

1 **THE DEPORTATION OF JEWISH POWS**

Daniel 1:1-2

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In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

3 **605 B.C.: Battle of Charchemish**

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5 **The Long March**

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7 ***"Why did God permit all this to happen?"***

- Weren't the Jews the chosen people of God? Hadn't God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants?
- Daniel, of course, was not surprised. . .
- According to the Bible record, there were two reasons why God permitted His chosen people to be taken into captivity.

8 **FIRST REASON FOR THE CAPTIVITY: IDOLATRY**

- God's Warning to the People:
 - Deuteronomy 31:16-17: *"The LORD said to Moses . . . This people will . . . play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, . . . and they will forsake Me and break My covenant . . . "* ¹⁷ *Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them. "*

9 **Idolatry (2)**

- The prophets after Moses had continually repeated this warning to Israel
- The books of Judges, Kings and Chronicles record the sad history of Israel's long, steady decline into idolatry and destruction.
 - 722 B.C. – Fall of the northern kingdom
 - Daniel 1 – The beginning of the end for Judah

10 **Babylonian Captivity Predicted**

- Isaiah 39:5-7: *Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: ⁶ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. ⁷ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"*

11 **Predicted (2) – Jeremiah 25**

- ⁸*"Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of*

Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

12 **Predicted (3) – Jeremiah 25**

•¹⁰ *Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

13 **Predicted (4) – Jeremiah 25**

•¹² *'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.'*

14 **Predicted (5) – Jeremiah 27**

•*And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. ⁷ And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.*

15 **Predicted (6) – Jeremiah 27**

•⁸ *And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the Lord, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.*

16 **Predicted (7) – Jeremiah 29:10**

•*For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.*

17 **SECOND REASON**

•FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE SABBATIC YEAR

18 **The Commandment – Leviticus 25**

•⁷*And the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the Lord. ³ Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.*

19 **The Commandment (2)**

•⁵ *What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. ⁶ And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, ⁷ for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food.*

20 **The Warning – Leviticus 26**

•²“You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord. ³‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

21 **The Warning (2) – Leviticus 26**

•¹⁴ ‘But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, ²¹ ‘Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. ³² I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.

22 **The Warning (3) – Leviticus 26**

•³³ I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. ³⁴ Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. ³⁵ As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—for the time it did not rest on your Sabbaths when you dwelt in it.”

23 **Purpose of the Sabbatic Year**

- What it was not: To increase the fruitfulness of the land
- What it was:
 - To teach man that the earth . . . might be holy to the Lord.
 - To teach them the results of trusting God for all things.
 - To teach them the danger of disobedience.

24 **God’s Law of Sowing and Reaping**

- If we rebel against God’s law and Word, then payday will surely come some day.
- Israel knew the law concerning the Sabbatic Year – They chose to disregard it – carried on their own agricultural program.
- Perhaps they thought God had forgotten, or that He didn’t mean what He said, or that He might overlook their transgression.

25 **The Payday**

- For 490 years, from the time they first entered the land until the Babylonian captivity, they ignored the law of the Sabbatic Year. Then God’s hand of judgment fell!!
- Four hundred ninety (490) divided by seven (7) equals seventy (70).
- The New Testament version of that law – Galatians 6:7: ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

26 **2 Chronicles 36:14-21**

•¹⁴ Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

27 **2 Chronicles 36:14-21 (2)**

•¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy. ¹⁷ Therefore He

brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.

28 **2 Chronicles 36:14-21 (3)**

•¹⁸ *And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. ¹⁹ Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.*

29 **2 Chronicles 36:14-21 (4)**

•²⁰ *And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹ to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

30 **First Lesson – God hates & judges sin**

- ILLUSTRATION: King Jehoiakim
- Jeremiah was in prison – He dictated to his secretary, Baruch, the words of God.
- Baruch wrote it down in a scroll. He later read the scroll to all the people in the temple.
- Jehoiakim, the king, heard about the scroll and commanded it be brought and read to him.

31 **Jeremiah 36:21-23**

•²¹ *So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. ²² Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him.*

32 **Jeremiah 36:21-23 (2)**

•²³ *And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.*

33 **King Jehoiakim**

- Jeremiah 52:2: " ² He (King Zedekiah) also did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done."
- Daniel 1:2 – "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand. . ."

34 **Lesson: GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL NATIONS**

- Jeremiah 25:9 – Nebuchadnezzar is called "My servant."
- This was before he ever knew Jehovah as the true God.
- Simply means that Nebuchadnezzar was an instrument in God's hands.

35 **God's sovereignty over nations in Daniel:**

- Daniel 2:21: "He removes kings and raises up kings."
- Daniel 2:37: "For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory."
- Daniel 4:17: "That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men."

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36 **Explains Cruel Dictators**

37 **Explains why we have our presidents:**

38 **God is still in control**

- Observing national and international politics can become a real spiritual tonic as we realize that all that happens is within the framework of God's one, eternal plan.
- The purpose of the book of Daniel is to show how God, by His providence and power, controls and directs the history of nations.
- Exciting things Ahead!