

Fall of Judah, the City of Jerusalem

2 Kings 25:1-26, 27-30



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Ms

main street

May 15, 2011

2 Kings 25:21 KJV

...so Judah was carried away
out of their land.



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

The glad tidings of obedient King Josiah only lasted as long as he was live. As soon as this faithful servant of the Lord was laid to rest, his son and the people of Israel “did evil in the eyes of the Lord” (2 Kings 23:32). The rampant disobedience of the people of God in the land of Judah was finally enough! The Lord was going to send this final remnant of his people into exile. Judgment was coming. Jerusalem was scheduled to be divinely destroyed due to the covenant unfaithfulness of His people.

exile

There was a major power shift in the world. The Assyrians were no longer the superpower; the Babylonians were—under the leadership of King Nebuchadnezzar. This most-feared king laid siege to Jerusalem and captured the king therein—Jehoiachin. A man named Zedekiah, the captured king’s uncle, was made ruler by King Nebuchadnezzar. But, Zedekiah “did evil in the eyes of the Lord...” (2 Kings 24:19) and it all happened “because of the Lord’s anger ... and in the end he thrust them from his presence” (2 Kings 24:20).

Zedekiah rebelled against the King of the Babylonians. That was not a very smart thing to do, but it was the Lord’s will. King Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem again for over two years. He finally broke through the walls and the Israelite army and King Zedekiah fled. But the Babylonians caught up with the king. Zedekiah’s sons were

killed before his eyes, “then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon” (2 Kings 25:7). King Nebuchadnezzar “set fire to the temple of the Lord, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem” (2 Kings 25:9). The entire city of Jerusalem was destroyed, including the walls.

“Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard carried into exile [slavery] the people who remained in the city, along with the rest of the populace and those who had gone over to the king of Babylon. But the commander left behind some of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields” (2 Kings 25:11-12).

The whole temple of the Lord was destroyed along with every thing in it.



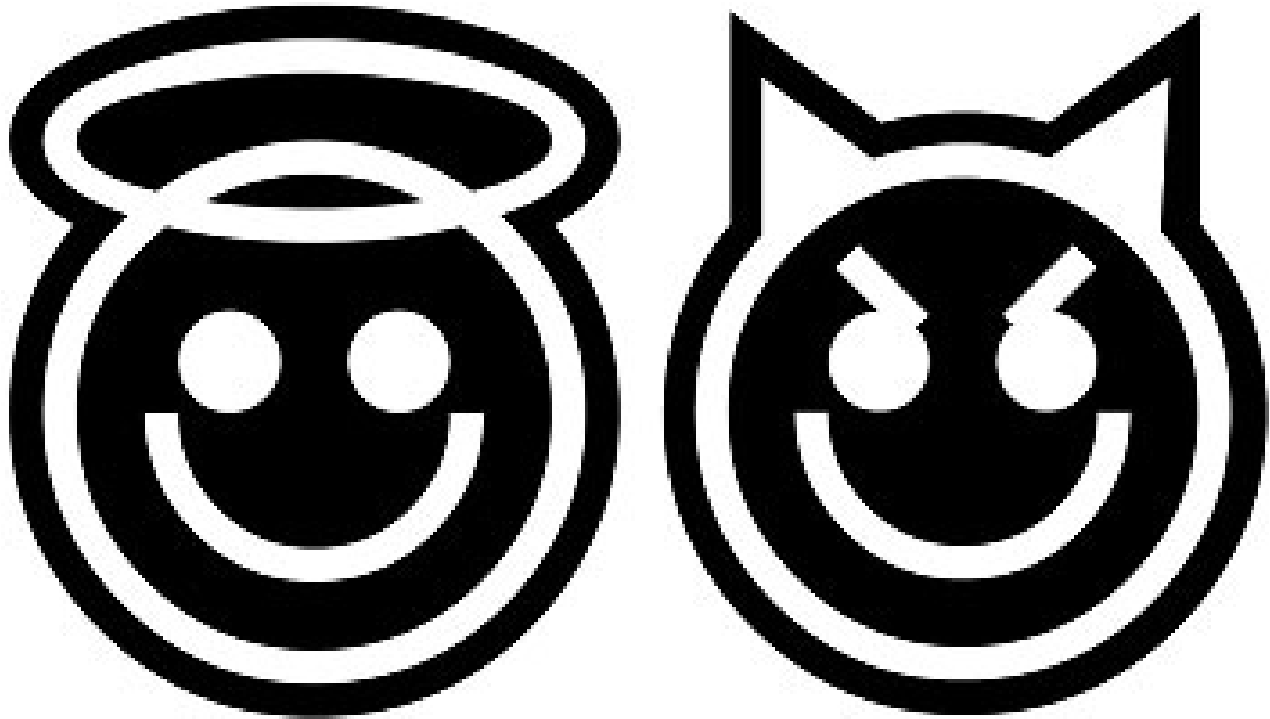
“So Judah went into captivity, away from her land” (2 Kings 25:21). Due to covenant unfaithfulness, the people of God in both Israel and Judah were led back into slavery. Everything God had done for them since the exodus from Egypt was undone. They disobeyed the law of God and followed after idols and the things that were wicked in the sight of the Lord.

And yet:

“In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Evil-Merodach became king of Babylon, he released Jehoiachin from prison on the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month. He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. Day by day the king gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived” (2 Kings 25:27-30).

The lamp of Judah had not gone out! This is the Lord God preserving the line of David as was promised to King David in the Davidic Covenant. The Messiah, the seed of the

woman, comes from this promised kingly line. These are Jesus' great-great-great-etc grandparents.



Constantly in the book of Kings, all the kings are compared to either 'good' king David or 'bad' king Jeroboam. The kings either did "good in the sight of the Lord" or they did "evil in the sight of the Lord." This compare and contrast begins in the book of Samuel with Saul and David (or arguable even earlier with Samuel and Eli's two wicked sons).

Remember, it is thought that the book of Kings was written to the exiles in Babylon to explain to them why they were there and not in their own land (Israel). If one reads the books of Kings, Samuel, Judges, and Joshua with this perspective, amazing insights and implications come to the forefront. The meaning and thrust of the text takes on a whole new light other than just merely the re-telling of history. This is re-telling of history, except with a major point—why and how Israel failed in its mission to be the light to all nations as the people of God.



life application

MAKING IT REAL

Beware that your sin will find you out

I wonder if the people of Israel thought that the Lord their God just was not paying attention to their wickedness. Maybe they did not even realize that what they were doing was wicked. But their sin found them out. It was not hidden from the Lord.

You are more responsible than you think

This generation of people suffered and had to endure much due to the constant disobedience of their ancestors. Yet they were still responsible to the covenant with God. They continually disobeyed. We have the opportunity to break those cycles of downward, wicked spirals. We can choose to break those, or to allow them to keep going. We are still responsible for them. Just because one grew up in a bad family or situation does not give them the right to live in that muck forever and use that as an excuse. The Lord enables us—with his help—to pull ourselves out of the muck. One can break the negative, downward cycles, kind of like Josiah did.



questions

REMEMBERING

- 1. What happened after King Josiah died?** The people and the kings did evil in the sight of the Lord
- 2. Who was the king of the Babylonians?** King Nebuchadnezzar
- 3. Which king of Judah was captured by the Babylonians?** King Jehoiachin
- 4. Which king was put in place of King Jehoiachin?** King Zedekiah
- 5. What happened to the Temple of the Lord?** It was destroyed by fire
- 6. What happened to all the people who lived in the land of Judah?** They were sent into exile



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



Fall of Judah, the City of Jerusalem