

The People Of God Went Into Exile

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

2Chronicles 36:15-21, Ps.137:1-6

BIBLE TRUTH:

Sin will bring bondage and spiritual death to the believer. To ignore the word of God is to set ourselves up for failure. Due. 28:15-68

MEMORY VERSE:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

Ps. 137:1

Lesson Aim

That student will understand the people of God ended up in captivity in a foreign land because of their sins and the sins of their fathers. Isa. 1:19-20, Lev. 18:1-3, 24-30, Due. 4:21-24, 2Cor. 6:16-7:1

Introduction

- In Josiah's time, Huldah the prophetess foretold the trouble waiting for Judah because of the sins of their fathers. God was going to allow righteous Josiah to reign in peace, but when he was gone divine judgment would fall on Judah. Twenty kings reigned over Judah from Rehoboam to Zedekiah. The majority of these rulers were evil, but there were a few who sought to do what was right. There was a persistent tendency for the Israelites to divide their allegiance between the God of Abraham and a host of false gods. The Lord and could not allowed this idolatry practice to continue. Ex. 20:4-5
- There is a saying that you don't miss your water until the well runs dry. In our lesson today we see that God was angry with His people for failing to heed His words of instruction so that they could grow closer to Him. New Testament believers had the same problem of slipping away from God through pleasure, lust, and sin. James 4:1-10
- To enjoy His blessings without enjoying Him does not make sense. In this lesson we will see how God punished His people for their disregard of Him. They enjoyed the gift but not the giver. As believers, we could easily fall into the same trap today. We don't like to admit it but the reason for many unfulfilled promises in our lives and many of the things we suffer are self imposed as was the case with Judah. 2 Kings 22:14-20, Gal. 6:7-8
- The children of Israel became slaves to the kings of Babylon for seventy years because of sin. Pro. 14:34-35

Warning Comes Before Destruction

- 2 Chron. 36:15-16 And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: [16] But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.
- Hear we see the Lord attempting to get His people to hear his voice, receive his instruction, keep his commandments, However, the people made fun of Gods messengers and resented his words, and abused the prophets, until Gods judgment was necessary. Prov. 16:18
- We often think of God as purely a nice guy. We see him only as a gift giver. It is hard for us to comprehend Him as the On who can punish and discipline us. A closer examination of scripture, however, reveals that God does both because He loves His children. Heb.12:5-7, Pro. 12:1-2

God Uses The Rod Of Men

- [17] Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. [18] And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. [19] And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.
- The Chaldean people were those who resided in Babylon. their king was Nebuchadnezzar. Here God uses Judah's enemies to punish and discipline his people. This tells us two things. First, God will punish His people. Second, God is in control of even His enemies.
- As part of the covenant relationship we have with God, He promised David that when his son Solomon sinned he would chasten him but would not put him away as he did Saul. 2Sam.7:12-16, 1Cor 11:30-32
- However, God's punishment was very severe. He slew both males, females, young and old and sick among them. The temple was burned down and all the utensil that were used for worship and the treasures of the king were taken to Babylon. It's a terrible thing to fall in the hands of an angry God. Heb 10:30-31

No One Gets Away With Anything

- [20] And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: [21] To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.
- Those that were not killed were taken away as slaves into Babylon. The people would remain their for 70 years. In 539 BC, Cyrus, king of Persia, came to power and defeated the Babylon's.
- We need to put ourselves in the shoes of Gods people of that day. We need to know they saw the temple as God's dwelling place burned down. They saw the walls of Jerusalem that protected them against the enemy torn down. Everything around them that made them feel secure was gone.
- After Nebuchadnezzars destruction, all that was left behind was a trail of smoking debris and absolute destruct, Judah had been a prosperous land; God had blessed His people. Now everything was gone in an instant. The cause was simply that they had disobeyed the God who had blessed them. In our society today we are in danger of losing everything when we start to reject the Word of God. The lessons are already there for us to learn from. Rom 15:4
- Can this happen to America? What can we do to prevent it ?

Didn't Think It Could Happen

- Psalm 137:1-6 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. [2] We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. [3] For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. [4] How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? [5] If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. [6] If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.
- When we have lost everything, there is plenty of time to think. That is exactly what the people of God did. They thought about the land that they had left behind. The people of Judah were discouraged and disappointed and hung their musical instruments of the willow trees for they had lost all hope and thought they had no reason, to sing praises, or worship their God. God had to sent Isaiah to encourage his people during their time of exile. Isa. 49:13-15
- While Judah was in captivity God also required of them to stand in the gap and pray for the inhabitants in the land. Jer. 29:6-7, Ezek. 22:30
- There is nothing like home. It's a sad thing to think that the only time some people can appreciate home, family and friends is when they no longer have them. Let us celebrate this Thanksgiving Holiday Season by appreciating and celebrating the people in our lives while we have them with us. Don't wait until a person dies to celebrate their life.