

Time Line Leading Up to the Fall of Jerusalem

Prepared by Bill Gestal

Kings Reigning in Jerusalem	Date BC	Summary of Events Leading Up to the Exile	Prophets
		More than a hundred years before the Babylon Exile, Isaiah, the prophet, had predicted Judah's fall (Isa. 6:11, 12; 8:14; 10:11). The prophets Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Ezekiel agreed that Judah would fall.	
Josiah [640-609]	640		Zephaniah [632-628]
	630	630: Assyria's last king, Ashurbanipal, died in 630 B.C. His death marked the end of Assyrian dominance of Judah. Both Judah and Egypt sought to take advantage of Assyria's diminishing power....	Jeremiah [627-580]
	620		
Jehoahaz [609-608] Jehoiakim [608-597]	610	609: Judah's hopes to seize additional power in the absence of Assyria died when King Josiah was killed at the battle of Megiddo (2 Kings 23:29) by Pharaoh Neco on his way to Carchemish where he hoped to join Assyria and defeat King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (cf. 2Chron 35:20). .Jehoahaz succeeded his father Josiah as king but reigned only 3 months in Jerusalem when he was carried to Egypt in chains by Pharaoh Neco. Neco made Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim king. ¹ 606: Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (Jer 25:1) and carried away some royal youths, including Daniel and his companions, together with the sacred vessels of the temple (2Ch 36:7; Dan 1:2). 605: Nebuchadnezzar defeated Neco at the battle of Carchemish.	Habakkuk [609-605] Daniel [605-535] -to the Exiles
Jehoiachin [597] Zedekiah [597-586]	600	589: After defeating the Egyptians, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem, eventually destroyed Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:34-24:6; 2 Chron. 36:4-8). ² Jehoiakim died in the battle at Jerusalem. 597: Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, reigned 3 months. 's reign before being exiled to Babylon (2Ki 24:8-16) ³ Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive 3,023 (Jer 52:28) ⁴ eminent Jews, including the king (2Ch 36:10), with his family and officers (2Ki 24:12), and a large number of warriors (2Ki 24:16), with very many persons of note (2Ki 24:14), and artisans (2Ki 24:16), leaving behind only those who were poor and helpless. This was the first general deportation to Babylon. 597: Nebuchadnezzar replaced Jehoiachin as king with Zedekiah, his uncle a son of Josiah ⁵ .	Ezekiel [593-571] - to the Exiles
	590	588: In his 9th year, Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon, so King Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem and in Zedekiah's 11th year Jerusalem fell and the second deportation occurred (Jer 52:29, see note 4). ⁶ <b style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">[586] FALL OF JERUSALEM Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah governor of Judah by the Babylonians but was assassinated (2Kings 24:25) ⁷ . A third deportation, a punishment for Gedaliah's assassination, occurred in 582 B.C. (Jer. 52:30, see note 4).	

¹ 2Kings 23:31-37 (NIV): Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his fathers had done. Pharaoh Neco put him in chains at Riblah in the land of Hamath so that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and he imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt, and there he died. Jehoiakim paid Pharaoh Neco the silver and gold he demanded. In order to do so, he taxed the land and exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land according to their assessments. Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah. And he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.

See also 2Chron 36:1-8.

² 2Kings 24:1-7 (NIV): During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. The LORD sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him. He sent them to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by his servants the prophets. Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive. As for the other events of Jehoiakim's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king. The king of Egypt did not march out from his own country again, because the king of Babylon had taken all his territory, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

See also 2Chron 36:5-8

³ 2Kings 24:8-16 (NIV): Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. ... He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father had done. At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it, and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it. Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD. He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans--a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother, his wives, his officials and the leading men of the land. The king of Babylon also deported to Babylon the entire force of seven thousand fighting men, strong and fit for war, and a thousand craftsmen and artisans.

See also 2Chron 36:9-10

⁴ Jeremiah 52:27-30 (NIV): ... So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile:

in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;

in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem;

in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were 4,600 people in all.

⁵ 2Kings 24:17-20 (NIV): He made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done. It was because of the LORD's anger that all this

happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence. Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

⁶ 2Kings 25:1-21 (NIV): So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. By the ninth day of the [fourth] month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah, but the Babylonian army pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, and he was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where sentence was pronounced on him. They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

⁸ On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, an official of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

⁹ He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. The whole Babylonian army, under the commander of the imperial guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard carried into exile the people who remained in the city, along with the rest of the populace and those who had gone over to the king of Babylon. But the commander left behind some of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields.

¹³ The Babylonians broke up the bronze pillars, the movable stands and the bronze Sea that were at the temple of the LORD and they carried the bronze to Babylon. They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, dishes and all the bronze articles used in the temple service. The commander of the imperial guard took away the censers and sprinkling bowls--all that were made of pure gold or silver. The bronze from the two pillars, the Sea and the movable stands, which Solomon had made for the temple of the LORD, was more than could be weighed. Each pillar was twenty-seven feet high. The bronze capital on top of one pillar was four and a half feet high and was decorated with a network and pomegranates of bronze all around. The other pillar, with its network, was similar.

¹⁸ The commander of the guard took as prisoners Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest next in rank and the three doorkeepers. Of those still in the city, he took the officer in charge of the fighting men and five royal advisers. He also took the secretary who was chief officer in charge of conscripting the people of the land and sixty of his men who were found in the city. Nebuzaradan the commander took them all and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. There at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, the king had them executed.

See also Judah went into captivity, away from her land.

See also 2Chron 36:11-21 and Jeremiah 39:1-10

⁷ 2Kings 25:22-26 (NIV): Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to be over the people he had left behind in Judah. When all the army officers and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah... . Gedaliah took an oath to reassure them and their men. "Do not be afraid of the Babylonian officials," he said. "Settle down in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you." In the seventh month, however, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was of royal blood, came with ten men and assassinated Gedaliah and also the men of Judah and the Babylonians who were with him at Mizpah. At this, all the people from the least to the greatest, together with the army officers, fled to Egypt for fear of the Babylonians.

See also Jeremiah 40:7 - 41:15