

The Story  
Chapter 17

# The Kingdom Falls

## *The Downward Spiral Continues*

- Manasseh
  - Amon
    - Josiah
      - Jehoahaz
        - » Jehoiakim
          - » Jehoiachin
            - » Mattaniah → Zedekiah

# Since redemption of Israel from Egypt

- **GODS PEOPLE HAD FAILED TIME & TIME AGAIN TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE ONE TRUE GOD**
- **WE MARVEL AT ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO LEARN LESSONS FROM HER PAST**
- **ABRAHAM HAD BELIEVED GOD AND WAS THEREFORE RIGHTEOUS BY FAITH**
- **AT SINAI ISRAEL AGREED TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY UNDER THE LAW**

# After failing miserably

- The curses of the Law were all complete (Deut 28 and 30)
- The people were shattered and scattered among the nations
- Just as God had said through Moses, David, Solomon, and the prophets

**This section starts with Manasseh on the throne → What did he do as King?**

- 12 when he became King**
- Reigned 55 years**
- He did evil in the eyes of The Lord**
- Followed the evil ways of those The Lord had driven out**
- Erected altars to gods**
- He led the people away from God**
- Did more evil than Amorites preceding him**

**2 Read 2 Kings 21. 10-18 – What did God do because of Manasseh and the peoples' sinfulness?**

- Bring disaster on Judah**
- Forsake the remnant and hand them over to their enemies**
- They'll be looted & plundered**

### 3. Who followed Manasseh & what was his legacy?

- 2 kings n22. 19ff
- Amon Manasseh's son
- 22 years old
- Reigned 2 years
- Followed in his father's footsteps
- Did evil in the eyes of The Lord

## 4. Who followed Amon as King and what was his legacy? [2 Kings 22 - 23]

- 2 Kings 22-23
- Josiah Amon's son
- 8 years old
- Reigned 31 yrs
- He did what was right in the eyes of The Lord
- Killed in battle



## 5. Next up – Jehoiakim [2 Kings 23. 36ff]– what'd he do ☐

- Preceded by Josiah's son – Jehoahaz
- He was pathetic
- Reigned only 3 months
- Jehoiakin
- Did evil in the eyes of The Lord
- Became a vassal of King Nebuchadnezzar  
– King of Babylon - 3 yrs

6. Followed by his son Jehoiachin [2 Kings 24. 8ff] who did what?

- 18 years old
- Reigned 3 months
- Did evil...
- Surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar

## **7. Who was Nebuchadnezzar and how does he play into our story line?**

- King of Babylon**
- God used him to discipline and punish Judah**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation to Babylon – 597 BC**
- Among them was Ezekiel**

## **8. What was Ezekiel's message to Judah?**

- Ezekiel - a biblical prophet and priest of ancient Israel**
- Ezekiel's ministry was conducted in Jerusalem and Babylon in the first three decades of the 6th century**
- Before the first surrender of Jerusalem, he was a functioning priest**

## 7. Who was Nebuchadnezzar and how does he play into our story line?

- King of Babylon
- God used him to discipline and punish Judah
- 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation to Babylon – 597 BC
- Among them was Ezekiel
- Message →
- God's judgment is coming
- Unbelief leads to doom

## 9. God called Jeremiah into his service – what was his message?

- The prophet of woe
- The weeping prophet
- He believed that God's mercy would prevail
- But judgment was coming

9. Go10. The last king of Jerusalem was  
\_\_\_\_\_?

- Zedekiah

## 11. What was his story?

- 21 years old
- Reigned for 11 years
- Did evil in the eyes of The Lord
- Did not humble himself to Jeremiah
- Rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar
- Jeremiah told him that he would never see Babylon again but to Babylon he would be taken
- That he would see his sons killed before his eyes
- Judah is in captivity



## *In the face of Failure - God offers a future*

- A New Covenant
  - A New Promise
    - A New Hope
      - A New Future

The heart of the New Covenant is  
The forgiveness of sins and a new heart

- **Life under the Old Covenant was not working**
- **The sin problem was a heart problem**
- **Israel was unaware of the need for a new covenant**
- **Gods people could not envision what God could and would do to save them**

## Jeremiah 31. 31-34

- *“The day will come,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the Lord. “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, ‘You should know the Lord.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me,” says the Lord. “And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins.”*

## Ezekiel 36. 24-27

*“For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land.*

*‘Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.”*

## 2 Corinthians 3. 7-10

*“That old system of law etched in stone led to death, yet it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses’ face. Shouldn’t we expect far greater glory when the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the old covenant, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new covenant, which makes us right with God! In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new covenant.”*

# The Future Hope of a New Covenant

- The Upper Story of the Lord's great plan of redemption is always one of hope and life
- At the lowest point in Israel's "Lower Story"
  - God revealed His great love for His people through the promise of a New Covenant in the future
- Judah was experiencing the discipline of the LORD for their failure to live by the Old Covenant when God promised a future covenant that would be everlasting
- Judah, only seeing her "lower story" circumstances needed to be shown that God's "Upper Story" was not over

# The Future Hope of a New Covenant Revealed thru Jeremiah

- Put His law in them, write it on their hearts
- Be their God, and they would be His people
- No need for teaching because they will know the Lord
- Forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more

## The Future Hope of a New Covenant Revealed thru Ezekiel in Banylon

- Gather Israel from the nations and return them to their Land
- Cleanse them from their filth
- Remove heart of stone & give a heart of flesh
- Put My Spirit in you to cause you to walk obediently



## The Old Covenant

- Law brought awareness of sin
- Carved on tablets of stone
- Time-sensitive, limited atonement
- Sinful High Priest
- Externally based
- A response of fear
- Passover looks back to bitterness/slavery
- Letter of the law kills
- Stopgap/patchwork

## The New Covenant

- New brought freedom from sin
- Written with the Spirit on human hearts
- Eternal purging of sins
- Timeless, perfect High Priest
- Internally based—matter of the heart
- A response of gratitude
- Passover looks back & forward
- Spirit gives life
- Turnkey/seamless

## Hebrews 10 .19-22

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s people, let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”*

- **When Israel was hopeless → God provided hope**
- **New Covenant → God's unfathomable grace**
- **Recipients of the New Covenant**
  - **Have indwelling of the Holy Spirit**
  - **Have a new heart**
  - **Are freed from their past**
  - **Are FORGIVEN**

The New Covenant is not dependant upon the Old Covenant

It is dependant upon what God did in

God showed Ezekiel He could breathe new life into old bones

Jesus the Christ