**Fellowship Church, Adult Sunday School Handout**  **August 9, 2020 / W.H**.

Series: The Kings of Israel: Lessons, Admonitions, and Wisdom (10 of 12 series)

**Title:**  1 Good King and 4 Evil Kings, and the High Places **Text:** II Kings 22-25

**Background:** United Kingdom (foundations), Divided Kingdoms (good and evil), and the good Prophets (wisdom)

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| **Josiah (REL + Heart) 31 years.** 2Ki 22:1-23:30.1. Did Right in the Eyes of the LORD (REL), walked in way of David (Heart), **turned not** to right or left (best), 22:22. While repairing the temple, 22:3-7 found the book of the law (at least Deuteronomy), heard and feared, 22:8-133. Burned the false worship items from the temple, in Jerusalem, Judah, and Israel – includes burning incense in high places of Judah. Broke the houses of the sodomites near the temple, where women wove hangings for the grove. Removed horses and chariots offered to the sun. 23:1-12.4. Removed the high places Solomon built for other gods, broke the images and cut down the groves, 23:13-14.5. Removes altar at Bethel, cleanses Samaria, and slew all the priests of their high places and altars, 23:15-206. Celebrated the Passover Feast, best since the time of Judges. Remover those with familiar spirits and wizards7. Died in battle with the king of Egypt, Pharaoh-nechoh, at Megiddo 23:26-30 Armageddon – Christ’s 2nd Coming.   |
| Jehoahaz (EEL) (to Egypt) 3 months.2 Ki 23:31-33. Did Evil in the Eyes of the LORD (EEL), as his fathers. Pharaoh-nechoh took captive to Egypt, taxed the land, and appointed Jehoiakim son of Josiah as king. |
| Jehoiakim (EEL) (to Babylon) 11 years. 2Ki 23:34-24:7. Did Evil in the Eyes of the LORD (EEL), as his fathers. Taxed the people to give to Pharaoh-nechoh. Later served Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon for 3 years, then rebelled against Babylon. Victory given to Babylon as prophets said & due to the sins of Manasseh. Ezekiel captive.  |
| Jehoiachin (EEL) (to Babylon) 3 months. 2Ki 24:8-16. Did Evil in the Eyes of the LORD (EEL), as his fathers. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, takes treasures from the temple and 10,000 captives (includes Daniel), and appoints Zedekiah as king.  |
| Zedekiah (EEL) (to Babylon) 11 years. 2Ki 24:18-25:21. Did Evil in the Eyes of the LORD (EEL), as Jehoiakim.The anger of the LORD caused Zedekiah to rebel against Babylon. Babylon besieges Jerusalem for 18 months, then destroys Jerusalem and the temple, and takes more people and treasure to Babylon. |
| Gedaliah appointed Governor (by Babylon) 4-5 yrs. 2Ki 25:22-26. His father Ahikam was an elder who saved Jeremiah’s life 15 years earlier. Jeremiah 26. Those who believed Jeremiah were blessed.  |

Legend: REL = Right in the Eyes of the LORD. EEL = Evil in the Eyes of the LORD.

**3. Application:** What are the high places of Judah today? Include images, altars, and groves? We must identify and destroy our high places for true revival. We must learn from and follow the example of Josiah.

Take us the foxes, the little foxes that that spoil the vines: for our vines [have] tender grapes. Song of Songs 2:5.

Some high places today in the U.S.A.: weak teaching, comfort, entertainment, emotion, personal sin of all sorts, personal time management. Rev 3:18-20 Buy of me gold and white raiment, and anoint your eyes with eyesalve.

**1 John 5:21 (KJV)** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. May we learn from the life of Josiah, a type of Christ.

**1st Repair your temple**

**2nd Find and Read your Bible, and Repent**

**3rd Destroy your false gods (from most evil to “acceptable” high places)**

 **4th Fellowship with the saints**

Next Sunday, August 16: Wisdom from the Prophets in 2 Kings (11 of 12) **Text:** II Kings

Elisha, Jonah, Hosea, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Huldah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Lamentations

Wednesday: Hebrews: Five Passages to Strengthen our Prayer Life (2, 4, 6, 10, 12)

 (Some churches teach we can lose our salvation using these same five passages)

**2 Kings 18:5. Commentaries**

5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor [any] that were before him. 6 For he clave to the LORD, [and] departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.

**Cokes Commentary. After him was none like him among all the kings of Judah.**—This does not contradict what is said of Josiah (**2Ki** 23:25). Hezekiah was preeminent for his *trust* in Jehovah, Josiah for his *strict adherence to the Mosaic Law.*

**John Gill. nor any that were before him**; David and Solomon are not to be excepted; David sinning in the case of Uriah, and Solomon falling into idolatry, crimes that Hezekiah was not guilty of.

**Matthew Poole.** **He trusted in the Lord God of Israel,** without calling in foreign and heathenish succours to stablish or help him; which his father Ahaz did, **2Ki** 16:7; **Isa** 7; and before him Asa, **1Ki** 15:18-19, with reflection upon whom this seems to be noted.

Hezekiah removed the high places, wherein Josiah did alsoe, **2Ki** 23. Hezekiah’s son Manasseh repented later in his life and followed Hezekiah - **Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, [yet] unto the LORD their God only.**

[**2 Kings**](#Kings2)**Chapter 22 *Josiah 16th King of Judah (22:1-23:30, 2 Chr 34:1-35:27) 31 yrs***

##### *First, Shaphan the Scribe sent to Rebuild the House of the LORD (today we are the temple)*

(47) 1 Josiah was **eight years** old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. 2 And he did [that which was] right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 And it came to pass in the **eighteenth year** of king Josiah, [that] the king sent **Shaphan** the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, **the scribe**, to the house of the LORD, saying, 4 “Go up to **Hilkiah the high priest**, that he may sum the **silver** which is brought into the house of the LORD, which **the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:** 5 And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house, 6 To carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.” 7 **Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.**

##### *Second, The Book of the Law Found then Read by Scribe Shaphan and Josiah Repents for the People*

(48) 8 And Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, **I have found the** a **book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.** 9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD. 10 And **Shaphan the scribe** showed the king, saying, **Hilkiah the priest** has **delivered me a book.** And **Shaphan read it before the king.**  11 And it came to pass, **when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he tore his clothes.** 12 And the **king commanded Hilkiah the priest**, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achborthe son of Michaiah, and **Shaphan the scribe,** and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, 13 **Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found**: for **great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that which is written concerning us.**

a Shapan the scribe read the scroll to the king, Deuteronomy (2.5 hours) or the whole law of Moses (14 hours). Hebrew is fewer words so estimate at 2 hours or 12 hours.

##### *Huldah the Prophetess foretells Judgment on the People and Peace for Josiah’s Time*

14 So **Hilkiah** the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and **Shaphan**, and Asahiah, **went to** a **Huldah the prophetess,** the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the **wardrobe;** **(now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the b college;)** and they communed with her. 15 And she said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, 16 Thus says the LORD, Behold, **I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, [even] all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read: 17 Because they have forsaken me,** and have **burned incense to other gods,** that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.

18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus says the LORD God of Israel, [As concerning] the words which you have heard; **19 Because your heart was tender, and you have humbled thyself before the LORD, when you heard what I spoke against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and has tore your clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard [you], says the LORD.** 20 Behold therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered into your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place.” And they brought the king word again.

a Jeremiah was a boy and not called as a prophet until the 13th year of Josiah, 3 years later (Jeremiah 1:2, 6). To know this is true is called “inductive Bible study” based on the whole counsel of God and line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little (Isaiah 28:10-13). Kay Arthur is known for inductive Bible study and teaching. Personal and not inspired knowledge comes from “deductive Bible studying and reasoning.”

b Bishop’s Bible translates “house of doctrine” that was near the temple according to notes in the Geneva Bible. The sons of the prophets and those studying the Scripture met there. Some translate “the second part of the city.”

**Geneva Bible comment: g.** Or the house of doctrine, which was near the temple, and where the learned assembled to search the scriptures and the doctrine of the prophets.

**Through the Bible Day by Day (F. B. Meyer)** **2 Kings 22:14**

**HEARKENING TO THE MESSAGE** **2Ki 22:14-23:4**

Josiah's fears were deeply stirred by the evils which the Law of the Lord clearly indicated as imminent, and he immediately sent for advice to the prophetess Huldah, who was held in great veneration. Her answer was full of gentle kindness. Though the king's punishment could not be averted, it should nevertheless be postponed. How quick is God to notice the tears of genuine contrition and to meet the soul that seeks to do His will! If only the whole nation had been equally repentant, its fate would have doubtless been altered.

**Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible** **2 Kings 22:14**

Ver. 14. **Unto Huldah the prophetess;** for we read of women prophetesses, both in the Old and New Testament; as Miriam, **Ex** 15:20, Deborah, **Jg** 4:4, Hannah, **1Sa** 2, Elisabeth, and the blessed Virgin, **Lu** 1, and Philip's daughters, **Ac** 21:9.

A true prophet delivers the mind and counsel of God to those that inquired of her, they rightly concluded that it was much more considerable what message God sent, than by whom it was conveyed to them. *In the college*; where the sons of the prophets, or others who devoted themselves to the study of God's word, used to meet and discourse of the things of God, and receive the instructions of their teachers. Others both ancient and modern render it, in another or the second part, to wit, of the city, i.e. in the suburbs, which also were fortified and walled about by Hezekiah, **2Ch** 32:5.

**John Trapp's Commentary on the Old and New Testaments** **2 Kings 22:14**

The Hebrews call Deuteronomy, Mishneh Torah, the repetition of the law. **You shall be gathered to your grave in peace**: Though Josiah died in battle, there are at least three ways that this was true. He died before the great spiritual disaster and exile came to Judah. He died in God’s favor, though by the hand of an enemy.

[**2 Kings**](#Kings2)**Chapter 23**

##### *Third, Josiah Reads the Bible to the People and Destroys False Worship of other gods*

(49) 1 And the king sent, and they **gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.** 2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and **he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD**. 3 **And** the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with **all [their] heart and all [their] soul,** to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book.And all the people stood to the covenant. 4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, **and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem** in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them to Bethel. 5 And **he put down the idolatrous priests,** whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense to Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. 6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and **burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped [it] small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.**

**7 And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that [were] by the house of the LORD,** where the women wove hangings for the grove.8 And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that [were] in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which [were] on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. 9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren. 10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. 11 And he **took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun,** at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and **burned the chariots of the sun with fire.** 12 And the altars that [were] on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from there, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. 13 And the high places that [were] before Jerusalem, which [were] on the right hand of the a mount of corruption, which **Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile**. 14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

Grove in verse 4 are trees planted near an altar to worship false gods. Deuteronomy16:21 forbids groves in high places as part of the altar system to worship false gods.

a Mount of Olives, south side.

##### *Josiah Continues Cleansing in Israel and Honors the Man of God (prophet) who spoke at Bethel to Jeroboam*

15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, [and] the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place **he brake down, and burned the high place, [and] stamped [it] small to powder, and burned the grove.** 16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that [were] there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the a man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, [It is] the sepulcher of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. 18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria. 19 And all the houses also of the high places that [were] in the **cities of Samaria**, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke [the LORD] to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in **Bethel**. 20 And **he slew all the priests of the high places that [were] there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them**, and returned to Jerusalem.

a 1 Kings 13:1-31, The Man of God, Jeroboam and the Old Prophet in Bethel prophesy 130 years earlier. Remember that Jeroboam’s hand was withered and healed, the old prophet from Bethel convinced to stop on return trip home and disobey the LORD, and even Josiah’s name was foretold, 13:3.

##### *Josiah Returns to Jerusalem and Re-institutes Passover Feast and Continues Cleansing*

21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, **Keep the passover** to the LORD your God, as [it is] written in the book of this covenant. 22 Surely there was not held such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; 23 But in the **eighteenth year** of king Josiah, [wherein] this passover was held to the LORD in Jerusalem. 24 Moreover the [workers with] **familiar spirits, and the wizards**, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might **perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. 25 And like to him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there [any] like him.**

##### *Impending Judgment and Josiah Dies in Battle*

(50) 26 Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, **because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him with.** 27 And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there. 28 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 29 In his days a **Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt** went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and **he slew him at Megiddo**, when he had seen him. 30 And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulcher. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

a Why did Josiah go against Pharaoh-nechoh, king of Egypt? Did it have to do with the ark of the covenant which the Levites hid from the destruction of Manasseh? Josiah commanded the Levites to get the ark of the covenant in 3:3, however there is no evidence they did. Pharaoh-nechoh is an Ethopian, 26th dynasty of Pharaoh. Conclusion: The ark of the covenant was taken by the Levites to Egypt. Even if the ark still exists in Ethopia, it is only a box with the image of two angels, same as the brass (or bronze or copper) snake which Hezekiah destroyed. Things of the past where God has worked worshipped in the present are idols in “high places”. We can learn and be admonished, but not idolize.

*Jehoahaz 17th King of Judah (23:31-33, 2 Chr 36:5-8) Evil for 3 months*

31 Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32 And he did [that which was] evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. 33 And **Pharaoh-nechoh put him in bands** at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a **tax of a hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.**

*Jehoiakim 18th King of Judah (23:34-24:7, 2 Chr 36:5-8) Evil for 11 yrs*

34 And **Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim,** and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.

35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: **he exacted the silver and the gold of the people** of the land, of everyone according to his taxation, to give [it] to Pharaoh-nechoh. 36 Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. 37 And he did [that which was] evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

[**2 Kings**](#Kings2)**Chapter 24**

##### *Judah Overrun by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon 1st time - 604 BC*

(51) 1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and **Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.** 2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servants the prophets. 3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came [this] upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; 4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon. 5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead. 7 And the king of Egypt came not again anymore out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

*Jehoiachin 19th King of Judah (24:8-16, 2 Chr 36:9-10) Evil for 3 months 2nd time – 598 BC*

8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did [that which was] evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. 11 And **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.** 12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

(52) 13 **And he carried out there all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD**, a as the LORD had said. 14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, [even] **ten thousand captives**, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. 15 And **he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, [those] carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.** 16 And all the men of might, [even] seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all [that were] strong [and] apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

a refer to **2 Kings** 20:17 with Hezekiah, **Isaiah** 39:6, and to the sayings of other prophets, e.g., **Jeremiah** 15:13; 17:3.

Zedekiah 20th King of Judah (24:18-25:21, 2 Chr 36:11-21) Evil for 11 yrs

17 **And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.**  18 Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19 And he did [that which was] evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. 20 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

[**2 Kings**](#Kings2)**Chapter 25 *The Fall and Captivity of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar 3rd time - 586 B.C.***

(53) 1 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth [day] of the month, [that] Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about. 2 And the city was a besieged to the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. 3 And on the ninth [day] of the [fourth] month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. 4 And the city was broken up, and all the men of war [fled] by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees [were] against the city round about:) and [the king] went the way toward the plain. 5 And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him. 6 So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. 7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon. 8 And in the fifth month, on the seventh [day] of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, to Jerusalem: 9 And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great [man's] house burnt he with fire. 10 And all the army of the Chaldees, that [were with] the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. 11 Now the rest of the people [that were] left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away. 12 But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land [to be] vinedressers and husbandmen. 13 And the pillars of brass that [were] in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brazen sea that was in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon. 14 And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away. 15 And the fire pans, and the bowls, [and] such things as [were] of gold, [in] gold, and of silver, [in] silver, the captain of the guard took away. 16 The two pillars, one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD; the brass of all these vessels was without weight. 17 The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the capital upon it was brass: and the height of the capital three cubits; and the wreathen work, and pomegranates upon the capital round about, all of brass: and like to these had the second pillar with wreathen work. 18 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door: 19 And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land [that were] found in the city: 20 And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah: 21 And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land.

a The siege lasted almost exactly a year and a half. Its calamities - famine, pestilence, and intense suffering - are best understood from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, written probably almost immediately after the capture.

*Gedaliah a Friend of Jeremiah is made Governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar*

(56) 22 And [as for] the people that remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, ruler. 23 And when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made a Gedaliah governor, there came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Careah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophasite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachasite, they and their men. 24 And Gedaliah swore to them, and to their men, and said to them, Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you. 25 But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah. 26 And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose, and came to Egypt: for they were afraid of the Chaldees.

QT Note:

Q1 – Were Jeremiah and Gedaliah obedient to the will of God by supporting Nebuchadnezzar?
A – Yes, because Israel disobeyed God’s Word more and more until the time of mercy is finished and punishment is just. (25:23-24)
Q2 – Can the U.S.A today be compared to the times of Jeremiah?
A – Yes, president Obama promoted our going the way of Sodom and Gomorrah, as in the times of Noah.

Application: I know that God raises and lowers kings and kingdoms in His time. Believing God is in control and knows all things for the individual person and the future allows me to respect and trust in His perfect love and holiness.

QT hint: Daily time in Scripture and prayer help us discern the times and recognize the judgment of God on His people and still rejoice. The process of rejoicing is clearly revealed in the book of Habakkuk.

a A friend of Jeremiah that was left in Jerusalem with Jeremiah who was for Babylon. It is believed that Jeremiah wrote 1 and 2 Kings because of the ending, he had the resources and availability and saw the need to write what God put upon his heart.

##### *Jehoiachin Released from Prison*

27 And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth [day] of the month, [that] a Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison; 28 And he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that [were] with him in Babylon; 29 And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life. 30 And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

aSon of Nebuchadnezzar.

**QUESTIONS IN 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles (The Divided Kingdom)** [**Bible TOC**](#TheHolyScriptures)

1. Who wrote 1 and 2 Kings?

Jeremiah or Baruch his scribe.

1. Who wrote 1 & 2 Chronicles?

Ezra the scribe.

1. What is the wickedness of Jezebel as recalled in Revelation 2?
2. What can the prophets of Elijah and Elisha be referred to?

Prophet of Fire and water. Discipleship.

1. What happened in Hezekiah’s last 15 years that was not pleasing to God?
2. Name 10 prophets from this period of time. Put in order as much as possible and who they spoke to.
3. Why did Josiah go into battle with Pharaoh-nechoh?

1. When did the ark of the covenant come up missing? Where did it go?
2. How many kings reigned over Israel? Who was the best king of Israel? The worse?
3. How many kings reigned over Judah? Who was the best king? The worse?

Victorious Christian Living Truth: Make a resolution to destroy and not permit evil as Josiah did.