



The Bible Story: Judah Was Taken Into Captivity 2 Chronicles 36:1-21

Josiah, the king of Judah, had three sons: Jehoahaz (jih HOH uh haz), Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim), and Zedekiah (ZED uh KIGH uh). Josiah had a grandson too. His name was Jehoiachin (jih HOY uh kin). Each of them had a turn at being king. None of them was good like King Josiah.

After Josiah died, Jehoahaz became king. Jehoahaz was not king for very long. He did bad things that God did not like. One day, the king of Egypt came to Judah. He took Jehoahaz away and made him a prisoner. Now that Jehoahaz was a prisoner in Egypt, he could not be the king of Judah anymore. So his brother, Jehoiakim, became king.

Just like his brother, Jehoiakim did what was wrong. One day, the king of Babylon came to Judah. He took Jehoiakim away and made him a prisoner. Now that Jehoiakim was a prisoner in Babylon, he could not be the king of Judah anymore. So Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin became king.

Just like his father, Jehoiachin did what was wrong. One day, the king of Babylon sent some of his servants to Judah. They took Jehoiachin to Babylon. Now that Jehoiachin was in Babylon, he could not be the king of Judah anymore. The king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle king. His name was Zedekiah.

Just like his brothers, Zedekiah did what was wrong. He led God's people to do wrong things too. Jeremiah the prophet warned Zedekiah that God would punish him for doing wrong things, but Zedekiah did not listen.

God was not happy with the people of Judah. They did not obey God. God loved His people. He did not want to destroy them, so He sent prophets to talk to the people over and over again. The prophets said, "Stop sinning! Turn back to God!" But the people did not listen. They made fun of the prophets God sent.

It was time for God to punish the people of Judah for their sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his armies to attack the people in Judah, and many of the people died.

The king of Babylon took everything out of the Lord's temple. Then the king and his army burned the temple. They tore down the wall that stood around the city of Jerusalem. The army destroyed anything that was left.

The king of Babylon took the rest of the people to Babylon, and he made them work for him and his family. All of this happened just as God said it would.

Christ Connection: God was right to punish His people because they sinned. But God still loved them, and He was going to give His people a good king, just like He said He would. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus took the punishment we should get for our sin.

Say: Judah had bad kings who did not lead God's people well. The people of Judah kept disobeying God, even after they had been warned over and over again. Finally, **God sent Judah away from their land.** God was still going to give His people a good king, just like He said He would. Jesus is the good King who took the punishment we should get for our sin.

Ask the following review questions:

Were Josiah's sons or grandson good or bad kings? (*bad*)

Whom did God send to tell His people to stop sinning and turn back to Him? (*prophets*)

What did the king of Babylon do to the temple? (*took everything out and burned it*)

What did the king of Babylon do with God's people? (*took them to Babylon and made them work for him*)



Crafts/Activities

Give Offering

Say: There are many ways we can worship Jesus. Collecting an offering is another way to worship Jesus. Each week you will have the opportunity to bring an offering to Jesus. You can talk to your parents and ask them if you can bring coins to church for the offering. God doesn't care if our gift is big or small. He wants us to give back with whatever we can. Every offering is important.

Print and Complete Bible Story Coloring Page

Print and Complete Activity page

Help preschoolers count the links in each chain and circle the correct number.

Say: You counted the links in the chain. Chains can be used for many things, but sometimes chains are used to keep people in one place. In today's Bible story, God's people were sent away from their land to another land. We will find out where in today's bible story.

Take Turns Being King

Assign the roles of **Josiah, Jehoahaz, king of Egypt, Jehoiakim, king of Babylon, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, and Jeremiah**. The rest of the group are **the people of Judah**. Review the Bible story while playing out the following actions:

Crown King *Josiah*.

The people of Judah cheer for the good king.

King *Josiah* gives his crown to *Jehoahaz*.

The people of Judah boo for the bad king.

The *king of Egypt* leads King *Jehoahaz* away.

King *Jehoahaz* gives his crown to *Jehoiakim*.

The people of Judah boo for the bad king.

The *king of Babylon* leads King *Jehoiakim* away.

King *Jehoiakim* gives his crown to *Jehoiachin*.

The people of Judah boo for the bad king.

The *king of Babylon* leads King *Jehoiachin* away.

King *Jehoiachin* gives his crown to *Zedekiah*.

Jeremiah talks to *Zedekiah*.

Zedekiah covers his ears and makes fun of *Jeremiah*.

The people of Judah boo for the bad king.

The *king of Babylon* leads King *Zedekiah* and all *the people of Judah* away.

The people of Judah cry.

Reassign roles and play again

Say: God sent Judah away from their land. God was right to punish His people because they sinned. But God still loved them, and He was going to give His people a good king, just like He said He would. Many years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our King forever. Jesus took the punishment we should get for our sin.