

## Divided Kingdom (South) Judah

### Lesson # 9

#### **Introduction:**

In today's lesson we will take a look at southern Israel (Judah). This lesson will have three parts. First will be Judah's pre-captivity kings, second will be captivity in Babylon and third will be return and restoration. It's important to remember that Judah is the line of Christ and that God has promised King David's throne to always be filled. Judah (now the only Israel) will be taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylonians and Jerusalem will be destroyed. After 70 years of captivity in Babylon God provides a way and the means for Israel to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and temple.

#### **Lesson:**

##### I. Judah's pre-captivity Kings (Numbering 19)

-(Only one Dynasty, house of David)

-Capital was Jerusalem

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rehoboam (evil)         | 11. Ahaz (one of the worst)     |
| 2. Abijam (evil)           | 12. Hezekiah (one of the best)  |
| 3. Asa (good)              | 13. Manasseh (the worst of all) |
| 4. Jehoshaphat (good)      | 14. Amon (evil)                 |
| 5. Jehoviah (one of worst) | 15. Josiah (the best)           |
| 6. Ahaziah (evil)          | 16. Jehoahaz (evil)             |
| 7. Joash (good and bad)    | 17. Jehoiakim (evil)            |
| 8. Amaziah (good and bad)  | 18. Jehoiachin (evil)           |
| 9. Uzziah (good)           | 19. Zedekiah (evil)             |
| 10. Jotham (good)          |                                 |

-Prophets during this time

**\*Message of sin, destruction, exile, restoration and the coming of the Messiah to save the world.**

-Obadiah

-Your pride has deceived you who live in the cleft of the rock and said who can bring us down. Obadiah verse 3

-Strong warning to people who help God's enemies including relatives (Edom descendants of Esau)

-Joel

-Call for devotion

-God is slow to anger

-Plague of locust will come as judgment of God

-God seen as trampling out the grapes

-Holy spirit prophecy Joel 2:28

-Isaiah

- Chapters 1-35 judgment prophecies
- Chapters 40-66 comfort prophecies
- God called other nations to destroy Judah Isa. 5:2
- Isaiah naked for three years Isa. 20:1-2
- Sovereignty of God Isa 40
- Seek the Lord while he may be found. Isa 55:6
- Isa. 52:13-15 & 53:1-12 is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
- Isa 59:1-2 Sin has separated you from God
- God is the potter and we are the clay Isa. 45:9-13
  
- Micah
  - Ruler to come from Bethlehem, Jesus Mic. 5:2
  - Message that social justice is required Mic. 2:1-2, 8-9
  - The Lord will triumph Mic. 4:1-3, 5:2-4
  - Mic. 6:8 God requires you to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.
- Nahum
  - Lord's judgment on Nineveh
  - Assyria might be God's vessel to judge his people but they will be punished for it.
- Zephaniah
  - Theme: Day of the Lord
    - Judgment coming
    - Great Danger
    - Call to repentance Zeph. 2:1-3
- Habakkuk
  - God told him Babylonians would punish God's people
  - Righteous would live by faith Hab. 2:4
  - Lords in his Holy temple let all the earth keep silent before Him.
- Jeremiah
  - Had to announce the 70 years of captivity to come Jer. 25:9-11
  - Jeremiah Questions God
    - You deceived your people Jer. 4:10-12
    - Why do wicked prosper Jer. 12:1-4
  - Mocked, beaten and imprisoned Jer. 38:7-12
  - Israel as a prostitute Jer. 2:20-22
  - Weeping prophet
    - Sorry he was born Jer. 20:14-18
  - Wrote Lamentations
  - Jer. 31:31-34 New covenant with Israel (shadow of NT)

## II. Captivity of Judah - 586 BC

- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took Judah into captivity deporting them to Babylon
- 70 years of captivity
- Synagogue's established Eze 14:1 & 20:1
- Psalms 137 Hung their harps upon a tree and refused to play music

-Prophets during this time

-Ezekiel (During Babylonian Captivity)

- \*Message of book stated over and over "Then you will know that I am the Lord"
- Shepherds of Israel judged Eze 34:1-10
- Valley of dry bones Eze 37:1-14
- Gog and Magog Eze 38 & 39
  - Apocalyptic language used to describe the major battle of good and evil
- Great temple (shadow?) Eze 40
- Law of sin and death Eze. 18:20 The soul that sins is the one that dies.

-Daniel (During Babylonian Captivity)

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue Daniel 2
  - Gold head = King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
  - Silver arms and chest = Kingdom of Medes and Persians
  - Bronze belly and thighs = Greek kingdoms of Alexander the Great and his successors
  - Iron legs and feet = Roman empire
  - \*Rock cut out of the mountain not made by hands = Kingdom of God which is Jesus's Church
- Jesus pictured as coming on the clouds Daniel 7:1-14
- 70 7's Daniel 9
  - From Captivity till Christ would be 70 7's
    - Starting from the letter of authorization to Ezra 458 BC and going 69 of the seventy sevens would put us at AD 25. This is the exact year Jesus was baptized and began his ministry. Christ was 30 years old in AD 25.
    - In the midst of the 70<sup>th</sup> seven (31/2 years) the Messiah was to be cut off and have nothing Daniel 9:26
      - This is the exact year and time that Jesus died upon the cross.

-Job

- \*Major point no way to go before God
- Need an arbitrator between me and God Job 9:32-35

- If a man dies will he live again? Job 14:13-17
- He needs an intercessor who pleads for him Job 16:18-21
- Know that my redeemer lives Job 19:23-27

### III. Return and Restoration of Jerusalem

- Cyrus King of Persia took control of Babylon
  - Let the Israelites go back to Jerusalem Ezra 1:3
  - 538 BC
  - Gave Money to rebuild temple Ezra 6:1-5
  - Returned temple articles kept by the Babylonians Ezra 1:7-11
- King Darius successor to Cyrus to help Israel as well by keeping Cyrus' decree
- Ezra and Nehemiah
  - Both are men of God during the building of the temple
  - Mixed emotions Ezra 3:12,13 & Neh. 13:1-3
  - Enemies tried to discourage them Ezra 4:4,5 & Neh. Ch 4,6
  - Zerubbael is the builder Ezra 5:1,2
  - Also governor
- Ester
  - This book helps us remember the deliverance of the Jewish people during the reign of Xerxes
  - Helps us see that God is faithful
- Prophets during this time
  - Haggai (After Babylonian Captivity)
    - Shows consequences of disobedience Haggai 1:6,11; 2:16-17
    - and obedience Haggai 2:7-9,19
    - Chapter 2 speaks of the coming of the Messiah called "the desired of all nations"
  - Zechariah (After Babylonian Captivity)
    - Purpose is to rebuke the people and encourage them to complete the temple Zech 4:8-10
    - Spiritual renewal
    - Eight night visions
      - Purpose Return to me I'll return to you Zech 1:3,5-6
      - Messianic prophecy (Jesus riding on donkey) Zech 9:9-14
      - Messianic Chapters 9-14
  - Malachi (After Babylonian Captivity)
    - Rebukes their doubt of God's Love Malachi 1:2-5
    - Warns of final Judgment Malachi 4:1-5
    - Charge to Remember the Law of Moses Malachi 4:4

-Prophet Elijah will be sent Malachi 4:5-6

Psalms of Restored Nation

-Psalms 78,107,116,118,125,126,128,129,132,147,149

Conclusion:

What a story. God tells us in Hebrews that he disciplines those that he loves. The line of Judah has been preserved in order to make way for the King who would sit on the throne of David for all time Jesus the Messiah. God's wonderful mercy and infinite grace has walked every step of the old testament with his remnant.