



"Learning To Settle Down In Captivity" (II Kings 25)

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I. THE TEXT

v.21 Jer.52: 27 So Judah went into captivity, away from her land.

28 This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;

29 in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem;

30 in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were 4,600 people in all.

* Judah's sin was great (see Jer.5; 15:1a).

vv.22-24 Why would Gedaliah tell them to settle down in the land of Babylon?

* They were going to be there for 70 years! (Jer.25). Why seventy years? (see

* Gedaliah believed God's word through Jeremiah; see Jer.21:1-10; 27:1-15; Jeremiah warned Zedekiah 7 times! See Jer.34:1-5, last time in Jer.38:14-24.

v.25 See Jer.40:14-16

II. LESSONS

A. Recognize & Refuse To Listen To Lies

* See Jer.28:1ff

* How do we recognize true prophets from false prophets? False prophets are always prophesying positive things, and they are usually the majority; You can also look at their lifestyles

* II Tim.4: 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

B. Be Willing to Surrender To The Consequences Of Sin & Rebellion

* See II Kings 24:8-12; 25:27-30; Jehoiachin's surrender led the way for peace and provision despite his still having to experience the consequences of sin and rebellion.

* Note: Zedekiah could have been right there with Jehoiachin. See Jer.34:1-5; 38:14-24; Wendy's notes Jer.37:1-3. Having someone pray for you if you are not willing to listen to God will do you no good!

C. Once You Have Surrendered To The Consequences Of Sin, Repent

* Psalm 119: 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

* Jer.24:4-7; 29:1-14

D. Become A Witness For God Right Where You Are

* A witness to the grace & mercy of the God of Israel!

- Moses, David, & the apostle Paul were all murderers
- See I Kings 6:33-40; II Chron.7:11-14; Deut.4:25-31a
- Son of Sam testimony

* A witness to faithfulness in the midst of incredible unfaithfulness.

- Jeremiah; Joshua and Caleb; Joseph; Daniel and friends; Jesus.

CONCLUSION

* Will you surrender to the will of God?