-30
 - A. Reign 3 Months and 10 Days – See Note #2
 - B. Thrown into Babylon – 2 Kings 24:6-15
 - C. O Land, Land, Land – Hear the Word of Yahweh
 - 1. Jehoiachin will not return to Judah
 - 2. None of his sons will sit on the throne (made eunuchs and taken to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's palace – Isa. 39:7)
 - 3. Is this the end of David's line? – Jer. 23:5

Cross References

Deuteronomy 27:19

19 ‘Cursed is he who perverts the justice due a sojourner, orphan, and widow.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

2 Kings 21:16

16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing what is evil in the sight of Yahweh.

Deuteronomy 29:24-26

24 And all the nations will say, ‘Why has Yahweh done thus to this land? Why this great burning anger?’
25 Then men will say, ‘Because they forsook the covenant of Yahweh, the God of their fathers, which He cut with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. 26 And they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not apportioned to them.

Exodus 20:3

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

2 Kings 24:6-15

6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son became king in his place. 7 And the king of Egypt did not go out of his land again, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates. 8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to all that his father had done. 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon went up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it. 12 Then Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he and his mother and his servants and his commanders and his officials. So the king of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his reign. 13 And he brought out from there all the treasures of the house of Yahweh, 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 temple of Yahweh, just as Yahweh had spoken. 14 Then he took away into exile all Jerusalem and all the commanders and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None was left except the poorest people of the land. 15 So he took Jehoiachin away into exile to Babylon; also the king’s mother and the king’s wives and his officials and the leading men of the land, he led away into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Isaiah 39:7

7 ‘And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

Jeremiah 23:5

5 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and prosper And do justice and righteousness in the land.

Notes

1. Josiah died in battle at Megiddo in 609 BC while fighting Pharaoh Necho to stop him from assisting Assyria in their battle against the new, rising power, Babylon. His son Jehoahaz was named king and reigned 3 months before Pharaoh Necho summoned him to Ribla and exiled him to Egypt where he died.
2. Jehoiachin was 18 when he began his reign. It lasted 100 days. He was taken when Jerusalem was captured on March 16, 597 BC, and imprisoned in Babylon until April 2, 561 BC. He remained in Babylon until his death. A clay tablet with his name on it was found near the Ishtar Gate in Babylon.