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fleeing of the Egyptian army before the forces of Nebuchadrezzar. Nebuchadrezzar is the correct spelling of his name but it seems entirely probable that in accurate pronunciation he was called Nebuchadnezzar and in the Bible we find it in both ways, Nebudhadrezzar and Nebuchadnezzar. Now when word reached the general that his father the king had died in far away Babylon he gave up the further pursuit of the Egyptians at this time and rushed back to Babylon to establish himself as king. That was very necessary. In Assyria or in Babylonia when a king died there was always a dangerous period until the next king was established, but Nebuchadrezzar was established as king and he became the, he was the powerful ruler of the Neo-Babylonian period. He conquered all of the Assyrian empire, he conquered Egypt, he held a tremendously large area, and then he devoted himself as we have noticed to these great building works, building up not only Babylon but all the cities of Mesopotamia, increasing the beauty and the strength of those wonderful ancient cities. Nebuchadnezzar had a long reign and we remember that toward the end of his reign in 586 he destroyed Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar, after a long reign, was succeeded by his son Anal-marduk, who is mentioned in the Bible, in 2 Kings 25:27-30. This son of Nebuchadnezzar only lived for two years. However, he seems to have had either a nature disposing him to friendliness to captives or a particular friendship to the Judean captives because Jehoiachin, who you remember was taken captive in 597 after the death of his father, Jehoiachin was in prison most of Nebuchadnezzar's reign in Babylon. Many years he was in confinement but the Bible tells us that Anal-marduk, or Evil-merodach, I think is the way our English spells it, the king of Babylon released Jehoiachin from his confinement and gave him a seat at his own table. Well, Jehoiachin must have been well along in years when this happened, This king then, son of Nebuchadnezzar seems to have been a man entirely unworthy of his father's blood. He was a weakling, he only reigned for two years and the throne was taken back, a strong man, one of Nebuchadnezzar's generals but already well