

2017 theme:

"THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE" Pro 12:24

- BE OBIDIENT – DO NOT DOUBT (Part 1)
- BE RIGHTEOUS (Part 2)
- BE TRUTHFUL (Part 3)
- SEEK AND FIND KNOWLEDGE (Part 4)
- DEMONSTRATE WORKS (Part 5)
- RELATE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part 6)
- DO NOT BREATHE ANXIETY (PART 7)
- SOW A SEED OF THANKSGIVING (PART 8)
- BE STEADFAST (PART 9)
- GIVE - THERE IS POWER IN GIVING (PART 10)
- PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAILS MUCH (PART 11)
- THE DILIGENT'S EYE MUST BE OPEN (PART 12)
- GOD'S GLORY RAINS ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM (PART 13)
- STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH (PART 14)
- CLEAN YOUR HOUSE (PART 15)
- SUMMARY: 16 KEY TOOLS FOR AN EFFECTIVE TOOL BOX (PART 16)
- TAKE CHARGE (PART 17)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS (PART 18)
- TAKE SMALL STEPS #2 (PART 19) – BEWARE OF MOCKERS AND SCOFFERS
- SOW FOR HIS TREASURE (PART 20)
- FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS (PART 21)
- NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)

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• **NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)**

• **TEXT: 2 Chronicles 36:1-23**

After the death of Josiah, ¹the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father. ²Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. ³The king of Egypt dethroned him in Jerusalem and imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. ⁴The king of Egypt made Eliakim, a brother of Jehoahaz, king over Judah and Jerusalem and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Pharaoh - Necho took Eliakim's brother Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt.

Brethren, it is not about how soon our hands will rule but how well we are prepared to rule and will rule when we are put there.

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Vs 1-4 narrate a case of a man who was given an opportunity to rule but abused it with sin against God. Result was that enemy came in, stole, killed and destroyed.

The ruler (Jehoahaz) was dethroned, taken away as prisoner and the leadership, from that time on, passed into the hands of wicked people who eventually destroyed Israel (Judah & Jerusalem).

Jehoahaz was set up by the people (v. 1), but in one quarter of a year was deposed by Pharaoh-necho, and carried a prisoner to Egypt, and the land fined for setting him up, v. 2-4. Had Jehoahaz trodden in the steps of his father's piety he might have reigned long and prospered; but we are told in the *Kings* that *he did evil in the sight of the Lord*, and therefore his triumphing was short and his joy but for a moment.

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◦ NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)

◦ In **2 Kings 23**, ³⁰And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

³¹ Jehoahaz *was* twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. ...³² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

The Status quo before Jehoahaz (2 Chronicles 34)

¹Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

The People of the land quickly anointed Jehoahaz and put him to rule NOT KNOWING that he is not ready – he will not do well!

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• They expected he will do well but he failed. He thus ruled for only 3 months and was dethroned.

That mistake opened the door to the enemy, and for several years, the people paid the price.

In 2 Chronicles 36: ⁴The king of Egypt made Eliakim, a brother of Jehoahaz, king over Judah and Jerusalem and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. ⁵Jehoiakim reigned in Jerusalem eleven years and did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God. ⁶Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. ⁷Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon articles from the temple of the LORD and put them in his temple there. **And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king.**

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⁹ Jehoiachin reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days and did evil in the eyes of the LORD. ¹⁰ In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, together with articles of value from the temple of the LORD, and he made Jehoiachin's uncle, ^[f] Zedekiah, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹ Zedekiah reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. ¹² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD. ¹³ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name. He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁴ Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the LORD, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

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◦ **Brethren**, many issues across nations today are because we had once elected wrong leaders.

The people wrongly anointed Jehoahaz and that became the beginning of their woes, which continued until the fall of Jerusalem.

The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy.

That is why the LORD will be careful and not be in a hurry in choosing the ones whose hands will rule. We must prove ourselves a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth ... (2 Timothy 2:15)

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In 2 Chronicles 36, ¹⁵The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place.

¹⁶ But they mocked God's messengers (they did not **correctly handles the word of truth**), despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

¹⁷ God brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁸ He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. ¹⁹ They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

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- **NOT HOW SOON BUT HOW WELL (PART 22)**

◦ **Brethren, since the beginning of the year, the Lord has told us THE DILIGENT HANDS WILL RULE.**

The LORD, our God has sent words to us through his messages again and again under DIFFERENT LENSES AND PARTS instructing us on what we must do to prepare to rule.

It will be destructive if we do not hearken to the instructions of God, especially if we go ahead and allow ourselves to be elected to lead or rule the people. Stubbornness has led to the destruction of both the ruler and the people.

Brethren, lets go and obey the words that God has given us.

GOD BLESS YOU!

2017 PRAYER POINTS

1. **Prayer over the message of today**
2. **“Lord, please extend your love to all nations through prayers offered on this alter (Psalm 117)**

Let our prayers be acceptable unto you.

3. **Prayer for Leadership of Nations ...**

- a. Be anointed leaders of honour like Cyrus (**Isa 45:1, Rm 9:21**)
- b. Give them spirit of humility in leadership and wisdom to lead well
- c. Any leader that fails to obey God's Word, should be replaced

4. **Troubles/Wars in nations.**

5. **Leave no room for diseases; cleanse our land**

6. **Missions/Ministries & Missionaries/Ministers**

7. **Marriages, Children & families**

8. **Members of the fellowship – grace to be diligent**

9 **Needs in fellowship**

