



Introduction

The last days of the kingdom of Judah. As most of the kings and priests have been wicked, God brings judgement on them from the surrounding nations.



Questions

1. What are we told about the reign of Jehoiakim?
2. How is the reign of Zedekiah summarised?
3. What happened after the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 4** Joahaz is deposed, after only 3 months on the throne, and taken to Egypt
- **v 5 to 10** His brother, Jehoiakim, reigns for 11 years before being taken captive by the Babylonians. They also remove some of the vessels of the LORD's house. His son Jehoiachin is also taken after reigning for three months
- **v 11 to 13** Zedekiah, the last king, reigns for 11 years. He rebels against king Nebuchadnezzar
- **v 14 to 21** The people ignore God's message (see theme) through his prophets. The city of Jerusalem and God's house are destroyed. The treasures are taken to Babylon (see map) together with the people who have not been killed. They serve the kings of Babylon until the kingdom of Persia (see map) replaces Babylon 70 years later
- **v 22 and 23** Cyrus king of Persia issues a decree allowing the Jews to return to their land to rebuild the house of the LORD

Timeline 850 BC (see below)



Theme / Information

God's principles cannot be ignored without consequences

A selection of verses showing that there will be consequences if we ignore what God says.

The early Israelites are told the results of both obeying and disobeying God:

Deuteronomy 11 verses 26 to 28

Isaiah later tells the Israelites the consequences of disobeying God:

Isaiah 1 verse 20

The apostle Paul spells out the consequences of ignoring God:

Romans 1 verse 18

He points out the results of rejecting God's truth:

Romans 1 verses 24 to 32



The Babylonian empire

Map showing the extent of the Babylonian empire.



The Medo-Persian empire

Map showing the extent of the Medo-Persian empire.



Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 5 and 6, Q 2: v 12 and 13, Q 3: v 22 and 23



Bible timeline

