

THE Story

Lesson 26 Chapter 17 The Kingdoms' Fall p.231-247

1. It definitely could not be said of Manasseh..."like father, like son." Of what sins was Manasseh guilty? (p.231-232)
2. What was God's response to Manasseh's life of sin? (p.232)
3. How does the final chapter of Manasseh's life (bottom of p.232) help illustrate Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son?
4. Based on the life of his son Amon (p.233), in what ways did Manasseh pray too late?
5. As the fall of Jerusalem is recorded for us on page 234, we read that Nebuchadnezzar "carried into exile all the fighting men, and all the skilled workers and artisans." That number included the prophet Ezekiel and the prophet Daniel. We also read that "only the poorest people of the land were left"....which included the prophet Jeremiah. What kind of challenges did both groups face?
6. How does the prophet Ezekiel's call to ministry to the first wave of exiles in Babylon (p.235-236) parallel the call of the prophet Isaiah that is recorded in the previous chapter (p. 224-225)?

7. While Ezekiel was predicting the final fall of Jerusalem from Babylon, God called a man named Jeremiah to deliver the same message to the residents of Jerusalem. What is significant about Jeremiah's call? (p.237-238)

What was Jeremiah's initial response?

What did God promise Jeremiah to encourage him?

8. After Jeremiah's clear pronouncement of coming judgment (p.238-240), we read these words from II Chronicles 36 (top of page 241), "They mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people **and there was no remedy.**"

What are the implications and applications of those words?

9. Pages 241-243 record the final days of Jerusalem just as God had spoken through Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Jeremiah records what he saw and how he felt in the Book of Lamentations (p.243-245) What did he write that seemed to have a sense of hope, like God's plan could still be accomplished?

10. In one of the most hopeless times in biblical history, the prophet Ezekiel also pointed ahead to a future time when the story's ending will be rewritten (p. 245-247). How do Ezekiel's words bring hope when it feels as if the story is over?

11. As you review this portion of God's inspired Word, what truths do you learn about our humanity....sins to avoid & examples to follow

about our God... His promises to claim & His character to embrace