

Class: 4-5 yr olds

Date:

Lesson #: VIII - 1

Text: Jer. 50:35-46; 52:4-30
11 Chron. 36:5-21

Teacher: Monty + Brenda
Huell

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:44

Concept development

Obedience - receiving punishment as prophesied

Lesson

Words to define: _____

Body: Read story from Children Picture Bible.

Talked about how ^{long} Jeremiah was held prisoner ~ like a little boy who would be a grown^{ed} man. Also talked about how the tower of Babel was the start of the Babylonian Empire.

Activities: Colouring pages ~ Wed. night singing

Questions: Who was King of Babylon? How long did Jeremiah stay a prisoner? What kind of people did Nebuchadnezzar take from Jerusalem? Did the people of Judah obey God?

The Destruction of Jerusalem

It soon became clear who the new powerful enemy of Judah was. The armies of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had overcome those of Assyria and Egypt. As Egypt was under the control of Babylon, King Jehoiakim was forced to obey Nebuchadnezzar, too.

But after a while, Jehoiakim began to plot against the king of Babylon, and that was a big mistake. Nebuchadnezzar decided it was time to attack Jerusalem.

By the time the armies of Babylon reached Jerusalem, Jehoiakim was dead. So it was the new king who was taken captive, along with all the strongest, smartest citizens and the most skilled workmen. Thousands of God's people were forced to march hundreds of miles to live in a foreign land, and the soldiers of Babylon stripped the temple of its treasures and carried them away.

Only the very weak were left behind in Jerusalem, and Nebuchadnezzar chose a new king named Zedekiah, to rule over them. Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem and continued to preach to those that remained. Despite all that had happened to them, the people of Judah still did not turn back to God. The prophet warned Zedekiah that God wanted the king to obey Nebuchadnezzar, and that he was not to plot against him. "If you do this," said Jeremiah, "God says you will escape the terrible destruction that will come upon this land."

But Zedekiah and his advisers would not listen to the prophet. Jeremiah angered the king and his court so much that they beat him and put him in prison. Still God encouraged his prophet to call out his warnings.

The people of Jerusalem who were captives in Babylon had begun to learn their lesson and were turning back to God's law. Jeremiah wrote to them, encouraging them to keep trusting God. "The Lord says that after seventy years, He will bring you back from Babylon and restore everything to you. He will make a new law for you, to replace the one given to Moses. This new law will not be written down, but it will be in your hearts and minds. You will all know the Lord and be his people."

Meanwhile, Zedekiah continued to plot against Babylon. So Nebuchadnezzar came back to punish the people of Judah. "Give in to Babylon," Jeremiah told the king, but even then he did not listen.

So for two years, the city of Jerusalem was besieged until the people starved. Then, the fierce warriors of Babylon broke into the city and pulled down its walls. They burned the temple, the palace, and all the rich homes. They captured the king and blinded him for his disobedience. Then, carrying with them all the treasures they could find, the soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar dragged the remaining citizens back to Babylon in chains.

Despite everything the Lord had done to save them, the people of Judah had continued to disobey God. Now they were forced to live in exile for many years.







