

2 Kings 24

Hope

I. Judah Breached

1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up... [i.e. invades Judah]

- **605 BC Nebuchadnezzar:** Defeats Egyptian at Carchemish then heads to Judah
- Invades Judah three separate times

1b... and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then [Jehoiakim] turned and **rebelled against him.**

This campaign of Nebuchadnezzar was interrupted suddenly when he heard of his father's death and raced back to Babylon to secure his succession to the throne. He traveled about 500 miles in two weeks – remarkable speed for travel in that day. Nebuchadnezzar only had the time to take a few choice captives [such as Daniel], a few treasures and a promise of submission from Jehoiakim. [Guzik]

2 And the Lord sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon; He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken by His servants the prophets. 3 Surely at the commandment of the Lord this came upon Judah, to **remove them from His sight** because of the **sins of Manasseh**, according to all that he had done, 4 and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which **the Lord would not pardon.**

- **Because of sins of Manasseh?** Repentant/Forgiven yet consequences remain

God sends Several nations with Babylon raid Judah

2 Chronicles 36:6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and **bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.** 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the Lord to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

Jeremiah 22:19 He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey, Dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

- Great grandfather Hezekiah showed Babylon treasures of Judah

2 Kings 20:16 [Read] Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord: 17 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, **shall be carried to Babylon**; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. 18 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be **eunuchs in the palace** of the king of Babylon.' " 19 So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?"

- God says it will happen...it will happen

5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 6 So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then **Jehoiachin** his son reigned in his place.

- Josiah's grandson Jehoiachin reigns in Judah
- **Jehoiachin:** The Lord Establishes

2nd to last King of Judah

7 And the king of Egypt did not come out of his land anymore, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the River Euphrates.

- Babylon now reigning world power

SUMMARY: Judah breached by enemies

II. Reign/Captivity of Jehoiachin

8 Jehoiachin was **eighteen years old** when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem **three months**. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did **evil in the sight of the Lord**, according to all that his father had done.

- Jehoiachin: AKA Jeconiah AKA Coniah

Jeremiah 22:28 [God of Jehoiachin] "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol— A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? 29 O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the Lord! 30 Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down as **childless**, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For **none of his descendants** shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.'"

- **Childless:** 7 sons ...none Kings
 1. Jehoiachin's Uncle Mattaniah would reign 598 BC
 2. Name changed to Zedekiah... Last King of Judah
 3. He is Josiah's youngest son. [All 3 sons of Josiah reigned]
- Jehoiachin's Mother **Nehushta:** Lit "brass" or lust/harlotry

Isaiah 1:5 [Read] Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. 6 From the **sole of the foot even to the head**, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment... 18 **"Come now, and let us reason together,"** Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was **besieged**. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. 12 Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers **went out to the king of Babylon**; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, **took him prisoner**.

- **Eventually released:** 2 Kings 25

SUMMARY Reign/Captivity of Jehoiachin

- **King Jehoiachin of Judah:**
 1. 19th of 20 Kings of Judah
 2. Evil in sight of the Lord according to all father had done
- **Nebuchadnezzar Invades**
 1. Siege that never had to happen if listened to Jeremiah
 2. Siege that let to horror of cannibalism

III. Captivity of Jerusalem

13 And [Nebuchadnezzar] carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said.

- **Nebuchadnezzar Invades and sweeps up Judah**
 1. Treasures from Temple
 2. Treasures from Kings house cut to pieces

Graphic Physical Display: Glory of Solomon's Kingdom fading into oblivion

14 Also [Nebuchadnezzar] carried into captivity **all Jerusalem**: all the **captains** and all the **mighty men of valor, ten thousand** captives, and **all the craftsmen** and smiths. None remained except the **poorest people** of the land.

- **All Jerusalem**
 1. Military commanders ...taken
 2. Courageous Soldiers ...taken
 3. Artists and Craftsman ...taken

10,000 from Jerusalem... Nebuchadnezzar leaves the poor

15 And [Nebuchadnezzar] carried **Jehoiachin captive to Babylon**. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity **from Jerusalem to Babylon**. 16 All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all who were strong and fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

**King of Judah and thousands taken by force to Babylon.
Jeremiah's word unheeded...Give up to the King of Babylon and live**

What do we do when the Lord asks us to do something counter-intuitive?

▪ **Joshua: God's plan to conquer Jericho**

1. March around Jericho once each day for six days
2. Military men, 7 Priests w/7 Trumpets and carrying the Arc of God
3. 7th day march around Jericho 7 x and then shout as loud as you can

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the **wall fell down flat**.

- Sometimes God asks us to do that seem counter intuitive...
 1. Last will be first
 2. Lose you life to find it
 3. Don't always side with the majority
 4. Hard is not a synonym for bad
- Judah listened to the false-prophets because it was what they wanted to hear

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because they have itching ears*, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

We need to **listen for** then **listen to** God's voice
...even when it's counterintuitive or not what we wanted/hoped to hear

SUMMARY Captivity of Babylon: If they had listened to Jeremiah and given up as God commanded...the horror of siege/starvation/cannibalism **never had to happen**

IV. Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

17 Then the king of Babylon made **Mattaniah**, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

▪ **changed to Zedekiah:**

Mattaniah the 20th and Last King of Judah
Nebuchadnezzar changes his name to Zedekiah

18 Zedekiah was **twenty-one** years old when he became king, and he reigned **eleven years** in Jerusalem. His mother's name was **Hamutal** the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19 He also **did evil in the sight of the Lord**, according to all that **Jehoiakim** had done.

- **Last King of Judah:** Rough relationship with Prophet Jeremiah...

2 Chronicles 36:11 Zedekiah... **did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet**, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord. 13 And [Zedekiah] also **rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar**, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he **stiffened his neck and hardened his heart** against turning to the Lord God of Israel. 14 Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the **people transgressed more and more**, according to all the abominations of the nations, and **defiled the house of the Lord** which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

- **Zedekiah last King of Judah**

1. Proudful: Not bowing to the Word of God; i.e. Jeremiah.
2. Hardhearted/Stiff-necked
3. Transgressing God's law and even...

Once again defiling the House of the Lord?

- Jeremiah writes Lamentations after his Word is not heeded
- Jesus 600 years later laments hardheartedness of the Jews

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**"

God desires/offers His people peace/protection ...Why do we so often choose chaos/confusion

- Peace comes by doing things God's way. Period.

Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, **"My Spirit shall not strive with man forever"**

- Judah chose to disobey and God let them have their way...

20 For **because of the anger of the Lord this happened** in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally **cast them out from His presence.**

- **God's Protection removed...**

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

- **Lack of Fear of the Lord led to the Anger of the Lord**
 1. Caused his protection to be removed
 2. Allowed Judah's enemies to come in like a flood

God gave them a choice...obey His Word/Repent/have peace...or be destroyed
God did **everything He could** to save the people...**apart from removing free-will**

2 Chronicles 36:15 [Read] ...the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because **He had compassion** on His people and on His dwelling place. 16 But they **mocked the messengers** of God, **despised His words**, and **scoffed at His prophets**, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy. 17 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who **killed their young men** with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. 18 And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. 19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. 20 And those who escaped from the sword he **carried away to Babylon**, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the Lord by the **mouth of Jeremiah...**

God leaves us with choice...John 3:16
Believe/Obey and Live or Don't believe/Disobey and Die

20b... Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

- **Zedekiah Rebels against Nebuchadnezzar** and the Lord [c.f. Ez. 17:11-21]

Ezekiel 17:15 [Zedekiah]... rebelled against [Nebuchadnezzar] by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people. Will he prosper? ... **16 'As I live,' says the Lord God... in the midst of Babylon he shall die...**20 I will spread My net over him, and he shall be **taken in My snare**. I will bring [Zedekiah] to Babylon and **try him there for the treason** which he committed against Me.

- Rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar [God's instrument] was rebellion against God