

## Lesson 32 May 17, King Manasseh      Read 2 Kings 21

Manasseh was one of the last and most wicked kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He led the people of Judah into all manner of idolatry, false worship, and false doctrine. Manasseh not only built altars to foreign gods and worshiped idols, but he also engaged in every imaginable kind of satanic art and persecuted everyone- especially the prophets who confessed and preached the truth.

The reign of King Manasseh was filled with unfaithfulness, idolatry and false doctrine which corrupted Israel. He was the worst of Judah's kings, and he led the people astray. The Lord promised to bring calamity upon Judah and "wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down." The Lord's judgement was pronounced upon Judah for having forsaken the faith. This judgment foreshadows the condemnation of hell that awaits all who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The spirit of unfaithfulness, idol worship, and false doctrine is part of the sinful nature and continues to threaten the church from within today as it threatened Old Testament Israel and Judah.

- 1) Who was Manasseh's father?
- 2) Compare Manasseh with his father. How did each of them lead the children of Israel?
- 3) What did the Lord foretell through the prophets that He would send because of the unfaithfulness of Judah?
- 4) What lessons do we learn from both Hezekiah and Manasseh?
- 5) Why is false doctrine still a concern for the church today?
- 6) What are some of the modern idols that God's people are guilty of worshiping?
- 7) How long did Manasseh rule? How long did his son Amon rule?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NREb33QoQ0w>

Evidence for Southern Judah: # 13 King Manasseh & #14 King Amon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVXbISMGaUg>

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

## **Lesson 32 May 24, King Josiah (Good King Josiah)**

In the 18th year of his reign, King Josiah began the reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem. He was unable to soften the hearts of the people of Israel until he read to them the Book of the Law, written by Moses. **Read the story of King Josiah in 2 Kings 22-23**

Josiah was one of the last and perhaps greatest kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He was well catechized in the faith. He is best known for the renovation and purifying of the temple in Jerusalem and for a restoration of the celebration of the Passover. The word of God was no longer being read and taught, and when the priest discovered the Pentateuch, and Josiah heard the word of God he tore his robes in an act of repentance. He recognized that the children of Israel and Judah had abandoned God's law and lost their faith. When Josiah inquired of the Lord what was to be done, the Lord confirmed His judgment against the Southern Kingdom of Judah. She would be carried away captive by the Babylonians.

Josiah ordered that the book of the Law be read in the hearing of all the people and he pledged himself to keep the Lord's Word. He destroyed all the places of idol worship in the land of Judah, executed the idolatrous priests, cleansed and refurbished the temple, and celebrated the Passover on a scale unlike any since the days of the prophet Samuel. In contrition and repentance, Josiah restored pure worship and true doctrine in the land of Judah, executed the idolatrous priests, cleansed and refurbished the temple, and celebrated the Passover on a scale unlike any since the days of the prophet Samuel.

In repentance, Josiah restored pure worship and true doctrine; he directed the people to repent of their sin and receive the Lord's promise of salvation in the Passover. If you

remember the story of Jesus speaking with the woman at the well, he asked her about worship. She said that the Jews worship in Jerusalem. Jesus told her that God seeks those who will worship Him in “spirit and in truth.”

- 1) How old was Josiah when he became king?
- 2) What did Josiah do when he heard God's word?
- 3) What guided Josiah to true worship in Judah?
- 4) How are we guided to true worship today?
- 5) Did Josiah live to see the judgment of the Lord against Judah?
- 6) Why is it important for us to hear God's Word on a regular basis?
- 7) What does the word *doctrine* mean?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggWHMo6McFI>

Josiah and the Book of the Law

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHtqEBmAPkM>

Thy Strong Word

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK6TdX7QME4>

Lord, Thee I love with All My Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFyX5Mn4fgM>

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

## **Lesson 32, May 31, The Fall and Captivity of Judah 2 Kings 24-25**

**Read Psalm 137**

Even though King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was an evil and ruthless man, the Lord raised him up as His instrument of judgement against Judah. In order to save, God brings the rebellious face to face with the judgement they deserve. Only then can they come to believe the promises of God for salvation. It is the same for us today. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem, leveled the temple to the ground, and carried away all her treasures, including many of her most prominent citizens. Only the poorest people of the land of Judah were left. They had no city, no temple, and no earthly kingdom to call their own. They had only the promise that God had made to Abraham. Through faith in this promise they would still have hope in the Messiah. Through faith in this promise that would learn that the real King of Israel was yet to come. Through faith in this promise they would yearn for the temple not made with human hands. The true temple of the Lord's body and blood that would be offered up as the eternal life giving sacrifice for all sin and for the salvation of the world.

- 1) Why did the Lord raise up Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon?
- 2) What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the city of Jerusalem?
- 3) Why does God bring the rebellious face to face with judgment?
- 4) What does the word Exile mean?
- 5) How were Adam and Eve exiled? Why?
- 6) Read Psalm 137 carefully. Why were the people unable to sing when they were in captivity?
- 7) How can we become captive to our own sin? What is the only way out of our bondage to sin, death and the devil?
- 8) What sacrifice did Jesus make for us?
- 9) Why is the story of the Babylonian captivity of Judah an important lesson for us today?
- 10) What causes us to be exiled from God?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZhLLeVFy7Q>

Babylon Captivity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYK9iCRb7S4>

Rivers of Babylon (psalm 137) song

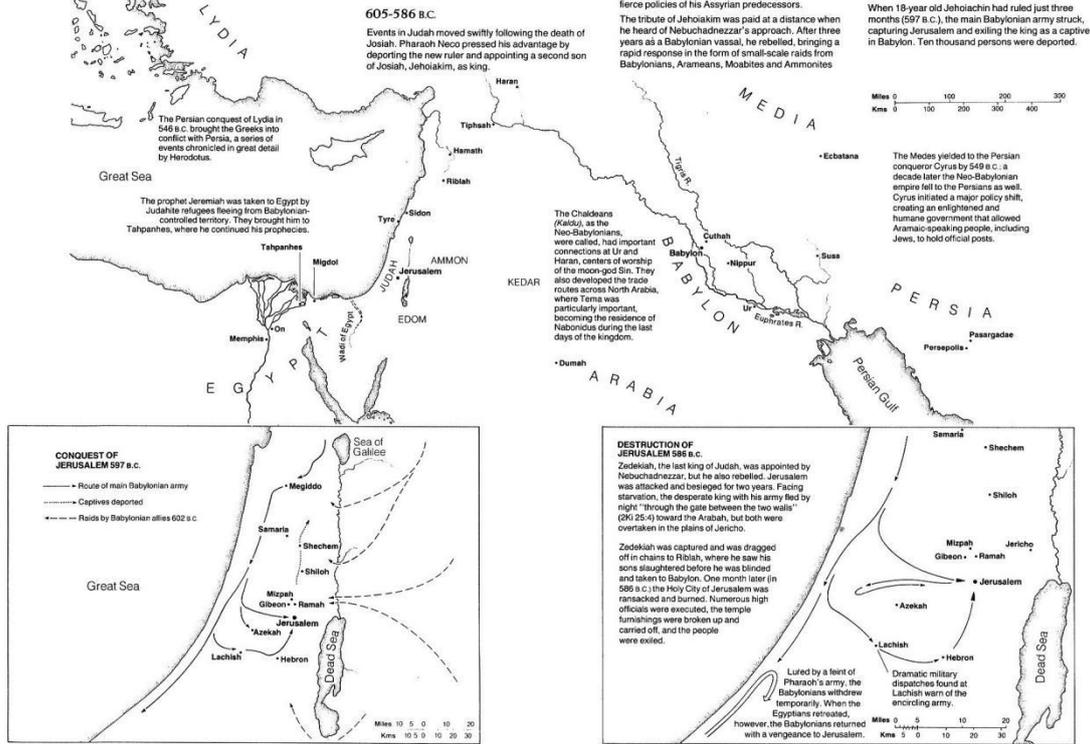
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d50KE9jMVWY>

The King of Love My Shepherd is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nsohAWX6GY>

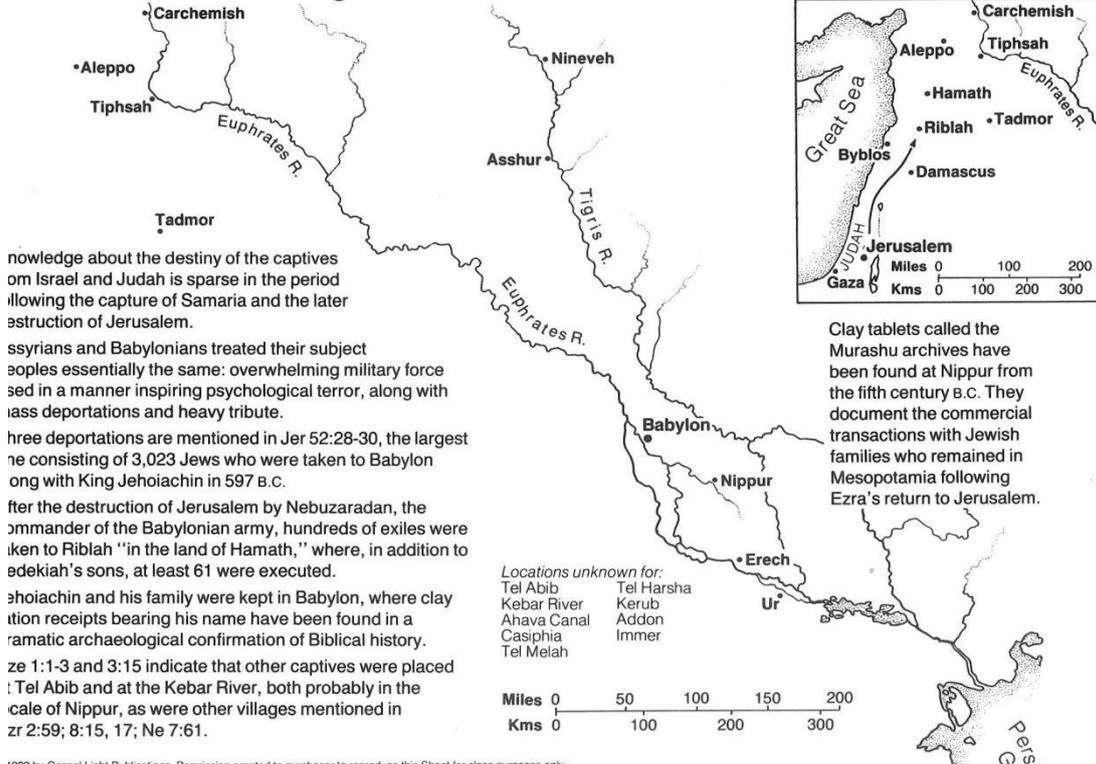
God' s Own Child, I Gladly Say It

### Nebuchadnezzar's Campaign against Judah



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### Exile of the Southern Kingdom



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