Necho II

Necho II: pharaoh of the Saite dynasty, ruler of Egypt from 610 to 595.

Egyptian names: Wehemibra Nekau

Successor of: Psammetichus I

Relatives:

- father: Psammetichus I
- wife: Tahut
  - son: Psammetichus II

Main deeds:

- 610: Accession; Necho inherits a war against Babylonia, in which Egypt supports Assyria
- 609: Intervention in Palestine; meeting with king Josiah of Judah in Megiddo (according to 2 Kings 23.29); or battle against Josiah (according to 2 Chronicles 35.20-24); Judah and the Phoenician towns become Egyptian tributaries
- Necho builds his HQs at Riblah on the Orontes, supporting the Assyrian king Aššur-Uballit II (Fall of Nineveh Chronicle)
- War in Syria (Late years of Nabopolassar chronicle)
- 605: Nebuchadnezzar defeats Necho near Karchemiš (Early Years of Nebuchadnezzar chronicle)
- 601: Babylonian attack on Egypt repelled
- 597: Loss of Judah; Jerusalem is captured by the Babylonians
- 595: Death of Necho II; he is succeeded by his son Psammetichus II
- Without known date: first circumnavigation of Africa (Herodotus, Histories, 4.42)
- Necho's names are sometimes erased from his monuments, which may signify that his foreign policy was seen as a failure; his successor refrained from foreign interventions

Buildings:

- According to Herodotus, Histories, 2.158, Necho started to build a canal between the Nile and the Red Sea (finished by Darius I the Great)
- An ancient Hyksos fortress at Pithom was rebuilt
- Continued building activity at the temple of Neith in Sais

Succeeded by: Psammetichus II

Links

- Circumnavigating Africa
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