



After Darkness, Light

2 Kings 25

The Divided Kingdom Outline

- I. Kingdom Divided: Kings of Israel & Judah 1 Kings 11 - 2 Kings 13
- II. Israel's Destruction and Exile 2 Kings 14-17
- III. Judah's Destruction and Exile 2 Kings 18-25

Book Theme Verse

2 Kings 17:13 - ¹³Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.”

Lesson Theme Statement

After twenty-two years of four wicked Kings, the LORD God finally turned the Southern Kingdom of Judah over to Babylonian captivity. However, in the end, He made it clear that the eternal regal line of David remained intact.

Passage Key Verse

2 Kings 25:29 - ²⁹Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life

Josiah
31 years (640-609 B.C.)
Age 8-39

Jehoahaz (Shallum)
3 months (609 B.C.)
Age 23

Died in Egypt

Jehoiakim (Eliakim)
11 years (609-597 B.C.)
Age 25-36

Died in Jerusalem

Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)
3 months (597 B.C.)
Age 18

Imprisoned in Babylon

Zedekiah (Mattaniah)
11 years (597-586 B.C.)
Age 21-32

Died in Babylon

The Southern Kingdom - Judah

Babylonian Captivity

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiachin

Jehoiakim

Zedekiah

640 BC

609 BC

597 BC

586 BC

2 Kings 24:18-20

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.

Jeremiah 52:1-3

1 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.

2 He did evil in the sight of the Lord like all that Jehoiakim had done.

3 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 25:1-7

1Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it and built a siege wall all around it.

2So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

3On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

4Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled by night by way of the gate between the two walls beside the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah.

5But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho and all his army was scattered from him.

6Then they captured the king and brought him to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him.

7They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.

8Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

9He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house he

Jeremiah 52:4-11

4Now it came about in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it and built a siege wall all around it.

5So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

6On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

7Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled and went forth from the city at night by way of the gate between the two walls which was by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah.

8But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.

9Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

10The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11Then he blinded the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon and put him in prison until the day of his death.

Jeremiah 39:1-7

1Now when Jerusalem was captured in the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it;

2in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the city wall was breached.

3Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came in and sat down at the Middle Gate: Nergal-sar-ezer, Samgar-nebu, Sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rabmag, and all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon.

4When Zedekiah the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, they fled and went out of the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls; and he went out toward the Arabah.

5But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and they seized him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

6Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes at Riblah; the king of Babylon also slew all the nobles of Judah.

7He then blinded Zedekiah's eyes and bound him in fetters of bronze to bring him to Babylon.

8The Chaldeans also burned with fire the king's palace and the houses of the people, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

2 Kings 25:8-12

8Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

9He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire.

10So all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

11Then the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon and the rest of the people, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away into exile.

12But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

13Now the bronze pillars which were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze sea which were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces

Jeremiah 52:12-16

12Now on the tenth day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, who was in the service of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

13He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every large house he burned with fire.

14So all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.

15Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away into exile some of the poorest of the people, the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon and the rest of the artisans.

16But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.


Jeremiah 39:8-10

8The Chaldeans also burned with fire the king's palace and the houses of the people, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

9As for the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had gone over to him and the rest of the people who remained, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard carried them into exile in Babylon.

10But some of the poorest people who had nothing, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard left behind in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at that time.

11Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave orders about Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, saying,

12“ Take him and look after him, and do nothing harmful to him, but rather deal with him just as he tells you.”

13So Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard sent word

2 Kings 25:13-21 Jeremiah 52:17-27

13Now the bronze pillars which were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze sea which were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried the bronze to Babylon.

14They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the spoons, and all the bronze vessels which were used in temple service.

15The captain of the guard also took away the firepans and the basins, what was fine gold and what was fine silver.

16The two pillars, the one sea, and the stands which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord—the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.

17The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a bronze capital was on it; the height of the capital was three cubits, with a network and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these with network.

18Then the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three officers of the temple.

19From the city he took one official who was overseer of the men of war, and five of the king's advisers who were found in the city; and the scribe of the captain of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.

20Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

21Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was led away into exile from its land.

22Now as for the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan over them.

23When all the captains of the forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah

17Now the bronze pillars which belonged to the house of the Lord and the stands and the bronze sea, which were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried all their bronze to Babylon.

18They also took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the pans and all the bronze vessels which were used in temple service.

19The captain of the guard also took away the bowls, the firepans, the basins, the pots, the lampstands, the pans and the drink offering bowls, what was fine gold and what was fine silver.

20The two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which King Solomon had made for the house of the Lord—the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.

21As for the pillars, the height of each pillar was eighteen cubits, and it was twelve cubits in circumference and four fingers in thickness, and hollow.

22Now a capital of bronze was on it; and the height of each capital was five cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these, including pomegranates.

23There were ninety-six exposed pomegranates; all the pomegranates numbered a hundred on the network all around.

24Then the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three officers of the temple.

25He also took from the city one official who was overseer of the men of war, and seven of the king's advisers who were found in the city, and the scribe of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the midst of the city.

26Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

27Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was led away into exile from its land.

2 Kings 25:27-30

27 Now it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison;

28 and he spoke kindly to him and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

29 Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life;

30 and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

Jeremiah 52:31-34

31 Now it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, showed favor to Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison.

32 Then he spoke kindly to him and set his throne above the thrones of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

33 So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life.

34 For his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king of Babylon, a daily portion all the days of his life until the day of his death.

I. The Rise of Zedekiah to the Southern Kingdom Monarchy

2 Kings 24:17-20

1. Zedekiah was appointed King of Judah by the King of Babylon - v. 17
2. Zedekiah was in rebellion against the LORD God - v.19
3. Zedekiah was in rebellion against the King of Babylon - v. 20

Jeremiah 37:6–10

⁶Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ⁷“Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Thus you are to say to the king of Judah, who sent you to Me to inquire of Me: “Behold, Pharaoh’s army which has come out for your assistance is going to return to its own land of Egypt. ⁸“The Chaldeans will also return and fight against this city, and they will capture it and burn it with fire.” ’ ⁹“Thus says the LORD, ‘Do not deceive yourselves, saying, “The Chaldeans will surely go away from us,” for they will not go. ¹⁰**‘For even if you had defeated the entire army of Chaldeans who were fighting against you, and there were only wounded men left among them, each man in his tent, they would rise up and burn this city with fire.’ ”**

II. The End of the Southern Kingdom Under Zedekiah

2 Kings 25:1-7

1. In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, Nebuchadnezzar and his army returned to Jerusalem and built a siege wall around the city - v. 1-2
2. After two years of the siege, there was a severe famine among the Jerusalem residents - v. 3

Jeremiah 38:17 - ¹⁷Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, 'If you will indeed go out to the officers of the king of Babylon, then you will live, this city will not be burned with fire, and you and your household will survive.'

II. The End of the Southern Kingdom Under Zedekiah

2 Kings 25:1-7

1. In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, Nebuchadnezzar and his army returned to Jerusalem and built a siege wall around the city - v. 1-2
2. After two years of the siege, there was a severe famine among the Jerusalem residents - v. 3
3. When the city was broken into by the Chaldeans, King Zedekiah and his army fled the city at night - v. 4-5
- 4 King Zedekiah and his sons were captured by the Babylonian army near the plains of Jericho and taken to King Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah - v. 6



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2 Kings 25:1-7

4. King Zedekiah and his sons were captured by the Babylonian army near the plains of Jericho and taken to King Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah - v. 6

5. King Nebuchadnezzar executed Zedekiah's sons before his eyes, blinded the eyes of Zedekiah and then sentenced Zedekiah to life in Babylon prison - v. 7

III. The Destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the people

2 Kings 25:8-12

1. Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard burned all the significant houses of Jerusalem which included the house of the LORD and the king's house - v. 8-9
2. The Chaldean army broke down all the walls around Jerusalem - v. 10
3. Nebuzaradan deported the majority of the remaining people to Babylon leaving only the very poorest people in the land - v. 11-12

IV. The Plundering of the Temple

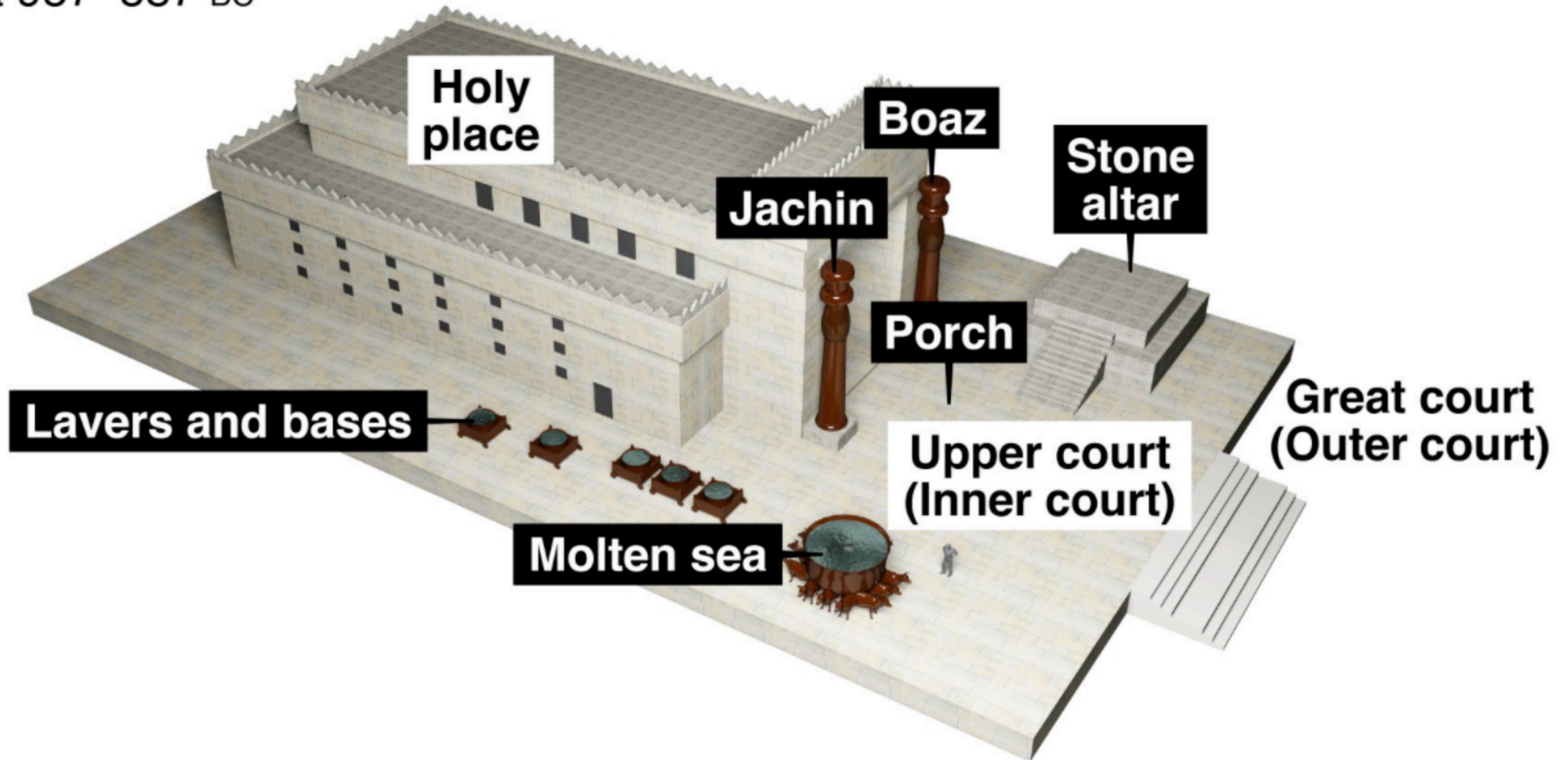
2 Kings 25:13-21

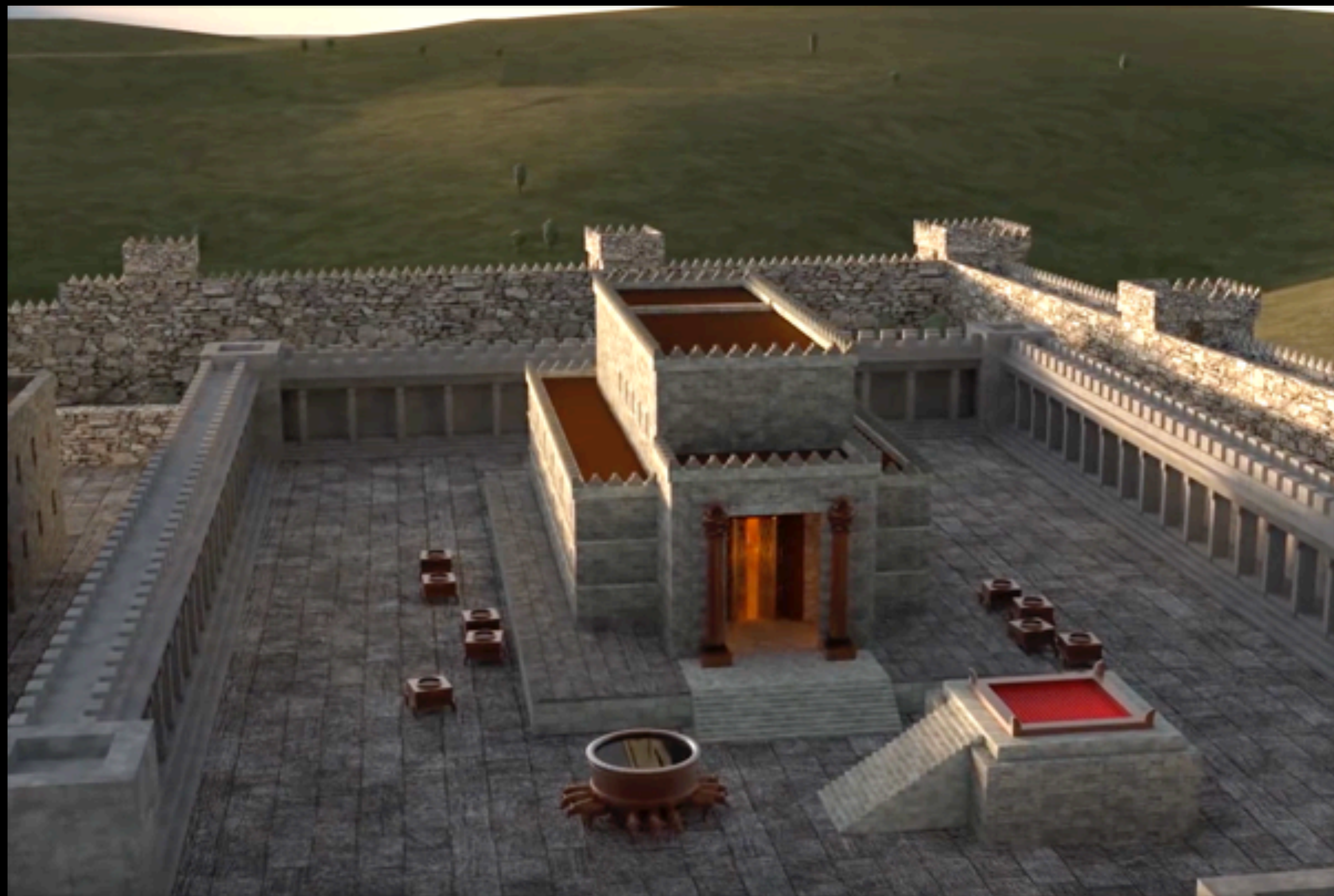
1. The Chaldeans ransacked the temple for its valuable metals - v. 13-17

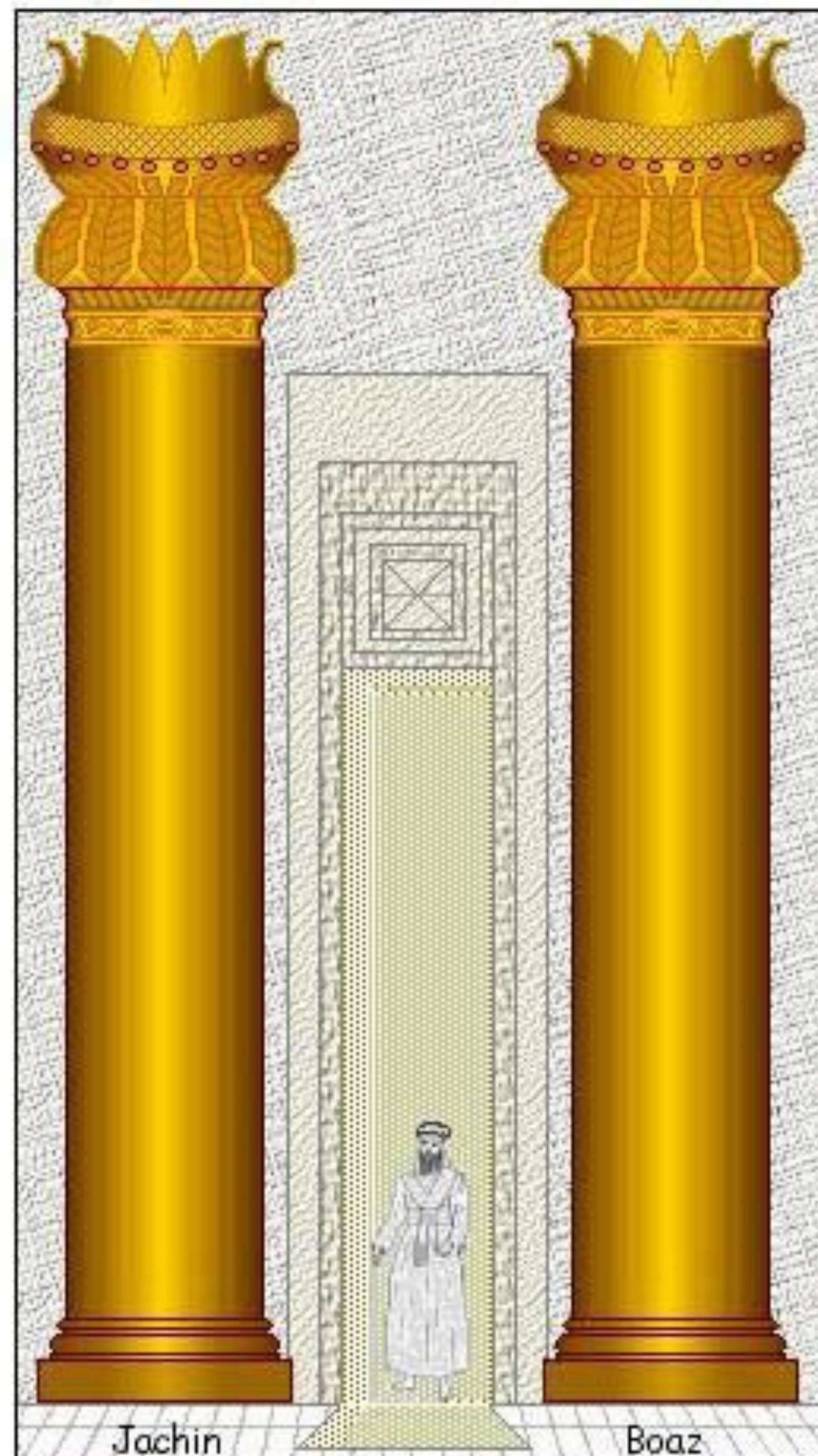
Philip Ryken - During the early days of Jeremiah's prophetic ministry, the people of Judah had put false confidence in the temple, as if a physical building could somehow save them. **"The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD,"** they said (Jer. 7:4)....One the day when divine judgment visited Jerusalem, there was nothing the temple could do to protect the people, and nothing the people could do to protect the temple. Every last sacred object was carried off to Babylon."

Solomon's Temple

Circa 957–587 BC







Jachin

Boaz





IV. The Plundering of the temple

2 Kings 25:13-21

1. The Chaldeans ransacked the temple for its valuable metals - v. 13-17
2. Nebuzaradan, Babylonian captain of the guard, rounded up key temple leaders, key army leaders and 60 citizens and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah where they were executed - v. 18-21

V. The Final Rebellion of the Remaining Remnant

2 Kings 25:22-26

1. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah, a resident leader, who advised the remaining people to remain in the land and serve the king of Babylon so that it would be well with them - v. 22-24
2. Instead of heeding Gedaliah's advice, the people rose up and killed Gedaliah and the Jews and Chaldeans who were with him - v. 25
3. Then the rebellious people fled to Egypt because they were afraid of the Chaldeans - v. 26

Deuteronomy 28:64, 68

Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known..... ⁶⁸“The LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you, ‘You will never see it again!’ And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”

Jeremiah 42:13-16

“¹³But if you are going to say, “We will not stay in this land,” so as not to listen to the voice of the LORD your God, ¹⁴saying, “No, but we will go to the land of Egypt, where we will not see war or hear the sound of a trumpet or hunger for bread, and we will stay there”; ¹⁵then in that case listen to the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “If you really set your mind to enter Egypt and go in to reside there, ¹⁶then the sword, which you are afraid of, will overtake you there in the land of Egypt; and the famine, about which you are anxious, will follow closely after you there in Egypt, and you will die there.

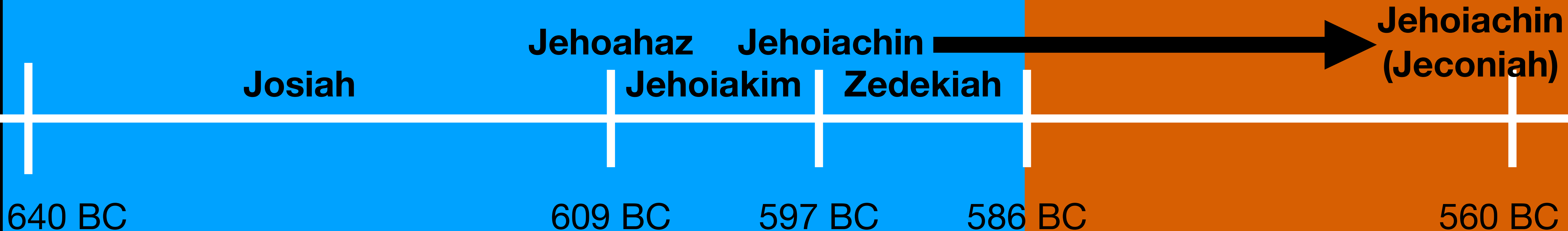
VI. After Darkness, Light

2 Kings 25:27-30

1. After King Nebuchadnezzar's death, his son Evil-merodach became king for about two years - v. 27
2. For 37 years, Jehoiachin king of Judah had remained in a Babylonian prison - v. 27
3. In the first year of Evil-merodach's reign, he brought Jehoiachin out of prison and gave him regal privileges for the rest of his life - v. 27b-30

The Southern Kingdom - Judah

Babylonian Captivity



Matthew 1:11–12 - ¹¹Josiah became the father of **Jeconiah** and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²After the deportation to Babylon: **Jeconiah** became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

Philip Ryken - “Even that is not the end of the story, because the story never ends. With the fulfillment of God’s royal promises in Jesus Christ, our hope rises, and rises again. Think of Christ’s first coming as 3 Kings—the sequel to the Old Testament story of Judah and Israel. Then think of His second coming as 4 Kings—the book we are still waiting to read. **Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are part of that everlasting story. By the grace of God, we are not blinded by sin or lost in spiritual exile. No, we are safe in the city of God, under the strong protection of David’s royal Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Long live the King!”**



