

THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 8: THE FALL OF JUDAH . . . *HISTORY*

MEMORY. Memorize these dates: the first wave of the exile (e.g., Daniel; 605 BC), the second wave of the exile (e.g., Ezekiel; 597 BC), the destruction of Jerusalem and the third wave of the exile (e.g., Jeremiah; 586 BC), and the fall of Babylon (539 BC).

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READING. Read 2 Kgs 25. After doing your reading, in the space below write down something that you found to be interesting or important. It can be something that you have never noticed before or something that you want to remember and apply.

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Background.* What brought about the fall of Jerusalem and Judah, and from whose presence were the people cast out? (2 Kgs 24:20a) Contrast 2 Kgs 25 and 2 Chron 36. What do the differing endings indicate about the timing and purpose of each record?

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2. *Siege.* What is a siege? (2 Kgs 25:1-3) (The siege began in 588 BC and ended in 586 BC.) What happened to the city and the army of Jerusalem after the siege? (vv. 4-7)

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3. *Destruction.* What/whom did the Babylonians burn, destroy, steal, and kill after they entered Jerusalem? (vv. 8-21) Why would especially the burning and stealing have been a terrible blow to the people of Judah? How do the events of 2 Kgs 25:8-21 match the warning(s) of Lev 26:27-33?

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4. *Coup.* Whom did Nebuchadnezzar appoint as governor over the land of Judah, and what was his fate? (2 Kgs 25:22-26)

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CONNECTION. What glimmer of hope does 2 Kgs 25:27-30 present, and in what way(s) does it point to Jesus?

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APPLICATION. God is longsuffering, but he does not stay judgment forever. Exile was the punishment of rebellious Israel and Judah. Hell will be the punishment of sinners. Read 2 Pet 3:8-15a. Choose holiness and godliness!