

----- Zedekiah 11 yrs -----

3405d AM, 4115 JP, 599 BC

806. Nebuchadnezzar made Mattaniah, the son of Josiah, king in place of his nephew Jeconiah and changed his name to Zedekiah, meaning the justice of the Lord. {#Jer 37:1 2Ki 24:17} Nebuchadnezzar had made a covenant with Zedekiah, requiring an oath of allegiance from him, and Zedekiah had sworn an oath by God to comply. {#2Ch 36:13 Eze 17:13,14,18} By giving him this new name, he intended to remind Zedekiah of the just judgment of God, if Zedekiah would break the oath.

807. Zedekiah reigned a full eleven years in Jerusalem and did evil in the sight of the Lord his God. [E87] He did not humble himself before Jeremiah, the prophet, who spoke to him in the name of the Lord, but stiffened his neck and hardened his heart, so that he would not return to the Lord God of Israel. {#Jer 1:3 32:1,2 2Ki 24:18,19 2Ch 36:11-13} Indeed, all the leaders of the priests, and the people of the whole land, transgressed the law and polluted the house of the Lord which God had sanctified in Jerusalem. Nor would they listen to the word of the Lord, which came to them by the mouth of his prophet Jeremiah and other prophets. Instead, they despised them and mocked the messengers which God sent to them, until the fire of God's fury burst upon his people. {#Jer 37:2 2Ch 36:14-16}.

3414d AM, 4124 JP, 590 BC

834. God told the prophet Jeremiah to tell Zedekiah of the complete destruction and burning of Jerusalem at the hands of the king of Babylon. Zedekiah himself was to be carried away prisoner to Babylon, but he would die in peace and have an honourable burial. {#Jer 34:1-7}

835. For this prophecy, Zedekiah imprisoned Jeremiah in the king's prison house. This happened in the tenth year of Zedekiah and the beginning of the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah recovered the land of Hanameel by right of redemption. {#Jer 32:1-16} Then everything came to pass which Jeremiah had foretold and which is contained in his book. {#Jer 32:1-33:26}

3415d AM, 4125 JP, 589 BC

842. As the siege continued, Zedekiah again inquired of Jeremiah, but he still sent him the same answer: both the king and people must fall into Nebuchadnezzar's hands. He said if any stayed in the city they would perish by the sword, or from famine or pestilence. However, any who would go out and submit to the king of Babylon would have their lives spared. {#Jer 21:1-14}

843. The princes cast Jeremiah into Malchiah's dungeon, which was in the court of the prison, for answering the king in this way.

3416d AM, 4126 JP, 588 BC

847. Near the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, {#Jer 1:3} on the ninth day of the fourth month (Wednesday, July 27th), the famine became quite severe in Jerusalem. The city wall was broken through and the Chaldeans entered. {#2Ki 25:2-4 Jer 39:2,3 52:5-7}

848. When the city was taken, Zedekiah and all the men of war fled by night.

849. The Chaldeans pursued them and took Zedekiah, bringing him as a prisoner to Riblah, where Nebuchadnezzar was. He saw his children slaughtered, and then he had his eyes put out. He was chained with bronze shackles and taken away from there to Babylon. {#2Ki 25:4-7 Jer 39:4-7 52:7-11} The prophecies were fulfilled which said that he would see the king of Babylon, {#Jer 32:4 34:3} but he would not see Babylon, although he would die there. {#Eze 12:13}

850. On the seventh day of the fifth month (Wednesday, August 24th) Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, was ordered by Nebuchadnezzar to enter the city. {#2Ki 25:8} He spent two days preparing provisions. On the tenth day of that month, (Saturday, August 27th) he carried out his orders. He set fire to the temple and to the king's palace. He also burned all the noblemen's houses to the ground, with all the rest of the houses in Jerusalem. {#Jer 52:13 39:8}