

2 Kings

Jehoiakim

2 Kings 23:36-24:4

Pragmatism

- Jehoiakim's life is a study in the perils of pragmatism.
- Pragmatism is often what causes people to act in ways you would never expect.
- Jehoiakim was a pragmatist in that he believed in doing what was the easiest thing to do at any given situation.
- Jehoiakim had no moral compass to guide his decisions.
- Jehoiakim trusted more in his own ideas and wisdom than God's.

Trusted in Egypt

- Pharaoh Neco had deposed Jehoahaz as King, and placed Jehoiakim on the throne of Judah.
- Judah was too weak to defend themselves, so Jehoiakim paid Egypt to be their mercenaries.
- Jehoiakim trusted in Egypt for his protection, but when it came time to fulfill that promise, they were betrayed.
- Never trust in "Egypt."
- All Jehoiakim had to do was repent, then lead his nation in repentance, and God would have fulfilled His promise to Solomon.

Sins of Manasseh

- Manasseh, the great grandfather of Jehoiakim, was probably the most evil and sinful king that Judah ever had.
- Jehoiakim had a Godly example in his father, Josiah, but instead he chose to follow his grandfather into sin and evil.
- Sin has a very powerful pull, especially on the young, despite being raised in a home where God is honored.
- In less than 3 months, the nation of Judah went from Josiah, a man who loved God and ruled his people with justice and goodness, to the worst kind of king imaginable.

Conclusion

- In the midst of all of this evil, God still offered them a chance to repent.
- God sent word through Jeremiah to Jehoiakim that he was on a dangerous path in trusting Egypt and not God.
- Jehoiakim tried to have Jeremiah put to death because of the message.
- Jehoiakim was not only dooming his own soul, he was dooming the souls of others as well.
- God judges a nation based on the actions of the church not the sinful world.