

# The Prophets & Kings

## From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

### Book 1

#### A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 67

## “Keeping Your Covenant”

**Study:** Jeremiah 34:1-22

**Reading:** Leviticus 29:39-55, Matthew 5:33-37

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

**W**hen I was in my early teens, my dad was diagnosed with some severe health conditions partially do to his weight. It was a kind of a “wake up” call to him and he went on a pretty strict diet and exercise routine and lost several pounds. Yet, as that initial scare wore off, it became harder and harder for him to keep the routine that he was on. He soon started to put the weight back on and eventually the health scare became a reality when he died of a heart attack.

Today, we will read how the people of Judah made a covenant to start keeping part of the law, but when it appeared that their time of difficulty might be over, they went right back to their old ways.

### What Does the Bible Say?

This message was given when the land of Judah was under siege by the Babylonians. God told Jeremiah to speak with Zedekiah and tell him once again that the Lord was going to give the city into the hands of the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar was going to burn the city and Zedekiah would not be able to escape from the Babylonians. He would not be killed but would have a face to face meeting with Nebuchadnezzar and would be taken as a captive to Babylon. The life of Zedekiah would be spared and he would not be killed. He would die in peace. He would have a respectable death as many people would mourn when they heard the news of his passing (vs 1-5).

We are given a little more clarification of what was taking place in Judah at the time. There were only three walled cities that had not been captured but these cities were soon going to fall with Jerusalem being the last. This was the condition of the land when Jeremiah delivered this message to Zedekiah (vs 6-7).

Zedekiah made a declaration that all of the Hebrew slaves should be set free. Apparently this was an attempt to earn the favor of God and help spare the city. The Old Testament law declared that if a Hebrew chose to sell himself into slavery because he was facing difficult times that at

the end of seven years, that slave was to be set free and given some money to help him start over again. All slaves were to be released in the Year of Jubilee, which happened every 50 years. Hebrew slaves were not to be bought and sold. The people heeded the command that Zedekiah had given and released all of the enslaved Hebrews, but shortly after they did, they regretted their decision. They forced their slaves to once again be under their control (vs 8-11).

God responded to their wicked actions by sending another message for Jeremiah to share. In this message, God declared to them what He had told them in the law about setting their slaves free. Their fathers did not follow the law in this manner and neither did the current Israelites. Though they had originally chosen to do the right thing by setting their slaves free, they quickly went back to their wicked deeds (vs 12-16).

If they had chosen to keep the law in this manner, God would have shown them some mercy, but instead, He was going to bring the death and misery that had been prophesied to them. Those who chose to go back on their word and re-enslave their brothers were going to become like a calf that was cut in two. This was a reference to a custom where two parties would lay out a sacrifice and walk between the two parts. The people who broke their covenant would become like those parts of the calf and their dead bodies would become feed for the birds (vs 18-20).

Zedekiah and many of the officials would be taken by the enemies and would no longer rule over the land. Apparently, God had caused the Babylonians to withdraw from Jerusalem when they let their slaves go, but now He was going to bring the Babylonians back. They were going to fight against the city and destroy it. They would leave the cities of Judah uninhabitable (vs 21-22).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you follow through on the commitments you make to God? It is very easy when you are under great distress to promise things to God or make changes in your life in order for Him to shine His favor upon you. Yet, it is very easy once your trial or difficulty passes to go back to your old ways and not keep the commitments that you have made. God does allow things to come into your life to help get your attention, but He does not want this attention to be only temporary. Make it a point in your life to continue to grow in Him and follow Him, keeping all the commitments that you have made to Him.

What was taking place when this message was delivered (vs 1)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 2)?

What would happen to Zedekiah (vs 3)?

What did God say about the death of Zedekiah (vs 4-5)?

Why do you think God chose to be gracious to Zedekiah in this way?

What do verses 6 and 7 reveal about the condition of Judah?

What has Zedekiah chosen to do (vs 8-9)?

What did the people decide to do (vs 10)?

What did the people do a short time later (vs 11)?

What did God remind them of (vs 13)?

What did the law say regarding slaves (vs 14)?

What did God say the people had done (vs 15-16)?

What was God going to do because of their failure to keep their word (vs 17)?

What would those who turned back face (vs 18)?

What was going to happen to the leaders (vs 19)?

What would happen to their bodies (vs 20)?

What would the army of Babylon do (vs 22)?

What was God going to cause to happen to the cities of Judah (vs 22)?

What lesson can you learn from this passage?

# “In The Pit”

**Study:** Jeremiah 38:1-16

**Reading:** Mat 5:11-12, Acts 5:17-40

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

**B**efore I became a senior pastor, I served as an assistant pastor for about seven years. The senior pastor I served under was asked to resign because of some immoral choices that he had made. There was great unrest among the church members at the time and there were some individuals of the church who didn't think I should take over as the pastor. This was a very difficult time for me since I knew that there were some negative things being said about me. One of the things that helped me through this time was a letter I received from a young couple in the church telling me how much they appreciated me and were praying for me. I held on to that letter for many years and would occasionally pull it out and re-read it when I faced rough times early in my pastoral ministry.

Today, we are going to read how God raised up a man to be an encouragement and help to Jeremiah during one of his most difficult times in life.

## What Does the Bible Say?

It is unclear if Jeremiah was still being held by the palace guards at this time or if he had been set free. Whatever the case, he wasn't backing down from his message and was telling everyone that he could not surrender to the Babylonians. Anyone who chose to stay in the city would die, but whoever gave themselves up to the opposing army, would have his life spared. The city was going to be conquered and the conquering army would not show mercy to those who stayed to fight. Four of the officials of the land heard what Jeremiah was saying and asked the king if he would order Jeremiah to be put to death for his declarations. They declared that Jeremiah's words were bringing harm to the people rather than helping them (vs 1-4).

The king told the leaders to do what they wanted because he didn't believe he would have the power to stop them. The leaders chose to take Jeremiah and put him in a cistern that had been emptied of its water. All

that was in the bottom was muddy ground and Jeremiah sank into the mud. (5-6),

A man named Ebed-melech, who worked in the king's house, heard what had happened to Jeremiah and knew he had to do something to spare the life of the prophet. He went to Zedekiah and told him how the men had placed Jeremiah in the cistern with no food or water. The king ordered that thirty men be sent to the cistern to rescue Jeremiah and spare his life. Ebed-melech went to the king's storehouse and found some old rags and worn out clothes and tied them together to make a type of harness for Jeremiah. This was lowered down on ropes into the cistern and they pulled Jeremiah out to safety, though he still remained under arrest in the court of the guard (vs 7-13).

Once again, Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah to ask him what was going to happen to him as a result of the Babylonian invasion. Though he had rejected the message of Jeremiah before, he clearly knew that Jeremiah was a prophet of God. Jeremiah was hesitant to answer because he knew that Zedekiah would not like the message and wouldn't listen to his instructions. Zedekiah made a promise to Jeremiah that he would not kill Jeremiah or allow others to do any harm to him (vs 14-16).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when you are treated in a negative way for doing what is right? Scripture is full of examples where the servants of God chose to do what is right and paid the price for their choice. Jesus even declared that His followers who suffered for His name were those who were “blessed.” This may seem opposite of our natural human thinking. It is easy to think that the more you follow God, the less you will suffer. Though God does often give those who follow Him times of physical and emotional blessings, those blessings will many times be accompanied by periods of great suffering. Often, like in this situation, God will raise others up to show compassion on you while you are suffering and help deliver you to a better place. Though believers should not long for suffering, they should count it a privilege when suffering comes for doing what God desires them to do.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God for others He has sent to help you during difficult times.*
- \* *Ask God to help you remain faithful even through trials.*

What did the officials hear (vs 1)?

What did Jeremiah say would happen to those who stayed in the city (vs 2)?

What would happen to those who surrendered (vs 2)?

What did Jeremiah say would happen to the city (vs 3)?

What did the officials want to do (vs 4)? Why?

How did Zedekiah respond (vs 5)? Why do you think he responded this way?

What did the officials do (vs 6)?

Where was the king (vs 7)? Why was he there?

What did Ebed-melech do (vs 8-9)?

Why was he so concerned (vs 9)?

What did the king tell Ebed-melech to do (vs 10)?

What did Ebed-melech get to help deliver Jeremiah (vs 11)?

Why did he get these things (vs 12)?

What happened to Jeremiah after he was rescued (vs 13)?

What did Zedekiah want to know (vs 14)?

Why do you think Zezekiah asked again what would happen?

Why was Jeremiah hesitant to tell Zedekiah the truth (vs 15)?

What promise did the king make (vs 16)?

What lesson can you learn from this reading?

## “Fearing Men or God”

**Study:** Jeremiah 38:17-28

**Reading:** Psalm 118:1-29

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

**W**hen I was in my late 20's, I decided I wanted to try to play rugby. I found out about some guys who had formed a team and needed some players, so I gave it a try. I really enjoyed the few times I played and even scored a “try” (that is what a touchdown is called.) After the game in which I scored, the team surrounded me and told me that after you score you first try it was a tradition to do a Zulu. Basically, they strip you naked and you run around the field, then chug a pint of beer. As a young pastor, I didn't think any of that was right. They pressured me hard and I kept refusing. I finally declared to them that it would be against what my God wanted and I would not do it. They relented, but I will say that the pressure to do a Zulu was pretty strong.

Today, we are going to see that there are times in our lives where we have to make a choice between God and men.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The message that Jeremiah had been sharing with Zedekiah wasn't changing. God confirmed to Jeremiah what he had declared many times already. The message was that anyone who chose to surrender to Babylon would have their lives spared. If Zedekiah chose to surrender, the city could actually be saved from great destruction and his family would be kept alive. Failure to surrender would result in the city being conquered and destroyed by the Chaldeans. Judah was not going to win and they would not be able to escape the Babylonian army (vs 17-18).

Zedekiah revealed that he felt if he surrendered that the Judeans who had become traitors would torture him. Apparently, the reason that many had gone to the side of the Babylonians is because they despised Zedekiah and how he reigned. Jeremiah responded by telling the king that if he obeyed God, he would not be given into the hands of the Judeans. His life would be spared and he would have a pretty easy time of it if he simply chose to surrender. If Zedekiah refused to surrender, God had revealed a pretty bleak vision for his life. The friends of

Zedekiah would turn on him and his family would be captured by the Babylonians. He also would be taken by the opposing army and the city would be completely destroyed by fire (vs 19-23).

The fear of Zedekiah was on full display as he told Jeremiah not to tell anyone they talked or what God had predicted. Jeremiah's life would be spared if he kept quiet. Even if the officials of the land threatened Jeremiah, Zedekiah promised that Jeremiah would be kept safe. If Jeremiah was questioned about his conversation with the king, he was to say he plead not to be sent back to the house of Jonathan (vs 24-26).

Some of the officials did find out that Zedekiah and Jeremiah had talked. Jeremiah did as the king commanded and did not reveal what he and the king had talked about. No one had heard their conversation so the people believed what Jeremiah had told them and left Jeremiah alone. He stayed under arrest by the palace guards until the day the Babylonians invaded and conquered Jerusalem (vs 27-28).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you willing to follow God when it goes against what others may think? Are you obedient even when sometimes God's plan does not make sense? A king that chose to surrender rather than stay and fight was often looked down upon. It would have been considered a cowardly move to abandon the city rather than stay and fight. Yet, this is the very thing that God told Zedekiah to do. He was promised many good things if he chose to listen to the message of God. He even had the ability to spare the city if he chose to obey. Yet, you can see how the king feared the people far more than he feared God. There are times in your life where you have to decide if you are going to fear God more than you fear men. Following God, even when it is not popular with others, will give you far more benefits than doing something for the sake of men.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God because His ways are always best.*
- \* *Ask God to help you fear Him more than men.*
- \* *Praise God because He always keeps His Word.*

### **Thought for the day**

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How was God described in verse 17?

Why do you think He was described these three different ways?

What was Jeremiah encouraging Zedekiah to do (vs 17)?

What would be the result of his obedience (vs 17)?

What would happen if he didn't surrender (vs 18)?

Who was the king afraid of (vs 19)?

Why do you think he was afraid of these people?

What promise did Jeremiah make (vs 20)?

What was Zedekiah warned about (vs 21)?

What would the women in the house of Zedekiah declare (vs 22)?

Why do you think they would say this?

Who would be captured (vs 23)?

Why would this be a huge threat to Zedekiah?

What did Zedekiah ask Jeremiah (vs 24)? Why do you think he asked this?

What did Zedekiah tell Jeremiah to do (vs 25-26)?

What happened in verse 27?

Why do you think these men wanted to know about their conversation?

Where was Jeremiah held (vs 28)? When would he be freed?

What do you think you can learn from this passage?

# “What God Can Deliver?”

**Study:** Daniel 3:1-15

**Reading:** Luke 4:1-13, Jeremiah 1:1-10

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

**M**any years ago, I facilitated a Crown Financial Bible study. This study was helpful to many of the attendees as we were challenged to think through some of the financial norms in our society. For instance, when studying the Bible verses about debt, the leaders warned about the dangers when taking out a loan to purchase a vehicle. One of the attendees mentioned how she had never heard that before. She thought it was just expected for adults to get a loan for a vehicle purchase and thought that was what everyone did.

Today we are going to read about how easy it is to do what everyone else around us is doing. We will be reminded of the importance of taking a stand for God and not to just give into the crowd.

## What Does the Bible Say?

As has been mentioned before, we are following the order of the Reese Chronological Bible. The Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament which was used at the time of Jesus, added that the event occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Nebuchadnezzar which would have been 587 B.C. It is debated if that was an accurate date since it was not recorded in the Hebrew manuscripts. Reese included it here and so will we.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so proud of his accomplishments at this point in his life that he decided he was going to build an image of himself. This image was around 90 feet tall and would have been plated in gold. We are given the measurements in cubits. A cubit was approximately 18 inches and was around the length of a person's elbow to his fingertips. Most likely the height would have also included a massive base to the structure. It is unclear where the plain of Dura was located, but it was probably near Babylon (vs 1).

When the statue was completed, Nebuchadnezzar called for all the leaders and officials to come to the dedication of the image. All the leaders gathered together for the dedication and were informed that when

the music was played they were all to bow down and worship the image that had been set up. Basically, they would be declaring to all that Nebuchadnezzar was a god. Nebuchadnezzar had instructed that anyone who chose not to bow down was to be immediately thrown into a fiery furnace. The music began to play and the leaders began to bow down and worship the image that had been set up (vs 2-7).

During this event, some of the Chaldean leaders noticed that some of the Jews who were there chose not to bow down and worship. Most likely, these men were bothered by the presence of the Jews among them and were jealous of the positions they had been given. These Chaldeans approached Nebuchadnezzar and reminded him about the command he had given. They proceeded to tell him that the three Jews who had been given positions of authority failed to bow down as commanded. These men made it sound like the Jews had a lack of respect for Nebuchadnezzar and the worship he established (vs 8-12).

Nebuchadnezzar was furious when he heard this and he commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him to give an answer for themselves. Nebuchadnezzar reminded them of the orders they were given and the punishment they would face for not obeying. He then asked them what god would be able to deliver them from his power (vs 13-15).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you bowing down to the idols of this world? As has been mentioned before, most people in our society today are not tempted to physically bow down to an image or even a ruler, but there is a temptation to worship things or people rather than God. These men were being pressured into doing what everyone else around them was doing which was clearly against the instructions that God had given them. There will be times where you will be pressured to do things that are against what God has established for you. Things that are against His Word and not good for you. You could even be threatened with physical harm or the loss of something if you do not obey. It is then you must choose that you are going to trust that God is stronger than any threats that are being made against you. Though Nebuchadnezzar thought he was greater than any human power, he would soon find out that he was wrong.

## Suggestions for Prayer

\* *Ask God to help you fear Him more than you fear men.*

What did Nebuchadnezzar make (vs 1)?

What did the size of this structure reveal (vs 1)?

Who did the king order to gather for the dedication (vs 2)?

Why do you think he gathered these men?

Where did all the leaders stand (vs 3)?

What proclamation was given (vs 4-5)?

What would be the punishment for those who did not obey (vs 6)?

What did the people do (vs 7)?

Why do you think almost everyone did as they were commanded?

Who came forward to accuse the Jews (vs 8)?

Why do you think they did this?

How did these men address the king (vs 9)? Why do you think they addressed him this way?

What did these men remind the king of (vs 10)?

What did they emphasize about the punishment (vs 11)?

What three men were accused of not obeying the king (vs 12)? What do you know about these men?

What did the king order (vs 13)?

What did the king ask the men (vs 14-15)?

What significant question did Nebuchadnezzar ask at the end of verse 15? Why do you think He said this?

## *“Another In The Fire”*

**Study:** Daniel 3:16-30

**Reading:** Psalm 91:1-16, Acts 14:19-28

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

Several years ago I decided to burn a brush pile in my yard. To accomplish this, I poured some gasoline on the brush and then trickled a trail of gas to where I thought was a safe distance. I crouched down and lit the trail of gas. Though this was not a good idea, fortunately I crouched low enough to avoid the brunt of the mini-explosion that took place. I managed not to harm myself, except for the severe singeing of my bangs and my eyebrows.

Today, we are going to read about the great power of fire, but will be reminded that God is greater.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The Jewish men were asked by Nebuchadnezzar why they did not bow down to the statue after they were clearly instructed to do so. The men did not make excuses and did not hesitate to tell the king that their God was far more important than he was. They declared that they knew their God was greater and their God had the power to deliver them. They were basically declaring to Nebuchadnezzar that he was not a god, but their God was the true God who was greater than any man. These men had complete trust in their God. Even if God chose not to deliver them and they lost their lives, standing up for their God was way better than bowing down to what they knew to be a false god (vs 16-18).

The words of these Hebrews did not settle well with Nebuchadnezzar and he became furious at their response. He went from a person who was trying to understand why they failed to bow down to an angry man who could not believe they chose to defy his orders as a god. In his anger, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal. He instructed that they be bound and cast in with all their clothes on. Most likely, this was intended to inflict more pain as their garments caught fire and burned them alive. Those who threw the Hebrews into the fire were killed because of the intense heat. This is probably because they underestimated the power of the additional heat.

It could also have been that they were in such a hurry to carry out Nebuchadnezzar's commands that they didn't take the proper precautions with the fire (vs 19-23).

It is unclear exactly how this furnace was set up, but we do know that the king had the ability to look into the furnace. When he looked into the furnace, he was astonished to see a fourth man in the furnace with these three. He thought he had only condemned three men and even checked with his counselors about the number that had been thrown in. This was because he saw four men waking around in the fire. The three had been bound and thrown in and there was no way the three should be walking around, let alone a fourth man be walking with them. When Nebuchadnezzar looked closer at the fourth man he clearly noticed something different about this man since he had the appearance of a "son of a god." (vs 24-25)

Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the furnace and commanded the men to come out. When they came out, Nebuchadnezzar and all of the leaders were astonished because the fire had done nothing to these men. Their hair and clothes were all untouched by the flames, which was completely dumfounding to the Chaldeans. Nebuchadnezzar understood that this was a supernatural intervention from the God of the Jews. He instructed that no one speak negatively about the God of the Jews, acknowledging his great power. Nebuchadnezzar developed a respect for their God and most likely added him to the list of gods he worshiped (vs 26-29).

As a result of this, Nebuchadnezzar promoted these three Hebrews to a higher position in his kingdom. Most likely, Nebuchadnezzar wanted the power of God on his side (vs 30).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

. Do you realize that God will be with you, no matter what you go through. There will be times where God will help you avoid the fire and there will be other times where He will go through the fire with you. In this amazing story of deliverance, don't overlook the fact that these were men with emotions and feelings just like you and I. They did not know for sure if God would spare them, but they knew that they were going to follow God and His ways no matter what the results were. When you go through trials, you don't know what htey outcome will be. Yet, you can trust God through your difficulties. You have the ability to trust God just as these men trusted God.

Why didn't the Hebrews need to answer Nebuchadnezzar (vs 16)?

What did the men declare about their God (vs 17)?

Do you have this type of faith? Explain.

How do you think you can develop this type of faith?

What does verse 18 reveal about their trust?

What does this reveal about God's deliverance?

*\*\*\*God does not always deliver us in the way we desire. There are many examples in the Bible of earthly deliverance and there are examples of people dying, but being rewarded in heaven.*

How did Nebuchadnezzar respond (vs 19)?

What did he order (vs 19)?

Why do you think he did this?

Who cast the men into the furnace (vs 20)?

Why were they thrown in with their clothes on (vs 21)?

What does verse 22 indicate about the fury of Nebuchadnezzar?

Why was Nebuchadnezzar astonished (vs 24-25)?

How can you see the power of God in this?

What did Nebuchadnezzar command the Hebrews to do (vs 26)?

What did the Chaldeans observe about the Hebrews (vs 27)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar declare (vs 28)?

What do you think God wants you to learn about Him through this?



# “Trusting God or Self”

**Study:** Jeremiah 39:15-18, Ezekiel 29:1-16

**Reading:** Psalm 20:1-9, Acts 16:25-26

**Memory:** Psalm 119:3

## What Does the Bible Say?

While Jeremiah was still in prison in the court of the guard, God instructed him to go to Ebed-melech. Ebed-melech was the Ethiopian eunuch who had informed Zedekiah that Jeremiah had been thrown into a cistern and was responsible for helping rescue Jeremiah from death. In this message, God declared that He was going to destroy Jerusalem and fulfill His words against the city. Though the city was going to be destroyed, God revealed to Ebed-melech that he would be spared. Many of the other officials of the city would be executed, but he would be taken as a prize of war by Nebuchadnezzar. God was rewarding Ebed-melech for his choice to follow the ways of God. Though he was not an Israelite, he had believed what Jeremiah declared about God and chose to follow the ways of God (Jer 39:15-18).

The prophecy given in Ezekiel 29 was given in January of 587 B.C., over a year after the siege began. God told Ezekiel to look towards Egypt and declare how God was against the Pharaoh of Egypt. The Pharaoh was described as a great dragon of the Nile river, which was most likely a reference to a crocodile. The Nile river provided abundantly for the people and helped give Egypt its great power, but the powerful nation of Egypt could not stand against the power of God. God compared the captivity of Egypt to a crocodile being captured with a hook and pulled out of the river. Fish would be stuck to the scales of the crocodile and they both would be deposited in the desert where there was no chance of survival. They would become food for wild animals since they would be left for dead out of their element (vs 1-5).

All of the people of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was greater than any gods of Egypt. Egypt had been like a staff of reeds to Israel. Reeds grew all around the Nile river, but were not strong material for building or to hold anything up. When Israel tried to trust in Egypt, they were not reliable and instead collapsed on her, causing her to be stabbed in the armpit. Their punishment for not helping Israel would be

the destruction of the nation, leaving the land desolate (vs 6-9).

They did not think they could be conquered because of their great river. This was a misplaced trust. God was going to be against them and the river they trusted in. The land would face a forty year period of desolation and the people of the land would be killed and scattered. At the end of forty years, God would allow the nation of Egypt to be prosperous once again. Though it would regain some prosperity, it would never again reach the prominence that it once held as a world power. One of the main reasons for this destruction was so that Israel would not be tempted to trust in Egypt ever again (vs 10-16).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

These passages you read today reveal some of the core truths of Scripture. Ebed-melech trusted in God and believed God’s Word. He stood up for Jeremiah, and as a result, he was rewarded by having his life spared. On the other hand, the Egyptians trusted in themselves and their earthly power. They were not a help to the people of God, but were like a staff of reeds that broke when Israel trusted them. As a result, the nation was going to face severe punishment and would never again be as prominent as they once were. The obvious and simple truth is that trusting in God and obeying Him will bring God’s blessings upon your life, while trusting in yourself will bring problems into your life. This is a very simple principle, but it is often hard to choose God’s way when the way of the world seems so much easier and better. As you make choices and decisions in life, always keep this general principle in mind.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God for giving you biblical examples to learn from.*
- \* *Ask God to help you trust Him and follow His ways.*
- \* *Praise God because He is greater than any earthly force.*

## Thought for the day

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### **Jeremiah 39**

When did this message come to Jeremiah (vs 15)?

Who was this message for (vs 16)? What do you know about this man (see Jer 38:7-13)?

What was God going to do to the city (vs 16)?

What was God going to do for this man (vs 17)?

Why did God choose to spare this man (vs 18)?

What do you think God wants you to learn from this?

### **Ezekiel 29**

Who was this prophecy against (vs 1-2)?

What did God compare the Pharaoh to (vs 3)?

What was going to happen to this creature (vs 4-5)?

What did God want the people to know (vs 6)?

What did God say that Egypt had been for Israel (vs 6)? Why (vs 7)?

What was God going to do to Egypt (vs 8-9)?

How far would this destruction extend (vs 10)?

How long would this last (vs 11-12)?

What would God do after that time (vs 13)?

What did God say about their fortunes (vs 14-15)?

Why was God going to do this (vs 16)?

What lesson do you think God was attempting to teach?

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, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!*