

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why didn't the people believe the prophecies of the judgment to be brought upon them? How do people react today?
2. Why did Zedekiah resist the enemy rather than surrender as Jehoiachin had done about 10 years before?
3. How complete was the destruction of Judah?
4. How can we apply this lesson to today?

SUMMARY:

Jeremiah, Habakkuk and Ezekiel all were active as prophets just prior to and at the time of the captivity. Ezekiel had been taken to Babylon at the first captivity (2 Kings 24:14-16). He prophesied from there about the final siege of Jerusalem on the exact day of the beginning of the siege. (Compare 2 Kings 25:1 and Ezekiel 24:1-2.) Jeremiah, having predicted these calamities, had been imprisoned by Zedekiah. (Jeremiah 32:1-16)

The people would not believe the prophets concerning the terrible judgment that awaited them, but finally saw it fulfilled before their eyes. The Chaldean army noted for its speed and dreadfulness must have been an awesome sight. Can we imagine what must have gone through the minds of the people?

The siege lasted about 1 1/2 years and after the capture of the city, the temple, the king's house and the entire city were burned. This was 424 years and three months after Solomon had laid the first foundation stone.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

December 4, 2011

Fourth Quarter

THE COLLAPSE OF A NATION

LESSON TEXT: Habakkuk 1:5-7; 2 Kings 25:1-10

LESSON SETTING: The nation of Judah collapses because of its evil.

TIME: Approximately 626 - 590 B.C.

I. THE COLLAPSE FORETOLD. Habakkuk 1:5-7

- A. Judgment Unbelievable (vs. 5)
- B. Chaldeans, a Terrible Instrument (vs. 6-7) Deuteronomy 28:49-50; Luke 19:43-44

II. THE CAPITOL TAKEN. 2 Kings 25:1-7

- A. The Siege (vs. 1-3) 1 Kings 20:1; 2 Kings 17:5
- B. The Flight (vs. 4)
- C. The Capture (vs. 5-7)

III. THE CITY DESTROYED. 2 Kings 25:8-10

- A. The Temple Destroyed (vs. 9) Psalm 74:7; Isaiah 64:11; Micah 3:10
- B. The City Walls Destroyed (vs. 10) Nehemiah 1:3; 2:17 Psalm 79:1; Lamentations 1:1

GOLDEN TEXT: *THOU SHALT SAY UNTO THEM, THIS IS A NATION THAT OBEYETH NOT THE VOICE OF THE LORD THEIR GOD.*
Jeremiah 7:28

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Joel 2:21-32

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-21

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Judah

TOPIC: JOEL, PROPHET OF PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION:

The prophet Joel first makes mention of an invasion of locusts over the land of Israel and a terrible drought because of the sins of the people. This typifies the invasion of Israel and Judah by the armies of their enemies. He tells of the terribleness of God's judgments and then calls the people to repentance with fasting, weeping and mourning. He tells them to rend their hearts and turn to the Lord. This same call goes out to men today, both the message of judgment and the message of repentance.

Then Joel prophesied of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and the powerful effect it would have on the lives of men. People would find the strength to live different lives free from the power of sin. They would find power and boldness to speak and to teach concerning the way of the Lord. This was accomplished at Pentecost after the Lord had ascended into heaven. (Acts 2:1-21)

Jesus told them they would receive power after the Holy Ghost would come upon them. When this took place they began to testify and to speak in tongues or languages. The people were amazed and wondered at what they saw. Some mocked, but also gave testimony that these men "have turned the world upside down." (Acts 17:6) Are we so possessed of the Spirit that we are that kind of witness to the world?

CENTRAL TRUTH: The Holy Spirit renews and anoints believers to witness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.*

Romans 8:14

Joel prophesied of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, a prophecy made about 800 B.C. This was accomplished at Pentecost and within a short period of time the evidence of the power of the Spirit was felt throughout Judea. Paul had been converted through the power of the Spirit and in the Epistle to the Romans he wrote about the spiritual life. It is interesting to note that in the eighth chapter alone, there are twenty references to the Spirit and spiritual life.

It is so important for one who professes to have been born again, that the evidence of the new life be apparent. We must walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. We give evidence how we live our lives by the things that are important to us. We cannot live unless we through the Spirit "mortify" or "subdue" the deeds of the body. We cannot be children of God unless the Spirit leads us. To be led of the Spirit means to be under the control of the Spirit.

Spirit, thou of faith, of power, of obedience, discipline,
Author of God's works, endower of his gifts in hearts of men!
Spirit, who the holy sages, prophets, kings, apostles, true;
And the martyrs of all ages didst with strength and truth endue.
Z.H. 175:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 5 – 11

M. The Day of the Lord. Joel 2:1-11

T. A Plea for Repentance. Joel 2:12-20

W. *A Prophet of Pentecost. Joel 2:21-32

T. The Comforter to Come. John 14:16-26

F. The Word of the Holy Spirit. John 16:1-15

S. The Day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-13

S. The Sermon of Pentecost. Acts 2:14-24

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