

The Story of the Bible

Judah Alone
Captivity
Return from Captivity
Years of Silence

Adult Bible Class – September 6, 2015

Today's Key Takeaways

- Judah Alone – Years of Silence
 - 2 Kings 18-25; 2 Chronicles 32-36; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther
 - Judah was spared from Assyria's destruction
 - Eventually, Judah became so wicked that God promised to take the people into captivity
 - The Babylonian empire captured Judah
 - King Cyrus released them to rebuild the temple
 - For about 400 years, there were no inspired writings given by the Lord

Points for Review

- Man was separated from God because of sin, but he can be reconciled through Christ.
- God's plan for reconciliation is revealed through the history recorded in the Bible
- We can utilize the 17 time period organization to help us to understand and remember the various events in the Bible

Points for Review

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- Exodus from Egypt
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of Canaan
- The Judges
- United Kingdom
- Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- The Captivity
- Return from Captivity
- Years of Silence

Points for Review

- Because of Israel's demands, God had chosen a king to rule over them (1 Samuel 12:12-13)
- The kingdom was divided under King Rehoboam following two events
 - Promise from God to Solomon (1 Kings 11:9-13)
 - Rehoboam's foolishness (1 Kings 12:13-16)
- Israel (northern) was constantly wicked and was destroyed by the Assyrians (2 Kings 17:18)

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- Israel (northern) was constantly wicked and was destroyed by the Assyrian empire eventually

Points for Review

- The nation of Judah was more righteous than the nation of Israel (sometimes)
- There were some good kings as well as some wicked kings
- Judah often sinned because outside, evil influences were allowed to affect them
- The nation of Judah was ruled by 20 kings, all from the same family (descendants of David), excepting Athaliah, the evil queen from Israel

Points for Review

- Around the time of Israel's destruction by the Assyrians, it appeared that Judah was to be destroyed also because of their wickedness
- However, the people repented under Hezekiah, who had great faith in God
- The Assyrians were repelled by the Lord, who destroyed their army in the middle of the night
- Judah continued to exist, apart from Israel

Judah Alone

- Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, was extremely wicked, drawing God's wrath and promise of punishment (2 Chronicles 33; Jeremiah 15:1ff)
- Manasseh ultimately repented for his sins, but the damage had already been done
- Josiah was the last good king of Judah
- Ultimately, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came and took the nation into captivity
- Captivity lasted for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:8-13)

The Captivity

- Interesting insight into the captivity time period comes from the book of Daniel
- Several detailed prophecies were given during the captivity time period
 - Daniel 2
 - Daniel 7-12
- Babylon was ultimately destroyed by the Medo-Persian empire (Daniel 5)

Return from Captivity

- The books of Ezra and Nehemiah describe the bulk of the history regarding this time period
 - Ezra – the first return (temple rebuilt)
 - Nehemiah – a later return (wall rebuilt)
- King Cyrus allowed the “Jews” to return to Jerusalem to reconstruct the temple (Ezra 1)
- The Jews met with adversity often, but ultimately persevered (consider Esther)
- Prophecies about John and Jesus (Malachi 3-4)

Years of Silence

- Approximately 400 year time period when no inspired writings were given by God
- Many of the differences that are seen in the New Testament time periods are due to events that took place during this time period
 - Rise of the Roman Empire
 - Various sects of Judaism
 - Construction of synagogues
 - Various other cultural differences

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