

Some Lessons From The Babylonian Captivity v2

Some practical applications for us to learn from studying the Babylonian Captivity

Introduction

- Old Testament reveals Divine history of Israel
- From their deliverance from Egypt until Babylonian Captivity, they gradually became more disobedient to God
- By 586 BC, the Babylonians had burned Jerusalem, destroyed its walls and the Temple

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Introduction

- Many Jews killed and thousands deported to Babylon
- What can we learn from this captivity?
- Jeremiah the prophet reveals lessons we can use today to be more faithful to the Lord

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:1 After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the officials of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths from Jerusalem and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me: behold, two baskets of figs set before the temple of the LORD!

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:2 One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, and the other basket had very bad figs which could not be eaten due to rottenness.

Jer 24:3 Then the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad *figs*, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rottenness."

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Jer 24:5 "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place *into* the land of the Chaldeans.'

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:6 'For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.

Jer 24:7 'I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:8 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness--indeed, thus says the LORD--so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land and the ones who dwell in the land of Egypt.

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

Jer 24:9 'I will make them a terror *and an* evil for all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all places where I will scatter them.

Jer 24:10 'I will send the sword, the famine and the pestilence upon them until they are destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their forefathers.'"

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

- God could no longer use many of Israel because they had misplaced trust in Him for idols and material blessings God had given them
- God would take away from them the things in which they trusted, their idols, the Temple, the land and their kings

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God Explains The Babylonian Captivity To Jeremiah

- Those whose hearts were so hardened they would not turn to God were destroyed by the Babylonians
- Those who would repent and be restored were taken into captivity that they might learn to trust in God above all

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While Trusting In The Temple They Lived in Idolatry and Immorality

Jer 7:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jer 7:2 "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house and proclaim there this word and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship the LORD!'"

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While Trusting In The Temple They Lived in Idolatry and Immorality

Jer 7:3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.

Jer 7:4 "Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'

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While Trusting In The Temple They Lived in Idolatry and Immorality

Jer 7:5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor,

Jer 7:6 *if* you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin,

Jer 7:7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

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While Trusting In The Temple They Lived in Idolatry and Immorality

Jer 7:8 "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

Jer 7:9 "Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known,

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While Trusting In The Temple They Lived in Idolatry and Immorality

Jer 7:10 then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered!--that you may do all these abominations?

Jer 7:11 "Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it*," declares the LORD.

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While Trusting In Their Kings They Rebelled Against God Their True King

Jer 22:24 "As I live," declares the LORD, "even though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a signet *ring* on My right hand, yet I would pull you off;

Jer 22:25 and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life, yes, into the hand of those whom you dread, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

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While Trusting In Their Kings They Rebelled Against God Their True King

Jer 22:26 "I will hurl you and your mother who bore you into another country where you were not born, and there you will die.

Jer 22:27 "But as for the land to which they desire to return, they will not return to it.

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While Trusting In Their Kings They
Rebelled Against God Their True King

Jer 22:28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered jar? Or is he an undesirable vessel? Why have he and his descendants been hurled out And cast into a land that they had not known?

Jer 22:29 "O land, land, land, Hear the word of the LORD!

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While Trusting In Their Kings They
Rebelled Against God Their True King

Jer 22:30 "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'"

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Trusting In The Promised Land They
Believed God Would Never Remove Them

Jer 25:4 "And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets again and again, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear,

Jer 25:5 saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way and from the evil of your deeds, and dwell on the land which the LORD has given to you and your forefathers forever and ever;

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Trusting In The Promised Land They
Believed God Would Never Remove Them

Jer 25:6 and do not go after other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm.'

Jer 25:7 "Yet you have not listened to Me," declares the LORD, "in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.

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Trusting In The Promised Land They
Believed God Would Never Remove Them

Jer 25:8 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Because you have not obeyed My words,

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Trusting In The Promised Land They
Believed God Would Never Remove Them

Jer 25:9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' declares the LORD, 'and *I will send* to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.

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Trusting In The Promised Land They Believed God Would Never Remove Them

Jer 25:10 'Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy 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.

Jer 25:11 'This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

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We Often Trust In External Things Instead Of Trusting In The Lord And His Word

1. Trusting in being in the right church (wrongly viewed as an institution)
2. Trusting in external worship while living rebellious lives
3. Trusting in our material blessings
4. Trusting in being in a secure and supposedly righteous country
5. Trusting in being in a certain church building instead of faithfully following the Word of God

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Captivity May Be Needed For Our Spiritual Survival

- What if the Lord allows those things in which we trust to be taken away from us, our material blessings, our church building, our country?
- Would we humbly seek for Him with our whole heart searching out and making all efforts to apply His Word?
- Or, do we believe we would need more than God and His Word to serve Him?

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