

## *Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Eleven: The Fall of Judah*

*2 Kings 23:31-25:30, 2 Chronicles 36, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations*

Read 2 Kings 23:31-25:30 with 2 Chronicles 36 and Jeremiah 39-44 and 52, adding the last kings of Judah to your chart.

- 1) Two world powers and several different kings of Judah were involved in the drama of Judah's final years of monarchy.
  - a) Which world powers were involved (see 2 Kings 23:33-34 and 24:1, 7)?
  - b) Which three of Josiah's four sons eventually became kings of Judah, and in which order did they reign, according to 1 Chronicles 3:15 and 2 Chronicles 36?
  - c) One other descendant of David reigned briefly, a grandson of Josiah. What was his name?
- 2) Compare the following references, noting the stages involved in the deportation of the residents of Judah and Jerusalem (the dismantling of the Judean monarchy). List the groups and individuals involved in each stage:
  - a) 2 Kings 24:1 with Daniel 1:1-3, 6
  - b) 2 Kings 24:12-16 with Ezekiel 1:1-2
  - c) 2 Kings 25:1, 9-12
  - d) Jeremiah 52:28-30 (The final deportation mentioned in Jeremiah 52 is not recorded in 2 Kings. It is possible that all three of the deportations Jeremiah references are in addition to those mentioned in 2 Kings.)
  - e) 2 Kings 25:22-26 with Jeremiah 42:1-43:7
- 3) Compare 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 with 2 Chronicles 36:21-22 and Jeremiah 29:10-11. What do you learn about God from these verses and how does this encourage or challenge you today?

Habakkuk prophesied during the years in which the Assyrian Empire was waning and the Babylonians were becoming powerful.

- 4) According to Habakkuk 1:2; 12; 2:2 and 3:1, who participated in a dialogue?

- 5) Habakkuk had two complaints.
- a) What indication do you find in Habakkuk 1:1-4 that Habakkuk's first complaint was about injustices being committed by his own people in Judah?
  - b) How did the Lord answer Habakkuk's first complaint in 1:5-11 (see also Habakkuk's responses in 1:12 and 3:16b to help understand the Lord's answer)?
  - c) What moral problem did this cause in Habakkuk's mind, according to 1:13-17 (this constituted Habakkuk's second complaint)?
  - d) How did the Lord answer this second complaint in chapter 2 (see especially verses 3b, 8, and 16)?
  - e) What is the significance of Habakkuk 2:20, in the context of Habakkuk's complaints and the Lord's responses?
- 6) How did the Lord's answers change Habakkuk's perspective, so that he could respond with the optimism expressed in 3:16-19? How is Habakkuk's conclusion also an answer to your own complaints?

The book of Jeremiah gives us one of the best examples of the ministry of a writing prophet.

- 7) In what period of Israel's history did Jeremiah minister, according to Jeremiah 1:1-3?
- 8) Skim the following passages and record what you learn or what impresses you about Jeremiah's life and ministry:
- a) Jeremiah 1
  - b) Jeremiah 16:2, 5, 8 and 27:2
  - c) Jeremiah 1:6, 14:13a, 32:17; but also 12:1; 20:7
  - d) Jeremiah 11:18; 18:18; 20:1-2, 7-9; 26:7-8; 32:2-3; 36:19; 37:15-16; 38:6
- 9) What repeated themes do you find to be part of Jeremiah's message:
- a) 4:4, 6:11, 7:20, 10:10, 25:15

- b) 32:3, 28; 37:8
- c) 2:8; 14:13; 23:2, 11
- d) 3:12; 3:14; 3:22; 4:1; 24:7; 26:3, 13
- e) 6:9a, 23:3, 31:7-9, 50:20
- f) 25:11-12, 29:4-14
- g) 30:3, 32:42, 33:6-11

**10)** Which of the following verses from Jeremiah speak to a particular need you have today? 2:19, 6:16, 10:23, 15:20, 17:7-8, 23:23-24, 23:29, 29:11, 31:3, 33:3

Lamentations is a lament over Jerusalem at the time of its destruction. Traditionally, Jeremiah is credited for writing it.

**11)** What aspect of the Fall of Jerusalem is described by the following verses?

- a) 1:11, 19; 2:11-12; 4:4-5, 9-10; 5:9-10
- b) 1:1, 4-5, 18; 2:9; 5:2
- c) 1:10; 2:6-7

**12)** Why are the verses in Lamentations 3:21-27 fitting as the centerpiece of a Biblical book about suffering? For what will you wait patiently on the Lord today, trusting in His faithfulness?

Read the short 21-verse book of Obadiah. Obadiah prophesied against Edom. The date of his ministry is debated, since Israel was affronted by Edom on more than one occasion. Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon is one of the most likely periods in which to date it.

**13)** According to Genesis 25:24-26, 30b; 32:27-28; 36:6-9 and Deuteronomy 2:4-5, what was the relationship between Israel and Edom?

**14)** According to Obadiah, what was Edom's offense against Israel (see also Psalm 137)?

**15)** Read Obadiah 1:15 with Acts 17:30-31, Romans 2:16, 2 Timothy 4:1, and Revelation 19:11-16.

- a)** Through whom will all men eventually be judged?
- b)** How can you be sure you will survive God's day of wrath (see Romans 10:9-11, Ephesians 2:8-9, and 1 Peter 3:18)?
- c)** How will this knowledge change the way you live and think today?