

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Chronicles Chapters 35-36 10/5-6/2026

ROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

LAST WEEK: **2 Chronicles Chapter 33 – Manasseh** Reigns in Judah; Manasseh Restores After Repentance; Death of Manasseh. **Amon's** Reign and Death. **Chapter 34 – Josiah** Reigns in Judah; Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law; Josiah Restores Pure Worship.

THIS WEEK: 2 Chronicles Chapter 35 – Josiah Keeps the Passover – (vs. 1-19); Josiah Dies in Battle – (vs. 20-27). **Chapter 36 –** The Reign and Captivity of **Jehoahaz** – (vs. 1-4); The Reign and Captivity of **Jehoiakim** – (vs. 5-8); The Reign and Captivity of **Jehoiachin** – (vs. 9-10). **Zedekiah** Reigns in Judah – (vs. 11-14); The Fall of Jerusalem – (vs. 15-21); The Proclamation of **Cyrus** – (vs. 22-23).

Josiah Keeps the Passover

2Ch 35:1 Now Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month.

- When Hezekiah initiated the reforms and began again the Passover, they did it in the second month, because they weren't prepared to do it in the first month. Now, it seems that the whole spiritual reformation of the temple began about six months earlier; therefore, Josiah was ready by the time the first of the year rolled around to observe the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

2Ch 35:2-3 And he set the priests in their duties and encouraged them for the service of the house of the LORD. Then he said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were holy to the LORD: "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. It shall no longer be a burden on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

- Josiah ordered the ark of the covenant be brought back in the temple again and placed it in the Holy of Holies. It is not something that you are to carry around anymore on your shoulders. Solomon made the place for the rest for the ark of the covenant. Bring it back. It had been taken out at the time of Manasseh, in his profaning of the temple.

2Ch 35:4 Prepare (10x) yourselves according to your fathers' houses, according to your divisions, following the written instruction of David king of Israel and the written instruction of Solomon his son.

- Each of the families of the tribe of Levites had a certain duty within the temple. David appointed to the families which duties were to be done within the temple. So, return again to these duties, as David and Solomon had required.
- **As the word prepared is so emphasized, how important is that to me? (2Ch 19:3) Nevertheless good things are found in you (Jehoshaphat), in that you have removed the wooden images from the land and have prepared your heart to seek God." (Ezr 7:10a) For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. How prepared is my heart to serve and obey my Lord?**

2Ch 35:5-6 And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the fathers' houses of your brethren the lay people, and according to the division of the father's house of the Levites. [6] So slaughter the Passover offerings, consecrate yourselves, and prepare them for your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses."

- Let us begin again this great feast to celebrate God's deliverance of our people out of Egypt. God is keeping His promise and bringing us to this land, the birth of our nation!

2Ch 35:7 Then Josiah gave the lay people lambs and young goats from the flock, all for Passover offerings for all who were present, to the number of thirty thousand, as well as three thousand cattle; these were from the king's possessions.

- Josiah personally donated 30,000 of the goats and the lambs. And on top of that, 3,000 cattle, which would have been used for burnt offerings and peace and thanksgiving offerings.

2Ch 35:8 And his leaders gave willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand six hundred from the flock, and three hundred cattle. .

- The leaders recognized the same need. They gave liberally.

2Ch 35:9-12 Also Conaniah, his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave to the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand from the flock and five hundred cattle. [10] So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king's command. [11] And they slaughtered the Passover offerings; and the priests sprinkled the blood with their hands, while the Levites skinned the animals. [12] Then they removed the burnt offerings that they might give them to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And so they did with the cattle.

- They took all of these animals, sacrificed them, cut and barbecued part of the meat.

2Ch 35:13 Also they roasted the Passover offerings with fire according to the ordinance; but the other holy offerings they boiled in pots, in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them quickly among all the lay people.

- For seven days they kept the Passover. The provisions provided by the king, by the princes, as the people gathered from all over to worship the LORD here at the Feast of the Passover.

2Ch 35:14 Then afterward they prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the sons of Aaron, were busy in offering burnt offerings and fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

- They gave to the people, and then they hurried to prepare for the other priests.

2Ch 35:15 And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also the gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not have to leave their position, because their brethren the Levites prepared portions for them.

- **They did the same with the singers. This makes this Passover unique to the others.** We read in the scriptures that Josiah wanted a lot of worship music going on. There were many singers, the sons of Asaph. That was choir number one in those days. They were in their places with the worship music going on according to the command of David.
- **The Levites were serving the people.** After serving the people, serving themselves, and serving the porters that were at the gate.

2Ch 35:16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.

- **It was all being done, according to the commandment.** Again, the people were doing it, but not with a whole heart. To many of them, it was just the thing to do, but it was not really being done wholeheartedly!
- 2Ch 35:17-18 And the children of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. [18] There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

- **Even during the great glory days of David, and Solomon, they had never had a Passover that would equal this one, as far as the numbers of the animals that were sacrificed.**

2Ch 35:19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

- **Josiah is still a young man, twenty-six years old. But he is taking the country in the right direction.** He is bringing them back into the consciousness of their relationship with God, Who rules over the people. He is bringing them into that important consciousness.

Josiah Killed in Battle

2Ch 35:20 After all this, (13 years later) when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him.

- **There was an on-going war between the Assyrians and the Babylonians**, who were now beginning to gain superiority over the Assyrians. The Assyrians had lost their capital of Nineveh, and Charchemish, was even taken by Babylon. Necho was taking his troops up to Charchemish to retake it, which he did. He retook Charchemish from the Babylonians. However, a couple of years later, Nebuchadnezzar came with the Babylonian army, and the great battle of Charchemish occurs, when the back of Egypt was broken, Charchemish was retaken by Nebuchadnezzar. Egypt was defeated, which ushered in the world dominance of the nation of Babylon. **Necho feels called of God to go up and to aid the Assyrians** against Babylon.
- **Josiah decides to oppose Necho**, possibly because he would rather face Babylon now with Assyria as an ally than wait until Babylon defeats Assyria, then have to face Babylon alone. So, Josiah went out against him.

2Ch 35:21 But he (Necho) sent messengers to him (Josiah), saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you."

- **Here is this king of Egypt, warning this righteous king, Josiah, against meddling with God**, and with the plan purpose of God! Josiah had been a faithful servant of God, and an instrument that God used for the salvation of the nation, for thirty-one years. It is possible that he thought he could do no wrong. It could be that he was incensed and insulted that a pagan king would try to instruct him about God, and the things of God.
- **There is an inherent danger of being an instrument that God has used for His purposes.** That danger is getting an exalted opinion of yourself. Beginning to think that "I am really somebody. God chose me for this great work; God cannot do it without me; I am necessary for the work of God. We begin to get inflated opinions of ourselves because God has used us.
- **Josiah did not listen to the warning of Necho. Despite the warning**, he meddled with the plan of God. He tried to hinder the plan of God. Necho said, "God commanded me to make haste." Josiah tried to stand in the way, and slow Him down, standing in the way of the work that God was seeking to do.
- **Oh God, help to refrain from meddling with You! That I would never be a man who stands in the way of the work, that You are seeking to do! Help me to be sensitive in this area, to never stand in the way of what You want to do!**

2Ch 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

- **Josiah did not heed the warning that came from God.** He is going to go out there, seeking to stand in the path of God.
- **One of the sad things about this is that there is no mention of him taking this to prayer at all.** There are two of the good kings of the southern kingdom of Judah, **Amaziah** and **Josiah**, who fell prey to the same thing. They stuck their noses into something that was not their business, and they both ended up dying because of it!
- **This wasn't a good time for a good king to die because only bad kings are going to follow him** after this and the nation really kind of goes off of the cliff because though Josiah had a great relationship with God, Josiah does it under a different motive than Amaziah. Amaziah did it out of his pride and his arrogance, Josiah gets himself involved in something that is none of his business out of a **misdirected zeal**.
- **Zeal is an important thing for the child of God to have.** We need more and more Christians who have a great zeal for God. But when a person has a great zeal for God, it is important that that zeal not get misdirected or misguided or drawn into something that is not constructive.
- **The single greatest safeguard for zealous people of God in keeping zeal properly directed. That is the very area that he failed, and that is the failure of prayer. If you are a zealot for the things of God, and God has made you that way, the one thing you must never, ever forsake is a prayer life that allows God to so direct your zeal to be profitable for Him and to fear expressing that zeal anywhere that God does not direct it. But that is what Josiah does. He gets into the battle, and He came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.**

2Ch 35:23 *And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."*

- The course of history is changed, by the hardheadedness of this king. It is interesting, once he gets involved, the moment trouble comes, he says, "Get me out of here." But he would not listen beforehand. It is not until he has been shot and gravely wounded, that he is willing to listen to what God says. Oh God help us to listen.
- At times when we insist on being where God says we should not be, we can find ourselves in deep water. Josiah was where he should not be. He found himself in deep water. He was not willing to listen, until God had to let him be gravely injured!

2Ch 35:24 *His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot (built for speed) that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.*

- He had been a good king, a good leader. He had brought the nation back to God, back to strength.
- 2Ch 35:25** *Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.*

- **Jeremiah also lamented over the death of Josiah.** That is a good sign when godly people are sorrowed by a death in that way. Apparently, these lamentations were put to song and sung.
- *(Jer 22:9-12) Then they will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.' " [10] Weep not for the dead, nor bemoan him; Weep bitterly for him who goes away, For he shall return no more, Nor see his native country.*

2Ch 35:26-27 *Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his goodness, according to what was written in the Law of the LORD, [27] and his deeds from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.*

- There is a lot for us to learn here! Important lessons to take to heart. God help us to learn and to do by listening to the LORD. Not to ever think of ourselves above the law of God. Because we have been used of God or whatever, not to think that we are exempt from the law of God. Not to go where God has not called to go where God says we should not be! Help us to learn O LORD to serve You with all of our heart, and with all of our soul!

2Ch 36:1 *Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz (2Ki 23:30-34) the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem.*

- We have four kings after Josiah.
 - ✓ Jehoahaz (3 mo. reign; Josiah's fourth son, also called Shallum).
 - ✓ Eliakim (Necho changed his name to Jehoiaikim) (608-597BC) 11 yr. reign; Josiah's second son,

- ✓ **Jehoiachin** (3 mo. reign; Also call **Jeconiah**, Jehoiakim's first son).
- ✓ **Zedekiah** (597-586BC) 11 yr. reign; Jehoiakim's second son, also called **Mattaniah**). Their reigns were short. Judah is at the end of the rope; the nation is just about to go down. God has withdrawn His hand of blessing and protection. Now they must face the judgement of God for their sins.

2Ch 36:2-4 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. (A very short reign.) **[3] Now the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. [4] Then the king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him off to Egypt.**

- **It was Necho that had killed their father Josiah, in the battle of Megiddo.** The battle Josiah had no business getting involved in, and yet he insisted on going to war. He lost his life. Now Necho came to Jerusalem. Jehoahaz, his son only had a chance to reign for three months. Necho captured him, took him to Egypt, and he placed a tribute upon Judah, that they were to pay Egypt one hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

2Ch 36:5 Jehoiakim (Eliakim) (2Ki 23:34-37) was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years (608-597) **in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.**

- **He did evil in the sight of the LORD! How can they keep doing evil?** Everything is literally collapsing in Judah, and nobody wants to go another way. They have gone past the tilting point. Their love of sin; Their disobedience to the LORD has produced the very fragile society that they have, the dangers that are all around them, and they will not let the sin go. They will not repent. They would rather be destroyed than repent of their sin!

2Ch 36:6-7 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon. [7] Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

- **(2Ki 24:13) And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.**
- **It was during this period that Daniel was carried away captive. (Dan 1:1-2) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. [2] And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.**

2Ch 36:8-9 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin (or Jeconiah) (2Ki 24:8-17; 27-30) his son reigned in his place. [9] Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

- **That is tough for an eight-year-old kid.** Reigning only for three months, doing that which was evil. Of course, he was only a puppet king, and the hearts of the people at this time are pretty well turned against the LORD.
- **Jehoiakim committed one of the worst acts of the kings of Judah! The reign of the kingly line through Solomon will be cut off! (Jer 36:29-30) And you shall say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, 'Thus says the LORD: "You have burned this scroll, saying, 'Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and cause man and beast to cease from here?' [30] Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David (his son, Jeconiah, the cutoff), and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.**

2Ch 36:10 At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah (2Ki 24:17-20; 25:7), Jehoiakim's brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

- **Jeremiah warned Zedekiah and the people over and over, but they would not listen to the warnings of God. 2Ch 36:11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.**

- Necho had established the king, but now they have come under the control of the Babylonians, and he has set Zedekiah as king.

2Ch 36:12-13 He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. [13] And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

- He was just set in his path of sin. He was warned; he would not change. He hardened his heart against God; against the word of God.

2Ch 36:14 Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

- Under Zedekiah's reign, the priesthood became corrupted. The chief of the priests and the people transgressed all the abominations of the pagan nations.

2Ch 36:15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

- God loved these people. He loved the temple, the dwelling place there. God sent His messengers. Twice Jeremiah speaks about his rising up early to bring them the message of God. Ezekiel was prophesying to them as were Amos and other prophets warning them of the impending judgements that were coming. God continued to deal with them because God loved them. (*Jer 31:3*) *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you. But they would not come. They would hear nothing of it.*

2Ch 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

- Mocking can put you in the flesh as fast as anything. They mocked; they despised the word of God; they did not want to hear it. They abused the prophets. They threw Jeremiah in prison. They continued downward. They came to the place of no return. They had gone too far. They came to the place where God said, "That's it." In Genesis, in the time of Noah, we read that God said, "My Spirit will not always strive with man."
- (*2Pe 3:3-4*) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, [4] and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."
- **Is there anything in my heart of mocking You, LORD? Despising Your word? Or scoffing at Your prophecies? Help me to listen carefully to You through Your Holy Spirit and Your word. Is there is any hardening of my heart against the things of You; if I can just look at the cross of Jesus Christ, at the Bible, and shrug and say, "That does not touch me or move me as it should, then I am in a dangerous position if God's Spirit is not striving with me. Such was the case with Israel. God said, "No remedy."**

Jerusalem Captured and Burned

2Ch 36:17-18 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. [18] And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon.

- Jerusalem was totally sacked. The city was left desolate and in ruins. It was just shambles. Today, you can see those houses that were covered for years with rubble, have been recently excavated. You can see the shambles that they had made of those houses, and of the walls, and of the palaces. You can see the ashes where he burned the city, as you hike down the side of the hill of Ophel.

2Ch 36:19 Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

- The reason the temple was something to God was because, and the only way when it was coupled with the obedience and the sincerity, the worshiping in spirit and in truth at that place. But once nothing happened, there was no obedience in those that were worshiping there, the worship was all hypocritical, the LORD looked at it and said, the temple does not mean anything to Me at all. and He allowed it to be destroyed.

- Ezekiel saw the LORD, the Holy Spirit, lifting off of the temple, departing Jerusalem by way of the Mount of Olives, and leaving. The LORD took His presence out of Jerusalem and out of the temple ahead of time. Without obedience and without that worship in spirit and in truth, the building was as magnificent as it was, as much of a history as there was and all, it meant nothing to Him! It could just be burnt to the ground and so He allowed it!

2Ch 36:20-21 *And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until (about twenty years) rule of the kingdom of Persia,*

- There are two prophecies regarding Zedekiah that are fascinating in that they appear to be contradictory. One is by Jeremiah; one by Ezekiel. Prior to this, Jeremiah had prophesied that Zedekiah would see the king of Babylon face to face. That was fulfilled at Riblah. He saw Nebuchadnezzar face to face.
- Ezekiel prophesied and declared that Zedekiah would be brought to Babylon, but he would not see it, but that he would die there. The removal of his sight allowed the two prophecies that seemed like, if you are going to see the face of Nebuchadnezzar, then surely, you are going to see Babylon. How could you see his face and not see Babylon? Or if you were blinded prior to that, you would be blinded and not be able to see Nebuchadnezzar, and then you would not see Babylon. But here is where the two prophecies come together. Such an amazing intricacy of God's Word. The testimony of fulfilled prophecy to the divine inspiration of the Word of God. It is a very powerful fulfillment.
- **The two prophecies of Zedekiah are a wonderful example of what seems to be a contradiction of prophecies in the Scriptures. It is important to remember that God's word is always true! It is the truth! His prophesies are true and will always be true. How I need to be crystal clear on this! How clear am I?**

2Ch 36:21 *to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

- Jeremiah had predicted that their Babylonian captivity would last for seventy years. It had been four hundred and ninety years since Joshua led the people into the land. (*Jer 25:11-12*) *And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. [12] 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.*
- In the four hundred and ninety years that they had occupied the land; they had not obeyed the commandment of the LORD. They never did give the land its sabbath rest. So, the captivity of seventy years in Babylon. One year for every seven that they had been in the land. In order that the land lie fallow for seventy years, unplanted as God gave to the land the sabbaths that He had ordered.
- God will fulfill His requirements. If we will not give it to God, He will take it, one way or another. "The word was fulfilled through the mouth of Jeremiah until the LORD had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate, she kept the sabbaths, to fulfill the seventy years."

The Proclamation of Cyrus

2Ch 36:22-23 *Now (seventy years later) in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, [23] Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!*

- The decree from Cyrus to go back and to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The last verses of 2 Chronicles are almost identical to the first verses of Ezra. The proclamation of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple, and Ezra leading back the first group of people to begin again the occupation of the land that God had promised, unto Abraham, their father.
- The LORD demonstrates He is the true God by prophesying a future deliverer of Israel. The LORD makes remarkable claims through this whole passage, and in these verses. He claims to be their Redeemer! How can God back up such great claims?
- Who says of Cyrus: God proves He is who He claims to be by announcing the name of a deliverer for Israel's Babylonian exiles - and Isaiah wrote this more than two hundred years before Cyrus, by name, fulfilled this prophecy! The prophet alluded to the king who would bring about Israel's release from captivity

in (Isa 41:2) "Who raised up one from the east? Who in righteousness called him to His feet? Who gave the nations before him, And made him rule over kings? Who gave them as the dust to his sword, As driven stubble to his bow? (Isa 44:28) Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."'

- **Just consider the power of God and His word, prophetically telling us in advance things that would occur in the future. "And they shall know that I am God!"**

SUMMARY:

- **2Ch 35:4 As the word prepared is so emphasized, how important is that to me? (2Ch 19:3) Nevertheless good things are found in you (Jehoshaphat), in that you have removed the wooden images from the land and have prepared your heart to seek God." (Ezr 7:10a) For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.** How prepared is my heart to serve and obey my Lord?
- **2Ch 35:21 Oh God, help to refrain from meddling with You!** That I would never be a man who stands in the way of the work, that You are seeking to do! Help me to be sensitive in this area, to never stand in the way of what You want to do!
- **2Ch 35:22 The single greatest safeguard for zealous people of God in keeping zeal properly directed. That is the very area that he failed, and that is the failure of prayer.** If you are a zealot for the things of God, and God has made you that way, the one thing you must never, ever forsake is a prayer life that allows God to so direct your zeal to be profitable for Him and to fear expressing that zeal anywhere that God does not direct it. But that is what Josiah does. He gets into the battle, and He came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.
- **2Ch 36:16 Is there anything in my heart of mocking You, LORD? Despising Your word? Or scoffing at Your prophecies?** Help me to listen carefully to You through Your Holy Spirit and Your word. Is there is any hardening of my heart against the things of You; If I can just look at the cross of Jesus Christ, at the Bible, and shrug and say, "That does not touch me or move me as it should, then I am in a dangerous position if God's Spirit is not striving with me. Such was the case with Israel. God said, "No remedy."
- **2Ch 36:20 The two prophecies of Zedekiah are a wonderful example of what seems to be a contradiction of prophecies in the Scriptures.** It is important to remember that God's word is always true! It is the truth! His prophesies are true and will always be true. How I need to be crystal clear on this! How clear am I?

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! —Thomas Chisholm – William Runyan (2:41/2:44)

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.*

*Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies
I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study Numbers Chapters 1 - 5