

9/2/11

**The Fall of Jerusalem**  
**2Kings 24:17-25:26**

The fall of Jerusalem was the judgment of God over His people for not repenting of their sins.

One day God sent Jeremiah down to the potter's house and the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, "if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. "And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, "if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it." Jer. 18:6-10

\* Jeremiah began his ministry in the 13th year of Josiah, 626 B.C. , it is now 586 B.C. , he has been warning the people about the judgment of God and their going into captivity for thirty-eight years!

The book of Second Kings closes with the fall of Jerusalem, unfolding in three movements: 2Kings. 24:17-25:26

- I. The besieging of the city. vs. 17-20, 1-7
- II. The taking of the city. vs. 8-17
- III. The re-administrating of the city. vs. 18-26

**I. The besieging of the city. vs. 17-20, 1-7**

- A. The king on the throne of Judah was Zedekiah. vs. 17-19
  - 1. Nebuchadnezzar set Zedekiah on the throne to replace his nephew Jehoiachin, the son Jehhoiakim, so he was his uncle, but his real name was Mattaniah. vs. 17
    - a. Mattaniah "Mattanyha" means "gift of Yahweh".
    - b. Zedekiah "Tsidqiyah" means Yahweh is righteous".
  - 2. Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king, reigning eleven years in Jerusalem, his mother Hamutal was the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. vs. 18
    - a. He was one of the three sons of Josiah, Jehoiahaz and Jehoiakim were his brothers.
    - b. He was the last king of Judah.
  - 3. Zedekiah also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. vs. 19
    - a. He was constantly warned by God through Jeremiah and did not humble himself before Jeremiah.

- b. He permitted evil to continue.
- 4. The final judgment on Jerusalem was due to the anger of the LORD, to finally cast them out from His presence by Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. vs. 20
  - a. Zedekiah is the twentieth and last king on the throne of David!
  - b. Zedekiah was told constantly by Jeremiah to surrender to Babylon and was imprisoned under the charges of treason and later cast into a cistern left to die, both time Zedekiah sought council of Jeremiah, but refused to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar. Jer. 37-38
    - \* Zedekiah loved to hear about God, but not obey God, like Herod with John the Baptist.
- B. The conditions of the city were severe under the reign of Zedekiah. vs. 1-3
  - 1. The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, came with all his army to encamp against Jerusalem and they built a siege wall against it all around. vs. 1
    - a. The date is the 10th of January of 588 B. C.
    - b. The events are supplemented. Jer. 39:1, 52:4-16, Ezk. 24:1, 2Chron. 36:11-12

- 2. The siege on the city lasted till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. vs. 2
  - 1) Eighteen months later, on the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the city was penetrated, July 9th, 586 B. C. Jer. 39:2
  - 2) The princes of the king of Babylon sat in the middle of the gate. Jer. 39:3
- 3. The siege of the city resulted in famine. vs. 3
  - a. The date is given, “By the ninth *day* of the *fourth* month, the 9th of July 586 B.C
    - 1) The evil of the nation began with Solomon and only got worse, 971-586 .C. , 384 years.
    - 2) The northern kingdom had gone into captivity in 722 B.C. . already for 136 years.
  - b. The famine became severe in the city there not being any food for the people. Jer. 52:6, Lam. 4:9-10
- C. The capture of King Zedekiah. vs. 4-7
  - 1. The occasion was due to the Babylonians penetrating the wall of Jerusalem. vs. 4
    - a. Their defenses were compromised, “The city wall was broken through.” vs. 4a

- b. Their defenders fled, “and all the men of war *fled* at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king’s garden.” vs. 4b-c
    - \* The confluence of the Kidron and Hinnom Valleys.
  - c. Their dare was risky, “even though the Chaldeans *were* still encamped all around against the city.” vs. 4d
  - d. Their disobedient king fled, “And the king went by way of the plain.” vs. 4e
2. The situation led to the apprehending of Zedekiah. vs. 5
    - a. The Babylonians chased after Zedekiah, “But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king.” vs. 5a
    - b. The Babylonians caught up to Zedekiah, “and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho.” vs. 5b
    - c. The Babylonians chased off Zedekiah’s soldiers, “All his army was scattered from him.” vs. 5c
  3. The proclamation of judgment over Zedekiah. vs. 6-7
    - a. The Babylonians transported Zedekiah to Nebuchadnezzar, “So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah.” vs. 6a
      - 1) Riblah also had served as the headquarters of Pharaoh Necho in

- 609 in his campaign to assist Assyria against Babylon, about 150 miles north of Jerusalem. 2Kings 23:33
- 2) Riblah was the ancient Syrian town on the Orontes River about ten miles south of Kadeh, at the crossing of the highways between Egypt and Mesopotamia, a very strategic location militarily as Nebuchadnezzar’s headquarters.
- b. The Babylonians tried Zedekiah, “and they pronounced judgment on him.” vs. 6b
    - 1) He had sworn allegiance to Babylon.
    - 2) He rebelled against Babylon, trusting Egypt, the arm of flesh.
    - 3) Jeremiah prophesied that Zedekiah would see Nebuchadnezzar face to face and he would not escape. Jer. 32:34, 34:2-3
  - c. The Babylonians took their revenge on Zedekiah. vs. 7
    - 1) They didn’t just execute his son before his eyes, but literally, slaughtered them, “Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes.” vs. 7a

- 2) They humiliated Zedekiah and made him defenseless, “put out the eyes of Zedekiah.” vs. 7b
- 3) They took him as a captured prisoner, “bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon. vs. 7c-e
  - a) Ezekiel gave a sign prophesy about the escape of Zedekiah through the wall, his capture and that he would be taken to Babylon, but not see and die there. Ezk. 12:11-14
  - b) God knew all this!

### Illustration

In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior:

“A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship.”

\* We began as a Republic, moved to a Democracy, now we are an oligarchy, the rule of few over many!

### Application

1. The history of man is filled with the record of nations that were overtaken by others, due to the internal immoral and unethical evil.
  - a. Greece and Rome are classic examples.
  - b. Europe is being overtaken by Islam, as it once was under the Ottoman Empire
2. Nations are made up of people and sadly too often the evil that leaders allow and practice, is also the standard of many of the people.
  - a. They choose to live for sin or have a double life and seek council, not being committed to repent.
  - b. They want sympathy from Christians and the church, but they take no responsibility for their life.
  - c. They are exhorted, warned, reprovved, even rebuked, when necessary.
  - d. Then one day their unwilling to turn from their sin destroys them, their mate and children.
    - \* “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city **broken** down, without walls.” Prov. 25:28
3. On the other hand, we have rejoice with those who have paid heed to God’s word and repented.

- a. The damage to themselves and family was minimized.
  - b. Their relation to their mates and family was enriched.
  - c. Their service to God was with a whole heart, passionate and honorable to God.
    - \* The prophet of God came to Eli to rebuke him for his not confronting his sons for their sin and said, “Those that honor Me, I will honor them, those that despise Me, I will lightly esteem.” 1Sam. 2:30e-f
3. The refusal of a nation or individual to turn from sin and evil results in degeneration and ultimately in the disintegration of society.
- a. Resulting in greater sin.
  - b. Realizing the inability to change the consequences of sin.
  - c. Remembering how many times one refused to repent.
    - \* “He who is **often** rebuked, *and* hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” Prov. 29:1

*The besieging of the city resulted in subjugation!*

## II. The taking of the city. vs. 8-17

- A. The demolishing of the city. vs. 8-12
  - 1. The operation dealt with the clean-up of the city. vs. 8

- a. The date was roughly one month later, “And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, July 586 B.C. vs. 8a-b
  - b. The date is cross dated, “which *was* the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.” vs. 8c, Jer. 52:12
  - c. The officer is named, “Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.” vs. 8d-e
    - 1) His name means “he who has given seed”.
    - 2) He was the captain of the guard, the body guard or literally “the chief butcher”, the field marshal who was the chief executioner.
2. The operation dealt with the prominent structures of the city. vs. 9-10
- a. The places of greatest authority and reverence were first. “He burned the house of the LORD and the king’s house.” vs. 9a
    - 1) The temple indicating the gods of Babylon were greater.
    - 2) The Kings house indicating Nebuchadnezzar was greater than Zedekiah.
  - b. The houses of the wealthy citizen followed, “all the houses of

Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.” vs. 9b-c

- 1) Confiscation all their wealth and possessions.
  - 2) Humiliating them by destroying everything personal.
  - 3) We have seen the discovery in the city of Ophel, of the burning in the days of Zedekiah!
- c. The remaining walls to protect the city came next. “And all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.” vs. 10
- 1) The city would have not defenses.
  - 2) The city would be open to anyone.
3. The operation dealt with the deportation of the population. vs. 11-12
- a. The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon. vs. 11
    - 1) Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people *who* remained in the city.
    - 2) The defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude.
  - b. The people of Judah left in the land. vs. 12
    - 1) The poor people in small numbers were left to cultivate the land for

Babylon, “But the captain of the guard left *some* of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.” vs. 12

- 2) Babylon would benefit from the harvest.

**B. The looting of the temple. vs. 13-17**

1. The large furnishings were prepared for transport to Babylon. vs. 13
  - a. They cut up the large decorations in the Temple, “The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces.” vs. 13a-c
  - b. They then transported them,” and carried their bronze to Babylon.” vs. 13
2. The smaller items were left intact. vs. 14-15
  - a. The utensils the priest used for service, “They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered.” vs. 14
  - b. The other articles the priest used, “The firepans and the basins, the things of solid gold and solid silver,

the captain of the guard took away.”  
vs. 15

3. The particular details of the pillars and bronze Sea. vs. 16-17
  - a. “The two pillars, one Sea, and the carts, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure.” vs. 16
    - 1) The two pillars were named Jachin and Boaz. 1Kings 7:21
    - 2) The Sea was of cast bronze, six inches thick, 15 feet in diameter, a circumference of 45 feet by 7 1/2 feet deep, holding about 10,000 gallons of water and very ornate. 1Kings. 7:23-26
  - b. “The height of one pillar *was* eighteen cubits, and the capital on it *was* of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and pomegranates all around the capital were all of bronze. The second pillar was the same, with a network.” vs. 17
    - 1) Jachin means, He, Yahweh will establish, referring to the Kingdom.
    - 2) Boaz means in Him is strength, referring to maintain the Kingdom.
    - 3) The kings had failed to understand this simple principal.

### **Illustration**

“The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

- From bondage to spiritual faith;
- From spiritual faith to great courage;
- From courage to liberty;
- From liberty to abundance;
- From abundance to complacency;
- From complacency to apathy;
- From apathy to dependence;
- From dependence back into bondage.”

### **Application**

1. The present cultural indoctrination is attacking and attempting to dismantle the two most significant authorities that have kept America free and prosperous.
  - a. The Constitution of the United States by interpreting it apart from the spirit and context of the writing of the document, which focuses on a belief in God, the Divine Creator of all, who endows all with certain unalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
  - b. The other is to remove every evidence and tolerance of the Judeo-Christian faith from

public life and will progress to restrict, if not prohibit it in private life, sooner or later.

- c. The vehicle to accomplish both of these is the Public School system and Universities that for the most part are humanistic atheist that are indoctrinating young people into Liberal Progressive Socialism.

\* God told Daniel of the last empire to rule the earth, the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image. Representing ten nations, that will give their power and authority to the Anti-christ. Dan. 2, Rev. 12:3, 13:1, 17:3, 12

2. We see how this mind-set has infiltrated the major Denominations.

- a. Buying into the social justice through Liberation Theology.
- b. Buying into the P.C. philosophy and language.
- c. Buying into accepting homosexuality, denying and rejecting that it is sin and abomination, as the Bible clearly teaches.
- d. Buying into the lie that the Bible is not the revelation of God, inerrant and infallible and irrelevant for life and practice.
- e. Buying into "Replacement Theology", that God is threw with Israel and the church is spiritual Israel.
- f. Buying into "Kingdom Theology", "Reconstructionism", Dominion Theology", etc, believing and teaching things are going

to get better and the church is going to set up the Kingdom.

3. The same thing that happened to Israel for turning their back on God and living for self and sin, is happening to America.

- a. The pillars of stable institutions are being cut down.
- b. The three institutions for our check and balances, the legislative, judicial and executive branches are being influenced, coheres and blended together, rather than challenge and correct wrong and evil present in each of them.

\* Listen to God as he speaks to the wicked, "When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver." Ps. 50:18-22

*The taking of the city resulted in devastation!*



### III. The re-administrating of the city. vs. 18-26n

- A. The capture and removal of some prominent individuals by Nebuzaradan. vs. 18-21
1. Those of the temple, “And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and the three doorkeepers.” vs. 18
    - a. To remove spiritual instruction to the people.
    - b. But God had sent Daniel ahead and Ezekiel, who would stand against the false prophets.
  2. Those of military and advisers of the king, “He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, five men of the king’s close associates who were found in the city, the chief recruiting officer of the army, who mustered the people of the land.” vs. 19a-c
    - a. Once again removing authority and leadership to minimize rebellion among the people.
    - b. The people would comply easier in captivity.
  3. Those hiding in the city, “and sixty men of the people of the land *who were* found in the city.” vs. 19d
    - a. Those in fear of their lives.

- b. Those isolated through the horror of the overtaking of the city.
  4. All of these were transported to the king of Babylon. vs. 20-21
    - a. Nebusaradan took them to Nebuchadnezzar’s headquarters, “So Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.” vs. 20
    - b. Nebuchadnezzar executed them, “Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath.” vs. 21a
    - c. Judah went into her 70 year captivity, “Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.” vs. 21b
      - \* Jeremiah give the number of people. Jer. 52:28-31
- B. The appointment of Gedaliah as governor of Jerusalem. vs. 22-26
1. Gedaliah became a vassal to Babylon and his name means “Yahweh is great”. vs. 22
    - a. Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor. vs. 22a
      - 1) Gedaliah’s Father Ahikam had been an important person in the court of Jehoiakim and a friend of Jeremiah. Jer. 26:24, 2Kings 22:12, 14

- 2) His grandfather Shaphan had been the secretary of Josiah . 2Kings 22:3, 10
  - 3) His uncle Gemariah and his cousin Micaiah had been involved in the event of Baruch's reading o Jeremiah's first scroll and helped in protecting both of them. Jer. 36:11, 25
- b.** Gedaliah's responsibility was to govern over the people who remained in the land of Judah, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left. vs. 22a-b
- \* Jeremiah, himself had come to Gedaliah after he was released by Nebuzaradan and allowed to remain in the land. Jer. 40:4-5
- 2.** Gedaliah was visited by some captains. vs. 23
- a.** These were guerilla band hidden during the siege of Jerusalem, "Now when all the captains of the armies, they and *their* men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah--Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Careah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son

- of a Maachathite, they and their men." vs. 23
  - \* Gives greater details of this account. Jer. 40:7-12
- b.** Mizpah was about four and one-half miles northwest of Jerusalem.
  - c.** Mizpah was also the place where Saul was elected as king. 1Sam. 7:5, 16, 10:17
- 3.** Gedaliah attempted to persuade them they were safe, if they submitted to Babylon, "And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you." vs. 24
- a.** The men were afraid of reprisal by Babylon, so he said, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans."
  - b.** Gedaliah attempted to comfort and encourage the Jews in their terrible situation!
- 4.** Gedaliah was assassinated by some of the leaders, "But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah." vs. 25

\* He was warned by Johanan about the plot of Ishmael to assassinate him, but he and volunteered to kill him, but he did not believe it. Jer. 40:13-16

5. The leaders took all the people to Egypt, “And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.” vs. 26
  - a. The details of the flight to Egypt, forcing Jeremiah to go and Baruch are recorded. Jer. 41-42
  - b. Like all the kings of Israel and Judah affected the direction and judgment of the nation, so do leader of nations today!

### **Illustration**

John Witherspoon, who in addition to signing the Declaration of Independence, was a member of the Continental Congress for six years, where he served on over 100 Congressional Committees. While President of Princeton he trained scores of men for national positions, including those of President, Vice President, Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Members, U. S. senators and Congressmen, not to mention a multitude of state and local officials.

\* Listen to how John whitherspoon felt about mixing politics and Christianity?

“It is in the man of piety and inward principle, that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier.---God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable and that the unjust attempts to destroy the one, may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both”. (The Myth of separation of Church and State, PP. 117)

Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the last Presidential election:  
Professor Olson adds: “In aggregate, the map of the territory McCain won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of the country. Obama territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in low income tenements and living off various forms of government welfare...”

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the “**complacency and apathy phase**” of Professor Tyler's definition of democracy, with some forty percent of the nation's population already having reached the “governmental dependency”

\* This being the last phase, “from dependency back to bondage.”

If Congress grants amnesty and citizenship to twenty million illegal's - and they vote - then we

can say goodbye to the USA in fewer than five years.

The Obituary for the U.S. follows:  
Born 1776, Died 2008

### Application

1. The judgment of Judah is an undeniable parallel to our removal, as we see how fast everything that used to be stable and dependable is not any longer.

- a. It did not come over night.
- b. It was very slow and progressive.
- c. It seemed so innocent and non-threatening.
- d. It progression seemed rational and logical.
- e. It went from being God-centered to man-centered.

\* “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ.” Eph. 4:17-20

2. The characteristics of Judah is also undeniable as a parallel.

- a. Few can be trusted.
- b. Most do not respect authority.

- c. Many do not see any hope in the future.
  - d. Very few are looking to God.
  - e. Everyone is looking out for self.
- \* “In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his **own eyes.**” Judges 17:6, 21:25

*The re-administrating of the city resulted in insurrection!*

### Conclusion

The fall of Jerusalem has unfolded for us in these three movement:

- I. The besieging of the city resulted in subjugation!
- II. The taking of the city resulted in devastation!
- III. The re-administrating of the city resulted in insurrection!