

Relentless Disaster

2 Kings 23:36 – 24:17

2 Chronicles 36:5-10

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Judah was being destroyed by bands of Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders, which should have been no surprise. The prophets had long since predicted disaster because of Judah's refusal to follow the Lord's commands.

For three years Jehoiakim king of Judah placed himself under the authority of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and paid regular tribute. Then he rebelled. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and crushed the rebellion. Shortly before, Nebuchadnezzar had conquered all the territories of Egypt. So in fear of Babylon the king of Egypt no longer ventured out of his own country, leaving his ally Jehoiakim unsupported in his time of need. Jehoiakim was put in shackles and carried off to exile in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar removed many treasures from the Temple of the Lord and put them in the temple of his god in Babylon. When Nebuchadnezzar left for Babylon he took with him dozens of the best and brightest of Judah's youth.

Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son Jehoiachin, who was only a teenager when he became king of Judah. The Babylonian army once again laid siege to Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar arrived, Jehoiachin and his officials surrendered to him. Jehoiachin and his family were carried off to Babylon along with all the commanders and fighting men, all the craftsmen, all the artisans – all of Jerusalem's elite. Nebuchadnezzar also took away more treasures from the Temple of God and from the royal palace. Jehoiachin's reign had lasted only three months.

Before returning to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar appointed Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, as the next king in Judah.