

Babylonian Captivity

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



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



The Story

Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah. He would serve as the king for 31 years. Josiah loved God and kept His laws.

When Josiah was 26-years-old, a wonderful thing happened. A priest in the temple found a book. That book was God's Law. It had been lost for many years, and the people of Judah had been worshiping false gods.

When Josiah heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes in sadness because He was sorry for all his sins.

Josiah went up to the temple with all his people, both young and old. He read all the words of the Book of the Law, which had been found in the temple.

The king made a promise to the LORD. He promised to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments with all his heart. All the people of Judah also promised to obey God's laws.

King Josiah commanded that all idols be destroyed. Anything that was used to worship false gods was to be burned.

Then, Josiah 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.

King Josiah loved the LORD with all his heart. God had a plan for Josiah. The LORD sent Josiah away to an enemy land because the people worshiped false gods.

King Josiah fought in a war against Egypt and was killed. All the people of Judah and Jerusalem were sad about the king's death.

The people of the land took Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place. Jehoahaz was 23-years-old when he became king, and he was king only three months. Jehoahaz did evil in the sight of the LORD.

The King of Egypt put Jehoahaz in his prison, and Jehoahaz died there in Egypt. Then, the Egyptian pharaoh declared Jehoiakim, another son of Josiah, king. In return, Jehoiakim gave the pharaoh silver and gold.

Jehoiakim was 25-years-old when he became king. He ruled eleven years, but he was not a good king. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not obey the words of Jeremiah, God's prophet. Jehoiakim burned a message Jeremiah sent which warned the king and people of Jerusalem to repent of their evil ways.

Nebuchadnezzar, who was king of Babylon, came up, and carried Jehoiakim off to Babylon for three years. Jehoiakim died there

and Jehoiachin, his son, reigned in his father's place. Jehoiachin was 18-years-old when he became king, and he only reigned in Jerusalem for three months. He also did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Nebuchadnezzar's army attacked Jerusalem and everyone was forced to stay inside the walls of the city. They could not go in or out of Jerusalem. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar. He was taken prisoner to Babylon along with the treasures from the temple and from his palace. Also, King Nebuchadnezzar carried into captivity all of Jerusalem, (which was many thousands of people). No one remained except the poorest people of the land.

Next, King Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah king in Judah. Zedekiah was 21-years-old when he became king, and he ruled 11 years in Jerusalem. He also did evil in the sight of the LORD. Zedekiah did not listen to the prophet Jeremiah, either. Jeremiah warned Zedekiah to turn away from false gods and worship the true God. Zedekiah continued his worship of these false gods. He put Jeremiah first into prison and then had him put in a muddy pit. Jeremiah was later freed.

Zedekiah rebelled against Babylonian rule. Nebuchadnezzar sent all his army against Jerusalem and set up camp near the city. They built a siege wall around the whole city of Jerusalem. After many months, there was no food for the people of the land. Finally, the army of Babylon broke through the city wall and stormed into the city. King Zedekiah tried to escape, but was captured. He was blinded and taken to Babylon.

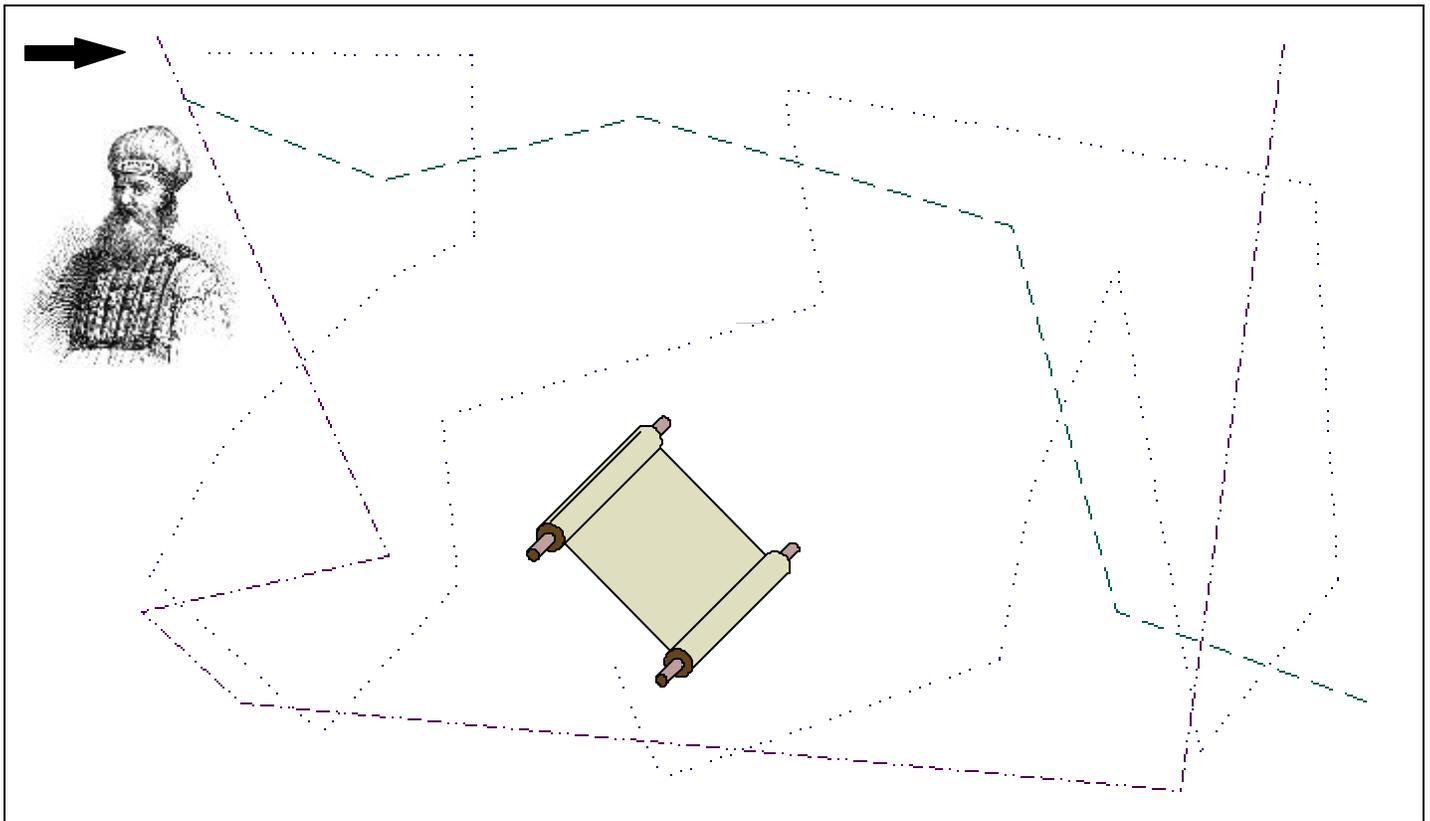
Most of those in Judah who were left from the first captivity were taken captive to Babylon. The temple, palace and all the houses were destroyed by fire after all the valuables that were left were taken away.

But the captain of the guard let some of the poor of the land remain to care for the grapes and farm the land. The rest of the people of Judah were carried away captive from their own land.

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

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

Activity One - Start at the arrow and follow the right path to help the priest find the scroll with God's Law written on it. Only one path leads to the scroll.



Activity Two - Color the boxes with God's Word from 2 Timothy 2:19 written in them. Then write your name below the boxes since you are one of God's children.

"The	Lord	knows	those	who	are	His."
purple	red	orange	yellow	green	blue	light blue

(name) _____ is God's child.

Passages

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

2 Timothy 2:19 - The Lord knows those who are His.

Hymn - Worship Supplement #800 v. 1, 4

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.

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,

You have told us to love You above all other things. Please help us to love and serve You all our lives. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us love and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Keep us always as Your dear children. Amen.

Babylonian Captivity

2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36; Jeremiah 34-39



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



The Story

Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He would be the King of Judah for thirty-one years. He loved God and kept the laws of the LORD.

When Josiah was twenty-six years old, a wonderful thing happened. The priest in the temple found a book. That book was God's Laws. It had been lost for many years and the people had been worshiping false gods.

Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes in sadness. He was sorry for all his sins and the sins of his people.

Josiah went up to the temple with all the people, both young and old. He read all the words of the Book of the Law which had been found in the temple. Then the king made a promise to follow the LORD and to keep God's commandments with all his heart. All the people also promised to obey God's laws.

King Josiah commanded that all the idols be destroyed. Anything that was used to worship false gods 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, the Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem.

King Josiah loved the LORD with all his heart. But the LORD would punish Judah because of their worship of false gods.

King Josiah fought in a war against Egypt and was killed. All the people were sad about the king's death. The prophet Jeremiah was also sad.

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

The King of Egypt put Jehoahaz in prison at Egypt and he died in Egypt. Then the Egyptian Pharaoh made Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, king.

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he ruled eleven years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not obey the words of Jeremiah, God's prophet. When Jeremiah sent him a message warning the king and people of Jerusalem to repent of their evil ways, Jehoiakim burned it.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invaded, and Jehoiakim became his servant 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.

At that time Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was kept inside its walls. They could not go in or out of the city. 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 ruled 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. Zedekiah 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 Babyon. Nebuchadnezzar and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; they built a siege wall all around the city. After many months, there was no food for the people of the land. Finally, 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.

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 to care for the grapes and farm the land. 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 special place than the other captured kings who were with him in Babylon.

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

Activity One - Choose the correct answer by writing the letter in the blank.

1. ___ became king when he was eight. A. Nebuchadnezzar
2. ___ was God's prophet who told the people God's messages. B. Pharaoh
3. ___ , king of Egypt, took Jehoahaz to prison in Egypt. C. Zedekiah
4. ___ was the King of Babylon. D. Josiah
5. ___ did not listen to Jeremiah and was blinded and taken to Babylon. E. Jeremiah

Activity Two - Color the boxes that have 2 Timothy 2:19 written in them. Use the colors written in the boxes as your guide. Then write your name below the boxes since you are one of God's children.

"The purple	Lord red	knows orange	those yellow	who green	are blue	His." light blue
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(name) _____ is God's child.

Passages

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

2 Timothy 2:19 - The Lord knows those who are His.

Activity Three - Number in order the names of the kings of Judah.

___ Jehoiakim

___ Jehoahaz

___ Josiah

___ Zedekiah

___ Jehoiachin

Hymn - Worship Supplement #800 v. 1, 4

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.

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,

You have told us to love You above all other things. Please help us to love and serve You all our lives. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us love and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Keep us always as Your dear children. Amen.

Babylonian Captivity

2 Kings 22-25; 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?

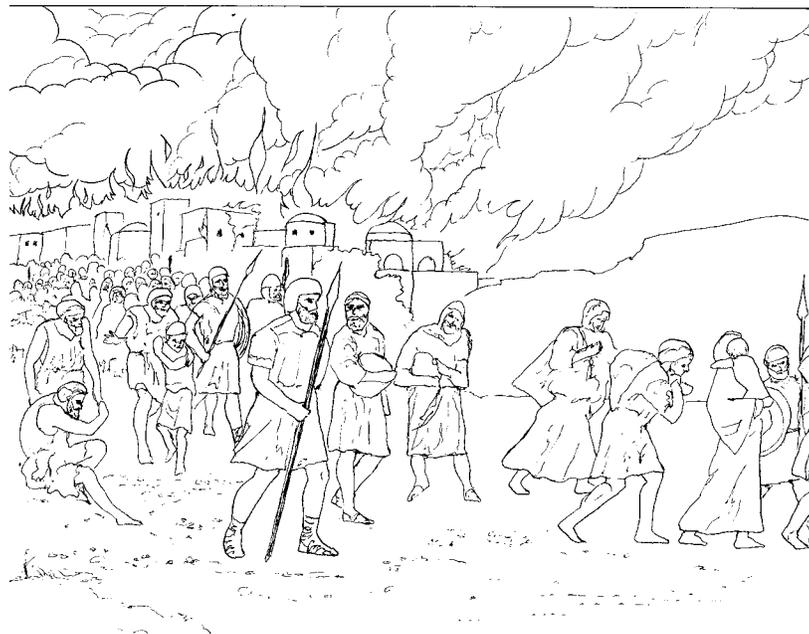
That's what happens in today's lesson to the people of Judah.

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 worship of false gods were to be brought out of the temple and burned. 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 included 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 into 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. Nebuchadnezzar king of [noyblab] _____ took Judah captive.
10. Only some of the poor people were left in Judah as vinedressers and [masrefr] _____.

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					

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

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 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.

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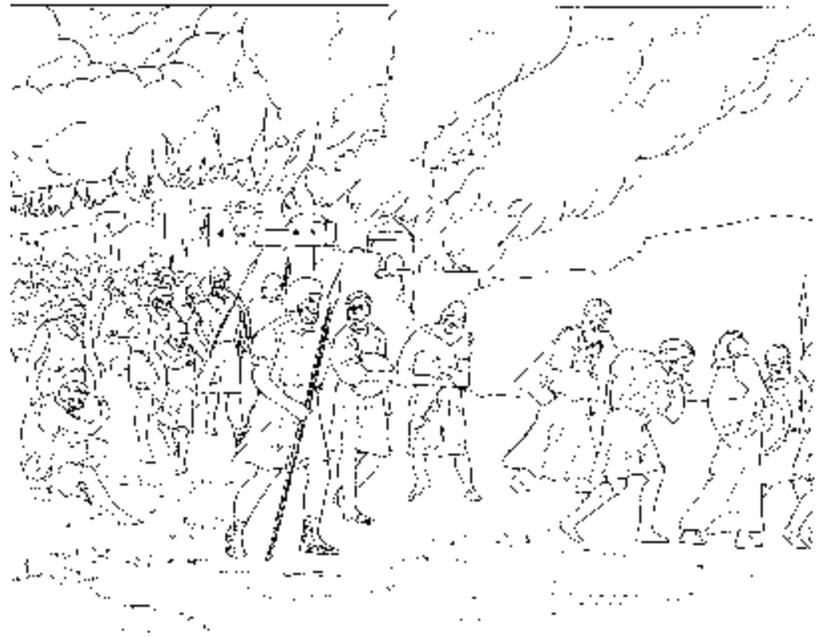
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The Story

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."

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

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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.

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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.



STORY

The Babylonian Captivity - 2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36; Jeremiah 34-39

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank You for all the comforting promises that I find in Your Word. Surely despair would have engulfed me long ago had You not comforted me with Your promises. I thank you especially this day for the assurance that You not only create faith, You also preserve it. Direct me in this lesson to impart the same comfort to Your children. May the message of this lesson give them confidence and peace as they grow up facing the many enemies on every hand. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Josiah - The last righteous king of Judah before the Babylonian Captivity. He was the great grandson of Hezekiah and began ruling when he was eight years old. Of all the kings in Israel, Josiah was the most zealous in keeping the Lord's commandments and ordinances.

Bethel - One of the two cities of Israel (along with Dan) where Jeroboam set up his golden calves for worship. Josiah recognized the abomination in Israel and was able to desecrate the pagan worship areas there while Assyria was preoccupied with the rising Babylonian Empire.

Brook Kidron - A usually dry riverbed that flows only with the runoff waters of spring, emptying eventually into the Dead Sea. By Josiah's time it had become the receptacle for all manner of unclean things, swept clean each spring by the torrential runoff.

Perverted persons - Temple prostitutes, both men and women, who performed all manner of sinful acts in the name of their pagan religions.

Topheth - The site somewhere to the south and west of Jerusalem where worshippers of Molech made their children pass through the fire (burning them alive). Topheth was located in the Valley of Hinnom, known later by the Hebrew name of Gehenna. The place was destroyed and desecrated so thoroughly by Josiah that its exact location is not known. The entire area became a pit for every kind of waste and carrion. Funeral pyres were common there, as were all of the vermin generally found around decaying flesh. Jesus later used the place as a graphic portrayal of hell - "*where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*" (Mark 9:44 ff).

Mount of Corruption - A hill, believed to have been located south of the Mount of Olives, where Solomon erected worship sites to the pagan gods Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Milcom.

Nebuchadnezzar - King of the Babylonian Empire for over 42 years (604-562 BC). He was probably of mixed Chaldean and Babylonian ancestry, and is known as much for his building and beautification projects as for his military campaigns.

Nebuzaradan - The Babylonian Officer ("Chief of the Slaughterers") who served under Nebuchadnezzar during the deportation of Judah. His name means "*Nebo has given offspring.*" He seems to have been civil in his dealings with the conquered Jews of Judah.

Riblah in Hamath - Located over 200 miles NNE of Jerusalem, the area was occupied by the Egyptian Necho after the defeat of Judah under King Josiah. It was here that Josiah's son, King Jehoahaz, was imprisoned after he succeeded his father. Later the area was taken from Egypt and used as a staging area

by the Babylonian invaders during their conquest of Judah and Phoenicia. It was to this place that Nebuzaradan led many of the leaders from Jerusalem after that city's destruction, where they were executed by Nebuchadnezzar. Hamath is the name of both a city and the region in which it is located.

Chaldeans - A race of people from the Kurdistan Mountains known for their military aggression and their study of astronomy and astrology. The Chaldeans were in large part responsible for the destruction of the Assyrian Empire and the establishment of the Babylonian Empire. The Babylonian Empire is also rightly called the Chaldean Empire, although Babylonia was made up of many ethnic peoples. It is probably fair to say that every Chaldean became a Babylonian, but not every Babylonian was a Chaldean. Abram (Abraham) was originally called from Ur of the Chaldees.

OUTER AIM

Because of her idolatry and perversion, Judah is delivered over to her enemies; but a faithful remnant is preserved, both in Judah and in Babylonia.

INNER AIM

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

BACKGROUND (*Rupprecht Volume 1, pages 389-395*)

Though the reforms brought by Josiah were indeed God-pleasing, the evil wrought in the early part of Manasseh's reign was not easily undone. The Jews had broken the conditional covenant God had made with them as a nation (Exodus 19-24) and therefore God no longer acted as their national defender. However the covenant that God would send a Savior from the Jews was an unconditional covenant, therefore God preserved a remnant in Babylon to fulfill His promise.

Chapter 23

Josiah's reforms were both thorough and genuine. He not only destroyed all of the pagan worship sites in Judah and reestablished the correct celebration of the Passover, he also desecrated all of the pagan worship sites in what had been Northern Israel (Samaria) - including the destruction of the infamous 300 year old alternate worship site erected in Bethel by Jeroboam. He was able to do this because of the power vacuum that existed during this time. Assyria was fast declining on all fronts. Egypt was opportunistically just beginning to occupy weakened Assyrian territories in the west, and the Chaldeans were chipping away at the Assyrian Empire in the east.

For background on "the tomb of the man of God" mentioned in 23:17-18, and for the prophecies made by that man of God concerning Josiah's acts, see 1 Kings 13.

Though the Passover was celebrated under King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 30) that is not in conflict with 2 Kings 23:22 in this section, since "*such* a Passover" referred to a ceremonially correct Passover, which was not celebrated until the time of Josiah.

While Hezekiah's greatness lay in his unparalleled trust in the Lord (2 Kings 18:5) Josiah's greatness lay in his unparalleled zeal for the Mosaic Law which was rediscovered during his reign (2 Kings 23:25). 2 Kings 18:5 and 23:25 are therefore not in conflict.

Note the shift in power evident from Egypt's alliance with Assyria (23:29). Egypt, once mightily threatened by Assyria, now allies itself with its old enemy because Babylonia has become the greater threat.

Egypt ruled Palestine until the power struggle between Assyria and Babylon was settled.

Chapter 24

Nebuchadnezzar was the second king of the Babylonian Empire. He succeeded in subduing most of the territory that had once been held by the Assyrians. It is clear that God raised up Nebuchadnezzar as a punishment to Judah for the evil of its kings and people.

Jehoiakim, the grandson of Josiah, became Nebuchadnezzar's vassal. After his rebellion he was replaced by his son, Jehoiachin. Jehoiachin was king in Jerusalem when the city was plundered and the cream of the Jewish people carried off into exile. Jerusalem was not destroyed until Jehoiachin's Uncle, Zedekiah, became king and rebelled against Babylon.

Chapter 25

The city walls were both the blessing and the curse of ancient cities under siege. Starvation often accomplished what enemy armies could not. So it was in Jerusalem during the 1½-year siege of Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar often demonstrated mercy toward those who surrendered to him, but he demonstrated harshest cruelty to those who refused. It is hard to imagine the horror to which Zedekiah was subjected - forced to witness the execution of his sons before being blinded. Yet so the prophecy of Ezekiel 12:13 was fulfilled, *"I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there."*

As the Lord had now withdrawn from the nation of Judah, so also he allowed the temple that had once borne his Name to be destroyed by the pagan Babylonians. Yet He did not forget His promise, His unconditional covenant to send a Savior. Therefore now He resided in the hearts of the remnant of Israel.

As the gold and silver had been carried off during the first plunder of Jerusalem a decade earlier, so now also all of the bronze articles are carried off to Babylon - a quantity beyond measure. Many of these articles had been made by Solomon over 350 years earlier.

Once again we see that while Nebuchadnezzar offered life in exile to those who surrendered to him, those who did not faced dire consequences. So in verses 18-21 we read of the execution of many of the officials who occupied positions of authority during the last rebellion.

Even after the destruction of Jerusalem those who remain demonstrate that they have learned nothing. The military leaders who had escaped the Babylonians assassinated their own governor, Gedaliah, as well as their Chaldean overseers. In a panic (and contrary to the command of the Lord through Jeremiah) those that are left flee in fear to Egypt. Thus, for them, the Exodus was reversed.

Refer to the sections in Jeremiah 34-39 for the relationship between the Prophet Jeremiah and the various rulers of Judah during this period. Note that the rulers, from first to last, were always given fair warning by the Lord through His prophets. They refused to hear and heed the Lord's commands, and their folly proved to be fatal in the end.

Rupprecht gives the following list of Nebuchadnezzar's deportation of Judah: *"In the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign: Daniel and a few others; in his eighth year: 10,000 persons; in his seventeenth year: 3,023; in his eighteenth year: 832; in his twenty-third year: 745. Total, ca. 14,600."*

STUDENT PRAYER

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.

PRESENTATION

This account is obviously too long to read in class. Although the teacher should read all of the material from 2 Kings and Jeremiah as a preparation toward mastering the material, only the upper grades should be expected to do the same. The teacher will need to draw up an outline of the points to be covered in the telling of the story. In studying and presenting this material, note that those who obeyed the word and will of the Lord were spared. Note also, however, that even the righteous prophet Jeremiah suffered terribly for a time. God has never promised us a life of ease when we follow Him, but He has promised to make all things work for our spiritual good.

APPLICATION

1. Sin has consequences. Though King Manasseh turned away from his evil during the latter part of his reign, and though Josiah brought many reforms in Judah, the perversion and idolatry was too engrained in the people of Judah. They quickly turned again to their evil ways after the passing of Josiah, and eventually the Lord drove them from His sight. Emphasize to the students that God does not tolerate sin and rebellion indefinitely. No one "gets away with" sin.
2. Use the gruesome account of Zedekiah's punishment as evidence of how fearful a thing it would be to be abandoned by God. (May be suitable only for the older students.)
3. The history of the Jewish nation is a history of great tragedy. Though God preserved a remnant for the sake of His promise, Israel again rejected her God and Savior, and Jerusalem was again destroyed in 70 AD, this time by the Romans. Even today the Jewish nation is either scattered around the world, or lives embattled in Palestine, surrounded by enemies and rejected by God. God did not just reject Judah for a time. He rejected the nation of Israel for all time, preserving a remnant only for the sake of His promise. Today's "Israel" is the Christian Church.
4. Demonstrate to the students how obedience to the Word of the Lord does not always exempt us from suffering. Jeremiah was faithful, yet he suffered terribly. To suffer for the sake of the Word of God, however, has positive eternal consequences. To turn from Him in the face of hardship has dire, eternal consequences. Have the children give examples of how they might have to suffer in their day for speaking the Word of God (unpopular in school, subjected to ridicule, thought of as odd or old fashioned, etc.).
5. Discuss with the students some of the evil practices in our own country today. How do they compare with the evil in Israel and Judah? What can we do to help? Why does God preserve America?

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalms 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

2 Timothy 2:19 - The Lord knows those who are His.

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

Middle

Luke 22:32 - But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

Romans 11:5 - Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

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

Upper

1 Peter 5:10 - But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

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.

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

HYMN CHOICES

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - TLH #39:3-5

O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe - TLH #263

Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head - TLH #477