

## Coniah the Cursed and the Virgin Birth

Water of Life December 10, 2015 Dr. John Niemelä

### REVIEW

On Nov 19, we considered Isaiah 7:14, a prophecy of the virgin birth.

The Messiah would be virgin-born.

On Dec 3, we looked at Mat 2:15's use of Hos 11:1: Out of Egypt I called My Son

God protected the Messianic lineage at the exodus and after Jesus' birth.

### INTRODUCTION: BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Tonight we will consider Coniah (Jeconiah/Jehoiachin), an ancestor of Joseph. Coniah presents an enigma: Only a descendant of Coniah would seem qualified to be king, but God pronounced that none of his descendants would ever be the nation's king.

Thus says the LORD: "Write this man (Coniah) down as childless, the man shall not prosper in his days; for none of his seed shall prosper by sitting on David's throne, and ruling ever again in Judah." (Jeremiah 22:30)

You may notice a common thread. Each of these passages deals (directly or indirectly) with genealogical issues pertinent to the birth of the Messiah.

### BACKGROUND FOR CONIAH'S CURSE

The OT has eleven chronological books. They show that Coniah's curse is late in the OT

Genesis: Pre-Abraham, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (Joseph died in 1806 BC)

Abraham (Gen 11:27) was born in 2166 BC

Exodus and Numbers: Moses (Moses died in 1406 BC)

Joshua: Joshua (Joshua died ≈1366 BC)

Judges: various judges (Saul anointed in 1051 BC)

1 Samuel: Samuel and Saul (Saul died in 1011 BC)

2 Samuel: David (David died in 971 BC)

1 Kings: Solomon, Rehoboam, Jereboam (Split was in 931 BC)

**2 Kings: Kings of Judah (south) and Israel (North)** Israel fell: 722; Judah: 586

Isaiah 7:14 prophecy dates to 735 BC

**Curse of Coniah dates to 597 BC**

This is 1569 years after Abe's birth & 558 years after David became king

Ezra-Nehemiah: Partial return under Ezra/Nehemiah (Nehemiah wrote in 430 BC)

400 silent years

Birth of Jesus (Jesus was born in 4 BC)

### Geopolitical Situation

Babylon became the superpower 8 years earlier, by crushing Assyria at Carchemish.

Meanwhile Babylon took over both Judah and Egypt, so Judah is powerless.

## God's Appraisal of Judah's Rulers

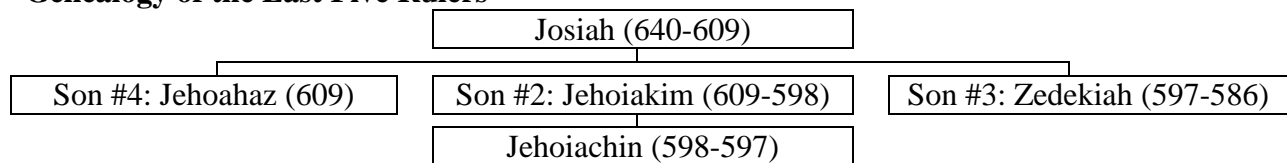
Tonight, we are considering the last five rulers of Judah, but they fit into a larger picture.

The top section has exemplary rulers, middle = good, bottom = evil

A-T = sequence of being king. Number = first year (BC) as ruler

D. Jehoshaphat 873	H. Joash 835	M. Hezekiah 729	P. <b>Josiah</b> 640
C. Asa 911	I. Amaziah 796		
	J. Uzziah 792		
	K. Jotham 750		
	E. Jehoram 848	L. Ahaz 735	Q. <b>Jehoahaz</b> 609
B. Abijah 913	F. Ahaziah 841	N. Manasseh 696	R. <b>Jehoiakim</b> 608
A. Rehoboam 931	G. Athaliah 841	O. Amon 642	S. <b>Jehoiachin</b> 598
			T. <b>Zedekiah</b> 597

## Genealogy of the Last Five Rulers



Grandpa: Josiah was the first of the five to rule. He was killed in battle against Egypt.

Son #4 (Jehoahaz) replaced his father. Egypt deported him to Egypt after 3 months.

Son #2 (Jehoiakim) was installed by Egypt as puppet, but Babylon deported him to Egypt.

Grandson (Jehoiachin = cursed Coniah) was installed by Babylon as a puppet. He was exiled.

Son #3 (Uncle Zedekiah) was defeated, forced to watch his sons killed, then blinded and exiled.

## Military Campaigns that Put Babylon on Top

Babylon repeatedly strikes Assyria. Egypt tries to come to Assyria's aid. Josiah (king of Judah) tries to stop Egypt at Megiddo. Josiah is killed, Judah loses, and Egypt heads north.

However, Egypt arrives at Carchemish too late, because Babylon had already crushed Assyria.

Egypt retreats to Judah and replaces Jehoahaz. Before long, Babylon takes over Judah and Egypt.

## Summary of Judah's Last Five Rulers

**Josiah:** An ideal king. He died in a failed attempt to prevent Egypt from aiding Assyria.

**Jehoahaz:** An evil king, who was deposed and deported by Egypt after 3 months.

**Jehoiakim:** An evil king who defamed God by whom he took loyalty oaths to Babylon.

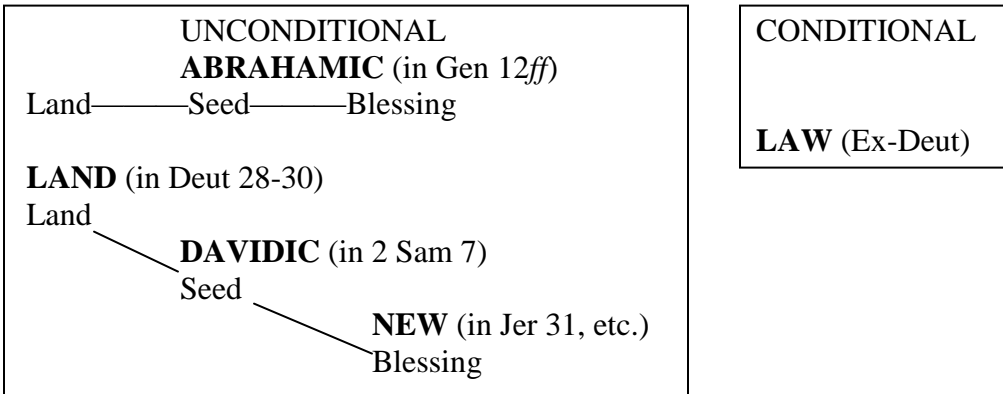
**Jehoiachin:** An evil king allowed to live out his life in exile.

**Zedekiah:** An evil ruler (not king, but uncle of prior king) punished severely by Babylon.

## EXPOSITION

### Why Did God Let His Heart Break by Imposing Land-Covenant Curses? (22:1-9)

#### God's Covenants with Israel



#### Amplification of the Land Covenant

Unconditional Ownership of the Land

Conditional Occupancy of the Land

Blessings (called out from Mt. Gerizim): Deut 28:3ff

Curses (called out from Mt. Ebal): Deut 28:16ff

Restoration to the land upon national repentance (Deut 30)

#### Linking the Land Covenant to Judah's Ideal, Good, and Evil Rulers

What if...?

Remember our Exposition of the Lord's Prayer

**Jehoahaz: Road of No Return [to Exile] (22:10-12)**

**Jehoiakim: Donkey's Burial (22:16-23)**

**Coniah: Washed Out (22:24-30)**

Jeconiah had sons: Assir, Shealtiel, Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, Nedebiah (1 Chronicles 3:17-18), but it would be as if he were childless, because no descendant of his would **ever** sit on the throne.

**The Righteous Branch (23:1-8)**



**CONCLUSION**