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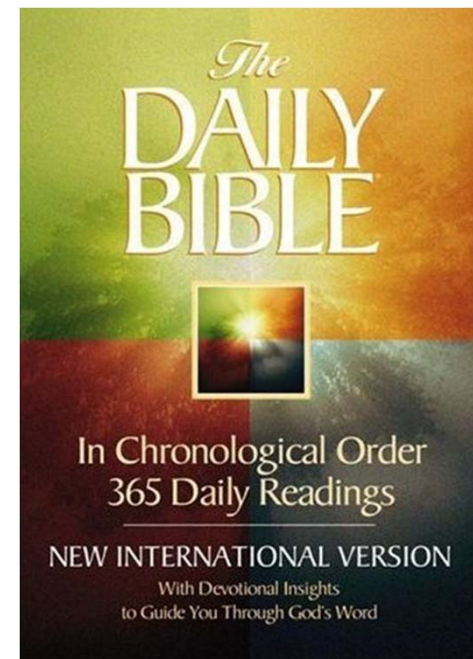
one year one bible one church one lord

Jerusalem Falls! Lesson 35

August 29, 2010

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for August 22-28
- ▶ Ezekiel, Jeremiah, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles
 - ▶ Jeremiah's Prophecies During Siege
 - ▶ Jeremiah Sees Spiritual Restoration Under the Messiah
 - ▶ Ezekiel's Prophecies During Siege
 - ▶ JERUSALEM FALLS!
 - ▶ Jeremiah Escapes Death



Summary Text

▶ 2 Chronicles: 15-17

▶ ¹⁵The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place.

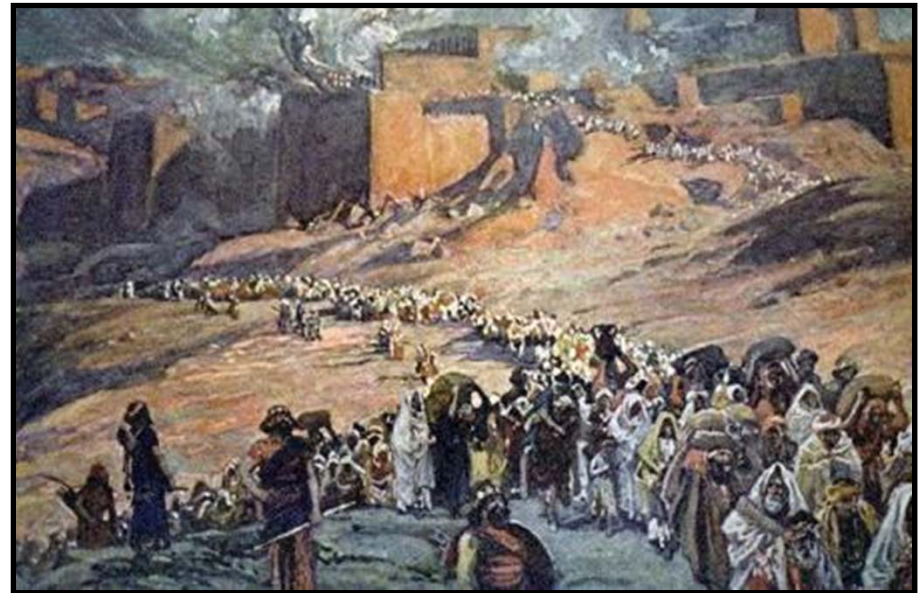
¹⁶But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. ¹⁷He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.



Summary Text (cont)

▶ 2 Chronicles: 18-19

- ▶ ¹⁸He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD'S temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. ¹⁹They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.



Purpose of the Destruction

▶ Jeremiah 22:8-9

- ▶ ⁸“People from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?’ ⁹And the answer will be: ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.’”



Timeline to the Fall – 597 BC

- ▶ First siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar while Jehoiachin is King
- ▶ First deportation of exiles to Babylon – including Jehoiachin, Daniel and Ezekiel and ranking officials
- ▶ Zedekiah appointed vassal King of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar; made to swear loyalty in God's name
- ▶ Vassal kingdom is subject to huge tribute (\$\$\$) paid to Babylon



Timeline to the Fall – 589 BC

- ▶ Zedekiah rebels against Nebuchadnezzar with support from Egypt; declares independence
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 36:11-13
 - ▶ ¹¹Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. ¹²He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD. ¹³He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, **who had made him take an oath in God's name.** He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel.



Ezekiel's Message

▶ Ezekiel 17:11-14

- ▶ ¹¹Then the word of the LORD came to me: ¹²“Say to this rebellious house, ‘Do you not know what these things mean?’ Say to them: ‘The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles, bringing them back with him to Babylon. ¹³Then he took a member of the royal family and made a treaty with him, **putting him under oath**. He also carried away the leading men of the land, ¹⁴so that the kingdom would be brought low, unable to rise again, **surviving only by keeping his treaty**.”



Ezekiel's Message (cont)

▶ Ezekiel 17:15-18

- ▶ ¹⁵But the king rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt to get horses and a large army. Will he succeed? Will he who does such things escape? Will he break the treaty and yet escape? ¹⁶“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, he shall die in Babylon, in the land of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose treaty he broke. ¹⁷Pharaoh with his mighty army and great horde will be of no help to him in war, when ramps are built and siege works erected to destroy many lives. **¹⁸He despised the oath by breaking the covenant.** Because he had given his hand in pledge and yet did all these things, he shall not escape.



Ezekiel's Message (cont)

▶ Ezekiel 17:19-21

- ▶ ¹⁹“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: As surely as I live, I will bring down on his head **my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke.** ²⁰I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgment upon him there because he was unfaithful to me. ²¹All his fleeing troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to the winds. **Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken.**”



Timeline to the Fall – 589 BC

- ▶ Babylonian army returns to Judah and places Jerusalem under siege
- ▶ 2 Kings 25:1-2
 - ▶ ¹So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. ²The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.



Instructions to Ezekiel

▶ Ezekiel 21:18-22

- ▶ ¹⁸The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁹“Son of man, mark out two roads for the sword of the king of Babylon to take, both starting from the same country. Make a signpost where the road branches off to the city. ²⁰Mark out one road for the sword to come against Rabbah of the Ammonites and another against Judah and fortified Jerusalem. ²¹For the king of Babylon will stop at the fork in the road, at the junction of the two roads, to seek an omen: He will cast lots with arrows, he will consult his idols, he will examine the liver. **²²Into his right hand will come the lot for Jerusalem, where he is to set up battering rams, to give the command to slaughter, to sound the battle cry, to set battering rams against the gates, to build a ramp and to erect siege works.**



The Siege Begins

▶ Jeremiah 52:4-5

- ▶ ⁴So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. They camped outside the city and built siege works all around it. ⁵The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.



Under Siege

- ▶ When an army besieged a city, the city is ringed with troops, sealing it off from the outside world
- ▶ Once the city was cut off, it was generally just a matter of time before it surrendered, due to lack of food and/or water
- ▶ The besieging army simply waited ... and worked



Zedekiah Inquires of God

▶ Jeremiah 21:1-2

- ▶ ¹The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malkijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. They said:
²“Inquire now of the LORD for us because Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is attacking us. Perhaps the LORD will perform wonders for us as in times past so that he will withdraw from us.”

- ▶ Rebellion against authority and against God is OK ...
 - ▶ At least until bad things start happening



God's Answer

▶ Jeremiah 21:3-6

- ▶ ³But Jeremiah answered them, “Tell Zedekiah, ⁴“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am about to turn against you the weapons of war that are in your hands, which you are using to fight the king of Babylon and the Babylonians who are outside the wall besieging you. And I will gather them inside this city. ⁵I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm in anger and fury and great wrath. ⁶I will strike down those who live in this city - both men and animals - and they will die of a terrible plague.



God's Answer

- ▶ Jeremiah 21:7

- ▶ ⁷After that, declares the LORD, I will hand over Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the people in this city who survive the plague, sword and famine, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to their enemies who seek their lives. He will put them to the sword; he will show them no mercy or pity or compassion.'

- ▶ There is now no turning back

- ▶ The deal is sealed

- ▶ The end is in motion



And Furthermore ...

▶ Jeremiah 21:8-10

- ▶ ⁸“Furthermore, tell the people, ‘This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. ⁹Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; he will escape with his life. ¹⁰I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the LORD. It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.’



Timeline to the Fall – 588 BC

- ▶ Pharaoh Apries of Egypt marches against Babylonians, who temporarily withdraw from Jerusalem
- ▶ Jeremiah 37:5
 - ▶ ⁵Pharaoh's army had marched out of Egypt, and when the Babylonians who were besieging Jerusalem heard the report about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem.
- ▶ Jerusalem's hopes are raised



Jeremiah's Message

▶ Jeremiah 37:6-10

- ▶ ⁶Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet: ⁷“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of me, ‘Pharaoh’s army, which has marched out to support you, will go back to its own land, to Egypt. ⁸Then the Babylonians will return and attack this city; they will capture it and burn it down.’ ⁹“This is what the LORD says: **Do not deceive yourselves, thinking, ‘The Babylonians will surely leave us.’** They will not! ¹⁰Even if you were to defeat the entire Babylonian army that is attacking you and only wounded men were left in their tents, they would come out and burn this city down.”



Timeline to the Fall – 588 BC

- ▶ Egypt is soundly defeated by the Babylonians, who return to besiege Jerusalem
- ▶ Ezekiel 30:10-12
 - ▶ ¹⁰“This is what the Sovereign LORD says:“I will put an end to the hordes of Egypt by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. ¹¹ He and his army—the most ruthless of nations— will be brought in to destroy the land. They will draw their swords against Egypt and fill the land with the slain. ¹² I will dry up the streams of the Nile and sell the land to evil men; by the hand of foreigners I will lay waste the land and everything in it. I the LORD have spoken.



Food Supplies Exhausted

▶ Jeremiah 52:6

- ▶ ⁶By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat.

▶ Jeremiah 19:7-9

- ▶ ⁷“In this place I will ruin the plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, at the hands of those who seek their lives, and I will give their carcasses as food to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth. ⁸I will devastate this city and make it an object of scorn; all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff because of all its wounds. ⁹I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters, and they will eat one another’s flesh during the stress of the siege imposed on them by the enemies who seek their lives.’



Zedekiah Captured

▶ Jeremiah 52:7-9

- ▶ ⁷Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled. They left the city at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah, ⁸but the Babylonian army pursued King Zedekiah and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, ⁹and he was captured.



Predictions of Zedekiah's Capture

▶ Jeremiah 34:3

- ▶ ³You will not escape from his grasp but will surely be captured and handed over to him. You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes, and he will speak with you face to face. And you will go to Babylon.

▶ Ezekiel 12:12-14

- ▶ ¹²“The prince among them will put his things on his shoulder at dusk and leave, and a hole will be dug in the wall for him to go through. He will cover his face so that he cannot see the land. ¹³I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare; I will bring him to Babylonia, the land of the Chaldeans, but he will not see it, and there he will die.



Zedekiah Humiliated

▶ Jeremiah 52:9b-11

- ▶ He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he pronounced sentence on him. ¹⁰There at Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes; he also killed all the officials of Judah. ¹¹Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon, where he put him in prison till the day of his death.



Jerusalem Razed

▶ Jeremiah 52:12-14

- ▶ ¹²On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ¹³He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. ¹⁴The whole Babylonian army under the commander of the imperial guard broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.



Temple Articles Stolen

▶ Jeremiah 52:17-19

- ▶ ¹⁷The Babylonians broke up the bronze pillars, the movable stands and the bronze Sea that were at the temple of the LORD and they carried all the bronze to Babylon. ¹⁸They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and all the bronze articles used in the temple service. ¹⁹The commander of the imperial guard took away the basins, censers, sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands, dishes and bowls used for drink offerings—all that were made of pure gold or silver.



The End of Jerusalem

- ▶ Jerusalem lies in ruins
- ▶ The Temple is destroyed, its sacred furnishings stolen
- ▶ The King is captive; a Babylonian Governor now rules
- ▶ Everyone of any stature has been deported, only the poorest of the people remain in the land
- ▶ Israel is finished ...
 - ▶ ... Or is it?



Promises for the Future

▶ Jeremiah 31:31

- ▶ ³¹ “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. ³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”



Promises of the Messiah

▶ Jeremiah 23:5

- ▶ ⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.



Promises of the Messiah

▶ Jeremiah 33:14-17

- ▶ ¹⁴“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. ¹⁵“‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’ ¹⁷For this is what the LORD says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ...’”



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for August 29-September 4
 - ▶ The Exiled Nation

Questions?

