

## Background info for Jeremiah

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- Need to remember what happened with King Hezekiah **SLIDE**
  - 150 yrs before our story starts.
  - The temple that Solomon built had fallen into disuse and disrepair. Previous kings had ignored it and allowed it to degenerate into ugliness and ruin. They even permitted idolatry within.
  - But Hezekiah had the temple cleansed of all filth and idolatry
    - 2 Chronicles 29:4-19.
    - Something was very wrong in Judah, and Hezekiah worked to change that! He worked to restore the rich temple services that King David had established
    - He brought back passover
      - 2 Chronicles 30.
  - Assyria was a fearful superpower at this time.
    - Its king, Sennacherib, launched an invasion against Judah and began conquering its cities.
      - He set his sights on the greatest prize of all: Jerusalem
        - 2 Chronicles 32:1-2.
  - God was very pleased with Hezekiah's response. He sent an encouraging message to Hezekiah through Isaiah (verses 20-34).
  - That message concludes, "Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake."

- And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.
  - 2 k 19:35
  
- This is important, because for the OH, they would of remembered this. The OH thought this would be the same deal a it was with Hezekiah when God saved them
  - This will be addressed in chapter 7, 26, 36
  
- Story starts with Assyrian empire at full strength SLIDE
  - Reign of Manessah was super important
    - 2nd K 21-25 & 2 Chron 33-36
  - During this time lots of political crisis
    - Assyria had ruled for about 200-300 years and started to collapse
      - Could this of been the result of Jonah?!
    - Egypt was also in decline
  
- Manessah SLIDE
  - He became king at the age of 12 and reigned for 55 years
  - Unlike his father, resubmitted his nation to Assyrian rule, after his dad Hezekiah helps free them
    - 2 K 21 (12 years old)

- He was doing the same thing that the Canaanites did, which the people of Israel drove out.
  - God said to them if you do the same thing as then I will drive them out like I did them!
    - V4 built alters in the temple
    - V6 participated in child sacrifice
    - Vs10 Because of all this I will deal with them
  - As a result of what was done
    - Vs 12-13
      - this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:
        - ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah that the news will reverberate in the ears of all who hear it.
        - I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab, and **I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes out a bowl— wiping it and turning it upside down.**
- 648
  - Josiah Was born
    - He was one of the best kings

- 642
  - Amon became king, only 2 years
    - 2 K 21:23
  
- 640 SLIDE
  - Josiah Became King
    - During this time Assyria started to crumble.
    - Was chosen to be king as a child
      - Ruled for 31 years
    - Trained by priesthood
      - At the age of 16 he began to seek the Lord
        - 2 Chron 34:3
  
  - This was all before the “book of the law” had been found
    - Cool picture of his true relationship with God
      - 6:37-?
  
- Jeremiah would of grown up along side Josiah
  - Dont know how hold he was? 16-20
    - Contemporary of Josiah
    - 627 BC, 13th year of Josiah
    - Josiah laid the found nation for Jeremiahs calling.

- 626
  - Death of Assyrian King, Ashurbanipal, when he died there was a period of independence for Judah
  - Most importantly the city of Babylon also became independent and broke away from Assyria. The Chaldean chief named **Nabopolassar** of that area fought for independence from their rule. He raised a militia and defeated the local garrison, and began to grow in popularity as a new vibrant leader.
    - He started to expand the new “Babylonian” empire based on their city.
    - He then began and take over smaller cities around Babylon.
  - Egypt also began to grow in strength
- 622-621 **SLIDE**
  - 2 k 22:3 & 2 chron 34:8
  - Josiah wanted to clean the temple and it was during this that book was found
    - What exactly was found?
      - 2 chron 34 & 2 kings 22
      - Book of Jeremiah???
  - His response was amazing!
    - 2 k 22:8-11
      - Deep repentance & reformation
      - Passover celebrated
        - 2 chron 35:18

- He broke down and massively repented
- Commanded public reading
- Renewed the covenant with the Law
  - 2 chron 34:32
- Tore down all the temples that Jeroboam had built after the civil war in Dan & Bethel. SLIDE
  - High places
    - 1 kings 12, 13:2
  - This also shows that his cleansing went behind Judah into the remnants of the north.
- Josiah was 26!
  - 10 years after he began seeking out the Lord
  - 6 years after the pursuit began!
  - Could you imagine how good it must of self when he read what all it had to say about idolatry!
    - He would of been SOOOOOOOO encouraged!
    - It also fueled him to continue to clean up and restore Judah.
    - In all his days he never turned away

- What was the result of this reform?
  - This matter because Jeremiah was the one speaking for the people who had gone through the renewing of the covenant and cleansing
  - Not much actually changed ,
    - Outward reformation but no inward transformation
  - Josiah tells us the actions of purifying the city and community, while Jeremiah shows us what was actually going on in the people's hearts.
  - As soon as Josiah died, they returned to their old ways, and embraced the idolatry of Manasseh & Amon once again.
  
- 617
  - Babylon joins up with the Meds and they begin attacking more Assyrian towns
  
- 612
  - Nineveh falls, Nahum prophesied this
    - It was thought to be impenetrable, but the Tigris flooded and brought down the southern wall.
    - Those that survived the attack ran and joined Egypt.
    - Modern-day Mosul, Iraq!

- 609

- King Josiah is still pleading with the people to turn from their idolatry, he would of been aware of **Nabopolassar** building up an army and marching against the Assyrians... and winning.
- Egypt, lead by Neco, sides with the remaining Assyrians while Josiah sides with Babylon.
- When Egypt moves its army north to Carchemish, Josiah moves his army in to stop Egypt.
  - This was a bad move
    - He dies due to this and the army of Israel was defeated
      - Chron 35:20
  - Due to this delay, the Babylonians are able to defeat the Assyrians at Carchemish, because Egypt was held up and couldn't reinforce Assyria.
- When this happens
  - Israel loses independence
  - Egypt wins the battle and when returning back comes to Judah and takes Josiah's son Jehoiachaz as a hostage. **SLIDE**
    - He then places Jehoiakim on the throne as a puppet king **SLIDE**
    - Israel becomes a vassal of Egypt.
    - This also moves the people back into idolatry and into major sin
      - Like the days of Manasseh & Amon



- Few years later **Nabopolassar** returns try try again to defeat the Egypt/Assyria garrison. In this he dies, then **Nebuchadnezzar** who was leading the army, takes charge.
  - They end up winning and become the “owner” of Judah.
  - With Neb in charge now, when passing by Judah, he deports the first batch
    - This is the interaction with Daniel, Shad, Meshack & Ben
    - Many other “Varsity members”
- 605 SLIDE
  - Neb finally defeats the Syrians at Carchemish SLIDE
  - Judah now serves Babylon
  - Neb becomes public enemy #1 SLIDE
  - Jeremiah was banned from the temple
    - Chapter 36
  - A day of fasting was called.
  - Barach is asked to present Jeremiah’s writings.
    - He reads to: People, princes then the king.
    - Princes hide him, and then they take it to the king.
      - King (Jehoiakim) hears it, but then cuts it into pieces and burns it.
    - Also during this time. The loincloth act could of happened.
      - It appears he was silent during this time around 598
        - Would of been around 48

- 601
  - Neb attacks Egypt but fails
    - Judah along with other nations who were serving Babylon make an agreement with Egypt because they wanted out of Babylonian rule.
  
- 598-597
  - All these nations decide to stop paying their taxes. This is the final straw for Judah
  - Babylon attacks Jerusalem for 2 months.
    - Jehoiakim dies
    - Perhaps because Babylon got defeated by Egypt, Judah was a “confidence target”
  - We learn from Jeremiah that Jehoiakim would have a burial fit for a donkey
    - Joesiphes tell us that his body was thrown over the wall.
  
  - Then Jehohin (jehoiachin?) was made king by Babylon. SLIDE
    - After 3 months Jehohin took his family back to Babylon.
  - Neb puts his uncle (Josiah’s brother) on the throne as a replacement, which was Zedekiah. SLIDE
  - All wealthy, noble, important people were then exported a 2nd time up to Babylon.
    - Only the poor was left.

- SLIDE
    - Now we have two distinct communities:
      - Those in Jerusalem
        - Jeremiah
          - Jeremiah 29
        - Good figs SLIDE
      - Those exiled to Babylon
        - Ezekiel
          - He was only 5 years away from becoming a priest.
          - Once in exile he began to prophesy.
        - Bad figs SLIDE
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- 594 (Jeremiah was around 52)
  - Major uprising in Babylon
    - Many vessels (slave/conquered cities) tried to overthrow Babylon (Jeremiah 27). It appears they wanted Zedekiah to join them
    - Jeremiah pleads with the people to submit to the yoke of Babylon, but they don't listen. SLIDE
      - This is the story where he comes in with a yoke of wood... and then it's removed by Hanania and he breaks it.
        - Jeremiah then prophesies a yoke of iron
        - And that Hanania will be dead in a year.
          - H = Exile will be short, God will spare us like last time, maybe 2 years.
          - J = This is different, you will not be spared. 70 years.
            - Build homes, plant farms, pray for the welfare of your people!
              - Aka... SETTLE!
              - This was viewed as treason

- 588 (Jeremiah would of been around 58 yrs old)
- Zedekiah breaks the connection to Babylon by not paying any tribute taxes, forms a formal alliance with Egypt.
  - Neb obviously hears this, and attacks.
  - Zedekiah does seek out Jeremiah and does believe in what he is saying, but cant stand up against the pro-egypt officials.
- This leads to an 18 month battle SLIDE
  - This battle would of felt like dejavue, because 150 years ago the Lord came in and protected the temple from 185,000 Assyrians.
    - It was this idea that they would never lose the temple that made them so stubborn.
    - Jeremiah constantly prophecies against this.
      - Even the temple had became a false idol.
  - There was a little break when Egypt tried to intervene and help, but that failed.
    - During this break Jeremiah is called back home.
      - Upon his attempt to return to his home town of Anathoth The people believe he is deserting to the enemy and they put him on trial for treason.
        - Thrown into the cistern, stuck in the mud
        - Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian eunuch, asks permission to free him, is given permission

- During the siege, they had released their slaves which was commanded in Duet 15, but when the break happens they think its safe to bring them back.
    - This shows how shallow their pursuit of God was, and how they were selfish to the core.
      - Jeremiah 34
    - Zedekiah sends a message to Jeremiah and asks if their free now?
      - Jeremiah replies no!
    - Also during this break, some would thought Hanaias words were correct, and Jeremiah was indeed wrong.
  - Just like Jeremiah said... the Babylons return and Jeremiah is placed in prison.
- 586
- The Babylon army successfully breaks in
    - Zedekiah once again asks Jeremiah if there is any hope or freedom.
      - Jeremiah says no, only hope is to surrender.
        - The temple & city WOULD BE SAVED!!!
    - Zedekiah freaks out and runs
  - While Jeremiah is in prison, he receives a word from the Lord that his cousin was going to sale him some land.
    - This was a prophetic act showing that eventually this land would be profitable once again.
    - Message of Hope.

- Zedekiah is caught trying to escape.
- All officials of his government are put on trial
  - Zedekiah's punishment was to watch his sons be killed and then to have his eyes gouged out.
- This marks another major deportation
- Walls of Jerusalem were systematically torn down
- Temple was burnt down
  
- Jeremiah was then given a choice what to do, go in exile or stay.
  - He choose to stay.
    - He would of watched everyone he knew or respected go off
      - Cant imagine Jeremiah being around "bad figs"
  - The Babylon officials would known this, and treated him with respect (probably more than his own people)
    - Because he was preaching submission to Babylonian rule.
  
- Objects of temple were categorized and then taken away
  - Major mystery around what happened to the Ark.
    - Jeremiah mentions this early about it and how it won't be rebuilt
      - But we really don't know.

- Neb makes Gadaliay governor for the remaining remement.
  - Ishmael considered him a traitor because he was appointed by Neb.
    - He is killed by Ishmael, who also kills others
    - This would of been seen as an act of treason.
  - This leads to them freaking out and asking Jeremiah what to do.
  - Jeremiah returns them after 10 days and says to repent, but they don't and flee to Egypt. Taking Jeremiah with them.
  
- 582
  - Final attack and deportation
    - Already all the upper (598) & middle (586) classes where taken
    - Now the "dish" had been completely wiped clean. Just like the prophetic word said it would.