

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

II CHRONICLES 36:15-21; PSALM 137:1-6

LESSON: JUDGMENT AND EXILE — November 26, 2023

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS

36: 1-10 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to rule and he reign in Jerusalem for 3 months. The king of Egypt dethroned him and forced Judah pay him a tax nearly four tons of silver and seventy-five pounds of gold. **4** Neco king of Egypt then made Eliakim, the brother of Jehoahaz, king of Judah and Jerusalem, but changed his name to Jehoiakim. Then he took Jehoahaz back with him to Egypt. **5** Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to rule for eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did evil king in the eyes of the Lord. **6-7** Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made war against him, and bound him in bronze chains, intending to take him prisoner to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also took things from The Temple of God to Babylon and put them in his royal palace. **8** The rest of the of Jehoiakim's history was outrageous and detestable, and all of what was committed and happened to him as a consequence was written in the Royal Annals of the Kings of Israel and Judah. Jehoiakim's son, Jehoiachin became the next king.

36:9-10 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and ruled for only three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. And in the spring King Nebuchadnezzar ordered him to be brought to Babylon along with the valuables remaining in The Temple of God. Then he made Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah a puppet king over Judah and Jerusalem.

36:11-14 **11** Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king in Jerusalem, and reigned for eleven years. **12** He did evil in the eyes of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the Word of the Lord. **13** Now he has compounded his troubles by also rebelling against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name that he would be loyal. He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart, and would not turn to the Lord, the God of Israel. **14** Furthermore, the evil mindset spread to the leaders of the priests, and the people transgressed; became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and repeating the abominations of the pagans and polluting; defiling The Temple of the Lord, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem..

LESSON: I. COMPASSION II CHRONICLES 36:15-16

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

36:15 **And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:—** The Lord, the God of their ancestors; fathers, sent Word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had compassion upon His people and upon His dwelling place.

36:16 **But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.** But they mocked; poked fun of God's messengers; despised His words and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against them, and then there was no remedy. Judah had God's favor, only to have them turn away from Him, and eventually have the situation to go beyond repair. Beware of harboring sin in your heart, for the day will come when remedy will no longer be possible, and God's judgment replaces the mercy you want Him to have. The sin often repeated, but never repented of invites disaster.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

II. CONQUEST II CHRONICLES 36:17-21

36:17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. The Lord did not hold back. He brought up the king of the Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar II) against them, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm; aged. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar II who became the greatest of the Chaldean rulers. He treated the tribes of Judah almost as badly as the Assyrians had treated the Israelites. The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylon.

36:18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. Nothing was off limit. He plundered and carried everything of value to Babylon—all the articles from the Temple of God (both large and small); the Treasures of the Lord's Temple; the Treasures of the king; and his officials; royal princes.

36:19 And they burnt the house of God, and break down the wall of Jerusalem. And burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. They set fire to God's temple, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem. They burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. Nothing could be replaced.

36:20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon: where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:— The king of the Chaldees carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants; really slaves to he and his sons; successors until the kingdom of Persia came into power and conquered Babylon.

36:21 To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years. Thus the Word of the Lord spoken through Jeremiah came true that the land must rest for seventy years to make up for the years when the people refused to observe the Sabbath. All the time the land lay desolate while the exiles pay for their sins which also gives the land to recuperate and prepare to receive a purified people back.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 22-23

36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all the kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying. In the first year that Cyrus, king of Persia, was ruling Babylon, the Lord put a thought in his mind. King Cyrus decided to send a message to everybody who lived in his kingdom. His message would cause what God had already spoken to his prophet Jeremiah to become true. The message was written down and people took it all over Cyrus's kingdom. It said:

36:23 Thus said Cyrus king of Persia. All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heavens given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up. 'This is what Cyrus, the king of Persia, says: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me power over all the kingdoms of the earth. He has said that I must build a temple for Him in Jerusalem, the city that is in Judah. Any of God's people who live among you may now return to Jerusalem. I pray that the Lord their God will be with them."

INTRODUCTION:

So this Psalm depicts the return of the people to their homes after being in Babylonian captivity. We're looking back of what had occurred with the captives in Babylon.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

III. COMPLAINT PSALM 137:1-6

137:1 **By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.** This scripture literally saddens you when you are made to remember a place as Zion where you used to be, but now you're by the rivers of Babylon where God has had you carried away and into this strange land because of disobedience. You're not home in Zion (Jerusalem), which represented the presence of God, so there are tears of sadness. Have you ever been homesick? Well this is worst than homesick. Many times you can go home if you're homesick, but these exiles couldn't go home. God allowed them to be defeated and captured into the enemy's hand. And they're not leaving until God says so. That's how bad God's wrath was upon them! Alongside Babylon's rivers lie the Euphrates and Tigris, and the canals that crisscross Babylonia which became the places of lament for the captives. The weeping was mourning, a bewailing and deep grief would indicate. We sat on the banks; we cried and cried, remembering the good old days in Zion.

137:2 **We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.** It was on the drooping branches of the weeping willows trees (special kind of tree) that provided the most somber setting for the Jews to sit along the banks and weep for their city, and hung their harps. Well you remember everything in the Temple was burned up.

137:3 **For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.** And to add injury to insult, it was there that their captors, the Babylonians ridicule them by requiring a song from them, and their tormentors demanded songs for their entertainment and amusement saying, *"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

137:4 **How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?**— They probably knew the songs of Zion quite well, but they asked themselves How? Because it had become so hard for them to even sing the Lord's song in what they called a wasteland; a foreign land; a strange land—How can we; how shall we sing Jehovah's song among the uncircumcised?

137:5 **If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.** The psalmist doing the remembering tells us that if he forget about Jerusalem, he will let his right hand will drop off; forget its skill upon the harp or let his fingers wither and fall off like leaves than to play for these ruthless *"dogs."*

137:6 **If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.** Even their tongue will stick to the top of their mouth if they do not remember Jerusalem. *"Let me not sing again! I think of you more than the things that I like best."* These are some powerful affirmations of **"If I"** in verses 5-6. Grief had really overtaken them that these captives reasoned that if they had a choice they did not want to sing or play at all in this strange land. They just didn't realize that praising Jehovah would change them and get them through this exile.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 7-9

137:7 **Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.** The psalmist begs the Lord to remember what the Edomites did the day Jerusalem fell. The Jews were their brothers; their neighbors; their confederates, and one time their allies. But the day Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, the Edomites took part with her enemies and rejoiced at the destructions of Jerusalem. And Edom urged the Babylonians to *"Wreck it, smash it to bits!" (Tear it down)* even to its foundation..

137:8 **O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.** And the psalmist continued to say, but it's toward the Babylonians who had destroyed them. He wishes the worst calamities of war he can predict— O daughter of Babylon, the city that's doomed to be destroyed (Is.13; Is.47; Jere.51 all are predicted). That person will do to you what you did to us; A reward to whoever gets back at you for all you've done to us. He then will be very happy!

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

137:9 Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones. Yes, a reward; happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. The murder of innocent children was a fact an ancient warfare. The Babylonians had committed more than their share of such atrocities in a massacres of whole families as they moved across the *Ancient Near East*. God will have His way with our enemies.

SUMMARY: 2 CHRONICLES

15 The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent Word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had compassion upon His people and upon His dwelling place. **16** But, they mocked; poked fun of God's messengers; despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against them, and then there was no remedy. Judah had God's favor, only to have them turn away from Him, and eventually have the situation to go beyond repair. Beware of harboring sin in your heart, for the day will come when remedy will no longer be possible, and God's judgment replaces His mercy. The sin often repeated, but never repented of invites disaster (**36:15-16**).

17 The Lord did not hold back. He brought up the king of the Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar II) against them, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm; aged. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar II who became the greatest of the Chaldean rulers. He treated the tribes of Judah almost as badly as the Assyrians had treated the Israelites. The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylon. **18** Nothing was off limits. He plundered and carried everything of value to Babylon—all the articles from the Temple of God (both large and small); the Treasures of the Lord's Temple, the Treasures of the king, and his officials; royal princes. **19** They set fire to God's temple, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem. They burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. Nothing could be replaced. **20** The king of the Chaldees carried into exile to Babylon the remnant who escaped from the sword, and they became servants; really slaves to he and his sons; successors until the kingdom of Persia came into power and conquered Babylon. **21** Thus the Word of the Lord spoken through Jeremiah came true that the land must rest for seventy years to make up for the years when the people refused to observe the Sabbath. All the time the land lay desolate while the exiles pay for their sins which also gives the land to recuperate and prepare to receive a purified people back (**36:17-21**).

SUMMARY: PSALM

1 When you are made to remember a place as Zion where you used to be, but now you're by the rivers of Babylon where God has had you carried away into this strange land because of disobedience, you are in deep grief. **2** It was on the drooping branches of the weeping willows trees (special kind of tree) that provided the most somber setting for the Jews to sit along the banks and weep for their city and hung their harps. **3** And to add injury to insult, it was there that their captors, the Babylonians ridiculed them by requiring a song from them, and their tormentors demanded songs for their entertainment and amusement saying, "*Sing us one of the songs of Zion!*" **4** They probably knew the songs of Zion quite well, but they asked of themselves "How? Because it had become so hard for them to even sing the Lord's song in a strange land. **5** The psalmist doing the remembering tells us that if he forget about Jerusalem, he will let his right hand drop off; forget its skill upon the harp or let his fingers wither and fall off like leaves than to play for these ruthless "dogs." **6** Even their tongue will stick to the top of their mouth if they do not remember Jerusalem. "*Let me not sing again! I think of you more than the things that I like best.*" These are some powerful affirmations of "If I" in verses 5-6. Grief had really overtaken them that these captives reasoned that if they had a choice they did not want to sing or play at all in this strange land. They just didn't realize that praising Jehovah would change them and get them through this exile (**137:1-6**).