

That The World May Know - Prophets and Kings - Session 4: The Wages of Sin

Guarding the Approaches to Jerusalem

The Hebrews lived primarily in the mountains, clustered in towns surrounding Mount Moriah and the city of Jerusalem. After David established his kingdom, Jerusalem became the focal point of the Hebrews' religion and their national identity. The city needed protection for the enemies of Israel.

1. Even before Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, the Hebrews realized they needed to protect the territory surrounding it. Which approach to Jerusalem was threatened and who defended it?
1 Samuel 13:23 – 14:15
2. Where did the Philistines pitch camp? What happened to them after David killed Goliath?
1 Samuel 17:1 – 3
1 Samuel 17:48 – 52
3. From which direction did King Sennacherib of Assyria move his army toward Jerusalem?
Isaiah 36:1 – 2
4. Vander Laan points out that if Lachish stood, Jerusalem would stand; if Lachish fell, Jerusalem would fall. There is a spiritual truth in the relationship between Lachish and Jerusalem. That truth is that we need to defend the less-central issues in order to protect the crucial beliefs and values of the Christian faith. What similar situations do you see in today's society?

The Judgment of God

God is incredibly patient with His people, always ready to forgive. But when they are repeatedly rebellious and refuse to heed His warnings, He will send judgment.

1. What cautions did God give to the Israelites soon after they entered Canaan?
Deuteronomy 8:10 – 20
2. What did God promise would happen if the Israelites failed to obey Him?
Deuteronomy 28:15 – 22
Deuteronomy 28:49 – 52
3. Which sins did the Israelites commit that finally brought God's judgment?
2 Kings 17:9 – 17
4. After Israel was divided, God sent His prophets to both Israel and Judah. Who were the prophets? Which kingdom was involved? What was the prophet's message?
Jeremiah 1:14 – 16
Hosea 10:1 – 10
5. What did God allow the Assyrians to do to Israel because of their failure to keep His commandments?
2 Kings 17: 18 – 23

Four Kings Who Prolonged God's Patience

In 722 BC, the ten northern tribes of Israel were destroyed when God punished them for forsaking Him. The southern kingdom of Judah, however, continued to exist for more than a century before receiving God's judgment at the hands of the Babylonians. Why did Judah last so much longer than Israel? Consider the work of several God-fearing kings who brought the people of Judah back—at least temporarily—from the brink of disaster.

1. What did King Asa do that pleased God? What was the result?
2 Chronicles 14:2 – 7
2. What did King Joash do to turn the people back toward God?
2 Chronicles 24:8 – 14
3. What was Hezekiah's spiritual insight and commitment to God?
2 Chronicles 29:1 – 10
4. Instead of following false gods, what did King Josiah do? What was the result?
2 Chronicles 34:3 – 14
2 Chronicles 34:21 – 33

Hezekiah – Prepared to Defend God’s People

1. How did God respond to Hezekiah’s faithfulness?
2 Chronicles 31:20 – 21
2. Although Hezekiah had undertaken one of the greatest religious reforms the nation of Israel had ever seen, God still judged the culture for its sinfulness. What did God allow to happen?
2 Chronicles 32:1 – 9
3. After Sennacherib, Assyria’s king, invaded Judah with plans to attack the fortified cities of Judah, what plan did Hezekiah implement? How did he encourage his people?
2 Chronicles 32:1 – 8
4. How did Sennacherib respond to Hezekiah and the Hebrew’s God?
2 Chronicles 32:9 – 19
Isaiah 36:12 - 18

One King Who Got It Wrong

God rewarded his people who trusted and obeyed. The people followed their kings. King Ahaz was a king who got it wrong.

1. What crisis did Judah face?
Isaiah 7: 1 – 9
2. The Lord told Ahaz to ask for a sign. What did Ahaz do?
Isaiah 7:10 – 12
3. What sign did God give Ahaz without Ahaz asking?
Isaiah 7:13 – 17
4. What tragic event will God bring to Judah “in that day?”
Isaiah 7:17 – 25

References

Leviticus 25	2 Chronicles 31
Deuteronomy 8	2 Chronicles 32
Deuteronomy 28	2 Chronicles 34
1 Samuel 13	2 Chronicles 36
1 Samuel 14	Ezra 9
1 Samuel 17	Psalms 40
2 Samuel 5	Isaiah 1
2 Kings 17	Isaiah 36
2 Kings 20	Isaiah 37
1 Chronicles 11	Jeremiah 1
2 Chronicles 14	Jeremiah 30
2 Chronicles 15	Jeremiah 49
2 Chronicles 16	Hosea 10
2 Chronicles 24	Jonah 1
2 Chronicles 29	

God is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

In the Old Testament at Exodus 20:3, God the Father tells us to have no other gods.

In the New Testament at Mark 12:28, God the Son, Jesus, tells us to have no other gods.

In the New Testament at 1 Corinthians 8:6, God the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, tells us to have no other gods.

