

August 10

2 Chronicles 36, 2 Kings 24, Jeremiah 22

Hi everyone! Online Campus Pastor Robert Murphy and once again I have the privilege of doing the Daily Accelerator for August 10. Today we cover a small portion of scripture from 2 Chronicles 36, 2 Kings 24 and Jeremiah 22.

As you will remember, Jehoiakim was succeeded by Jehoiachin and Jeremiah chapter 22 contains the gist of Jeremiah's communications to this king as well. "I will hand you over to those who seek your life, those you fear -- to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to the Babylonians. I will hurl you and your mother (the queen mother was a very powerful person) into another country where neither of you were born and there both of you will die. You will never go back to the land you long to return to."

I doubt Jeremiah gained any popularity with the king when he said that and then he added, "Record this man as if childless ... for none of his offspring .. will sit on the throne of David or rule in Judah anymore." And, this prophecy is fulfilled.

What takes place is the Great Deportation by Nebuchadnezzar. He leads Jehoiachin away as a captive a mere three months after he became king of Judah. Also deported are the soldiers, leaders, officials, and the skilled craftsmen and artisans. 10,000 in all. Only the poor are left behind in Judah.

Now, worth noting is Ezekiel is deported during this time. God is positioning Ezekiel for his work to fellow captives in Babylon.

After deposing Jehoiachin and installing Zedekiah as a puppet, Nebuchadnezzar contented himself for a time with the temple treasury, rich tributes exacted from Judah.

It was now only a matter of time until the disastrous end of Jerusalem. Why is this? Let me read a passage from today's reading that says it best.

"The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. Neither he nor his attendants nor the people of the land paid any attention to the words the Lord had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet. It was because of the Lord's anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence."

This passage is a good reminder to us. When God speaks to us as individuals, or as a nation, we need to respond accordingly. We should not take for granted our life, or God's love, because God is a just God and will judge us accordingly. How terrible it would be to take God for granted, to not respond to his repeated overtures to us, and then find ourselves thrust from his presence. May we respond to God and not repeat the history of Judah.