



Lesson 149

The Fall of Judah

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Ki 23:31-25:28; 2 Chr. 34:1-36:21 • Setting: circa 609 – 586 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, and Nebuchadnezzar • Plot: A series of wicked kings sit on the throne of Jerusalem until the Babylonians come and conquer the land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “so _____ was carried away out of their land” (2 Ki. 25:21) • Climax: <i>2 Kings 24:3 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;</i> |
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Jehoahaz

1. (2 Ki. 23:31-35) After the death of Josiah, Jehoahaz was made king of Judah. He was a wicked man who reigned for a brief three months before he was captured and imprisoned by Pharaoh Necho. Necho placed Judah under his authority and made Jehoahaz's brother, _____, the vassal king.

Jehoiakim

2. (2 Ki. 23:36-24:1) Necho changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim as a show of supreme authority. But it wasn't long before the Egyptians fell to the _____ at Carchemish in northern Syria. With the defeat of the Egyptians, all their vassal territories came under Babylonian control, including Judah.
3. (2 Ki. 24:1-7) Jehoiakim served his new Babylonian master for three years before he rebelled. _____ was swift and brutal, sacking Jerusalem and capturing Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim died somewhere outside of Jerusalem (Jer. 22:19). His son Jehoiachin took his place.

Jehoiachin

4. (2 Ki. 24:8-16) The kingdom fared no better under wicked Jehoiachin's three-month reign. During his time, Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and besieged it. In the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he defeated Jerusalem (again), captured Jehoiachin, took _____ captives, and pillaged the temple and the palace.

Zedekiah

5. (2 Ki. 24:17-20) Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah, was made the new king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. Mattaniah's name was changed to Zedekiah. He was a wicked king, and he unwisely rebelled against his Babylonian emperor (possibly following the instruction of Egypt's Pharaoh – cf. Eze. 17:15-18).
 - (a) (2 Ki. 25:1-5) Nebuchadnezzar again came to Jerusalem to quell a rebellion. For 2 ½ years the city is besieged until the people are nearly wiped out by _____.
 - (b) Desperate, Zedekiah and his men try to escape the city at night, but they are captured and brought to the Babylonian camp in Riblah.
6. Nebuchadnezzar's judgment was cruel:

- (a) (2 Ki. 25:7) Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes, thus exterminating his royal line. Then his _____ were gouged out and he was chained and imprisoned in Babylon.
- (b) (2 Ki. 25:9) The Chaldeans then sacked the city, burning it to the ground, including the _____ of the LORD.
- (c) (2 Ki. 25:10) The outer walls of the city were leveled.
- (d) (2 Ki. 25:11-12) Much of the remaining citizenry were carried off into captivity.
- (e) (2 Ki. 25:13-17) The bronze pillars that stood before the temple were broken and carried off, as well as any remaining _____ in the temple.
- (f) (2 Ki. 25:18-21) The leadership of Jerusalem, including the _____ Seraiah and Zephaniah, were executed in Riblah.

- 7. (2 Ki. 25:22-24) Gedaliah, the grandson of Shaphan (_____ secretary), was appointed governor of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.
 - (a) Gedaliah encouraged the people to _____ the Chaldean authorities to ensure peace and stability.
 - (b) (2 Ki. 25:25-26) But Nethaniah, a member of the royal family, murdered Gedaliah to regain the throne for himself. Many of the people of Judah fled to _____ because they feared retaliation from the Chaldeans.

Application

- 8. (2 Ki. 25:27-30) After Nebuchadnezzar died, a new emperor, Evil-merodach, sat on the throne. He had mercy on the captive king, Jehoiachin, and after many, many years in a dungeon, he was freed and given a seat of honor in the Babylonian court. Such an ending to 2 Kings shows the survival of the line of _____ and the hope of a renewed kingdom.
- 9. Though Israel had many enemies throughout the Old Testament, _____ was their ultimate conqueror. It is no wonder, then, that Babylon is a symbol of worldly power and the nemesis of God's people, the Church, in Revelation. Our King Jesus will not fall to Babylonian powers – He is conquering the world now with His gospel and will fully conquer all His return.

Revelation 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "Judah" • 1. Eliakim • 2. Babylonians • 3. Nebuchadnezzar • 4. 10,000 • 5. a) starvation • 6. a) eyes; b) temple; e) valuable; f) priests • 7. Josiah's; a) respect; b) Egypt • 8. David • 9. Babylon

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.