



## TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 13 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

<b>PAGE</b>	213
<b>THEME</b>	NOW FOR THE SOUTH: THE EXILE OF JUDAH
<b>HOMEWORK BIBLE READING</b>	2 KINGS 24-25 & ISAIAH 38-39
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### OVERVIEW

Eventually it was Judah's turn to be dealt with and this chapter focuses on the events that surrounded the Babylonian exile and destruction of Jerusalem which mark the end of the period of the Kings of Israel.

The chapter particularly zooms in on the reigns of the final handful of Kings and the way that the Exile impacted the nation. It was hard for any of them to think that the covenant still stood after Babylon had first attacked and deported 10,000 of their finest and then returned, surrounding the city for two years before overcoming it and burning it to the ground.

A significant thing that is highlighted in the chapter is the way that God speaks to the exiles and reminds them that they still have a future, that there is hope, that God is not done with them!

It is significant that a period that began with the likes of David and Solomon is ending here with the destruction of their city, Jerusalem.

The chapter is a great opportunity to highlight some of the lost facts of this period that help to make it more accessible to people. For example, Daniel and Ezekiel were a part of the first wave of Jews who were carried into captivity. As Daniel interacts with Nebuchadnezzar, the man that God raised up to inflict this judgment upon the nation, we see that eventually he comes to a point where he expresses faith in the God of Israel (see Daniel for more info).

The exile also led Esther's family away from Jerusalem and put her in the situation where a foreign nation wanted to wipe them out!

## OUR TIPS

### P 216 & 217 The Final 4

This activity is a chance for the students to map out the events that transpired in the final years of the southern kingdom. We want them to be crystal clear on how the kingdom fell. The more they understand of this period the easier it is for them to grasp how the prophets fit into it. For example, in Jeremiah 28 there is a public debate between Hananiah and Jeremiah about how long it would be before the exiles return. If you realise that this is happening while the 10,000 are in Babylon and just before the rest of them are taken away it packs a bit more punch!

### P 219 Daniel's training and service

Some students may have investigated Daniel already as a part of the assignment. This task asks the students to think about the challenges faced by faithful Jews who now found themselves in the service of a foreign ruler. Daniel is a particularly powerful example because he wants to continue to obey the Law of Moses regarding food laws and worship customs while in a land where those who are feeding him couldn't care less.

### P 226 I know the plans I have for you

Jeremiah's letter to the exiles is one of the most wonderful pieces of writing in the entire Bible. In the very midst of Israel's judgment God moves to give the people hope. The exercise asks students to read and respond to different parts of the letter.

## YOUR TIPS

*We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- What happened to Jerusalem during this time?
- What happened to the sacrifices?
- Why did they pluck out the eyeballs of Zedekiah?

*We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

*If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 5

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

*If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

CHAPTER 13

P. 216-7 Activity		The final Kings of Judah
King	What we know about them	Events of their reign that led to Judah's exile
<b>Jehoahaz</b> <i>2 Kings 23:31-35</i> <i>2 Chronicles 36:1-4</i>	Became king at age 23 and reigned for 3 months.	He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Was taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Neco.
<b>Jehoiakim</b> <i>2 Kings 23:36-24:7</i> <i>2 Chronicles 36:5-8</i>	Became king at age 25 and reigned for 11 years.	Taxed the people so he could pay silver and gold to Pharaoh Neco. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Was taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar.
<b>Jehoiachin</b> <i>2 Kings 24:8-17</i> <i>2 Chronicles 36:9-10</i>	Became king at age 18 and reigned for 3 months.	He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, allowing him to remove the treasures from the Temple. He was taken to Babylon.
<b>Zedekiah</b> <i>2 Kings 24:18-25:7</i> <i>2 Chronicles 36:11-14</i>	Became king at age 21 and reigned for 11 years.	He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. He hardened his heart towards God. The leaders of the priests and people became more and more unfaithful. He was taken to Babylon.

p. 222 Activity	Rubble, rubble and more rubble
	<p><b>Read 2 Kings 25 and record all that was destroyed or desecrated when Jerusalem fell.</b></p> <p>City wall broken through            Temple, palace and all houses set on fire            Bronze pillars, movable stands and Bronze Sea from the Temple broken up and carried to Babylon            Pots, shovels, wick trimmers, dishes and bronze articles used in temple service taken away            Gold and silver censers and sprinkling bowls taken away            People taken away to Babylon.</p>

p. 223 Activity	Lamentations
	<p><b>Scan through the book of Lamentations and record the key phrases that express Jeremiah's broken heart over what occurred in Jerusalem.</b></p> <p>(There are many possible answers. The following are some examples.)</p> <p>2:16-17 This is why I weep and my eyes overflow with tears. No-one is near to comfort me, no-one to restore my spirit. My children are destitute because the enemy has prevailed. Zion stretches out her hands, but there is no-one to comfort her.</p> <p>2:20 See, O Lord, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart I am disturbed, for I have been most rebellious.</p> <p>3:20 my soul is downcast within me.</p>

<b>p. 227 Activity</b>	<b>Read Jeremiah 29</b>
	<p><b><i>What insight does Jeremiah's letter give to God's expectations of the exiles?</i></b>  God tells the exiles to build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Increase in number. Marry and have sons and daughters.</p> <p><b><i>How does God demonstrate his love for his people in the letter?</i></b>  God will come for them after 70 years. He has plans for them, to prosper them and not harm them, for a hope and a future.</p> <p><b><i>How does God ensure that the people know they are still his?</i></b>  God encourages them to call upon him and come and pray to him and he will listen to them.</p> <p><b><i>How does God avoid giving the people false hope of an early return in the letter?</i></b>  Do not listen to the dreams you encourage the prophets and diviners to have. They are prophesying lies in God's name. He tells them that they will be in exile for 70 years.</p>