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Judah taken into captivity

2 Chronicles chapter 36 is the final chapter of the book, which records the history of the last four kings of the southern kingdom of Judah. The first was Josiah's son Jehoahaz, who was deposed by the king of Egypt and succeeded by his brother Eliakim, Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim was later captured by the king of Babylon, the first phase of the exile of Judah, which took place in 605 B.C. At that time, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem, made Jehoiakim a vassal, and took Daniel and others into exile in Babylon.

Then Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, was taken away by the king of Babylon after only three months and ten days on his throne, and was taken captive to Babylon along with the precious vessels of Jehovah's house. This was the second phase of the exile of Judah, which took place in 597 B.C. Babylon invaded Jerusalem again, taking Jehoiachin and another group of people, including Ezekiel.

The fourth king was Zedekiah, who, during his 11-year reign, had been counseled by the prophet Jeremiah with the word of God, but he failed to seize the opportunity to seek God and turn the fate of the nation around. He and his subjects did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they defiled the house of the Lord by imitating the abomination of the Gentiles.

2 Chronicles 36:14 says, "The chief priests and the people also sinned greatly, following all the abominations of the Gentiles, and defiled the house that the Lord had set apart in Jerusalem." Thus, the whole of Judah society was full of sin. God is the God of grace and the God of righteousness. When his people repeatedly disobey counsel and persist in sinning, he will discipline them. In 36:17, it is written: "Therefore the Lord sent the king of the Chaldeans

against them, and slew their men with the sword in their temple, and showed no mercy to their young men and women, and to the old man Basuo." And the LORD delivered them all into the hand of the king of the Chaldeans. ”

2 Chronicles 36:19-21 goes on to say: "The Chaldeans burned the house of God, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem, and burned the palaces of the city with fire, destroying their precious vessels." And whoever escaped the sword, the king of Chaldeans carried away captive to Babylon, to be his servant and his servant, and to his sons, until the kingdom of Persia arose. And this was fulfilled the word of the LORD which he had spoken through the mouth of Jeremiah: The earth had rested, because it was desolate, and it had rested seventy years. ”

In 36:22-23, in the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the Lord stirred up the heart of Cyrus in order to fulfill his words spoken through the mouth of Jeremiah, causing him to issue an edict to the whole nation allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem to build the temple of God. This shows God's sovereignty and His discipline and restoration of the people. Although sometimes we are pressed to the bottom, God will make us look up again, and God's building will be revealed.

God's discipline and restoration go hand in hand in our daily lives and spiritual experiences. By reading the Book of Chronicles, we see that the spiritual principles of Old Testament history are equally applicable to the church today. We should learn to fear God and walk in His will, not in our own way. We thank the Lord for allowing us to grow in His grace and mercy and to learn from the lessons of the past.

Despite the desperation we may face, God will do His good things if we look to the Lord in simple faith, just as King Cyrus of Persia allowed his elect to return to their homeland and rebuild the temple. God's peace is beyond our comprehension, and when we trust Him, we can enjoy the joy that comes from Him.

Our Prayers:

Thank you, dear Lord, for speaking to us through the history of Israel. Lord, we are willing to take advantage of the opportunity you have given us to start afresh and to become children who listen to you and rely on you. Pray that we will know deeply what sad and painful consequences can come from living away from God! Lord, you are the master of history! Everything in the world, whether it is our work, health, family, or the direction of the country or the changes in the international situation, you are in charge! Help us to keep our eyes on you and pray for this generation, so that we may walk in your heart and be a conduit for blessing rather than a person of discipline. Thank you, Lord! Bless your church and bless your children!

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

2 Chronicles, chapter 36

36:1 The nation appointed Joahaz, the son of Josiah, to succeed his father in Jerusalem.

36:2 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months.

36:3 And the king of Ethiopia deposed him in Jerusalem, and punished Judah with a hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

36:4 And Nego, king of Egypt, made Elijah, brother of Jehoahaz, king of Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim, and brought Jehoahaz to Egypt.

36:5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem, and did evil things which were evil in the sight of the eyes of Jehovathah.

36:6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him with brass, to bring him to Babylon.

36:7 Nebuchadnezzar brought the vessels of the temple of Jehova to Babylon and placed them in the temple of his god (or his own house).

36:8 Now the rest of Jehoiaki's acts, and the abominations that he did, and all his deeds, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son succeeded him as king.

36:9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king (18 years old in 2 Kings 24:8), and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months and ten days, doing things which were evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

36:10 And it came to pass at the end of a year that Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought Jehoachin and all the precious vessels of the house of Jehoachin to Babylon, and appointed Zedeki, the uncle of Joiachin. King of Judah and Jerusalem.

36:11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

36:12 Do what is evil in the eyes of Yahweh. Jeremiah the prophet persuaded him with the words of Yahweh, but he did not humble himself before Jeremiah.

36:13 Nebuchadnezzar had made him swear by God, but he was a rebel and hardened in his strength, and did not submit to the God of Jehovah, Israel.

36:14 And the chief priests and the people also sinned in the abomination of the Gentiles, and defiled the temple that Jehohua had sanctified in Jerusalem.

36:15 The God of the fathers of Jehovah, because he loved his people and his dwellings, got up early and sent messengers to warn them.

36:16 But they laughed at the angel of God, and despised his words, and mocked his prophets, so that the wrath of Jehovah was directed against his people, and there was no way to save them.

36:17 Therefore Yahweh sent the king of the Chaldeans against them, and slew their strong men with the sword in their temple, and showed no mercy to their young men and virgins, and old men were white. And Jehohua delivered them all into the hand of the king of the Chaldeans.

36:18 And the king of the Chaldeans took unto Babylon the great and small vessels of the temple, and the treasures of the house of Jehohua, and the treasures of the king and all the princes.

36:19 And the Chaldeans burned the house of God, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem, and burned the palaces of the city, and destroyed the precious vessels of the city.

36:20 And all who escaped the sword, the king of the Chaldeans carried away captive to Babylon, and to be his servants and maidservants to his sons and his children, until the kingdom of Boz rose up.

36:21 And this was the fulfillment of the words of Jehovah, through the mouth of Jeremiah, and the earth was rested. because the land was desolate, he kept resting for seventy years.

36:22 In the first year of Cyrus king Persiath, that Jehohua might fulfill the words spoken through the mouth of Jeremiah , he stirred up the heart of Cyrus king of Bos, and sent an edict to all the land, saying,

36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Both, "The God of heaven in Yahweh hath given me all the kingdoms of heaven under heaven, and hath charged me to build a house unto him in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Go up to all of you who are his people, and may the God of Yahweh be with him.

Chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles focuses on the end and fall of Judah. The last kings of Judah were administratively, religiously, and militarily poor, constantly violating God's will and regulations, and the nation was brought to the brink of destruction.

In the first verse, Josiah became king of Judah, and in the first years of his reign he actively pursued the Reformation, purging the land of idols and pagans and rebuilding the temple of God. However, in his later years, he became involved in the war between Egypt and Babylon, eventually dying on the battlefield.

In verse 2, after Josiah's death, his son Jehoahaz became king of Judah, but he reigned for only three months before he was overthrown by the king of Egypt, Nicocai.

In verse 3, Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim becomes king of Judah. During his reign, he did many evil things, disobeyed God's will, and pushed the country to the brink of destruction.

In verse 4, Jehoiakim's son, Jehoiachin, takes over the throne. He also acted inappropriately and clashed with King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, which eventually led to the capture of Judah by the Babylonians, the destruction of temples and cities, and the exile of the Jews to Babylon.

In verse 5, Cyrus, king of Persia, issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild the temple and city. This marked the end of the exile period of the Jews, who began to rebuild their homes and faith.

The book chronicles the history of Judah from the time of King David to its exile and return, emphasizing God's love and justice, as well as warning people not to disobey God's will or face his punishment.

There are a few important verses in 2 Chronicles chapter 36:

1. "The LORD God of Israel, the Lord, gave a will to Cyrus son of Klemu, and sent to Judah and Jerusalem to proclaim: "The Lord is the God of heaven among all the nations, and he has a dwelling place in Jerusalem." " (36:22)

This verse describes the revelation of the Persian king Cyrus who proclaimed to Judah and Jerusalem that the Jews would return to their land and rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem. It was also God's grace and mercy that gave the exiled Jews a chance to return to their homeland.

2. "They slew Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest with the sword, and Zechariah called out to the Lord, and the Lord answered him." (36:24)

This verse describes the rebellion and ingratitude of the Jews against God during the Babylonian exile. They killed Zechariah the priest, which was a betrayal of God and disrespect to God's chosen people. But Zechariah cried out to the Lord, and God answered his cry.

3. "And all the remnant of the people, whom the king of Babylon did not take captive, dwelt in the land of Judah, and were their own people." (36:20)

This passage describes the exile of the Jews to Babylon by the king of Babylon, but some Jews remained in the land of Judah to continue their lives and work.

Chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles is the final chapter of 2 Chronicles and covers the reigns of Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, the last kings of Judah, as well as the destruction and exile of Jerusalem. This chapter highlights the consequences of nations' rebellion from God, God's warnings and counsel, and alludes to God's promises of future restoration.

Although this chapter is primarily a record of historical events, it still contains some theological ideas and gains.

The following are the central ideas and theological findings that can be found in 2 Chronicles chapter 36:

Consequences of the Nation's Rebellion from God: In chapter 36, the king of Judah and his people turned away from God's law and commandments and indulged in idolatry and evil ways. Because of their abandonment from God, God sent prophets to them to warn and exhort them to turn back and repent, but they did not listen and suffered God's punishment as a result.

God's Warnings and Counsel: In times of growing apostasy and sin, God continues to communicate warnings and counsel to the people through prophets, calling them to repent and return to God's law and commandments.

Destruction and Exile of Jerusalem: Because of the people's rebellion and sin, God sent King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to attack Jerusalem, destroy the temple, and exile the people to Babylon.

God's Promise for Future Restoration: Despite Israel's troubles and exile, the 2 Chronicles concludes with God's promise of future restoration, that after the end of the exile, God would stir up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that the people could rebuild the temple and return to Jerusalem.

Overall, chapter 36 of 2 Chronicles is primarily a record of historical events, and contains themes of the consequences of nations' rebellion from God, God's warnings and counsel, and God's promises for future restoration. Through these accounts, we can come to a deeper understanding that turning away from God will inevitably bring the punishment of faithfulness, but that God does not give up on the people, but still gives warnings and counsel to expect them to turn back and repent. God's promise of future revival demonstrates God's faithfulness and faithfulness, and He always gives hope and opportunity to return to God. We are to take to heart God's counsel and warnings, not to turn away from Him, but to faithfully obey God's laws and commandments. At the same time, we must also believe in God's promises for the future, believe that God always has a plan for revival and salvation, and can rely on God's help and faithfulness even in difficult times. We are to fear God with all our hearts, seek His face, and submit to His will, so that our lives may be a manifestation of God's glory.

Part of the Bible, the 2 Chronicles is a sequel to 1 Chronicles that continues the history of Judah and Israel. Although it is a relatively simple historical account, there are still some difficult questions and uncertainties surrounding its interpretation. Here are some examples:

1. There are relatively few historical records of the state of Israel in the 2 Chronicles, why? Some scholars believe that this may have been due to the fact that the rulers of the State of Israel were not as politically and religiously powerful as the Kingdom of Judah, and therefore were more neglected in the compilation of historical records.
2. Why does the 2 Chronicles of Hezekiah and Josiah seem to be different from other Old Testament books? Some scholars have suggested that this may be due to the fact that the 2 Chronicles of the Chronicles of the two kings are more idealized and deified, while other books focus more on their human flaws and political errors.
3. How does the description of the temple in Jerusalem in 2 Chronicles differ from other Old Testament books? Some scholars believe that this may be due to the different positions and purposes of the writers, who wanted to highlight the sanctity and importance of the temple.
4. How is this explained by the presence of some elements of myth and legend in the Chronicles, such as legends about mythical heroes and descriptions of witchcraft? Some scholars believe that these elements reflect the author's knowledge and borrowing from previous cultures and beliefs.
5. Does the presence of many words and actions condemning pagans and worshipping other gods in the Chronicles reflect the author's narrow-mindedness and exclusivity? Some scholars believe that this may have been an attempt to unite and consolidate the religious identity of the Jews of the time, but also to reflect the historical and political circumstances of the time.

While there may not be definitive answers, exploring these questions can deepen our understanding of the historical and theological significance of 2 Chronicles in the broader biblical narrative.