

After the long reign of Josiah (2 Chron 34-35), his son _____ began to reign in Jerusalem (2 Chron 36:1), but things were getting critically unstable in Judah. After just three months, Pharaoh _____ took Jehoahaz to Egypt and made his brother Eliakim a kind of puppet-king, changing his name to _____. Wouldn't you like to think that with everything going on, Jehoiakim would have humbled himself and sought the LORD with all of his heart? But what actually happened? "He did what was _____ in the sight of the LORD his God" (36:5). And so...



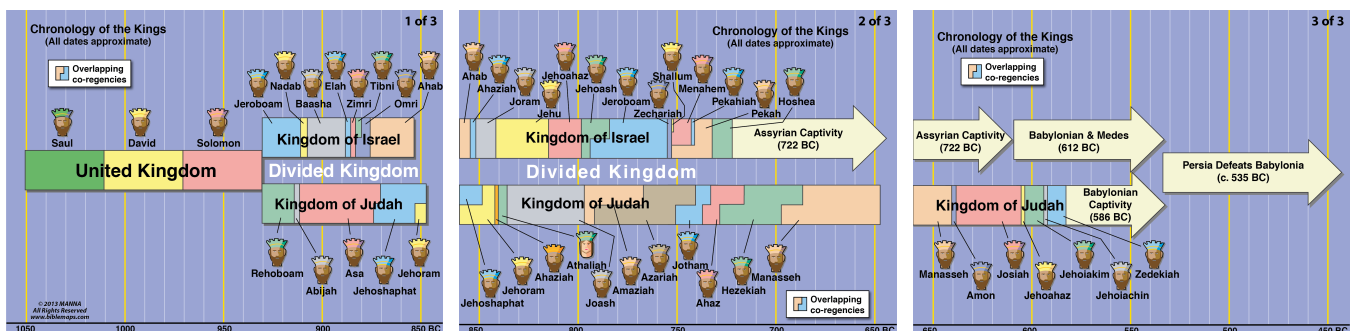
Against him came up _____ king of Babylon and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also carried part of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his palace in Babylon. (36:6-7)



☀️ God used the prophets to communicate a really important point. Notice how he describes...

- The Assyrian empire (Isa 10:5-19)
- Egypt (Isa 19:1-15)
- The Babylonian empire (Jer 51:7, 11, 15-23)

What does he want us to understand about what was really going on at this point in history?



After the very brief reign of Jehoiachin (36:9-10), Zedekiah was set up by Nebuchadnezzar and would serve as the last king in Judah.

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before _____ the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and _____ his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel. All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they _____ the house of the LORD that he had made holy in Jerusalem. (36:11-14)

- ✿ Take a look at the sort of things Jeremiah spoke "from the mouth of the LORD" to Zedekiah in [Jeremiah 21:1-10](#) and [27:12-22](#). How would you summarize what was being communicated to him?

And so, this is how we get back to the two key verses that we've used throughout this series as a sad summary of how the descendants of Abraham went from the "golden age" of Solomon to destruction and exile from the Promised Land.

The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his _____, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept _____ the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy. Therefore _____ brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He _____ them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into _____ in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to _____ the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. (36:15-21)

- ✿ Even in the darkest of times, notice how *2 Chronicles* ends. What is being described? Where does the big picture of the Bible go from here? What should we take away from that as children of God today?