



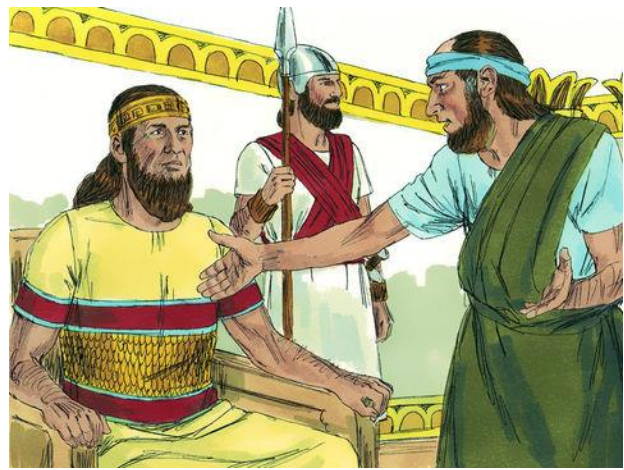
L3L46: Isaiah and the King

2 Kings 15-20

Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the Kingdom of Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel had not listened to the warnings of the prophets to turn from their evil practices, so God allowed them to be conquered and taken into captivity by the mighty Assyrian empire. God told Isaiah to warn the people of Judah that if they did not give up their idolatry and fully turn to God He would allow them to suffer the same consequences that Israel had suffered. King Hezekiah was on the throne at the time when the Assyrians conquered the northern Kingdom. Though his father Ahaz had been an evil king, Hezekiah was determined to follow God. He understood that the Assyrians would soon be coming after Judah, but he also remembered God's promises, of which Isaiah helped remind him at a most decisive moment in the history of the kingdom of Judah.

Discuss:

- There is a parallel account of the story of King Hezekiah in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 36-39). Compare the account with the one in 2 Kings. Does Isaiah add any details to the story?
- How was King Hezekiah different from the three previous kings of Judah? Why do you think God was with him (2 Kings 18:7)?
- When the Assyrian King Sennacherib threatened to destroy Jerusalem how did Hezekiah express his dependence on God? How can we use this example to put our hearts into our prayers when we talk to God?
- What was God's response to Hezekiah's prayer about the armies of Assyria?
- What bad news did Isaiah bring to King Hezekiah? What did Hezekiah do after hearing this news?
- What miracle did God perform to show Hezekiah that his prayer was heard?
- Did Isaiah have good news for the people of Judah? What things did God charge against Judah?



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Memory Challenge:

2 Kings 18:5-7

He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.



L3L47: Huldah

2 Kings 22-23

When Josiah became king of Judah, God's beautiful temple in Jerusalem had been neglected and the people were worshipping idols. They had forgotten God's law. It was during this time that a woman named Huldah was serving as a prophetess in Judah. King Josiah had instructed the priests to repair the damages done to the temple, and while working on it the workers found the book of the Law which they quickly brought to the king. Josiah, deeply distressed upon learning God's expectations for His people, told his men to seek out the word of the Lord to discover what God was planning to do to Judah because of their sins. And to whom did the men go? To Huldah the prophetess, of course!

Discuss:

- What is the purpose of prophecy? How does God usually present prophecy to His people?
- Can you name any other prophetesses mentioned in the Bible? (There are several women called prophetesses in both the Old and New Testaments)
- How do you think the king knew where to find Huldah?
- What did God reveal to Huldah to tell King Josiah?
- How did King Josiah react to Huldah's prophecies? Why was Judah's punishment delayed? What can we learn from Josiah's example?
- Josiah and Huldah served God in different ways. What are some ways we can prepare to serve God?



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Memory Challenge:

2 Kings 22:19

“...because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the Lord.



L3L48: Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1, 34-38

King Josiah had worked hard to get Judah back on track to serve and worship the Eternal, but God knew that soon the people would be right back into their old ways of worshipping idols and practicing evil. He needed to send another messenger to warn the people that if they didn't fully turn to Him they would soon go into captivity like the Kingdom of Israel did. God had picked out a particular young lad named Jeremiah. One day, God came to tell Jeremiah of the plans He had for his life. At first, Jeremiah was nervous and felt like he was too young for the job, but God assured him that He would help him - and He certainly did!

Discuss:

- What was Jeremiah's biggest concern about being a prophet? What was God's answer to Jeremiah's concerns?
- Josiah and Jeremiah were both very young men when they began to serve God. What kinds of lessons can we learn from their examples?
- Which of God's commands did King Zedekiah disobey when he made a covenant with the people in Jerusalem? Why was God angry with Zedekiah?
- What did the princes do to Jeremiah for warning the people that Jerusalem would be captured (Jeremiah 38)? Who rescued him?
- What compassionate act did Ebed-Melech do when he went to pull Jeremiah out of the pit? What can we learn from the story of Ebed-Melech?
- Where was Jeremiah when the city of Jerusalem was captured?



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Memory Challenge:

Jeremiah 1:7-8

But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you will speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.



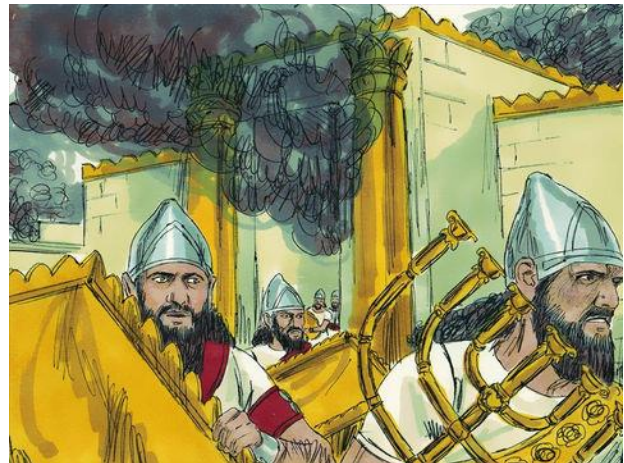
L3L49: Jeremiah and the Captivity

Jeremiah 39-44, 52

After the death of Josiah, the people returned to their pagan ways. Therefore, God had allowed Egypt to subdue them. Soon, Egypt was conquered by the great empire of Babylon which meant that soon all of Judah would be under Babylon's control. Jerusalem had not yet been captured and Jeremiah and other prophets continually warned Judah of impending doom if they did not repent. The people refused to listen. Since God's temple was in Jerusalem they felt God would not allow the beloved city to be destroyed. Just as Jeremiah warned, God had enough of Judah's evil practices. He knew that it was time to teach His rebellious people a hard lesson.

Discuss:

- Who was King of Judah when the city of Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians? What did the Babylonians do to him?
- What did King Nebuchadnezzar do with Jeremiah when Jerusalem was captured? What did God say He would do for Ebed-Melech? Why do you think God protected Jeremiah and Ebed-Melech from being killed by the Babylonians?
- Judah was taken in stages. Who was taken in the first wave of captives? Who was left behind to stay in the land? What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the temple?
- What scheme did the remaining people in Judah present to Jeremiah in order to ask his advice? Did they listen to Jeremiah's advice? What did the group of people end up doing?
- What happened to the remnant of Israelites who went to Egypt? Does the Bible indicate what happened to Jeremiah? In what other places in the Bible can you read about the fall of Jerusalem and the captivity of Judah?



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Memory Challenge:

Jeremiah 40:3

Now the Lord has brought it, and has done just as He said. Because you people have sinned against the Lord, and not obeyed His voice, therefore this thing has come upon you.