

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 333 – Zedekiah Through The Death Of Jehoiachin (Jeremiah 52:1-34)

1. Did Zedekiah obey God?

No: *“(1) Zedekiah was one and twenty 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. (2) And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (3) For through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon” (Jeremiah 52:1-3).*

- 21 years old when he began to reign (**II Kings 24:18** and **II Chronicles 36:11**).
- He did evil (**II Kings 24:19-20**).
- *“And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and **humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD” (II Chronicles 36:12)**. Cf. **James 4:6-10***
- He following Jehoiakim’s practices which were so evil that the Lord wipe his seed from the throne (**Jeremiah 36:29-31**).
- God acted through anger (**Isaiah 1:4**, **Jeremiah 4:8**, **Daniel 9:16**, **Nahum 1:3**, and **Nahum 1:6**).
- In rebelling against the king of Babylon he disobeyed God as well (**Jeremiah 27:1-14**, **Jeremiah 38:17-19**, **Jeremiah 40:9**, and **Jeremiah 42:10-18**).

2. Were the men of war in Israel capable of holding off Nebuchadrezzar’s invasion?

No, they suffered famine, were surrounded, and fled by night: *“(4) And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about. (5) So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. (6) And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land. (7) Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans were by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain” (Jeremiah 52:4-7).*

- **II Kings 25:1-7** and **Ezekiel 24:1**
- God long ago warned Israel that He’d bring punishment and even their enemies upon them if they erred (**Leviticus 26:21-25**).
- Famine that was HORRIBLE (**Jeremiah 19:8-9** and **Jeremiah 21:9**; cf. **Lamentations 4:4-6**).
- God told them they wouldn’t escape (**Jeremiah 34:2-3**).
- He also, long ago, told them they’d be defeated in their transgressions and flee before their enemies seven ways (**Deuteronomy 28:25**).

3. What happened to Zedekiah and his sons?

They were captured when they fled. His sons were killed. He was taken captive in Babylon till his death: *“(8) But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him. (9) Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him. (10) And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah. (11) Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death” (Jeremiah 52:8-11).*

- There is no deliverance when God hath ordained judgment as safety, under the Old Law, belonged to those who chose to be His people (**Psalms 33:8-22**).

4. What happened when Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, came to Jerusalem?

He burned the houses of the Lord, king, and people. He broke down the walls around Jerusalem. He took captives. He left some of the poor to tend to the care for the vines and fields. He looted the temple. *“(12) Now in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, which served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem, (13) And burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire: (14) And all the army of the Chaldeans, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down all the walls of Jerusalem round about. (15) Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive certain of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude. (16) But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left certain of the poor of the land for vinedressers and for husbandmen. (17) Also the pillars of brass that were in the house of the Lord, and the bases, and the brasen sea that was in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans brake, and carried all the brass of them to Babylon. (18) The caldrons also, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the bowls, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away. (19) And the basons, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the caldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups; that which was of gold in gold, and that which was of silver in silver, took the captain of the guard away. (20) The two pillars, one sea, and twelve brasen bulls that were under the bases, which king Solomon had made in the house of the Lord: the brass of all these vessels was without weight. (21) And concerning the pillars, the height of one pillar was eighteen cubits; and a fillet of twelve cubits did compass it; and the thickness thereof was four fingers: it was hollow. (22) And a chapter of brass was upon it; and the height of one chapter was five cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the chapters round about, all of brass. The second pillar also and the pomegranates were like unto these. (23) And there were ninety and six pomegranates on a side; and all the pomegranates upon the network were an hundred round about” (Jeremiah 52:12-23).*

- Nebuzaradan carried the captives away (**II Kings 25:20** and **Jeremiah 39:9**).
- He burned the house of the Lord, king's house, etc. Why, outside of their disobedience? Especially the Lord's house. Answer (**Lamentations 2:7** and **Ezekiel 7:20-22**).
- Broken walls, fire damage (**Nehemiah 1:3**).
- Nebuzaradan also left some in Jerusalem under Gedaliah the son of Ahikam (**Jeremiah 43:6**) as vinedressers and husbandmen (**Jeremiah 52:16**).
- All the things of the temple were carried away or destroyed by those whom the Lord had not allowed to enter (**Jeremiah 20:1-5** and **Lamentations 1:10**).

5. What happened to Seraiah, Zephaniah, the keepers of the door, the eunuch in charge of the men of war, the principle scribe of the host, etc.?

They were brought to the king of Babylon and put to death: *“(24) And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door: (25) He took also out of the city an eunuch, which had the charge of the men of war; and seven men of them that were near the king's person, which were found in the city; and the principal scribe of the host, who mustered the people of the land; and threescore men of the people of the land, that were found in the midst of the city. (26) So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah. (27) And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land”* (**Jeremiah 52:24-27**).

- **II Kings 25:18-21**
- The leaders caused them to err (**Isaiah 3:12**, **Isaiah 3:16**, and **Jeremiah 5:31**).
- They are paying for it (**Jeremiah 19:7**).

6. Did the carrying away of the captives to Babylon happen at all once?

No: *“(28) This is the people whom Nebuchadrezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year three thousand Jews and three and twenty: (29) In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty and two persons: (30) In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadrezzar Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons were four thousand and six hundred”* (**Jeremiah 52:28-30**).

- This was a designed process (**Jeremiah 16:16**).

7. What happened with Jehoiachin, king of Judah?

He was taken from prison by Evilmerodach and treated well all the days of his life: *“(31) And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the first year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison, (32)*

And spake kindly unto him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon, (33) And changed his prison garments: and he did continually eat bread before him all the days of his life. (34) And for his diet, there was a continual diet given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life” (Jeremiah 52:31-34).

- **II Kings 25:27-30**
- This is not God’s doing to benefit Jehoiachin because he was righteous (i.e. **Proverbs 16:7**). The fact is, he wasn’t righteous (**II Chronicles 36:9**).