

2 Kings 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

Analysis

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 24: Judgment unfolds progressively. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. As Judah approaches exile, these events fulfill prophetic warnings and demonstrate that God's patience with covenant violation is not infinite.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 24 takes place during the final collapse of Judah and Babylonian exile, early 6th century BCE, 605-586 BCE. The chapter's theme (Beginning of Babylonian Captivity) reflects the historical reality of the final collapse of Judah, destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and exile to Babylon as covenant curses are fully realized. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 24 regarding judgment unfolds progressively?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

ל	ו	וִיהִי	בָּבֶל	ל	מֶלֶךְ	נְבֻכַדְנֶאצַּר	עָלָה	ה	בִּימֵי	יו
		H1961		H894	H4428	H5019	H5927		H3117	
			of Babylon		king	Nebuchadnezzar	came up		In his days	
וַיִּמְרֹד	וַיָּשָׁב	שָׁנֵי	שָׁנֵי	שָׁלֹשׁ	עָבַד	יְהוֹיָקִים				
H4775	H7725	H8141	H7969	H5650		H3079				
and rebelled	then he turned	years	three	became his servant		and Jehoiakim				
בָּוֹ:										
										H0

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:1 (Kingdom): The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon;

Daniel 1:1 (Kingdom): In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

Jeremiah 25:9 (Kingdom): Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 46:2 (Kingdom): Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah.

2 Kings 17:5 (Kingdom): Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.