

The certainty of sin's consequences

2 Kings 23:31-25:30 (p. 314)

I. **DISCIPLINE**: GOD SENT JUDAH INTO CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON UNDER THE LAST FIVE RULERS (2 KINGS 23:31-25:26).

- A. Jehoahaz (Josiah's 2nd son) was taken in chains to Egypt (2 Kings 23:31-33 – evil, 3 months).
- B. Jehoiakim (Josiah's 1st son) was raided and many deported to Babylon (Daniel 1:1-3; 2 Kings 23:34-24:7– evil, 11 years).
- C. Jehoiachin (Jehoiakim's son) was defeated and 10,000 deported to Babylon (2 Kings 24:8-16 – evil, 3 months).
- D. Zedekiah (Jehoiachin's uncle/Josiah's son) was appointed governor, rebelled, defeated, Jerusalem residents deported and Jerusalem destroyed (2 Kings 24:17-25:21 – evil, 11 years).
- E. Gedeliah (not evil), was appointed governor, but was soon assassinated as others fled to Egypt (2 Kings 25:22-26).

Postmortem: God disciplined Judah for idolatry and for not observing the Sabbaths (2 Chronicles 36:14-21).

II. **HOPE**: GOD LONGED TO SHOW GRACE TO JUDAH IN CAPTIVITY AND PROMISED TO RESTORE THEM.

- A. Jehoiachin was treated well in Babylon (2 Kings 25:27-30).
- B. God would bless the Jews in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:1-14; 24:6).
- C. God would bring them back after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11; Daniel 9:2; 2 Chronicles 36:23; Ezra 1:2).

THE LESSONS OF CONSEQUENCES

- Consequences of sin are certain (Galatians 6:7-8; 2 Sam. 13-20).
- Our sin may bring consequences to others (24:3; Joshua 7).

HOPE WHEN FACING CONSEQUENCES

- God disciplines us as children for our benefit (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- Repentance brings spiritual restoration and joy (Psalm 51:1-12).