

Worksheet: The status of Jehoiachin in Babylon

2 Kings 25:27-30 relates that when Evil-merodach (= Amel Marduk) came to the throne (i.e., in 561), he released Jehoiachin from prison and gave him a position of honor.

כז ויהי בשלשים ושבע שנה לגלות יהויכין מלך-יהודה בשנים עשר חדש בעשרים ושבעה לחדש נשא אויל מרדך מלך בבל בשנת מלכו את-ראש יהויכין מלך-יהודה מבית כלא. כח וידבר אתו טבות ויתן את-כסאו מעל כסא המלכים אשר אתו בבבל. כט ושנא את בגדי כלאו ואכל לחם תמיד לפניו כל-ימי חייו. ל וארחתו ארחת תמיד נתנה-לו מאת המלך דבר-יום ביומו כל ימי חייו.

Look up אויל-מרדך (known as Amel-Marduk in English and in Babylonian).

- What year did he come to the throne, and release Yehoiachin from הכלא? _____
- From what year until what year was Yehoiachin imprisoned? _____ to _____.

In some tablets discovered in Babylon in the early 1900s were found “ration lists” – administrative texts that stipulated how much oil was to be given to various people.



One of these texts reads:

- 10 *qû* of oil) to Yaukin, the king of Judah;
- 2 1/2 *qû* (oil) to the offspring of Judah's king;
- 4 *qû* to eight men from Judea.

Another reads:

- 1 1/2 *qû* (oil) for three carpenters from Arvad, 1/2 apiece
- 11 1/2 *qû* for eight wood workers from Byblos. . .
- 3 1/2 *qû* for seven Greek craftsman, 1/2 sila apiece
- 1/2 *qû* to the carpenter, Nabuetir
- 10 *qû* to Yaukin, the son of Judah's king
- 2 1/2 *qû* for the five sons of the Judean king.

- How much oil did the typical person get? _____
- How much oil did Yehoiachin get? _____
- What does this suggest about Yehoiachin's status while in "prison"? _____

- What other evidence is there from this text regarding Yehoiachin's status while in prison?
