

Lesson IX.

JUDAH CARRIED CAPTIVE TO BABYLON

August 27, 1911

Jeremiah 39 : 1-10. Study Jeremiah, ch. 39—Memory Verses, 9, 10.

Golden Text—Be sure your sin will find you out.—Numbers 32 : 23.

1 In the ninth year of Zedeki'ah king of Ju'dah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrez'zar king of Bab'ylon and all his army against Jeru'salem, and they besieged it.

2 And in the eleventh year of Zedeki'ah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

3 And all the princes of the king of Bab'ylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Ner'gal-share'zer, Sam'gar-ne'bo, Sar'sechim, Rab'saris, Ner'gal-share'zer, Rab'mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Bab'ylon.

4 And it came to pass, that when Zedeki'ah the king of Ju'dah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls : and he went out the way of the plain.

5 But the Chalde'ans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedeki'ah in the plains of Jer'icho : and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Bab'ylon to Rib'lah in the land of Ha'math, where he gave judgment upon him.

6 Then the king of Bab'ylon slew the sons of Zedeki'ah in Rib'lah before his eyes : also the king of Bab'ylon slew all the nobles of Ju'dah.

7 Moreover he put out Zedeki'ah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Bab'ylon.

8 And the Chalde'ans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jeru'salem.

9 Then Nebu'zar-ad'an the captain of the guard carried away captive into Bab'ylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

10 But Nebu'zar-ad'an the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Ju'dah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, came back to besiege Jerusalem once more ; and the Lord sent another message to Zedekiah through the prophet Jeremiah. He told Zedekiah to go out and give himself up to the king of Babylon, and he and the city would be saved.

But Zedekiah would not obey the command of the Lord. So Nebuchadnezzar's army encamped before the city, and fought against it. No one could go out to get more food, and soon there was little left in the city to eat, and many people died from hunger. The soldiers became weak and discouraged, and had no strength left to fight ; so at last Nebuchadnezzar's army broke down the walls and fought their way into Jerusalem.

Zedekiah fled away in the night from the city, with his soldiers ; but his enemies followed after him and caught him, and brought him a prisoner before King Nebuchadnezzar, who had been at a place named Riblah while his army was besieging Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar was very cruel, and when he had his enemy in his power he did all he could to hurt him. He killed Zedekiah's two sons before his eyes, besides all the princes and great men of the land ; and after he had done this he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains and carried him away a prisoner to Babylon, where he kept him in prison till he died. So Zedekiah was punished for disobeying God's commands.

And the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's army burnt the temple at Jerusalem, the palace of