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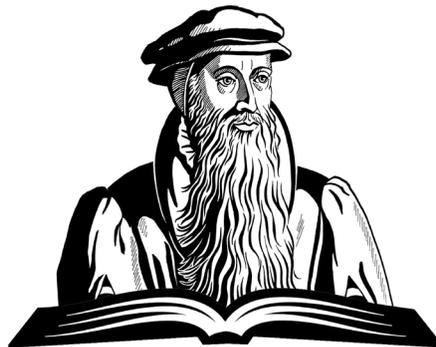
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 77:

The Captivity of Judah

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

77 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
- 77. The Captivity of Judah**

Lesson 77

The Captivity of Judah

The Second Book of the Kings, chapters 21 thru 25,
and the Second Book of Chronicles, chapter 33 thru 36

Memory Verse

“And he did that which is right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.”

2 Kings 22:2

Historical Summary

After the godly king Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh came to the throne of Judah. Sadly, Manasseh reversed all the religious reforms of his father Hezekiah. He built the high places again, restored the worship of Baal, profaned the house of God, dealt with wizards and spirits, and caused many innocent people to be put to death. He did more wickedly even than the wicked nations surrounding Judah. Because of this wickedness, God said that He would destroy Judah as thoroughly as a man wipes out a dish, turning it upside down. Nothing would be left of it.



God had already sent Assyria to invade and conquer Israel, and many were carried away in captivity to Assyria and other places. Now God sent Assyria against Judah. King Manasseh was captured and taken away to Assyria. Scripture tells us that in his affliction, he humbled himself and repented, and he prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and God heard him. So he was restored to his former position as king of Judah. Then he restored Judah to the religious conditions promoted by his father Hezekiah. The life of Manasseh is a clear example of man’s wickedness, but also of God’s mercy and grace to an unworthy sinner if we repent. Manasseh’s reign was followed by the reign of his son Amon, who also ruled wickedly. Amon’s servants killed him, and then his son Josiah became king.

Although Josiah had a wicked father, he was a God-fearing king. And despite being only eight years old when he began to reign, he sought to restore the true worship of Jehovah once again. He instructed Hilkiah the priest to repair the broken-down house of God. That’s when they found the

book of God's law hidden in the wall, and it was read to the king. This made king Josiah rend his clothes in anguish, because he realized how grievously Judah had sinned, and how deserving they were of God's punishment. The reforming work of Josiah was extensive and thorough. Josiah worked to stamp out idol worship in Judah. He even burned the bones of the priests of Baal as a public display of his utter hatred for such evil.

Josiah was careful to keep the Passover precisely in the way which God commanded. Keeping the Passover properly was a sign that his heart was right before God. He also made sure that the priests and Levites performed their tasks properly and he provided all the necessary sacrificial animals they needed. He turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul, so that there never was a reform like the reforms of Josiah. But God told him through Huldah the prophetess that God's wrath would be poured out on Judah for all their many sins, but not until after Josiah had died.

Josiah gathered all the leaders together and made a covenant before the Lord to walk after the Lord and keep his commandments. And he caused all the leaders to swear to the covenant. But later in life, he erred by interfering in a war which did not pertain to him. He was badly wounded and he died. A great lamentation was made for him, and he was buried in great honor.

The judgements that the Lord had brought upon Judah were delayed so that they did not come during the life of Josiah. But they came soon after. Jehoahaz his son was a wicked king, and Pharaoh Nechoh captured him, took him to Egypt, and made his brother Eliakim king, changing his name to Jehoiakim. Judah had to pay great taxes to Egypt avoid being destroyed.

The foreign control continued under Jehoiakim. Soon Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came up against Jehoiakim, and made him a kind of vassal king. This lasted for three years, and then Jehoiakim died, and his son Jehoiachin reigned in his stead. Nebuchadnezzar continued to conquer the land, took many captives, and carried away treasures. He even took away Jehoiachin and his family, and made his uncle Mattaniah king instead, but then changed his name to Zedekiah. This Zedekiah was also a rebellious evil king, and Judah's total destruction would therefore soon come to pass.

Nebuchadnezzar put down the rebellion by surrounding Jerusalem and cutting off its food supply. When Zedekiah and his family tried to escape, they were pursued and captured. Zedekiah was forced to watch as they killed his sons, and then they put out his eyes, and took him to Babylon. They broke down the walls of Jerusalem and burned the house of God, and took away all the implements and treasures stored within. They gathered the captains and the priests and all the leaders of the land, brought them to king Nebuchadnezzar, and killed them all there. Many more people were taken away to Babylon as captives. The predicted destruction of Judah was horrible, and it was everywhere. Nebuchadnezzar then appointed Gedaliah to be a governor in Judah. Gedaliah encouraged the people to submit and serve the Babylonians, but several men rebelled and killed him.

So Judah was forsaken and the destruction of its land was complete. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down, the treasures, and vessels, and furniture from the house of God were all taken away,

and the temple was broken down, and burned. The ruin and captivity of Judah lasted for 70 years, until the Lord stirred up Cyrus, king of Persia, to restore it.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

The mercy of the Lord is great. Time after time, Judah and Israel sinned against God. Yet the Lord did not immediately destroy them. Instead, he sent them prophets to call them back, and warnings to tell them they should repent and ask for mercy. When they did repent, God did show mercy. Often, he delivered them from what seemed like impossible circumstances. How is it possible that a holy God could show such mercy to guilty sinners? That was only possible because he would one day send his Son to suffer and die to be a sacrifice for sinners. That sacrifice was pictured in the lambs that were often sacrificed at the temple before the eyes of a watching sinner. Forgiveness and reconciliation could only be found by faith in the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Which of the following is true concerning the reign of Mannaseh, Amon, and Josiah?
 - a. They all three were wicked kings.
 - b. The only God-fearing king was Josiah.
 - c. Josiah was the most wicked king of them all.
 - d. Amon ruled the longest of the three kings
2. How did Josiah come to realize how awfully Judah had sinned against God?
 - a. He was told by his father and grandfather.
 - b. He was instructed by his God-fearing mother.
 - c. A book of the law found in the house of God was read to him.
 - d. He learned it from a tragedy which occurred in his life.
3. Which of the following are examples of the reforms that Josiah performed when he became king?
 - a. He broke down heathen altars.
 - b. He burned the bones of Baal worshippers.
 - c. He killed the priests who promoted idol worship in the high places.
 - d. All the above.
 - e. None of the above.
4. Which of the following is NOT a sign of Judah being controlled more and more by Nebuchadnezzar?
 - a. Their army growing stronger.
 - b. Their land being captured.
 - c. Their treasures being taken.
 - d. Their people being carried away.

5. What method did Nebuchadnezzar use to conquer Jerusalem?
 - a. He used battering rams to break down the walls.
 - b. He sent in spies to open the gates.
 - c. He cut off their food supply.
 - d. He captured their weapons of war.

6. What did Manasseh learn when he was taken captive.
 - a. That God is the Lord and he had to obey Him.
 - b. That God is a God of mercy and of grace.
 - c. That he needed the help of the king of Syria.
 - d. Only a and b
 - e. Only b and c.

Review Questions

1. Prove from the life of Manasseh that the true fear of God is not automatically passed from generation to generation.

2. How was the book of the law used in the life of Josiah?

3. Compare the reforms of Josiah with the reforms of other kings who were God-fearing men.

4. Note that the destruction of Judah did not happen all at one time. Instead, it took place in different time periods. What message was the Lord sending to Judah during that time?

5. What promise of God was fulfilled at the end of 70 years of captivity?
