

Destin Church of Christ

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Chapter 17: The Kingdom's Fall

2 Kings 21; 23 – 25; 2 Chronicles 33; 36; Jeremiah 1 – 2; 4 – 5; 13; 21;
Lamentations 1 – 3; 5; Ezekiel 1 – 2; 6 – 7; 36 – 37

In Chapter 17 of *The Story*, the Northern Kingdom of Israel will disappear forever. The Southern Kingdom of Judah will be invaded by Babylon and taken captive. The city of Jerusalem and Solomon's temple will be destroyed.

There is still hope for God's plan ... His promise to bring people back to himself and accomplish his plan ... through Israel. We will examine the answer next week.

Lesson Breakdown:

- Even Worse Than Before (2 Kings 21, 23, 24; 2 Chronicles 33)
- Against the Mountains (Ezekiel 1-2, 6-7)
- Courage to Confront (Jeremiah 1-2, 4-5, 13)
- No Remedy (2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 21)
- Lament (Lamentations 1-3, 5)
- For My Holy Name (Ezekiel 36-37)

Plot Points:

- God will not tolerate a wicked nation indefinitely.
- God's people, who had been brought into the Promised Land because the former occupants were so wicked, even more evil than the Canaanites had been.
- Even if hope seems to be dead, the Lord can breathe new life into dry bones.

As you watch the video for Session 17 of *The Story*, notice some of the main points:

- ✓ People would see how life in community works.
- ✓ The story tells us Manasseh did much evil.
- ✓ "... when I am proved holy through you before their eyes."
- ✓ He already has things in mind for you if you will align your life to the Upper Story of God.
- ✓ Success is faithfulness to God, not results.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

➤ 2 Kings 21 / 2 Chronicles 33:

- Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king, and ruled Judah for 55 years. (231) [2 Kings 21:1; 2 Chronicles 33:1]

- He did evil in the sight of the Lord by rebuilding the high places and worshipping other gods. (231) [2 Kings 21:2-3; 2 Chronicles 33:2-3]
- He sacrificed his son in the fire, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. (231) [2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chronicles 33:6]
- Prophets predict Jerusalem's destruction – it will be wiped as one wipes a dish. (232) [2 Kings 21:10-13]
- Manasseh shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem. (232) [2 Kings 21:16]
- After being captured by the army of Assyria, Manasseh humbled himself and knew that the Lord is God. (232) [2 Chronicles 33:10-13]
- Manasseh died and his son Amon reigned in his place. (233) [2 Kings 21:18; 2 Chronicles 33:20]
- Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king and reigned in Jerusalem for 2 years. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not humble himself before the Lord, as his father Manasseh had. (233) [2 Kings 21:19-22; 2 Chronicles 33:21-23]
- He is killed by his servants and was replaced by Josiah. (233) [2 Kings 21:23-26; 2 Chronicles 33:24-25]

➤ 2 Kings 22 / 2 Chronicles 34:

- Josiah becomes king at 8 years old and reigned 31 years. (233) [2 Kings 22:1; 2 Chronicles 34:1]
 - He does right in the sight of the Lord and oversees the temple's repairs. (233) [2 Kings 22:2-7; 2 Chronicles 34:2, 8-13]
1. How could an 8-year-old boy reign as king?
 - Hilkiyah, the high priest, finds a book of law, which is read to the king. (233) [2 Kings 22:8; 2 Chronicles 33:14]
 2. Do we know what this Book of Law was?
 - Huldah the prophetess warns that judgment is coming against Jerusalem, but not in Josiah's time. (NIB) [2 Kings 22:14-20; 2 Chronicles 34:22-28]

➤ 2 Kings 23 / 2 Chronicles 35:

- Josiah died in battle against Pharaoh Necho of Egypt. (233) [2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicles 35:25]

3. What is unique about the reign of Josiah?

- Josiah's son Jehoahaz became king at twenty-three years of age, does evil, and lasts only three months before Necho put him in prison at Riblah. (233) [2 Kings 23:30b-33; 2 Chronicles 36:1-2]
- Necho installs Eliakim when he was twenty-five years old, but changes his name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim reigned for eleven years, and did evil in the sight of the LORD. (233) [2 Kings 23:34, 36-37; 2 Chronicles 36:5]

➤ 2 Kings 24 / 2 Chronicles 36:

- Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon make Jehoiakim his vassal and bound him in bronze shackles. (233) [2 Kings 24:1] ... (NIB) [2 Chronicles 36:6]

4. What is a vassal?

- Jehoiakim died and his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place and does evil. (234) [2 Kings 24:6, 8-9; 2 Chronicles 36:8b-9]

5. At what age was Jehoiachin when he began his reign? (234) [2 Kings 24:8; 2 Chronicles 36:9]

6. How long did Jehoiachin reign? (234)

- Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon besieged Jerusalem and takes captive Jehoiachin, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers, all the craftsmen, and the costly articles from the temple. (234) [2 Kings 24:10-16]
- Nebuchadnezzar made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king, and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, reigned eleven years, and did evil in the sight of the LORD. (234) [2 Kings 24:17-19; 2 Chronicles 36:10-12]

- (235) [Ezekiel 1:1, 4-6, 22-28]
Ezekiel has a vision of the four living creatures with four wings, each touching the wing of another, and faces of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. Above them, from a whirlwind from the north, Ezekiel sees the appearance of a man sitting on a throne.
 - (236) [Ezekiel 2:1-4, 6-7]
God addresses Ezekiel and urges him to rebuke the people and gives him a scroll filled with words of lamentation.
 - (236-237) [Ezekiel 6:1-10]
Ezekiel sets his face towards the mountains and prophesies against Israel. Those who survive will realize their wrongdoings and turn to God.
 - (237) [Ezekiel 7:5, 7-8]
God promises to punish the people by bringing a day of wrath upon them. Most of the people will die and the survivors will be miserable.
 - (237-238) [Jeremiah 1:4-10, 18-19]
The Lord tells Jeremiah that before he was born he was appointed a prophet. Jeremiah is anxious and cannot speak, so the Lord puts the words in his mouth. An evil shall come against the inhabitants of Judah, but Jeremiah will be protected.
7. How is Jeremiah described on page 238? [Jeremiah 13:17]
- (238-239) [Jeremiah 2:4, 11-13, 20-22, 26-28]
Having forsaken the Lord and gone after other gods, Israel has become a corrupt and wild vine. They worship wood and stone while sinfully presuming they are innocent.
8. How many gods did Judah have? (239) [Jeremiah 2:28]
- (NIB) ... Jeremiah 3
 - (239-240) [Jeremiah 4:5-8]
Jeremiah warns the men of Judah and Jerusalem to change their hearts. He warns them about Babylon's future invasion and urges them to return to the Lord.
 - (240) [Jeremiah 5:1]
The Lord will punish Jerusalem for its sins. It will be destroyed by a strange nation whose tongue is unknown. The Lord will not protect it.
9. What was the Lord's offer to Jeremiah? (240) [Jeremiah 5:1]

- (240) [Jeremiah 13:17-19]
Israel is likened to a dirty loincloth worn by Jeremiah. The Lord promises the king and queen mother that their people will be exiled. Jeremiah says he will weep for the people because of their pride. The Lord berates the people for their inability to change, just as an Ethiopian cannot change his skin and a leopard its spots.
- (241) [2 Chronicles 36:15-16]
The LORD sent warnings to the people via His messengers, because He had compassion for them, but they mocked the messengers. The LORD arose against His people until there was no remedy.
- (241) [2 Chronicles 36:13-14] (NIB) [2 Kings 24:20]
Zedekiah rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD. All the leaders of the priests and the people defiled the temple.
- (241) [2 Kings 25:1-3]
Nebuchadnezzar's army surrounds Jerusalem again. There's a bad famine in the city and there was no food for the people.
- (242) [Jeremiah 21:1-10]
Jeremiah warns king Zedekiah that Jerusalem will be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Those who stay in the city will die, but those who go out and submit to the Chaldeans shall live.

10. Why did Zedekiah ask for one more inquiry of the Lord? (242) [Jeremiah 21:1-2]

- So Jerusalem falls, the temple is destroyed, and the people are deported.
- The Jews were held captive in Babylon for 70 years. (NIB) [Jeremiah 25:12]
- Their captivity ended when Cyrus, king of Persia, permitted them to return and rebuild the temple. (263) [Ezra 1:1]
- (242-243) [2 Kings 25:4-12, 21b]
Jerusalem's walls are broken through. The sons of Zedekiah are killed, and Zedekiah himself blinded and taken prisoner. Nebuchadnezzar destroys the temple and the city, taking valuables and people to Babylon. Judah was taken captive.

Each of the first four chapters of Lamentations is an acrostic poem. In chapters 1, 2, and 4, each verse begins with a successive letter of the Greek alphabet. Though chapter 5 has 22 verses as well, it does not follow the acrostic pattern. In chapter 3, every third of the 66 verses begin with successive Greek letters. The acrostic pattern serves as a memory device so the Israelites would not forget the lessons written in the Book of Lamentations.

- (243-244) [Lamentations 1:1-3]
An acrostic lament. A narrator describes Jerusalem's abandonment. Once full of people, he calls it desolate, and describes how its beauty has departed.
- (244) [Lamentations 2:17]
An acrostic lament. The Lord has burned against Judah like a flaming fire. The Lord is now an enemy. He has taken away his tabernacle. His presence has departed.
- (244-245) [Lamentations 3:21-26]
An acrostic poem with each letter taking up three verses. The speaker complains about his miserable state, encourages others to turn to God, leads them in a prayer, and begs God to punish his enemies with a vengeance.
- NIB ... Lamentations 4:
An acrostic lament. The speaker describes Jerusalem in lurid detail. He leads a communal prayer and curses the Edomites.
- (245) [Lamentations 5:1, 15-16, 19-21]
Not an acrostic lament. The people complain about their wretched state, admit their guilt, and ask God to restore their previous glory.
- (245-246) [Ezekiel 36:22-28, 33-36]
The mountains of Judah will be rid of their alien occupants and their idolatries. The Israelites will be restored after the Babylonian captivity, so that the Lord can impress the nations of the world.
- (246-247) [Ezekiel 37:1-14]
In the midst of a valley full of dry bones, Ezekiel speaks a prophetic message to the dry bones. The bones join together and become covered with flesh. God tells Ezekiel to take two sticks, one representing Judah and the other Israel, and promises to unite the two.

Next week, we'll look at the story of Daniel and how the Lord showed favor on his people. Read chapter 18 of *The Story* before our next class. Daniel 1 – 3; 6; Jeremiah 29 – 31

Homework: What part in God's Upper Story did Azariah, Belshazzar, Hananiah, and Michael play?