

INTO CAPTIVITY
(2 Kings 25:22-30)

- I. Judah in EXILE (2 Kings 25:22-26)
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah GOVERNOR of the region (25:22)
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar had Jeremiah RELEASED (Jer. 39:11-14; 40:1-6)
 - 1. Invited him to BABYLON as a GUEST of the king
 - 2. Permission to go ANYWHERE throughout JUDEA
 - C. Jeremiah went to Mizpah to join GEDALIAH
 - 1. Gedaliah's father had gone to HULDAH for JOSIAH (2 Kings 22:12)
 - 2. Gedaliah's father had RESCUED Jeremiah from EXECUTION (Jer. 26:24)
 - D. Several other men "WITH THEIR MEN" joined Gedaliah (2 Kings 25:23)
 - 1. This was neither a SURRENDER nor a TRUCE
 - 2. This was an attempt to ORGANIZE a RESISTANCE
 - E. Gedaliah promised they would SURVIVE and PROSPER in the land if they would SERVE the Chaldeans (25:24)
 - 1. He was advocating OBEYING the word of GOD from JEREMIAH
 - 2. Things went WELL at first
 - 3. He did not believe the report of a CONSPIRACY to MURDER him
 - F. Ishmael MURDERED Gedaliah along with MANY OTHERS (25:25; cf. Jer. 41:3-7)
 - G. Ishmael fled to AMMON with only EIGHT of his men (Jer. 41:11-15)
 - H. The SURVIVORS sought DIRECTION from the LORD (Jer. 42:1-6)

1. “If you will STAY, you will not be DESTROYED”

2. “If you FLEE to EGYPT, you will DIE THERE”

I. They went to EGYPT, forcing JEREMIAH to go with them (25:26; Jer. 43:1-7)

II. Historical Footnote Concerning JEHOIACHIN (2 Kings 25:27-30)

A. He’s been in EXILE for 37 YEARS

B. He was RELEASED from PRISON and given a place of HONOR (25:27-28)

1. He DINED at the KING’S TABLE

2. He was given a royal STIPEND for LIFE

III. Lessons

A. Human FOLLY ignores divine INSTRUCTION

1. The greater a person’s POWER, the more spectacular becomes his STUPIDITY

2. People tend to FEAR MAN more than they FEAR GOD

B. Judah’s destruction was an act of DIVINE JUSTICE

1. He “would not forgive” because they shed “INNOCENT BLOOD” (2 Kings 24:4)

2. His people continually MOCKED His messengers and DESPISED His words (2 Chron. 36:15-16)

3. His people had not allowed the LAND a sabbath’s rest every SEVEN YEARS (2 Chron. 36:21; cf. Lev. 25:1-7; 26:34)

C. It provides a harbinger of FUTURE RESTORATION

1. God was WITH THEM in the midst of CAPTIVITY

2. Some would SURVIVE and be RESTORED to a place of honor