

2 3 **TENTS, TEMPLES, PALACES**

4
5 This study is outlined generally on the ICI course of the same name, authored by Rick C. Howard.
6 Further information on the course can be obtained by contacting Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone,
7 Springfield, Missouri 65804.

8 **Lesson 9** 9 **JUDGMENT AND CAPTIVITY**

- 10 ● It is essential that you remember the Kingdom of Israel was split in two following
11 Solomon's death around 931 B.C. Ten kingdoms formed the northern nation of
12 Israel with its capital in Samaria (present-day Sebaste) and the tribes of Benjamin and
13 Judah formed the nation of Judah with its capital remaining in Jerusalem.
14
- 15 ● From then on there were come victories; but there were many more heartbreaks as
16 disaster after disaster befell the people because of their idolatry. Both kingdoms fell,
17 the northern kingdom first to Assyria, and finally Judah to the Babylonians in 586
18 B.C.
19
- 20 ● The captivity of God's people brought great sorrow to His heart. Nevertheless, the
21 Bible teaches us that "the Lord corrects everyone He loves and punishes everyone He
22 accepts as a son" (Hebrews 12:6). We need to learn that if God must ever deal with
23 us in a drastic manner to turn us away from sin, He does so with a heart of love. As
24 you study this chapter tonight, you will discover some of the lessons the Jews learned
25 through their bitter experiences. Some of these lessons brought them lasting spiritual
26 benefits (never again would the Jews succumb to idolatry!). Perhaps you will find in
27 this lesson truths that you can apply to your own life.
28

29 **THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL TO ASSYRIA**

30
31 In our last study, on page 6 of those study notes, you found a listing of the 19 kings of the
32 northern Kingdom of Israel. Remember - everyone of those kings was bad! The 7th
33 king in that series was AHAB, who ruled for 22 years, from 874 to 853 B.C. (Elijah was
34 the prophet, followed by Elisha.) *During the 16th year of Ahab's reign, a great king*
35 *came to the throne of Assyria (to the north and east of Israel). That was*
36 *SHALMANESER 3.* He frequently came into contact with the borders of Israel because
37 he was building a great empire. He was followed by Tiglath-Pileser 3,
38

1 Shalmaneser 5, and Sargon 2. These three men made Assyria the most important
2 military and economic power in the Middle East. This build-up was done within the
3 space of 40 years. Ultimately, Israel was made a vassal (servant) state, paying tribute
4 to Assyria just to stay in existence. The prophets AMOS, HOSEA AND ISAIAH had
5 warned Israel that this would happen if it stayed in its idolatrous state, but the warnings
6 were not heeded.

7
8 **2 Kings 17:1-18** NLT

9 **Hoshea** (Israel's last king before captivity) son of Elah began to rule over Israel in
10 **the twelfth year of King Ahaz's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria nine years.**
11 **[2] He did what was evil in the Lord's sight, but not as much as the kings of Israel**
12 **who ruled before him.**

13 **[3] King Shalmaneser of Assyria attacked and defeated King Hoshea, so Israel**
14 **was forced to pay heavy annual tribute to Assyria. [4] Then Hoshea conspired**
15 **against the king of Assyria by asking King So of Egypt to help him shake free of**
16 **Assyria's power and by refusing to pay the annual tribute to Assyria. When the king**
17 **of Assyria discovered this treachery, he arrested him and put him in prison for his**
18 **rebellion.**

19 **[5] Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and for three years he**
20 **besieged Samaria. [6] Finally, in the ninth year of King Hoshea's reign, Samaria fell,**
21 **and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. They were settled in colonies in**
22 **Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and among the cities of the**
23 **Medes. (This is along the northern Euphrates River.)**

24 **[7] This disaster came upon the nation of Israel because the people worshiped**
25 **other gods, sinning against the Lord their God, who had brought them safely out of**
26 **their slavery in Egypt. [8] They had imitated the practices of the pagan nations the**
27 **Lord had driven from the land before them, as well as the practices the kings of**
28 **Israel had introduced. [9] The people of Israel had also secretly done many things**
29 **that were not pleasing to the Lord their God. They built pagan shrines for**
30 **themselves in all their towns, from the smallest outpost to the largest walled city.**
31 **[10] They set up sacred pillars and Asherah poles at the top of every hill and under**
32 **every green tree. [11] They burned incense at the shrines, just like the nations the**
33 **Lord had driven from the land ahead of them. So the people of Israel had done**
34 **many evil things, arousing the Lord's anger. [12] Yes, they worshiped idols, despite**
35 **the Lord's specific and repeated warnings. [13] Again and again the Lord had sent**
36 **his prophets and seers to warn both Israel and Judah: "Turn from all your evil**
37 **ways. Obey my commands and laws, which are contained in the whole law that I**
38 **commanded your ancestors and which I gave you through my servants the**
39 **prophets."**

40 **[14] But the Israelites would not listen. They were as stubborn as their ancestors**
41

1 and refused to believe in the Lord their God. [15] They rejected his laws and the
2 covenant he had made with their ancestors, and they despised all his warnings. They
3 worshiped worthless idols and became worthless themselves. They followed the
4 example of the nations around them, disobeying the Lord's command not to imitate
5 them. [16] They defied all the commands of the Lord their God and made two calves
6 from metal. They set up an Asherah* pole and worshiped Baal and all the forces of
7 heaven. [17] They even sacrificed their own sons and daughters in the fire. They
8 consulted fortune-tellers and used sorcery and sold themselves to evil, arousing the
9 Lord's anger.

10 [18] And because the Lord was angry, he swept them from his presence. Only the
11 tribe of Judah remained in the land.

12
13 * Asherah (pronounced a-SHARE-ah) was a goddess of the Phoenicians (Lebanon).
14 An Asherah pole was a representation of her. Her worship was lewd and associated with
15 that of Baal - another Phoenician god. An Asherah pole was not unlike the American
16 Indian totem pole.

- 17
18 ● The northern kingdom was held accountable by God for two transgressions:
19 - Idol worship
20 - Rejection of the message of the prophets who included Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah,
21 Amos and Hosea.

22 Because there was no genuine repentance and because of the pride of Israel's leaders,
23 God allowed Assyria to defeat them. **Assyria laid a five-year siege to Samaria, the**
24 **capital city of the northern kingdom. Then in 722 B.C. Sargon 2 captured the city**
25 **and took the inhabitants of the northern kingdom into captivity.**

- 26
27 ● "When the northern Kingdom of Israel fell, the capital city of Samaria was not
28 completely destroyed nor all of the inhabitants of the land removed. The wealthiest
29 and most powerful were deported to avoid conspiracy, while the humblest - the
30 peasants, the slaves and the small tradesmen - were left to care for the country. To
31 assist them, Sargon imported Mesopotamian settlers or captives from other subjugated
32 nations. The Israelites absorbed the foreign settlers and produced a racial
33 amalgamation which became known as the Samaritans. The foreign elements
34 brought with them their various gods. This process tended toward deterioration of
35 morals; therefore wickedness thrived as the weeds of the field. Later, when the Jews
36 returned to Jerusalem (after Babylon collapsed), the Samaritans offered their
37 assistance to Zerubbabel in the work of rebuilding the Temple, but the offer was
38 stoutly refused. The Samaritans resented this and then attempted to hinder the
39 rebuilding of Jerusalem (as we shall later see)."

40 ABRAHAM TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS / B. FREDERICK OWEN / ZONDERVAN / PAGE 72

- 1 ● What happened to the Jews of the northern kingdom? We have no accurate
2 historical account of what became of them after that. They simply disappear from
3 history, never returning to their native land in Bible days. It is possible that later,
4 when the Jews from the southern kingdom of Judah returned to Jerusalem from
5 Babylon, that some of them straggled back somehow to take part in the restoration.

When reading through history about the ten lost tribes of Israel - either in books or on the Internet, one has to be very careful because there is so much mythology connected with the subject. For example, British-Israelism (primarily from now-dead Herbert W. Armstrong) came out of this, a teaching which also denied the Trinity and implied that any human being could become a god-head. It is the safest policy, unless one leans toward speculation, to simply subscribe to the belief that the ten tribes of Israel were assimilated into other cultures through the centuries and have since lost their identity.

6
7
8 **THE COLLAPSE AND FALL OF JUDAH, THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM, TO**
9 **THE BABYLONIANS 130 YEARS LATER**

10
11 The fall of their northern brothers (to Assyria) was a tremendous warning and message
12 from God to the southern Kingdom of Judah. For a variety of reasons, including God's
13 intervention, Judah did not fall to Assyria at this time.

14 **2 Kings 19:32-36**

15 **"And this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: His armies will not enter**
16 **Jerusalem to shoot their arrows. They will not march outside its gates with their**
17 **shields and build banks of earth against its walls. [33] The king will return to his**
18 **own country by the road on which he came. He will not enter this city, says the**
19 **Lord. [34] For my own honor and for the sake of my servant David, I will defend**
20 **it."**

21 **[35] That night the angel of the Lord went out to the Assyrian camp and killed**
22 **185,000 Assyrian troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning,**
23 **they found corpses everywhere. [36] Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp**
24 **and returned to his own land. He went home to his capital of Nineveh and stayed**
25 **there.**

26
27 Why did Judah survive for another 130 years? For one thing, of the 20 kings who
28 ruled over Judah, seven of them were very good (remember the northern kingdom had
29 NO good kings). One of those seven good kings was King Hezekiah, the 13th king of
30 Judah, who reigned from 716-687 B.C. (29 years), during which time the attack from the
31 above scripture took place. When most of the other kings heard of impending danger
32 or attacks, they resorted to idolatry, turning to false gods, and failed. But notice how

1 King Hezekiah (with great assistance from the prophet Isaiah) reacted to the coming
2 attack from Assyria:

3
4 **2 Kings 19:1-7**

5 **When King Hezekiah heard their report, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth**
6 **and went into the Temple of the Lord to pray. [2] And he sent Eliakim the palace**
7 **administrator, Shebna the court secretary, and the leading priests, all dressed in**
8 **sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. [3] They told him, "This is what King**
9 **Hezekiah says: This is a day of trouble, insult, and disgrace. It is like when a child is**
10 **ready to be born, but the mother has no strength to deliver it. [4] But perhaps the**
11 **Lord your God has heard the Assyrian representative defying the living God and**
12 **will punish him for his words. Oh, pray for those of us who are left!"**

13 **[5] After King Hezekiah's officials delivered the king's message to Isaiah, [6] the**
14 **prophet replied, "Say to your master, 'This is what the Lord says: Do not be**
15 **disturbed by this blasphemous speech against me from the Assyrian king's**
16 **messengers. [7] Listen! I myself will move against him, and the king will receive a**
17 **report from Assyria telling him that he is needed at home. Then I will make him**
18 **want to return to his land, where I will have him killed with a sword.' "**

19
20 So what happened to the invading Assyrians?

21 **2 Kings 19:32-37**

22 **"And this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: His armies will not enter**
23 **Jerusalem to shoot their arrows. They will not march outside its gates with their**
24 **shields and build banks of earth against its walls. [33] The king will return to his**
25 **own country by the road on which he came. He will not enter this city, says the**
26 **Lord. [34] For my own honor and for the sake of my servant David, I will defend**
27 **it."**

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29 **185,000 Assyrian troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning,**
30 **they found corpses everywhere. [36] Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp**
31 **and returned to his own land. He went home to his capital of Nineveh and stayed**
32 **there. [37] One day while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his**
33 **sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with their swords. They then escaped to**
34 **the land of Ararat, and another son, Esarhaddon, became the next king of Assyria.**

35
36 Soon after all this, Assyria itself was conquered by the rising Babylonian Empire. The
37 prophet Nahum had predicted this. Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and the place where
38 Jonah had preached, was destroyed by Babylon in 612 B.C. Then Egypt challenged
39 Babylonia for possession of the western area of the fallen Assyrian Empire. This
40 included the territory in which little JUDAH, the southern kingdom, then stood alone.

1 But Babylon remained supreme. God raised up strong prophetic voices such as Isaiah,
2 Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah during this period.

3
4 However, despite these great voices from God, the southern kingdom failed to completely
5 get its act together spiritually, although there were occasional bright spots of revival.
6 Finally, God used Babylon against Judah just as He had used the Assyrians against Israel.
7 The prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah tell the reasons for God's judgment.

8
9 Judah's struggles against Babylon lasted for about 20 years. Then the southern
10 Kingdom was taken captive to Babylon in three attacks:

11
12 1. 605 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured King Jehoiakim, young
13 Daniel and his friends (who we know best as Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego), and
14 many captive men who were taken to what we know today as Iraq.

15
16 **2 Chron. 36:5-6**

17 **Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in**
18 **Jerusalem eleven years. But he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God.**
19 **[6] Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and captured it, and**
20 **he bound Jehoiakim in chains and led him away to Babylon.**

21
22 **Daniel 1:1-6**

23 **During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar**
24 **of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it with his armies. [2] The Lord gave**
25 **him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah. When Nebuchadnezzar returned to**
26 **Babylon, he took with him some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God and**
27 **placed them in the treasure-house of his god in the land of Babylonia.**

28 **[3] Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, who was in charge of the palace officials, to**
29 **bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble**
30 **families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. [4] "Select only strong,**
31 **healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in**
32 **every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good sense, and have the**
33 **poise needed to serve in the royal palace. Teach these young men the language and**
34 **literature of the Babylonians." [5] The king assigned them a daily ration of the best**
35 **food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for a three-year**
36 **period, and then some of them would be made his advisers in the royal court.**

37 **[6] Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen,**
38 **all from the tribe of Judah.**

39
40 2. 598 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar took King Jehoiachin and 10,000 leading citizens to
41

1 Babylon as captives including the prophet Ezekiel and the great-grandfather of Mordecai,
2 Esther's cousin.

3
4 **2 Kings 24:14-16**

5 **King Nebuchadnezzar took ten thousand captives from Jerusalem, including all**
6 **the princes and the best of the soldiers, craftsmen, and smiths. So only the poorest**
7 **people were left in the land.**

8 **[15] Nebuchadnezzar led King Jehoiachin away as a captive to Babylon, along**
9 **with his wives and officials, the queen mother, and all Jerusalem's elite. [16] He also**
10 **took seven thousand of the best troops and one thousand craftsmen and smiths, all**
11 **of whom were strong and fit for war.**

12
13 3. 586 B.C. Jerusalem and the temple were burned and destroyed. Most of the
14 remaining Jews were taken to Babylon.

15
16 **2 Kings 25:7-9**

17 **The king of Babylon made Zedekiah watch as all his sons were killed. Then they**
18 **gouged out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to**
19 **Babylon.**

20 **[8] On August 14 of that year, which was the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's**
21 **reign, Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, an official of the Babylonian king,**
22 **arrived in Jerusalem. [9] He burned down the Temple of the Lord, the royal palace,**
23 **and all the houses of Jerusalem. He destroyed all the important buildings in the city.**

24
25 And so the kingdom established by Saul over 400 years earlier, and ruled over by David
26 and Solomon, was now nothing but ashes. Yet this southern kingdom had a better fate
27 than the northern. It was punished by trouble and exile, yet later (under the Persians as
28 we will see next time) a remnant of the Jews did indeed return and Jerusalem was rebuilt.
29 BUT THE NATION WOULD NEVER AGAIN HAVE THE POWER AND GLORY IT
30 DID DURING THE DAYS OF DAVID AND SOLOMON. However, it will truly have
31 even greater power, prestige and prosperity when Jesus returns to establish His millennial
32 reign and of his kingdom there will be no end! **Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel**
33 **blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The whole world**
34 **has now become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign**
35 **forever and ever."**

36
37 **THE YEARS OF CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON**

38
39 Even though the Babylonians were not excessively cruel captors, and, in fact, many of
40 the captive Jews lived very good and productive lives in Babylon, the heart of the Jew is
41

1 ever toward Jerusalem and Israel. Few passages in Scripture are more pathetic than the
2 following:

3
4 **Psalm 137:1-2**

5 **Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept**
6 **as we thought of Jerusalem.**

7 **[2] We put away our harps,**
8 **hanging them on the branches of the willow trees.**

9
10 Encouraged by the Babylonians to sing, the captors were taken back by the plaintive lyrics
11 of the Jews:

12
13 **Psalm 137:4-6**

14 **But how can we sing the songs of the Lord**
15 **while in a foreign land?**

16 **[5] If I forget you, O Jerusalem,**
17 **let my right hand forget its skill upon the harp.**

18 **[6] May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth**
19 **if I fail to remember you,**
20 **if I don't make Jerusalem my highest joy.**

21
22

HOW THE CONCEPT OF THE SYNAGOGUE BEGAN

“Deprived of their central sanctuary, the Temple, at Jerusalem, and thus cut off from the place of sacrifice and ritual, it was impossible for them to practice their religion as they had done in the Palestinian hills. In their attempt to solve the problem and bury their grief, they devised a place of meeting which came to be known as the SYNAGOGUE - the house of study and prayer. This place of meeting, became the unifying bond, and center of their social and religious activities.”

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23
24
25 **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR**

26
27 Without question, the great monarch in the world at this time of Jewish history was the
28 King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. He was ruled from 605 to 562 BC. He was the
29 son and successor of Nabopolassar. During his father's reign, Nebuchadnezzar was sent
30 to oppose the Egyptians who were occupying western Syria and Palestine. At the
31 historic battle of Carchemish (605 B.C.) He met and defeated Pharaoh Necho, thus
32 becoming the undisputed master of Western Asia.

From the time well before Joseph, Egypt was the premier power of the Middle East. That record ended at the famed and historic Battle of Carchemish (located on the Euphrates River). When the Assyrian capital of Nineveh (of Jonah fame) was overrun by the Babylonians in 612 BC, the Assyrians moved their capital to Harran (of Abraham fame). When Harran was captured by the Babylonians in 608 BC, the capital was moved once again, this time to Carchemish. Egypt was allied with the Assyrians and marched in 605 BC to their aid against the Babylonians. The Egyptian army of Pharaoh Necho II was enjoined by the forces of Judah's king Josiah. Josiah - who had no business being in that battle in the first place - was killed and his army was defeated. The Egyptians met the full might of the Babylonian army at Carchemish where the combined Egyptian and Assyrian forces were soundly destroyed. Assyria ceased to exist as an independent power and Egypt retreated to the Nile and was no longer a significant force in the ancient Near East. Babylonia reached its economic peak at this point and Nebuchadnezzar was now taking a hard look at Jerusalem.

INSIGHT INTO JUDAH'S CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON

It must have seemed like the "end to everything" to the Jews when they were transported in chains or slave caravans to Babylon, 600 miles to the east. But God did not set them aside.

There are four main writings in the Old Testament that are closely associated with the years of the Babylonian captivity: Esther, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. The Jewish captives were settled in colonies at various points of the Babylonian Empire. The Jewish captives married, cultivated the ground, and became traders and business people. They even owned property and seemed to have been given as much liberty as the native Babylonians.

We know from Daniel and Esther that some Jewish captives rose to positions of great authority within both the Babylonian and later Medo-Persian empires. Still, they were captives in a strange and foreign land.

JEWISH LEADERS IN THE CAPTIVITY

God did not leave His scattered people without a message during their captivity. He raised up strong leaders among them. Daniel and Ezekiel are two examples of these. Both were from Judah and both were taken captive to Babylon. Daniel, as I have already indicated, was taken in the first group and Ezekiel in the second.

1 **DANIEL** was a princely young man who rose quickly into favor with Nebuchadnezzar,
2 the king. The book of Daniel which records his experiences is rich in both history and
3 prophecy. Daniel outlasted the Babylonian Empire and was an effective statesman for
4 decades into the Medo-Persian Empire.

5
6 **EZEKIEL** was a young priest. God raised him up to witness to the captives that there
7 was more judgment to come. When he began his ministry, Jerusalem and the temple
8 had not yet been completely destroyed. For four and one-half years, he preached the
9 message of the coming judgment. Then he retired to rest for two years until Jerusalem
10 was destroyed. This fulfillment of his prophecy showed him to be a true man of God.

11
12 **JEREMIAH** continued to write and prophesy during this period. For some reason he
13 was allowed to remain in Judah and later went with the Israelites who fled to Egypt.

14
15 **ESTHER** was another person of the captivity period. The Babylonian empire was
16 defeated by the Persians and Esther lived during that later time. The Persian king Xerxes
17 (known as Ahasuerus) was the ruler. She became his queen and her courage saved the
18 Jews from destruction.

19 20 RESULTS OF THE CAPTIVITY

- 21 1. Purification from idolatry.
- 22 2. A new form of worship
- 23 24 3. A new world view (since they were no longer isolated in the Promised Land
- 25 26 4. A greater concept of God with knowledge of a coming Messiah
- 27 28 5. A miraculous preservation, which continues to this day.
- 29 30
- 31
- 32

33 *The Lord willing, I am to be in Cuba from next Monday to Saturday, so I will not be*
34 *here next Wednesday night. We will pick up the final installment of Tents, Temples*
35 *and Palaces on Wednesday night, September 3 with "Return and Restoration of*
36 *Jerusalem and Israel." The next extended study, beginning this fall, will be THE*
37 *KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY - a study of the New Testament. The*
38 *dates will be announced soon.*