

# "THE BOOK OF DANIEL"

## Chapter One

**The book opens with the first deportation of Jews to Babylonian captivity (605 B.C.), and the selection of Daniel and his three friends for special training (1-7).**

**Daniel 1:1-2** “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.” **(ESV)**

# I. DANIEL'S FAITH AS A "FIFTEEN (12) YEAR OLD"

## A. IT WAS A BLEAK DAY IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL...

1. The beginning of Babylonian  
domination - Daniel 1:1-2;

**a. In the third year of  
Jehoiakim (605 B.C.)**

**Jehoiakim, also spelled Joakim, in the  
Old Testament (II Kings 23:34–24:17;  
Jer. 22:13–19; II Chron. 36:4–8), son of  
King Josiah. When Josiah died at  
Megiddo, his younger son, Jehoahaz (or  
Shallum), was chosen king by the  
Judahites, but the Egyptian conqueror**

**Necho took Jehoahaz to Egypt and made Jehoiakim king. Jehoiakim reigned under the protection of Necho for some time and paid heavy tribute.**

**When the new Chaldean Empire under Nebuchadrezzar II defeated Egypt at the Battle of Carchemish (605), however, Jehoiakim changed his allegiance from the Egyptian king to Nebuchadrezzar.**

He remained loyal for three years and then revolted against Nebuchadnezzar. After several battles and invasions, Nebuchadnezzar led the decisive invasion against Judah and besieged Jerusalem (598). Jehoiakim died at this time.

W H Y did GOD allow this to happen to HIS people?

**Jeremiah 36:32** “Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the scroll that **Jehoiakim** king of Judah had **burned in the fire**. And many similar words were added to them.” (**ESV**)

**In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord referred to “my servant” Nebuchadnezzar “three times (Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10).**

**Jeremiah 25:9 “behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.” (ESV)**



**Jeremiah 27:5-7** “It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me. Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him. All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes. Then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave.” (ESV)

In Jehoiakim's 5th year of (604 B.C.), the people of Judah held a fast to avert a possible Babylonian invasion (Jer. 36:9). At the time of the fast, Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe, read the words of the scroll to the people assembled in the temple (v. 10) and to the king (vv. 20-26). **Jehoiakim** refused to repent and burned Jeremiah's scroll. In spite of the fast, Babylon invaded Judah and Jehoiakim submitted to Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. (2 Kings 24:1).

**b. Jerusalem besieged by  
Nebuchadnezzar**

**c. Jehoiakim taken into captivity, and  
precious items taken from the  
temple.**

**2. This was the first of three times  
that Nebuchadnezzar came against  
Jerusalem (605, 597, 586 B.C.)**

**Nebuchadnezzar's first notable act was the overthrow of the Egyptian army under Necho at the Euphrates in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (Jeremiah xlvi. 2). It is entirely reasonable to suppose that at the same time he descended upon Palestine and made Jehoiakim his subject (II Kings xxiv. 1). This campaign took place in 605.**

**The next year Nebuchadnezzar became king of Babylon; and he ruled for forty-three years, or until 561. Jehoiakim served him for three years, and then rebelled. He doubtless incited the neighboring tribes (verse 2) to persecute Judah and bring its king to respect his oath.**

**In 598 Nebuchadnezzar himself came westward, took Jehoiakim (II Chronicles xxxvi. 6) and probably slew him, casting out his dead body unburied (Jeremiah xxii. 19, xxxvi. 30), and carried captive to Babylon 3,023 Jews (Jeremiah lii. 28). He placed Jehoiachin, the dead king's son, on the throne. Three months were sufficient to prove Jehoiachin's character (2 Kings 24:9).**

**He was taken with 10,000 of the best of the people of Jerusalem and carried to Babylon. His uncle Mattaniah, whose name was changed to Zedekiah, was put on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar in 597. (2 Kings 24:10-17;)**

**But by the ninth year of his reign Zedekiah became so friendly with the Egyptians that he made a league with them and thereupon rebelled against the King of Babylon.**

**Without delay Nebuchadnezzar and his army left for the Westland. He placed his base of action at Riblah in the north, and went southward and laid siege to Jerusalem. By some message the Egyptians learned of the siege and hastily marched to the relief of the beleaguered ally.**

**The Babylonians raised the siege (Jer. xxxvii. 3-5) long enough to repulse the Egyptian arms, and came back and settled about Jerusalem. At the end of eighteen months (586) the wall yielded.**

**Zedekiah and his retinue fled by night, but were overtaken in the plains of the Jordan. The king and his sons were brought before Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah; the sons were slain, and the king's eyes bored out; and he was carried in chains to Babylon.**

**Nebuchadnezzar caused Jerusalem to be destroyed, and the sacred vessels of the Temple to be carried to Babylon. (1906 Jewish Encyclopedia)**

**2 Kings 25:1-12** “And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate



**between the two walls, by the king's garden, and the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon. In the fifth month,**

**on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who**

had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.” (ESV)

Introduction
Overview
Fall of Jerusalem
Scriptures
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Archaeology

# Israel

(Former Kingdom of Israel  
Conquered by Assyria)

1. **Babylonian Forces Approaching Jerusalem**

Zedekiah

3. **The Siege of Jerusalem**

7. **King Zedekiah**

8. **Jews Deported to Babylon**

2. **Capture of Judean Cities**

The Fall of Judah  
586 B.C.

4. **The Edomites Raid Judah**

5. **Egypt Comes to help Judah**

THE SHEPHERD KING

JUDAH

WILDERNESS OF JUDAH

THE NEGEB

PHILISTIA

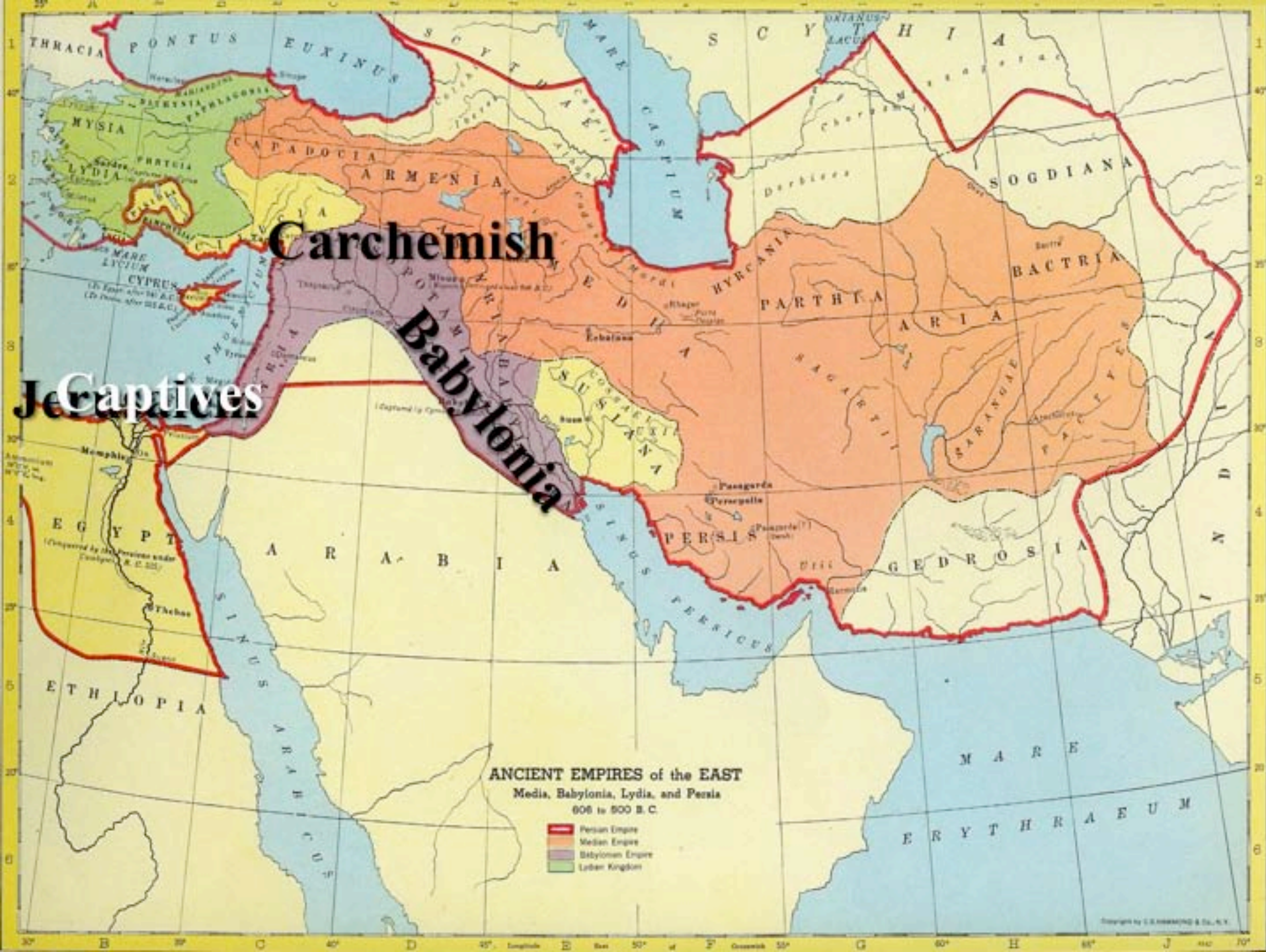
AMMON

Rabbah

Moab

EDOM





## **B. DANIEL AND OTHERS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING...**

### **1. Young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 1:3-7;**

**Daniel 1:3-7** “Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's

palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.”(ESV)

**a. They were truly the “best of the best” among the captives.**

**1) Both of the royal family and of the nobility**

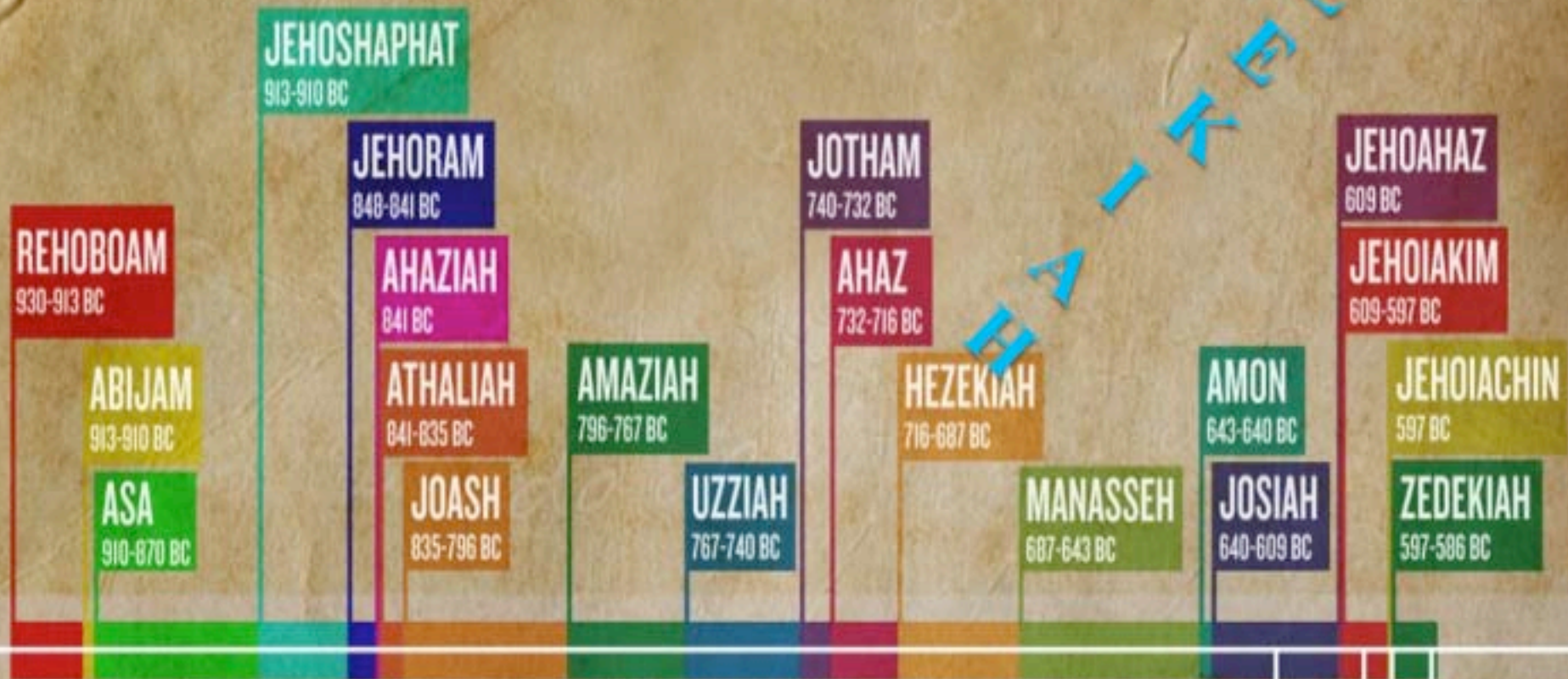
**2) youths without blemish, of good appearance**

**3) skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge,**



**2 Kings 20:17-18** “ Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” **(ESV)**

# JEREMIAH, THE KINGS OF JUDAH + THE BABYLONIAN EXILE



**JEREMIAH'S CALL**  
626 BC

**BABYLONIAN EMPIRE  
COMES TO POWER**  
605 BC

**BABYLONIANS INSTALL  
ZEDEKIAH AS KING OF JUDAH**  
597 BC

**BABYLONIANS SACK JERUSALEM  
AND EXILE THE LEADERS**  
587 BC

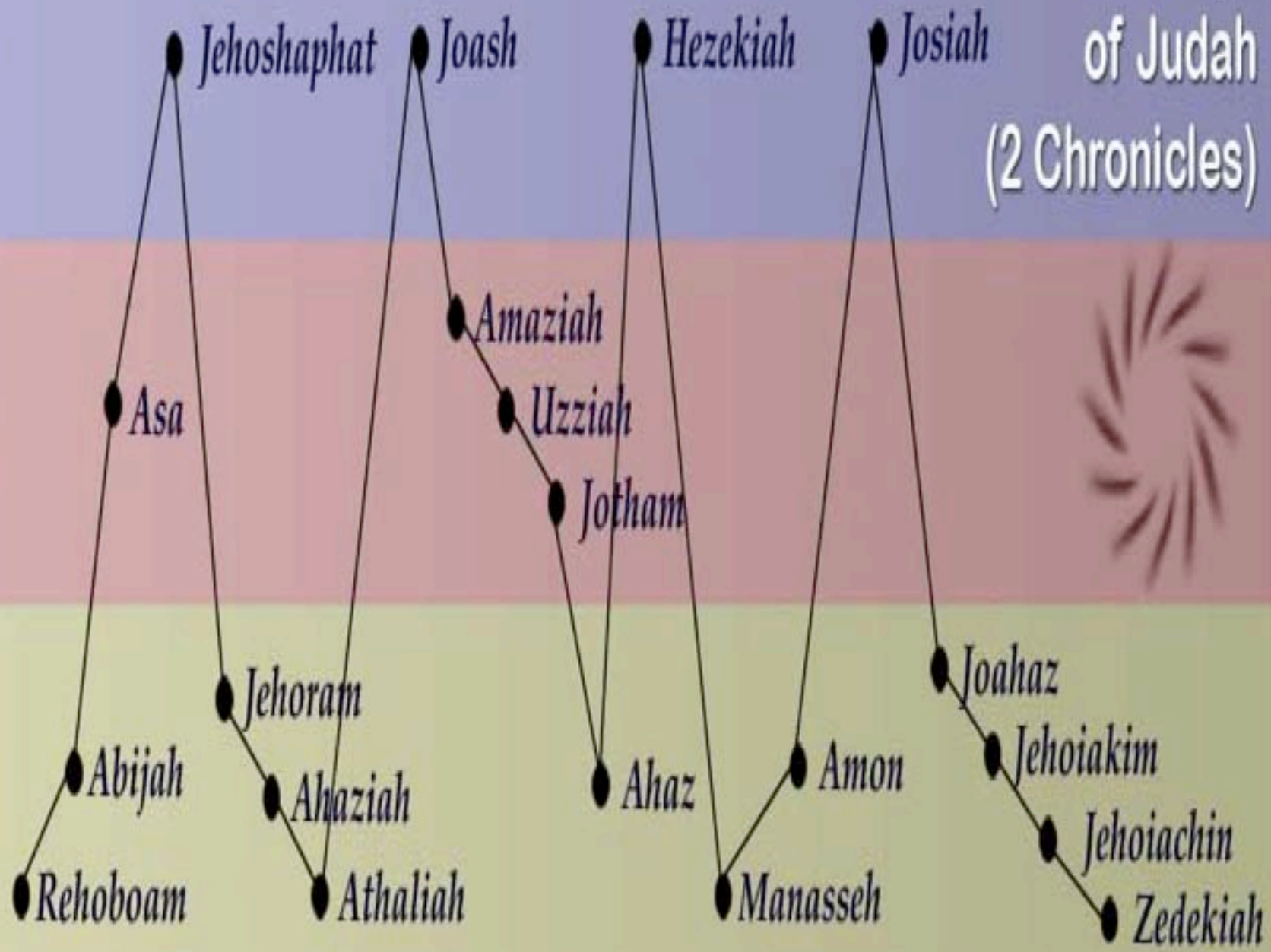
# The Kings of Judah

(2 Chronicles)

Revival

Good

Evil



**b. Competent to stand in the king's palace to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.**

**1) Given special provisions of the king's food and drink**

**2) With three years of special training (ie) Military Academies**

**c. Among those selected, four are named, and apparently renamed to honor Babylonian gods.**

**1) Daniel** (God is my judge) - **Belteshazzar** (a servant of Bel)

**2) Hananiah** (the Lord is gracious) -

**Shadrach** (inspired by the sun god)

**3) Mishael** (who is what God is?) -

**Meshach** (who is what the moon god is?)

**4) Azariah** (the Lord helps) -

**Abed-Nego** (servant of Nebo)

## **2. How would these young men respond?**

**a. Would they submit to the temptations placed before them?**

**b. Would they give in, excusing themselves due to youth and inexperience?**

**-- How would you have reacted if you were in their place?**

**2 Timothy 3:12 “Indeed,  
all who desire to live a  
godly life in Christ Jesus  
will be persecuted,” (ESV)**

**Daniel is committed to remain undefiled is blessed by God, and he along with his friends are given wisdom that is acknowledged and rewarded by the king of Babylon (8-21).**



# Prayer Time