

2 Chronicles 36 — “God Has Promised: He’ll Repay Sinners for Their Impenitence! But, God Offers Hope!”**Introduction:**

In this chapter, with the NIGHT of judgment comes the LIGHT of divine grace & hope!

Background to 2 Chronicles 36

- God is patient & long-suffering. God warns sinners that judgment day is coming! A day of recompense is sure to come.
- Here, God pictures himself rising early & sending the prophets again & again: Jer 7:25; 25:4; 26:5; 29:19; 35:15.
- *God’s patience is complete & His wrath has come. God uses the Babylonians to bring judgment to His sinful & deserving people, Judah.*

THESIS — God is FAITHFUL: He promises to repay sinners for their impenitence; but praise God there’s a *morning light* of hope that beams forth from His covenant-love & grace! We’ll see this in two headings tonight.

1) THE EXILE BECAUSE OF SIN

Lesson: Your Sin Brings Consequences!

Leslie Allen sums this chapter up by the title: “Plunging to Ruin”

Nebuchadnezzar made 3 attacks on Jerusalem (the doom of Jerusalem in three waves):

1. 605BC (Jehoiachim’s reign)
2. 597BC (Jehoiachin’s reign)
3. 586BC (Zedekiah’s reign)

I. JEHOAHAZ: THE SHORT TERM KING (1-3)

- Jehoahaz, son of Josiah (3 months, 609BC) >> exiled to Egypt
- This is the ***Ephemeral*** king [short-lived, temporary, brief]

II. JEHOIAKIM: THE BRAZENLY ARROGANT KING! (4-8)

- Jehoiakim, son of Josiah (11 years, 609-597) >> deported to Babylon
- This is the ***Evil King***
- Jehoiakim is the king who burnt Jeremiah’s scroll (Jer 36).

III. **Jehoiachin: THE WICKED YOUTHFUL KING!** (9-10)

- Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiachim (3 months, 597BC) >> exiled to Babylon
- This is the **Exiled King**
- Jeremiah called him ‘Coniah’-- This man is childless, he is a man who will not prosper in his days; for no man of his descendants will prosper (Jer 22:29-30). And next verse, “Woe” to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture (Jer 23:1).

IV. **Zedekiah: THE HARD-HEARTED LAST KING!** (11-21)

- Zedekiah, uncle of Jehoiachin (11 years, 597-586BC) >> exiled to Babylon
- This is the **Egotistical King**
- THIS ZEDEKIAH is the one that Jeremiah said to him: I will punish you according to the results of your deeds (21:14)

Prov 29:1 — a man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy (cf. Hebrews 6)

Matthew Henry: “GOD will find a way to humble those who will not humble themselves.”

2) THE RETURN ALL BY GRACE

- Lesson: *Your God Remains Faithful in Covenant-Love*
- v.22-23
- The big point: fulfilling Jer 25:11 & 29:10-11.

- The MAN God used (Cyrus king of Persia)
- The MOMENT God appointed (in the first year...to fulfill)
- The MOUTHPIECE God equipped (Jeremiah)
- The MESSAGE God gave (let the Jews return and go up to Jerusalem)
- The MAJESTY God has (the Lord of heaven & earth)
- The MERCY God offers (let him go up; still *waiting for more*; a new ‘ending’)

- **What does all this show in 2 Chronicles 36?**

- God exiled His people >> but brought them out... This highlights God’s...
 - Undeserved Grace
 - Sovereign Grace
 - Powerful Grace
 - Predestined Grace

- **The POINT? God is gloriously faithful!**

- when his kings are not
- when his priests are not
- when his prophets are not
- when his people are not
- when pagan nations are near
 - GOD remains faithful to His covenant promises (cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34)!

- So we see the book ending with a NEW EXODUS!

- GOD once moved the heart of a pagan king/Pharaoh to allow his people to go OUT of the land. ***And, SO NOW,*** God has once moved in the pagan heart of a Persian king to allow his people to go OUT of the land back to their homeland. ***And ultimately:*** God does again this work in *pagan hearts* of *wicked sinners* to bring us OUT of bondage to sin into the glorious REST of Jesus Christ & His glorious grace.

SOME CONCLUDING LESSONS from the book of 2 CHRONICLES:

- God has a plan [and it can surprise us at times!]
- God’s is immutable (his character doesn’t change)
- God isn’t swayed by evil; he uses it
- God has the victory (he’s guaranteed it)
- God’s people will triumph

EXULT IN THE SAVIOR’S BIRTH

Shepherds watched
 their flocks at night,
 attending lowly sheep;
 Now within a cattle shed,
 a much stranger watch they keep.
 Today, a Savior has been born
 and He is Christ, the Lord;
 Placed within a humble trough,
 this baby must be adored.

For to us a child is born,
 to us a Son is giv’n;
 He shall reign in righteousness,
 this Counselor King from heav’n.
 The government will rest on Him,
 He is the mighty God;
 Prince of Peace, this gentle King
 yet rules with a mighty rod.

Pagan wise men from the East
 seek out the infant King;
 Trackless miles behind them lie
 and now all their rev’rence bring.
 They have come to worship Him
 with spices and with gold;
 Countless millions seek Him still,
 who’s advent was long foretold.

Scriptures say that Mary’s boy
 was born that he might die;
 Angel voices burst in praise,
 their harmony fills the sky.
 Sing, “Glory in the highest heav’n!”
 Sing, “Gracious peace on earth!”
 Those on whom His favor rests,
 exult in the Saviour’s birth.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
 “Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well)
 With my soul (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well, with my soul!

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
 My sin—not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
 The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
 “Even so”—it is well with my soul.