

## 2 KINGS (STUDENT EDITION)

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#### AUTHOR-

AS YOU MAY RECALL FROM OUR 1 KINGS STUDY, 1 & 2 KINGS WERE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE ORIGINAL. 2 KINGS IS THE SECOND HALF OF THAT BOOK. THOUGH THERE IS NO EXACT CERTAINTY AS TO THE WRITER, MANY HOLD THAT \_\_\_\_\_ OR A PROPHETIC CONTEMPORARY WERE LIKELY THE AUTHOR. SEE NOTES ON 1 KINGS FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

#### WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

WE CAN, WITH SOME CONFIDENCE, STATE THAT THE ENTIRE TEXT OF 1 & 2 KINGS WAS WRITTEN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 560-538 B.C. THE EVENTS OF 2 KINGS COVER A PERIOD OF ALMOST \_\_\_\_\_. SEE NOTES ON 1 KINGS FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

**ABOUT THE BOOK-**

2 KINGS DEALS WITH A VERY TURBULENT PERIOD, DUALY COVERING THE REIGN OF AHAZIAH (THE 9<sup>TH</sup> KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ISRAEL) THROUGH THE FALL OF ISRAEL TO ASSYRIA, AND THE FALL OF JERUSALEM AND DEPORTATION OF JUDAH TO BABYLON, ENDING WITH THE RELEASE OF KING JEHOIACHIN.

THE WRITER WAS OBVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING THE HORROR OF THE EXILE OF GOD’S PEOPLE. HE WRITES, IN THIS GREAT BOOK, A PROPHETIC MESSAGE SHOWING THAT THIS PUNISHMENT BY CAPTIVITY TO FOREIGN PAGAN NATIONS WAS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD’S COVENANT. REMEMBER OUR DISCUSSION IN 1 KINGS: KINGS WAS WRITTEN TO \_\_\_\_\_ AND REFLECT ON THEIR HISTORY AND THEN TO \_\_\_\_\_.

2 KINGS SPECIFICALLY PICKS UP THE HISTORICAL RECORD WHERE 1 KINGS LEAVES OFF. BUT REMEMBER: IT IS A SELECTIVE HISTORY WITH \_\_\_\_\_! THIS BOOK PRESENTS GOD AS THE LORD OF HISTORY, PROVIDENTIALLY WORKING IN AND THROUGH THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE.

2 KINGS BEGINS WITH THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM WITH AHAZIAH REIGNING IN ISRAEL AND JEHOSHAPHAT RULING IN JUDAH. AS IN 1 KINGS, THE NARRATIVE IS DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUAL SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN KINGDOMS. BUT THE MESSAGE, AS WE DISCUSSED IN 1 KINGS IS CLEAR: THE NATION, LEADER, OR PERSON WHO \_\_\_\_\_ THE LORD WILL ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. THOSE WHO \_\_\_\_\_ WILL EXPERIENCE GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_.

IN ITS OPENING CHAPTERS, 2 KINGS IS FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF POWERFUL PROPHETIC MINISTRY, INCLUDING ELISHA’S AND ELIJAH’S. HOWEVER, GOD’S KINGDOM POWER IS MOST CLEARLY MANIFESTED IN \_\_\_\_\_. THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM SHOWS SOMETHING WE MUST ALL REMEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_. ISRAEL’S \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD’S WAYS, AS SHOWN IN THE LEADERSHIP AND LIFESTYLE OF EVERY ONE OF THE NORTHERN KINGS, EXHAUSTED THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS PATIENCE OF OUR LOVING, YET JUST AND HOLY GOD.

**A BASIC ASSESSMENT OF 2 KINGS (BASIC THEMES)-**

THE BASIC THEME OF THE BOOK IS DISCUSSED CLEARLY IN ONE CHAPTER. IN \_\_\_\_\_ WE ARE OFFERED A SUMMATION AND ANALYSIS OF ISRAEL’S FALL. GOD’S HOLINESS \_\_\_\_\_, THOUGH THE TEXT ITSELF CLEARLY STATES THE GOD TOOK \_\_\_\_\_ IN IT. THIS CHAPTER DOES TWO THINGS: 1) \_\_\_\_\_, AND 2)

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\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. THOSE THINGS ARE:

- ✓ THEY REBELLED AGAINST GOD'S WAYS AND \_\_\_\_\_ GOD HAD ALREADY CAST OUT (17:7-8)
- ✓ THEY PRACTICED \_\_\_\_\_ AND TRIED \_\_\_\_\_ (17:9-12)
- ✓ THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_, AND REFUSED TO BE CORRECTED. THEY WERE \_\_\_\_\_ (17:13-15)
- ✓ THEIR REBELLION LED TO \_\_\_\_\_ (17:16, 17) - REMINISCENT OF 1 SAMUEL 15:23.

THESE FOUR ACTIONS BRING INTO PLAY CERTAIN PUNISHMENT. IN CHAPTER 17:19-23, WE SEE WHAT THE HORRIFIC PUNISHMENT IS: THE \_\_\_\_\_! LIVING IN THE KINGDOM CAN MEAN GREAT BLESSING, BUT IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR SELFISH, CARNAL AND EVIL PURSUITS. PERSISTING IN THINGS THAT GOD DESPISES ENDS ALL ENJOYMENT OF HIS BLESSINGS AND MERCIES. YOU MIGHT SAY THAT 2 KINGS IS A GREAT BOOK IN DEMONSTRATING HOW GOD'S PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_. KINGDOM LIVING REQUIRES A CONSISTENTLY \_\_\_\_\_. THIS BOOK REVEALS THE PRICE OF NEGLECTING THAT DISCIPLINE.

THE SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CLEARLY MENTIONED IN BOTH BOOKS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE, THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF YAHWEH PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN 1 AND 2 KINGS AS GOD USES THEM TO REMIND THE KINGS OF THEIR COVENANT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE MINISTRIES OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM ARE THE MOST PROMINENT, BUT MANY OF THE LATER WRITING PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED AS WELL. THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ IS HIGHLIGHTED AS NUMEROUS FULFILLMENTS OF PROPHECY AND MIRACLES PERFORMED BY PROPHETS ARE MENTIONED.

THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE, ONE WE DID NOT MENTION IN OUR STUDY OF 1 KINGS. THE BOOKS OF 1 AND 2 KINGS DESCRIBE SEVERAL MIRACLES WROUGHT BY GOD THROUGH ELIJAH AND ELISHA. IN ADDITION TO PROVING GOD'S POWER, THESE MIRACLES ARE ALSO \_\_\_\_\_ ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE FOLLOWERS OF BAAL. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: GOD'S MIRACLES ARE NOT JUST DEMONSTRATIONS OF HIS GRANDEUR, BUT ALSO ACTS OF JUDGMENT ON THE GODS OF THIS WORLD! THEY DON'T JUST PRODUCE JOY, BUT AWE-INSPIRING FEAR THAT LEADS TO PEOPLE ABANDONING THEIR IDOLS.

**A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-**

WHEN YOU CONSIDER WHY THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN AND WHAT ITS PAINFUL HISTORY COVERS, I BELIEVE THE KEY WORD FOR THIS BOOK, AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED FROM THE COVER PICTURE, IS:

\_\_\_\_\_. REMEMBER THAT THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN FROM A PROPHETIC VIEWPOINT TO TEACH THAT THE COLLAPSE OF BOTH KINGDOMS WAS BECAUSE OF SPIRITUAL REBELLION AND THE FAILURE OF THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO THE WARNINGS GOD GAVE THEM THROUGH HIS MESSENGERS.

**KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER(S)-**

WHEN CONSIDERING THE PURPOSE OF THE WRITING OF 2 KINGS, I HAD TO SELECT AS THE KEY VERSES: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. THESE KEY VERSES DECLARE THE SAME THING, BUT FOR EACH KINGDOM. THEY ARE A REMINDER AS TO WHY THE HORRIFYING EVENTS HAPPENED. AS TO THE KEY CHAPTER, I DECIDED ON SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE I BELIEVE MOST WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN CHOOSING. THOUGH \_\_\_\_\_ IS THE SAD SUMMARY CHAPTER, IT DEALS ONLY WITH \_\_\_\_\_. THAT IS WHY I CHOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AS MY KEY CHAPTER. WHY? BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY SPEAKS OF THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE GLORIOUS TEMPLE, BUT IT ALSO

\_\_\_\_\_, SHOWING GOD’S WORK OF REDEMPTION IN THE MIDST OF MAN’S REBELLION AND JUDGMENT.

**JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-**

- ❖ THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IN CHAPTER 1

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ 2 KINGS 8:19- JESUS IS THE LAMP FOR DAVID AND HIS DESCENDANTS FOREVER!

**THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-**

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ ALL THE PROPHETIC WORDS AND THE OFFICE OF PROPHET ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- ❖ ALL THE HEALINGS AND MIRACLES ARE THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT



## **THINGS OF INTEREST**

### **KING JEHU'S BLACK OBELISK**

DURING THE PERIOD OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY FROM ABOUT 900 TO 700 BC, THE ASSYRIANS WERE THE DOMINANT WORLD POWER. ONE OF THE POWERFUL ASSYRIAN KINGS, SHALMANESER III (REIGNED 859–824 BC), ERECTED A LARGE STONE MONUMENT ON WHICH HE RECORDED HIS MILITARY VICTORIES. THIS IMPRESSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, KNOWN AS THE BLACK OBELISK, CONTAINS A RELIEF SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE VISIT OF KING JEHU OF ISRAEL (REIGNED 841–814 BC) TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SHALMANESER.

PLACED OUTSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE AT NIMRUD IN ASSYRIA, THE MONUMENT IS MORE THAN SIX FEET HIGH. CHISELED CAREFULLY IN STONE IS A SERIES OF DETAILED DRAWINGS, WITH ACCOMPANYING INSCRIPTIONS THAT COMMEMORATE SHALMANESER'S NUMEROUS MILITARY CAMPAIGNS. THE OBELISK SHOWS AN EVENT NOT MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE—JEHU BOWING BEFORE SHALMANESER, WITH NUMEROUS ISRAELITE SERVANTS AND AIDS STANDING BY WITH GIFTS FOR THE ASSYRIAN KING.

TRIBUTE, OR COMPULSORY PAYMENTS TO PROTECT A WEAKER NATION AGAINST A MORE POWERFUL FOE, WAS OFTEN LEVIED BY AGGRESSOR NATIONS SUCH AS THE ASSYRIANS DURING OLD TESTAMENT TIMES. AFTER BEING ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL BY THE PROPHET ELISHA, JEHU ELIMINATED ALL THREATS TO HIS RULE BY KILLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF AHAB, WHOM HE SUCCEEDED (2 KIN. 9; 10). AS A RULER, JEHU WAS A WEAK KING WHO FAILED TO ELIMINATE BAAL WORSHIP FROM THE LAND.

THE BLACK OBELISK IS A VALUABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND, BECAUSE IT HELPS ESTABLISH A DATE FOR JEHU'S RULE, AS WELL AS AN OVERALL CHRONOLOGY FOR THIS PERIOD OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY. IT ALSO SHOWS US WHAT AN ISRAELITE KING FROM THIS PERIOD MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE. THIS IS THE ONLY IMAGE OR DRAWING OF AN ISRAELITE KING THAT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

### **SENNACHERIB'S PRISM**

THE MONUMENT KNOWN AS SENNACHERIB'S PRISM IS A FASCINATING ARTIFACT FROM ASSYRIA'S PAST. IT GIVES A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT FROM THE BIBLE ABOUT AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY—A SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM CONDUCTED BY KING SENNACHERIB OF ASSYRIA (RULED 705–681 BC) ABOUT 690 BC (IS. 36; 37).

THE FIFTEEN-INCH-HIGH CLAY PRISM CONTAINS WELL-PRESERVED ASSYRIAN SCRIPT THAT VERIFIES THE ATTACK ON JERUSALEM AND KING HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH BY ASSYRIAN FORCES. "AS TO HEZEKIAH, THE JEW, HE DID NOT SUBMIT TO MY YOKE," THE PRISM READS. "I LAID SIEGE TO 46 OF HIS STRONG CITIES, WALLED FORTS AND TO COUNTLESS SMALL CITIES IN THEIR VICINITY, AND CONQUERED THEM.... [HEZEKIAH] I MADE A PRISONER IN JERUSALEM, HIS ROYAL RESIDENCE, LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE."

WHILE SENNACHERIB'S SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM IS A VERIFIED HISTORICAL FACT, IT IS INTERESTING THAT SENNACHERIB'S ACCOUNT

DOES NOT MENTION HOW THE SIEGE ENDED. THIS LEADS TO SUSPICION AMONG HISTORIANS THAT THE SIEGE FAILED, SINCE THE ASSYRIANS NEVER MENTIONED THEIR DEFEATS IN THEIR OFFICIAL RECORDS—ONLY THEIR VICTORIES.

THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT INDICATES THAT SENNACHERIB SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT IN HIS SIEGE OF JERUSALEM BECAUSE OF DIVINE INTERVENTION. DURING THE NIGHT, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS IN THE ASSYRIAN ARMY DIED THROUGH THE ACTION OF THE ANGEL OF THE LORD (2 KIN. 19:35). SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE GOD USED A DEADLY PLAGUE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF JUDGMENT AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF HIS PEOPLE. RULERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD USED MONUMENTS SUCH AS THIS PRISM ON WHICH TO RECORD THEIR EXPLOITS. THESE DOCUMENTS OF STONE AND CLAY HAVE SURVIVED FOR CENTURIES IN THE RUBBLE AND RUIN OF ANCIENT CITIES. THEY PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO LIFE IN BIBLE TIMES, CONFIRMING AND, IN MANY CASES, ADDING VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT BIBLICAL EVENTS.

### **ASSYRIAN KINGS**

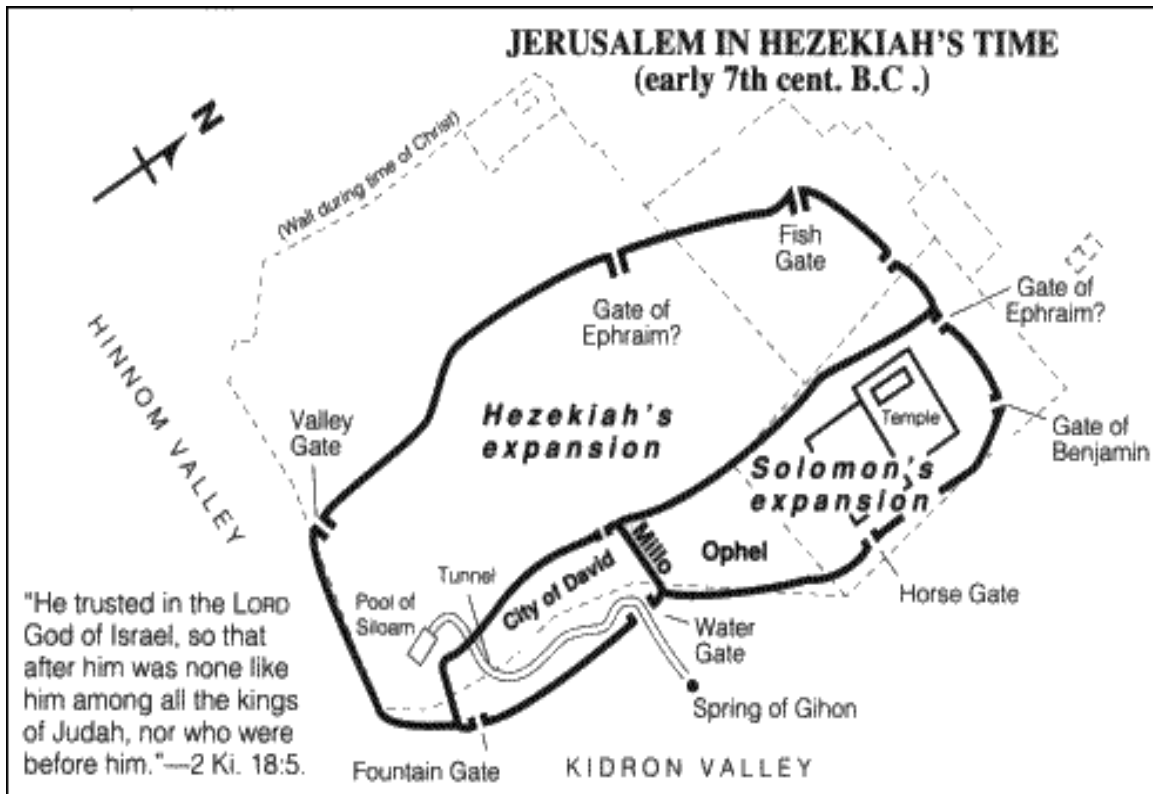
SECOND KINGS 15:19 PROVIDES THE FIRST DIRECT MENTION IN SCRIPTURE OF ANY ASSYRIAN KING. “PULU” (BIBLICAL “PUL”) WAS THE BABYLONIAN NAME GIVEN TO TIGLATH-PILESER III (745–727 BC) AFTER HIS CONQUEST OF BABYLON. TIGLATH-PILESER’S CAMPAIGN OF 743 BC REACHED ALL THE WAY TO ISRAEL, WHERE HE EXACTED TRIBUTE FROM MENAHEM. BY THIS PAYMENT OF TRIBUTE TO THE KING OF ASSYRIA, MENAHEM BECAME A VASSAL TO THE ASSYRIAN RULER.

WHEN TIGLATH-PILESER III DIED IN 727 BC, HIS SON SHALMANESER V (727–722 BC) SUCCEEDED HIM, AND HOSHEA OF ISRAEL TOOK THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCONTINUE PAYMENT OF TRIBUTE TO ASSYRIA. HOSHEA FOOLISHLY MADE A PACT WITH EGYPT, WHICH WAS NOW SO WEAK AND DIVIDED THAT IT COULD NOT GIVE HOSHEA ADEQUATE SUPPORT. IN 725 BC SHALMANESER V MARCHED AGAINST ISRAEL AND BESIEGED THE CITY OF SAMARIA FROM 725–722 BC AFTER THREE YEARS OF SIEGE, SAMARIA FELL AND THE DAYS OF ISRAEL AS A SOVEREIGN POWER WERE OVER.

SECOND KINGS 18:17–37 DESCRIBES THE CAMPAIGN BY THE ASSYRIAN KING SENNACHERIB (705–681 BC), THE LESS CAPABLE SON OF SARGON II. HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH HAD JOINED WITH TYRE AND EGYPT IN AN ALLIANCE AGAINST ASSYRIA (2 CHR. 32:1–8). SENNACHERIB, IN 701 BC, PROCEEDED TO PUT DOWN THIS REVOLT AND MOVED AGAINST THE CITIES OF JUDAH.

ASSUR-NASIRPAL II	883–859 BC
SHALMANESER III	858–824 BC
SHAMSHI-ADAD V	823–811 BC
ADAD-NIRARI III	810–783 BC
SHALMANESER IV	782–773 BC
ASSUR-DAN III	772–755 BC
ASSUR-NIRARI V	754–745 BC

TIGLATH-PILESER III	745–727 BC
SHALMANESER V	727–722 BC
SARGON II	722–705 BC
SENNACHERIB	705–681 BC
ESARHADDON	681–669 BC
ASHURBANIPAL	668–627 BC



### JERUSALEM DURING HEZEKIAH'S TIME

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WAS FURTHER EXPANDED IN THE TIME OF HEZEKIAH, REACHING A SIZE OF SOME 150 ACRES. IN HIS EFFORTS TO FORTIFY THE CITY AGAINST SENNACHERIB, HEZEKIAH ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNNEL THAT WOULD BRING WATER FROM THE SPRING OF GIHON INTO THE CITY PROPER. THE TUNNEL WAS EXCAVATED THROUGH SOLID ROCK FOR A DISTANCE OF ALMOST 600 YARDS. WHEN IT WAS COMPLETED, IT EMERGED JUST INSIDE THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE OLD CITY, WHERE WHAT WAS LATER KNOWN AS THE POOL OF SILOAM WAS SITUATED. THIS CONDUIT, REFERRED TO IN 2 KINGS 20:20 AND 2 CHRONICLES 32:30, WAS A REMARKABLE ENGINEERING ACCOMPLISHMENT, FOR THE EXCAVATORS WORKED WITH HAND TOOLS FROM OPPOSITE ENDS, MEETING IN THE CENTER.

### **BABYLONIAN KINGS**

ASSYRIAN DOMINANCE OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST CAME TO AN END WITH BABYLONIAN VICTORIES AT NINEVEH (612 BC) BY NABOPOLASSAR AND AT CARCHEMISH (605 BC) BY NEBUCHADNEZZAR II. AFTER DEFEATING THE EGYPTIANS WHO HAD COME TO THE AID OF ASSYRIA, NEBUCHADNEZZAR IMMEDIATELY FORCED THE SUBMISSION OF JUDAH'S KING JEHOIAKIM AND OTHER KINGS OF THE AREA. AT THIS TIME (605 BC), CERTAIN YOUNG MEN OF JERUSALEM, INCLUDING DANIEL, WERE TAKEN TO EXILE IN BABYLON.

AFTER JEHOIAKIM REVOLTED, JERUSALEM FELL AGAIN TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN 597 BC THE TEMPLE WAS LOOTED AND THE TREASURES WERE TAKEN BACK TO BABYLON. A THIRD BABYLONIAN SIEGE OF JERUSALEM FOLLOWED ZEDEKIAH'S REVOLT (589 BC) AND THE CITY FELL IN JULY OF 587 OR 586 BC. EVIL-MERODACH, THE SON OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, RULED BABYLON ONLY TWO YEARS (562-560 BC). HE RELEASED JUDAH'S KING JEHOIACHIN FROM PRISON IN BABYLON AND GAVE THE DEPOSED KING A PLACE OF PRIVILEGE IN THE BABYLONIAN COURT (25:27-30).

NABOPOLASSAR	626- 605 BC	NERIGLISSAR	560- 556 BC
NEBUCHADNEZZAR II	605- 562 BC	LABASI-MARDUK	556 BC
EVIL-MERODACH	562- 560 BC	NABONIDUS (BELSHAZZAR REIGNED AS VICE-REGENT)	555- 539 BC