

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Kings Chapters 24-25 5/25-26/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

LAST WEEK: 2 KINGS – Chapter 22 – Josiah Reigns in Judah; Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law. Chapter 23 – Josiah Restores True Worship; Impending Judgment on Judah; Josiah Dies in Battle; The Reign and Captivity of Jehoahaz; Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah.

THIS WEEK: 2 KINGS – Chapter 24 – Judah Overrun by Enemies – (vs. 1-7); The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiachin – (vs. 8-12); The Captivity of Jerusalem - (vs. 13-16); Zedekiah Reigns in Judah – (vs.17-20). Chapter 25 – The Fall and Captivity of Judah – (vs. 1-21); Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah – (vs. 22-26); Jehoiachin Released from Prison – (vs. 27-30).

- As we finish the Book of 2 Kings, we see Judah about 140 years after the northern ten tribes of Israel had been conquered and carried away by Assyria, now doing the same thing. God had brought His judgment on the whole nation because of their disobedience, idolatry, and immortality. Babylon will invade Judah three times and on the third invasion, the Temple and the city of Jerusalem will be burned and destroyed.
- God had sent prophets, including Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Jeremiah, and Zephaniah, telling Judah to turn to the Lord, to be obedient to His word or else the same thing, going into Babylon captivity would happen to them, but the people would not listen!

Judah Overrun by Enemies

2Ki 24:1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up (605BC), the first invasion; Daniel and his three friends were taken), and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

- Following the death of his father, Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar is now the king of Babylon. This is 605BC, the first Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem; the first part of the captivity; the first deportation. He comes to Jerusalem and he takes the cream of the crop, Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed Nego.) back to Babylon.

2Ki 24:2-4 And the LORD sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon. He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servants the prophets. [3] Surely at the commandment of the LORD this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, [4] and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon.

- **The LORD sent raiding bands.** As punishment for Jehoiakim's disobedience of the LORD's Word through His prophet Jeremiah, the LORD sent Babylonian troops, along with the troops of other loyal nations, to inflict military defeats on Judah because of the things that Manasseh had introduced.

2Ki 24:5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

- They are also written in the prophecies of Jeremiah. Urijah prophesied against Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim had him put to death. He also sought to put Jeremiah and Baruch to death, but they hid themselves, and Jehoiakim could not find them. Jeremiah dictated a new scroll to Baruch, the judgements that God pronounced against Jerusalem. He had Baruch take it to the temple, and read the scroll.
- When some of the men heard the reading of the scroll of judgement against Jerusalem, they said, "We need to get this to the king." As they started to read the scroll to Jehoiakim, the king took his knife and cut the scroll (the Word of God) piece by piece and threw it into the fire! Then Jeremiah and Baruch wrote a second scroll with the same thing, and said, "Though you may burn the scroll in the fire, still the judgements are going to come. You cannot escape the judgement." (*Jer 36:30-31*) Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: *"He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. [31] I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed."*
- **How precious, how profound is the word of God to me? Am I giving His word the respect and awe that I should? How thankful, how obedient am I to it? (Joh 14:23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**
- Jehoiakim was guilty of shedding the innocent blood. During his reign, again they began to offer to Molech their children in the fires; and the killing of the prophets of God, who spoke against these acts.

2Ki 24:6 So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

- Jehoiachin was also known as Jechoniah, or in some places as Coniah.

2Ki 24:7 And the king of Egypt did not come out of his land anymore, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the River Euphrates.

- Although Egypt itself was not conquered by the Babylonians, they were not strong enough to go beyond their border, which was controlled by Babylon.

Jehoiachin Reigns in Judah

2Ki 24:8-9 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king (597BC), and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. [9] And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

- Jehoiachin, or Jechoniah had a very short reign. There is an important prophecy, concerning Jehoiachin's father Jehoiakim in (*Jer 22:30*) Thus says the LORD: *"Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants (Jehoiachin/Jechoniah) shall prosper (the kingly line from Solomon on down with be cutoff), Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah."* Some refer to this as the "Jechoniah cutoff" of the kingly line. Jechoniah was carried as a captive to Babylon, and his uncle, Zedekiah was placed on the throne in his stead, by Nebuchadnezzar.

- **Now the interesting thing about this fellow Jechoniah, and about this prophecy** in the New Testament, you have two of the gospels giving the genealogy for Jesus, the gospel of Matthew, recording the genealogy of Joseph, who was a descendant of Jechoniah. In Matthew, he is called, Coniah, but it is Jechoniah, or Jehoiachin, and being a descendant of Jehoiachin, had Christ been the son of Joseph, He could not be the heir to the throne of David, because of Jehoiakim's curse (Jechoniah's cutoff), cutting off his line. Thus, had Jesus been the son of Joseph, He could not sit on the throne of David.
- **That is why Luke's gospel records for us, the genealogy of Mary**, who also was a descendant of David, the royal seed. Mary's line goes back, not through Solomon, which was cutoff, but through Nathan, so that she was not a descendant of Jechoniah. Thus, being of the royal seed, her Son could be heir to sit upon the throne of David, and we know indeed that, that shall be the case. *(Isa 9:6-7) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*
- **Some wonder, "Why is it that in the New Testament you have two genealogies for Jesus, and they are different?"** It is because the one in Matthew is the genealogy (the legal, royal line) of Jesus Christ through Joseph (The Messiah will be the son of David), but it would disqualify Jesus from being a royal seed upon the throne of David. The other is the genealogy (the biological bloodline line) of Mary in Luke's gospel, but bypassing in the genealogy of Jechoniah, coming back to David through Nathan, which perfectly makes Jesus an heir to the throne of David, and thus the rightful King, to sit upon the throne of David.

Jerusalem Captured

2Ki 24:10 *At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon (605-562BC) came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.*

- This is 597BC. Ezekiel chapters 1-3 give more detail of this.
- Ezekiel is carried away to Babylon in this deportation. This is the second deportation.

2Ki 24:11-12 *And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. [12] Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out (surrendered) to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year (597BC) of his (Nebuchadnezzar's) reign, took him prisoner.*

- **That is the eighth year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar (605-562BC).** It was only the third month of the reign of Jehoiachin. When Nebuchadnezzar came, he had been besieged by these other little nations. They were not able to do anything, but when Nebuchadnezzar himself came, probably with extra troops from Babylon, he realized that to try to hold off the Babylonian army was useless. Thus, Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, who took him as a captive to Babylon. Later he was allowed to sit with the king in the court of Babylon.

2Ki 24:13-14 *And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. [14] Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives (Josephus says 10,852), and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.*

- **Nebuchadnezzar plundered the treasures of the temple and king's palace**, just as the LORD had said in (2Ki 20:17-18) *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. [18] 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.'*
- **He left only the very common, poor people** to become caretakers of the land, unable to revolt.

2Ki 24:15-17 *And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. [16] All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all who were strong and fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. [17] Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.*

- **Mattaniah was fourth son of Josiah.** All but Johanan (we don't hear anything about him), three of Josiah's surviving sons would hold the throne. Nebuchadnezzar, who had deported the other son, now makes this son

the king over Jerusalem and over Judah, and he changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah means righteousness of Yahweh, but he did not live up to his name. Josiah's four sons were Johanan, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, and Shallum (also called Jehoahaz) (*1Ch 3:15*). Jehoiakim was originally named Eliakim. Zedekiah was originally Mattaniah.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

2Ki 24:18-20 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years (597-586BC the final years of Judah) in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. [19] He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. [20] For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

- **Zedekiah was made king, but now he is rebelling also against the Babylonian reign.** The writer makes note that it was, “*of the LORD.*” God had given to Judah opportunities of repentance, and turning from their sins. God pleaded with these people to follow after the *LORD*. God had declared in the beginning when He made a covenant with this nation. “*If you will follow Me, if you will keep My statutes, and My commandments, then I will bless you and you will be prosperous. But if you forsake Me, then you will be taken captive. You’ll be driven from this land that I have given to You, and they will carry you away.*”
- **All of this had been promised by God.** In spite of the warnings, the people turned their backs on God, and would not repent (*14 times in tonight’s study*). All kinds of vile, filthy acts were going on. The sins of the time of Manasseh, the killing of the innocent children, the sacrificing of them their god Molech, in the fire. Things of this nature. The sodomites, or the homosexuals, the temple prostitutes, the pornography was all very common, and prevalent at this time, as the nation was destroyed. It was idolatry, the thing that God had forbidden.
- **Zedekiah also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.** How tragic indeed that all three of the great king Josiah’s sons “*did evil in the sight of the LORD!*” Evil to the end! The result? Captivity and the demise of Judah!
- **Because the children of Israel gave themselves over to the flesh, rather than seeking the help and deliverance from God, and did not repent, God allowed them to go into captivity!**
- **Judah fell, because they would not repent! Is there any part of me that is refusing to repent? Do I constantly demonstrate ample evidence of how critically important repentance is to me?**

Fall and Captivity of Judah

2Ki 25:1-3 Now it came to pass in the ninth year (588BC) of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. [2] So the city was besieged until the eleventh year (586BC), third and final deportation; Judah is conquered by Babylon!) of King Zedekiah. [3] By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

- **The Babylonians had cut off the supplies, and they were now six months under the siege.** The food was depleted within the city. People began to starve, and Josephus describes some of the horrible conditions under this particular siege that existed in Jerusalem. “*The famine had become so severe.*”

2Ki 25:4 Then the city wall was broken through (July 16, 586BC) Judah was conquered by Babylon), and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

- **They fled down through the Tyropoeon Valley, and escaped at night, somehow undetected by the Babylonians.**

2Ki 25:5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him.

- **Every man was fleeing for himself.** They caught king Zedekiah down by Jericho.

2Ki 25:6-7 So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. [7] Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

- **This blinding of Zedekiah is fascinating on a prophetic level because it fulfilled two very remarkable prophecies given concerning Zedekiah, one by Jeremiah, one by Ezekiel.** Prior to this, Jeremiah had

prophesied that Zedekiah would see the king of Babylon face to face. That was fulfilled at Riblah. He saw Nebuchadnezzar face to face.

- **Ezekiel then prophesied and declared that Zedekiah would be brought to Babylon, but he wouldn't see it, but that he would die there.** The removal of his sight allowed the two prophecies that seemed like, if you are going to see the face of Nebuchadnezzar, then surely you are going to see Babylon. How could you see his face and not see Babylon? Or if you were blinded prior to that, you would be blinded and not be able to see Nebuchadnezzar, and then you would not see Babylon. But here's the two prophecies come together. The amazing intricacy of God's Word. The testimony of fulfilled prophecy to the divine inspiration of the Word of God. It's a very, very powerful fulfillment.
- ***This is a wonderful example of what seems to be a contradiction of prophecies in the Scriptures, but we must remember that God's word is the truth! His prophecies are true and will always be true. How I need to be crystal clear on this!***

2Ki 25:8-9 And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year (August, 586BC, one month after the breakthrough of Jerusalem's walls) of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. [9] He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

- **Today, down in the area of Ophel, you can see the ashes of these fires.** There in the ruins of these houses you can see the layer of ashes described in this very passage of scripture, when Nebuzaradan came, and destroyed the temple, the city, and the houses.
- **He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house.** This is a very significant event. Solomon's temple was destroyed! They burned it to the ground, completely destroying it. It had been in existence for four centuries.
- **There is a great lesson from this too.** It's fascinating that when God spoke to the children of Israel, calling them to repentance while they were being attacked by the Babylonians, the children of Israel continued to be confident in the fact that they would not be defeated by Gentiles, because they still had the temple and they were still going to the temple to worship.
- **The LORD steps in, allowing the temple to be completely destroyed!** The religious activity that they were conducting in that temple meant nothing to God if it was not united with obedience to His word. God would rather see the pagans running through the temple and destroying the temple than to endure the hypocrisy of His people continuing to live in sin and yet going to temple and pretending that they were all right with God.
- **It's a very, very strong statement, on that particular subject.** So, the temple was destroyed, having been there for four hundred years. They thought it would be there forever! Nothing can happen to this temple. It's going to be forever. Solomon's temple. But the whole thing was destroyed! It was *burned with fire*.
- ***Am I prone in any way to think the way that Judah thought, that I will not incur the LORD's judgment as long as I go to church and worship, I can live anyway I want, even living in disobedience to the LORD?***

2Ki 25:10 And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.

- **It was a total sacking of the city.** The city was devastated. The walls were torn down, the temple was torn down, that glorious temple of Solomon. The houses, the palaces were all just rubble.
- **The reference to breaking down the walls of Jerusalem is significant for us is that those broken-down walls will link us in about one hundred and fifty years later to Nehemiah, who will be commanded by the LORD to rebuild them exactly 483 years, (173,880 days) prior to the Messiah's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday!**

2Ki 25:11-12 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude. [12] But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.

- **Only the poor people living in the fields were left to keep the vines and the crops.**

2Ki 25:13-15 The bronze pillars (Boaz and Jachin) that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea (large fifteen foot bronze laver) that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried their bronze to Babylon. [14] They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered. [15] The firepans and the basins, the things of solid gold and solid silver, the captain of the guard took away.

- **The Babylonians totally sacked the place!** Remember, later in the book of Daniel, when Belshazzar was having that great feast with a thousand of his lords? He commanded that they bring to him the gold and the silver vessels that his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem. They began to drink their wine out of these gold, and silver vessels, and they began to praise the gods of gold and silver, when came the hand, and the writing of judgment on the wall. This is when those things were taken. The whole thing begins to tie together, as you look at the accounts here.

2Ki 25:16-17 *The two pillars, The bronze Sea, and the carts, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure. [17] The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the capital on it was of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and pomegranates all around the capital were all of bronze. The second pillar was the same, with a network.*

- Remember the ornateness, the beauty, of these pillars, which are now destroyed and taken to Babylon. (1Ki 7:21) *Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.*

2Ki 25: 18-21 *And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and the three doorkeepers. [19] He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, five men of the king's close associates who were found in the city, the chief recruiting officer of the army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men (totaling 72 men who rebelled) of the people of the land who were found in the city. [20] So Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. [21] Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.*

- Thus, Judah was carried away! It is a tragic and very sobering thought right there at the end of verse 21. The great and wonderful and once godly nation of Judah; David being the second king, bringing it to greatness! It is no more! It is just gone! Empty, dispossessed of its people! Now God is not through with the Jewish people. He just wanted to teach them a very important lesson. It would be a hard lesson.
- There is a better and easier way to be cured of idolatry. It is just one word, “repentance,” having a change of mind about what I am worshiping in life while, at the same time, I am claiming to be a worshiper of God, to repent of that idolatry and turn wholeheartedly to God!
- This same progression is played out over and over in individual lives by people who want to know Christ; to have His protection, His promises in the Bible. They just do not want to supremely worship the God of the Bible! So, they begin to be involved in the things that the rest of the world worship. That is idolatry, giving these things a greater place in their life than God. God warns faithfully! He warns, and He warns!
- Then one day a line gets crossed when people refuse to listen to His voice! He will say, “All right, you like that sin? You like to dabble in that sin? Well, I have a cure for you. I am going to release you into the full experience of that sin. One day they wake up and they cannot believe the human being that that sin has turned them into. They're disgusted with themselves.
- They turn to God, saying that I have learned my lesson. I realized that this sin is not even to be dabbled in. There's no future in it. I do not want it to dominate my life. I do not want it to have any part of my life. I have learned that experience. I want to walk fully for You! Many have been in that place and have been forever cured. Then they spend the rest of their lives walking fully for God. It's a hard way to learn the lesson!
- But if any of us are in this place tonight where God's just reminding you: “Do not do that! You know better than that. You want to come to church, you want to hang around God's people, you want to be around, you want all of those blessings, but you want to do this sin thing over here? God is calling. He is saying, “I am not going to put up with it forever. I am not going to do it. I am warning you! Then one day, boom, it hits and we are in bondage to this thing. and that week's long or the month's long or the year's long nightmare comes!
- **There was no need for Judah's demise to happen because of idolatry. God is speaking to us right now! May I, we not forget! Repent! Turn from any and all sin! I do not want to learn it the hard way, which is always the worst way to learn the lesson.**

Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah

2Ki 25:22 *Then he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left.*

- The Babylonians would not leave the place without any kind of rule, any kind of authority, so now they chose this man, Gedaliah, who is described in Jeremiah as his friend. Jeremiah was prophesying saying to

Zedekiah, saying “Look God has appointed that the Babylonians are going to take this land. God is using them as His instrument of judgement. Now, just surrender to them, rather than go under the siege.”

2Ki 25:23-24 *Now when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Careah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men. [24] And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."*

- Gedaliah was using real wisdom, telling the people, “They have conquered us, do not be afraid to dwell here. You know, it will be okay. They are not going to be hard taskmasters.”

2Ki 25:25 *But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.*

- A number of the Babylonians that were there, with some of the Jews, and Gedaliah. Ishmael, doing a most wicked and treasonous thing, came up and killed all who were there!

2Ki 25:26 *And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.*

- They knew that after this act of treason against Babylon, that it was going to really be tough, so they all fled for safety, to Egypt. It is declared that at this time, Jeremiah was taken to Egypt, dying there, according to traditions. That, we don't know for sure.

Jehoiachin Released from Prison

2Ki 25:27-30 *Now it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month (560BC), that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign (562-560BC), released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. [28] He spoke kindly to him (Jehoiachin), and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon. [29] So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. [30] And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.*

- This closes the book by infusing a ray of hope concerning the future of the Jewish people. They have been in captivity in Babylon for 37 years. Now their king is taken out of the prison, given normal clothes, being fed every day. As they see the grace that is shown their king, who deserved no grace being given to them by this pagan king, it gave them the hope that God would do that for them as a nation. That one day they would be shown grace by the Gentile kings and would be allowed to return to the land and to Jerusalem. This is the way they would have interpreted this grace that was shown. So, it closes on that hope. Any circumstance that God is involved in, there is hope in that circumstance.
- In looking at recapping all of the lessons of 2 Kings. It could be summarized in just one lesson. That is the importance of obedience. Obedience allows God to bless His people in the full measure that He wants to bless His people, and He wants to bless us. Most of us are dads and moms, and if you're not a dad or a mom, you can put yourself in their place. We long to bless our kids. It's heartbreaking when a child's disobedience robs us of the opportunity to bless our children the way we want to bless them.
- How much more the heart of God. Obedience allows God to bless us in the measure that He wants to. Disobedience forces Him to withhold those blessings and instead to chasten and to discipline us.
- There is an astonishing amount of pages given over to just drive home that point. What does that tell us? That even though it seems like being repetitious, as we bring it up over and over through this book, and it tells me that apparently we cannot hear it too often. Apparently this world that we live in is so deceitful and so seductive and the sin so attractive and the temptations of the devil so subtle, that we need to hear repeatedly the importance of just simple obedience to God's word.
- Not a single person or nation who has violated this lesson of obedience has had it turn out any other way that than that which we see, first with the northern kingdom of Israel and then the southern kingdom of Judah, going into captivity. The stakes are so high.
- **God loves us so much, and so He invests the time and the effort to drive this point home. May no willful disobedience survive the searching of God's Word tonight in any of our hearts, in any of our lives. If you need to sit alone with the Lord to get things right with Him, then you do that; to do whatever needs to be done. The stakes are so high, so important to the heart of God.**

SUMMARY:

- **2Ki 24:5 How precious, how profound is the word of God to me?** Am I giving His word the respect and awe that I should? How thankful, how obedient am I to it? (**Joh 14:23**) *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*
- **2Ki 24:20 Judah fell, because they would not repent!** Is there any part of me that is refusing to repent? Do I constantly demonstrate ample evidence of **how critically important repentance is to me?**
- **2Ki 25:7 This is a wonderful example of what seems to be a contradiction of prophecies** in the Scriptures, but we must remember that God's word is the truth! His prophesies are true and will always be true. How I need to be crystal clear on this!
- **2Ki 25:9 Am I prone in any way to think the way that Judah thought**, that I will not incur the **LORD's** judgment as long as I go to church and worship, I can live anyway I want, even living in disobedience to the **LORD?**
- **2Ki 25:21 There was no need for Judah's demise to happen because of idolatry. God is speaking to us right now!** May I, we not forget! Repent! Turn from any and all sin! I do not want to learn it the hard way, which is always the worst way to learn the lesson.
- **2Ki 25:30 God loves us so much, and so He invests the time and the effort to drive this point home.** May no willful disobedience survive the searching of God's Word tonight in any of our hearts, in any of our lives. If you need to sit alone with the Lord to get things right with Him, then you do that; to do whatever needs to be done. The stakes are so high! It is so important to the heart of God!

MORE LOVE TO THEE, O CHRIST - Elizabeth P. Prentiss, William H. Doane, (2:38/2:41)

**1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!**

**2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!**

**3. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!**

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Chronicles, Chapters 1-5

A REMINDER! It is time to vote! As stewards of this great opportunity in our Republic of the USA, may we all be sure and let our voice be heard and vote!

I filled out my ballot with the help of this site. Just looked through the sites online and found this conservative "Reform California" voter guide, from Carl DeMaio (member of the CA State Assembly). It is for Orange County. Search for a voter guide for your county to see local input. May we pray and vote as the **LORD leads.**

<https://www.reformcalifornia.org/voter-guides/orange-county>