

A Dirge for the Lion of Judah

Ezekiel 19:1-14

Veritas Adult Community

December 15, 2019

<p><sup>19:1</sup>But you, raise a dirge over the princes of Israel, <sup>2</sup>and say:  <b>What is your mother? A lioness!</b>                  Among the lions she reclined.                  Among the young lions she reared her cubs.  <sup>3</sup>She raised up one of her cubs;                  He became a young lion.                  He learned to capture prey;                  He devoured humans.  <sup>4</sup>The nations heard about him.                  In their pit he was caught.                  They dragged him off with hooks                      to the land of Egypt.  <sup>5</sup>When she realized her wait was in vain,                  And her hope had vanished,                  She took another one of her cubs,                  And appointed him a young lion.  <sup>6</sup>He strutted about among the lions,                  And he became a young lion.                  He learned to capture prey.                  And devoured humans.  <sup>7</sup>He consorted with his widows,                  And laid waste their cities.                  The land and all its inhabitants were appalled,                  at the sound of his roaring.  <sup>8</sup>The nations from the surrounding provinces took up arms                  against him.                  They spread out their net against him;                  In their pit he was captured.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup>With hooks they put him in a neck-stock.                  And brought him to the king of Babylon.                  They brought him in cages,                  So his voice would never again be heard                  On the mountains of Israel.</p> <p><sup>10</sup><b>Your mother was like a vine full of shoots,</b>                  Planted by water;                  She was fruitful and luxuriant                  Because of abundant waters.  <sup>11</sup> The strong branches became for her                      scepters of rulers.                  It towered high among the clouds.                  And became conspicuous for its height,                  And its profusion of branches.  <sup>12</sup>But it was uprooted in fury;                  It was hurled down to the ground.                  The east wind caused her fruit to dry up;                  They were ripped off and dried up.                  As for the strong branch,                  Fire consumed it.  <sup>13</sup>And now it is planted in the desert,                  In an arid and thirsty land.  <sup>14</sup>Fire has gone forth from the bough of its shoots.                  It consumed its fruit.                  No strong branch, no ruler’s scepter, remained in it.  <b>This is a dirge. It was treated as a dirge.</b></p>
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A. Introduction

Gen 22:22; Gen 49:10-11; Num 24:17; Deut 17:15; Ruth 4:13; 1 Sam 2:10

2 Sam 7:12-16; 1 Kgs 10:8-9

1. The Nature of the Chapter

A Dirge

3:2 meter

Opening “How!” ( *’ékā* )

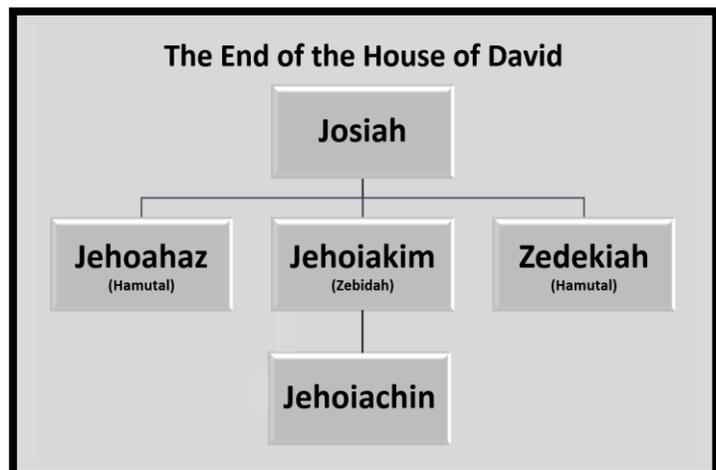
“Once — Now” pattern

A Metaphor

A Riddle

2. The Structure of the Chapter

- Introduction (v. 1)
- The Opening Question (v. 2a)
- The First Answer (vv. 2b-9)
- The Second Answer (vv. 10-14c)
- Colophon (v. 14d)



## B. Exposition

1. The Opening Question: “What is your mother?”
2. The Two Cubs (vv. 2b–9)
  - a. **The First Cub (vv. 2b–4)**

Jehoahaz

<sup>31</sup> Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. <sup>32</sup> He committed the evil in YHWH's sight, just as his ancestors had done. <sup>33</sup> Pharaoh Neco put Jehoahaz in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath to prevent him from ruling in Jerusalem. He also demanded that Judah pay 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold as tribute. <sup>34</sup> Pharaoh Neco then installed Eliakim, another of Josiah's sons, to reign in place of his father, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. *Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt as a prisoner, where he died.* (NLT)

### b. **The Second Cub (vv. 5–9)**

**Jehoiakim**

<sup>34</sup> Pharaoh Neco then installed Eliakim, another of Josiah's sons, to reign in place of his father, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt as a prisoner, where he died. <sup>35</sup> In order to get the silver and gold demanded as tribute by Pharaoh Neco, Jehoiakim collected a tax from the people of Judah, requiring them to pay in proportion to their wealth. <sup>36</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother was Zebidah, the daughter of Pedaiah from Rumah. <sup>37</sup> He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, just as his ancestors had done.

**24:1** During Jehoiakim's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded the land of Judah. Jehoiakim surrendered and paid him tribute for three years but then rebelled. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD sent bands of Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders against Judah to destroy it, just as the LORD had promised through his prophets. <sup>3</sup> These disasters happened to Judah because of the LORD's command. He had decided to banish Judah from his presence because of the many sins of Manasseh, <sup>4</sup> who had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood. The LORD would not forgive this. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the events in Jehoiakim's reign and all his deeds are recorded in *The Book of the History of the Kings of Judah*. <sup>6</sup> When Jehoiakim died, his son Jehoiachin became the next king. (2 Kgs 23:34—2 Kgs 24:6, NLT)

Jer 22:18–23

**Jehoiachin**

<sup>6</sup> When Jehoiakim died, his son Jehoiachin became the next king. <sup>7</sup> The king of Egypt did not venture out of his country after that, for the king of Babylon captured the entire area formerly claimed by Egypt-- from the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River. <sup>8</sup> Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan from Jerusalem.

<sup>9</sup> Jehoiachin did what was evil in the LORD's sight, just as his father had done. <sup>10</sup> During Jehoiachin's reign, the officers of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up against Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>11</sup> Nebuchadnezzar himself arrived at the city during the siege. <sup>12</sup> Then King Jehoiachin, along with the queen mother, his advisers, his commanders, and his officials, surrendered to the Babylonians. In the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. <sup>13</sup> As the LORD had said beforehand, Nebuchadnezzar carried away all the treasures from the LORD's Temple and the royal palace. He stripped away all the gold objects that King Solomon of Israel had placed in the Temple. <sup>14</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar took all of Jerusalem captive, including all the commanders and the best of the soldiers, craftsmen, and artisans-- 10,000 in all. Only the poorest people were left in the land. <sup>15</sup> Nebuchadnezzar led King Jehoiachin away as a captive to Babylon, along with the queen mother, his wives and officials, and all Jerusalem's elite. <sup>16</sup> He also exiled 7,000 of the best troops and 1,000 craftsmen and artisans, all of whom were strong and fit for war. <sup>17</sup> Then the king of Babylon installed Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, as the next king, and he changed Mattaniah's name to Zedekiah. (2 Kgs 24:6–17 NLT)

### 3. **The Vine and the Branches (vv. 10–14c)**

**Zedekiah**

The Dynasty

## C. Theological and Practical Application

1. The promises of God to the ancestors is no guarantee of divine blessing for their descendants.
2. The call to leadership is a call to servanthood.
3. The presence of God's chosen representative is no substitute for personal commitment **to him**.