

No Balm in Gilead

8:4 to 10:25

Jehoahaz reigned only 3 months in 609 BC when Necho, Pharaoh of Egypt, removed him (Second Kings 23:31-33; 2 Chronicles 36:1-3). Even though Pharaoh Necho deposed Jehoahaz these far historical prophecies given by Jeremiah concern the final invasion by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians twenty-three years later in 586 BC.

This section contains some of the most poignant imagery in **Jeremiah**. The Jewish people and their **City** are described as on their way to death because of their refusal to be faithful to **YHVH**. The two formal elements of the lawsuit, indictment and sentence, are at the heart of **the prophet's** message. Judah, not **ADONAI**, had abandoned the covenant. As a result, judgment will come, either from invasion, destruction and death, or exile. This central theme is woven in a variety of ways. A counter theme to the lawsuit of guilt and judgment is the expression of grief that is felt by **Isaiah himself**, and of course, by **God**.