THE END HAS COME
PART I
2 Kings 23:31-24:17

MAIN THOUGHT Under King JEHOAHAZ (609 BC) Judah lost their independence; under King JEHOIAKIM (609-598 BC) Judah lost their land; under King JEHOIACHIN (598-597 BC) Judah lost their wealth; under King ZEDEKIAH (597-586 BC) Judah lost their temple and city. These lost sheep forgot their place (Jer. 50:6).

THEY LOST THEIR INDEPENDENCE (23:31-35; 2 Chron. 36:2-4).

• With an Egyptian arrow to Josiah, Judah lost her independence to Egypt.
• JEHOAHAZ (609 BC), Josiah’s 4th son (1 Chron. 3:15), was installed king for three evil months; he reigned (?) from Riblah (Syria) in Pharaoh’s chains before being taken to Egypt where he died.
• Pharaoh taxed Judah heavily and took much gold and silver.

THEY LOST THEIR LAND (23:36-24:7; 2 Chron. 36:5-8).

• JEHOIAKIM (609-598 BC), Josiah’s 2nd son, was installed king by Pharaoh after changing his name from his original ELIAKIM showing his power over him.
• He reigned 11 evil years characterized by the murder of Uriah the prophet (Jer. 26:23), dishonest gain, oppression and extortion (Jer. 22:17). He also burned to ashes Jeremiah’s scroll (Jer. 36:23).
• The pivotal event of his time was Babylon’s ascendency defeating Assyria (612 BC) and then Egypt in the Battle of Charchemish (605 BC – Jer 46:2, 25-26a).
• The victor, Nebuchadnezzar, besieged Judah and took articles from the temple along with select young men from the royal and noble families including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (20:16-18; Dan. 1:1-4).
• Soon afterward, Egypt rebelled along with JEHOIAKIM in spite of the warning of Jeremiah not to do so (Jer. 27:9-11).
• Jeremiah predicted he would have the burial of a donkey outside the city of Jerusalem (Jer. 22:18-19; 36:30).

THEY LOST THEIR WEALTH (24:8-17; 2 Chron. 36:9-10).

• JEHOIACHIN (598-597 BC), son of Jehoiakim, reigned only three months.
• The pivotal event in his evil reign was Nebuchadnezzar’s second visit to Jerusalem – again laying it to siege (Mar. 16, 597 BC).
• They all surrendered; Nebuchadnezzar took all the treasures from the temple and royal palace; the king, officers and military men, craftsmen and artisans (10,000 people) were taken exile – most notably EZEKIEL.
• Jeremiah likened Jehoiachin to God’s signet ring that God was removing off of His right hand ending the Davidic Covenant (Jer. 22:24-27).
• It was later reversed with Zerubbabel (Hag. 2:23; Matt. 1:12) leading to Christ.
• The Holy Spirit is the seal guaranteeing our future inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14).