



— LINEAGE OF THE KING —

Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin [Jeconiah] and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon). After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

Matthew 1:11-12

Lesson 16

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What ministered to you from your study of godly King Josiah?

2. God has a plan; He always has a plan! After the fall of Judah and the end of the reign of the Davidic line, during the exile and captivity of the Jews, God gave His people an enduring promise: *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope* (Jeremiah 29:11). Contrary to appearances, God had not abandoned Judah, His Word, or His promises. God was using dire circumstances to save Judah from their own self-destruction and to preserve the lineage of David until the coming of the Messiah. Though the throne of Judah was removed from David's sons, the promises of God were not. The lineage of the Messiah continued through the captivity and into the emancipation and return of the Jews to Israel. Use the Scriptures below to highlight how God keeps His solemn Word:
 - a. 2 Kings 24:2

 - b. 2 Kings 24:13

 - c. Ezra 1:1

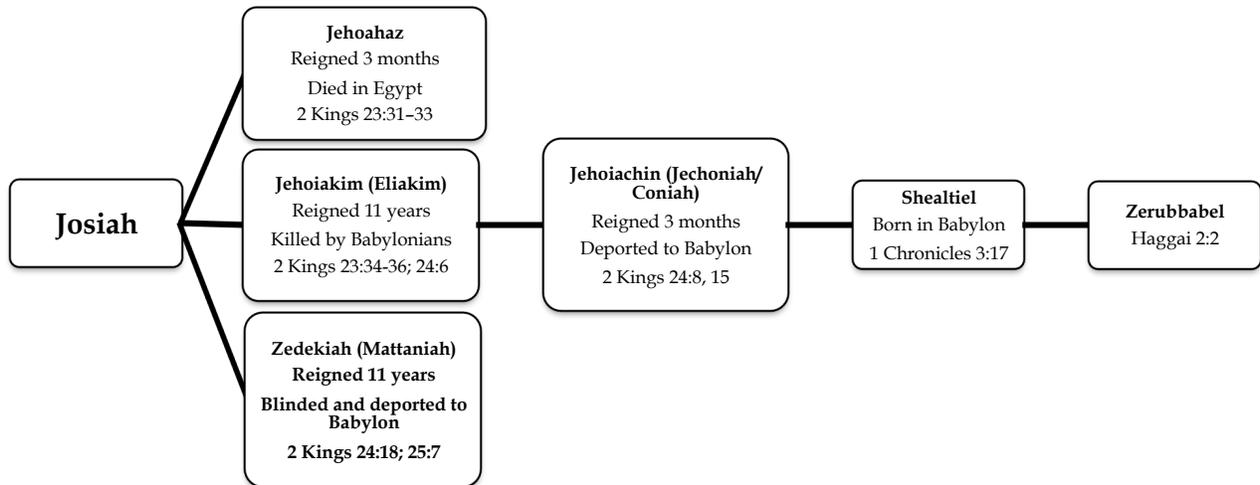
 - d. Zechariah 4:6-10

3. Ask God to secure your heart in His plans.

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD,
thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
Jeremiah 29:11

SECOND DAY: Taken from 2 Kings 24 and 25; Jeremiah 22

Use the diagram below to help you understand your lesson this week:



1. After Josiah died, *the people of the land* made his son Jehoahaz king. He reigned only three months before Pharaoh Necho imprisoned him and made his brother Jehoiakim king (2 Kings 23:30-24:1). (Refer to the chart above.) Following the ill-fated reign of Jehoiakim, his son Jehoiachin (Coniah) became king and *did evil in the sight of the LORD*. After three months, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took Jehoiachin and all of Jerusalem into *captivity* (2 Kings 24:8-12). Use 2 Kings 24:13-16 to remark on Jehoiachin's judgment.
 - a. God repeatedly warned Judah concerning this judgment. Comment on this from the following prophecies:
 - (1) Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 49-52
 - (2) Isaiah 39:6-7
 - (3) Jeremiah 22:24-27
2. Jeremiah had a specific word from the Lord for Jehoiachin (Jeremiah 22:28-30). This word was fulfilled when Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, became the last king to sit on the throne of Judah (2 Kings 24:17). What do you find interesting about this?
3. What happened to Jehoiachin toward the end of his life? 2 Kings 25:27-30
 - a. Link this with God's declaration in Jeremiah 29:11 and share your thoughts.

4. How does your study today speak to you concerning:
 - a. the consequences of sin
 - b. the fulfillment of prophecy
 - c. the mercy of God

THIRD DAY: Taken from Jeremiah 29 and Ezra 1:1-5

1. The Babylonian Captivity was one of the darkest times in Judah's history. Yet according to Jeremiah 29:4-7, what was the Lord's command to His people while in exile?
 - a. Why do you think God desired this for His people?
 - b. What wisdom do you receive from this?
2. Jehoiachin fathered Shealtiel *after they were brought to Babylon* (Matthew 1:12). Although he was born during a bleak time, Shealtiel would have known of God's promises to bring Judah out of captivity and back to their land. Share what stands out to you from the following promises God made in the midst of captivity:
 - a. Jeremiah 24:6-7
 - b. Jeremiah 29:10-14
 - c. Jeremiah 32:37-42
 - (1) How do these Scriptures comfort you?
3. Use Ezra 1:1-5 to describe how Judah's captivity came to an end.
 - a. Link this with the prophecy of Isaiah 45:1-6 to note God's hand in this situation.
 - (1) How does this minister to you concerning the sovereignty of God?

4. *Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel* (Matthew 1:12), who would return to the land of Israel as Judah's godly governor. How do you see God using Judah's captivity to change the spiritual direction of David's lineage?
 - a. How does this speak to you?

FOURTH DAY: Taken from Ezra 3, 4, 5, and 6

1. Zerubbabel led the Jews in their return from Babylon. From the following verses in Ezra 3, list and comment on the steps Zerubbabel took toward restoring worship in Jerusalem:
 - a. verses 2–3
 - b. verse 4
 - c. verses 5–6
 - d. verse 8
 - (1) What does this convey about Zerubbabel?
 - (2) Notice that they did these things *though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries* (Ezra 3:3). Why is this important to note? See also Psalm 27:1 and 118:6.
2. When Judah's *adversaries* heard the temple was being rebuilt, what did they say to Zerubbabel and the leaders? Ezra 4:2
 - a. How did Zerubbabel and the others respond? Ezra 4:3
 - (1) What do you think this demonstrates about Zerubbabel?
3. What ministers to you most from Zerubbabel's example?

