

## Josiah's Sons: Jehoahaz(Shallum) & Jehoiakim

### Introduction:

With the death of Josiah, only four kings remained before the seventy year captivity began.

**Jehoahaz** son of Josiah was **23 years old** when he became king, and he reigned **3 months** in Jerusalem.

**Jehoiakim** was **25 years old** when he became king, and he reigned **eleven years** in Jerusalem

**Jehoiachin** was **8 years old** when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **3 months and 10 days**.

**Zedekiah** was **21 years old** when he became king, and he reigned **11 years** in Jerusalem. 2Chr. 36:1-3; 5; 9-10; 11-13; 36:1-3

If we add the **3 months of Jehoahaz**, the **11 years of Jehoiakim**, the **3 months and 10 days of Jehoiachin**, and the **11 years of Zedekiah**, we get **22 years, six months and ten days**.

In those 22 years, all the wickedness recorded in Jeremiah and Ezekiel must be placed. Jeremiah began his work in Josiah's reign, but all his prophecies to the evil kings of Judah were done in those days.

*The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah ... to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. Jer 1:1-3*

Ezekiel began sometime after the first captivity which occurred at the end of Jehoiakim's reign. So most of the words of Ezekiel about the leaders in Judah would have to fit into the eleven years of Zedekiah's reign.

### Jehoahaz

We have an unusual dilemma in the choice of Josiah's son by the people.

*Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem. 2Chr. 36:1-2*

The problem was that Josiah did not have a son named Jehoahaz.

*The sons of Josiah were Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, and the fourth Shallum. 1Chr. 3:15-16*

So, of these four, which one was renamed Jehoahaz and placed on the throne before Jehoiakim who later reigned in his place? The best answer seems to be the one offered in the Hebrew Lexicon by Driver-Briggs

šallûm; šallum: A proper noun designating Shallum: (Complete Word Study Dictionary: OT:7967)

šallûm; šallum: **2.** son of Josiah, and king of Judah **Jer. 22:11; 1 Chr. 3:15** (Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, OT:7967)

### Jeremiah speaks of Shallum and Jehoiakim

The passage cited in Jeremiah make it clear that it was Shallum who had been taken away before Jehoiakim had begun to reign and was then still reigning. We see this when we look at the passage in context. Jeremiah has been sent to the king of Judah later identified as Jehoiakim.

*Thus says the LORD: "Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and there speak this word, 2 and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates! 3 Thus says the LORD: "Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For if you indeed do this thing, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, kings who sit on the throne of David. 5 But if you will not hear*

**these words, I swear by Myself," says the LORD, "that this house shall become a desolation."**  
Jer. 22:1-5

**Weep not for the dead, nor bemoan him; Weep bitterly for him who goes away, For he shall return no more, Nor see his native country.** 11 For thus says the LORD **concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, who went from this place: "He shall not return here anymore, 12 but he shall die in the place where they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more.** Jer. 22:10-12

Therefore **thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, my brother!' or 'Alas, my sister!' They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, master!' or 'Alas, his glory!' 19 He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey, Dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.** Jer. 22:18-19

Jehoiakim was indeed dragged from the gates of Jerusalem in bronze fetters by Nebuchadnezzar himself and taken to Babylon where he died, never to return to Jerusalem.

*Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God. 6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.* 2Chron. 36:5-7

So both the logical and Scriptural conclusion is that it was Shallum who was placed on the throne by the people and renamed Jehoahaz and was deposed three months later by Pharaoh Necho. This same Pharaoh Necho also appointed Jehoiakim to replace him.

**Then the king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him off to Egypt.** 2Chr. 36:4

## **A Parable in Ezekiel**

God commanded Ezekiel to take up a lamentation against these two brothers who had been carried into captivity. The first, Shallum/Jehoahaz into Egypt and the second Jehoiakim into Babylon.

**"Moreover take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, 2 and say: 'What is your mother? A lioness: She lay down among the lions; Among the young lions she nourished her cubs. 3 She brought up one of her cubs, And he became a young lion; He learned to catch prey, And he devoured men. 4 The nations also heard of him; He was trapped in their pit, And they brought him with chains to the land of Egypt. 5 'When she saw that she waited, that her hope was lost, She took another of her cubs and made him a young lion. 6 He roved among the lions, And became a young lion; He learned to catch prey; He devoured men. 7 He knew their desolate places, And laid waste their cities; The land with its fullness was desolated By the noise of his roaring. 8 Then the nations set against him from the provinces on every side, And spread their net over him; He was trapped in their pit. 9 They put him in a cage with chains, And brought him to the king of Babylon; They brought him in nets, That his voice should no longer be heard on the mountains of Israel.** Ezek 19:1-9

## **Jehoiakim**

We don't learn much about the 11 year reign of Jehoiakim in Kings or Chronicles. But Jeremiah has a lot to say that helps us understand what happened after Josiah died, just how wicked the people were even before Jehoiakim began to reign and how Jehoiakim began his reign. These events occurred right at the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign.

Jeremiah is commanded to go into the temple and preach to the people entering it. God demanded he not diminish a single word. He tells them that if they won't repent, God will make the temple in Jerusalem just like the tabernacle in Shiloh had at some point after the death of Samuel's sons.

**In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord, saying, 2 "Thus says the Lord: 'Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word. 3 Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.' 4 And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "If you will not listen to Me, to walk in**

My law which I have set before you, 5 to heed the words of My servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded), 6 then **I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.**""

When the people heard these words, they knew exactly what Jeremiah was saying. Even after the 39 years of Josiah's reign, there is no hesitation. They call for the death of Jeremiah.

**So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord.** 8 Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that **the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die!** 9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant'?" **And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.** Jer 26:7-9

Some of the princes of Judah wanted to save Jeremiah from the priests and prophets. But Jehoiakim was not among them. As a matter of fact, he had already killed a prophet of the LORD for saying similar words.

**When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house.** 11 And the **priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."** 12 Then **Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard.** 13 Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you. 14 As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you. 15 But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing." 16 So the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, **"This man does not deserve to die. For he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."** Jer 26:10-16

### The Argument put forth to Save Jeremiah

**Then certain of the elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying: 18 "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest."' 19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah ever put him to death? Did he not fear the Lord and seek the Lord's favor? And the Lord relented concerning the doom which He had pronounced against them. But we are doing great evil against ourselves."** Jer 26:17-19

### The Argument put forth to Kill Jeremiah

**Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah.** 21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt. 22 Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt. 23 And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people. 24 Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death. Jer 26:20-24

### Some Important Necessary Inferences

Josiah was the greatest king Judah ever had, but even in the midst of his reign God's made it clear His wrath had not been eased.

*Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.* 26

Nevertheless **the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath**, with which His anger was **aroused against Judah**, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him. 27 And the LORD said, **"I will also remove Judah from My sight**, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'" 2 Kings 23:25-27

Yet God sent Jeremiah to the Potter sometime near these events. He showed him how a potter can work with clay and explained that He can do the same. If a nation would repent, he would relent. The logical conclusion is that though Josiah had brought Judah near to Him, the people either did not repent, or never brought forth the fruits worthy of repentance.

*The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." .... 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. **"Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!** 7 **The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.** 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, 10 **if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.** 11 "Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."' 12 And they said, "That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart." Jer 18:1-2, 5-12*

# Jehoiakim

Review:

*Jehoiakim was **25 years old** when he became king, and he reigned **eleven years** in Jerusalem ... And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. 2Kings 23:36-37*

Jehoiakim began his reign only a few months after the death of his father Josiah. It appears that very soon after his reign began, he revealed his contempt for God and His prophets by killing one of them. This information is not found in Kings or Chronicles but in Jeremiah. It began at the beginning of his reign and is related in connection to God's instructions to Jeremiah.

**In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah**, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying, **2 "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah,** which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. **Do not diminish a word.** 3 Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'

After he finished these words, the priests and prophets wanted to put Jeremiah to death. A debate ensued in which the leaders who wanted to save Jeremiah recounted how a prophet in the days of Hezekiah had said exactly the same thing as Jeremiah did here. The enemies of Jeremiah then recount that though this was at the beginning of his reign, he had already killed a prophet.

*Now there was **also a man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah.** 21 **And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt.** 22 **Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt.** 23 **And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.***

## The Third/Fourth Year of Jehoiakim

With such a terrible beginning to his reign, it should be no surprise that the book of Daniel began with the events that occurred in Jehoiakim's third/fourth year. It was then that Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, besieged it for the first time. God gave the city into his hands and at that time he carried away Daniel and his three friends.

### Daniel Taken Captive

*1 **In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.** 2 **And the LORD gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.** 3 **Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.** 5 **And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.** 6 **Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.** Dan. 1:1-6*

### Jeremiah Proclaimed the Seventy Year Captivity

It is in the fourth year of Jehoiakim that God pronounced the 70 years of captivity in Babylon. The prophecy is to all the people of Judah and it is made in the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign. We are not told as at other times where Jeremiah was proclaiming this. Perhaps as at other times, he is

at the temple speaking these words to all who enter. Or perhaps, he is proclaiming this to all where ever he is.

The chronology here and in Daniel appear to be contrary each other. If Nebuchadnezzar's first year coincides with Jehoiakim's fourth year how can Daniel be taken captive in his third year? The difference in how Jews and Chaldeans count time seems to be the most plausible explanation. That's why we will simply look at it as Jehoiakim's third/fourth year.

Jeremiah has now been a prophet for 23 years and the people have not listened to him in all that time. God now sends the message that 70 years of captivity have been decreed against Judah. Along with captivity will also come utter destruction. The entire land will be desolate for that seventy year period.

***The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), 2 which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying: 3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened. ... 8 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, 9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Jer 25:1-11***

Yet with this decree is also given the prophesy that Babylon would fall at the end of these 70 years. Although none of those alive then would see it, the fourth generation would like to see it.

***12 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation. 13 So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations. 14 (For many nations and great kings shall be served by them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.)'" Jer 25:12-14***

## **Jeremiah Began Writing his Book.**

***Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 2 "Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day. 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." Jer 36:1-3***

## **Baruch Read the Book in the Temple**

Jeremiah dictated his book to his scribe Baruch. Baruch went to the temple and read it in the hearing of the people. Although he again proclaims the anger of the LORD, nothing evil is done to Baruch at this time.

***Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him. 5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, "I am confined, I cannot go into the house of the LORD. 6 You go, therefore, and read from the scroll which you have written at my instruction, the words of the LORD, in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house on the day of fasting. And you shall also read them in the hearing of all Judah who come from their cities. 7 It may be that they will present their supplication before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way. For great is the anger and the***

**fury that the LORD has pronounced against this people."** 8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading from the book the words of the LORD in the LORD's house. Jer 36:4-8

## **Baruch's Rebuke/Exhortation**

At this time, after Baruch had written the words of the book in Jehoiakim's fourth year, God warned Baruch of the thoughts in his heart. He first describes those thoughts "woe is me." He then revealed His plans to Baruch. "what I have built I will break down, and what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land." God then warns Baruch against his own thoughts. "do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them." Finally, God offers a blessing of comfort. "I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go."

*The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the instruction of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, 2 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: 3 'You said, "Woe is me now! For the Lord has added grief to my sorrow. I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest." 4 "Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, what I have built I will break down, and what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land. 5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh," says the Lord. "But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go." Jer 45:1-5*

## **The Fifth Year of Jehoiakim**

Baruch again reads the words from Jeremiah's book to the people.

*Now it came to pass in the **fifth year of Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem. 10 Then **Baruch read from the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD**, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the upper court at the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house, in the hearing of all the people. Jer. 36:9*

When some from the palace heard Baruch, they took his words back to the palace. When the princes heard what he was preaching they went to Baruch and brought him to the palace.

*13 Then **Michaiah declared to them all the words that he had heard when Baruch read the book in the hearing of the people.** 14 Therefore **all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cush, to Baruch, saying, "Take in your hand the scroll from which you have read in the hearing of the people, and come."** So Baruch the son of Neriah took the scroll in his hand and came to them. 15 And they said to him, "Sit down now, and read it in our hearing." So **Baruch read it in their hearing.** 16 Now it happened, when they had **heard all the words**, that they **looked in fear from one to another**, and said to Baruch, "**We will surely tell the king of all these words.**" Jer. 36:13-16*

We learn how Jeremiah wrote his book. We also learn that the princes had little hope Jehoiakim would heed the words. Instead they had every reason to believe Jeremiah and Baruch were in danger.

*And they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us now, **how did you write all these words** — at his instruction?" 18 So Baruch answered them, "**He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book.**" 19 Then the princes said to Baruch, "**Go and hide, you and Jeremiah; and let no one know where you are.**" Jer. 36:13-16*

After they had read three or four columns, the king cut it with a knife and threw it into the fire. It is good to see that these rulers pleaded with the king. It is terrible that the king was unmoved.

*And **they went to the king**, into the court; but they **stored the scroll** in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and **told all the words in the hearing of the king.** 21 So **the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll**, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And **Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king.** 22 Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. 23 And it*

*happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. 24 Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. 25 Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them. 26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them. Jer. 36:20-26*

### **Jeremiah Rewrites the Scroll, adding even more words.**

*the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: 28 "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. 29 And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'Thus says the LORD: "You have burned this scroll, saying, 'Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?'" 30 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. 31 I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed."'" 32 **Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words. Jer. 36:27-32***

### **Jehoiakim's Seventh/Eighth Year**

Since Jehoiakim only reigned eleven years, this would be his seventh or eighth year. Jerusalem was taken and Nebuchadnezzar took control. At that time, 3,023 Jews were taken to Babylon.

*In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. 2Kings 24:1-2*

*These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, three thousand and twenty-three Jews; Jer 52:28-29*

### **Jehoiakim's Eleventh Year**

Jehoiakim's final year was filled with disaster. After he rebelled against the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and took him away.

*Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the Lord to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon. 2Chr. 36:6-8*

## Jehoiachin's 3 Month Reign

After Nebuchadnezzar bound Jehoiakim in bronze fetters to carry him to Babylon and he rested with his fathers, his son Jehoiachin began to reign. Although his reign was only of three months duration, his evil was so great that God chose to remove him.

***So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place. ... 8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father had done. 2 Kings 24:6; 8-9***

*At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. 12 Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner. 2 Kings 24:10-12*

This is the first major captivity described in Kings. The captivity of Daniel was simply ignored. Nebuchadnezzar looted the treasuries of both the king and the temple. He also broke in pieces many of the gold things Solomon had made and placed in the temple. He also took captive the best of those who were in Jerusalem.

***And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said. 14 Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. 15 And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all who were strong and fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. 2 Kings 24:10-16***

At some point in this three month reign, God gave Jehoiachin the name, "Coniah/Jeconiah"

*"As I live," says the Lord, "though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off; 25 and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, and into the hand of those whose face you fear — the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of the Chaldeans. 26 So I will cast you out, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; and there you shall die. Jer 22:24-27*

With the use of this name, we can pinpoint Jeremiah's parable of the figs:

### The Baskets of Figs

At some time during the three month reign of Jehoiachin(now called Jeconiah), God revealed two baskets of figs set before the temple.

***The Lord showed me, and there were two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord, after Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the princes of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. 2 One basket had very good figs, like the figs that are first ripe; and the other basket had very bad figs which could not be eaten, they were so bad. 3 Then the Lord said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad, very bad, which cannot be eaten, they are so bad." Jer. 24:1-3***

After revealing this vision to Jeremiah, God later revealed the meaning. The good figs are those who have been carried away to Babylon. God has screened out the people and has allowed those to be "sent out of this place for their own good." These people will be brought back from Babylon.

***Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for their own good, into the land of the Chaldeans. 6 For I will set My eyes***

**on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. 7 Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. Jer. 24:4-7**

The bad figs are all who remain in Jerusalem. These will be delivered up to a terrible curse.

**'And as the bad figs which cannot be eaten, they are so bad' — surely thus says the Lord — 'so will I give up Zedekiah the king of Judah, his princes, the residue of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt. 9 I will deliver them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for their harm, to be a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. 10 And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, till they are consumed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.'" Jer. 24:8-10**

The question of whether Jeconiah was one of the ones taken for good is answered later by Jeremiah.

**Now it came to pass *in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. 28 He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon. 29 So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. 30 And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life. 2Kings 25:27-30 Jer. 52:31-34***

It was after he came to Babylon (and probably after he was released from prison) that he bore a son. We see this in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew, which is generally believed to be Joseph's genealogy (Luke's genealogy was that of Mary).

***Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Mt. 1:11-12***