

Scripture for Lesson 5

March 29, 2020

The People of Judah Are Exiled

Focal Passage: 2 Kings 25:8-21

Background Text: 2 Kings 23:34–25:30

Purpose: To understand that suffering comes in many forms

2 Kings 25:8-21

⁸On the seventh day of the fifth month in the nineteenth year of Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan arrived at Jerusalem. He was the commander of the guard and an official of the Babylonian king. ⁹He burned down the LORD's temple, the royal palace, and all of Jerusalem's houses. He burned down every important building. ¹⁰The whole Chaldean army under the commander of the guard tore down the walls surrounding Jerusalem. ¹¹Then Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard exiled the people who were left in the city, those who had already surrendered to Babylon's king, and the rest of the population. ¹²The commander of the guard left some of the land's poor people behind to work the vineyards and be farmers. ¹³The Chaldeans shattered the bronze columns, the stands, and the bronze Sea that were in the LORD's temple. They carried the bronze off to Babylon. ¹⁴They also took the pots, the shovels, the wick trimmers, the dishes, and all the bronze items that had been used in the temple. ¹⁵The commander of the guard took the fire pans and the sprinkling bowls, which were made of pure gold and pure silver. ¹⁶The bronze in all these objects—the two pillars, the Sea, and the stands that Solomon had made for the LORD's temple—was too heavy to weigh. ¹⁷Each pillar was twenty-seven feet high. The bronze capital on top of the first pillar was four and a half feet high. Decorative lattices and pomegranates, all made from bronze, were around the capital. And the second pillar was decorated with lattices just like the first.

¹⁸The commander of the guard also took away Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest next in rank, and the three doorkeepers. ¹⁹Of those still left in the city, Nebuzaradan took away an officer who was in charge of the army and five royal advisors who were discovered in the city. He also took away the secretary of the officer responsible for drafting the land's people to fight, as well as sixty people who were discovered in the city. ²⁰Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard took all of these people and brought them to the Babylonian king at Riblah. ²¹The king of Babylon struck them down, killing them in Riblah in the land of Hamath.

So Judah was exiled from its land.