

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 65

“Shock Value”

Study: Ezekiel 23:1-21

Reading: Ephesians 5:1-21

Memory: Psalm 119:1

There have been a handful of times over the years where I have had to do some repairs on electrical outlets. Most of the time, I turn the breaker off, but there are times where I think what I need to do will be a quick and easy fix. Many of the times the fix is rather easy, but there are other times where I made a mistake and the 120 volts of electricity that ran through my body reminded me of how dangerous working with electricity is. In most cases, I immediately went to the breaker box and turned off the breaker before I continued working.

Today, we will read some rather shocking descriptions given by God as He described the great wickedness of Israel. This shock was meant to warn the followers of God about the severity of wickedness.

What Does the Bible Say?

In a graphic picture God described to Ezekiel how there were two sisters who both decided to become women who sexually gave themselves over to men. This behavior started early on in their lives and they allowed many men to fondle them while they were young. One of these sisters was named Oholah which meant “her own tabernacle.” This was a representation of the city of Samaria. The other sister was named Oholibah which meant “my tabernacle is in her” and she was a representation of Jerusalem (vs 1-4).

Oholah chose to act like a whore while she was married to God. She lusted after other nations like the Assyrians. She saw the wealth and the power that the Assyrians had and wanted that for herself. She chose to chase after the men of Assyria and worshiped the idols of those men. Oholah had originally been a whore in Egypt before she was married, but marriage didn’t stop her from continuing in her wicked ways. Her husband had originally delivered her from her work as a prostitute, but she wasn’t faithful to her husband. Instead, she found new lovers to give herself to. These lovers did not treat her as she expected, but instead they humiliated her and took her children away from her, killing them with

their swords. She soon was looked down on by all the other women as she faced the judgement for her actions (vs 5-10).

Though Oholibah saw all the misery that her sister went through, she chose not to go the other way, but became more corrupt than her sister. She also lusted after all the Assyrians had to offer and felt that if she gave herself to these men, that she would experience that same privileges they had. She didn't get all that she wanted, but instead of learning from her sister, Oholibah went a step further and started sleeping with the Chaldeans. She gave herself over to the men and all of their idols. Though the land of the Chaldeans in Babylonia was a great distance away, she sent to these men and asked them to come and join her in her bed. They obliged and they defiled her even more than she had already been defiled. When the Chaldeans did not give her what she wanted, she turned on them and became disgusted with them. At the same time, her husband had looked at her with great disgust since she would not turn back to him (vs 11-18).

Instead of turning back to her husband, she continued to act like she had from her youth while she was in Egypt. She sought after lovers who she thought would bring her more satisfaction in bed. The NLT says. "She lusted after lovers with genitals as large as a donkey's and emissions like those of a horse." She chose to relive her days as a young girl rather than find the peace, satisfaction and security in her husband (vs 19-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

As I wrote this devotional I was trying to think of ways to describe what God described in terms that wouldn't be offensive since God gave some vivid descriptions of perverse sexual activity. I certainly don't remember hearing about this passage in my children's Sunday school classes. This reminded me of the fact that these words would have been a great shock to the Israelites in the culture of that day. It was a bold statement meant to get the attention of the Israelites to help them to see how wicked their sin was. Basically, this description was meant to have great "shock value" in order to help open the minds of the Israelites so they would see the great wickedness they were participating in. This is a good reminder for you today because sometimes it is easy to think that your sin and your wrong choices are "no big deal." There are times where you need to be shocked and realize how wicked your sin is before a holy God.

What scenario did God picture (vs 2)?

What did these girls choose to become (vs 3)?

Where were they at when this happened (vs 3)?

What was this a picture of?

What two names were given (vs 4)? What did the names represent?

- 1.
- 2.

What did Oholah choose to do (vs 5)?

Why did she choose to do this (vs 5-6)?

What actions of Israel do you think verses 5-7 pictured?

What had Oholah failed to do (vs 8)?

What was the result of this failure (vs 9)?

What did Oholibah see (vs 11)?

Why do you think she failed to learn from her sister?

Who did she lust after (vs 12)? Why?

How was Oholibah worse than Oholah (vs 14-16)?

How do you think this same thing could happen to believers today?

What did Oholibah do (vs 17-18)?

Why do you think she increased her whoring (vs 19-20)?

What does this show you about the emptiness of sin? Why is it important to realize that sin does not fulfill?

“Facing the Consequences”

Study: Ezekiel 23:22-35

Reading: Hebrews 11:23-29, Revelation 18:1-24

Memory: Psalm 119:1

When I was 21, I went to a financial seminar where the leader talked about the importance of starting to invest early on in life. He went over the principle of compounding interest and emphasized how a small amount on a regular basis can grow over time and make a big difference. He really emphasized this because he had met many older individuals who felt they couldn't afford to set aside extra long term savings money while they were young. Once they were older and started thinking about retirement, they were having to play catch up. That talk made a difference and I started investing as soon as I could after that. Though I didn't have much to put aside each week, I was willing to make the sacrifice then and I am very thankful I looked beyond my temporary needs and looked down the road.

Today, we are going to be reminded how important it is to realize how our decisions today will affect us in years to come.

What Does the Bible Say?

Oholibah (Jerusalem) had rejected her husband (God) and had chased after other men (Assyria and Babylon) but did not find the satisfaction she was looking for. Instead, she faced the consequences for her actions by being rejected by those who she gave herself to. Instead of embracing her, they attacked her. The people she had longed to be with and be like turned against her. The lovers came at her fully armed and would attack with fury. They would scar the face of Oholibah and take her sons and daughters with them. Many of these children would be tortured and killed. The beautiful jewels which she had attempted to use to win the affection

of her lovers would be taken. The great whoring that she had committed had to be dealt with and it would finally be done. She would be left in such a state that she would no longer be able to commit these horrible acts anymore (vs 22-27).

The lovers that had rejected her and were disgusted with her would

now be the ones in control of her. They would carry out their hatred upon her and take away anything she worked for. She was going to be left naked and empty. The full consequences of all of her promiscuous behavior would be evident to all. God made it absolutely clear to Judah that all of the judgement they were facing was a result of their sinful actions and their constant choice to chase after the foreign gods. They followed in the way of the northern tribes and were going to be treated just as the northern tribes were (vs 28-30).

Judah was going to have to drink out of the same cup that Israel drank out of. This cup of judgement was deep and large. It would result in mocking from other nations and great sorrow among the people in the nation. This cup involved horror and desolation. They were going to drink this whole cup and it was going to be an awful experience. God once again declared that this was a result of their choice. They were going to face the consequences of their selfish actions (vs 31-35).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the great consequences for giving into your fleshly desires? Judah did not just commit one sin, but repeatedly went after the gods of other nations. They chose not to follow the ways of God because the fleshly appeal of earthly things seemed much more enjoyable than the ways of God. They immersed themselves in this wickedness and could not escape the consequences when they failed to repent and turn. The very things and people which they sought out to be their joy and fulfilment were the very things that brought them great pain, misery and suffering. This is something that can be a valuable lesson to learn from. There are all types of things in this world that the enemy uses to appeal to your flesh and causes you to think that those things will truly make you happy. Though there is temporary pleasure and excitement in sin, the long term consequences are often much greater than you realize. One of the best ways to resist temptation is to take time to look at the consequences for your actions. Think about how this action will affect your relationship with others and your personal well being in a few days, months or even years.

Thought for the day

Who was this message directed towards (vs 22)?

Who was going to be turned against them (vs 22)?

What nations were listed in verse 23? What does this reveal about the severity of the judgement?

What does verse 24 describe about the impending judgment on Judah?

How was Judah going to be judged (vs 25)?

What was going to be taken away (vs 26)?

Why was God planning to do this (vs 27)?

Who was Judah going to be delivered to (vs 28)?

How did the Israelites turn from loving Babylon to hating Babylon?

What does this reveal about sin?

How would the children of Israel be treated (vs 29)?

What did God say was the cause for this judgement (vs 30)?

Who did Judah follow (vs 31)?

What would the people become (vs 32)?

How would the people feel after this took place (vs 33)?

What is emphasized in verse 34?

How did God say the Israelites treated Him (vs 35)?

How do you think you can act like the Israelites today?

What do you think you can do to avoid the same fate of Israel?

“Inviting Harm”

Study: Ezekiel 23:36-49

Reading: Psalm 37:1-6, Matthew 6:19-24

Memory: Psalm 119:1

Before moving to Michigan, the home we lived in started to have some mice come into the house. One of the reliefs we had when we moved is that we were moving to a brand new home that was well sealed and we wouldn't have to deal with mice. Well, that is what we thought. In our first year at our new home, I saw something move out of the corner of my eye, and sure enough, it was a mouse. I began to chase the mouse, and it appeared that the mouse did not know where he was going. He didn't seem to know any place to hide and after a little chasing I finally cornered him and was able to remove him from the house. I started to worry that we were going to have a mouse problem, but then one of my children told me that the night before, the outside door had been left open for a few hours. That helped relieve my mind and since we did not see any mice after that, it appears the mouse had come in through the open door.

Today, we are going to read how we can open the door to evil and invite it into our lives, sometimes without fully knowing what we are doing.

What Does the Bible Say?

Ezekiel was told that he had to confront the two prostitute sisters about their sin. The two horrendous acts these women did was commit adultery against their husband and sacrifice their children to the idols of the world. Israel chose to leave God, their husband, and commit adultery with the foreign gods of the world. Though they did physically offer their children as sacrifices at times, it seems best here that the sacrifice of their children was a spiritual sacrifice. Their choice to live in sin meant their children would grow up in environments where they would think that the worship of false idols was acceptable and the way that their lives should be lived. Instead of keeping the temple as a sacred place to worship God, they had brought other idols into the temple and no longer set aside a day to worship God and God alone (vs 36-39).

These whorish sisters had invited men from other lands to come and visit them. They dressed themselves up to impress by putting on makeup and the finest jewels. When these men came, they invited them to join them on their fancy couches and used incense to bring pleasant, enticing smells into the room. There were many men that came and they were lustful drunkards. They brought gifts to these women and made them feel special. By this time, these women were older and had been used and abused by many other men, but if these men insisted in committing their vile acts with these women, God was not going to stop them. Though they were allowed to do this, they would not escape judgement. Just as righteous men were to stand up and punish those caught in adultery, God was going to punish both of the men and women for their lewd acts (vs 40-45).

God called for a large number of people to come up against the land of Israel and Judah and had called these men to plunder and destroy the lands. Many of the people would be killed. Their children and their houses would be destroyed as God wanted to put an end to this great wickedness that was continually taking place. The penalty for their choice to become whores and commit spiritual adultery with other nations was going to be severe. Once again, God declared that these acts would show the people that He was the one true God (vs 46-49).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What are ways that you can act like the Israelites? It must be remembered that the Israelites didn't think they were that bad. After all, they still called God their God and still did practice many of the things that God had prescribed in the law. The problem was that they added all of the ways of the world to the way they worshiped God. He and His ways were no longer sacred and special to them. Instead, all the other gods of the world were invited in to share space with God. This reveals how easy it is for you to do the same thing. You can act like the Israelites by allowing the things of this world to control your life and not give sole control over to God. God makes it clear that you can not serve two different masters. No matter how hard you try, you will not be successful. This is why it so important to daily evaluate your life to make sure that God is the One who you are serving. When you choose to worship Him and follow Him, He will give you the desires of your heart or will help change your desires to be conformed to His.

What did God tell Ezekiel he needed to do (vs 36)?

What two major things did God say Israel had done (vs 37)?

- 1.
- 2.

What else had Israel done wrong (vs 38)?

How did God say they did this (vs 39)?

Do you think you can still commit this same type of sin? Explain.

What did they send for (vs 40)?

What did God picture the Israelites doing for these men (vs 40)?

How did the Israelites make themselves appealing (vs 41)?

How can New Testament believers make themselves appealing to the sinners of the world in a similar way?

What did the foreign nations do for Israel (vs 42)?

What does this show about the relationship between the world and followers of God who are choosing to reject Him?

What point do you think was being made in verse 43?

What had both Israel and Judah done (vs 44)?

Who would judge those who committed adultery (vs 45)?

What was the point of verse 45?

Who did God call to bring judgment upon Israel (vs 46)?

What judgement was going to happen to the Israelites (vs 47-48)?

What did God want them to know (vs 49)?

“The Corrupted Pot”

Study: Ezekiel 24:1-14

Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 13:1-13

Memory: Psalm 119:1

When my wife started working a full time job, I started to cook most of the meals for our family. When I was first starting to cook I used an older frying pan that had a coating on it that was supposed to keep the food from sticking. When I was frying some food, I didn't know that I was only supposed to use a plastic spatula with this pan. I was using a metal spatula which started to scrape into the coating causing black flecks to get into the food I was making. I didn't fully notice this until we sat down to eat. No matter how hard I tried to remove those black flecks, I just couldn't get the odd taste of that coating out of my food. I eventually threw that food out since I didn't think it was fit for eating.

Today we will read about a corrupted pot that had the ability to ruin the finest cuts of meat.

What Does the Bible Say?

To assist us in our chronological study of the Old Testament, we are given a specific date by Ezekiel of when this prophecy was received from God. He is dating this from 597 B.C. when he and many other Israelites were taken into captivity and transported to the region of Babylon. This meant that it would have been around January of 588 B.C. God told Ezekiel that on that very day the king of Babylon began a siege of Jerusalem which would last approximately 18 months. It must be understood that seldom would an opposing nation attempt to barge right into a large city. These cities were protected by massive walls and sieges would often last a long time. The attacking army would try to force the city into surrender through starvation as no one would be allowed in or out of the city. During this time, the attacking army would prepare to do battle by building ramps that would allow them to climb over the walls.

The goal of the people inside was to hope that a delivering army would come to their aid or that something would happen to the army that was encamped around them (vs 1-2).

This message was given to those in Babylon and pictures a large pot which was placed over a fire. This pot would be filled with water, pieces of meat and pieces of bone. Basically, it was a picture of stew or soup being made. This pot was symbolic of the city of Jerusalem. The pot was full of corrosion which caused even the choicest of meat inside to be corrupt. Ezekiel was told to take the meat out of the pot piece by piece, without caring what piece was being pulled out. This symbolized how the people in Jerusalem were going to be taken out of the city, without respect to who they were. They were a corrupt city who had openly sinned and rebelled against God. They had killed and murdered for selfish gain. Since they boldly committed the sin for all to see, God was boldly going to destroy them for all to see. He would allow the bodies to pile up, just as the meat from the stew was being pulled out and piled. Once the meat was out of the stew, the pot was to be set directly on the fire so that it would burn all the corrosion off of it. God pictured how He had tried to clean the people of the nation of Israel, but their city was so full of corruption that the only thing left to do was to pull the inhabitants out of the city and destroy them and the city. God was not going to turn back from this destruction. The people were warned over and over again to turn back to God and repent, but they failed to do so (vs 3-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is your pot corroded? God expressed how Jerusalem was so corrupt that even the best or finest of the people among them could not escape the corruption from the pot. Though our culture and setting are much different than what the Israelites experienced at that time, a general understanding of what God was saying is still applicable today. Jesus described how a little leaven (yeast) could make a powerful difference. Though sometimes this was used to illustrate something positive, it also pictured how a little sin could cause great corruption. This is a great visual for you to think about how you live your life. You can seek to accomplish great things for God and do wonders for His kingdom, but if you allow known and unconfessed sin to build up in your life, it is like that corruption in the pot. No matter how good the meat was that was placed in the pot, the corruption overwhelmed and destroyed it. No matter how many good things you do, your reputation and testimony can be destroyed if you don't pay careful attention to the pot of your life to make sure it is clean.

When was this prophecy given (vs 1)?

What was happening on that day (vs 2)?

Why was this a very important day in the history of Israel?

How did God described Judah in verse 3?

What did God tell Ezekiel to do (vs 3)?

What type of meat was he to put in the pot (vs 4)?

Why do you think he was supposed to do this?

What do think the “choicest one of the flock” represented (vs 5 - ESV)?

What was the problem with the pot (vs 6)?

What was Ezekiel to do with the meat (vs 6)? What was he not to do?

What didn’t Israel do (vs 7)?

What was God going to do openly (vs 8)? Why?

What was God going to do to the city (vs 9)?

Why was Ezekiel told to kindle the fire (vs 10)?

What was Ezekiel to do once all the meat was removed from the pot (vs 11)? Why?

What was the plan for the pot (vs 12)?

What was God’s desire for Israel (vs 13)?

What was God not going to do (vs 14)?

Why was He not going to do this?

“A Sudden Death”

Study: Ezekiel 24:15-27

Reading: Genesis 50:14-20, Romans 8:26-39

Memory: Psalm 119:1

When my father died of a heart attack just before his 52nd birthday, I was asked by my mother to speak at his funeral. This was a difficult task for me being a fairly new pastor in my mid 20's. As I prayed about what to say, I felt God impress on my heart to start the message out by reminding people that what we feel is a tragedy is not a tragedy at all in the eyes of God. Though this was hard to believe at the time, I knew it was true. God had a plan that I still don't fully understand today, but I knew I could trust Him.

Today, we are going to read how earthly events that may seem very difficult or cruel are events that God wants to use for His kingdom.

What Does the Bible Say?

In what must have been a heart breaking message, God revealed that the wife of Ezekiel was going to die. God described her as the “delight of your eyes” which indicated that Ezekiel and his wife had a very special relationship. This was not going to be a long drawn out process, but she was going to be gone very quickly. In what must have been a very difficult command, God told Ezekiel that he wasn't allowed to mourn or weep over the death of his wife. Ezekiel could mourn in private, but in public he was not to do any of the traditional mourning that was part of the Jewish society. Even if others brought him food, he was not supposed to take it. Ezekiel did as he was commanded and God did just as He said when the wife of Ezekiel died the same evening the prophecy was given (vs 15-18).

The behavior that Ezekiel presented was not normal and it caused the people to ask why he wasn't acting like a man who just lost his wife. Once he had the attention of the people, Ezekiel was to deliver a message declaring how God was going to destroy His temple, which had been His delight. Many of the people who had been left behind in Jerusalem would be killed. God told those in captivity that they would act just like Ezekiel once the news reached them. Normally, when a family member

would die, they would have others around them to help them in their grief. Once news would reach them of the death of their loved ones, they would have a hard time comforting one another since they would all be going through extreme agony and pain. God once again declared that He wanted the people to recognize and realize that He was the one true God who they should have been worshiping all along (vs 19-24).

As a sign to the people of Judah that this would take place, God caused Ezekiel to become mute and he would be unable to speak. This would continue until the day when a messenger would come from Israel sharing the word of the great destruction that took place in Jerusalem. This was to be a clear sign to the people that it was God who chose to do this to them. Yes, it would be the the Babylonian kingdom carrying out the plan of God, but God wanted them to know that He was the one who was in control of the world (vs 25-27).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Why would God cause Ezekiel to experience the death of a loved one in an attempt to teach the Israelites a lesson? This is a tough question, It is similar to the question that you may have asked God when a tragedy struck you or others around you. The reality is that you may not get an answer to this question until eternity. Yet, at the same time you can realize from this narrative as well as many others in Scripture that your sovereign God is in control of the affairs of this life and that you can trust Him through your earthly pain. One of the important things to understand is that God can see so much more than you do and He has a much bigger picture of life than you ever could. The tragedies that you face could be that one thing that was necessary to change the eternal destiny of others around you. As a follower of God, you are not on this earth to live for yourself, but you are here to live for God and His kingdom. Just as Ezekiel, God wants you to submit to His plan, no matter how hard it may seem.

Suggestions for Prayer

* Ask God to help you trust His plan.

* Praise God for being a sovereign God.

Thought for the day

What did God say He was going to do (vs 16)?

Why do you think she was described as “the delight of your eyes” (vs 16)?

What does this reveal about how “tragic” this would have been from a human perspective?

What was Ezekiel told he couldn’t do (vs 16)?

Why do you think this would have been hard?

Why did God give such unique instructions about how Ezekiel was to act (vs 17)?

****All of these had to do with the public mourning process.*

What happened that evening (vs 18)?

Why do you think Ezekiel chose to submit to the plan of God (vs 18)?

What did the people want to know (vs 19)?

What does this reveal about how unique Ezekiel’s actions were?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 21)?

What did Ezekiel say the Israelites were going to do (vs 22-23)?

What did God want them to know (vs 24)? Why?

What was God going to take away (vs 25)? What was this a reference to?

What was going to happen very soon (vs 26)?

What was going to happen to Ezekiel until that day (vs 27)?

What was this going to be a sign of?

“Even With The Wounded”

Study: 2 Kings 25:1-2, Jeremiah 39:1, 52:1-5, 37:1-10

Reading: Psalm 91:1-16, 1 Samuel 14:1-23

Memory: Psalm 119:1

I am not a big movie buff and I don't remember many movies that I have watched over the years, but two movies from my teenage years are etched in my mind. Both of these involve the idea of a person who has been beaten and injured but overcome their injury to be victorious over their enemy. These two movies, *The Karate Kid* and *Rocky IV*, inspired me with the idea that I can overcome adversity to be victorious.

Today, we will read how God described that wounded soldiers were no problem for Him to use. When He wanted to accomplish His plan, He could use anyone in any condition.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Zedekiah had been placed as king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar, he chose to rebel against the Babylonian kingdom. He was not a godly king and his evil led to the choice that God made to destroy the city of Jerusalem. This rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar caused the Babylonians to lay siege to the city in the ninth year of the reign of Zedekiah. They built up ramps around the city and spent about two years preparing to invade. It was in the eleventh year of his reign (also the eleventh year of the captivity of Ezekiel) which would place it in 597 B.C. (2 Kings 25:1-2, Jeremiah 39:1, 52:1-5)

Normally, the kingship would be passed down from father to son, but things didn't happen that way during this time. Josiah had been king, followed by his son Jehoahaz who reigned a very short time. Jehoiakim, the second son of Josiah, then took over and reigned eleven years until he was taken to Egypt and replaced by Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim's son. Jehoiachin only lasted three months until Nebuchadnezzar replaced him with his uncle Zedekiah who was another son of Josiah. None of descendants of Josiah chose to listen to the words of God that were given through Jeremiah (Jer 37:1-2).

Once the siege of Jerusalem began, Zedekiah sent word to Jeremiah

asking him to pray to God on behalf of the city of Jerusalem. Though Jeremiah had been persecuted and put in stocks, at this time he was free and had not been put in prison just yet. It appears that one of the reasons that Zedekiah had sent for Jeremiah was because there was a brief reprieve from the siege since Nebuchadnezzar took his army to fend off the attack from the Egyptians. Perhaps Zedekiah thought this was a chance for God to cause Babylon to be destroyed (Jer 37:3-5).

God responded to Zedekiah's request by describing how the army of Egypt that had come to help Jerusalem would soon be headed back home to Egypt. Though they would have a short reprieve from the Babylonian siege, it would not last. The Chaldeans would come back to Jerusalem and they were eventually going to capture the city. God warned them not to have the false security the departure of the Babylonians provided. Even if the Egyptians were successful against the Babylonians, God would raise up the wounded Babylonian soldiers to conquer Jerusalem. God was declaring that there was no hope for the city (Jer 37:3-10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is interesting how Zedekiah hated Jeremiah and what he stood for, but when his situation was desperate, he sought out the help of Jeremiah. This does reveal human nature. Many people claim to be atheists or anti-God, but when tragedy strikes, they often try to call out to God for help. Zedekiah did this, but the problem was that God had already made up His mind. Zedekiah didn't want to repent or turn from sin, he just didn't want to be destroyed. God's mind was made up because of the repeated failures of the people to listen to His warnings. God emphasized that He didn't even need a full Babylonian army to accomplish His plan. If He desired to do so, He could use wounded and weak soldiers to accomplish His plan. This reminds us of the great power of God and that nothing has the power to stop Him. This should challenge you to live righteously, daily seeking His will, and it should also challenge you to trust in your God knowing how powerful He is.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you live each day trusting in His power.*

* *Thank God for choosing to fight for those who submit to Him.*

Thought for the day

Jeremiah 52

How old was Zedekiah when he became king (vs 1)?

How did Zedekiah live (vs 2)?

What happened as a result of the way that he lived (vs 3)?

What did Zedekiah choose to do (vs 3)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar do in response (vs 4)?

How long did this siege last (vs 5)?

Jeremiah 37

How was Zedekiah made king (vs 1)?

****He was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar.*

What had Zedekiah failed to do (vs 2)?

What did Zedekiah decide to do (vs 3)?

Why do you think Zekekiah did this though he had cared nothing about God?

What did verse 4 clarify about Jeremiah?

****Jeremiah 32 described how Zedekiah had imprisoned Jeremiah.*

Who had come out to fight against Babylon (vs 5)?

How would this have given hope to Jerusalem?

What did God say would happen to Egypt (vs 6-7)?

What were the Babylonians going to do (vs 8)?

What did God say He would give the Babylonians power to do (vs 9-10)?

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!