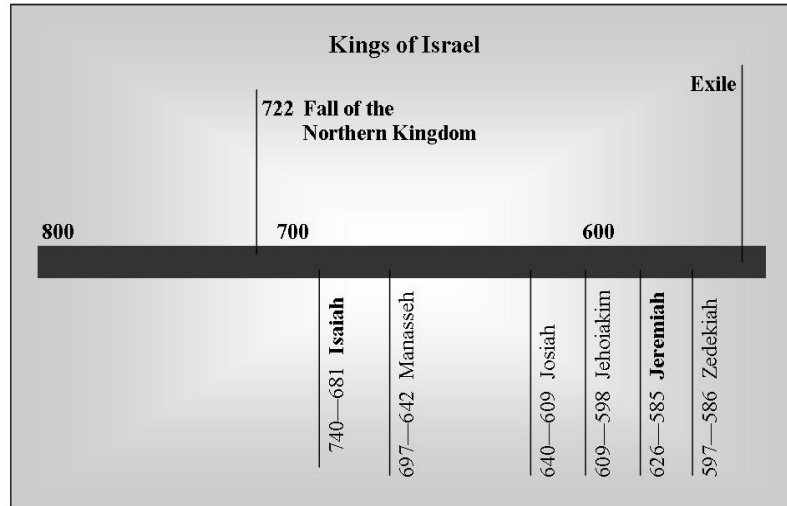


SERMON NOTES

Hope Through Hard Times

Mark Wollan
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II Kings 25: 1-7 NLT

¹ So on January 15, during the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon led his entire army against Jerusalem. They surrounded the city and built siege ramps against its walls.² Jerusalem was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah's reign.

³ By July 18 in the eleventh year of Zedekiah's reign, the famine in the city had become very severe, and the last of the food was entirely gone.⁴ Then a section of the city wall was broken down, and all the soldiers fled. Since the city was surrounded by the Babylonians, they waited for nightfall. Then they slipped through the gate between the two walls behind the king's garden and headed toward the Jordan Valley.

⁵ But the Babylonian troops chased the king and caught him on the plains of Jericho, for his men had all deserted him and scattered.⁶ They took him to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where they pronounced judgment upon Zedekiah.⁷ They made Zedekiah watch as they slaughtered his sons. Then they gouged out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon.

SERMON NOTES

Three Big Questions

1. Who am I listening to?

2. What matters most?

II Kings 25: 9-10 NLT

⁹ He (Nebuzaradan) burned down the Temple of the LORD, the royal palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem. He destroyed all the important buildings in the city.¹⁰ Then he supervised the entire Babylonian army as they tore down the walls of Jerusalem on every side.

SERMON NOTES

3. Where is my hope?

The Rest of the Story...

II Kings 25: 27-30 NLT

²⁷ In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, Evil-merodach ascended to the Babylonian throne. He was kind to Jehoiachin and released him from prison on April 2 of that year. ²⁸ He spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and gave him a higher place than all the other exiled kings in Babylon. ²⁹ He supplied Jehoiachin with new clothes to replace his prison garb and allowed him to dine in the king's presence for the rest of his life. ³⁰ So the Babylonian king gave him a regular food allowance as long as he lived.

SERMON NOTES

The Final Word

Romans 8: 35-39 NIV

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

*“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.