

(18) Jehoiakim (Eliakim)

BIBLICAL RECORD:

- 2 Kings 23:36 – 27:7
- 2 Chronicles 36:5-8
- 1st reference: 2 Kings 23:34
- Last reference: Daniel 1:2
- Mentioned 37 times in the Bible

POSITION:

- 18th King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah

REIGN:

- 11 years
- 609-608 B.C.

CHARACTER:

- Wicked

DEATH:

- **2 Kings 24:6** – “So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.”

FAMILY:

- Father was Josiah
- Mother was Zebidah, daughter of Pedaiah. She was from Ramah
- Brothers were:
 1. Johanan,
 2. Zedekiah,
 3. Jehoahaz (Shallum)
- Son was Jehoiachin

RULER(s) IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM:

- The Northern Kingdom had ended some 113 years before he became king in Judah. It ended in 722 B.C. during the 6th year in the 28 year reign of Hezekiah

PROPHET(s):

- Jeremiah
- Habakkuk

OBSERVATIONS:

- 41 references to him in the Bible
- The Babylon Empire had replaced the Assyrian Empire.

FACTS:

- Began to reign at age 25 and died at age 36
- During his reign, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, invaded Judea resulting in Jehoiakim become a vassal king of Babylon for three years. 2 Kings 24:1

- Jeremiah brought a written prophecy of the king's and his nations coming catastrophe and destruction. The king did not like what he heard read, so he used a scribe's knife to cut up the roll in pieces, threw them into the fire and watched them until they were reduced to white ashes. While the king may have destroyed the parchment, he did not destroy the truths written upon it. **Jeremiah 36:21-26** – “The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it from the room of Elishama the secretary and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. 22 It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him. 23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. 24 The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes. 25 Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. 26 Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the Lord had hidden them.”
- God had the scroll reproduced. **Jeremiah 36:32** - “So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.”
- Nothing good is recorded about Jehoiakim.
- The phrase, “his abominations . . . which were found in him” (2 Chronicles 36:8) is said to mean “found on him,” referring to a belief that he was tattooed with idolatrous marks, or signs or signs forbidden by the Mosaic Law. **Leviticus 19:28** – “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.”
- Jehoiakim was deposed by the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, whose name first occurs here in Scriptures as it pertains to Jehoiakim. Along with Daniel and Daniel's three friends, Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon during the first of the three Babylonian deportations.
- **Proverbs 10:7** – “The name of the wicked shall rot.”
- Three years after becoming a vassal king, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. The Lord sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders against him. 2 Kings 24:1
 - These raiders were sent because of the sins of Manasseh that God was not willing to forgive. 2 Kings 24:1-4
 - **2 Kings 24:3-4** – “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.”
- Nebuchadnezzar had Jehoiakim bound with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. 2 Chronicles 36:6
- **2 Kings 24:7** - “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.”

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE & REIGN:

- Others have tried a “penknife religion.” When the Bible was first printed in England, the Roman Bishops and priest bought up all the Bibles they could find and made bonfires of them. The printers used the money to provide ten presses where there had been one, and the Bibles in the land increased tenfold, much to the chagrin of the priests who found that bonfires could not burn the indestructible Word of God.
- One may cut and burn the Word of God now, but in judgment the Word of God will cut them and he will be the one to burn.
- God always gets the last word. Jeremiah 36:32