

Understanding Old Testament History

▶ **Is it a failed experiment?**

Creation – dashed expectations

A new beginning – after the flood

Abraham's hope – a great nation and a great blessing

The Law of Moses – An impossible standard

A king from the briar patch

The Old Testament God!

▶ **Our exalted God**

Nebuchadnezzar's testimony: Daniel 4:34-35

Jeremiah's testimony: Lamentations 3:20-22

▶ **The end of the Kingdom**

The dominance of sin

The wrath of God

The hope of Israel

Superpowers in the Middle East

Assyria (740-640 B.C.)

Capitol – Nineveh

Battled with Syria for dominance of Palestine

High water mark in 722 B.C.

- ▶ Captured Samaria
- ▶ Surrounded Jerusalem
- ▶ Isaiah 8:5-8

Dominated the middle east from Jotham to Amon

- ▶ Locked up Hezekiah “like a bird in a cage”
- ▶ Took Manasseh into captivity for a time
- ▶ Failed to capture Judah

Decline during the reign of Josiah (640-609 B.C.)

- ▶ Fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C.
- ▶ Egypt/Assyria alliance in 609 B.C.
 Josiah killed trying to intervene
- ▶ Battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C.

Superpowers in the Middle East

Babylon (605-539 B.C.)

After Carchemish – Nebuchadnezzar in Palestine (605)

- ▶ *First captivity* – Daniel and his three friends
- ▶ Death of Nabopolassar

Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem in (597 B.C.)

- ▶ Jehoiakim had just died in 12/598.
- ▶ *Second captivity*
 - Jehoiachin, queen mother, princes, servants
 - 10,000 leading citizens, craftsmen/smiths
 - Ezekiel
- ▶ Installed Mattaniah as king – renamed Zedekiah

Nebuchadnezzar returned to quell rebellion of Zedekiah (586 B.C.)

- ▶ Jerusalem fell after 19 months siege in 586 B.C.
- ▶ *Third captivity* – termination of the nation

The final days of the Davidic dynasty

Jehoiakim (609-597 B.C.)

- ▶ Eldest son of Josiah – Eliakim
- ▶ Appointed by Pharaoh Necho – renamed Jehoiakim
- ▶ 11 year reign – did evil before the LORD
- ▶ Three phases of his reign.
 1. Vassal of Egypt (609-605 B.C.)
2 Kings 23:34-37
 2. Vassal of Nebuchadnezzar (605-602 B.C.)
2 Kings 24:1
Rebelled after 3 years
Command of God to submit to Babylon
 3. Rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar (602-597 B.C.)
2 Kings 24:2-7
Raiders from Chaldea, Syria, Moab, Ammon
Died – probably in battle – 12/598 B.C.
- ▶ See Jeremiah 22:18-23 (Jer. 27:1-11; 36:1-32)

Jehoiachin (597 B.C. – 3 months)

- ▶ Reigned 3 months – March, 597
- ▶ Captured and taken to Babylon
 - 10,000 – with Ezekiel + Queen mother, wives
 - Leadership and wealthy (7,000)
 - Craftsmen and smiths (1,000)
 - A poor remnant
- ▶ See Jeremiah 22:24-30

The End of the Nation

Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.)

- ▶ Age 21 – ruled for 11 years
- ▶ Appointed by Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ Did evil – 2 Chronicles 36:12
- ▶ See Jeremiah 27:12-34:22; 37:1-39:18
- ▶ Rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar – Jeremiah 38:17-18
- ▶ 9th year – Nebuchadnezzar returns
 - Jeremiah 52 = 2 Kings 24:17-25:30
 - 19 month siege
 - City wall broken down (Jeremiah 52)
 - Zedekiah captured
 - sons killed before his eyes
 - Taken captive – see Jeremiah 52:11
- ▶ Jerusalem destroyed
 - House of the LORD burned
 - Palace burned
 - Houses of the great were burned
 - Walls broken down
 - Inhabitants carried away into captivity
 - Bronze of pillars and Sea were recovered
 - Chief Priest and other officers taken captive

Two Part Epilogue

Gedaliah

- ▶ Jeremiah 40:1-41:18
- ▶ Son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan
(Jeremiah 26:24; 2 Kings 22:3, 14)
- ▶ Appointed Governor by Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ Took oath of allegiance to Babylon
- ▶ Executed by Ishmael
- ▶ Return to Egypt – Jeremiah 42-45

Jehoiachin

- ▶ 2 Samuel 7:14-15
- ▶ 37th year of captivity
- ▶ A token of hope for the nation

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

Three perspectives in history

- ▶ The Godless
- ▶ The Godly
- ▶ God

The lessons of history

- ▶ Habakkuk
 - “How long will you tolerate evil in Israel?”
 - “How can you use a wicked instrument to judge?”
 - Answer: “The just shall live by faith.” (2:4)
- ▶ Zechariah
 - Zechariah 9:9-10 – Your King is coming
 - Zechariah 10:3-8 – . . . not cast them aside.
- ▶ Paul
 - Romans 11:25-29 – irrevocable calling of God.
 - Romans 11:33-36 – the wisdom of God