

II Kings 25:27–30

27And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison;

the story of Jehoiachin chronicles the final events of the Davidic dynasty. Israel had been divided into two kingdoms; Jehoiachin was ruler in the southern kingdom of Judah when it fell to the Babylonians. He is listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus as Jeconiah (see Matthew 1:11).

Evilmerodach, whose name relates to the pagan god Marduk, was successor to Babylonian monarch Nebuchadnezzar. His kindness to deposed King Jehoiachin is unexplained, though a nonbiblical tradition claims that the two had met when Evilmerodach was imprisoned by his own father.

"In the seven and thirtieth year . . .—Jehoiachin was now fifty-five years old" (Ellicott's Commentary).

"He came to the throne 562 B.C. , upon the death of Nebuchadnezzar, who had reigned forty-three years. According to the canon of Ptolemy, Evil-merodach reigned two years. He was murdered by his brother-in-law Neriglissar—*i.e.*, Nergal-sharezer."

28And he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon;

"He released him out of prison, where he had lain thirty-seven years, and was now fifty-five years old. *And he spake kindly to him* — Paid more respect to him than to any other of the kings

his father had left in captivity, gave him princely clothing instead of his prison garments, maintained him in his own palace, and allowed him a pension for himself and his family, some way agreeable to his rank; *a daily rate for every day as long as he lived*. This was a very happy change of Jehoiachin's condition. To have honour, liberty, and plenty, after he had been so long in confinement and disgrace, and compelled to endure the straits and miseries of a prison, was like the return of the morning after a very dark and tedious night." (jBenson Commentary).

"The captivity of Jehoiachin commenced in the year 597 B.C. - the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar. It terminated 561 B.C. - the first year of Evil-merodach, the son and successor of Nebuchadnezzar. He reigned only two years, being murdered by his brother-in-law, Neriglissar, or Nergal-shar-ezer. He is said to have provoked his fate by lawless government and intemperance." (Barnes' Notes).

29 And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life.

"**And changed.**—Rather, *and he (i.e., Jehoiachin) changed* his prison garments—that is to say, he discarded them for others more suitable to his new condition. Joseph did the same when taken from prison to the Egyptian court" (Elliot's Commentary)

30 And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

“Allowance - From the treasury, in order to enable him to maintain the state proper to his rank, and in addition to his food at the royal table. Jehoiachin, to the day of his death, lived in peace and comfort at the court of Babylon” (Brews’ Notes).

“*And his* [R.V. **for his**] *allowance*] i.e. He was assigned a regular amount in money or in kind for the keeping of such attendants as a captive king might be supposed to require.

“*a daily rate for every day*] R.V. **every day a portion**. This is the A.V. rendering in [Jeremiah 52:34](#), where the history says ‘until the day of his death all the days of his life’, an emphatic mode of expressing that the king’s mind did not change, nor was the arrangement altered by Evil-merodach’s successor.(Cambridge)