

~JUDAH 3 (1264)

(Ju'dah) [Lauded, Object of Laudation]

.. Rulership Not Lost

.. Compared With The Northern Kingdom

.. After The Exile

- **Judah as a kingdom**, including the tribe of Benjamin.
- And Amaziah proceeded to collect **Judah** together and to have them stand according to the house of the forefathers, by the chiefs of thousands and by the chiefs of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin, and he went on to register them from twenty years of age upward, and finally he found them to be three hundred thousand choice men going out to the army, handling lance and large shield. (**2 Chronicles 25:5**)
- After Solomon's death the other ten tribes formed an independent kingdom under the Ephraimite Jeroboam.
- Not long thereafter, in the fifth year of Rehoboam, Egypt's King Shishak invaded the kingdom of **Judah** as far as Jerusalem and captured fortified cities en route.
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. (**1 Kings 14:25**)
- And he got to take the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the house of the king, and everything he took. And he went on to take all the gold shields that Solomon had made. (**1 Kings 14:26**)
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, for they had behaved unfaithfully toward Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 12:2**)
- With twelve hundred chariots and with sixty thousand horsemen, and there was no number to the people that came with him out of Egypt, Libyans, Sukkiim and Ethiopians. (**2 Chronicles 12:3**)
- And he got to capture the fortified cities that belonged to **Judah** and finally came as far as Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 12:4**)

- Now as for Shemaiah the prophet, he came to Rehoboam and the princes of **Judah** who had gathered themselves at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he proceeded to say to them; This is what Yehowah has said; You, for your part, have left me, and I, too, for my part, have left you to the hand of Shishak. (**2 Chronicles 12:5**)
- At that the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said; Yehowah is righteous. (**2 Chronicles 12:6**)
- And when Yehowah saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of Yehowah came to Shemaiah, saying; They have humbled themselves. I shall not bring them to ruin, and in a little while I shall certainly give them an escape, and my rage will not pour forth upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. (**2 Chronicles 12:7**)
- But they will become servants of his, that they may know the difference between my service and the service of the kingdoms of the lands. (**2 Chronicles 12:8**)
- So Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and took the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house. Everything he took, and so he took the gold shields that Solomon had made. (**2 Chronicles 12:9**)
- For a period of some 40 years during the reigns of Judean Kings Rehoboam, Abijam or Abijah, and Asa, repeated conflicts occurred between the kingdoms of **Judah** and Israel.
- And warfare itself took place between Rehoboam and Jeroboam always. (**1 Kings 14:30**)
- As for the rest of the affairs of Abijam and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of **Judah**? There was warfare also that took place between Abijam and Jeroboam. (**1 Kings 15:7**)
- And warfare itself took place between Asa and Baasha the king of Israel all their days. (**1 Kings 15:16**)
- But Asa's successor Jehoshaphat formed a marriage alliance with wicked King Ahab of Israel. While this meant peace between the two

kingdoms, the marriage of Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah proved to be disastrous for **Judah**.

- Under Athaliah's influence, Jehoram became guilty of rank apostasy. During his reign the Philistines and the Arabs invaded Judah and took captive and killed all of his sons except Jehoahaz or Ahaziah, the youngest.
- When Ahaziah became king, he likewise followed the directives of wicked Athaliah. After Ahaziah's violent death, Athaliah killed all the royal offspring. But, undoubtedly by divine providence, the infant Jehoash, rightful heir to the throne of David, was hidden and therefore survived.
- Meanwhile the usurper Athaliah ruled as queen until her execution at the command of High Priest Jehoiada.
- And Jehoshaphat came to have riches and glory in abundance, but he formed a marriage alliance with Ahab. (2 Chronicles 18:1)
- Finally Jehoshaphat lay down with his forefathers and was buried with his forefathers in the City of David, and Jehoram his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Chronicles 21:1)
- Thirty-two years old was Jehoram when he began to reign, and for eight years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 21:5)
- And he went on walking in the way of the kings of Israel, just as those of the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's own daughter had become his wife, and he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Chronicles 21:6)
- Accordingly Yehowah aroused against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs that were by the side of the Ethiopians. (2 Chronicles 21:16)
- So they came up into **Judah** and forced it open and took captive all the goods that were to be found in the king's house and also his sons and his wives, and there was not left to him a son but Jehoahaz, his youngest son. (2 Chronicles 21:17)
- Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in place of him, for the marauder band that came with the Arabs to the camp had killed all the older ones, and Ahaziah

- the son of Jehoram began to reign as king of **Judah**. (2 Chronicles 22:1)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. (2 Chronicles 22:2)
 - He himself also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother herself became his counselor in doing wickedly. (2 Chronicles 22:3)
 - Then he went looking for Ahaziah, and they finally captured him, as he was hiding in Samaria, and brought him to Jehu. Then they put him to death and buried him, for they said; He is the grandson of Jehoshaphat, who searched for Yehowah with all his heart. And there was no one of the house of Ahaziah to retain power for the kingdom. (2 Chronicles 22:9)
 - As regards Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah, she saw that her son had died. So she rose up and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of **Judah**. (2 Chronicles 22:10)
 - However, Jehoshabeath the daughter of the king took Jehoash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king that were to be put to death, and put him and his nursing woman in the inner room for the couches. And Jehoshabeath the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, for she herself happened to be the sister of Ahaziah, kept him concealed because of Athaliah, and she did not put him to death. (2 Chronicles 22:11)
 - And he continued with them in the house of the true God hidden for six years, while Athaliah was ruling as queen over the land. (2 Chronicles 22:12)
 - Then she saw, and there was the king standing by his pillar at the entry, and the princes and the trumpets by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing the trumpets, and the singers with the instruments of song and those giving the signal for offering praise. Immediately Athaliah ripped her garments apart and said; Conspiracy! Conspiracy! (2 Chronicles 23:13)
 - But Jehoiada the priest brought out the chiefs of hundreds, the

- appointed ones of the military force, and said to them; Take her out from inside the rows, and as for anyone coming after her, he should be put to death with the sword! For the priest had said; You must not put her to death at the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 23:14)
- So they laid their hands upon her. When she came to the entry of the horse gate of the king's house, they at once put her to death there. (2 Chronicles 23:15)
 - Though his reign started out well, Jehoash departed from true worship after the death of High Priest Jehoiada.
 - And Jehoash kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes all the days of Jehoiada the priest. (2 Chronicles 24:2)
 - And after Jehoiada's death the princes of **Judah** came in and proceeded to bow down to the king. At that time the king listened to them. (2 Chronicles 24:17)
 - And gradually they left the house of Yehowah the God of their forefathers and began serving the sacred poles and the idols, so that there came to be indignation against **Judah** and Jerusalem because of this guilt of theirs. (2 Chronicles 24:18)
 - Jehoash's son, Amaziah, likewise failed to continue in a righteous course. During his reign, after years of peaceful coexistence, the ten-tribe kingdom and the kingdom of **Judah** again met in battle, with the latter suffering a humiliating defeat.
 - At the age of twenty-five years Amaziah became king, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 25:1)
 - And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes, only not with a complete heart. (2 Chronicles 25:2)
 - But it occurred after Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites that he now brought the gods of the sons of Seir and set them up for himself as gods, and before them he began to bow down, and to them he began to make sacrificial smoke. (2 Chronicles 25:14)
 - Consequently Yehowah's anger became hot against Amaziah, and

- so he sent a prophet to him and said to him; Why have you searched for the peoples gods that did not deliver their own people out of your hand? (2 Chronicles 25:15)
- And it came about when he spoke to him that the king immediately said to him; Was it a counselor of the king that we constituted you? Quit for your own sake. Why should they strike you down? Accordingly the prophet quit, but he said; I certainly know that God has resolved to bring you to ruin, because you have done this and you have not listened to my counsel. (2 Chronicles 25:16)
 - Then Amaziah the king of **Judah** took counsel and sent to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu the king of Israel, saying; Come! Let us look each other in the face. (2 Chronicles 25:17)
 - At that Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah the king of **Judah**, saying; The thorny weed itself that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying; Do give your daughter to my son as a wife. However, a wild beast of the field that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thorny weed down. (2 Chronicles 25:18)
 - You have said to yourself; Here you have struck down Edom. And your heart has lifted you up to be glorified. Now do keep dwelling in your own house. Why should you engage in strife in a bad position and have to fall, you and **Judah** with you? (2 Chronicles 25:19)
 - But Amaziah did not listen, for it was from the true God for the purpose of giving them into his hand, because they had searched for the gods of Edom. (2 Chronicles 25:20)
 - So Jehoash the king of Israel went up, and they proceeded to look each other in the face, he and Amaziah the king of **Judah**, at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. (2 Chronicles 25:21)
 - And **Judah** came to be defeated before Israel, so that they took to flight each one to his tent. (2 Chronicles 25:22)
 - And it was Amaziah the king of **Judah**, the son of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, that Jehoash the king of Israel seized at Beth-shemesh, after which he brought him to Jerusalem and made a

- breach in the wall of Jerusalem, from the Gate of Ephraim clear to the Corner Gate, four hundred cubits. (2 Chronicles 25:23)
- And he took all the gold and the silver and all the articles that were to be found in the house of the true God with Obed-edom and the treasures of the king's house and the hostages, and then returned to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 25:24)
 - With the exception of his invading the sanctuary, the next Judean king, Uzziah, Azariah, did what was right in Yehowah's eyes. His successor Jotham proved to be a faithful king. But Jotham's son Ahaz became notorious for practicing large-scale idolatry.
 - Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and for fifty-two years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 26:3)
 - And he kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Amaziah his father had done. (2 Chronicles 26:4)
 - However, as soon as he was strong, his heart became haughty even to the point of causing ruin, so that he acted unfaithfully against Yehowah his God and came into the temple of Yehowah to burn incense upon the altar of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:16)
 - Immediately Azariah the priest and with him priests of Yehowah, eighty valiant men, came in after him. (2 Chronicles 26:17)
 - Then they stood up against Uzziah the king and said to him; It is not your business, O Uzziah, to burn incense to Yehowah, but it is the business of the priests the sons of Aaron, the ones sanctified, to burn incense. Go out from the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully, and it is not for any glory to you on the part of Yehowah God. (2 Chronicles 26:18)
 - But Uzziah became enraged while in his hand there was a censer for burning incense, and, during his rage against the priests, leprosy itself flashed up in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yehowah beside the altar of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:19)
 - When Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned toward him, why, there he was stricken with leprosy in his forehead! So they excitedly began to remove him from there, and he himself

- also hastened to go out, because Yehowah had smitten him. (2 Chronicles 26:20)
- Twenty-five years old was Jotham when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. (2 Chronicles 27:1)
 - And he kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Uzziah his father had done. Only he did not invade the temple of Yehowah. However, the people were yet acting ruinously. (2 Chronicles 27:2)
 - Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in Yehowah's eyes like David his forefather. (2 Chronicles 28:1)
 - But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the Baals. (2 Chronicles 28:2)
 - And he himself made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom and proceeded to burn up his sons in the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 28:3)
 - And he regularly sacrificed and made sacrificial smoke on the high places and upon the hills and under every sort of luxuriant tree. (2 Chronicles 28:4)
 - During Ahaz reign **Judah** suffered from invasions by the Edomites and the Philistines, as well as by the northern kingdom and Syria.
 - The Syro-Israelite combine even threatened to unseat Ahaz and constitute a man not of the Davidic line as king of **Judah**. Although assured by the prophet Isaiah that this would not happen, faithless Ahaz bribed Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III to come to his aid. This unwise move brought the heavy yoke of Assyria upon **Judah**.
 - Consequently Yehowah his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, so that they struck him and carried off from him a great number of captives and brought them to Damascus. And also into the hand of the king of Israel he was given, so that he struck him with a great slaughter. (2 Chronicles 28:5)

- Accordingly Pekah the son of Remaliah killed in **Judah** a hundred and twenty thousand in one day, all valiant men, because of their leaving Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (**2 Chronicles 28:6**)
- Further, Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the son of the king and Azrikam the leader of the household and Elkanah the one next to the king. (**2 Chronicles 28:7**)
- Moreover, the sons of Israel took two hundred thousand of their brothers captive, women, sons and daughters, and also a great deal of spoil they took from them as plunder, after which they brought the spoil to Samaria. (**2 Chronicles 28:8**)
- And there happened to be a prophet of Yehowah there whose name was Oded. So he went out before the army that was coming to Samaria and said to them; Look! It was because of the rage of Yehowah the God of your forefathers against **Judah** that he gave them into your hand, so that you did a killing among them with a raging that has reached clear to the heavens. (**2 Chronicles 28:9**)
- And now the sons of **Judah** and of Jerusalem you are thinking of reducing to menservants and maidservants for yourselves. Nevertheless, are there not with you yourselves cases of guilt against Yehowah your God? (**2 Chronicles 28:10**)
- And now listen to me and return the captives that you have captured from your brothers, for Yehowah's burning anger is against you. (**2 Chronicles 28:11**)
- At that certain men of the heads of the sons of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Jehohanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth and Jehizkiah the son of Shallum and Amasa the son of Hadlai, rose up against those coming in from the military campaign. (**2 Chronicles 28:12**)
- And they said to them; You must not bring in the captives here, for it will result in guilt against Yehowah on our part. You are thinking of adding to our sins and to our guilt, for abundant is the guilt we have, and there is burning anger against Israel. (**2 Chronicles 28:13**)
- Accordingly the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the princes and all the congregation. (**2 Chronicles 28:14**)

- Then the men that were designated by their names rose up and took hold of the captives, and all their naked ones they clothed from the spoil. So they clothed them and furnished them with sandals and fed them and gave them drink and greased them. Furthermore, in the case of anyone tottering, they gave them transportation on the asses and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, beside their brothers. After that they returned to Samaria. (2 Chronicles 28:15)
- At that time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria for them to help him. (2 Chronicles 28:16)
- And once again the Edomites themselves came in and went striking down Judah and carrying off captives. (2 Chronicles 28:17)
- As for the Philistines, they made a raid upon the cities of the Shephelah and the Negeb of Judah and got to capture Bethshemesh and Aijalon and Gederoth and Soco and its dependent towns and Timnah and its dependent towns and Gimzo and its dependent towns, and they took up dwelling there. (2 Chronicles 28:18)
- For Yehowah humbled Judah on account of Ahaz the king of Israel, because he let unrestraint grow in Judah, and there was an acting with great unfaithfulness toward Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 28:19)
- Eventually Tilgath-pilneser the king of Assyria came against him and caused him distress, and did not strengthen him. (2 Chronicles 28:20)
- For Ahaz stripped the house of Yehowah and the house of the king and of the princes and thus made a gift to the king of Assyria, but it was of no assistance to him. (2 Chronicles 28:21)
- Now it came about in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham the son of Uzziah, the king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem for war against it, and he proved unable to war against it. (Isaiah 7:1)
- And a report was made to the house of David, saying; Syria has

leaned upon Ephraim. And his heart and the heart of his people began to quiver, like the quivering of the trees of the forest because of a wind. (**Isaiah 7:2**)

- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Isaiah; Go out, please, to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, to the end of the conduit of the upper pool by the highway of the laundryman's field. (**Isaiah 7:3**)
- And you must say to him; Watch yourself and keep undisturbed. Do not be afraid, and do not let your heart itself be timid because of the two tail ends of these smoking logs, because of the hot anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. (**Isaiah 7:4**)
- For the reason that Syria with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah has advised what is bad against you, saying; (**Isaiah 7:5**)
- Let us go up against **Judah** and tear it apart and by breakthroughs take it for ourselves, and let us make another king reign inside it, the son of Tabeel. (**Isaiah 7:6**)
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; It will not stand, neither will it take place. (**Isaiah 7:7**)
- For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin, and within just sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered to pieces so as not to be a people. (**Isaiah 7:8**)
- And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. Unless you people have faith, you will in that case not be of long duration. (**Isaiah 7:9**)
- And Yehowah went on speaking some more to Ahaz, saying; (**Isaiah 7:10**)
- Ask for yourself a sign from Yehowah your God, making it as deep as Sheol or making it high as the upper regions. (**Isaiah 7:11**)
- But Ahaz said; I shall not ask, neither shall I put Yehowah to the test. (**Isaiah 7:12**)
- Hezekiah, Ahaz son, restored true worship and rebelled against the king of Assyria.

- And it came about in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah the king of Israel that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz the king of **Judah** became king. (**2 Kings 18:1**)
- Twenty-five years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. (**2 Kings 18:2**)
- And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that David his forefather had done. (**2 Kings 18:3**)
- He it was that removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars to pieces and cut down the sacred pole and crushed to pieces the copper serpent that Moses had made, for down to those days the sons of Israel had continually been making sacrificial smoke to it, and it used to be called the copper serpent-idol. (**2 Kings 18:4**)
- In Yehowah the God of Israel he trusted, and after him there proved to be no one like him among all the kings of **Judah**, even those who had happened to be prior to him. (**2 Kings 18:5**)
- And he kept sticking to Yehowah. He did not turn aside from following him, but he continued keeping his commandments that Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**2 Kings 18:6**)
- And Yehowah proved to be with him. Wherever he would go out, he would act prudently, and he proceeded to rebel against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. (**2 Kings 18:7**)
- Consequently Sennacherib invaded **Judah** and captured many fortified cities. But Jerusalem was never taken, for in one night the angel of Yehowah slew 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. Humiliated, Sennacherib returned to Nineveh.
- And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib the king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of **Judah** and proceeded to seize them. (**2 Kings 18:13**)
- That is why this is what Yehowah has said concerning the king of Assyria; He will not come into this city nor will he shoot an arrow there nor confront it with a shield nor cast up a siege

rampart against it. (2 Kings 19:32)

- By the way by which he proceeded to come, he will return, and into this city he will not come, is the utterance of Yehowah. (2 Kings 19:33)
- And I shall certainly defend this city to save it for my own sake and for the sake of David my servant. (2 Kings 19:34)
- And it came about on that night that the angel of Yehowah proceeded to go out and strike down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses. (2 Kings 19:35)
- Therefore Sennacherib the king of Assyria pulled away and went and returned, and he took up dwelling in Nineveh. (2 Kings 19:36)
- Some eight years earlier, in 740 B.C.E, the ten-tribe kingdom had come to its end with the fall of its capital Samaria to the Assyrians.
- However, the king of Assyria got to find conspiracy in Hoshea's case, in that he had sent messengers to So the king of Egypt and did not bring the tribute up to the king of Assyria as in former years. Hence the king of Assyria shut him up and kept him bound in the house of detention. (2 Kings 17:4)
- And the king of Assyria proceeded to come up against all the land and to come up to Samaria and lay siege against it for three years. (2 Kings 17:5)
- In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and then led Israel into exile in Assyria and kept them dwelling in Halah and in Habor at the river Gozan and in the cities of the Medes. (2 Kings 17:6)
- **Judah's** next king, Hezekiah's son Manasseh, revived idolatry. However, upon being taken as a captive to Babylon by the king of Assyria, he repented and, after his return to Jerusalem, undertook religious reforms.
- And Yehowah kept speaking to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. (2 Chronicles 33:10)

- **Finally Yehowah brought against them the chiefs of the army that belonged to the king of Assyria, and so they captured Manasseh in the hollows and bound him with two fetters of copper and took him to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 33:11)**
- **And as soon as it caused him distress, he softened the face of Yehowah his God and kept humbling himself greatly because of the God of his forefathers. (2 Chronicles 33:12)**
- **And he kept praying to Him, so that He let himself be entreated by him and He heard his request for favor and restored him to Jerusalem to his kingship, and Manasseh came to know that Yehowah is the true God. (2 Chronicles 33:13)**
- **And after this he built an outer wall for the City of David to the west of Gihon in the torrent valley and as far as the Fish Gate, and he ran it around to Ophel and proceeded to make it very high. Further, he put chiefs of the military force in all the fortified cities in **Judah**. (2 Chronicles 33:14)**
- **And he proceeded to remove the foreign gods and the idol image from the house of Yehowah and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of the house of Yehowah and in Jerusalem and then had them thrown outside the city. (2 Chronicles 33:15)**
- **Moreover, he prepared the altar of Yehowah and began to sacrifice upon it communion sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices and went on to say to **Judah** to serve Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:16)**
- **But his son Amon reverted to idolatry.**
- **Twenty-two years old was Amon when he began to reign, and for two years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:21)**
- **And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, just as Manasseh his father had done, and to all the graven images that Manasseh his father had made Amon sacrificed, and he continued serving them. (2 Chronicles 33:22)**
- **And he did not humble himself because of Yehowah the same as Manasseh his father humbled himself, for Amon was one that made guiltiness increase. (2 Chronicles 33:23)**

- Finally his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house. (**2 Chronicles 33:24**)
- The last sweeping campaign against idolatry came during the reign of Amon's son Josiah. However, it was then too late for genuine repentance to be effected among the people in general.
- Therefore, Yehowah decreed the complete desolation of **Judah** and Jerusalem. Finally, Josiah himself was killed in an attempt to turn the Egyptian forces back at Megiddo as they were on their way to assist the king of Assyria at Carchemish.
- Eight years old was Josiah when he began to reign, and for thirty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath. (**2 Kings 22:1**)
- So his servants conveyed him dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his grave. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father. (**2 Kings 23:30**)
- After all this when Josiah had prepared the house, Necho the king of Egypt came up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates. Then Josiah went out to an encounter with him. (**2 Chronicles 35:20**)
- The last four **Judean** kings, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah proved to be bad rulers. Pharaoh Nechoh deposed Jehoahaz, laid a heavy fine on the land of **Judah**, and made Jehoahaz brother Jehoiakim king.
- Twenty-three years old was Jehoahaz when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (**2 Kings 23:31**)
- And he began to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that forefathers of his had done. (**2 Kings 23:32**)
- And Pharaoh Nechoh got to put him in bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, to keep him from reigning in Jerusalem, and then imposed a fine upon the land of a hundred silver talents and a gold talent. (**2 Kings 23:33**)

- Furthermore, Pharaoh Nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of Josiah his father and changed his name to Jehoiakim, and Jehoahaz he took and then brought to Egypt, where he eventually died. (2 Kings 23:34)
- And the silver and the gold Jehoiakim gave to Pharaoh. Only he taxed the land, to give the silver at the order of Pharaoh. According to each one's individual tax rate he exacted the silver and the gold from the people of the land, to give it to Pharaoh Nechoh. (2 Kings 23:35)
- Later, apparently after eight years of his reign, Jehoiakim was made a vassal to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, who had earlier defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish. For three years Jehoiakim served the king of Babylon but then rebelled.
- In his days Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up, and so Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. However, he turned back and rebelled against him. (2 Kings 24:1)
- For Egypt, concerning the military force of Pharaoh Necho the king of Egypt, who happened to be by the river Euphrates at Carchemish, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah. (Jeremiah 46:2)
- Thereafter Nebuchadnezzar, evidently intending to take the rebellious king as a prisoner to Babylon, came against Jerusalem.
- Against him Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up that he might bind him with two fetters of copper to carry him off to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 36:6)
- However, Jehoiakim never was taken to Babylon, for he died in a manner not disclosed in the Bible. Subsequently Jehoiachin became king.
- After ruling for only three months and ten days, he voluntarily surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar and, along with other members of the royal family and thousands of his subjects, went into Babylonian exile. Then Nebuchadnezzar placed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, on the throne of Judah.

- Finally Jehoiakim lay down with his forefathers, and Jehoiachin his son began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 24:6)
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. (2 Kings 24:8)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that his father had done. (2 Kings 24:9)
- During that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, so that the city came under siege. (2 Kings 24:10)
- And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon proceeded to come against the city, while his servants were laying siege against it. (2 Kings 24:11)
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of Babylon got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (2 Kings 24:12)
- Then he brought out from there all the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house, and went on to cut to pieces all the gold utensils that Solomon the king of Israel had made in the temple of Yehowah, just as Yehowah had spoken. (2 Kings 24:13)
- And he took into exile all Jerusalem and all the princes and all the valiant, mighty men, ten thousand he was taking into exile, and also every craftsman and builder of bulwarks. No one had been left behind except the lowly class of the people of the land. (2 Kings 24:14)
- Thus he took Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon, and the king's mother and the king's wives and his court officials and the foremost men of the land he led away as exiled people from Jerusalem to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:15)
- As for all the valiant men, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the builders of bulwarks, a thousand, all the mighty men carrying on war, the king of Babylon proceeded to bring them as

exiled people to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:16)

- Further, the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his uncle king in place of him. Then he changed his name to Zedekiah. (2 Kings 24:17)
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months and ten days he reigned in Jerusalem, and he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Chronicles 36:9)
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made Zedekiah his father's brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:10)
- In his ninth year as vassal king, Zedekiah rebelled and looked to Egypt's military might for support against Babylon.
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made Zedekiah his father's brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:10)
- Twenty-one years old was Zedekiah when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:11)
- And he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah his God. He did not humble himself on account of Jeremiah the prophet at the order of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 36:12)
- And even against King Nebuchadnezzar he rebelled, who had made him swear by God, and he kept stiffening his neck and hardening his heart so as not to return to Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 36:13)
- But he finally rebelled against him in sending his messengers to Egypt, for it to give him horses and a multitudinous people. Will he have success? Will he escape, he who is doing these things, and who has broken a covenant? And will he actually escape? (Ezekiel 17:15)
- As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, in the place of the king who put in as king the one that despised his

oath and that broke his covenant, with him in the midst of Babylon he will die. (Ezekiel 17:16)

- **And by a great military force and by a multitudinous congregation Pharaoh will not make him effective in the war, by throwing up a siege rampart and by building a siege wall, in order to cut off many souls. (Ezekiel 17:17)**
- **And he has despised an oath in breaking a covenant, and, look! He had given his hand and has done even all these things. He will not make his escape. (Ezekiel 17:18)**
- **Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; As I am alive, surely my oath that he has despised and my covenant that he has broken, I will even bring it upon his head. (Ezekiel 17:19)**
- **And I will spread over him my net, and he will certainly be caught in my hunting net, and I will bring him to Babylon and put myself on judgment with him there respecting his unfaithfulness with which he acted against me. (Ezekiel 17:20)**
- **And as regards all the fugitives of his in all his bands, by the sword they will fall, and the ones left remaining will be spread abroad even to every wind. And you people will have to know that I myself, Yehowah, have spoken it. (Ezekiel 17:21)**
- **Nebuchadnezzar, therefore, marched his armies toward Judah. For 18 months Jerusalem was subjected to siege until its walls were finally breached. Although Zedekiah fled, he was captured, his sons were slaughtered before him, and he was then blinded.**
- **The next month most of the survivors were taken into exile. Over the few remaining lowly people of Judah, Gedaliah was appointed as governor. But following his assassination, the people fled to Egypt. Thus in the seventh month of 607 B.C.E, the land of Judah was completely desolated.**
- **And it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, yes, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem and began camping against it and building against it a siege wall all around. (2 Kings 25:1)**

- **And the city came to be under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. (2 Kings 25:2)**
- **On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was severe in the city, and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (2 Kings 25:3)**
- **And the city got to be breached, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the kings garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and the king began to go in the direction of the Arabah. (2 Kings 25:4)**
- **And a military force of Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake him in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (2 Kings 25:5)**
- **Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, that they might pronounce a judicial decision upon him. (2 Kings 25:6)**
- **And Zedekiah's sons they slaughtered before his eyes, and Zedekiah's eyes he blinded, after which he bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:7)**
- **And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8)**
- **And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with fire. (2 Kings 25:9)**
- **And the walls of Jerusalem, all around, the entire military force of Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (2 Kings 25:10)**
- **And the rest of the people that were left behind in the city and the deserters that had gone over to the king of Babylon and the rest of the crowd Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took into exile. (2 Kings 25:11)**

- **And some of the lowly people of the land the chief of the bodyguard let remain as vinedressers and compulsory laborers. (2 Kings 25:12)**
- **And the pillars of copper that were in the house of Yehowah, and the carriages and the copper sea that were in the house of Yehowah, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and went carrying the copper of them to Babylon. (2 Kings 25:13)**
- **And the cans and the shovels and the extinguishers and the cups and all the utensils of copper with which they used to minister they took. (2 Kings 25:14)**
- **And the chief of the bodyguard took the fire holders and the bowls that were of genuine gold and those that were of genuine silver. (2 Kings 25:15)**
- **As for the two pillars, the one sea and the carriages that Solomon had made for the house of Yehowah, there happened to be no way to tell the weight of the copper of all these utensils. (2 Kings 25:16)**
- **Eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and the capital upon it was of copper, and the height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and the pomegranates all around upon the capital, the whole of it, was copper, and the second pillar had the same as these upon the network. (2 Kings 25:17)**
- **Furthermore, the chief of the bodyguard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest and three doorkeepers. (2 Kings 25:18)**
- **And from the city he took one court official that had a command over the men of war, and five men from those having access to the king that were found in the city, and the secretary of the chief of the army, the one mustering the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land that were to be found in the city. (2 Kings 25:19)**
- **And Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard then took them and conducted them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. (2 Kings 25:20)**
- **And the king of Babylon proceeded to strike them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah went**

into exile from off its soil. (2 Kings 25:21)

- As for the people left behind in the land of **Judah**, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had left behind, he now appointed over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. (2 Kings 25:22)
- When all the chiefs of the military forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, they immediately came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, that is, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and Johanan the son of Kareah and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men. (2 Kings 25:23)
- Then Gedaliah swore to them and their men and said to them; Do not be afraid of being servants to the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you. (2 Kings 25:24)
- And it came about in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama of the royal offspring came, and also ten men with him, and they got to strike down Gedaliah, so that he died, and also the Jews and the Chaldeans that happened to be with him in Mizpah. (2 Kings 25:25)
- After that all the people, from small to great, and the chiefs of the military forces rose up and came into Egypt, for they had become afraid because of the Chaldeans. (2 Kings 25:26)
- For details see articles on the individual kings.

.. Rulership Not Lost

- This calamitous end for the kingdom of **Judah**, however, did not mean that the scepter and commander's staff had departed from the tribe for all time. According to Jacob's deathbed prophecy, the tribe of Judah was to produce the permanent royal heir, **Shiloh**, meaning **He Whose It Is**, or **He To Whom It Belongs**.
- The scepter will not turn aside from **Judah**, neither the commander's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him the obedience of the peoples will belong. (Genesis 49:10)

- Appropriately, therefore, before the overthrow of the kingdom of **Judah**, Yehowah, through Ezekiel, directed these words to Zedekiah; Remove the turban, and lift off the crown.
- This will not be the same. Put on high even what is low, and bring low even the high one. A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him.
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Remove the turban, and lift off the crown. This will not be the same. Put on high even what is low, and bring low even the high one. (**Ezekiel 21:26**)
- A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him. (**Ezekiel 21:27**)
- The one having the legal right, as indicated by the angel Gabriel's announcement to the virgin Jewess Mary some 600 years later, is none other than Jesus, the Son of God.
- And, look! You will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you are to call his name Jesus. (**Luke 1:31**)
- This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and Yehowah God **will give him the throne of David his father.** (**Luke 1:32**)
- And he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom. (**Luke 1:33**)
- It is, therefore, fitting that Jesus Christ bears the title the Lion that is of the tribe of **Judah**.
- But one of the elders says to me; Stop weeping. Look! The Lion that is of the tribe of **Judah**, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals. (**Revelation 5:5**)

•• Compared With The Northern Kingdom

- The kingdom of **Judah** enjoyed far greater stability and also lasted about 133 years longer than did the northern kingdom. Several factors contributed to this.

- On account of God's covenant with David, the royal line remained unbroken, whereas in the northern kingdom fewer than half of the kings had their own sons succeed them.
- The continuance of the Aaronic priesthood at the temple in Jerusalem had Yehowah's blessing and made it easier for the unfaithful nation to return to their God.
- And now you men are thinking of holding your own against the kingdom of Yehowah in the hand of the sons of David, when you are a large crowd and there are with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made for you as gods. ([2 Chronicles 13:8](#))
- Have you not driven out Yehowah's priests, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and do you not keep making priests for yourselves like the peoples of the lands? As for anyone that came and filled his hand with power by means of a young bull and seven rams, he became a priest of what are no gods. ([2 Chronicles 13:9](#))
- As for us, Yehowah is our God, and we have not left him, but priests are ministering to Yehowah, the sons of Aaron, and also the Levites in the work. ([2 Chronicles 13:10](#))
- And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden lampstand and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. ([2 Chronicles 13:11](#))
- And, look! With us there is at the head the true God with his priests and the signal trumpets for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. ([2 Chronicles 13:12](#))
- And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an ambush around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of **Judah** and the ambush behind them. ([2 Chronicles 13:13](#))
- When those of **Judah** turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to

**Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the trumpets.
(2 Chronicles 13:14)**

- **And the men of **Judah** broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. (2 Chronicles 13:15)**
- **And the sons of Israel took to flight from before **Judah**, and then God gave them into their hand. (2 Chronicles 13:16)**
- **And Abijah and his people went striking them down with a vast slaughter, and the slain of Israel kept falling down, five hundred thousand chosen men. (2 Chronicles 13:17)**
- **Thus the sons of Israel were humbled at that time, but the sons of **Judah** proved superior because they leaned upon Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 13:18)**
- **And Abijah kept chasing after Jeroboam and got to capture cities from him, Bethel and its dependent towns, and Jeshanah and its dependent towns, and Ephraim and its dependent towns. (2 Chronicles 13:19)**
- **And Jeroboam did not retain any more power in the days of Abijah, but Yehowah dealt him a blow, so that he died. (2 Chronicles 13:20)**
- **On the other hand, in the northern kingdom the institution and continuance of calf worship was deemed necessary for the preservation of independence from **Judah**, and apparently for this reason no efforts were ever made to eradicate it.**
- **If this people continues going up to render sacrifices in the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem, the heart of this people will also be bound to return to their lord, Rehoboam the king of **Judah**, and they will certainly kill me and return to Rehoboam the king of Judah. (1 Kings 12:27)**
- **Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 12:28)**

- Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (**1 Kings 12:29**)
- And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (**1 Kings 12:30**)
- And he began to make a house of high places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (**1 Kings 12:31**)
- And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in **Judah**, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. (**1 Kings 12:32**)
- And he began to make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had invented by himself, and he proceeded to make a festival for the sons of Israel and to make offerings upon the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (**1 Kings 12:33**)
- Four of the 19 **Judean** kings, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah, were outstanding in their devotion to true worship and instituted major religious reforms.
- However, the history of both kingdoms illustrates the folly of disregarding Yehowah's commands and trusting in military alliances for security. Also, Yehowah's long-suffering with his disobedient people is highlighted. Time and again he sent his prophets to encourage repentance among the people, but often their warnings were not heeded.
- And Yehowah sent to you all his servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, but you did not listen, neither did you incline your ear to listen. (**Jeremiah 25:4**)
- They saying; Turn back, please, every one from his bad way and from the badness of your dealings, and continue dwelling upon the ground that Yehowah gave to you and to your forefathers from long ago and to a long time to come. (**Jeremiah 25:5**)
- And do not walk after other gods in order to serve them and to

bow down to them, that you may not offend me with the work of your hands, and that I may not cause calamity to you. (**Jeremiah 25:6**)

- But you did not listen to me, is the utterance of Yehowah; to the intent that you might offend me with the work of your hands, for calamity to yourselves. (**Jeremiah 25:7**)
- Among the prophets serving in **Judah** were Shemaiah, Iddo, Azariah, Oded, Hanani, Jehu, Eliezer, Yahaziel, Micah, Hosea, Isaiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah.

See Also **ISRAEL 2**

See Also **ISRAEL 3**

.. After The Exile

- In **537 B.C.E**, when Cyrus decree permitting the Israelites to return to the land of **Judah** and there rebuild the temple went into effect, apparently representatives from the various tribes came back to their homeland.
- And in the first year of Cyrus the king of Persia, that Yehowah's word from the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Yehowah roused the spirit of Cyrus the king of Persia so that he caused a cry to pass through all his realm, and also in writing, saying; (**Ezra 1:1**)
- This is what Cyrus the king of Persia has said; All the kingdoms of the earth Yehowah the God of the heavens has given me, and he himself has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in **Judah**. (**Ezra 1:2**)
- Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God prove to be with him. So let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in **Judah**, and rebuild the house of Yehowah the God of Israel, he is the true God, which was in Jerusalem. (**Ezra 1:3**)
- As for anyone that is left from all the places where he is residing as an alien, let the men of his place assist him with silver and with gold and with goods and with domestic animals along with the voluntary offering for the house of the true God, which was in Jerusalem. (**Ezra 1:4**)

- **And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will again offer his hand, a second time, to acquire the remnant of his people who will remain over from Assyria and from Egypt and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. (Isaiah 11:11)**
- **And he will certainly raise up a signal for the nations and gather the dispersed ones of Israel, and the scattered ones of **Judah** he will collect together from the four extremities of the earth. (Isaiah 11:12)**
- **In fulfillment of;**
- **A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him. (Ezekiel 21:27)**
- **Never did a king of the Davidic line administer the affairs of the repatriated people. It is also noteworthy that no mention is made of tribal jealousies, indicating that Ephraim and **Judah** had indeed become one.**
- **And the jealousy of Ephraim must depart, and even those showing hostility to **Judah** will be cut off. Ephraim itself will not be jealous of Judah, nor will Judah show hostility toward Ephraim. (Isaiah 11:13)**