

# THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

## CHAPTER 17 – THE KINGDOM’S FALL

### DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

**Key Events:** the reign of the last kings of Judah, the fall of Judah and Jerusalem, the ministries of the prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah.

### DIGGING IN

- 1) The son of the good king Hezekiah was Manasseh. List some of the evil things that he was responsible for in Judah and Jerusalem. (pg 231) How can we explain the extent of his evil?
- 2) Read the last line of page 232. What eventually happened to Manasseh? Is there ever a time when we would “give up” on a person who has turned his or her back to God?
- 3) King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon weakened Judah and Jerusalem through a series of attacks and the exiling of residents. One of those exiles was Ezekiel the prophet through whom the LORD foretold of the coming destruction of Jerusalem. Look at the third paragraph on page 236. How does the LORD judge the “success” of a prophet or pastor?

- 4) Jeremiah was prophet for over 40 years leading up to the end of Judah and he witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem. Read Jeremiah's call into service on the bottom of page 237 to the top of page 238. Why was Jeremiah hesitant to answer the LORD's call into service? Think of promises from God's Word that would encourage his present day messengers.
  
- 5) Read In 586 B.C., the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, put out the eyes of King Zedekiah and killed his sons, burned down the temple, palace and houses in the city, and deported all but the poorest Israelites. In the midst of all the misery that resulted from evil and unfaithfulness, what message still rang out at the bottom of page 244 (Lamentations 3)? What response did God desire at the top of page 245 (Lamentations 5)?
  
- 6) God's message through Ezekiel turned from judgment to hope. Look once more at pages 245-247. What were God's reasons for granting them grace and mercy?
  
- 7) This chapter represents a low point in the history of the people of Israel. Jerusalem was destroyed. The temple of God was demolished. What do we learn about God's wrath from this account? What do we learn about God's grace?

Chapter 18: Daniel in Exile

Bible Reference: Daniel 1-3; Jeremiah 29-31