



The Final Chapter 2 KINGS 25:1-26

The Final Four Kings

Jehoahaz:

- three month king
- taken into exile

Jehoiakim:

- appointed; 11 yrs.
- named changed
- rebelled

Jehoiachin:

- three month king
- taken into exile

Zedekiah:

- appointed; 11 yrs.
- named changed
- rebelled

Deportations to Babylon

- 605 B.C. – Daniel and nobles from Judah
- 597 B.C. – Jehoiachin, craftsmen (Ezekiel)
- 587 B.C. – final exile of the nation

¹⁸ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. ¹⁹ He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. ²⁰ For through the anger of the LORD this came about in Jerusalem and Judah until He cast them out from His presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

(2 Kings 24:18-20)

2 Kings 25:1-30

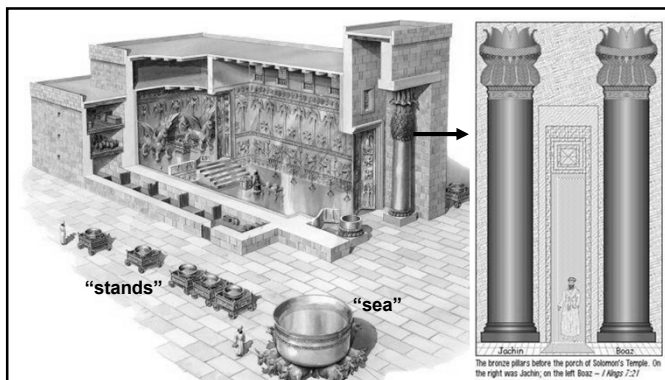
➤ Structure:

1. Loss of the king (25:1-7)
2. Loss of the city: four vignettes (25:8-26)
3. Appendix (25:27-30)

Observations:

1. This was the fulfillment of God's word
 - the destruction and exile of Judah was a fulfillment of the covenant judgments promised by God (cf. Deut. 28:49-68)
 - included the promise of the temple's destruction (cf. 1 Kings 9:6-9)

⁶ "But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ⁸ And this house will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by will be astonished and hiss and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' ⁹ And they will say, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them, therefore the LORD has brought all this adversity on them.'" (1 Kings 9:6-9)



Observations:

2. The temple was not inviolable
 - the temple itself was no safeguard against God's judgment (cf. Jer. 7:1-15)
 - the temple was inadequate to secure God's presence with His people

Observations:

3. The return to Egypt
 - the hopeful "remnant" rejects the covenant by fleeing to Egypt
 - the desolation and removal is total

Implications:

1. Warning of God's Certain Judgment
 - this is a harbinger of final judgment "*away from the presence of the Lord*"
 - this is an example of God's judgment of His covenant people (cf. 1 Cor. 10:11-12)

Implications:

2. The Hope of Future Restoration

- God's kingdom promises to His people are unfailing and eternal
- The promise of restoration from captivity (cf. Deut. 30:1-6)

² The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;

Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.

³ You shall multiply the nation,
You shall increase their gladness;

They will be glad in Your presence
As with the gladness of harvest,
As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on
their shoulders,

The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult,
And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning; fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government
or of peace,

On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

(Isaiah 9:2-7)