

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.