**The Fall of Jerusalem**

Josiah was a great King. He followed God and obeyed Him. He treated God’s people well.

Unfortunately, Josiah’s sons and grandson weren’t great Kings. They rejected the one true God. They did not follow Him, they did not listen to God’s prophets, including the prophet Jeremiah. They did not think that God would punish them if they kept rejecting Him. They wanted Judah to be just like the nations around them





Nebuchadnezzar took a lot of treasure.

He also took the King. Jehoichin got taken to Babylon. So did his mother, and his wife. So did all of the clever, talented and powerful people in Judah. They were all taken away as prisoners to another country to work for Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went to Babylon at this time.

Josiah’s grandson was called Jehoiachin. He was the third King after Josiah, and none of them lasted very long as King.

Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, invaded Judah.

Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar and let Nebuchadnezzar have as much of the treasure of Judah as he wanted



Nebuchnezzar told Judah that their new King was Zedekiah. Zedekiah was Josiah’s son and Jehoiachin’s uncle. He was the fourth and last King after Josiah. Like the three kings since Josiah before him, Zedekiah also did not follow God.

Zedekiah rejected God and ignored God’s prophet Jeremiah.

Because he was ignoring God, he did things that made Nebuchadnezzar angry



Nebuchadnezzar was so angry that he marched his army back to Judah, destroyed many towns and started to attack Jerusalem.



Zedekiah did not trust God to rescue him, he trusted the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Egypt tried to send an army to help Jerusalem, but, Nebuchnezzar’s army beat them.

The Egyptians could not save Judah, only God could rescue them, but Zedekiah still would not listen to God.





Nebuchadnezzar’s army broke the walls of Jerusalem down and came into the city.

Nebuchadnezzar’s army sat outside Jerusalem for two years.

No one could get in to Jerusalem. No one could get out.

No food could get into Jerusalem, and after two years, the food was running out. Things were getting desperate and people were starving.



Zedekiah tried to escape and save himself and his family, but he was caught by the Nebuchadnezzar’s army.

He had chains put on his hands, he had chains put on his feet. He was ashamed and taken as a prisoner to Babylon.



Nebuchadnezzar’s army took every valuable thing out of the city.

They took everything made of gold, everything made of silver, everything made of bronze. They stole property out of people’s homes and burned and smashed the buildings that had nothing left in them to take



They took most of the people and put chains on them. They took them all the way to Babylon to work for them. Only the poorest and weakest people were left in Jerusalem to farm the land for the Babylonians





Because they ignored God’s warnings and rejected Him, they would spend 70 years in Babylon.

Jerusalem was ruined.

The people of Judah had lost God’s blessing, and they were suffering because of it, but they had not lost God’s kindness. God still had plans to bring Judah back home, and more importantly to bring them back into friendship with Him.

He had promised that in 70 years, the people could return home. He had also promised that He would send the people a new king. A king that would reign forever. A King that would always listen to Him and lead His people well. God’s people had to wait for this perfect King to come. This King was Jesus.

This happened because God’s people ignored God.

They ignored His prophet Jeremiah. They ignored God’s warnings. They did the things God said not to do and they suffered for it.

