

Babylonian Captivity

2 Kings 23-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36; Jeremiah 34-39

What would it be like to have to leave your home and country?

What would it be like to leave as captives?

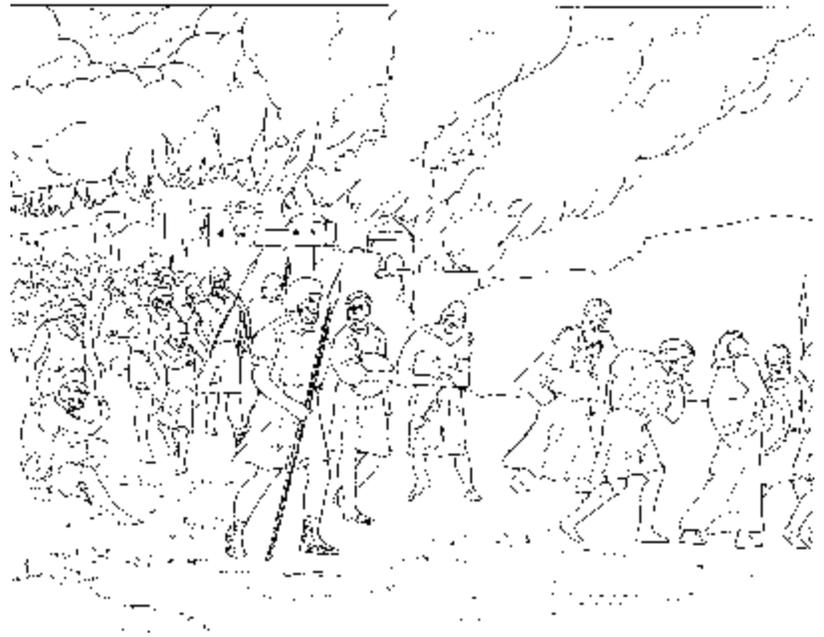
That's what happens in today's lesson to the people of Judah.

Why did God allow that to happen?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We know that we are sinful people and that You do not like sin. Help us to love You and our neighbor. Please do not let us be distracted while we learn about Your Word. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth so that we can go to heaven. Amen.



The Story

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David. He kept the laws of the LORD.

Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent a scribe to the house of the LORD, saying, "Go up to the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD and give the money to those doing the work to repair the temple."

Then the high priest said to the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD."

So the scribe went to the king bringing

the Book of the Law which had been found in the temple and he read it to King Josiah.

Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes in sorrow and repentance. He sent messengers to ask the prophetess what the word of the LORD would tell him and the people.

She said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods. But as for the king of Judah, because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place, you shall die in peace;



and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place. ' "

So they brought back word to the king.

The king went up to the house of the LORD with all the people, both young and old. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD. Then the king made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

King Josiah commanded that all the articles that were for the false gods to be brought out of the temple and burn them. He ordered all the false priests that conducted the worship of false gods be killed. Many idols and altars to false gods were destroyed and anything that had been dedicated to a false god by kings before him who did not worship the true God was burned.

Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." That same year this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem.

Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him. Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the worship of false gods in the past.

The LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen."

After all this, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight. Josiah went out against him.

Necho said, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you."

Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight and the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."

His servants therefore took him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Jeremiah, God's prophet, also lamented for Josiah.

The people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place. Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Pharaoh Necho put Jehoahaz in prison at Egypt that he might not reign in Jerusalem. Jehoahaz died in Egypt. Necho imposed on the land a tribute of silver and gold. Then Pharaoh Necho made Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah king. So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh.

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. He burned the scroll that Jeremiah the prophet gave him. The scroll had a message of warning to the king and people of Jerusalem to repent of their evil ways.

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became under him for three years. So Jehoiakim died and

Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place. Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

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.

At that time Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar. He was taken prisoner to Babylon along with the treasures from the temple and palace. Also King Nebuchadnezzar carried into captivity all Jerusalem, which was many thousands of people. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

Then the king of Babylon made Zedekiah king in Judah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He also did evil in the sight of the LORD. Zedekiah did not listen to the prophet Jeremiah either. Jeremiah warned him to turn away from the false gods and worship the true God. He continued his worship of false gods and put Jeremiah first

into prison and then had him put in a muddy pit. Jeremiah was later freed.

Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. After many months a famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then the city wall was broken through and the army of Babylon came into the city. King Zedekiah tried to escape, but was captured. He was blinded and taken to Babylon. This was in keeping with the prophesy of the LORD because of Zedekiah's unbelief.

Most of those who were left from the first captivity were taken captive to Babylon. The temple, palace and all the houses were destroyed by fire after all the valuables that were left were taken away.

But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.

After Nebuchadnezzar died, Evil-Merodach became king of Babylon. He released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

Outer Aim - Judah is taken to Babylon because of idol worship, but some faithful believers are preserved in Judah and Babylon.

What the Story Tells Us - Unscramble the words in the [] and write the word on the line.

1. [hsiaoj] _____ became king when he was only eight years old.
2. He did what was right in the sight of the [ROLD]_____.
3. A priest found the Book of the Law in the [plemte] _____.
4. The king repented and read the Book of the Law to all the [lopepe]_____.

5. All the [lodis] _____ were destroyed or burned.
6. The [sosapvre] _____ was celebrated.
7. Necho king of [typge] _____ killed Josiah.
8. [hamerjei] _____ was God's prophet to Judah.
9. Jehoiakim [nedubr] _____ the scroll from Jeremiah with God's message to repent.
10. [hadzikee] _____ also did not listen to Jeremiah's message from God to repent. He even threw Jeremiah into a muddy pit.
11. Nebuchadnezzar king of [noyblab] _____ took Judah captive.
12. Only some of the poor people were left in Judah as vinedressers and
[masrefr] _____.

Inner Aim - Though God punishes those who reject Him, He preserves His children and keeps His promises.

Your Turn - Write the names of the Kings of Judah in order from the story. Check whether they were a good king (one who loved God) or a bad king (one who didn't love God).

name	good	bad	name	good	bad
1 st			4 th		
2 nd			5 th		
3 rd					

What God's Word Tells Us - Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 below.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Think of something bad that has happened to you, your family or someone you know but that God turned it for good. Read the example to get you started. Share your story with the class.

Example:

BAD EXPERIENCE - Judith was hit by a car while riding her bicycle. She broke her leg and had to stay in bed.

GOOD OUTCOME - While staying in bed for 3 months Judith read God's Word every day and also read to her friends who came to see her.

BAD EXPERIENCE -

GOOD OUTCOME -

Passages

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful,
who will establish you and guard you from
the evil one.

1 Peter 1:5 - [You] are kept by the power of
God through faith for salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Hymn - Worship Supplement #800

Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, my children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

With every year I become more aware of the dangers that are all around me, including my own sinful flesh. It makes me so happy to learn that You have promised to take care of me, just as You preserved the nation of Judah. I am comforted that You will not leave me, and I pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to live in me, that I might always remain faithful to You. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.