

I. God Revealed Himself in History

- A. To understand His truth we must look at the history
- B. This is particularly important at this point since the history is the background for:
 - 1. Jeremiah
 - 2. Ezekiel
 - 3. Daniel

II. Habakkuk: The Righteous Will Live By Their Faith

- A. Jeremiah's message: God has put His people under Babylon for discipline
 - 1. If you submit you will save yourselves
 - 2. If you resist you will suffer

III. History of The Final Days of Judah

- A. 624 BC - Josiah orders the cleansing and restoration of the temple
 - 1. Others go along with the reform but do not share Josiah's heart
- B. 612 BC - Nineveh is destroyed bringing an end to the Assyrian empire
- C. 609 BC - Pharaoh Necho of Egypt joins forces with remnants of the Assyrian army in attempt to stop the Babylonians
 - 1. Josiah dies in an attempt to stop Necho's progress
 - 2. Jehoahaz becomes king (3 month reign)
 - 3. Egypt and Babylon fight to a draw and Necho returns to Egypt
 - 4. On the way back Necho replaces Jehoahaz with his older brother Eliakim
 - a. Name is changed to Jehoiakim

Assignment:

Read Jeremiah 1-3, 9-10, 15, and 17. As you read, note the emphasis on deception and delusion.

- D. 605 BC - Necho again fights the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar
 - 1. Egyptians are routed and Babylon moves into the Palestine area to exert control
 - a. Daniel and his friends are taken to Babylon
 - b. Jehoiakim remains king
- E. 597 BC - Despite warnings from Jeremiah, Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar marches on Jerusalem
 - 2. Jehoiakim dies and is replaced by his son Jehoiachin (Coniah, Jeconiah)
 - 3. 3 months after becoming king, Jehoiakim is taken captive to Babylon
 - 4. Ezekiel and the educated population of Judah are taken to Babylon
 - 5. Zedekiah, (Mattaniah) Josiah's third son to rule is made king
- F. 586 BC - Jerusalem is destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar
 - 1. Zedekiah had rebelled against Babylon
 - 2. Rebellion was fueled by a false hope that the temple would deliver them
 - a. This false hope is behind much of what both Jeremiah and Ezekiel preached
 - 3. When Jerusalem was destroyed the temple was also destroyed, causing a theological crisis for the people of God

IV. Concerning the 70 Years of Captivity

- A. Jerusalem was destroyed in 586. The return from captivity began in 536. This is only 50 years.
 - 1. 70 years of Babylonian domination
605-536 BC
 - 2. 70 years of the desolation of Jerusalem
586-516 BC
 - a. Desolation ends with the completion of the new temple