Introduction:

A. A Quick History Review:
   1. About 1,095 B.C. Israel Became A Kingdom.

   2. The first three kings of the United Kingdom: Saul, David, Solomon.
      a. During this time, enemies abounded; however Saul and David defeated most of them and brought peace to the nation.
      b. Solomon built the Temple and brought abundant wealth to the land.

   3. The Kingdom split early in the days of Solomon’s foolish son, Rehoboam -- Jeroboam took the 10 northern tribes who became known as Israel; Rehoboam controlled the 2 southern tribes who were known as Judah.

   4. Israel existed about 225 years; they went into Assyrian Captivity in 721 B.C.

   5. Judah existed for another 135 years; the Temple was destroyed in 586 B.C. - - the people or Judah were taken into Babylonian Captivity.

I. (Slide #2) Babylon’s Attacks Against Judah And Subsequent Captivity Of Judah.
   A. (Slide #3) Nebuchadnezzar’s First Attack Upon Jerusalem -- 606 B.C.
      1. During the attack, the finest of the young men were taken to Babylon.

      2. Daniel, along with his three friends, Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego were taken into Captivity.
         a. Daniel remained in Captivity all through the 70 years!
         b. He was blessed by God in the Babylonian and in the Persia Empires.
         c. Jer. 32:31,32 “For this city has been to Me a provocation of My anger and My fury from the day that they built it, even to this day; so I will remove it from before My face 32 because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me to anger--they, their kings, their princes, their priests, their prophets, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”
B. (Slide #4) Nebuchadnezzar’s Second Attack Upon Jerusalem. 597 B.C.
   1. King Jehoiachin and many people taken to Babylon.

   2. During this attack Ezekiel was taken into Captivity.

C. (Slide #5) Nebuchadnezzar’s Third Attack Upon Jerusalem. 586 B.C.
   1. During this attack, Jerusalem was destroyed and burned; the Temple was too.

   2. King Zedekiah was blinded and taken to Babylon.

   3. Only a small remnant of people remained in Jerusalem; Jeremiah was one of them.

   4. Nebuzaradan was Nebuchadnezzar’s military leader in this attack.

   5. He took everyone captive except the poor who were left to be vinedressers and farmers, II Ki. 25:11,12. “Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude. 12But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.”

   6. All the valuables in the Temple -- its furniture and utensils were carried to Babylon. II Ki. 25:13-17

   7. Nebuzaradan took the high priest, Seraiah, and Zephaniah, the second priest, 3 door keepers of the temple, an officer in charge the men of war, 5 of the king’s closest advisors, the chief army recruiter, and 60 men who were found in Jerusalem. He took them to Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah; Nebuchadnezzar killed all 72 of them. II Ki. 25:18-21

   8. Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah the governor over the poor people who were left in the land, II Ki. 25:22. Gedaliah urged them to submit to the Chaldeans and be at peace; however, Ishmael, of the royal seed, came and killed Gedaliah and carried the people to Egypt. II Ki. 25:23-26

II. (Slide #6) Jeremiah Had Warned Of A “Day Of Reckoning!” (Slide #7) The Fall Of Jerusalem And The Babylonian Captivity Has Been Prophesied Over And Over By Jeremiah!
1. Jeremiah lamented Josiah’s Death! II Chr. 35:25 “Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah.”

2. He saw the disrespect for God and disobedience to His Will; He knew that this was “the beginning of the end.”

3. This was a period of about 40 years.

B. (Slide #8) He Told Judah That They Should Submit To Babylon!

1. In Jeremiah 25-29 Jeremiah counseled submission to Babylon.
   a. During these final days, you see the people of Judah as a sinful, stubborn people; they were lied to by false prophets; Jeremiah knew they were doomed to Captivity and witnessed that downward spiral into destruction and capture.
   b. He reproved their disobedience. 25:1-7 (4th year of Jehoiakim)

2. (►) God told Judah that Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon would conquer them! 25:8-11 “Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.” Jer. 25:10,11

3. (►) Jeremiah told Judah that they would be in Captivity 70 years!
   a. Jer. 25:11,12 “And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,’ says the LORD; ‘and I will make it a perpetual desolation.’”
   b. Jer. 29:10 “For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”
   c. II Chr. 36:19-21 “Then they burned the house of God, burned down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. 20 And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.”
   d. After that 70 years of punishing Judah, He would punish Babylon.
4. (►) When Jeremiah in the early part of Jehoiakim’s reign told Judah that the Temple would be devastated, the leaders and people threatened to kill him! Jer. 26:8-11,16 “Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, ‘You will surely die! 9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant’?” And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. 10 When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD’S house. 11 And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, ‘This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.’” Jer. 26:8-11

5. (Slide #9) God told Jeremiah to put on bonds and yokes on his neck thereby prophesying that Judah and many other nations would be captured by Nebuchadnezzar. Jer. 27:1-11.

6. Hananiah’s false prophecy “Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. 3 Within two full years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD’S house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.’” Jer. 28:2,3
   a. Hananiah broke the yoke off Jeremiah’s neck, claiming that God would break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar from the neck of all the nations within 2 years. Jer. 28:10,11
   b. Jeremiah’s prophecy to Hananiah -- “You will die THIS YEAR!!!” Jer. 28:15-17

7. (►) He told them not to fight the Captivity or to expect it to cease quickly! Jeremiah’s message to those who were already in Captivity in Babylon -- “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. 6 Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters--that you may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. 9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. 10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.” Jer. 29:4-10

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8. (►) He did promise that after the 70 years of Captivity, they would have a glorious return. Jer. 32:36 - 33:26

9. (►) He prophesied that the 12 tribes would receive New Covenant; this was a prophecy of the coming Messiah! Jer. 31:31-34

C. (Slide #10) Oh, How The Leaders Hated His Messages:
1. We already saw Hananiah’s vehement denial that there would be 70 years of Captivity.

2. (►) Jehoiakim’s servant, Jehudi, destroyed Jeremiah’s scroll with a knife--Jer. 36
   a. This was during Jehoiakim’s 4th year of reign.
   b. Jeremiah was in prison.
   c. He asked Baruch to take the scroll and read his words to the people.
   d. When Jehudi called for Baruch to bring to scroll and read it to Jehoiakim, Jehudi took a knife and cut up the scroll.
   e. Of course, Jeremiah just gave Baruch another scroll containing the message!

3. (►) When Jeremiah told Judah not to rely upon or to go to Egypt, they rejected his counsel.
   a. When Zedekiah asked Jeremiah to pray for the Egyptians to overthrow the Babylonians, Jeremiah told him that the Egyptians would return to their own land; the Chaldeans would conquer Jerusalem! This message infuriated Zedekiah; Jeremiah was thrown into a muddy dungeon. Jer. 37:1 - 38:6
   b. He told the remnant NOT TO TO Egypt!

   1. Jer. 42:15-19 “Then hear now the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah! Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, 16then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there you shall die. 17So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.’ 18For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.’ 19The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt!’ Know certainly that I have admonished you this day.’
2. Jer. 43:1,2 “Now it happened, when Jeremiah had stopped speaking to all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, all these words, 2that Azariah the son of Hoshiaiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, ‘You speak falsely! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.’’”

3. Jer. 44:27,28 “Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them. 28Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs.”

c. He declared that Egypt would be overthrown by the Babylonians! Jer. 25:19

D. Jeremiah Was Taken Out Of The Prison By Nebuzaradan; He Was Told That He Could Return To Gedaliah And Live In Jerusalem Among The Poor Remnant Or Live Anywhere Else That He Chose. Jer. 39:14; 40:1-6

E. Ishmael Led A Revolt Against Gedaliah, Killed Him And Planned To Take The Remnant To The Ammonites; Johanan Freed The Remnant From Ishmael; He Then Sought Jeremiah’s Advice: Jer. 41,42
   1. Jeremiah told the remnant to stay in Jerusalem and be submissive to the Babylonians. Jer. 42

   2. He told them if they went to Egypt, the sword would follow them there! Jer. 42

   3. Johanan discredited Jeremiah’s advice and took the remnant, JEREMIAH, and Baruch to Egypt! Jer. 43

   4. Jeremiah foretold the destruction of Egypt. Jer. 43-46

F. (Slide #11) In Lamentations, Jeremiah Bewailed The Collapse Of Judah, Jerusalem, And The Temple!
G. Restoration From Captivity Prophesied. Jer. 30-35
   1. God will bring Israel and Judah back to the land!
      a. Jer. 30:3 “For behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the LORD. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”
      b. He promised to restore them back to the land!
   2. Then he promised that God would provide a NEW Covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah! Jer. 31:31-34

III. (Slide #12) Life In Captivity In Babylon.
   A. Men Like Daniel Were Treated Extremely Well And Prepared To Be Leaders In The Land. You See His Exalted Position In The Book Of Daniel.
   B. Prophets Like Ezekiel Seem To Have A Rather Peaceful Life Where They Can Still Serve God.
   C. Deportation Seems To Be The Main Goal Of The Babylonians.
   D. They Were Given Land And Allowed To Build Houses. Jer. 29:28 “For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, ‘This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit.’”
   E. Of Course They Could Not Worship At The Temple -- It Was Destroyed!

F. (Slide #13) There Were Two Major Prophets During The Captivity.
   1. Daniel
      a. Much of his prophecy was to Nebuchadnezzar.
      b. He gave great insights into coming world powers and into the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom!
   2. Ezekiel.
      a. He was in Babylon by the River Chebar, Ezek. 1:1
      b. About 5 years into his Captivity, Ezekiel began to prophesy. (About 592-590 B.C.)
      c. He did not speak from 3:26 - 33:22. Most of his prophesies were “acted out.” This occurred from about 590 - 570 B.C.)
      d. He gave an early picture in his prophecy -- the Glory of God leaving the Temple and going to the East. 10:8; 11:23
e. He foretold the siege of and destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Ezek. 3-7
f. God showed him the sinfulness of the priests and the idolatry occurring at the Temple. Ezek. 5-8
g. He told the Captives about the upcoming fall of Egypt -- they are NOT the deliverer of Judah from Babylon! Ezek. 29-32
h. Late in the book he gave two amazing prophecies about the 12 tribes:
   1. In a depiction of a Valley of Dry Bones Ezek. 37. It depicts the resurrection of the “whole house of Israel!” (Israel and Judah!) Ezek. 37:1-11
   2. And in using 2 Sticks he foretold the union again of Israel and Judah. Ezek. 37:16-22
i. Chapters 40-48 Picture of The Temple and the Glory of God returning from the East into Jerusalem. Ezek. 40-48; 43:1-5. This is a picture of the return of the Captives.

IV. (Slide #14) Lessons From This Event.
   A. (►) God’s Anger Toward Sin.
      1. In Dt. 27,28 Moses reminded the people that God would BLESS them if they were obedient; He would punish them with CURSES if they disobeyed Him. He prepared them to have six tribes on Mt. Gerizim to repeat the blessings; and the other six tribes to be on Mt. Ebal to repeat the curses. Dt. 11:29; 27:12,13
      2. When they came into the Promised Land, they repeated those blessings and curses. Josh. 8:33
      3. His warnings about the Promised Land, Jerusalem, and the Temple:
         a. Dt. 28:21 “The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.”
         b. Jer. 24:9,10 “I will deliver them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for their harm, to be a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. 10And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, till they are consumed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.”
         c. Dt. 28:36,37 “The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods--wood and stone. 37 And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.”
         d. Dt. 28:49,50 “The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.”
e. Dt. 28:64,65 “Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. 65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.”

B. (►) Things That Will NOT Spare You From Judgment:
1. (►) Having God’s Word preached to you -- if you refuse to obey It!
   a. God revealed His Will to Israel.
   b. He sent prophet after prophet to teach them and to call them to repentance.
   c. Those prophets taught, pled, and wept; they were disregarded, despised, ridiculed, and rejected!
   d. Sadly, even though they had the Word, they did not obey God!

2. (►) Heritage -- “We are Abraham’s seed!”
   a. The Jews put great stock in and pride in saying that Abraham was their father and that they were the seed of Abraham.
   b. In John 8, they vociferously opposed Jesus when He affirmed that God was His Father, Jn. 8:18,19 and when He declared His eternal nature, Jn. 8:58.
   c. They used this argument, “We are Abraham’s seed.”
      a. Jn. 8:33 “They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free’?’”
      b. Jn. 8:39 “They answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.’”
   d. And His indictment was SO stinging! Jn. 8:44 “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.’”

3. (►) Past faithfulness.
   a. Many talk about what they have done for God in the past.
   b. Christian living is what we do throughout our life; there is no slacking; there is no quitting!

4. (►) Past good works and successes.
   a. Our good works and successes do not earn Heaven; they show our love and appreciation of the Godhead and their mercy and grace!
   b. Our good works or successes do not keep us in God’s good graces no matter how we may choose to live in the future!
C. (Slide #15) God’s Promises Will Be Kept!
1. As Christians we relish and rely upon His promises -- forgiveness, providential care, continued love, and Heaven.

2. His promises of punishing rebellion and rejection of His Will ARE JUST AS UNFAILING as His promises of blessing.
   a. Over and over and over and over He had warned and cautioned Judah about disobedience, idolatry, and a lack of repentance.
   b. Sadly, they did not believe Him and did not think He would do what He promised.
   c. As we see in this lesson tonight, “OH YES He will keep His promises of punishment!

D. (►) The “It Can’t Happen To Us” Position Is SO Deceptive!
1. God’s people can convince themselves that there are many people in the world who are worse than we are -- that is true!

2. However, when His people’s “cup of iniquity” is full and it is time for punishment, He will use a nation that is more wicked than His own people to punish them for their sins!

3. Jeremiah’s message is so relevant today -- It CAN happen here today if we reject God as Judah did!

4. Pray that you will love God, be loyal to Him, and live for Him all of your days!