

Lesson, Jeremiah 52: 1-11.

Read 2 Kings 25 and Jeremiah 8.

Commit vs. 9-11.

1. Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. and his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2. And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiaikim had done.

3. For through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4. And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about.

5. So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

6. And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land.

7. Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the gate between the two walls which was by the king's garden; (how the Chaldeans were by the city round about;) and they went by the way of the plain.

8. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

9. Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah, in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him.

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.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

"Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."—Jer. 29: 13.

**LESSON PLAN.**

1. Twofold Treachery.
2. Foretold Penalty.
3. Lifelong Captivity.

**LESSON HYMNS.**

Nos. 581, 294, 297, sel. 109, 147.

**DAILY READINGS.**

- M. Captivity of Judah, Jer. 52: 1-11.  
 T. Complete destruction, 2 Kings 25: 1-21.  
 W. Sin and its punishment, 2 Chron. 36: 11-21.  
 T. Refusing to be warned, Jer. 32: 1-5.  
 F. Prophecy of captivity, Jer. 32: 26-35.  
 S. Cry of the Captive, Lam. 1: 1-11.  
 S. Christ's warning, Luke 24: 9-18.

**CATECHISM.**

- Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Jehoiaikim, Burner of the Book, soon found "the burial of an ass," falling unheeded and unburied. His son, Jeconiah, was carried captive after three months' reign. Then Josiah's third son was made to swear fealty to Babylon, and placed on the throne as Zedekiah.

1. **Zedekiah.**—What irony in his change of name. His own name was "Gift of God." His throne name is "Justice of God." God's gifts are indeed withdrawn, and the hour of God's justice has struck. **Jeremiah**, not the prophet, who was of Anothoth.

2. **Did evil.**—His sin was not Manasseh's, idolatry, but, Jehoiaikim's, resisting God's word. He knew God's word and scorned it.

3. **From—His presence.**—From the land where He had given tokens of His presence, and the temple, His abode. The meaning is—because God in his anger would send them from the land,—He let the king follow his own will and rebel. **Rebelle**d.—His rebellion was two fold; first, against God, secondly, against Nebuchadnezzar. The latter involved perjury, for the condition on which he came to the throne was an oath of fealty to Babylon, 2 Chron. 36: 13; Ezek. 17: 13-16.

4. **Pitched against it.**—This siege and the captivity were foretold by Moses. Deut. 28: 49. Jeremiah for a life time had given warning. Ezekiel in far off Babylon told of the siege on its opening day and recorded the

date. Ezek. 24: 1. For pictures of the siege and famine see Jer. 15, Lam. 4, Ezek. 6. All was for sin. As history unfolds before our dazzled gaze her brilliant scroll, its gilded lettering is blurred by many a darkened page of crime, but by none of blacker hue than Judah's closing reigns. "**Forts,**" towers of woods over-topping the walls.

6. **No Bread.**—The city had been besieged for 18 months. The famine had grown sorer.

7. **Broken Up.**—A breach was made in the walls. The enemy gained the lower city and reached the gate in the middle wall, 39: 3. The king could still have held the upper city, but famine forced him to flee. He made an opening in the wall to get out. Ezek. 12: 12. The king's garden was at the pool of Siloam. Neh. 3: 15.

8. **Overtook.**—Some 20 miles from Jerusalem, fleeing alone.

9. **Riblah.**—North of Anti-Lebanon. **Judgment.**—As guilty of treason.

10. **Slew the Sons.**—The last sight that Zedekiah ever saw. It would ever be a bitter, cruel memory to him.

11. **Put out the eyes.**—He was carried to Babylon, yet did not see it, as Ezekiel had foretold. Ezek. 12: 13. He was put in the "House of Visitation," not only a prison but a house of torture. Judah was not colonized as Israel had been, but remained empty.