

1050 B.C. → Israel's Monarchy

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The Northern Kingdom & The Southern Kingdom (Israel) (Judah)

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The Southern Kingdom (Judah)

598 B.C. King Zedekiah becomes the final Jewish King

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

2 Chronicles 36:11 NIV

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 36:12 NIV

He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name.

2 Chronicles 36:13 NIV

He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the Lord, the God of Israel.

2 Chronicles 36:13 NIV

My will not your will be done. Zedekiah

... "Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live.

Jeremiah 27:12 NIV

Arrogant, autonomous, and unaccountable rebels wrongly believe they are able to manage the consequences of their own behavior.

The outcome of rebellion is always painful.

Why will you and your people die by the sword, famine and plague with which the Lord has threatened any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?

Jeremiah 27:13 NIV

Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say to you, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon,' for they are prophesying lies to you.

Jeremiah 27:14 NIV

We drift towards beliefs that excuse our behavior.

On some level we all crave a theology that allows us to do whatever we want to do.

January 15, 588 B.C. The Siege of Jerusalem Begins

... "Please pray to the Lord our God for us."

Jeremiah 37:3 NIV

God loves you too much to let you get by with your rebellion.

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "This is what the Lord God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon,

Jeremiah 38:17 NIV

your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live.

Jeremiah 38:17 NIV

But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them.'" Jeremiah 38:18 NIV

King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews who have gone over to the Babylonians, for the Babylonians may hand me over to them and they will mistreat me."

Jeremiah 38:19 NIV

"They will not hand you over,"
Jeremiah replied. "Obey the Lord
by doing what I tell you. Then it
will go well with you, and your life
will be spared.

Jeremiah 38:20 NIV

But if you refuse to surrender...

Jeremiah 38:21 NIV

They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

2 Kings 25:7 NIV

God isn't coming for you to pay you back. God came for you in order to win you back.

God will not spare any of the consequences of your rebellion to win you back.

Surrendering to God will cost you something. Refusing to surrender to God will cost you something far more.