

Brief End of Judah Timeline

Josiah	640-609	Egypt moves to assist the remnants of the Assyrian army in their conflict with Babylon, hoping that the Assyrians will be a buffer against the growing power of Babylon. Josiah tries to stop the Egyptians but dies in battle with them. Jeremiah had told him not to go. Judah becomes a vassal of Egypt.
Jehoahaz	609	He is eldest son and becomes king. He is taken into captivity in Egypt.
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	609-598	He was a petty tyrant. All religious reforms ceased. Judah is under Egyptian control from 609-605. Nebuchadnezzar comes to power in 605. Jehoiakim becomes a vassal of Babylon. Judah then rebels (against the advice of Jeremiah) and in 598 Babylon returns. Jehoiakim is assassinated in order to save the city. His brother Jehoichin is named king.
Jehoiachin	598-597	He is made king and surrenders the city to Babylon. He and his court are taken into captivity. His brother Zedekiah is named king. This is the first exile. Jeremiah writes a letter to the exiles telling them to settle in for an extended stay and to seek the welfare of the city where they find themselves.
Zedekiah	597-587	Serves Babylon, but is a pawn to the power brokers and princes who are always wanting independence. (Again over against the advice of Jeremiah) Jerusalem thought they could rebel with the help of Egypt. It worked for a short time but then the Babylonians made one last push and destroyed Jerusalem. They blinded the king after executing his sons in his presence. Almost all the population was carried into Babylon. This is the second exile. Jeremiah is taken captive by a few Jews who flee to Egypt following the assassination of the Babylonian appointed governor (Again, against the advice of Jeremiah).