

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 3: The Remnant Men Of Judah
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In our last study we begin to look at the circumstances and events that sets the stage of the prophetic book of Daniel. We learned that the reason why God sentenced Judah (southern Israel kingdom) into Babylon for seventy years was because of their apostasy. **(By the way, the word “Jews” in English came from the Hebrew word pronounced yeh-hoo-dee' which means “Jehudite.”) They refused to repent and turn from their evils ways.** Jeremiah was God’s appointed prophet to warn Judah. He put them on RED ALERT!

Out of love God pleaded with Judah to repent, but what was their response?

Jeremiah 6:16-17

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, **We will not walk therein.**

17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.**

For centuries God used captivity as a punishment tool of correction for the people of Israel. The Biblical record teaches that apostasy always leads to captivity. **Remember in the last days apostasy always leads to Babylon!**

Remember Judah had no excuse, they saw their sister Israel demolished by the Assyrians! Why? Apostasy! They were forewarned. God could have had them totally destroyed Judah by Babylon, never to return.

What did God say to Judah about its seventy year sentence under the bondage of Babylon?

Jeremiah 25:11

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon **seventy years.**

Jeremiah 30:11

11 For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will **I not make a full end of thee:** but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Jeremiah 29:10

10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in **causing you to return to this place.**

Think about this, Judah sins were no less then their sister Israel. God could have made Judah a desolation by the forces of Babylon.

What was the main reason why God preserved Judah after seventy years of captivity in Babylon and later to return? Who was prophesied to come from Judah?

Micah 5:2

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Matthew 2:1, 6 (Prophecy fulfilled)

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Jesus fulfilled His mission and ministry on earth. During His earthly ministry the Jewish nation was still in apostasy, but under the Roman yoke. He pleaded with the leadership of Israel to repent, but they refused and had Jesus nailed to the cross. Jesus pronounced the judgment of desolation like He did to the northern kingdom of Israel who was taken by the Assyrians centuries ago.

What was Jesus' judgment of desolation upon the Jews?**Matthew 23:37-38**

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

38 **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**

This was a judgment of desolation that has legal power because Jesus is King of king and Lord of lords. This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter in 70 AD! Israel, the Jews were made desolate.

What is the lesson learned? In the end apostasy does not only lead to Babylonian captivity spiritually, but it ultimately leads to total destruction.

What is the hope and truth even in the midst of apostasy and evil?

Even in times of great apostasies and evil, God always had a small remnant that faithful to God's truth. This will be true until the end of time! Regardless of the wicked world and apostate churches, **God has a remnant who will stay on the ROCK CHRIST Jesus.**

What is an apostate? Who leaves God's true church?

Apostasy = "the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief." An apostate is one who leaves the firm foundation of God's Word. A seventh-day Adventist apostate is one who LEAVES the firm foundation of the everlasting gospel and the pure three angels messages of Revelation. One who LEAVES the firm foundation of VICTORY over sin. **These are the apostates that LEAVE God's remnant church in which He is the head, not man. These are the apostates that leave, but cleave on papal Rome and other apostate churches of Babylon through ecumenism. They leave the pure foundation of truth and drink the wine of Babylon!** They leave God's prophetic word, His testimonies, and commandments and chase the false promises, false hopes and idols of materialism and humanism. Who leaves? The apostate or the corp church structure that is in apostasy. Those who dismiss themselves and family from a corp church structure that is IN apostasy is NOT LEAVING God's true remnant church. They are remaining on the foundation or platform of TRUTH. Remember, that is the essence of the word "remnant" remaining ones. **The remnant refuse to go on the "Apostate" train that LEFT the station of TRUTH in which Satan is the conductor.**

Are you a remaining one? Are you the remnant who keep the commandments of God and have the faith and testimonies of Jesus? Do you abide in Christ and Christ abide in you? You are the remnant? Do you believe and teach the everlasting gospel of the three angels message? You are the remnant! Do you believe and teach in health reform, dress reform and life transformation with victory over sin through Jesus? You are the remnant! Have you cast out the worldliness and the devices and the distractions of Satan out of your life? You are the remnant! Do you sigh and cry about the abominations pleading others to repent and turn to Jesus? You are the

remnant! **Do you have a love for the TRUTH greater than Satan's hate for it? YOU ARE THE REMNANT!** Are you actively sharing God's Word with others and NOT wasting time in worldliness idleness? **YOU ARE THE REMNANT!**

Back to the book of Daniel

Going back to the prophetic book of Daniel, God gives of us testimonies of remnant men of Judah who stayed faithful to God even in the midst of apostasy and an evil world. These powerful testimonies are given to us as examples that we too as God's remnant people can also stay faithful even in during times of great apostasy, evil, and persecution. Like in the days of Daniel, God will use His remnant to give the everlasting gospel to kings, presidents and the world!

For the next few lessons in Daniel we will learned more about these faithful remnant men of Judah. **In our previous lesson we studied the setting of book of Daniel.** We looked at the apostasy and refusal to repent that lead to Judah's seventy years of Babylonian captivity.

Who are the faithful remnant in the book of Daniel given to us as examples?

Daniel 1:1

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

Who were among those taken during the siege of Judah?

Daniel 1:3-7

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed (children of the king), and of the princes (nephews, cousins, etc of the king);

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

Even though Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were captives from Judah taken to Babylon because of its apostasy God used them as His remnant to turn the hearts of the people spiritually from Babylon to the kingdom of God! King Nebuchadnezzar thought that changing their name would gradually turn them away from the God of heaven to the king's heathen gods and idolatry.

Faithful Princes of Judah

According to Daniel 1:3, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were more likely royal princes, cousins among each other and cousins of the king. Even though they were part of the royal line of Judah they stayed loyal to God's truth! **All those who are part of the remnant are also from the royal line of heaven who must stay loyal to God's truth!**

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

If you are a part of royalty you must show your loyalty to God!

The goal of King Nebuchadnezzar was to make the royals of Judah into the royalty of Babylon, by not only changing their name, but training them in the ways of Babylon three years. **A great majority from the royalty of Judah who was taken captive in Babylon was still in apostasy, but Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah remained faithful to God and refused be sucked INTO Babylonian ways.** In Daniel chapters 1 – 6 you see the testimonies of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah come alive and teach us of the characters we must have to make through the last days.

What are the perspectives of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah before and after their captivity and what are the lessons we need to learn as God’s remnant today? How did these men develop so much faith and bravery to stand for truth when princes from Judah compromised, caught in a web of apostasy?

Before we continue in Daniel chapter 1 we need to look at the perspectives of these four remnant of what was happening in Judah before they were taken captive. Being part of the princes of royalty were they old enough to personally know the great reformer King Josiah? Did they hear the prophetic messages of Jeremiah before they were taken captives? What were some of the messages that they heard from Jeremiah? Also we are going to look at their perspective of what they witnessed concerning the people of Judah while they were captives in Babylon. What did they see? **Understanding their view before and during their captivity will give more insight of what influenced Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah be remain faithful and be a witness for the true God of heaven while in Babylon captivity.**

Did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah personally know the reformer King Josiah? Were they trained during the time Judah’s great revival and reformation under King Josiah?

When were they taken captive in Babylon?

Daniel 1:1

1 In the **third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.**

How old were they when they were taken?

It is clear from the following verses that these “children” were not babies (not taken at 3 or 4 years old), but young men or at least teenagers.

“Daniel was but a youth when carried away captive into Babylon. He was **about fifteen or sixteen years old...**” Ellen White, Upward Look, Chapter 69, “Let This Mind Be In You.”

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were all about the same between the ages of 15 and 16 years old. With this information we can see if they were living during the time of King Josiah.

Let’s look at the timeline from King Josiah to Daniel captivity in Babylon

1 - King Josiah was 39 years old when he died (2 Kings 22:1)

2 - Jehoahaz, Josiah’s son, was king at 23, but for only three month (2 Kings 23:30-31)

3 - Jehoiakim, Josiah’s son, was king at 25, for 11 years. In his third year of his reign, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah was taken to Babylon. (2 Kings 23:36 and Daniel 1:1)

How many years were they between King Josiah’s death and Daniel captivity in Babylon?

Only 3 years! If Daniel was about 16 when went into Babylon, how old was he when Josiah died? $16 - 3 = 13$ years old. Daniel, and Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were all around 12 or 13 years old when the great reformer, King Josiah died. King Josiah was about 26 years old when Daniel was born. According to 2 Kings 22:1, 7 was the same year that the book of the law was found in the temple and read before King Josiah. This was the time he re-established the temple services.

Why is this important? It is clear the Daniel, and Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah grew up during the time of Josiah's great revival and reformation. In their most formidable and impressionable ages they were trained during these years of true revival and reformation. They learned and were obedient to the commandments and the testimonies of God. They were no doubt exposed the full light of God's truth during these revival years. As youth they were established in the faith of the true God of Heaven. They studied the ALL scriptures as a light of Truth. They knew God has their Creator and Savior. They were schooled in the book of the law. They thoroughly studied and knew all the prophecies of the coming Messiah in the prophetic book of Israel, the OT gospel.

Their parents taught them the old way which is the good way to eternal life!

Deuteronomy 6:2, 5, and 7

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.
 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

As princes of King Josiah, there is no doubt that they were thoroughly trained in the various roles and positions princes had perform in the king courts. You can imagine Daniel as a child shadowing his father in the kings courts. Being part of nobility, Daniel, and Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah was sure to have some interaction and communication with King Josiah. They probably heard the many testimonies of faith and encouragement from Josiah as children. You can imagine Josiah telling them about how God prophesied about him burning the bones of the false prophets on the altar in Bethel about 280 years before he was born (1 Kings 13:1-2)! Josiah told them how to stay faithful to God. They learn about the years of apostasy and how it lead to captivity.

Daniel, and Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah built their faith on firm foundation of truth from their youth. This is the reason why Daniel purposed in his heart not to eat of the kings meat and stand for truth; why he was able to stand before powerful kings to uplift the true God of heaven; and why he was able to sing in the midst of angry lions! Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did not bow down to the golden image in Daniel chapter 3 because as youth they were trained how to faithful God! They did not waste their time on the foolishness of this world they drank from the pure foundations of God's truth!

What is the main lesson here for parents today?

Proverbs 22:6

6 **Train** up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Parents we are responsible for raising our children, not the school nor the church. The school and the church are supposed to be places that are in unison with what the children are being taught at home! **The most important and impressible years of training that forms a child's character is from the womb to about ten years old.** These years are extremely critical for the formation of a child's character for life! If parents today understood this they would not allow the TV to train their children. They would not buy video games and other devices of waste for their children. Day by day parents should create an atmosphere of truth in the home and teaching them practical living skills that build character in the Lord!

After the sudden death of the great reformer King Josiah, what major challenges did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah have to face?

2 Kings 23:29-33

29 In his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

30 And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

31 Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

32 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

33 And Pharaohnechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

After the death of Josiah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are now faced with some very serious issues. After Judah was defeated by Egypt, Judah had to pay tribute to them. **But the biggest challenge they faced was apostasy.** Josiah son king Jehoahaz did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He rejected the reforms of his father and taught the apostasies of grandfathers. Only three months later of his reign was taken as a prisoner to Egypt.

Who was the next king and what did he do? Did he continue the apostasies of Jehoahaz?

2 Kings 23:34-37

34 And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.

35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaohnechoh.

36 Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

37 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

Remember this is the same King Jehoiakim that is mention in Daniel 1:1. Instead of continuing the revival and reformation of his father Josiah, Jehoiakim was evil in the eyes of God. He expanded the apostasies. In order to pay the tribute to Egypt, he heavily taxed the people. The king court and the temple services are now thrown into chaos. **At only tender age 13 Daniel and 3 worthies are faced with one of the biggest challenges of their young lives was APOSTASY, especially among the king and princes.**

For the next three years until Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were taken from Judah to Babylon as captives they had to stand up for God's TRUTH. The character that they displayed in Daniel was the same character they displayed in the midst of the growing apostasy in Judah. They saw many of the princes and the sons of the king compromise God's Word and apostatized from the TRUTH. The apostasy grew quickly like a fatal and rapid growing cancer. They heard the pleas of Jeremiah the prophet to repent and turn back to God for three years! They heard the prophecy of doom if Judah failed to repent!

As nobles in the king's court what were some of the messages that they personally heard from themselves from the prophet Jeremiah in king Jehoiakim's first year as king? And what were some of the responses from the king did they probably see before they were taken captive into Babylon?

Jeremiah 26:1-9

1 In the **beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying,

2 Thus saith the LORD; **Stand in the court of the LORD'S house**, and **speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house**, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

3 If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.

4 And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you,

5 To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

6 Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

7 So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

What was the response of the majority of the people?

8 Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, **Thou shalt surely die.**

9 Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And **all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.**

Next the all princes heard the words of repentance from Jeremiah. But the people still wanted to kill Jeremiah! What was Jeremiah's response?

Jeremiah 26:15

15 But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

This was a very hostile environment that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah witnessed, but they were able to see Jeremiah stand faithful even though he was threaten to be killed.

After Jeremiah's response in verse 15 what was the response of the princes and the people?

Jeremiah 26:16

16 Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and to the prophets; This man is not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah no doubt heard these messages from Jeremiah, it went through all of Judah the princes. They could have been among the princes who stood up for Jeremiah when he was threaten with death! **God was preparing them for even greater work!**

What was King Jehoiakim's response when he heard another man prophesy in the name of the Lord that was in unison with the words God gave to Jeremiah?

Jeremiah 26:20-23

20 And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, **the king sought to put him to death:** but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt;
 22 And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him into Egypt.
 23 And they fetched forth **Urijah** out of Egypt, and brought him unto **Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword,** and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

Jehoiakim killed innocent blood! Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were probably taken back by the cruelty of the king. They saw first hand a martyr who stood up for truth even though his life was taken. They witness what it takes to be a true remnant in the midst of apostasy and evil.

Here is a summary of the history of Jehoiakim's eleven year reign that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah witnessed before and after their captivity in Babylon:

1st year – pay tribute to the King of Egypt (2 Kings 23:33 - 35)
 3rd year – Egypt was taken by surprise by the growing Babylonian kingdom in 606/05 BC (Jeremiah 46:2, 2 Kings 24:7)
 3rd year – King Jehoiakim must pay tribute to a growing Babylonian kingdom, but later rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar. (2 Kings 24:1)
 3rd year – King Nebuchadnezzar takes Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and other princes as captives in Babylon (Daniel 1:1).

Do you think they were surprised when they were taken captive? No. They saw it as a fulfillment of prophecy plus they know by the province of God that He had a special work for them to do in Babylon. **As true remnant soldiers of God they were spiritually able and trained to fulfill God mission to share truth throughout the Babylonian empire. They did not know how God was going to work things out to be a witness in Babylon but they trusted Him.**

4th year – God give seventy years of captivity sentence in Babylon to the Jehoiakim and the people of Judah (Jeremiah 25:11)
 5th year – Jehoiakim rejects the book of the law! Let's see some details

Jeremiah 36:1-2, 6, 9, 19 - 26

1 And it came to pass in the **fourth year** of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
 2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.
 6 Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD'S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.
 9 And it came to pass in the **fifth year of Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people that came from the cities of Judah unto Jerusalem.
 19 Then said the princes unto Baruch (Jeremiah's scribe), Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be.
 20 And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king.
 21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words. **(Jehoiakim did the total oppose of his father Josiah when he heard the word from the book of the law).**

25 Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.

26 But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them.

Despite king Jehoiakim burning the scroll of the words of the Lord to Judah God had Jeremiah and his scribe produce another scroll with even more words than before.

11th Year - What eventually happened to King Jehoiakim during his eleven year as king of Judah?

2 Chronicles 36:6-7

6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.

7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

Daniel 1:2

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. (This happened during the eleventh year of Jehoiakim's reign in Judah)

This siege of Judah by Babylon was eight years after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah was taken captive. Babylon did not totally destroy Judah yet, but overtime it got progressively worse (see Jeremiah 52:28-30)!

King Jehoiachin

After Jehoiakim was taken captive, his son Jehoiachin at **18 years old** was appointed king of Judah by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. He rebelled and did not learn from his father's, King Jehoiakim, captivity. He only reigned for **three months** and Babylon came again and attacked Judah. (see 2 Kings 24:6 – 11). Jehoiachin was taken along with several more captives than before along with ALL the treasures of the temple and king plus they cut out ALL the gold in Solomon's temple (see 2 Kings 24:12 – 16). He had to serve his time in a Babylonian prison for 37 years, but later released. (see Jeremiah 52:31 -34).

Prophet Ezekiel

Prophet Ezekiel (book of Ezekiel before Daniel) was taken to Babylonian as a captive at the time of Jehoiachin (see Ezekiel 1:2). God placed the prophet Ezekiel in Babylon to give words of reproof, correction, and encouragement to the Judah captive. He made the same call of repentance like Jeremiah. He also ensure them of their release after seventy years of Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of Israel. Ezekiel words were also encouraging for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

King Zedekiah – Judah's last king!

King Nebuchadnezzar appointed Jehoiakim's brother, Zedekiah, king of Judah. He was 21 and reigned for eleven years (see 2 Kings 24:16 – 19). Zedekiah did not learn from all the other sieges, attacks and the many captives taken to Babylon! He refused to repent and turn from evil. Jeremiah pleaded with Zedekiah to submit

to King Nebuchadnezzar, but he refused. Zedekiah was totally blind spiritually. He rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar and on the eleven year of king Zedekiah reign, Judah and its beloved city and temple were totally destroyed by Babylon. There was a great loss of life. More were taken captives back to Babylon. (See 2 Chronicles 36:10-20 and Jeremiah 52:1-11)

2 Chronicles 36:14-16

14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

What happened to the last king of Judah, Zedekiah?

Jeremiah 52:10-11

10 And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11 Then he **put out the eyes of Zedekiah**; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah was a witness to all this drama that Judah brought upon itself before and after they were taken captives in Babylon. They saw the hand of God and the fulfillment of prophecy first hand. They believed in the sure word of prophecy that gave them courage to stand for truth in Babylon. They were truly an example of the true remnant of God!

Four Angels Messages

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, four remnant men of Judah represents, the four angels messages of Revelation 14 and 18. They taught the fear and worship of the true God. They taught that Babylon was fallen. False worship and idolatry was exposed. The call to get out of false worship, "Babylon" to the true worship of God was given.

The Everlasting King!

It was never God's plan for Israel to have kings. God was supposed to be their King. They wanted to be like everybody else. He warned them at the time of Samuel, but they refused. He allowed them to have their kings over the centuries, it was a great disaster! Their hierarchical system of depending on an earthly king failed! Lesson today, don't depend on hierarchical religious systems where men look to men and the system for their salvation. They will fail you. Only look to Jesus as your king. The book of Daniel is about the King of kings and Lords of lords. He will set up an everlasting kingdom that will never fail! In order to be a part of God's kingdom as the remnant people of God, remain on the platform of truth must be a part of God's spiritual kingdom now. Jesus must be King in your life NOW! Is He your king today?

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