

"Enduring Suffering"

Study: Jeremiah 37:11-21

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-13, Matthew 5:11-12

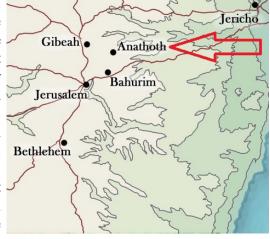
Memory: Psalm 119:2

What Does the Bible Say?

Because the Babylonians left Jerusalem to fight against Egypt, those living in the region had a chance to leave the city. Jeremiah traveled to his home town in the land of Benjamin which would have been just a few miles north of Jerusalem. He had traveled there to do some personal business. It is unclear if he purchased some land or if he was inheriting a portion of land. While passing by the gate of the city of Anathoth a government official there arrested Jeremiah and accused him of leaving the Israelites to join with the army of Babylon. Basically, he was accused of being a traitor. Jeremiah defended himself and denied the accusations,

but it made no difference. The officials believed the false accusations and were furious with the thought that Jeremiah would do this. They beat Jeremiah and imprisoned him. (vs 11-15).

Jeremiah was in prison there for many days until Zedakiah sent for him. Zedakiah made it appear that he was going to question Jeremiah about his crime while in actuality he was



questioned to see if God had sent any further messages about Judah. We read yesterday how Zedekiah has asked Jeremiah to seek the mercy of God on his behalf, but Jeremiah told him that it was too late. Zedekiah was hoping that something would have changed, but Jeremiah revealed that God was not going to change His mind. The king was going to be defeated by Babylon, and it was only a matter of time until this was fulfilled (vs 16-17).

The king was then questioned by Jeremiah as Jeremiah sought answers for his false imprisonment. Jeremiah expressed that he was in jail though he told the truth about Babylon coming against them while the false prophets who prophesied Babylon would not come were free. He pleaded with the king to set him free and not to return him to the dungeon where he was being kept. Jeremiah felt like he would not live if he was sent back to that place. Zedekiah showed mercy to Jeremiah and imprisoned him in the court of the royal palace where living conditions were much better. He was given bread each day until the grain supply in the city ran out (vs 18-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is a common misunderstanding to think that if you are doing everything God wants you to do that everything will go well for you. An honest reading of the Bible reveals that this is not the case at all. Many people turn from God when they face difficulties and become upset at Him for what He allows them to go through. The New Testament warns believers over and over again that difficult times will come and it challenges believers to be faithful during these times. All Jeremiah did was speak what God had delivered to him. As a result, he was a hated man. In this instance, he was falsely accused and thrown into a dungeon where it appears he faced starvation and many other difficulties. This does not mean that followers of Jesus will always face miserable conditions. In fact, when Jeremiah was moved to court of the palace it appears that conditions may have been better than if he had not been under arrest. The challenge is for you to "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 2:3). Trust that God is on your side even when you are going through difficult times.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for walking with you through difficulties.
- * Ask God to give you the strength to endure.

Thought for the day

Why did the Babylonians temporarily leave Jerusalem (vs 11)?

Where did Jeremiah go (vs 12)?

Why did he go there (12)?

How does this remind us of the fact that great prophets like Jeremiah were common ordinary men?

What happened to Jeremiah while he was there (vs 13)?

What did they accuse Jeremiah of (vs 13)?

Why do you think they would have accused him of this?

What did Jeremiah declare (vs 14)?

Where did they take Jeremiah (vs 14)?

Why do you think the officials were angry with Jeremiah (vs 15)?

What did they do with Jeremiah (vs 15)?

How long was Jeremiah in the prison cell (vs 16)?

Why did Zedekiah send for Jeremiah (vs 17)?

What message did Jeremiah give Zedakiah (vs 17)?

What plea did Jeremiah make to Zedekiah (vs 18)?

Why do you think Jeremiah brought up the false prophets (vs 19)?

What did Jeremiah ask the king not to do (vs 20)?

What did Zedekiah decide to do (vs 21)?

Why do you think Zedekiah chose to grant Jeremiah's request?

"The Weakness of Men"

Study: Jeremiah 21:1-14

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Acts 5:35-42

Memory: Psalm 119:2

hen I first started building an ice rink in my yard, it didn't take me long to realize that the most important thing that I needed was the proper equipment. For instance, attempting to shovel off even an inch of snow was often very time consuming and took a great deal of physical effort. Having a good snow blower made all the difference. There is no way I would have continued to build an ice rink if I had remove all the snow by hand.

Today, we are going to be reminded how weak we are as men and that we do not have the ability to stand in the way of God's plans.

What Does the Bible Say?

In the beginning of chapter 37 of Jeremiah we read how Zedekiah sent messengers to Jeremiah asking him to inquire of the Lord. We also read how Jeremiah was kept in the kings court at the end of chapter 37. In chapter 21, we see how Zedekiah again sent messengers to Jeremiah. It appears that these are two different instances. Pashhur and Zephaniah were sent to Jeremiah in chapter 21 while Jehucal and Zephaniah were sent in chapter 37. The message to Jeremiah here in chapter 21 was one asking him to plead with God for Jerusalem, begging for the mercy of God to be on the city causing the Babylonians to withdraw from their siege. The return message was just as damning as the other time Zedekiah inquired of the Lord. God was not going to allow any of the weapons the Israelites were using to be successful against the attack of the Babylonians. They would start to climb the walls of the city and there was going to be no stopping them. They would successfully invade the city and God would give the Babylonians the strength to be victorious. Before the Babylonians would attack, God was going to cause a great disease and starvation to weaken and kill many of the people. Many of the animals and people wouldn't even make it to the invasion because they would die first (vs 1-6).

Those who would survive the diseases and attack of the city, would

be given over to the hands of their enemies who would ruthlessly torture and kill them without compassion (vs 7)?

God encouraged Zedekiah and the people of Judah to surrender to the Babylonians rather than to fight them. Anyone who chose to stay in the city and fight, would not survive. Those who chose to surrender would be allowed to live. The city was going to be destroyed and there was nothing that could be done to stop it. The best the inhabitants could do was to throw themselves at the mercy of the Babylonians. Though that would not be an enjoyable prospect, at least their lives would be spared. The city and everyone who would stay would be destroyed (vs 8-10).

In an incredible act of mercy, God gave a message to the king calling him one last time to repent and lead the kingdom into righteousness. If he chose to turn back to God, there could still be some deliverance. If not, His wrath would be fierce and severe (vs 11-12).

God was personally going to fight against the Israelites in Jerusalem. Though they thought they would be safe in their city, God was going to show them that even the strongest of human forces or defenses could not stand against His power. They were going to be punished for their deeds. It would be like they were trapped in a forest fire with everything around them being consumed, knowing it was only a matter of time until they were consumed (vs 13-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The great emphasis of this passage was a focus on the inability of men to stop the plan of God. The only thing that men were capable of doing which would stop the plan of God was to repent and turn to Him. Since the first sin, mankind has been in a power struggle with God. We want to be the ruler of our own lives, but when we try to rule, it will always fail. Submitting to God's plan and coming to Him in repentance is the only way to guarantee victory in this life. There are many little ways in your life where you think you can get the victory on your own. It is easy to think that you can work something out in your own power rather than submitting to Him and doing things His way. Choose today to surrender to His plan and let Him work things out in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because His weakness is stronger than the strongest man.
- * Ask God to help you trust His plan and submit to Him.

What message did Zekekiah send to Jeremiah (vs 1-2)?

What do the words of Zekekiah express about the knowledge of God (vs 2)?

***Like many people, Zekekiah believed in a powerful, benevolent God, but like many still today, he was unwilling to submit to Him.

What did Zedekiah want more than He wanted God (vs 2)?

How can you want all the benefits that God has to offer more than you want a relationship with Him?

What was God going to do to the weapons of Israel (vs 4)?

What was God going to lead the Babylonians in doing (vs 4)?

What did God emphasize in verse 5?

How was God going to kill many of the inhabitants of the city before the invasion started (vs 6)?

What would happen to those who survived the invasion (vs 7)?

How was God giving the people a way to escape (vs 8-9)?

What did God declare in verse 10?

What plea did God make to Zedekiah and the children of Israel (vs 11-12)?

What was going to happen if they didn't listen (vs 12)?

What did many in Jerusalem think about their city (vs 13)?

How was God going to punish them (vs 14)?

What did God compare His judgment to (vs 14)?

"Life Will God On"

Study: Jeremiah 32:1-25

Reading: Job 23:1-17, 1 Peter 5:1-11

Memory: Psalm 119:2

What Does the Bible Say?

Sometime in 587 B.C., the tenth year of the reign of Zedekiah, God sent a message to Jeremiah. At this point, Jeremiah was in prison at the king's palace and the Babylonian army had come back from fighting Egypt and had once again besieged Jerusalem. Zekekiah had kept Jeremiah in prison because he did not like the message that Jeremiah had shared with Him. Jeremiah had told Zedekiah that he would not succeed against the Babylonians and would be taken back to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (vs 1-5).

In this message God told Jeremiah that one of his relatives would come and visit him and offer him a plot of land for sale. According to Leviticus 25:25, if a relative was financially struggling, a kinsman redeemer had first option on the land to help keep it in the family. Shortly after this, Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel showed up at the court of the guard, where Jeremiah was imprisoned, and offered him land just as God predicted. Jeremiah understood that this was God's will and so he chose to buy the field. He paid seventeen shekels for this land and legally purchased the land (vs 6-9).

Jeremiah detailed how he had signed the deed and sealed it with witnesses watching the process. There were two copies of the deed. One was sealed and tied with a string, making it official and the other copy was left open so people could see what transaction was made. He then instructed his servant Baruch to put both deeds into a clay jar and to seal the jar so these deeds would last for a long time. This was meant to be a message indicating the fact that though they were facing imminent destruction by the Babylonians, the land would still be under the possession of the Israelites and they would be able to have their land for a long time (vs 10-15).

After this transaction was made, Jeremiah lifted up His voice to heaven and prayed a prayer to God. He started out this prayer with praise as He declared that it was God who made the heavens and earth by His great power. The fact that God was the Creator indicated that nothing would be too hard for Him. Though He was this powerful God, He cared about people. He showed His love to multitudes of men, but He was also a just God who repaid sin. He was the "Lord of Hosts" (vs 18-ESV) which indicated that He was ruler and commander of all. He was the wise God who knew all about the affairs of men and chose to reward men according to their deeds (vs 16-19).

Jeremiah recalled how God had powerfully delivered Israel from Egypt and gave them the land of Israel. Though they entered the land, the people did not choose to walk in the ways of God. As a result, disaster had come upon them and they were in the middle of a dire situation. The Babylonians had built siege mounds and were preparing to take the city of Jerusalem. The things that God said would happen had happened. The Israelites were facing the reality that they were going to lose their land, but it was at this point that God instructed Jeremiah to buy and sell land as if the invasion and destruction were not going to be imminent (vs 20-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The Israelites were right in the middle of one of the most horrific times in their history. God had told them that they would be destroyed and would be ravaged by the Babylonians, yet at the same time, God instructed Jeremiah to buy land. This didn't seem to make sense to Jeremiah. What good would it do to own land if the Babylonians were just going to take everything and kill everyone? Through this picture, God was presenting hope. The hope that there would be restoration and that life would go on after this horrific time. This is a great reminder for you today, especially if you are facing a difficult time. It is very easy when you are on the brink of some earthly disaster to want to simply give up on life since it is tough to picture a future beyond what you are facing. Yet, you must remember that life will go on. It will look different, but God is still God and will still be there for you on the other side of the trial. Find hope and consolation in the fact that you will get through it and that on the other side there will be a type of normalcy in life once again.

Suggestions for Prayer

* Ask God to help you trust Him through the trials of life.

When did this message come to Jeremiah (vs 1)?

What was happening when this message was delivered (vs 2)?

Where was Jeremiah (vs 3)?

Why was he there (vs 4-5)?

What did God say was going to happen (vs 6-7)?

Why do you think God told Jeremiah this was going to happen (vs 6-8)?

What did Jeremiah do (vs 9)?

What did Jeremiah tell Baruch to do with the deeds (vs 13-14)?

Why were they to be put in clay jars (vs 14)?

What was God indicating by this (vs 15)?

What did Jeremiah do after completing these actions (vs 16)?

How was God described in verse 17?

Why is this description of God so important to understand?

What did Jeremiah declare about God in verse 18?

How does God reward men (vs 19)?

What did God do for Israel (vs 20-22)?

What did Israel do in return (vs 23)?

What was currently happening to Jerusalem (vs 24)?

Why did Jeremiah question God (vs 25)?

What point do you think God was making with the purchase of land?

"A Great Future"

Study: Jeremiah 32:26-44

Reading: Philippians 1:3-11, Psalm 138:1-8

Memory: Psalm 119:2

ne of the reasons that gold is still valuable today just as it was in the Bible days is because it has lasting qualities. Wood rots and fades. Many other metals rust and are destroyed, but gold is something that will never go away. Even if it is damaged, it can be melted down and made new again. There are many other factors to the value of gold, but its eternal character is one of the things that makes it one of the most valuable substances in the world.

Today, we are going to see how we are like gold in the eyes of God. Though we may tarnish ourselves with sinful deeds, God can restore us and makes us useful for Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

God responded to Jeremiah by asking the question, "Is anything too hard for me?" This was meant to be more like a declaration in which God was stating that nothing was too difficult for Him. Jeremiah had wondered what difference it was going to make if he had bought a piece of land if the people of the land were going to be destroyed. God's full plan didn't make sense to Jeremiah. Though Jeremiah knew this, God explained again how He was going to give Jerusalem into the hands of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was going to burn the city, destroying any sign of the idol worship that had become so prevalent in the land. The evil of the people in Jerusalem had provoked God to anger. They had turned their back to Him instead of their faces towards Him. They even went as far as offering their children as sacrifices in the Valley of Hinnom, which was just outside of Jerusalem. All this abomination had to be punished and removed from the land (vs 26-35).

Though Jerusalem would be given to Nebuchadnezzar and the people would be driven away, that was not the end for the city or for the land of Israel. God was going to gather the descendants of those who had been scattered and bring them back to the city. They would once again dwell there in safety. We know that there was a partial fulfillment of this

prophecy when the Persians allowed some Jews to go back to their land, but the real fulfillment of this will come in the millennial kingdom. At that time, the people will all worship God with one heart and one mind. They will love God and fear Him, choosing to follow His ways completely. God would bless them immensely for their righteousness and bring upon them all the good that He had promised (vs 36-41).

Just as God displayed His power through the destruction of the city, He will display His power by the righteous deeds He does for the city. The land that was going to be desolate would be filled once again. Fields would be bought and sold as the normal business of life would resume. This would happen all around the land of Israel as God would choose to restore the fortunes of the people. Jeremiah's purchase of the land was meant to be an illustration for the people to indicate that God was not going to cast them off forever (vs 42-44).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God is a God of hope? Yes, you read a great deal about His judgment and His destruction, but in all of this, God wanted to remind the Israelites that He was not done with them. The same is true of you. Even if you stray from Him or have made terrible mistakes in your past, God does not give up on you. You may have to experience great heartache as a result of your sin, but God will not abandon you. He ultimately wants you to be restored and wants to make you into something beautiful. Israel is still waiting to see this promise fully fulfilled and it won't be until Jesus returns, yet they still have this hope. You can have the hope that God will restore you and make you beautiful once again, no matter how much sin is in your past.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for never giving up on you.
- * Ask God to help you trust Him to transform your life.
- * Praise God because nothing is too hard for Him.

Thought for the day

What did God say He was God of (vs 27)?

What question did He ask (vs 27)?

What was God going to do with Jerusalem (vs 28)?

What had provoked God to anger (vs 29)?

How did God describe the actions of the Israelites (vs 30)?

What was God planning to do to the city (vs 31)?

Who had led this wickedness (vs 32)?

What had God persistently done for Israel (vs 33)?

What sins are mentioned in verse 34-35?

What three things were going to happen to Jerusalem (vs 36)?

What was God going to do after this destruction (vs 37)?

What will happen in the future (vs 38)?

How does God want this for your life now?

What will be the result of this restoration (vs 39)?

What will be in their hearts (vs 40)? Why is this so important?

What will God rejoice in (vs 41)?

What did God contrast in verse 42?

What did God say would happen in the future (vs 43)?

What was God going to restore (vs 44)?

What can you learn about God from this passage?

"Call On Me"

Study: Jeremiah 33:1-11

Reading: Philippains 4:1-11, Psalm 145:10-21

Memory: Psalm 119:2

ne of the things that drives me crazy is when I message a person who is selling something online and they do not respond. Sadly, it seems that only about fifty percent of the people who sell things respond in a timely fashion and some do not respond at all. In many of the only businesses that I have had, I have made a special effort to answer every email and to answer as quickly as possible. I found that doing a simple thing like answering questions was very helpful to having a successful business.

Today we are going to read how God will answer us when we call upon Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

While the siege of Jerusalem was taking place, Jeremiah was in jail in the court of the king's guard. God sent another message to Him during this time. God started this message by declaring that He was the Lord who had made heaven and earth. This was an indication of the great power that He had over all creation. He then proceeded to tell Jeremiah that he could call on God at any time and God would hear and answer his prayer. Not only did God answer, but He would show Jeremiah great things that he had never thought about or understood before. This verse is often viewed as a picture of God's powerful acts, but it appears that God is referring more to the power of wisdom and understanding that He can provide (vs 1-3).

Some of the houses in the city of Jerusalem, including the houses of the royal family, had been torn down and used to build up portions of the wall of Jerusalem in hopes to make the walls higher. This would make the enemy take more time to build their siege ramps higher if they wanted to come over the walls. Though the people of Judah were expecting to fight the Babylonians and defend their city, they did not realize that they were as good as dead, even before the battle started. God was going to destroy the city and those trying to defend it would have no chance of victory, no matter how much human effort they gave (vs 4-5).

Though all this would happen, there would be a time that was coming where Jerusalem would experience peace and prosperity. The fortunes of Judah would be restored as their towns and cities would be rebuilt. The sins that were so prevalent in the land would no longer exist, but instead the people would dwell in joy, giving honor to God in all that they will do. God's working in the nation would be visible to all the other nations of the world as they recognized His great power (vs 6-9).

Judah and Jerusalem would become like a wasteland that was not fit for men or animals, but it wouldn't stay that way. God would restore the land so once again there would be joy and laughter in the streets. There would be feasts and festivals. The sound of wedding celebrations would be heard through the streets as the people would rejoice once again. Songs of praise would be given to the Lord because of His steadfast love that endures beyond the sins of men (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

To really help you understand this passage you need to think about how you would feel if you were where Jeremiah was. He was in jail for speaking the truth of God's message. The city was surrounded by the fierce Babylonian army who day by day were building up large mounds of dirt to make a siege ramp to invade the city. The food supply in the city was starting to run low and disease, starvation and sicknesses were on the rise. Jeremiah was told by God several times that the city was going to be destroyed. This meant that almost everyone he knew was going to die and everything he knew was going to be gone. It is pretty hard to imagine yourself being in that time of great uncertainty like Jeremiah was. Yet, God reassured him by telling him that all he needed to do was to ask God and God would show Him things that were to come. This did not mean that God was going to deliver the nation, but meant that God would give Jeremiah a great understanding of the future and wisdom to know God's plan. Paul said something very similar to the Philippians in chapter 4. Verses 6 & 7 say, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." When you call on God He will answer you. It may not be a physical deliverance, but He can provide you with a peace that is far greater than any physical hope.

Where was Jeremiah when this message came to him (vs 1)?

How did God describe Himself (vs 2)?

Why do you think He described Himself this way?

Why is this important to help you when you have a difficult time understanding what is going on in your world?

What was Jeremiah told to do (vs 3)?

What did God say He would do (vs 3)?

How does this same understanding still apply to you today?

What had happend to the houses of the royal family and others (vs 4)?

Why was this done?

What were the people of Jerusalem planning to do (vs 5)?

What was God going to fill the city with (vs 5)?

Why was He going to do this (vs 6)?

What was God going to do for Judah and Jerusalem (vs 7)?

How would the land be different (vs 8)?

What would the city be (vs 9)?

How would the people view God (vs 9)?

Described how you view God like this.

What was Jerusalem about to become (vs 10)?

What was Jerusalem going to be like in the future?

"You Can't Stop the Sun"

Study: Jeremiah 33:12-26

Reading: Malichi 3:1-15, Hebrews 13:7-16

Memory: Psalm 119:2

hen I moved to Michigan, I chose to buy an outdoor wood boiler to heat my home and all the hot water in my home. As I built more on my property, I extended the boiler system to help heat some of those structures. Because of this, I need a large wood supply to keep things warm throughout the winter. Though I try to get all my wood in before the middle of November when the snow comes, there have been times where I don't get it all in. One of the first years that I failed to get all my wood before the snow, I went out in late November and fought the snow to get the rest of my wood. A few weeks later all the snow was gone and I realized I could have waited. From then on, every year that we have gotten snow in November, I have noticed it is all gone sometime in December. I have learned to be patient and wait for it to melt so I am not battling the snow when collecting my wood.

Today, we are going to see that there are some things that we can count on. Though I can't always count on the weather to do what I want, we can count on God to do what He says He will do.

What Does the Bible Say?

Over and over God emphasized how Jerusalem would become a wasteland, but it would not stay that way. After the conquest by the Babylonians, population would be sparse for a while, but one day the nation would repopulate. The number or people and the number of animals that populated the land would one day be abundant (vs 12-13).

As we have read before, there have been partial fulfillments of this prophecy, but there is still much more to come. One of the main things that was prophesied was that there would be a "Branch" which would come from the house of David. This was a picture of the Messiah who would come and bring justice and righteousness to the land. When the Messiah comes, the people of the land will dwell in safety and Jerusalem will be called "The Lord is Our Righteousness." The city will take on the character of the Ruler who will reign over it (vs 14-16).

God has made covenants with David and the priests declaring that their descendants would have an eternal spot among the people. Though the chain of kings and priest were broken, this is a picture of how the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will be their priest and king for all eternity (vs 17-18).

Great emphasis was placed by God on His ability to keep His covenant in spite of the actions of men. Though He was going to destroy Jerusalem and remove the current system of kings, His covenant would not be broken. Man did not have the ability to change the rising of the sin or the display of stars at night, nor do they have have the ability to change His promise to them. Just as the host of heaven could not be numbered, the number of the descendants of David that continued to exist could not be numbered. God was repeating these promises here to the nation of Israel because it looked like they were going to come to an end with the Babylonian conquest (vs 19-22).

People were disgusted with God thinking that He called Judah and Israel to be His own and then abandoned them. Other nations were declaring that Israel wasn't worthy to even be called a nation of people. God made it absolutely clear that He wasn't abandoning them even through this great destruction. Just as He created day and night in an orderly fashion and would not change that plan, He was not going to change His plan regarding His people. He was not going to abandon them, but had great plans to restore them (vs 23-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God's Word will not change? No matter how much effort men may give to try to stop His plan, God and His Word can not be stopped. To illustrate this to the people, He told them to look at the sun and the stars. No matter what happens on this earth, the sun and the stars will still show up. Day and night will still happen. That process can not be stopped by man. In the very same way, when God says something, there is nothing that man can do to change it. This should give you great hope each and every day since you can count on the fact that you can trust Him and His Word.

Thought for the day

How did God describe Himself (vs 12)?

What did God say the shepherds would do (vs 13)?

What day would come (vs 14)?

Why is it important to know that you can trust in the promises of the Lord?

Who was God going to raise up (vs 15)?

What would He do (vs 15)?

How will this benefit the nation of Israel (vs 16)?

What did God promise David (vs 19)?

What do you think He meant by this?

How would men be able to break the covenant of God (vs 20-21)?

What was God saying with this illustration?

What did God compare the offspring of Israel to (vs 22)?

Why do you think He emphasized this at this time?

What were the Israelites thinking (vs 24)?

What does God once again make reference to day and night (vs 25-26)?

***As long as there is day and night. My promise to David and the priests will stand.

What was God going to do for Israel (vs 26)?

Why is the mercy of God so important?

What do you think God wanted Israel to learn from this?

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.