

The Fall of Jerusalem

Zedekiah, King of Judah, rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. He trusted in Egypt to save him. Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem to destroy her.

Jeremiah preached to the people. He told them to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar and God would let them live. Zedekiah remembered that God had saved Asa and Hezekiah. He thought God would save him too. God told him that he would not stop the Babylonians, but he would let Zedekiah live and not burn the city if he surrendered. Zedekiah put his trust in Egypt to save him. God told Zedekiah that he would see Nebuchadnezzar, but he would not see the land of Babylon. He would also die in Babylon.

The people didn't like the message of Jeremiah, so they asked Zedekiah to let them punish Jeremiah. They put Jeremiah into a muddy dungeon. One of Zedekiah's servants told Zedekiah that it was evil to put Jeremiah in the dungeon. Zedekiah allowed this man to pull Jeremiah out of the dungeon with ropes. After Jeremiah was sure Zedekiah would not kill him for giving God's message, Jeremiah told Zedekiah **AGAIN** that he should surrender to Nebuchadnezzar if he wanted to live. Zedekiah was afraid to do what God commanded.

Nebuchadnezzar came into Jerusalem and Zedekiah tried to run from him. Nebuchadnezzar caught him and killed his sons in front of him. Then, he put out Zedekiah's eyes and put him in chains to be taken to Babylon. God's word was true. He saw Nebuchadnezzar, but he didn't see Babylon.

Jerusalem was completely destroyed and burned with fire, just as God had said. Nebuchadnezzar commanded that Jeremiah was to be treated well. He was given the choice to go to Babylon as an honored man or stay in Judah. Jeremiah chose to stay. Do you see how God took care of Jeremiah?

A man named Gedaliah was made governor of the land. People who had hidden in other lands came back to Judah. Some of the men told Gedaliah that a man named Ishmael was sent to kill him. Gedaliah didn't believe their warnings. Ishmael killed Gedaliah and many others on their way to worship. Because this happened, the people were afraid to stay in the land. They thought the King of Babylon would be angry with them. The people wanted to run to Egypt. They asked Jeremiah to inquire of God about this plan. The people said they would

obey whatever God said. God told them to stay in the land and He would bless them. If they went to Egypt, they would be punished. The people would not obey God. They thought Jeremiah was lying. They made Jeremiah and Baruch go with them to Egypt. While in Egypt, they turned back to their idols. How sad!

Main Points:

1. We should trust in God.
2. God's word is always true.
3. God takes care of those who obey Him.
4. God will punish the wicked.
5. We must obey God, even when it is hard!

Lesson 21 Questions: The Fall of Jerusalem

1. Who did Zedekiah trust to save him?

God

Egypt

2. What did God command Zedekiah to do when Babylon came?

Fight

Surrender

3. What did the people do to Jeremiah when they became angry at his message?

Killed him

Put him in a muddy dungeon

4. What did Zedekiah do when Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem?

Run

Surrender

5. What happened to Zedekiah's sons?

Killed

Saved

6. What happened to Zedekiah?

He got away

His eyes were put out

7. Was Jerusalem destroyed and burned with fire?

Yes

No

8. How was Jeremiah treated?

Good

Bad

9. Who was made governor of the land?

Jeremiah

Gedaliah

10. When he was killed, where did the people want to run?

Edom

Egypt

11. Did they obey God's command?

Yes

No

12. Who did they take with them?

Jeremiah

Baruch

Draw Zedekiah's punishment.



