

Year **2**

Quarter 3

# God's Justice and Mercy

*Family Devotional*

*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You  
established the earth, and it abides.—Psalm 119:89–90*



**Answers**  
BIBLE CURRICULUM

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 2 • Quarter 3 • Family Devotional

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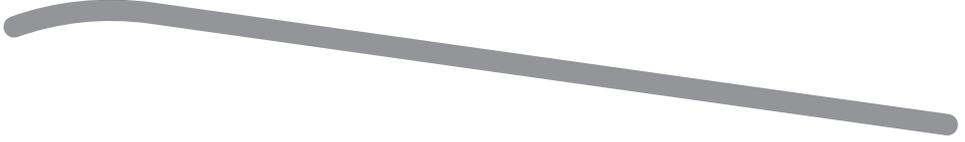
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*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)*

To use this guide, we suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller sections.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, worshipping the Lord and lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to pray for the needs in your church and of the missionaries you support. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged and thankful about how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and He delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that His wisdom and power are manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



# Kings of Israel & Judah

# 1

## Lesson Summary

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This week we did a quick survey of some of the kings of Israel and Judah. Each kingdom was ruled by a series of kings (19 in Israel, 20 in Judah), most of whom led their people away from the Lord and into idolatry.

Ultimately, the failure of the evil kings came down to a matter of worship. They chose to worship false gods rather than the one true God. With their influence, they led many people astray and brought destruction to the kingdoms they ruled over (which we will study later). However, the Scriptures affirm that a few kings in Judah “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.” One of them was King Asa, the third king of Judah.

Asa had a long reign over Judah—41 years. He started off well, but in his older years, it seemed he turned from God. His life is a lesson for us in trusting God, worshipping Him alone, and persevering in our faith.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## 2 Chronicles 14:1–5

1. What things did Asa do to lead the people back to proper worship of God?

## 2 Chronicles 14:6–8

2. Why did Asa have rest during this time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did Asa do during these years of rest?

## 2 Chronicles 14:9–15

4. How badly did the Ethiopian army outnumber Asa's army?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did Asa do that showed his trust in the Lord?

## 2 Chronicles 15:1–7

6. In the fifteenth year of Asa's rule, the prophet Azariah came with a message. What did the prophet command Asa to do?

## 2 Chronicles 15:8–19

7. What was the response of Asa and the people?
8. What did the people of Judah take an oath to do (vv. 12–15)?
9. What did Asa do with the treasure that he and his father had dedicated?

## 2 Chronicles 16:1–10

10. In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's rule, King Baasha of Israel besieged Judah. What did Asa do with the treasures in the house of the Lord?
11. When facing attack this time, to whom did Asa turn?

12. What did the seer Hanani tell Asa? What was Asa's response?

2 Chronicles 16:11–14

13. To whom did Asa turn when his feet became diseased?

14. What can we learn from Asa's life—both the good and the bad?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

## Prayer

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Thank God for giving us His Word. Thank Him for both the good and bad examples in Scripture of those who have gone before us. Ask Him for grace to continue to worship Him alone, and for the perseverance to remain faithful even to the end of our lives.

### FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

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# 2

## God Warns Israel

### Lesson Summary

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The Northern Kingdom of Israel was ruled by a series of evil kings who “did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam”—the first king of Israel. None of the 19 kings of Israel sought after God, but they continued in idolatry, murder, and rebellion. God sent prophets to warn them of coming judgment if they did not repent. The kings, however, ignored the calls of the prophets and continued in their disobedience.

We will survey a few of these kings to see their deeds and why the Lord was bringing judgment upon them. Yet even in the midst of their rebellion and hard-heartedness, God showed mercy.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## 2 Kings 13:1-7

1. What was King Jehoahaz like? What did he continue to do?
2. What was God's response to Israel's disobedience and idolatry?
3. How did God show mercy to the people of Israel?

## 2 Kings 13:10-13

4. What was King Joash like? What did he continue to do?

## 2 Kings 13:22-23

5. Why was God gracious to the people of Israel during the days of Jehoahaz?

6. What was King Jeroboam II like? What did he continue to do?
7. How did the Lord continue to show mercy to Israel?

8. What was King Pekahiah like? What did he continue to do? How did he die?
9. What was King Pekah like? What did he continue to do? How did he die?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.





# 3

## God Loves Israel

### Lesson Summary

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Israel surely deserved God's wrath for their constant violations of His commands. God would have been just in totally wiping out the nation for its sins, but He had made promises to Abraham and David to bring the Messiah from the nation of Israel. His mercy was shown in withholding punishment—He didn't give them what they deserved. In fact, His love was demonstrated as He restored them in spite of their sin and their rejection of His authority.

God spoke of Israel as a child He had raised (Hosea 11:1), lovingly guiding the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt into the Promised Land where He lavished them with blessings and care. As a loving Father, God would administer discipline to His child as Assyria brought destruction and captivity, but it grieved God to have to do it. However, God would not utterly destroy Israel, and He promised His people the hope of restoration. If they would again walk after the Lord, He would take them back.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Hosea 13:1–11

1. What was the spiritual and national result of Israel's Baal worship (v. 1)?
2. For what sins was God bringing judgment upon the nation of Israel (v. 2)? See also Hosea 4:2–3, 7:1, 8:4–6.
3. What is God referring to when He uses the metaphors in verse 3—morning cloud, early dew, chaff, smoke?
4. What did God provide for the Israelites as they left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness? How did they respond (vv. 4–6)?

5. What did God compare the coming judgment of Israel to (vv. 7–8)?

### Hosea 14:1–9

6. What was God's appeal to His people (vv. 1–3)?
7. What things did God promise to do for His people if they would repent (vv. 4–8)?
8. What are the two ways of living that Hosea's prophecy ends with (v. 9)? See also Deuteronomy 30:19–20 and Psalm 1. What are the results of each?





# 4

## God Judges Israel

### Lesson Summary

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God had been patient with Israel for 250 years, and He sent many prophets to warn His people of their idolatry. But after years of consistent rebellion, idolatry, sin, and hostility toward God, His anger was finally provoked to action, and He judged Israel by removing them from His sight. The Lord at last rejected Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers (2 Kings 17:20).

In Deuteronomy 4:25–28, Moses had warned the people that if they acted corruptly and worshipped idols, they would perish from the land—be destroyed and scattered among the nations. As promised, God sent the powerful nation of Assyria to bring judgment upon the nation that had forsaken Him. The Northern Kingdom would never be fully under the control of Israel again. The Promised Land was torn from them because of their unfaithfulness.

As we saw in the past two lessons, all the kings of the Northern Kingdom did evil in the sight of the Lord. Most of them, we are told, “followed in the sins of Jeroboam, son of Nebat.” Jeroboam was the first king of the Northern Kingdom, and he started the nation on a course that eventually led to its destruction.



5. Read the following passages and discuss what they tell us about idols.

- Deuteronomy 32:16–17 –
- Leviticus 17:7 –
- 2 Chronicles 11:14–15 –
- Psalm 106:34–38 –
- 1 Corinthians 10:19–20 –
- Revelation 9:20–21 –

### 1 Kings 14:7–11

6. How did God contrast Jeroboam with David?

7. For what sins was God going to judge the house of Jeroboam?





# 5

## God Judges Nations

### Lesson Summary

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As we heard in this week's lesson, God used Nahum to deliver a prophecy of doom concerning Assyria: "The Lord has given a command concerning you: 'Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, for you are vile'" (Nahum 1:14).

God's judgment was coming on Assyria because of their wickedness and sinfulness. You might shout, "But wait a minute! How can God judge Assyria for carrying out His will—His judgment—on the Israelite nation?" It had been God's plan that Assyria overthrow Israel and deport the people. It doesn't appear just that God would then turn around and judge the Assyrian nation who carried out His will against Israel.

We must remember that God can do no wrong. His plans are perfect, and whatever He does is just and righteous. Although we often don't understand what He does in the Bible, or throughout history, we must never accuse God of doing wrong. As Abraham said to God before He judged Sodom, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).

The Israelites willfully rejected God and worshipped false gods; their judgment was just. The Assyrians willingly attacked another nation and took it captive, fulfilling their own evil desires for power.

In addition to Nahum's prophecy of judgment on Assyria, Isaiah also told of their coming destruction. God would punish the ax that He wielded to destroy Israel (Isaiah 10:15).

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Isaiah 10:5–18

1. What does God call Assyria in verse 5?
2. To whom was God referring in verse 6? Who was the “ungodly nation” and the “people of My wrath” that God was sending the Assyrians to punish? (See Hosea 11:1–6.)
3. For what was the Lord going to punish the king of Assyria (vv. 12–14)?
4. What was going to happen to arrogant Assyria after the Lord used the nation to judge His people (vv. 15–18)?



8. What should our response be to God’s sovereignty?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

## Prayer

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Praise God for His sovereignty—that what He has purposed will be accomplished. Thank Him for the peace and security that brings. Ask Him for more faith to trust Him.

### **FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# 6

## God Speaks Clearly

### Lesson Summary

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While the lower grades had a review week, junior high through adult learned about the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible and how those affirm to us that it truly is the Word of God. In fact, one of the most dramatic confirmations of the Bible's truthfulness is the specificity of the future-telling prophecies of the Old Testament. While some prophecies are somewhat vague, others give such clear detail that they could never be the result of "coincidence."

God knows everything that ever has happened or ever will happen. When His prophets told of future events, they were not making some guesses about what might happen someday or hoping that someone would read what was written and do it. No, God was demonstrating His absolute power (omnipotence) and knowledge (omniscience).

This week we'll look at some of the dozens of prophecies fulfilled by Christ.

# Read and Discuss

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1. Read the following sets of passages. Record what the prophecy was and how it was fulfilled in Christ.

- Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25 –

- Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1–6 –

- Genesis 49:10; Revelation 5:5 –

- Jeremiah 23:5–6; Luke 3:23–31 –

- Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:63, 27:12–14; Luke 23:8–9 –

- Isaiah 53:4–6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21–24 –

- Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35–37 –
  
- Psalm 22:7–8; Matthew 27:39–43
  
- Psalm 22:16; John 20:25–27
  
- Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

## Prayer

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Praise God for the fulfilled prophecies that serve to confirm the truth of His Word. Thank Him that He is faithful to fulfill His promises, both in the past, in the present, and in the future. Ask Him for opportunities to share with others about how Jesus has fulfilled prophecy and is the Messiah.





# 7

## God Answers Prayer

### Lesson Summary

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One of the good kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah was Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the thirteenth king in Judah and took the throne after his extremely wicked father, Ahaz. In fact, Hezekiah was nothing like his father, for Hezekiah held fast to the Lord and fought against the idolatry that plagued Judah. The Bible tells us that Hezekiah “trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him” (2 Kings 18:5).

When King Sennacherib of Assyria came against Judah, King Hezekiah sought the Lord. He cried out to God in a prayer that demonstrated his full reliance upon God, recognizing God’s sovereignty and mercy and seeking God’s glory in the matter.

The prayer of Hezekiah has been recognized as one of the great prayers of the Bible—one that we can learn from and emulate in our own lives.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## 2 Kings 19:14–20

1. How did Hezekiah start out his prayer?
2. What things did Hezekiah acknowledge about God? Which of God's attributes did he extol (v. 15)?
3. How had Sennacherib reproached the living God (v. 16)? See 2 Kings 19:10–12.
4. What does Hezekiah realize about the other nations' gods (vv. 17–18)?
5. What was Hezekiah's ultimate goal in asking the Lord for deliverance from the Assyrians (v. 19)?

6. There are several elements in Hezekiah's prayer that can be a model for our own prayers. Identify how Hezekiah's prayer was . . .

- Dependent –

- Specific –

- Humble –

- Bold –

- Faith-filled –

- God-centered –

7. How does verse 20 show us the importance of prayer?

8. Read the following passages. What do they tell us about how and why to pray?

- Matthew 7:7–11 –

- John 14:13–14 –

- 1 John 5:14–15 –
- James 1:5–7 –
- James 5:16–18 –

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## Prayer

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Praise God for who He is and what He has done. Thank Him for men like Hezekiah who showed dependence on God in desperate situations. Ask God for faith to trust Him no matter what may happen. Ask Him to glorify Himself through your life.

### **FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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# 8

## The Coming Ruler

### Lesson Summary

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The prophet Micah prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The reign of Ahaz was a period of upheaval and crisis in Israel and Judah. This was a time of spiritual apostasy and hypocrisy. In addition to their idolatry, the people's treatment of fellow Israelites violated the basic tenets of the Mosaic covenant as they failed to practice justice and mercy or to walk humbly before their God.

In our lesson, we studied the wonderful Messianic prophecies God gave to Micah. But God also rebuked His people through Micah and called them to repentance. Even in the midst of His rebuke, God also promised mercy and forgiveness to His people.



- Micah 3:9–11 –

- Micah 6:10–12 –

- Micah 7:2–4 –

5. How do these sins of the people of Micah’s day compare to our own time?

6. How does God’s admonition in Micah 6:8 relate to the sins listed above?

### Micah 7:18–20

7. Which of God’s attributes does Micah extol in verse 18?

8. What will God do for His people (vv. 19–20)?

9. How will God deal with the sin problem of His people? How will He pardon their iniquity, pass over their transgression, and cast their sins into the depths of the sea? See Matthew 1:21.

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## Prayer

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Thank God for the forgiveness of sin that we have in Jesus. Ask Him to help you do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Pray for those who are oppressed and mistreated near you and around the world. Thank God that one day He will right the wrongs and bring true justice and righteousness to earth.

### FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

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# 9

## Messianic Prophecies

### Lesson Summary

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This week we looked at the Messianic prophecies in the book of Isaiah, including prophecies of the Messiah's birth and death. Of course, the book of Isaiah deals with more than the coming of Messiah. It is a book full of wonderful pictures of God and His attributes, and it contains many glimpses into the present and future reign of Jesus.

We want to look at just one chapter of Isaiah this week, one that speaks of the Messiah's coming, His reign, and God's majesty and authority over the earth—Isaiah 40. This tremendous chapter is one of the most poetic expressions of theology in the Bible. Using beautiful metaphors, the power and nature of God is presented in clear and moving terms. This is not merely a listing out of God's attributes as in a theology textbook; rather, Isaiah is trying to move our hearts, not just inform our minds. This passage should evoke in the believer a sense of awe, wonder, and encouragement as we read the descriptions of our mighty God.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Isaiah 40:1–8

1. What does God want for His people? What message does He have for them (vv. 1–2)?
2. What will be revealed? What part can we play in preparing others to see the glory of God?
3. Who fulfilled, at least in part, the prophecy of verses 3–5? See Matthew 3:1–3, Mark 1:1–4, Luke 3:3–6, and John 1:22–23.
4. How does the “loveliness” of man compare to the Word of God?

## Isaiah 40:9–11

5. What did God call Zion/Jerusalem to proclaim to the cities of Judah (v. 9)? What are we called to proclaim?
6. How is the Lord going to come? Why is He coming? What will He have with Him?

7. How is God like a shepherd (v. 11)? What passages does this verse remind you of? See Psalm 23 and John 10:1–16.

### Isaiah 40:12–31

8. How would this passage have encouraged the Jews who were captives in Babylon?
9. Write the attribute of God best associated with the following verses:
- 40:12 –
  - 40:13–14 –
  - 40:15 –
  - 40:22–23 –
  - 40:26 –
  - 40:28 –
10. What does God think of the power of the nations?
11. How do the idols of man compare to the true God (vv. 18–20)? See Psalm 115:4–8, Isaiah 44:9–20, and Jeremiah 10:1–10.

12. What does God promise for those who wait on the Lord (v. 31)?

13. How has this chapter given you hope? What have you been reminded of about our great God?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## Prayer

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Praise God that He is the omnipotent, sovereign Ruler of the universe. Thank Him for how He has worked throughout history to bring His plans to fruition and how He will be faithful to bring about His plans in the future. Ask Him for the faith to trust Him as your Shepherd and for the boldness to share the good news with others.

### FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

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# 10

## God Warns Judah

### Lesson Summary

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Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. God told him to speak of the coming judgment against Judah from the north—from Babylon. God told Jeremiah that the people would not listen to him, but would fight against him. However, God also told Jeremiah that He would be with him to deliver him (Jeremiah 1:17–19).

A unique way that God used Jeremiah and other prophets was to have them present an object lesson to the people—a physical picture of the message God wanted to convey to them.

This week, we'll read several of these object lessons, seeking to understand the message that God was giving to Judah.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## The Linen Sash—Jeremiah 13:1–11

1. What was Jeremiah told to do with the linen sash?
2. What did the ruined sash represent?
3. What was God’s intent for His people (v. 11)? But what had they done instead?

## The Clay Vessel—Jeremiah 18:1–11

4. What did Jeremiah watch the potter do?
5. What did the marred and remade vessel represent?
6. What did God promise to the people of Judah?

7. What does this passage tell us about God's sovereignty over the nations?

### The Two Baskets of Figs—Jeremiah 24:1–10

8. What did Jeremiah see set before the Temple?
9. What did the good figs represent? What did God promise to these?
10. What did the bad figs represent? What did God promise to these?

### The Stones in Egypt—Jeremiah 43:8–13

11. What did God tell Jeremiah to do after he had been taken to Egypt?
12. What was the message that God was sending to Egypt and to those who had fled to Egypt to escape the captivity?





# 11

## God Judges Judah

### Lesson Summary

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Just as God used Assyria to deliver judgment to His people in Israel about 125 years earlier, He sent Babylon to deliver judgment to Judah. Babylon's king at this time was Nebuchadnezzar. This wicked king—called “My servant” in the book of Jeremiah—was the one God chose to bring His judgment to Judah (Jeremiah 25:9, 27:6, 43:10).

God is in control of the hearts of kings, and He turns them wherever He wants (Proverbs 21:1). And so, God used Nebuchadnezzar for His purposes. But the manner in which the Babylonians treated God's people, and their boasting and pride, would not go unpunished.

God used Jeremiah to encourage His people in captivity and to proclaim judgment upon Babylon. God would bring a nation from the north (the Medes) to punish the Babylonians, and He would use the Median King Cyrus to bring His people back home.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Jeremiah 50:11–16

1. Why was God going to bring judgment against Babylon, according to verse 11?
2. What was going to happen to Babylon (v. 13)?
3. Who was it that was bringing destruction to Babylon (vv. 13–15)?

## Jeremiah 50:29–34

4. Why was God going to bring judgment against Babylon, according to verses 29–31?
5. What was going to happen to Babylon?

6. Why was God going to bring judgment against Babylon, according to verse 38?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What was going to happen to Babylon (vv. 39–40)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Who was going to come against Babylon (vv. 41–42)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Who is the one who decided that Babylon would be judged? Can God's purposes be thwarted?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.





# 12

## Seventy Years

### Lesson Summary

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Our lesson this week looked at how God, through the proclamations of Jeremiah, sovereignly directed the people into captivity and promised to lead them out. Jeremiah told the people to expect to be in captivity for 70 years, to continue to have families and be settled in Babylon, and to be assured of a return as a nation to Jerusalem.

For our devotional this week, we are going to look at a prophet that we have skipped in our lessons—the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk ministered during the waning days of Judah, just before Babylon took them into captivity.

Habakkuk, in his book, first complained to God about the violence and wickedness in the land. He cried out for God’s intervention. God responded that He was going to send the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to judge Judah. This created an even greater problem for Habakkuk: How could God use the evil Chaldeans to judge a people more righteous than they? Basically, Habakkuk’s cry was, “It’s not fair!”

Let’s read the book of Habakkuk and look at Habakkuk’s complaints and God’s responses.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Habakkuk 1:1–11

1. What questions did Habakkuk ask (vv. 1–3)?
2. What was Habakkuk's complaint in verse 4? Have you ever asked God something similar?
3. What was the Lord's reply to Habakkuk (vv. 5–11)?
4. What were the Chaldeans like?

## Habakkuk 1:12–2:20

5. What was Habakkuk's second question?
6. What attributes of God did Habakkuk extol (1:12–13)?
7. What was Habakkuk's attitude as he awaited God's reply (2:1)?

8. What did the Lord say about the revelation He was about to give (2:2–3)? What two types of people was it about (2:4)?
  
9. What does it mean to live by faith? See Romans 1:16–17, Galatians 3:10–14, and Hebrews 11:1.
  
10. What five woes did the Lord pronounce against the Chaldeans (2:6–19)?

### Habakkuk 3:1–15

11. What does the phrase “In wrath remember mercy” mean? What does it show about Habakkuk’s view of God?
  
12. What words and phrases in this song of praise help you to picture God’s majesty and power?
  
13. What events in biblical history come to mind as you read verses 3–7?

14. How did Habakkuk react to his encounter with the omnipotent, sovereign God (v. 16)?
  
15. How do these final words of Habakkuk exhibit his faith in God?
  
16. In Habakkuk’s song, what comfort can we find in times when God’s plans seem unclear?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## Prayer

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Praise God for His power and sovereignty as He controls history and brings about His intended purposes. Ask Him for faith in the midst of trials and confidence in His faithfulness even when things look bleak.

### FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

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# 13

## Review

### Lesson Summary

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This week is a review week. We have covered so much this past quarter! We looked at the kings of Israel and Judah—the good, the bad, and the ugly. We saw how God sent prophet after prophet to call the people to repent of their idolatry and sin, but they would not.

So, God brought Assyria in 722 BC to take the Northern Kingdom of Israel captive, and then about 120 years later, He brought Babylon to send the Southern Kingdom of Judah into exile.

The prophet Jeremiah lived from about 630 to 570 BC. He experienced the desperation during the 18-month siege and the cruelty of the Babylonians as they sacked Jerusalem, killed many, and took captives away.

Jeremiah's laments for Jerusalem and God's people are recorded in the book of Lamentations. In this powerful book, Jeremiah provides details of the bitter suffering and heartbreak that he and others felt over Jerusalem's devastation. He speaks of both the depths of Judah's sin and the severe judgment of God. But even in the midst of his tears, Jeremiah is reminded of God's mercy and faithfulness.

# Read and Discuss

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Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

## Lamentations 2:1–12

1. Whom did Jeremiah blame for Jerusalem's destruction?
2. What things does Jeremiah list in this passage as having received the Lord's judgment?
3. What words do you find in this passage for God's anger?
4. Do you often think of God getting angry or exhibiting wrath? Why or why not?

## Lamentations 2:13–22

5. What was the reaction of passers-by and Judah's enemies?
6. What had the Lord promised to His people if they forsook His covenant (v. 17)? See Deuteronomy 28:36–63.

7. What were the people urged to do in the midst of the tragedy (vv. 18–19)?

### Lamentations 3:1–18

8. How did Jeremiah feel the Lord had afflicted him?
9. Have you ever felt like Jeremiah? When?

### Lamentations 3:19–41

10. What gives the prophet hope?
11. What does Jeremiah know about God's justice (vv. 33–36)?
12. What does Jeremiah know about God's sovereignty (vv. 37–38)?
13. What does Jeremiah urge the people to do (vv. 39–41)?

14. How would you summarize the basic message of the book of Lamentations?

## Memory Verse

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Review the memory verse with your family.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## Prayer

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Praise God for who He is—for His justice, truth, mercy, love, and compassion. Ask Him to give you a renewed sense of His holiness. Ask Him to give you a heart of obedience. Thank Him for the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, who has paid the penalty of sin.

### **FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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