

# Lessons From Zedekiah's Quiet Prince

I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4



# Years of Jeremiah's Prophecy...

- 1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: 2 To whom the word of the LORD **came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.** 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, **unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.**

## The Chronology of the Kings

The United Monarchy	
Saul	c. 1020-1000
David	1000-960
Solomon	960-928
<b>Judah</b>	
Rehoboam	928-911
Abijam	911-908
Asa	908-867
Jehoshaphat	867-846
Jehoram	846-843
Ahaziah	843-842
Athaliah	842-836
Joash	836-798
Amaziah	798-769
Uzziah	769-733
Jotham	758-743
Ahaz	733-727
Hezekiah	727-698
Manasseh	698-642
Amon	641-640
Josiah	639-609
Jehoahaz	609
Jehoiakim	608-598
Jehoiachin	597
Zedekiah	596-586

# The Message Of Jeremiah

- The Theme: Stern warning against idolatry and of Babylonian Captivity. The Jews were to submit to the Chaldean yoke rather than rebel, since it was a just recompense of their sins. A Messianic Hope.
- Outline:
  - Prophecies under the reigns of Josiah and Jehoiakim (ch. 1-20)
  - Later prophecies under Jehoiakim and Zedekiah (ch. 21-39)
    - Nebuchadnezzar as the instrument of God to punish Judah.
  - Prophecies after the fall of Jerusalem. (ch. 40-45)
  - Prophecies against the heathen nations, including Babylon in ch. 50-51. (ch. 46-52)

# Setting For Lesson...

- 59 The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince. 60 So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. 61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; 62 Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. 63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: 64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.



# Background Dates...

930 → Kingdom Divides

722 → Israel is taken by the Assyrians

606 -605 → First raid of Babylon into Jerusalem; Daniel is taken

597 → Second raid of Babylon into Jerusalem; Ezekiel is taken.

594 → Zedekiah's trip to Babylon. (Jer. 51:59ff)

586 → Jerusalem is destroyed; Temple, Walls destroyed; Many captives taken to Babylon



# The Message Seraiah Would Take To Babylon

- Babylon is going to fall. (50:1-3; 51:1-2; 49)
- The city will become desolate, a hiss. (50:13)
- The walls will be broken, the gates will fall. (51:44,58)
- God in His wrath is going to take vengeance because of Babylon's sins. (50:14-15,25)
- The gods, Bel, Merodach will be broken in pieces. (50:2; 51:44)
- Nebuchadnezzar is mentioned by name. (50:17; 51:34)
- The conqueror (Medes) is specified. (50:9-10; 51:11-12; 28)

# Ancient Babylon

- In the form of a square, 14 miles on each side, and of enormous magnitude
- The brick wall was 56 miles long, 300 feet high, 25 feet thick with another wall 75 feet behind the first wall, and the wall extended 35 feet below the ground
- 250 towers that were 450 feet high
- A wide and deep moat that encircled the city
- The Euphrates River also flowed through the middle of the city. Ferry boats and a 1/2 mi. long bridge with drawbridges closed at night





# Applications

- We must be willing to proclaim the negative. (Jer. 51:60; II Tim. 4:2; Acts 24:25; 2:36)
- We must understand that the message is often rejected. Many will not like what we have to say. (I Cor. 1:22-23)
- We must be willing to teach all of God's word. (Jer. 51:61; Acts 20:20, 27)
- We must understand that what we proclaim is the word of God. (51:62; Jn. 16:13-16; I Cor. 14:37; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Jn. 9; Jude 3)
- We must illustrate our message by our lives. (Jer. 51:63-64; Titus 2:10)