

The Bible - From Beginning to End Using the Twenty C's

10 - Captivity

Scriptures:	2 Kings 17, 25; Jeremiah (parts); Lamentations; Daniel; Ezekiel
Focal Point:	Captivities of Israel and Judah
Principal Characters:	Daniel, Ezekiel, Nebuchadnezzar
Primary Events:	Apostasy and Captivity of Israel by Assyria Apostasy and Captivity of Judah by Babylon Destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians

1. The captivity of Israel
 - The northern kingdom of Israel (ten tribes) lasted for 250 years after the division.
 - Jereboam was selected as their first king, but his own insecurity caused him to lead the people into idolatry and apostasy against the Lord. **1 Kings 12:26-33**
 - Not one of Israel's nineteen kings was a godly man, in spite of the faithful pleading of the prophets of God. They all walked in the ways of Jereboam. **1 Kings 16:26**
 - Elijah gave a fearless testimony for God. 1 Kings 18
 - The history of the kings of Israel is largely a record of gross idolatry, murder, and abominable practices that increased from reign to reign.
 - It all culminated with God's judgment. The ten tribes were overthrown in 722 B.C. after repeated invasions by the Assyrians.
 - The siege and fall of Samaria, the capital, at last brought an end to the backslidden and idolatrous kingdom, while the people were taken captive and "colonized" in the vast Assyrian empire. **2 Kings 17:7-18**
2. The captivity of Judah
 - The southern kingdom of Judah (two tribes) lasted for 400 years after its separation from the ten tribes.
 - It was governed by 20 kings, all of whom were the lineal descendants of King David. Some were godly, some were not.
 - There were only eight kings after the captivity of the northern kingdom, and two of these kings were used to bring great revivals to Judah.
 - Hezekiah - 2 Kings 18-20
 - Josiah - 2 Kings 22-23
 - But, eventually, the same divine indictment was pronounced, "Judah also did evil in the sight of the Lord." **2 Kings 17:19-20**
 - It all culminated with God's judgment. The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, attacked Jerusalem and destroyed it in 586 B.C. **2 Chronicles 36:15-21**
 - Judah would remain in Babylonian captivity for 70 years. During this time, events such as Daniel in the lion's den, the story of Queen Esther, Nebuchadnezzar's forgotten dream, the handwriting on the wall, made spiritual history.

- Prophets like Jeremiah had tried to warn the people of Judah, but he was scorned and persecuted. Now all of his prophecies were tragically and surely fulfilled.
Jeremiah 2:13