**Zedekiah: Judah’s Last King**

2 Chronicles 36

**[Jeremiah weeping over Jerusalem image]**

**[History icon]**

**2 Chronicles 36:11 (ESV)**Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

**2 Chronicles 36:12 (ESV)**He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 36:13 (ESV)**He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel.

**2 Chronicles 36:14 (ESV)**All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the Lord that He had made holy in Jerusalem.

**2 Chronicles 36:15 (ESV)**The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

**2 Chronicles 36:16 (ESV)**But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising His words and scoffing at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against His people, until there was no remedy.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)**if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

1. **No Humbling**
2. **No Turning**
3. **No Healing**

**[Story icon]**

**2 Chronicles 36:17 (ESV)**Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand.

**2 Chronicles 36:18 (ESV)**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.

**2 Chronicles 36:19 (ESV)**And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.

**2 Chronicles 36:20 (ESV)**He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

**2 Chronicles 36:21 (ESV)**to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

**[Connection icon]**

**Why did God allow His people to be taken into exile?**

1. **To punish God’s people for their unfaithfulness.**

**Amos 3:2 (ESV)**“You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

**Amos 3:11 (ESV)**Therefore thus says the Lord God: “An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered.”

1. **To purify the faith of the remnant.**

**Ezra 9:8 (ESV)**But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant and to give us a secure hold within His holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our slavery.

1. **To provoke repentance.**

**1 Kings 8:46 (ESV)**“If they sin against You—for there is no one who does not sin—and You are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near,

**1 Kings 8:47 (ESV)**yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with You in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’

**1 Kings 8:48 (ESV)**if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to You toward their land, which You gave to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name,

**1 Kings 8:49 (ESV)**then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause

**1 Kings 8:50 (ESV)**and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions that they have committed against You, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them

**1 Kings 8:51 (ESV)**(for they are Your people, and Your heritage, which You brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace).

1. **To prove God’s strength and faithfulness in bringing His people back.**

**Leviticus 26:40 (ESV)**“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against Me, and also in walking contrary to Me,

**Leviticus 26:41 (ESV)**so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,

**Leviticus 26:42 (ESV)**then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

**Leviticus 26:43 (ESV)**But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned My rules and their soul abhorred My statutes.

**Leviticus 26:44 (ESV)**Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break My covenant with them, for I am the Lord their God.

**Leviticus 26:45 (ESV)**But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord.”

1. **To prepare the way for the coming of Christ.**

**Ezekiel 34:23 (ESV)**And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

**Ezekiel 34:24 (ESV)**And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

**Daniel 7:13 (ESV)**“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.

**Daniel 7:14 (ESV)**And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

**[Christ icon]**

1. **To provide opportunities for the spread of the Gospel.**

**Acts 17:1 (ESV)**Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

**Acts 17:2 (ESV)**And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

**Acts 17:3 (ESV)**explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

**[Kintsugi image]**