

Old Testament Survey Lesson Nineteen

Introduction: Years of disobedience led to fall of the south in 586 BC

- Last week prophets of the south
- Today, the exile begins

Remember:

United Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)
Divided Kingdom
Surviving Kingdom (722 BC-586 BC)

I. Jerusalem's Fall

- A. Capital city of Judah/embodied national hope since David
 - 1. Temple—focal point of religious devotion
 - 2. Davidic throne a fixed point of political optimism for national survival
- B. Waning prominence during Assyrian heyday
 - 1. In 612—Nineveh destroyed—Jerusalem still capital in south
 - 2. Had remained capital for four centuries
 - 3. Rise and fall of:
 - a. Damascus (Syria)
 - b. Samaria (Israel)
 - c. Nineveh (Assyria)
 - 4. Jerusalem remained seat of Davidic throne
- C. With Jerusalem's destruction in 586—Babylon was their new home
 - 1. Exile continued as long as Babylon was a superpower.
 - 2. 539 BC—fell to Medo-Persians
 - a. Jews granted privilege to return to Palestine
 - b. Some returned to build
 - c. Jewish state never regained complete independence (1948)
 - d. Some never returned home

II. The Babylonian Empire (Superpower—626 BC-539 BC)

A. Prior to 626 BC—an important province of Assyria

1. 626 Nabopolassar opposed Assyrian tyranny
2. Assyria attacked—Babylon successfully resisted
3. Nabopolassar made king on November 22, 626 BC
4. 622 strong enough to conquer Nippor—strategic city for control of Tigris and Euphrates River
5. 616 Nabopolassar routed Assyrians northward along Euphrates
6. Assyrians allied with Egypt—Babylon with Medes
7. In 612—Babylonians and Medes destroyed Nineveh—Assyrian King Sinsariskun died
8. By 609 Nabopolassar conquered all Assyria
9. 607-605 many battles/new territory
10. Sent Nebuchadnezzar to deal with Egyptian threat (605)
 - a. Ran Egypt out of Palestine—Jehoiakim was vassal of Egypt—became servant of Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Treasures from temple/hostages taken (READ: Daniel 1)
11. August 5, 605—Nabopolassar died—Nebuchadnezzar made king

B. Nebuchadnezzar controls Syria/Palestine

1. 601 marched into Syria
2. Extended to all of Syria later in year
3. Back to Jerusalem in 597—took King Jehoiachin captive
4. Made Zedekiah a puppet King of Jerusalem
5. New siege on Jerusalem began in 588
 - a. Zedekiah tried to escape but captured in Jerusalem
 - b. Blinded and taken to Babylon
6. August 15, 586—Jerusalem destroyed/population carried away—city in ruins
7. Davidic government ended
8. Nebuchadnezzar's elaborate building projects

The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30 NKJV

9. Nebuchadnezzar dies in 562 BC
 - a. Glory of Kingdom fades
 - b. Son Awel—Marduk reigns 2 years (562-560)
 - c. Murdered by Neriglissar (married to Nebuchadnezzar's daughter) in 560 BC
 - d. Neriglissar dies—son Labashi-Marduk reigns a few months
 - e. Nebonides claims throne in 555
 - f. By 548 delegates to Belshazzar and retires
 - g. In 539—kingdom falls to Medes and Persians (see Daniel 6)

III. The Medo-Persian Empire

- A. Cyrus the Great made Persia an international power
 1. Came to throne in 539 as a vassal of Media
 2. But only ruled Persia and Anshan
 3. Allied with Babylon against Media and consolidated all Persian provinces
 4. King of Media tried to hold him off but he prevailed—took power of both Persia and Media—formed power Medo-Persia
 5. Continued to take more territories
 6. Turned attention to weakened Babylon (539)
 - a. Hailed as liberator
 - b. Daniel 5—writing on wall
 - c. Encouraged uprooted people to return to homeland—Jews took advantage of policy
 - d. Prophesied about

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' Isaiah 44:28 NKJV

(150 years prior)

- e. Fatally wounded in 530 BC
- B. Cambyses (530-522)
 1. Son of Cyrus—defeated Egypt
 2. Cultivated friendship with Greeks
 3. While gone fighting—Guamata stole throne (suicide 522)

C. Darius I (522-486)

1. Rushed to Persia to execute Guamata
2. Conquered a rebellious Babylon
3. Decree of Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

D. Xerxes I (486-465)

1. Took over when Darius died
2. Completed building program
3. Assassinated by Artabanus—head of palace guard in 465

E. Artaxerxes (464-425)

1. Seized throne from father with assassin's help
2. Killed all who challenged for throne
3. Ezra/Nehemiah during his reign

F. Final Kings of Failing Kingdom

1. Darius II (424-404)
2. Artaxerxes II (404-359)
3. Artaxerxes III (359-338)
4. Darius III (338-331)

Greek Empire Followed:

IV. Prophets of the Exile

A. Ezekiel—prophecy dramatic acting

1. Author/Date
 - a. Ezekiel speaks in 1st person
 - b. Completed by 570 BC—right after last recorded prophecy
2. Ezekiel the person
 - a. Name= “God strengthens”
 - b. Both prophet and priest
 - c. Taken captive to Babylon—age of 25
 - d. Emphasis on temple, appropriate worship (priest)
 - e. Called people to abide by covenant
 - f. Lived with wife in home near Kebar River among the exiles
 - g. Prophesied 22 years

This material is copyrighted. Its use in the local church or in any other setting as a teaching tool or ministry presentation requires written permission from the author.

- h. Called “Son of Man” ninety times
 - i. Lifted or carried away “by the Spirit” frequently
3. Two purposes
- a. Proclaim God’s judgment on Judah (1-24) and nations (25-32)
 - b. Encourage captives with prophecies of future glory (33-ff)
4. Contents of Ezekiel
- a. Call (1-3)
 - b. Vision

And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. 27 Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. 28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. Ezekiel 1:26-28 NKJV

- c. Specific call

Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. 3 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. 4 Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. 5 For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, 6 not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you. 7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. 8 Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. 9 Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house." 10 Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears. 11 And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse." Ezekiel 2:9-3:11 NKJV

d. Signs/Parables—acted out prophecies

— Model of siege

"You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem. 2 Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around. 3 Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. Ezekiel 4:1-3 NKJV

— Laying on side

"Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. 5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year. 7 "Therefore you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem; your arm shall be uncovered, and you shall prophesy against it. 8 And surely I will restrain you so that you cannot turn from one side to another till you have ended the days of your siege. Ezekiel 4:4-8 NKJV

- Dug through water with baggage to illustrate exile
- Told not to mourn when wife died—as Israel did not mourn the temple's destruction
- All of these to shock Israel

e. Promise of Reward (33-37)

- Israel's future restoration
- New Temple
- Call to Repent
- God will be their shepherd
- Restoration of Israel

The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!' 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. 9 Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Ezekiel 37:1-10 NKJV

f. Gog and Magog (38-39)

- Debate
- Ultimate and final enemy for God's people
- God will overcome

g. New Temple (40-48)

NOTE: The glory that left in (8-11), will return in (40-48)

About this temple (interpretive issues)

- Fulfilled in days of Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah
- Millennial Kingdom?
- Church now?
- 1 and 3
- Only symbolic?

TRUTH: God is sovereign and will rule and reign ultimately in glory!

B. Daniel

1. Author

- a. Liberals dispute—prediction prophecy
- b. Likely Daniel (Jesus referred to him)

2. Date (span)
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion (605 BC)
 - b. 3rd year of Cyrus 536 BC
3. Setting
 - a. Daniel=God's my judge
 - b. Teen when carried to Babylon
 - c. Exiled to serve in government
4. Apocalyptic Genre
 - a. To unveil or reveal
 - b. Common genre in Near East
 - c. Symbols and vision to unveil meaning of hidden things
 - d. Future events and eschatological events
5. Purpose
 - a. Encourage exiles that captivity would end and future would be better
 - b. Divine sovereignty

This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: 25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. 26 "And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity." Daniel 4:24-27 NKJV

But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. 21 Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. Daniel 5:20-21 NKJV

- c. 1-6—Sovereignty over nations that existed then
- d. 7-12—Sovereignty over nations to come

6. Overview of Daniel

- a. Chapter 1—Exile of Daniel and friends, they refused to defile themselves
- b. Chapter 2—Nebuchadnezzar's dream

READ: 2:27-49

- c. Chapter 3—Golden image/fiery furnace
- d. Chapter 4—Dream of tall tree
- e. Chapter 5—Belshazzar/writing on wall
- f. Chapter 6—Daniel in the Lion's Den
- g. Chapters 7-8—Visions of 4 Kingdoms

(See also: 2:44, 45)

- h. Chapter 9

(See 9:24-27)

- Dispensationalism
- Millennial view
- Tribulational view in Chapters 10-12—vision of Israel's future

Conclusion: End times fulfillment of God's sovereignty—God is in control!