

The Judgment Against Jehoiachin!

by Wayne Goff

Jeremiah 22:24-30

As the pitiful condition of the nation of Judah worsened, and Judah's kings become little more than vassals to surrounding powers, we come to the pitiful reign of King Jehoiachin (also called Coniah, Jechoniah). He was only eighteen years old when he became king, and reigned for only three months before he was carried away captive to Babylon (2 Kings 24:8, 12). But he did evil in the sight of Jehovah just as his father had done (2 Kings 24:9). The nation was on a downward spiral, spiritually and morally, and there was nothing left to do but let the nation die!

It is during this time that we find a significant prophecy of Jeremiah spoken against the lineage of Jehoiachin, a descendant of David himself (Jer. 22:24-30). Because of the utter faithlessness of this king, God swore that He would pluck him off his hand even if he were a treasured signet ring! This king feared Nebuchadnezzar more than he did God and as a result was given up as prisoner to that very king in a humiliating defeat. Both he and his mother would die in Babylonian captivity. They shall never return to Jerusalem again.

In verse 28, Jehovah proclaims that Coniah is "a despised, broken idol -- a vessel in which is no pleasure." Thus Jehovah makes a proclamation against him and his descendants:

"Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah' (Jer. 22:30).

In this decree, God says that Coniah will be childless, and that none of his descendants shall prosper sitting on the throne of David and ruling in Judah!

Now we know from 1 Chronicles 3 that Jeconiah (Jehoiachin, Coniah) was not childless literally. His descendants include Assir, Shealtiel, Malchiram, Pedaiiah, Shenazzar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, Nedabiah (1 Chron. 3:17-18). So what God meant by the prophecy was that he would be childless in the sense that no son of his would reign on the throne in Jerusalem and prosper!

In 2 Kings 24:17 we learn that Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar, and that he was only a vassal king, and not a son of Coniah (1 Chron. 3:15).

The Significance of This Curse?

The significance of this curse against the descendants of Jehoiachin is that Jesus Christ is of the seed of Coniah! Matthew 1:11 Jesus is a legal heir to David's throne (Lk. 1:31-33). So how could Jesus Christ rule and prosper? Only if He is a spiritual King ruling over a spiritual kingdom, sitting on a spiritual throne in heaven! This is exactly the kind of king that Jesus Christ proclaimed Himself to be (Jn. 18:36). His kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is within men's hearts (Lk. 17:20-21). Therefore, the curse of Coniah would only come to pass if Jesus were an earthly king, ruling in Jerusalem on the throne of David. Our premillennial friends who attempt to establish an earthly kingdom for a thousand years based on Revelation 20 are defeated by God's own prophecy!

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead in order to sit on the throne of His father, David, Acts 2:29-36. But that throne has been transferred to heaven and Christ sits on it now! Rev. 3:21

Additionally, Jesus Christ is both King and Priest on the throne, according to Zechariah 6:12-13 (see Heb. 8:1-4). While Jesus could not be a priest under the Old Testament because He is from the tribe of Judah, He can now be both King and Priest under the New Testament (Heb. 7:12-14). Thus a change of law has occurred in order to establish a new priesthood. We enjoy freedom in Christ under the gospel of His grace!

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