

## **The Story: Chapter 17**

### **Pride Comes Before the Fall**

This part of the Story starts in II Kings where Manasseh becomes King of Judah.

697 BC

Manasseh (55 yrs)

- He was 12 years old when he became King.
- Nothing could go wrong with that.
- He built alters to other gods and even put one of those INSIDE the Temple.
- God did not appreciate that!

Rebuilt all the pagan shrines, sacrificed 1 of his own sons, practiced sorcery, set up an idol right in the temple, murdered many of his own people, repented during Assyrian captivity

So, what we see from 697BC to 586BC is ultimately the **fall of the Kingdom of Judah**.

#### [Timeline](#)

642

Amon (2 years) (2 Kings 21: 18-26) (2 Chr. 33:20-25)

640

**Josiah** (31 years) Loved God with all his heart, repaired temple, found lost scroll of law (he promised to obey it, thus God delayed destruction of Judah until after his death), personally oversaw the major project of destroying idol shrines, re-stated priests of God, celebrated Passover with greater zeal than had been since Samuel's day, was greatly loved by people.

609

Jehoahaz (3 months) Jailed and taken to Egypt where he died (

609

Jehoiakim (11 years) Burned part of God's words given to Jeremiah, was a puppet king for Egypt and then Babylon, watched gold and articles taken from the temple to Babylon, saw first exile

598

Jehoiachin (3 months) Saw next exile to Babylon (2 Kings 24:6-15, 25: 27-30) (2 Chr. 36:10-21)

597

Zedekiah (11 years) Saw the Temple burned and Jerusalem destroyed, was tortured and carried away in final exile to Babylon (2 Kings 24:17-25:21) (2 Chr. 36: 10-21)

586 END OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM Carried off Captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar

**Jeremiah** comes on the scene in 627 BC.

**Jeremiah 1:4-5** Pg 237

<sup>4</sup>The word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah didn't think he was ready. But God told him that He had put His words in his mouth and He would speak through him.

### **Jeremiah's Message:**

Even though we know captivity is already in the plan, REPENTENCE is still the answer.

- He was constantly calling on the kings and the people to repent and turn back to God.
- He even had a message to a couple of false prophets that were filling the people of Judah with lies. Telling them that blessing was still coming even though they were not living for God.

### **Jeremiah 25:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: <sup>3</sup>For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.

**Then we see the situation they were really in:**

**II Chronicles 36:15-16** pg 241

<sup>15</sup> The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. <sup>16</sup> But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was **no remedy**.

They didn't listen to the people of God  
No remedy!

II Chronicles 36: No slide...

God summoned King Nebuchadnezzar to come and attack Judah and take them into captivity.

**II Chronicles 36:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. <sup>21</sup> The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the **seventy years** were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.

**How did they end up getting to this point?**

Here's their problem, and ultimately our main problem today:

**Jeremiah 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. <sup>12</sup> Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord. <sup>13</sup> "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

**PRIDE** truly does come before the FALL!

**Proverbs 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

They decided that their plans were better than God's plans.

And that PRIDE, over decades and decades, is what caused God to send them into captivity.

Here's what it looked like:

1. They had forsaken their one true God.

God had sent messenger after messenger and they just would not listen. They started worshiping gods that were not the one True God.

**EX:** When we turn our back on God and start walking in our own direction.

2. They were trying to work their own plan.

Then we decide that our plan is better than His plan.

My people have turned from my ways...

Dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

- You ever get worn out by digging your own cisterns
- Problem is they don't hold water
- Trying to find your own plan just doesn't satisfy... and it's exhausting.

**You and I do the same thing.**

- We decide on a plan for our life that is not as good as His plan.
- Then we keep going with our plan because we're just prideful enough and stubborn enough to think we can make it work.
- We try hard to "dig our own cisterns" but they just won't hold water.

**EX:** Anyone ever dug a hole in the ground and then tried to fill it with water?

- You don't make it very far before you realize that the hole you dug, unless you put something in it, will simply not hold water.
- And you can stand there with the hose all day long trying to fill it up but as soon as you take away that water source the water will disappear into the ground.
- **This is not only an exhausting process, but it also NEVER gets you filled up.**

Have you ever heard this statement?

"When you realize that you're digging yourself into a hole just put down the shovel!"

- Husband, when you're saying things that are getting you in trouble, just stop talking!

**Spiritually:** When we realize that we are working our own plan and it's just not working for us, let's just stop digging!

- Let's REPENT and come back to the Father.

Remember the story of the woman at the well?

### **John 4:7-15**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

That was Jeremiah's main message to them: Repent and God will forgive you and He will once again work His plan in your life.

### **Encouragement for them and for us:**

Jeremiah writes a letter to the people of Judah while they're in captivity in Babylon:

### **Jeremiah 29:10-114**

<sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Remember what Isaiah told them, "I have good news AND bad news!"

- You will be taken into captivity but The Lord WILL bring you back.

Now, we have to be careful in the way we handle this passage.

- We claim 29:11 a lot around here and it is true that God's plan for us is better than our plan for us.

- But we have to understand who this letter is written to: The Israelites that are in captivity in Babylon.
- So, if we only look at 29:11 we miss out on the part in 29:10.
- The 70 years of captivity part.
- Or the part in 13 about seeking Him with all of our hearts.

But we can see the character of God in this and it sends us to a passage that is clearly for us as God's children:

**Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God really does have a plan for each of us!

**So here is what we should learn from all of this today:**

Stolen Quote:

We are never without hope because God is never without a plan!

Even in captivity, God had a plan.

And, EVEN in what you're dealing with today... GOD HAS A PLAN!!

What is our next step?

We need to make sure our hearts are turned toward the one True God.

And, we need to trust God's plan for our Living Water and stop trying to do it on our own!

And that requires true humility and most likely some true repentance!